Extending Adobe Captivate With JavaScript

Advanced techniques From A web developer's perspective

https://github.com/sdwarwick/captivate-demos

Audience

- Learning interaction designers
- Project managers / Course strategy developers
- Web Developers
- eLearning methodology strategists
- Content Authors

Context

- Captivate
- HTML projects
- "Responsive" design
- Windows 10 development environment
- JavaScript ECMA 2015
- Chrome browser
- Notepad++ text editor

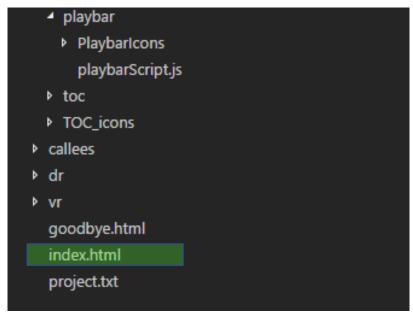
Plan

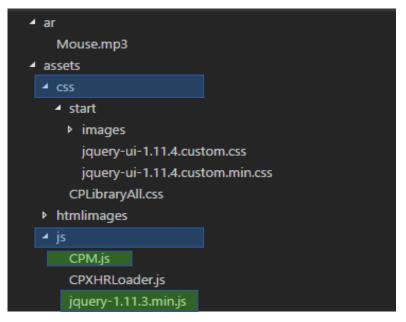
- Captivate as a web development platform
 - JavaScript as a development tool
- Efficient development of JavaScript/Captivate scripts
 - External JavaScript files
 - Debugging in Chrome
- Example Scripts
 - Fully custom quiz interactions
 - Full-screen mode
 - D&D
- Overview of other possibilities with JavaScript
- Adobe documented vs. undocumented functions
 - Decompressing CPM.js
- The CPM.js file and implications for development
 - Bridging between JavaScript and Captivate
- Questions

Captivate from the web developers perspective

- WYSIWYG website builders:
 - "Closed" builders generate sites that cannot easily be modified after being generated
 - Easy to get started building, limited access to potential of modern design
 - Weebly, Wix, Squarespace
 - "Open" builders support direct modification of generated sites & continued editing
 - Deeper understanding of web technologies needed
 - Pinegrow, Bootstrap Studio, Bootply
- Captivate 90% closed / 10% open
- Custom features valuable for eLearning
- Reasonable strategy given initial target audience

Anatomy of a Website (Captivate File Layout)





- A module produced by Captivate is structured in a very common website design style
- A zipped module is simply a single-file version of this exact directory structure
- When a captivate module is loaded into an LMS, the zip file is simply uncompressed by the LMS
- Websites typically need to be "served" by a server program (apache/nginx) in case external content needs to be loaded
- When all content is inside the module directory, a browser can be used to view the website (file://)

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Anatomy of a Captivate Website

HTML

CSS

```
{
    background:url('../Playbar_icons/Play_icon.png
    width:58px;
    height:59px;
    float:left;
    position:absolute;
    left:50px;
}
.playButton:hover
{
    background:url('../Playbar_icons/Play_icon.png
    width:58px;
    height:59px;
    float:left;
    position:absolute;
    left:50px;
}
```

Javascript

- Same structures are seen in Captivate as in all websites
- "CPM.js" file contains
 - All content data shapes, text, timing, placement, quiz
 - Captivate JavaScript Library that "runs" the website
 - Since the file is compressed, it is hard to decipher

Why JavaScript?

