Comp 324/424 - Client-side Web Design

Spring Semester 2019 - Week 7

Dr Nick Hayward

JS Core - objects - part 2

Arrays

- JS array an object that contains values, of any type, in numerically indexed positions
  - *store a number, a string...*
  - *array will start at index position 0*
  - *increments by **1** for each new value*
- arrays can also have properties
  - *eg: automatically updated **length** property*

```
var arrayA = [
  49,
  59,
  "Philae"
];
arrayA.length; //returns 3
```

- each value can be retrieved from its applicable index position,

```
arrayA[2]; //returns the string "Philae"
```

Image - JS Array

JS Array

JS Core - objects - Arrays

examples

- Random Greeting Generator - Basic

JS Core - checking equality - part 1

- JS has four equality operators, including two **not equal**
  - *==, ===, !=, !==*
- == - checks for value equality, whilst allowing coercion
- === - checks for value equality but without coercion

```
var a = 49;
var b = "49";

console.log(a == b); //returns true
console.log(a === b); //returns false
```

- first comparison checks values
  - *if necessary, try to coerce one or both values until a match occurs*
  - *allows JS to perform a simple equality check*
  - *results in* `true`
- second check is simpler
  - *coercion is not permitted, and a simple equality check is performed*
  - *results in* `false`

JS Core - checking equality - part 2

- which comparison operator should we use
- useful suggestions for usage of comparison operators
  - *use === if either side of the comparison could be true or false*
  - *use === if either value could be one of the following specific values,*
  - *0, " ", [ ]*
  - *otherwise, it's safe to use ==*
  - *simplify code in a JS application due to the implicit coercion.*
- **not equal** counterparts, `!` and `!==` work in a similar manner

JS Core - checking inequality - part 1

- known as **relational comparison**, we can use the inequality operators,
  - *<, >, <=, >=*
- inequality operators often used to check comparable values like numbers
  - *inherent ordinal check*
- can be used to compare strings

```
"hello" < "world"
```

- coercion also occurs with inequality operators
  - *no concept of **strict inequality***

```
var a = 49;
var b = "59";
var c = "69";

a < b; //returns true
b < c; //returns true
```

JS Core - checking inequality - part 2

- we can encounter an issue when either value cannot be coerced into a number

```
var a = 49;
var b = "nice";

a < b; //returns false
a > b; //returns false
a == b; //returns false
```

- issue for < and > is string is being coerced into invalid number value, `NaN`
- == coerces string to `NaN` and we get comparison between `49 == NaN`

JS Core - more variables - part 1

- a few rules and best practices for naming valid **identifiers**
- using typical ASCII alphanumeric characters
  - *an identifier must begin with* `a-z, A-Z, $, _`
  - *may contain any of those characters, plus* `0-9`
- property names follow this same basic pattern
- careful not to use certain keywords, or reserved words
- reserved words can include such examples as,
  - `break, byte, delete, do, else, if, for, this, while` *and so on*
  - *further details are available at the W3 Schools site*
- in JS, we can use different declaration keywords relative to intended scope
  - `var` *for local,* `global` *for global...*
- such declarations will influence scope of usage for a given variable
- concept of **hoisting**
  - *defines the declaration of a variable as belonging to the entire scope*
  - *by association accessible throughout that scope as well*
  - *also works with JS functions - hoisted to the top of the scope*

JS Core - more variables - part 2

- concept of nesting, and scope specific variables
- ES6 enables us to restrict variables to a block of code
- use keyword **let** to declare a block-level variable

```
if (a > 5) {
let b = a + 4;

console.log(b);

}
```

- **let** restricts variable's scope to `if` statement
- variable `b` is not available to the whole function

ES6 - `let` variable

```
// function
var archiveCheck = function (level) {
  // add variable for archive
  var archive = 'waldzell';
  // specify purpose - default return
  var purpose = 'restricted';

  // check access level
  if (level === 'castalia') {
    let purpose = 'gaming';
    return purpose;
  }

  return purpose;
}

// log output - pass correct parameter value
console.log(`archive purpose is ${archiveCheck('castalia')}`);

// log output - pass incorrect parameter value
console.log(`archive purpose is ${archiveCheck('mariafels')}`);
```

