JAVASCRIPT

Review

Here's what happens when a browser loads a website:

1. Fetch the HTML page (e.g. index.html)

2. Begin parsing the HTML

3. The parser encounters a <script> tag referencing an external script file.

The browser requests the script file. Meanwhile, the parser blocks and stops parsing the other HTML on your page.

After some time the script is downloaded and subsequently executed.

The parser continues parsing the rest of the HTML document.

Step 4 causes a bad user experience. Your website basically stops loading until you've downloaded all scripts. If there's one thing that users hate it's waiting for a website to load.

Why does this even happen?

Any script can insert its own HTML via document.write() or other DOM manipulations. This implies that the parser has to wait until the script has been downloaded & executed before it can safely parse the rest of the document. After all, the script *could* have inserted its own HTML in the document.

However, most javascript developers no longer manipulate the DOM *while* the document is loading. Instead, they wait until the document has been loaded before modifying it. For example:

Ref: http://stackoverflow.com/questions/436411/where-is-the-best-place-to-put-script-tags-in-html-markup