- Most popular programming language StackOverflow / Github
- Used for both user interaction in browser and business logic on server
 - Access all the power of the browser
- Completely free development environment
- All Browsers have powerful, built-in debugging tools
- Very fast design/test cycle no "publishing/compiling" process
- Most profound change in learning process learning on demand
 - Stackoverflow http://stackoverflow.com/insights/survey/2016
 - 2.7Million questions, 3.2Million answers in 2015
 - Thousands of tutorials

Why use JavaScript with Captivate

Upside

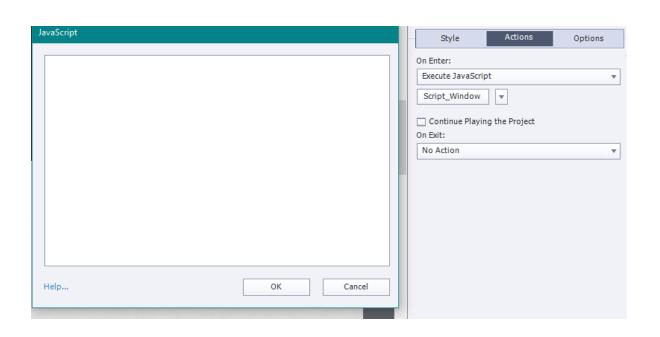
- You can control the entire user interface with JavaScript
 - Change shape properties, display notifications, react to any user event
 - Create custom quiz interactions, unique animations etc..
- JavaScript functions can be debugged while the presentation is running, unlike advanced actions
- With a trick, JavaScript functions can be updated/modified without "re-publishing"
 ...fast development turnaround
- Many online tutorials for using JavaScript with Captivate
 - Large subject area, no tutorial is can be comprehensive point solutions and examples

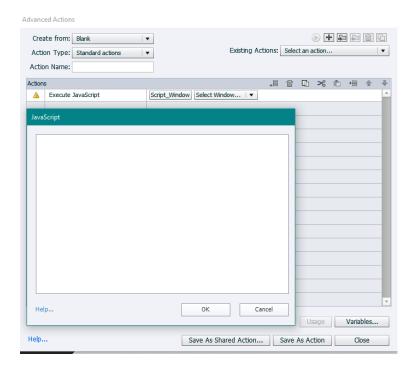
Downside

- Steeper learning curve
- Lots of cool stuff is undocumented by Adobe, discovered and published by developers

How to work efficiently with javascript

- Internally supported approach: Use built-in JavaScript script window
 - No syntax checking
 - Must re-publish module to update
 - Hard to maintain, code is sprinkled throughout the modules





How to work efficiently with javascript

- External file holds JavaScript functions
- JavaScript file is located outside the module so it won't be deleted when the module is updated
- JavaScript file is typically in the same directory that holds the module

To connect external JavaScript file, add to the first slide "On enter execute JavaScript"

```
$('body').append('<script src="../multichoice.js" async="false"></script>');
```

- Changes in this file will be loaded whenever the module is viewed, no need to republish course.
- Downside files "outside" a module are only accessible when using http:// not file://
 - Use local web server
 - Move file inside module

How to work efficiently with JavaScript

Notepad++ text editor as example

Far easier than built-in script window!

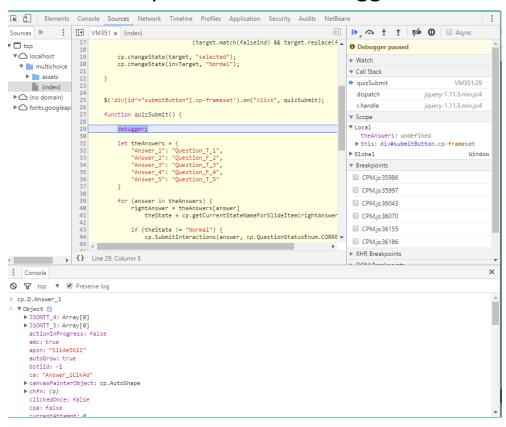
- JavaScript syntax and error highlighting
- Variable name validation
- Multiple windows, spell check etc.

```
<u>F</u>ile <u>E</u>dit <u>S</u>earch <u>V</u>iew E<u>n</u>coding <u>L</u>anguage Se<u>t</u>tings T<u>o</u>ols <u>M</u>acro <u>R</u>un TextFX <u>P</u>lugins <u>W</u>indow <u>?</u>
🕞 🔒 📔 🖺 🥫 🥦 🦓 🚜 | 🔏 🐚 🖍 🤚 🕳 🗷 😅 亡 🛗 🦠 🔍 🤏 🖳 🖂 🖺 🖺 🖺 💯 💹 🙆 💇 🕨 🗩
multichoice.is
        if (!mylib_loaded) {
           console.log("loaded");
           var mylib loaded = true
           $('div[id^="Question"].cp-frameset').on("click", manageButtons);
           function manageButtons(e) {
               var target = e.target.id;
               var trueind = /_T_/;
               var falseind = / F /;
              var invTarget = (target.match(trueind) && target.replace(trueind, "_F_")) ||
                                (target.match(falseind) && target.replace(falseind, "_T_"));
               cp.changeState(target, "selected");
              cp.changeState(invTarget, "Normal");
           $('div[id^="submitButton"].cp-frameset').on("click", quizSubmit);
           function quizSubmit() {
               let theAnswers = {
                   "Answer 1": "Question T 1",
```