JS Core - `let`

example

- Random Greeting Generator - A bit better

JS Core - more variables - part 3

- add **strict mode** to our code
- without we get a variable that will be hoisted to the top either
  - *set as a globally available variable, although it could be deleted*
  - *or it will set a value for a variable with the matching name*
- bubbled up through the available layers of scope
- becomes similar in essence to a declared global variable
- can create some strange behaviour in our applications
  - *tricky and difficult to debug*
- remember to declare your variables correctly and at the top

JS Core - more variables - example

```
var a;

function myScope() {
    "use strict";
    a = 49;
}

myScope()
a = 59;
console.log(a);
```

JS Core - functions and values

- variables acting as groups of code and blocks
- act as one of the primary mechanisms for scope within our JS applications
- also use functions as values
- effectively using them to set values for other variables

```
var a;

function scope() {
  "use strict";
    a = 49;
  return a;
}

b = scope() * 2;
console.log(b);
```

- useful and interesting aspect of the JS language
  - *allows us to build values from multiple layers and sources*

JS Core - more conditionals - part 1

- briefly considered conditional statements using the `if` statement,

```
if (a > b) {
console.log("a is the best...");
} else {
console.log("b is the best...");
}
```

- Switch statements effectively follow the same pattern as `if` statements
  - *designed to allow us to check for multiple values in a more succinct manner*
  - *enable us to check and evaluate a given expression*
  - *then attempt to match a required value against an available* `case`
- addition of `break` is important, ensures only matched case is executed
  - *then the application breaks from the switch statement*
- if no `break` execution after that case will continue
  - *commonly known as* ***fall through***
  - *may be an intentional feature of your code design*
  - *allows a match against multiple possible cases*

JS Core - switch conditional - example

```
var a = 4;

switch (a) {
case 3:
  //par 3
  console.log("par 3");
  break;
case 4:
  //par 4
  console.log("par 4");
  break;
case 5:
  //par 5
  console.log("par 5");
  break;
case 59:
  //dream score
  console.log("record");
  break;
default:
  console.log("more practice");
}
```

JS Core - more conditionals - part 2

ternary

- a more concise way to write our conditional statements
- known as the **ternary** or **conditional** operator
- consider this operator a more concise form of standard `if...else` statement

```
var a = 59;
var b = (a > 59) ? "high" : "low";
```

- equivalent to the following standard `if...else` statement

```
var a = 59;

if (a > 59) {
  var b = "high";
} else {
  var b = "low";
}
```

JS Core - closures - part 1

- important and useful aspect of JavaScript
- dealing with variables and scope
  - *continued, broader access to ongoing variables via a function's scope*
- closures as a useful construct to allow us to access a function's scope
  - *even after it has finished executing*
- can give us something similar to a private variable
  - *then access through another variable using relative scopes of outer and inner*
- inherent benefit is that we are able to repeatedly access internal variables
  - *normally cease to exist once a function had executed*

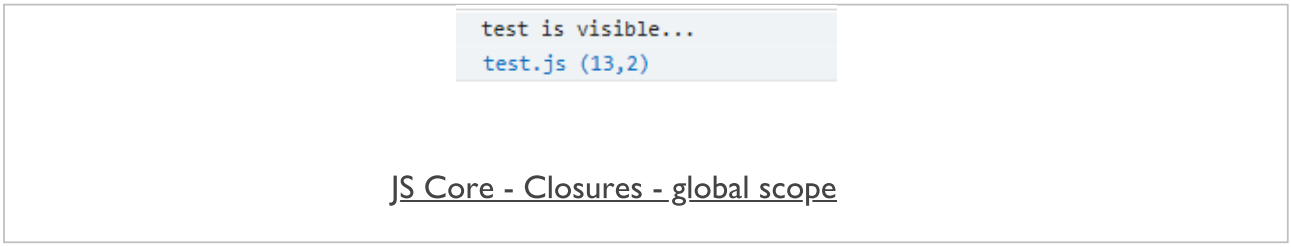
JS Core - closures - example - 1

```
//value in global scope
var outerVal = "test1";

//declare function in global scope
function outerFn() {
  //check & output result...
  console.log(outerVal === "test1" ? "test is visible..." : "test not visible...");
}

//execute function
outerFn();
```

Image - JS Core - closures - global scope



JS Core - Closures - global scope

JS Core - closures - example - 2

```
"use strict";

function addTitle(a) {
  var title = "hello ";
  function updateTitle() {
    var newTitle = title+a;
    return newTitle;
  }
    return updateTitle;
}

var buildTitle = addTitle("world");
console.log(buildTitle());
```

JS Core - closures - part 2

Why use closures?

