XMLHttpRequest

¶ **Just recently on Stylish Scripting, Simon Willison introduced the** possibilities presented by the XMLHttpRequest extension to JavaScript:

> *XMLHttpRequest is one of modern DHTML's best kept secrets. If you haven't encountered it before, it's a method of making an HTTP call back to the hosting web server without refreshing the whole page – a kind of remote scripting on steroids. Originally a Microsoft extension, it's been adapted by both the Mozilla browser family and (as of version 1.2) Safari.*

It's my understanding that Google uses XMLHttpRequest extensively in Gmail to help make it so fast and desktop application-like.

18 August 2004
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1
I've been experimenting with javascript remote procedure calls (the same thing as XMLHttpRequests). Here's the fruits of my labour:

http://richardathome.no-ip.com/index.php?article_id=317

Richard@Home
18 Aug 2004
15:32 GMT

2
I got to use XLHTTPRequest when working on s1homes.com a few months ago. Which was fun. Getting it to work with Opera required me to invent one of the most evil evil twisted javscript hacks ever.
....
Did you know in Opera you can change the src attribute of a script tag?
Even now I shiver to think of it. But it works so it can't be that bad.

Simon Proctor
18 Aug 2004
15:41 GMT

3
I think that deviantART (.com) uses this as well, for the live submission count on their home page.... not sure though.

tom
28 Aug 2004
03:38 GMT

4
DeviantArt's submission counter is hardcoded JavaScript. It is not live.

Bradley Baumann
12 Dec 2004
11:42 GMT

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About the author
Richard Rutter is **Production Director** at **Clearleft**, a website user-experience consultancy based in Brighton, UK. Here he writes about his passion for web typography, UX design, Brighton, music and occasionally mountain biking.