Debugging JavaScript with chrome

```
function quizSubmit() {
                                      Pauses execution of function
  debugger;
                                      enables complete debugging
  let theAnswers = {
                                      environment in Chrome
     "Answer_1": "Question_T_1",
     "Answer 2": "Question F 2
     "Answer 5": "Question T 5
  for (answer in theAnswers) {
     rightAnswer = theAnswers[answer]
       theState = cp.getCurrentStateNameForSlideItem(rightAnswer);
     if (theState != "Normal") {
       cp.SubmitInteractions(answer, cp.QuestionStatusEnum.CORRECT, 0)
  cpCmndNextSlide = 1;
```

F12 opens Chrome debugger!



Step-by-step debugging – unlike advanced actions

https://github.com/sdwarwick/captivate-demos

Rules:

No scoring until "Submit" is pressed
True/false toggles correctly
Score for each answer may be different
+25 points for 4/5 right answers
+50 points for 5/5 right answers

Strategy:

All of the user interactions managed by JavaScript

Quiz will be scored and submitted by JavaScript



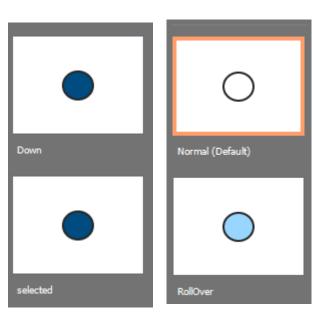
Slide "on enter execute JavaScript":

\$(fontLink).appendTo("head");

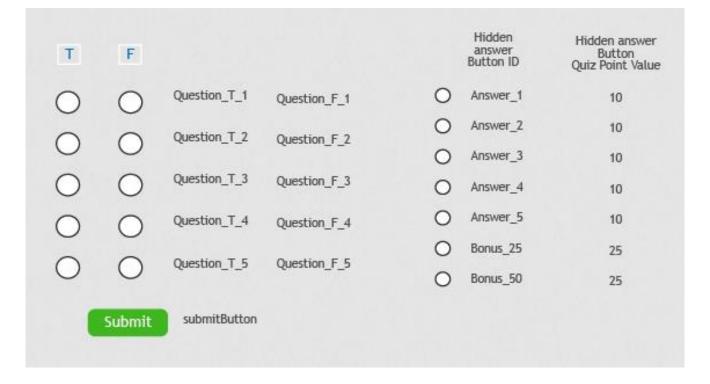
```
$('body').append('<script src="../multichoice.js" async="false"></script>');
var fontLink = '<link href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Calligraffitti" rel="stylesheet">';
```

 All buttons are simple circle smartshapes with "use as button"

- Add an additional state called "selected"
- This will be controlled by JavaScript



- The shapes are labeled using a regular pattern that will be easily distinguished in the JavaScript Code
- The hidden answer buttons are all set to "Include in Quiz" and points can be assigned to each answer
- Add variables to enable connection between JavaScript and Captivate
- That's it.. no advanced actions



baseMaxScore
baseScore
bonusMaxScore
bonusScore
cpQuizInfoStudentID
cpQuizInfoStudentName
numberOfQuestions
numberOfRightAnswers