- use closures a lot in JavaScript
  - *real driving force behind Node.js, jQuery, animations...*
- closures help reduce amount, complexity of code necessary for advanced features
- closures help us add otherwise impossible features, e.g.
  - *any task using callbacks - event handlers...*
  - *private object variables...*
- closure allows us to work with a function that has been defined within another scope
  - *still has access to all variables within the defined outer scope*
  - *helps create basic encapsulated data*
  - *store data in a separate scope - then share it where needed*

JS Core - closures - part 3

```
function count(a) {
return function(b) {
      return a + b;
  }
}

var add1 = count(1);
var add5 = count(5);
var add10 = count(10);

console.log(add1(8));
console.log(add5(8));
console.log(add10(8));
```

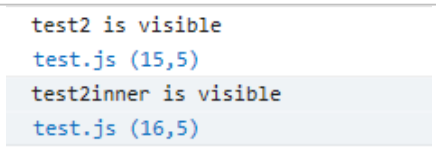
- using one function to create multiple other functions, `add1`, `add5`, `add10`, and so on.

JS Core - closures - example - 3

```
// variables in global scope
var outerVal = "test2";
var laterVal;

function outerFn() {
  // inner scope variable declared with value - scope limited to function
  var innerVal = "test2inner";
  // inner function - can access scope from parent function & variable innerVal
  function innerFn() {
    console.log(outerVal === "test2" ? "test2 is visible" : "test2 not visible");
    console.log(innerVal === "test2inner" ? "test2inner is visible" : "test2inner is not v
  }
  // inner function now added to global scope - now able to access elsewhere & call later
  laterVal = innerFn;
}
// invokes outerFn, innerFn is created, and its reference assigned to laterVal
outerFn();
// THEN - innerFn is invoked using laterVal - can't access innerFn directly...
laterVal();
```

Image - JS Core - closures - inner scope



JS Core - Closures - inner scope

JS Core - closures - part 4

- how is the `innerVal` variable available when we execute the inner function?
  - *this is why **closures** are such an important and useful concept in JavaScript*
  - *use of closures creates a sense of persistence in the scope*
- closures help create
  - *scope persistence*
  - *delayed access to functions and variables*
- closure creates a safe wrapper around
  - *the function*
  - *variables that are in scope as a function is defined*
- closure ensures function has everything necessary for correct execution
- closure wrapper persists whilst function exists

n.b. *closure usage is not memory free - there is an impact on app memory and usage...*

JS core - `this`

- `this` keyword - correct and appropriate usage
  - *commonly misunderstood feature of JS*
- value of `this` is not inherently linked with the function itself
- value of `this` determined in response to how the function is called
- value itself can be dynamic, simply based upon how the function is called
- if a function contains `this`, its reference will usually point to an **object**

JS core - `this` - part I

global, window object

- when we call a function, we can bind the `this` value to the `window` object
- resultant object refers to the root, in essence the `global` scope

```
function test1() {
  console.log(this);
}

test1();
```

- **NB:** the above will return a value of `undefined` in strict mode.
- also check for the value of `this` relative to the global object,

```
var a = 49;

function test1() {
    console.log(this.a);
}

test1();
```

- JSFiddle - this - window
- JSFiddle - this - global

JS core - `this` - part 2

object literals

- within an object literal, the value of `this`, thankfully, will always refer to its own object

```
var object1 = {
    method: test1
};

function test1() {
    console.log(this);
}

object1.method();
```

- return value for `this` will be the object itself
- we get the returned object with a property and value for the defined function
- other object properties and values will be returned and available as well
- JSFiddle - this - literal
- JSFiddle - this - literal 2

