

# **The JavaScript Programming Language**

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# Overview

- **History**
- **Language**
- **Advanced Features**
- **Platforms**
- **Standards**
- **Style**

# **The World's Most Misunderstood Programming Language**

# **Sources of Misunderstanding**

- The Name**
- Mispositioning**
- Design Errors**
- Bad Implementations**
- The Browser**
- Bad Books**
- Substandard Standard**
- JavaScript is a Functional Language**

# History



- **1992**

- Oak, Gosling at Sun & FirstPerson**

- **1995**

- HotJava**

- LiveScript, Eich at Netscape**

- **1996**

- JScript at Microsoft**

- **1998**

- ECMAScript**

# **Not a Web Toy**

- **It is a real language**
- **Small, but sophisticated**
- **It is not a subset of Java**

# Key Ideas

- **Load and go delivery**
- **Loose typing**
- **Objects as general containers**
- **Prototypal inheritance**
- **Lambda**
- **Linkage through global variables**

# Values

- **Numbers**
- **Strings**
- **Booleans**
- **Objects**
- `null`
- `undefined`



# Numbers

- **Only one number type**

**No integers**

- **64-bit floating point**
- **IEEE-754 (aka “Double”)**
- **Does not map well to common understanding of arithmetic:**
- $0.1 + 0.2 = 0.30000000000000004$

# NaN

- **Special number: Not a Number**
- **Result of undefined or erroneous operations**
- **Toxic: any arithmetic operation with NaN as an input will have NaN as a result**
- **NaN is not equal to anything, including NaN**

# Number function

`Number (value)`

- **Converts the value into a number.**
- **It produces NaN if it has a problem.**
- **Similar to + prefix operator.**

# parseInt function

`parseInt(value, 10)`

- **Converts the value into a number.**
- **It stops at the first non-digit character.**
- **The radix (10) should be required.**

`parseInt("08") === 0`

`parseInt("08", 10) === 8`

# Math

- **Math object is modeled on Java's Math class.**
- **It contains**

<code>abs</code>	<b>absolute value</b>
<code>floor</code>	<b>integer</b>
<code>log</code>	<b>logarithm</b>
<code>max</code>	<b>maximum</b>
<code>pow</code>	<b>raise to a power</b>
<code>random</code>	<b>random number</b>
<code>round</code>	<b>nearest integer</b>
<code>sin</code>	<b>sine</b>
<code>sqrt</code>	<b>square root</b>

# Strings

- **Sequence of 0 or more 16-bit characters**
  - UCS-2, not quite UTF-16**
  - No awareness of surrogate pairs**
- **No separate character type**
  - Characters are represented as strings with a length of 1**
- **Strings are immutable**
- **Similar strings are equal ( == )**
- **String literals can use single or double quotes**

# String length

- `string.length`
- **The `length` property determines the number of 16-bit characters in a string.**

# String function

`String(value)`

- **Converts value to a string**



# String Methods

- `charAt`
- `concat`
- `indexOf`
- `lastIndexOf`
- `match`
- `replace`
- `search`
- `slice`
- `split`
- `substring`
- `toLowerCase`
- `toUpperCase`

# Booleans

- `true`
- `false`

# Boolean function

`Boolean (value)`

- **returns true if value is truthy**
- **returns false if value is falsy**
- **Similar to !! prefix operator**

null

- **A value that isn't anything**

# undefined

- **A value that isn't even that**
- **The default value for variables and parameters**
- **The value of missing members in objects**

# Falsy values

- `false`
- `null`
- `undefined`
- `""` (empty string)
- `0`
- `NaN`
- **All other values (including all objects) are truthy.**

`"0"`

`"false"`

**Everything Else Is Objects**

# Dynamic Objects

- **Unification of Object and Hashtable**
- **`new Object()` produces an empty container of name/value pairs**
- **A name can be any string, a value can be any value except undefined**
- **members can be accessed with dot notation or subscript notation**
- **No hash nature is visible (no hash codes or rehash methods)**



# **Loosely Typed**

- **Any of these types can be stored in an variable, or passed as a parameter to any function**
- **The language is not "untyped"**

# C

- **JavaScript is syntactically a C family language**
- **It differs from C mainly in its type system, which allows functions to be values**