Example Custom Quiz interaction - Toggle

```
$('div[id^="Question"].cp-frameset').on("click", manageToggleButtons);
function manageToggleButtons(clickedButtonObject) {
   // get shpe id of the clicked button, this will be "selected"
   var targetID = clickedButtonObject.target.id;
   // create the name of the button you need to toggle to "unselected"
   if ( targetID.match(/_T_/) ) {
      var invTargetID = targetID.replace(/_T_/, "_F_")
   if ( targetID.match(/_F_/) ) {
      invTargetID = targetID.replace(/_F_/, "_T_")
   // captivate undocumented function to change state of object
   cp.changeState(targetID, "selected");
   cp.changeState(invTargetID, "Normal");
```

Find all buttons that start with the word "Question". When clicked, call "manageToggleButtons function

Take the name of the button that was pressed, changes any "_T_" to "_F_" and any "_F_" to "_T_"

Call an undocumented captivate function "cp.changeState" to toggle between the "Normal" view and the "selected" view

Over the years, many people have contributed to weeding through the CPM.js code to find these functions

Example Custom Quiz interaction - Scoring

```
$('div[id^="submitButton"].cp-frameset').on("click", quizSubmit);
function quizSubmit() {
  //debugger;
  // these are defined in captivate and used in analysis
  numberOfRightAnswers = 0;
  numberOfQuestions = 0;
  baseScore = 0;
  baseMaxScore = 0;
  bonusScore = 0;
  bonusMaxScore = 0;
  // the right answer button is selected, signal this internal button
   var theRightAnswers = {
     "Question T 1": "Answer 1",
      "Question_F_2": "Answer_2",
      "Question_T_3" : "Answer_3",
      "Question_F_4": "Answer_4",
      "Question T 5" : "Answer 5"
```

 The first line triggers the quiz submit function for the button with the ID "submitButton"

Variables defined in captivate can be directly used in JavaScript!

- The correct answers are defined by which of the question buttons were set to state "selected"
- If the correct answer is selected, which hidden button should be activated?

Example Custom Quiz interaction - Scoring

```
// the right answer button is selected, signal this internal button
var theRightAnswers = {
   "Question_T_1" : "Answer_1",
   "Question_F_2": "Answer_2",
   "Question_T_3": "Answer_3",
   "Question_F_4": "Answer_4",
   "Question T 5" : "Answer 5"
//check each of the right answer button for state, if selected, signal to captivate
for (rightAnswerButton in theRightAnswers) {
   numberOfQuestions = numberOfQuestions +1;
   rightAnswerSenderButton = theRightAnswers[rightAnswerButton];
  // get quiz value for this answer - this is obscure but works
   answerObjectID = cp.D[rightAnswerSenderButton].qnq;
   answerValue = cp.D[rightAnswerSenderButton + "q" + answerObjectID].w;
   //add to max base score
   baseMaxScore = baseMaxScore + answerValue;
   theState = cp.getCurrentStateNameForSlideItem(rightAnswerButton);
   if (theState == "selected") {
     // undocumented function for signalling to a guiz button
     cp.SubmitInteractions(rightAnswerSenderButton, cp.QuestionStatusEnum.CORRECT, 0)
     numberOfRightAnswers = numberOfRightAnswers +1;
     baseScore = baseScore + answerValue;
```

When writing code, try to keep things flexible..

 Determine maximum number of questions, maximum score, answered questions and score values on the fly

- Here's how to get the value of a quiz button
- Here's how to find the state of a slide object
- If the right button was selected then we call another undocumented function that signals to captivate that an answer was given correctly.