JS core - `this` - part 3

object literals

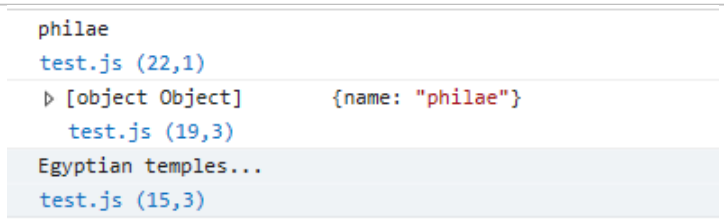
```
var sites = {};
sites.name = "philae";

sites.titleOutput = function() {
  console.log("Egyptian temples...");
};

sites.objectOutput = function() {
  console.log(this);
};

console.log(sites.name);
sites.objectOutput();
sites.titleOutput();
```

Image - Object literals console output



JS - `this` - object literals output

JS core - `this` - part 4

events

- for events, value of `this` points to the owner of the bound event

```
<div id="test">click to test...</div>
```

```
var testDiv = document.getElementById('test');

function output() {
  console.log(this);
};

testDiv.addEventListener('click', output, false);
```

- element is clicked, value of `this` becomes the clicked element
- also change the context of `this` using built-in JS functions
  - *such as `.apply()`, `.bind()`, and `.call()`*
- JSFiddle - this - events

ES6 JS - Arrow functions

basic

```
/**
  js-plain - definitions and arguments
    - basic example for arrow function
**/

// define array for planets
planets = ['mars', 'jupiter', 'venus'];
// use for each loop with array, and create arrow function for output to console
planets.forEach(planet => console.log(planet));
```

- Demo

ES6 JS - Arrow functions

function context

```
/**
  js-plain - definitions and arguments
    - example of arrow function with function context
**/

// button constructor
function Button() {
  this.clicked = false;
  // arrow function in function context
  this.click = () => {
    this.clicked = true;
    var message = `button clicked - ${this.clicked}`;
    console.log(message);
    document.getElementById("output").append(message);
  };
}

// create button object
var button = new Button();
var element = document.getElementById("test");
element.addEventListener("click", button.click);
```

- Demo

ES6 JS - Arrow functions

example

- Random Greeting Generator - A bit better - v0.2

JS - Closures - *private* object property

A brief demo of getters and setters with private object property.

- FN: constructor function
  - *'private variable' - not directly accessible*
  - *define properties on object*
  - *add getter and setter methods*
- Use:
  - *instantiate object using constructor*
  - *log output of check against getter method for value of 'private' variable*
  - *use 'setter' method to update value of 'private' variable*
  - *log output for check of value update of 'private' variable*

JS - closures - *private* object property - example

```
// define constructor
function Archive() {
    // private variable - accessible through function closures
    let _catalogue = 'glass bead';
    // define catalogue property access
    Object.defineProperty(this, 'catalogue', {
        get: () => {
            console.log(`catalogue requested...`);
            return _catalogue;
        },
        set: value => {
            console.log(`catalogue updated`);
            _catalogue = value;
        }
    });
}

// instantiate object from Archive constructor
const archiveCheck = new Archive();

// check access to constructor variable - returns 'undefined' without getter method
console.log(`direct access against private variable = ${archiveCheck._catalogue}`);
// check access using getter method - returns variable value
console.log(`getter access against private variable = ${archiveCheck.catalogue}`);

// update catalogue value - uses 'setter' method
archiveCheck.catalogue = 'history';

// check update catalogue variable
console.log(`updated catalogue = ${archiveCheck.catalogue}`);
```

- Demo - private object property

JS extras - best practices - part I

a few best practices...

variables

- limit use of global variables in JavaScript
  - *easy to override*
  - *can lead to unexpected errors and issues*
  - *should be replaced with appropriate local variables, closures*
- local variables should always be declared with keyword `var`
  - *avoids automatic global variable issue*

declarations

- add all required declarations at the top of the appropriate script or file
  - *provides cleaner, more legible code*
  - *helps to avoid unnecessary global variables*
  - *avoid unwanted re-declarations*

types and objects

- avoid declaring numbers, strings, or booleans as objects
- treat more correctly as primitive values
  - *helps increase the performance of our code*
  - *decrease the possibility for issues and bugs*