# Identifiers

- **Starts with a letter or \_ or \$**
- **Followed by zero or more letters, digits, \_ or \$**
- **By convention, all variables, parameters, members, and function names start with lower case**
- **Except for constructors which start with upper case**
- **Initial \_ should be reserved for implementations**
- **\$ should be reserved for machines.**

# Reserved Words

abstract  
boolean **break** byte  
**case catch** char class const **continue**  
debugger **default delete do** double  
**else** enum export extends  
**false final finally** float **for function**  
goto  
**if** implements import **in instanceof** int  
interface  
long  
native **new null**  
package private protected public  
**return**  
short static super **switch** synchronized  
**this throw** throws transient **true try typeof**  
**var** volatile **void**  
**while with**

# Comments

// slashslash line comment

/\*

slashstar

block

comment

\*/

# Operators

- **Arithmetic**

+ - \* / %

- **Comparison**

== != < > <= >=

- **Logical**

&& || !

- **Bitwise**

& | ^ >> >>> <<

## **Ternary**

?:

+

- **Addition and concatenation**
- **If both operands are numbers,  
then  
    add them  
else  
    convert them both to strings  
    concatenate them**

`'$' + 3 + 4 = '$34'`

+

- **Unary operator can convert strings to numbers**

`+"42" = 42`

- **Also**

`Number("42") = 42`

- **Also**

`parseInt("42", 10) = 42`

`+"3" + (+"4") = 7`



/

- **Division of two integers can produce a non-integer result**

$$10 / 3 = 3.33333333333333333335$$

**==    !=**

- **Equal and not equal**
- **These operators can do type coercion**
- **It is better to use === and !==, which do not do type coercion.**

## &&

- **The guard operator, aka *logical and***
- **If first operand is truthy**  
    **then result is second operand**  
    **else result is first operand**
- **It can be used to avoid null references**

```
if (a) {  
    return a.member;  
} else {  
    return a;  
}
```

- **can be written as**

```
return a && a.member;
```

||

- **The default operator, aka *logical or***
- **If first operand is *truthy*  
then result is first operand  
else result is second operand**
- **It can be used to fill in default values.**  

```
var last = input || nr_items;
```
- **(If *input* is *truthy*, then *last* is *input*,  
otherwise set *last* to *nr\_items*.)**

**!**

- **Prefix *logical not* operator.**
- **If the operand is *truthy*, the result is *false*. Otherwise, the result is *true*.**
- **!! produces booleans.**

# Bitwise

& | ^ >> >>> <<

- **The bitwise operators convert the operand to a 32-bit signed integer, and turn the result back into 64-bit floating point.**

# Statements

- ***expression***
- `if`
- `switch`
- `while`
- `do`
- `for`
- `break`
- `continue`
- `return`
- `try/throw`

# Break statement

- **Statements can have labels.**
- **Break statements can refer to those labels.**

```
loop: for (;;) {  
    ...  
    if (...) {  
        break loop;  
    }  
    ...  
}
```



# For statement

- Iterate through all of the elements of an array:

```
for (var i = 0; i < array.length; i += 1) {  
  
    // within the loop,  
    // i is the index of the current member  
    // array[i] is the current element  
  
}
```

# For statement

- Iterate through all of the members of an object:

```
for (var name in object) {  
    if (object.hasOwnProperty(name)) {  
  
        // within the loop,  
        // name is the key of current member  
        // object[name] is the current value  
  
    }  
}
```

# **Switch statement**

- **Multiway branch**
- **The switch value does not need to be a number. It can be a string.**
- **The case values can be expressions.**

# Switch statement

```
switch (expression) {  
  case ';' :  
  case ',' :  
  case '.' :  
      punctuation() ;  
      break ;  
  default :  
      noneOfTheAbove () ;  
}
```

# Throw statement

```
throw new Error(reason) ;
```

```
throw {  
    name: exceptionName,  
    message: reason  
};
```

# Try statement

```
try {  
    ...  
} catch (e) {  
    switch (e.name) {  
    case 'Error':  
        ...  
        break;  
    default:  
        throw e;  
    }  
}
```

