

Javascript, The Swiss Army Knife of Programming Languages

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About me



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Features

- Loosely typed language

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- Object literal notation

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- Functions are first class objects

Features

ECMAScript

The standard that defines JavaScript is the third edition of *ECMAScript Programming Language*.

Hello World

index.html

```
<html>
  <head>
    <script>
      document.writeln('Hello, world!');
    </script>
  </head>
  <body>
  </body>
</html>
```

Syntax

Comments

Block comments formed with `/* */` and line-ending comments starting with `//`. Example:

```
/*  
    We are learning Javascript and comments are very important  
*/  
document.writeln('Hello World!'); // Output: Hello World!
```

Syntax

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```
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*/
document.writeln('Hello World!'); // Output: Hello World!
```

Names

Starts with a letter or underscore and optionally followed by on or more letters, digits or underscores. Beware of some reserved words.

bullet	// valid	_mana	// valid
3force	// invalid	lucky42	// valid
rocket-launcher	// invalid	grenade_launcher	// valid

Syntax

Numbers

Single number type represented internally as 64-bit floating point.

```
42
```

```
3.141516
```

```
10e5
```

```
1/0 // Output: Infinity
```

```
0/0 // Output: NaN
```

Syntax

Numbers

Single number type represented internally as 64-bit floating point.

```
42
3.141516
10e5
1/0 // Output: Infinity
0/0 // Output: NaN
```

Strings

Can be wrapped in single quotes or double quotes. It can contains 0 or more characters. All characters in Javascript are 16 bits wide.

```
‘Hello World’
‘Hello World’
‘This is\n a multiline string’
‘You can write ‘ on single quotes string’
```

Syntax

Functions

```
function helloWorld (name) {  
    console.log('Hello ' + name + '!');  
}  
  
helloWorld('David'); // Output 'Hello David!'  
  
var myFunction = function () {  
    console.log('Hi there!');  
};  
  
myFunction(); // Output: 'Hi there!'
```

Syntax

Variables

Use the `var` keyword followed by a name to declare a variable. When used inside of a function, the `var` statement defines the function's private variables.

```
var player; // variable player declared on a global scope

function test() {
  var enemy; // Scoped to function test
}
```


Syntax

Strict (in)equality

```
10 == '10' // Output: true, auto type coercion  
10 === '10' // Output: false strict equality  
10 != '10' // Output: false, auto type coercion  
10 !== '10' // Output: true strict inequality
```

Syntax

Strict (in)equality

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```

null and undefined

```
console.log(mario); // Error: mario is not defined

function exists (mario) {
  console.log(mario);
}

exists(); // Output undefined

console.log(null == undefined) // Output: true
console.log(null === undefined) // Output: false
```

Syntax

if, else

```
var testOk = true;

if (testOk) {
    console.log('Captain obvious');
} else {
    console.log('I'm bored');
}
```

Here are the *false* values:

- false
- null
- undefined
- The empty string
- The number 0
- The number NaN

All other values are *truthy*.

Syntax

switch

```
var weapon = 'rocketlauncher';

switch(weapon) {
  case 'pistol':
    console.log('piu piu');
    break;
  case 'shotgun':
    console.log('paaam!');
    break;
  case 'rocketlauncher'
    console.log('BOOOOM!');
    break;
  default:
    console.log('falcon punch!');
    break;
}
```

Syntax

while, do while

```
var counter = 0;
while (counter < 10) { // Ends when counter is equal to 10
    console.log(counter);
    counter += 1;
}

do {
    console.log(counter);
    i -= 1;
} while(counter > 0); // Ends when counter is equal to 0
```

Syntax

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while (counter < 10) { // Ends when counter is equal to 10
    console.log(counter);
    counter += 1;
}

do {
    console.log(counter);
    i -= 1;
} while(counter > 0); // Ends when counter is equal to 0
```

for

```
var i;

for (i = 0; i < 10; i += 1)
    console.log(i);
}
```


Objects

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Prototype

All objects created from object literals are linked to `Object.prototype`. If we try to retrieve a property value from an object, and if the object lacks the property name, then Javascript attempts to retrieve the property value from the prototype object.