JS extras - best practices - part 2

type conversions and coercion

- weakly typed nature of JS
  - *important to avoid accidentally converting one type to another*
  - *converting a number to a string or mixing types to create a NaN (Not a Number)*
- often get a returned value set to NaN instead of generating an error
  - *try to subtract one string from another may result in* `NaN`

comparison

- better to try and work with === instead of ==
  - *== tries to coerce a matching type before comparison*
  - *=== forces comparison of values and type*

defaults

- when parameters are required by a function
  - *function call with a missing argument can lead to it being set as* ***undefined***
  - *good coding practice to assign default values to arguments*
  - *helps prevent issues and bugs*

switches

- consider a `default` for the switch conditional statement
- ensure you always set a `default` to end a switch statement

JS extras - performance - part 1

loops

- try to limit the number of calculations, executions, statements performed per loop iteration
- check loop statements for assignments and statements
  - *those checked or executed once*
  - *rather than each time a loop iterates*
- `for` loop is a standard example of this type of quick optimisation

```
// bad
for (i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {
...
}
// good
l = arr.length;
for (i = 0; i < l; i++) {
...
}
```

- source - W3

JS extras - performance - part 2

DOM access

- repetitive DOM access can be slow, and resource intensive
- try to limit the number of times code needs to access the DOM
- simply access once and then use as a local variable

```
var testDiv = document.getElementById('test');
testDiv.innerHTML = "test...";
```

JavaScript loading

- not always necessary to place JS files in the `<head>` element
  - *check context, in particular for recent mobile and desktop frameworks*
  - *Cordova, Electron...*
- adding JS scripts to end of the page's body
  - *allows browser to load the page first*
- HTTP specification defines browsers should not download more than two components in parallel

JS - initial usage

fun exercise

Choose one of the following app examples,

- **sports** website for latest scores and updates
  - *e.g. scores for current matches, statistics, team data, player info &c.*
- **shopping** website
  - *product listings and adverts, cart, reviews, user account page &c.*
- **restaurant** website
  - *introductory info, menus, sample food images, user reviews &c.*

Then, consider the following

- where do you need JavaScript in the app?
  - *why?*

JS extras - JSON - part 1

- JSON is a lightweight format and wrapper for storing and transporting data
- inherently language agnostic, easy to read and understand
- growing rapidly in popularity
  - *many online APIs have updated XML to JSON for data exchange*
- syntax of JSON is itself derived from JS object notation
  - *text-only format*
- allows us to easily write, describe, and manipulate JSON in practically any programming language
- **JSON syntax** follows a few basic rules,
  - *data is recorded as name/value pairs*
  - *data is separated by commas*
  - *objects are defined by a start and end curly brace*
  - *{ }*
  - *arrays are defined by a start and end square bracket*
  - *[ ]*

JS extras - JSON - part 2

- underlying construct for JSON is a pairing of name and value

```
"city":"Marseille"
```

JSON Objects

- contained within curly braces
- objects can contain multiple name/value pairs

```
{
  "country":"France",
  "city":"Marseille"
}
```

JS extras - JSON - part 3

JSON Arrays

- contained within square brackets
  - *arrays can also contain objects*

```
{
    "cities": [
        {
            "name": "Marseille",
            "region": "Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur"
        },
        {
            "name": "Paris",
            "region": "Île-de-France"
        }
    ]
}
```

- use this with JavaScript, and parse the JSON object.
  - *JSFiddle - Parse JSON*

Demos

- ES6 (ES2015)
  - `let` *usage - Random Greeting Generator v0.2*
- JS Arrays
  - *Random Greeting Generator - v0.1*
- JSFiddle
  - *Basic logic - functions*
  - *Basic logic - scope*
  - *this - events*
  - *this - global*
  - *this - literal*
  - *this - literal 2*
  - *this - window*
  - *Parse JSON*

Resources

- MDN - JS
- MDN - JS Data Types and Data Structures
- MDN - JS Grammar and Types
- MDN - JS Objects
- W3 Schools - JS