# Try Statement

- **The JavaScript implementation can produce these exception names:**

`'Error'`

`'EvalError'`

`'RangeError'`

`'SyntaxError'`

`'TypeError'`

`'URIError'`

# With statement

- **Intended as a short-hand**

```
with (o) {  
    foo = null;  
}
```

- **Ambiguous**

```
❑ o.foo = null;
```

- **Error-prone**

```
❑ foo = null;
```

- **Don't use it**



# Function statement

```
function name(parameters) {  
    statements;  
}
```

# Var statement

- **Defines variables within a function.**
- **Types are not specified.**
- **Initial values are optional.**

```
var name;  
var nrErrors = 0;  
var a, b, c;
```

# Scope

- **In JavaScript, {blocks} do not have scope.**
- **Only functions have scope.**
- **Vars defined in a function are not visible outside of the function.**

# Return statement

return *expression*;

- or

return;

- If there is no *expression*, then the return value is undefined.
- Except for constructors, whose default return value is this.

# **Objects**

- **Everything else is objects**
- **Objects can contain data and methods**
- **Objects can inherit from other objects.**

# Collections

- **An object is an unordered collection of name/value pairs**
- **Names are strings**
- **Values are any type, including other objects**
- **Good for representing records and trees**
- **Every object is a little database**

# Object Literals

- **Object literals are wrapped in { }**
- **Names can be names or strings**
- **Values can be expressions**
- **: separates names and values**
- **, separates pairs**
- **Object literals can be used anywhere a value can appear**

# Object Literals

```
var myObject = {name: "Jack B. Nimble",  
'goto': 'Jail', grade: 'A', level: 3};
```

"name"	"Jack B. Nimble"
"goto"	"Jail"
"grade"	"A"
"level"	3

```
var theName = myObject.name;  
var destination = myObject['goto'];
```



# Maker Function

```
function maker(name, where, grade, level) {  
  var it = {};  
  it.name = name;  
  it['goto'] = where;  
  it.grade = grade;  
  it.level = level;  
  return it;  
}
```

```
myObject = maker("Jack B. Nimble",  
  'Jail', 'A', 3);
```

# Object Literals

```
var myObject = {name: "Jack B. Nimble",  
  'goto': 'Jail', grade: 'A', format: {type:  
  'rect', width: 1920, height: 1080,  
  interlace: false, framerate: 24}};
```

# Object Literals

```
var myObject = {  
    name: "Jack B. Nimble",  
    'goto': 'Jail',  
    grade: 'A',  
    format: {  
        type: 'rect',  
        width: 1920,  
        height: 1080,  
        interlace: false,  
        framerate: 24  
    }  
};
```

# Object Literals

```
myFunction({  
    type: 'rect',  
    width: 1920,  
    height: 1080  
});  
  
throw {  
    name: 'error',  
    message: 'out of bounds'  
};
```

# Object Literals

```
function SuperDiv(width, height,  
  left, top, zIndex, position,  
  color, visibility, html,  
  cssClass)
```

```
function SuperDiv(spec)
```

# Object Augmentation

- **New members can be added to any object by simple assignment**
- **There is no need to define a new class**

```
myObject.format.colorModel =  
    'YCbCr' ;
```

```
myObject[name] = value;
```

# Linkage

- **Objects can be created with a secret link to another object.**
- **If an attempt to access a name fails, the secret linked object will be used.**
- **The secret link is not used when storing. New members are only added to the primary object.**
- **The `object(o)` function makes a new empty object with a link to object `o`.**

# Linkage

```
var myNewObject = object(myOldObject);
```

myNewObject



myOldObject

"name"	"Jack B. Nimble"
"goto"	"Jail"
"grade"	"A"
"level"	3



# Linkage

```
myNewObject.name = "Tom Piperson";
```

```
myNewObject.level += 1;
```

```
myNewObject.crime = 'pignapping';
```

"name"	"Tom Piperson"
"level"	4
"crime"	"pignapping"



"name"	"Jack B. Nimble"
"goto"	"Jail"
"grade"	"A"
"level"	3

# Inheritance

- **Linkage provides simple inheritance.**
- **An object can inherit from an older object.**



# **Prototypal Inheritance**

- **Some languages have classes, methods, constructors, and modules. JavaScript's functions do the work of all of those.**
- **Instead of Classical Inheritance, JavaScript has Prototypal Inheritance.**
- **It accomplishes the same things, but differently.**
- **It offers greater expressive power.**
- **But it's different.**