Objects

Object.create

```
var soldier = {  
  hp: 10,  
  strength: 5,  
  weapon: 'Pistol'  
};  
  
var knight = Object.create(soldier);  
knight.weapon = 'Sword';  
knight.shield = true;  
  
console.log(knight.hp); // Output: 10  
console.log(knight['weapon']); // Output: 'Sword'  
console.log(knight.shield); // Output: true
```

Visit <http://www.objectplayground.com/> for a graphical explanation

Objects

hasOwnProperty

```
knight.hasOwnProperty('hp'); // Output: false  
knight.hasOwnProperty('shield'); // Output: true
```

Objects

hasOwnProperty

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knight.hasOwnProperty('hp'); // Output: false  
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```

for in

```
for (attr in knight) {  
  if(knight.hasOwnProperty(attr)) {  
    console.log('Knight property ' + attr + ' with value ' +  
      knight[attr]);  
  }  
}  
// Output: Knight property shield with value true
```


Objects

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```
knight.hasOwnProperty('hp'); // Output: false  
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```

for in

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for (attr in knight) {  
    if(knight.hasOwnProperty(attr)) {  
        console.log('Knight property ' + attr + ' with value ' +  
            knight[attr]);  
    }  
}  
// Output: Knight property shield with value true
```

delete

```
console.log(knight.weapon); // Output: 'Sword'  
delete knight.weapon;  
console.log(knight.weapon); // Output: 'Pistol'
```

Functions

Functions are the **fundamental modular unit** of Javascript. They are used for code reuse, information hiding, and composition. The thing that is special about functions is that they can be invoked.

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Function.prototype and constructor

Functions are objects linked to `Function.prototype`. Every function object is also created with a `prototype` property. Its value is an object with a `constructor` property whose value is the function.

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Invoking a function suspends the execution of the current function, passing control and parameters to the new function. In addition to the declared parameters, every function receives two additional parameters: `this` and `arguments`.

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Invocation (1/4): Method invocation pattern

```
var enemy = {  
  hp: 5,  
  rage: 0,  
  attack: function () {  
    this.rage += 1;  
  }  
};  
  
enemy.attack();  
console.log(enemy.rage); // Output: 1
```

Functions

Invocation (2/4): Function invocation pattern

```
physicsManager.collisionsDetected = 0;

physicsManager.checkCollision = function (entity1, entity2) {
  var bbCollision = function (bb1, bb2) {
    var collision = false;
    // Collision code skipped
    if (collision) {
      // WARNING: 'this' is the global object and not 'physicsManager'
      this.collisionsDetected += 1;
    }
    return collision;
  };

  bbCollision(entity1.getBB(), entity2.getBB());
};

if (physicsManager.checkCollision(enemy, player)) {
  player.takeDamage(enemy.strength);
}
```

Functions

Invocation (2/4): Function invocation pattern (workaround)

```
physicsManager.collisionsDetected = 0;

physicsManager.checkCollision = function (entity1, entity2) {
  var that = this;

  var bbCollision = function (bb1, bb2) {
    var collision = false;
    // Collision code skipped
    if (collision) {
      that.collisionsDetected += 1;
    }
    return collision;
  };

  bbCollision(entity1.getBB(), entity2.getBB());
};

if (physicsManager.checkCollision(enemy, player)) {
  player.takeDamage(enemy.strength);
}
```


Functions

Invocation (3/4): Constructor invocation pattern

```
var Player = function (name) {  
    this.name = name;  
    this.lives = 3;  
};  
  
Player.prototype.sayMyName = function () {  
    console.log('My name is ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var david = new Player('David');  
david.sayMyName(); // Output: 'My name is David'
```

Functions

Invocation (3/4): Constructor invocation pattern (without new)

```
var Player = function (name) {  
    this.name = name;  
    this.lives = 3;  
};  
  
Player.prototype.sayMyName = function () {  
    console.log('My name is ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var david = Player('David'); // oops  
david.sayMyName(); // raise an error because david is undefined  
  
// Global variables feast  
console.log(name); // Output: 'David'  
console.log(lives); // Output: 3
```

Functions

Invocation (4/4): Apply invocation pattern

```
var enemy = {  
  rage: 0,  
  attack: function () {  
    this.rage += 1;  
  }  
};  
  
var anotherEnemy = {  
  rage: 10  
};  
  
enemy.attack.apply(anotherEnemy, []);  
  
console.log(anotherEnemy.rage); // Output: 11
```

Functions

Arguments

```
function doActions() {  
    var i, l;  
  
    // WARNING: arguments is an Array-like object  
    for (i = 0, l = arguments.length; i < l; i += 1) {  
        console.log('Doing action ' + arguments[i]);  
    }  
}  
  
doActions('jump', 'attack');  
/*  
    Output:  
    'Doing action jump'  
    'Doing action attack'  
*/
```

Functions

Closure

Javascript does have function scope. That means that the parameters and variables defined in a function are not visible outside of the function, and that a variable defined anywhere within a function is visible everywhere within the function.