Example Custom Quiz interaction - Scoring

```
add bonuses
rightAnswerSenderButton = "Bonus 25"
answerObjectID = cp.D[rightAnswerSenderButton].qnq;
answerValue = cp.D[rightAnswerSenderButton + "q" + answerObjectID].w;
bonusMaxScore = bonusMaxScore + answerValue;
if (numberOfRightAnswers >= 4) {
   cp.SubmitInteractions(rightAnswerSenderButton,
                        cp.QuestionStatusEnum.CORRECT, 0);
   bonusScore = bonusScore + answerValue;
rightAnswerSenderButton = "Bonus_50"
answerObjectID = cp.D[rightAnswerSenderButton].qnq;
answerValue = cp.D[rightAnswerSenderButton + "q" + answerObjectID].w;
bonusMaxScore = bonusMaxScore + answerValue;
if (numberOfRightAnswers == 5) {
   cp.SubmitInteractions(rightAnswerSenderButton,
                        cp.QuestionStatusEnum.CORRECT, 0);
   bonusScore = bonusScore + answerValue;
cpCmndNextSlide = 1;
```

Find quiz value for the bonus points by looking at the Captivate data

Award points based on some criteria - here it is at least 4 answers right

Here it is 5 answers right...

After done, signal to move to next slide by simply setting the "next slide" flag variable

Why is this example important?

- Other than labeling the buttons, setting question values and loading the external JavaScript module, no advanced actions or special processing is needed
- The scoring is completely general. Any set of button presses can be used to generate a specific quiz result
- Scoring doesn't happen for any of the quizzing until the interaction is complete
- Custom interactions need not be limited to one "slide"
- Although not shown, at any point in the process, additional information can be given to the user
- Other measures can be made along the way:
 - How many times has the user changed their score?
 - How long did it take before the user completed the quiz?

Example – "Full screen" mode

- Any button that has a name starting in "fullscreen" will activate this code
- Also works for presentations embedded in other applications (IFRAME)

```
function cancelFullScreenButton() {
  let j = $('[id^="stdscreen"]').on('click', function (e) {
        let i = parent.document;
        if (i == null) {
            i = document.getElementById("main_container")
        }
        i.cancelFullScreen && i.cancelFullScreen();
        i.webkitCancelFullScreen && i.webkitCancelFullScreen();
        i.mozCancelFullScreen && i.mozCancelFullScreen();
        i.exitFullscreen && i.exitFullscreen();
    });
};
```

```
fullScreenButton();
cancelFullScreenButton();
```

https://github.com/sdwarwick/captivate-demos



https://github.com/sdwarwick/captivate-demos



https://github.com/sdwarwick/captivate-demos

"team" Drop Target

"candidates"

Source Pool



All scoring functions in JavaScript
Each time a "candidate" is dropped, "game1drop()" is called

"team" Object Actions Accepted Drag Sources

Accept All Count: -1 On Accept : Replace JavaScript

Drag Source Type Action
Candidates Execute JavaScript

game 1drop()

"team" correct Answer pool

t	No.	Drop Target	Drag Source	Count
	1	team	candidates	16

https://github.com/sdwarwick/captivate-demos

```
// a call to this is added to interaction in drop target
function game1drop() {
  let iact = cp.DD.CurrInteractionManager.getActiveInteraction();
  current_target = iact.m_DsFrameSetDataID;
  team count += 1;
  team_score = team_points[team_count];
  skill_score += knowledge_points[current_target];
  total_score = skill_score + team_score;
  setCss();
```

Let JavaScript figure out what source item was moved

Create scoring based on some criteria

- count of dragged components
- value score for team member

Give feedback by changing colors of shapes directly using CSS on shapes

Undocumented Captivate functions and data structures..

The CPM.js library

- 25,000 JavaScript statements in the basic library to "run" a presentation
- 100,000+ statements to define all objects in a large presentation

CPM.js defines 100+ "top level objects/properties"

CP top object - defines 751 objects/properties

CP.D - all of the slide objects and quizzing information

CP.DD - drag/drop interaction data

CP.em - event manger

CP.movie – timing manager

Lots of other things, too much to even begin to describe...

- Animation
- Display timing
- Quiz handling
- Drag/Drop interactions
- LMS Reporting system..