# Prototypal Inheritance

- **Instead of organizing objects into rigid classes, new objects can be made that are similar to existing objects, and then customized.**
- **Object customization is a lot less work than making a class, and less overhead, too.**
- **One of the keys is the `object(o)` function.**
- **The other key is functions.**

# Object Methods

- **All objects are linked directly or indirectly to `Object.prototype`**
- **All objects inherit some basic methods.**
- **None of them are very useful.**
- **`hasOwnProperty(name)`**  
**Is the name a true member of this object?**
- **No copy method.**
- **No equals method.**

# Object Construction

- **Make a new empty object**
- **All three of these expressions have exactly the same result:**

`new Object()`

`{}`

`object(Object.prototype)`

- **`{}` is the preferred form.**

# Reference

- **Objects can be passed as arguments to functions, and can be returned by functions**
  - Objects are passed by reference.**
  - Objects are not passed by value.**
- **The `===` operator compares object references, not values**
  - true only if both operands are the same object**

# Delete

- **Members can be removed from an object with the delete operator**

`delete myObject[name] ;`



# Arrays

- **Array inherits from Object.**
- **Indexes are converted to strings and used as names for retrieving values.**
- **Very efficient for sparse arrays.**
- **Not very efficient in most other cases.**
- **One advantage: No need to provide a length or type when creating an array.**

# length

- **Arrays, unlike objects, have a special length member.**
- **It is always 1 larger than the highest integer subscript.**
- **It allows use of the traditional for statement.**

```
for (i = 0; i < a.length; i += 1) {  
    ...  
}
```
- **Do not use for..in with arrays**

# Array Literals

- **An array literal uses []**
- **It can contain any number of expressions, separated by commas**

```
myList = ['oats', 'peas', 'beans'];
```

- **New items can be appended**

```
myList[myList.length] = 'barley';
```

- **The dot notation should not be used with arrays.**
- **[] is preferred to new Array().**

# Array Methods

- concat
- join
- pop
- push
- slice
- sort
- splice

# Deleting Elements

```
delete array[number]
```

- **Removes the element, but leaves a hole in the numbering.**

```
array.splice(number, 1)
```

- **Removes the element and renumbers all the following elements.**

# Deleting Elements

```
myArray = ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd'];
```

```
delete myArray[1];
```

```
// ['a', undefined, 'c', 'd']
```

```
myArray.splice(1, 1);
```

```
// ['a', 'c', 'd']
```

# **Arrays v Objects**

- **Use objects when the names are arbitrary strings.**
- **Use arrays when the names are sequential integers.**
- **Don't get confused by the term Associative Array.**

# Distinguishing Arrays

`value.constructor === Array`

`value instanceof Array`

**Neither of these work when the value comes from a different frame.**



# Arrays and Inheritance

- **Don't use arrays as prototypes.**

**The object produced this way does not have array nature. It will inherit the array's values and methods, but not its length.**

- **You can augment an individual array.**

**Assign a method to it.**

**This works because arrays are objects.**

- **You can augment all arrays.**

**Assign methods to `Array.prototype`**

# Functions

- **Functions are first-class objects**
- 
- 3. Functions can be passed, returned, and stored just like any other value**
  - 5. Functions inherit from Object and can store name/value pairs.**

# Function operator

- **The function operator takes an optional name, a parameter list, and a block of statements, and returns a function object.**

```
function name(parameters) {  
    statements  
}
```

- **A function can appear anywhere that an expression can appear.**

# lambda

- **What JavaScript calls function, other languages call lambda.**
- **It is a source of enormous expressive power.**
- **Unlike most power-constructs, it is secure.**

# Function statement

- **The function statement is just a short-hand for a `var` statement with a function value.**

```
function foo() {}
```

**expands to**

```
var foo = function foo() {};
```

# Inner functions

- **Functions do not all have to be defined at the top level (or left edge).**
- **Functions can be defined inside of other functions.**

# Scope

- **An inner function has access to the variables and parameters of functions that it is contained within.**
- **This is known as Static Scoping or Lexical Scoping.**

# Closure

- **The scope that an inner function enjoys continues even after the parent functions have returned.**
- **This is called *closure*.**