```
var playe = new Player();

function isGameOver() {
    var enemy = new Enemy();

    function checkHit() {
        return enemy.hit(player);
    }

    return checkHit();
}

isGameOver();
```

Functions

Module pattern

```
var physicsModule = (function () { // IIEF pattern
    var detectedCollisions = 0;

    function checkBBCollision(bb1, bb2) {
        var collision = false;
        // collision code skipped
        if (collision) {
            detectedCollisions += 1;
        }
        return collision;
    }

    function checkCollision(entity1, entity2) {
        checkBBCollision(entity1.getBB(), entity2.getBB());
    }

    return {
        checkCollision: checkCollision
    };
})();
```

Inheritance

Javascript provides a much richer set of code reuse patterns. It can ape the classical pattern, but it also supports other patterns that are more expressive.

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Javascript provides a much richer set of code reuse patterns. It can ape the classical pattern, but it also supports other patterns that are more expressive.

Javascript is a class-free language

In classical languages, objects are instances of classes, and a class can inherit from another class. Javascript is a prototypal language, which means that objects inherit directly from other objects.

Inheritance

Pseudoclassical pattern

```
var Alien = function (name) {  
    this.name = name;  
};  
  
Alien.prototype.talk = function () {  
    console.log('%?saf? ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var SmartAlien = function (name) {  
    this.name = name;  
};  
  
SmartAlien.prototype = new Alien();  
  
SmartAlien.prototype.speech = function () {  
    this.talk();  
    console.log('...I mean, my name is ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var enemy = new SmartAlien('Roger');  
enemy.speech();  
// Output: '%?saf? Roger  
//         ...I mean, my name is Roger'
```

Inheritance

Prototypal pattern

```
var alien = {  
  name: '%?&789',  
  talk: function () {  
    console.log('%&7?_% ' + this.name);  
  }  
};  
  
var smartAlien = Object.create(alien);  
smartAlien.speech = function () {  
  this.talk();  
  console.log('...I mean, my name is ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var enemy = Object.create(smartAlien);  
enemy.name = 'Roger';  
enemy.speech();  
// Output: '%?saf? Roger  
//          ...I mean, my name is Roger'
```

Inheritance

Functional pattern

```
var alien = function (spec) {
  var that = {};

  var killHumans = function () { // Private access
    console.log('*Using ' + spec.weapon + '*');
  };

  that.talk = function () {
    console.log('%&78 ' + spec.name);
    if (spec.weapon) {
      killHumans();
    }
  };

  return that;
};
```

```
var enemy = smartAlien({ name: 'Roger' });
enemy.speech();
// Output: '%?saf? Roger
//          ...I mean, my name is Roger'
//
// ...killing humans on the process
```

```
var smartAlien = function (spec) {
  spec.weapon = 'Pistol'; // Private access
  var that = alien(spec);

  that.speech = function () {
    that.talk();
    console.log('...I mean, my name is ' +
      spec.name);
  };
  return that;
};
```

Arrays

Arrays doesn't exist

Javascript provides an object that has some array-like characteristics. It converts array subscripts into strings that are used to make properties.

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Arrays literals

```
var enemies = [];  
  
console.log(enemies[9999]); // Output: undefined  
  
enemies[0] = 'Sigma';  
console.log(enemies[0]); // Output: 'Sigma'  
  
enemies[1] = 9000; // We can mix different types  
console.log(enemies[1]); // Output: 9000
```

Arrays

Remove elements

```
var enemies = ['Grassman', 'Bowser', 'Sephiroth'],  
    players = ['David', 'Manfred', 'Joanmi'];
```

```
delete enemies[1]; // Bad idea  
console.log(enemies[1]); // Output: undefined  
console.log(enemies.length); // Output: 3
```

```
players.splice(1, 1); // Yeah!  
console.log(players[1]); // Output: 'Joanmi'  
console.log(players.length); // Output: 2
```


What is Node.js

Website definition

Node.js is a platform built on Chrome's JavaScript runtime for easily building fast, scalable network applications. Node.js uses an event-driven, non-blocking I/O model that makes it lightweight and efficient, perfect for data-intensive real-time applications that run across distributed devices.



Installation

From source-code or pre-built installer

Visit <http://nodejs.org/download/> and choose the package for your platform.

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Check installation

```
$ node -v  
v0.8.21  
$ npm -v  
1.2.11
```

Node packages

Node.js has a lot of packages that can be installed using `npm`. You can publish your own code as a node package and it will be available through `npm`.

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Installing packages

```
$ npm install <package_name>
```