CPM.js code is well organized with very descriptive top level function names

Undocumented Captivate functions and data structures Used in these two examples

```
cp.changeState(targetID, state)
cp.getCurrentStateNameForSlideItem(targetID);
cp.show(targetID) , cp.hide(targetID)
cp.D[targetID].qnq (find question data for targetID)
cp.D[questionID].w (question score value – can read and write!)
cp.SubmitInteractions(targetID, cp.QuestionStatusEnum.CORRECT, 0)
                                                                    (click answer button!)
cp.DD.CurrInteractionManager.getActiveInteraction() (get activeDDInteraction)
activeDDInteraction.m_DsFrameSetDataID; (id of last dropped target)
ActiveDDInteraction.OnResetButtonClicked(); (click DD reset button)
activeDDInteraction.undoAvailable (check if undo is available)
activeDDInteraction.OnUndoButtonClicked();
activeDDInteraction.OnSubmitButtonClicked();
cp.RuntimeMessageBox(document.getElementById("cpDocument"), 1) (create a new
message box)
```

Far too much to "figure out" in CPM.js

What is an efficient custom interaction development strategy?

- Build basic shapes and simple interactions that do not require advanced actions directly in Captivate
- Use Adobe Documented JavaScript library as starting place
- Developers familiar with HTML/CSS/JAVASCRIPT:
 - Build custom interactions decoupled from the Captivate data structures as much as possible
 - Bridge back into Captivate using the CPM.js library functions
 - Leverage undocumented features only as needed

JavaScript to Captivate bridge

- All shape information is found in the object CP.D
 - cp.D.shapename
 - cp.D.shapenamec
 - cp.D.shapenameq0
- Shape name is used as a base to build HTML

```
<div id=theSquare>
```

<canvas id=theSquarec>

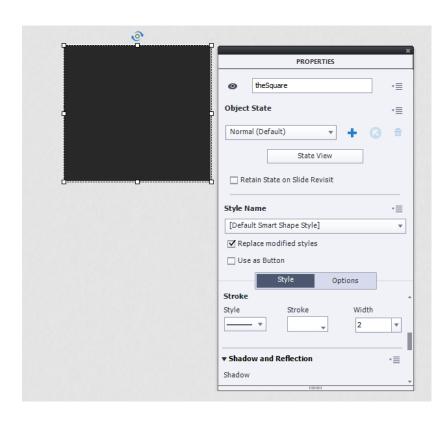
<div id=theSquare_vTxtHolder>

<div id=re-theSquarec>

<div id=theSquare_vTxtHandlerHolder>

<div id=theSquareaccStr>

Use these objects to create custom effects



JavaScript to Captivate bridge

All variables in captivate are now global JavaScript variables

```
Example: cpInfoCurrentSlide == cpAPIInterface.getVariableValue("cpInfoCurrentSlide")
```

- Event-driven JavaScript functions (mouse clicks..)
 - Indirect: use actions and scripts in captivate (captivate dependency)
 - Direct: use JavaScript events tied directly to HTML objects (JavaScript only)
- Captivate monitors all variable values once every frame (1/30 sec)
 - Simply setting timing-control variables to "true" will cause changes in state
 - Example: cpCmndNextSlide = 1
- Quiz management has another data structure, too much to describe here

CPM.js Internals

Notepad++ JavaScript formatter

Convert compressed CPM.js to readable code Save formatted version back into project

Enables modification & debugging

```
| Higwardow-op)window op = function(crit) return document getSementBy(deta)), cp. Prop. Ind. 1992 (pp. pap. d), disconstruction of the paper of the
```



```
if (!window.cp)
   window.cp = function (str) {
     return document.getElementById(str)
cp.CPProjInit = function () {
  if (cp && cp.model && cp.model.data)
   cp.model = \{\};
   cp.poolResources = {};
   cp.D = cp.model.data = {
     pref: {
         acc: 1,
         rkt: 0,
      SmartShape_9: {
         type: 612,
         from: 1.
         rp: 0,
         rpa: 0,
        mdi: 'SmartShape_9c',
         retainState: false,
         apsn: 'Slide5611',
         JSONTT_4: [],
        oca: 'cp.jumpToNextSlide();',
         JSONTT_5: [],
         style="">T</span></span><span class="cp-actualTex
         rplm: {
           414: 0.
           667: 0,
            768: 0,
           896: 0,
           1024: 0
         rprm: {
           414: 0,
            667: 0,
            768: 0,
            896: 0,
            1024: 0
```