# Example

```
function fade(id) {  
    var dom = document.getElementById(id) ,  
        level = 1;  
    function step () {  
        var h = level.toString(16) ;  
        dom.style.backgroundColor =  
            '#FFFF' + h + h;  
        if (level < 15) {  
            level += 1;  
            setTimeout(step, 100);  
        }  
    }  
    setTimeout(step, 100);  
}
```

# Function Objects

- **Functions are objects, so they can contain name/value pairs.**
- **This can serve the same purpose as `static` members in other languages.**

# Method

- **Since functions are values, functions can be stored in objects.**
- **A function in an object is called a *method*.**

# Invocation

- **If a function is called with too many arguments, the extra arguments are ignored.**
- **If a function is called with too few arguments, the missing values will be undefined.**
- **There is no implicit type checking on the arguments.**

# Invocation

- **There are four ways to call a function:**

**Function form**

***functionObject (arguments)***

**Method form**

***thisObject.methodName (arguments)***

***thisObject [ "methodName" ] (arguments)***

**Constructor form**

***new functionObject (arguments)***

**Apply form**

***functionObject.apply (thisObject,  
[arguments])***

# Method form

***thisObject**.methodName (arguments)*

- When a function is called in the method form, **this** is set to ***thisObject***, the object containing the function.
- This allows methods to have a reference to the object of interest.

# Function form

***functionObject (arguments)***

- **When a function is called in the function form, `this` is set to the global object.**

**That is not very useful.**

**It makes it harder to write helper functions within a method because the helper function does not get access to the outer `this`.**

```
var that = this;
```

# Constructor form

*new functionObject (arguments)*

- When a function is called with the *new* operator, a new object is created and assigned to *this*.
- If there is not an explicit return value, then *this* will be returned.



# this

- **this is an extra parameter. Its value depends on the calling form.**
- **this gives methods access to their objects.**
- **this is bound at invocation time.**

Invocation form	this
function	the global object
method	the object
constructor	the new object

# arguments

- **When a function is invoked, in addition to its parameters, it also gets a special parameter called arguments.**
- **It contains all of the arguments from the invocation.**
- **It is an array-like object.**
- **arguments.length is the number of arguments passed.**

# Example

```
function sum() {  
    var i,  
        n = arguments.length,  
        total = 0;  
    for (i = 0; i < n; i += 1) {  
        total += arguments[i];  
    }  
    return total;  
}
```

# Augmenting Built-in Types

- `Object.prototype`
- `Array.prototype`
- `Function.prototype`
- `Number.prototype`
- `String.prototype`
- `Boolean.prototype`

# trim

```
String.prototype.trim = function () {  
    return this.replace(  
        /^\\s*(\\S*(\\s+\\S+)* )\\s*$/, "$1");  
};
```

# supplant

```
var template = '<table border="{border}">' +  
  '<tr><th>Last</th><td>{last}</td></tr>' +  
  '<tr><th>First</th><td>{first}</td></tr>' +  
  '</table>';  
  
var data = {  
  first: "Carl",  
  last: "Hollywood",  
  border: 2  
};  
  
mydiv.innerHTML = template.supplant(data);
```

# supplant

```
String.prototype.supplant = function (o) {  
  return this.replace(/{\([^{}]*\)} /g,  
    function (a, b) {  
      var r = o[b];  
      return typeof r === 'string' ?  
        r : a;  
    }  
  );  
};
```

# typeof

- **The typeof prefix operator returns a string identifying the type of a value.**

type	typeof
object	'object'
function	'function'
array	'object'
number	'number'
string	'string'
boolean	'boolean'
null	'object'
undefined	'undefined'



# eval

`eval(string)`

- **The eval function compiles and executes a string and returns the result.**
- **It is what the browser uses to convert strings into actions.**
- **It is the most misused feature of the language.**

# Function function

`new Function(parameters, body)`

- **The Function constructor takes zero or more parameter name strings, and a body string, and uses the JavaScript compiler to produce a function object.**
- **It should only be used to compile fresh source from a server.**
- **It is closely related to eval.**

# Built-in Type Wrappers

- **Java has `int` and `Integer`, two incompatible types which can both carry the same value with differing levels of efficiency and convenience.**
- **JavaScript copied this pattern to no advantage. Avoid it.**
- **Avoid `new Boolean()`**
- **Avoid `new String()`**
- **Avoid `new Number()`**

