Differences Between Interpreter and Compiler

We generally write a computer program using a high-level language. A high-level language is one that is understandable by us, humans. This is called source code.

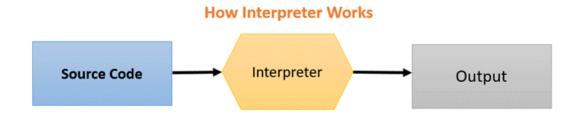
However, a computer does not understand high-level language. It only understands the program written in 0's and 1's in binary, called the machine code.

To convert source code into machine code, we use either a compiler or an interpreter.

Both compilers and interpreters are used to convert a program written in a high-level language into machine code understood by computers. However, there are differences between how an interpreter and a compiler works.

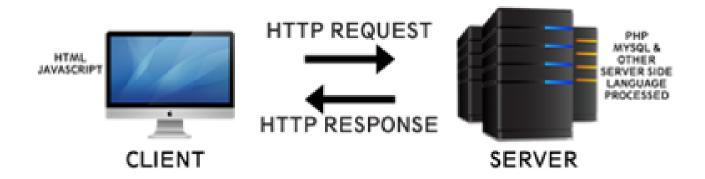
| Interpreter | Compiler |
|---|--|
| Translates program one statement at a time. | Scans the entire program and translates it as a whole into machine code. |
| Interpreters usually take less amount of time to analyze the source code. However, the overall execution time is comparatively slower than compilers. | Compilers usually take a large amount of time to analyze the source code. However, the overall execution time is comparatively faster than interpreters. |
| No Object Code is generated, hence are memory efficient. | Generates Object Code which further requires linking, hence requires more memory. |
| Programming languages like JavaScript, Python, Ruby use interpreters. | Programming languages like C, C++, Java use compilers. |

Source Code Compiler Machine Code Output © guru99.com



Client Side vs. Server Side

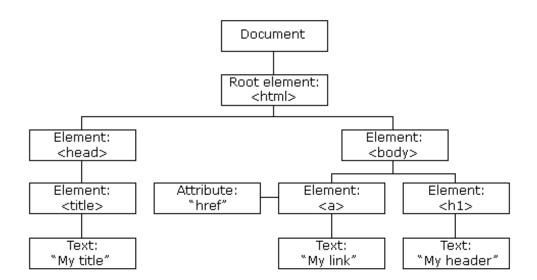
Website scripts run in one of two places – the client side, also called the front-end, or the server side, also called the back-end. The client of a website refers to the web browser that is viewing it. The server of a website is, of course, the server that hosts it.



What is the DOM?

The Document Object Model (DOM) is a programming interface for web documents. It represents the page so that programs can change the document structure, style, and content. The DOM represents the document as nodes and objects; that way, programming languages can interact with the page.

A web page is a document that can be either displayed in the browser window or as the HTML source. In both cases, it is the same document but the Document Object Model (DOM) representation allows it to be manipulated. As an object-oriented representation of the web page, it can be modified with a scripting language such as JavaScript.



JavaScript engine

A JavaScript engine is a software component that executes JavaScript code. The first JavaScript engines were mere interpreters, but all relevant modern engines use just-in-time compilation for improved performance. JavaScript engines are typically developed by web browser vendors, and every major browser has one. In a browser, the JavaScript engine runs in concert with the rendering engine via the Document Object Model.

List of JavaScript Engines:

| Browser | Name of Javascript Engine |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Google Chrome | V8 |
| Edge (Internet Explorer) | Chakra |
| Mozilla Firefox | Spider Monkey |
| Safari | Javascript Core Webkit |