105 "top level" variables generated by CPM.js

cp

cpXHRJSLoader cpAPIInterface cpAPIEventEmitter cpCmndVolume cpCmndMute cpCmndCC cpCmndNext cpCmndNextSlide cpCmndPrevious cpCmndNextOnReview cpCmndPreviousSlide cpCmndPreviousOnReview cpCmndPlaybarMoved cpCmndShowPlaybar cpCmndFastForward cpCmndRewindAndPlay cpCmndRewindAndStop cpCmndGotoFrame

cpCmndGotoFrameAndResume cpCmndGotoSlide cpCmndGotoSlideAndResume $cp Cmnd Goto Slide By UID And Resume \\ cp Info Slide Count$ cpCmndResume cpCmndPause

cpCmndExit cpLockTOC cpCmndInfo cpCmndTOCVisible cpInfoSlidesInProject cpInfoFPS cpInfoAuthor cpInfoCompany cpInfoEmail cpInfoWebsite cpInfoCopyright cpInfoProjectName cpInfoDescription cpInfoCurrentFrame cpInfoCurrentFrame cpInfoPrevFrame cpInfoFrameCount cpInfoPrevSlide cpInfoPrevSlide cpInfoLastVisitedSlide cpInfoLastVisitedSlide cpInfoCurrentSlide cpInfoCurrentSlideIndex cpInfoCurrentSlide cpInfoCurrentSlideLabel cpInfoCurrentSlideLabel cpInfoIsStandalone cpInfoHasPlaybar cpInfoCurrentSlideType cpInfoIsResultSlide

cpInfoElapsedTimeMS

cpInfoEpochMS cpInfoCurrentMinutes cpInfoCurrentHour cpInfoCurrentTime cpInfoCurrentDay cpInfoCurrentYear cpInfoCurrentMonth cpInfoCurrentDate cpInfoCurrentDateString cpInfoCurrentDateStringDDMMYYYY cpInfoCurrentLocaleDateString cpCmndGotoQuizScopeSlide cpQuizInfoLastSlidePointScored cpQuizInfoQuestionSlideType cpQuizInfoAnswerChoice cpQuizInfoMaxAttemptsOnCurrentQuestio cpInfoMobileOS cpQuizInfoPointsPerQuestionSlide cpQuizInfoNegativePointsOnCurrent cpQuizHandledAll QuestionSlide cpQuizInfoQuestionSlideTiming cpQuizInfoQuizPassPoints cpQuizInfoQuizPassPercent

cpQuizInfoTotalCorrectAnswers cpInfoPercentage cpQuizInfoTotalQuizPoints cpQuizInfoAttempts cpQuizInfoTotalQuestionsPerProject cpQuizInfoQuestionPartialScoreOn cpQuizScopeSlide cpInQuizScope cpQuizInfoPassFail cpInfoCourseID cpInfoCourseName cpQuizInfoPreTestTotalCorrectAnswers cpInReviewMode cpQuizInfoPreTestTotalQuestions cpQuizInfoPreTestMaxScore cpQuizInfoStudentID cpQuizInfoStudentName

cpQuizInfoTotalProjectPoints

cpQuizInfoPointsscored

cpQuizInfoNoQuestionsPerQuiz

cpQuizInfoPretestPointsscored

cpQuizInfoTotalUnansweredQuestions

cpQuizInfoPretestScorePercentage

What else does JavaScript open up?

- References to external content fonts, libraries
- Real-time, group interactions with backend data sources (AJAX)
- Video game-level animations
- Dynamic Graphing and Charting
- Fine-grained experience measurement
- Pass information between parent/child windows
- Custom reporting to LMS/LRS
- Access to the entire web development community!

Questions?