

## The XMLHttpRequest Object

The goal of this exercise is to convert part of the picture gallery project to a working website with the use of the XMLHttpRequest object.

**Step 1.** Open **My Computer** and select **Map Network Drive...** from the **Tools** menu.

**Step 2.** Type `\\testweb2\modules` in the field Folder and press the button Finish. You will be asked to enter your user name and password:

- Your user name is `UL\xxxxxxx` where `xxxxxxx` is your ID number. For example, `UL\0812345`.
- Use the same password you would use to login to any Windows PC in the UL library, for example. (Note that it might be different from the password you use to login to Windows PCs in the CSIS building).

**Step 3.** If step 2 was successful then you should see a new network drive called **modules on 'testweb2'** in the **My Computer** folder. Open it (if it has not been already open) and go to the CS4146 folder. You will see a list of folders inside. Locate the folder whose name is your ID number. This will be your **working folder** on the web server `testweb2.csis.ul.ie`.

**Step 4.** You can put HTML file(s) in your working folder on testweb2 together with any necessary image, CSS and XML files.

**Step 5.** To load a webpage from testweb2 into a browser type its URL as follows:  
`http://testweb2.csis.ul.ie/modules/CS4062/xxxxxxx/yyyyy.html`  
 where `xxxxxxx` is your ID number and `yyyyy.html` is the name of the HTML file.

**Important Note:** You might not be able to access the testweb2 server from a computer outside of the UL network!

**Step 6.** Download the file **picture-gallery-basic.zip** from the module's website (see week 9) and unzip it into your working folder on testweb2.

**Step 7.** Open the **picturesets.html** file in a browser (see step5 above). It is a stripped-down version of the picturegallery.html file from the previous lab exercise. It only reads the titles of picture sets from the XML files and embeds them into the webpage.

Note that the webpage **will not work** as before because the XML files (on the web server) cannot be loaded into DOM trees with the **load() function**. They need to be requested with an HTTP request.

**Step 8.** Open the picturesets.js file with Oxygen. Your task is to modify it so that the content of the XML files is delivered to your browser by the XMLHttpRequest instead of being loaded with the load() function.

**Hint:** Use AJAX examples on the web, e.g. <http://fenin.blogspot.com/2007/01/ajax-quick-start-tutorial-ii-handling.html>. Links to other examples are available in the slides of lecture 7.