# Confession

```
function object(o) {  
  function F() {}  
  F.prototype = o;  
  return new F();  
}
```

# **Augmentation**

- **We can directly modify individual objects to give them just the characteristics we want.**
- **We can do this without having to create classes.**
- **We can then use our new object as the prototype for lots of new objects, each of which can also be augmented.**

# **Working with the Grain**

- **Classical patterns are less effective than prototypal patterns or parasitic patterns.**
- **Formal classes are not needed for reuse or extension.**

# **(global) Object**

- **The object that dares not speak its name.**
- **It is the container for all global variables and all built-in objects.**
- **Sometimes this points to it.**  
`var global = this;`
- **On browsers, window is the global object.**

# **Global variables are evil**

- **Functions within an application can clobber each other.**
- **Cooperating applications can clobber each other.**
- **Use of the global namespace must be minimized.**



# Implied Global

- **Any var which is not properly declared is assumed to be global by default.**
- **This makes it easy for people who do not know or care about encapsulation to be productive, but it makes applications less reliable.**
- **JSLint is a tool which helps identify implied globals and other weaknesses.**

<http://www.JSLint.com>

# Namespace

- **Every object is a separate namespace.**
- **Use an object to organize your variables and functions.**
- **The YAHOO Object.**

```
<head>
```

```
<script>
```

```
YAHOO={ } ;
```

```
</script>
```

- <http://twiki.corp.yahoo.com/view/Devel/TheYAHOOObject>

# Encapsulate

- **Function scope can create an encapsulation.**
- **Use an anonymous function to wrap your application.**

# Example

```
YAHOO.Trivia = function () {  
    // define your common vars here  
    // define your common functions here  
    return {  
        getNextPoser: function (cat, diff) {  
            ...  
        },  
        showPoser: function () {  
            ...  
        }  
    };  
} ();
```

# Thinking about type

- **Trading type-safety for dynamism.**
- **JavaScript has no cast operator.**
- **Reflection is really easy, and usually unnecessary.**
- **Why inheritance?**
  - Automatic casting**
  - Code reuse**
- **Trading brittleness for flexibility.**

# **Date**

**The Date function is based on  
Java's Date class.**

**It was not Y2K ready.**

# RegExp

- **Regular expression pattern matcher**
- **Patterns are enclosed in slashes**
- **Example: a pattern that matches regular expressions**

```
/\/(\\[^\x00-\x1f]|\\([\\[^\x00-\x1f]|[^\x00-\x1f\\\\/])*\)|[^\x00-\x1f\\\\/\\])+\/[gim]*/
```

- **Bizarre notation, difficult to read.**

# Threads

- **The language definition is neutral on threads**
- **Some language processors (like SpiderMonkey) provide thread support**
- **Most application environments (like browsers) do not provide it**
- **Threads are evil**



# Platforms

- **Browsers**
- **WSH and Dashboard**
- **Yahoo!Widgets**
- **DreamWeaver and Photoshop**
- **Embedded**

# ActionScript

- **Empty strings are truthy**
- **keywords are case insensitive**
- **No Unicode support**
- **No RegExp**
- **No try**
- **No statement labels**
- **|| and && return booleans**
- **separate operators for strings and numbers**

# E4X

- **Extensions to ECMAScript for XML**
- **Proposed by BEA**
- **Allows <XML> literals**
- **Not compatible with ECMAScript Third Edition**
- **Not widely accepted yet**
- **Not in IE7**

# **ECMAScript Fourth Edition**

- **A very large set of new features are being considered.**
- **Mozilla and Opera are committed.**
- **It is not clear that Microsoft will adopt it.**
- **No word from Safari yet.**

# Style

- **Programming style isn't about personal taste.**
- **It is about rigor in expression.**
- **It is about clearness in presentation.**
- **It is about product adaptability and longevity.**
- **Good rules help us to keep the quality of our programs high.**

# **Style and JavaScript**

- **Style is critically important for JavaScript.**
- **The dynamic nature of the language is considered by some to be "too soft". Discipline is necessary for balance.**
- **Most of the world's body of JavaScript programs is crap.**

# **Code Conventions for the JavaScript Programming Language**

<http://javascript.crockford.com/code.html>

# Semicolon insertion

- **When the compiler sees an error, it attempts to replace a nearby linefeed with a semicolon and try again.**
- **This should alarm you.**
- **It can mask errors.**
- **Always use the full, correct forms, including semicolons.**



# Line Ending

- **Break a line after a punctuation:**

, . ; : { } ( [ = < > ? ! + - \* / %  
~ ^ | & == != <= >= += -= \*= /= %=  
^= |= &= << >> || && === !== <<= >>=  
>>> >>>=

- **Do not break after a name, string, number, or    ) ] ++ --**
- **Defense against copy/paste errors.**

# Comma

- **Avoid tricky expressions using the comma operators.**
- **Do not use extra commas in array literals.**
- **Good:** [1, 2, 3]
- **Bad:** [1, 2, 3,]

# Required Blocks

- **Good:**

```
if (a) {  
    b();  
}
```

- **Bad:**

```
if (a) b();
```

# Forbidden Blocks

- **Blocks do not have scope in JavaScript.**
- **Blocks should only be used with structured statements**

`function`

`if`

`switch`

`while`

`for`

`do`

`try`

# Variables

- **Define all variables at the beginning of the function.**
- **JavaScript does not have block scope, so there is no advantage in declaring variables at the place of their first use.**

# Expression Statements

- **Any expression can be used as a statement. That can mask errors.**
- **Only assignment expressions and invocation expressions should be used as statements.**
- **Good:**  
`foo();`
- **Bad:**  
`foo && foo();`

# `switch` Statement

- **Avoid using fallthrough.**
- **Each clause should explicitly `break` or `return` or `throw`.**

# Assignment Expressions

- **Do not use assignment expressions in the condition parts of `if`, `while`, or `for`.**
- **It is more likely that**  
`if (a = b) { ... }`
- **was intended to be**  
`if (a == b) { ... }`
- **Avoid tricky expressions.**



## **== and !=**

- **Be aware that == and != do type coercion.**

- **Bad**

```
if (a == null) { ... }
```

- **Good:**

```
if (a === null) { ... }
```

```
if (!a) { ... }
```

# Labels

- **Use labels only on these statements:**

do

for

switch

while

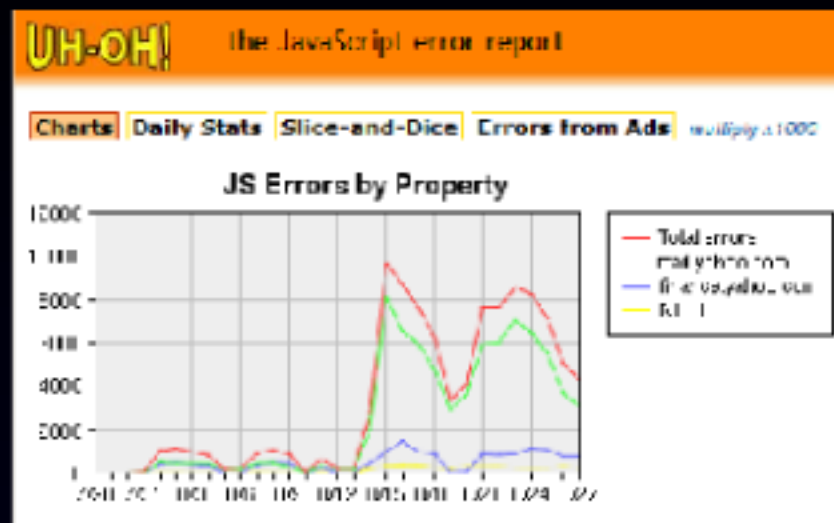
- **Never use javascript: as a label.**

# JSLint

- **JSLint can help improve the robustness and portability of your programs.**
- **It enforces style rules.**
- **It can spot some errors that are very difficult to find in debugging.**
- **It can help eliminate implied globals.**
- **Currently available on the web and as a Konfabulator widget.**
- **Soon, in text editors and Eclipse.**

[\*\*http://www.JSLint.com/\*\*](http://www.JSLint.com/)

# UHOH!



- **Universal Header Onerror Handler**
- **Inserted into 0.1% of pages**
- **Reports on JavaScript errors**
- <http://uhoh.corp.yahoo.com/>

# Key Ideas

- **Load and go delivery**
- **Loose typing**
- **Objects as general containers**
- **Prototypal inheritance**
- **Lambda**
- **Linkage though global variables**

# **The JavaScript Programming Language**

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