

Web Programming

JavaScript Part I.

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JavaScript (JS)

- HTML-embedded scripting language
- Client-side
 - Interpreted by the browser
- Event-driven
 - Execution is triggered by user actions
- Has become a fundamental part of web development
 - Today, JavaScript is **used by 92.6% of all websites**
 - Many of the new HTML5 features are exposed through HTML5 JavaScript APIs

JavaScript vs. Java

- JavaScript doesn't have much to do with Java
 - Syntax is almost the same
 - JS variables are dynamically typed (i.e., type cannot be determined before the script is executed)
 - JS objects are dynamic (members and methods of an object can change during execution)
 - OOP model is different (prototypal vs. classical inheritance)

Uses of JS

- To provide programming capability on the client side
 - Note that JS works even when the client is offline!
- To transfer some of the load from the server to the client
- To create highly responsive user interfaces
- To provide dynamic functionality

Outline for today

- Embedding
- Syntax
- Types and variables
- Objects and functions

Embedding

Embedding in HTML

- **Explicit embedding** (inline)

```
<script>  
</script>
```

- **Implicit embedding** (referencing a separate .js file)

```
<script src="myfile.js"></script>
```

Separate closing tag is needed!
<script src="..." /> will not work!

Execution

- JS in **<head>**
 - Executed as soon as the browser parses the head, before it has parsed the rest of the page
- JS in **<body>**
 - Executed when the browser parses the body (from top to down)

Syntax

General syntax

- Much like Java
- JS is **case-sensitive!**
- Reserved words
 - **function, if, this, var, return, ...**
 - See the full list at http://www.w3schools.com/js/js_reserved.asp
- Comments

```
// single line comment
```

```
/*  
multi-line comment  
*/
```

Syntax (best practice)

- Each statement is in a separate line, terminated with a semicolon
- No semicolon after }
- Indentation!

Control statements - if

```
if (a > b) {  
    document.write("a is greater than b");  
}  
else {  
    document.write("b is greater than a");  
}
```

Control statements - switch

```
switch (color) {  
    case "red":  
        // do something  
        break;  
    case "green":  
        // do something else  
        break;  
    default:  
        // default case  
}
```

Control statements - loops

```
for (var i = 0; i < 10; i++) {  
    document.writeln(i);  
}
```

```
var i = 0;  
while (i < 10) {  
    document.writeln(i);  
    i++;  
}
```

Break and continue

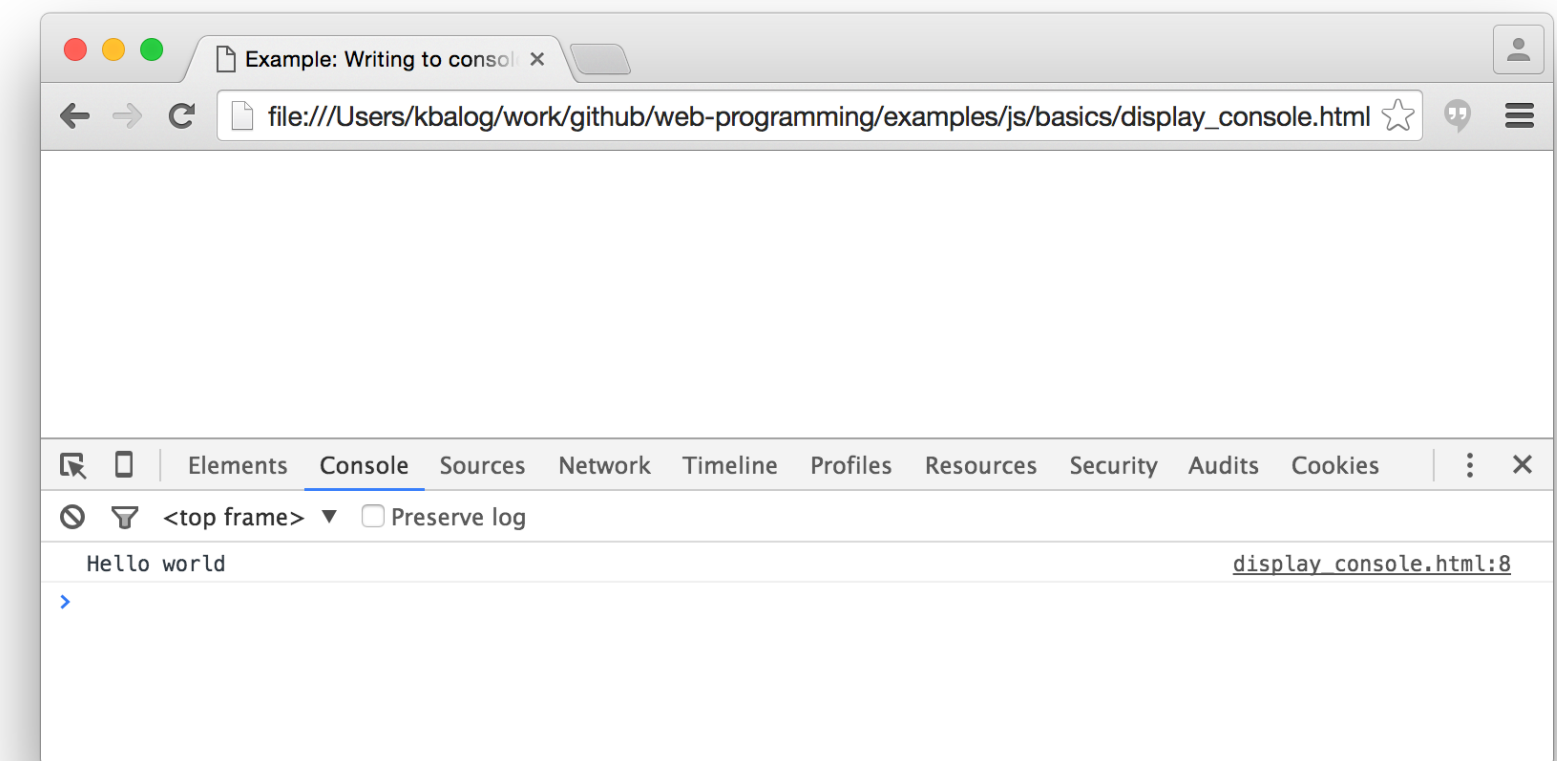
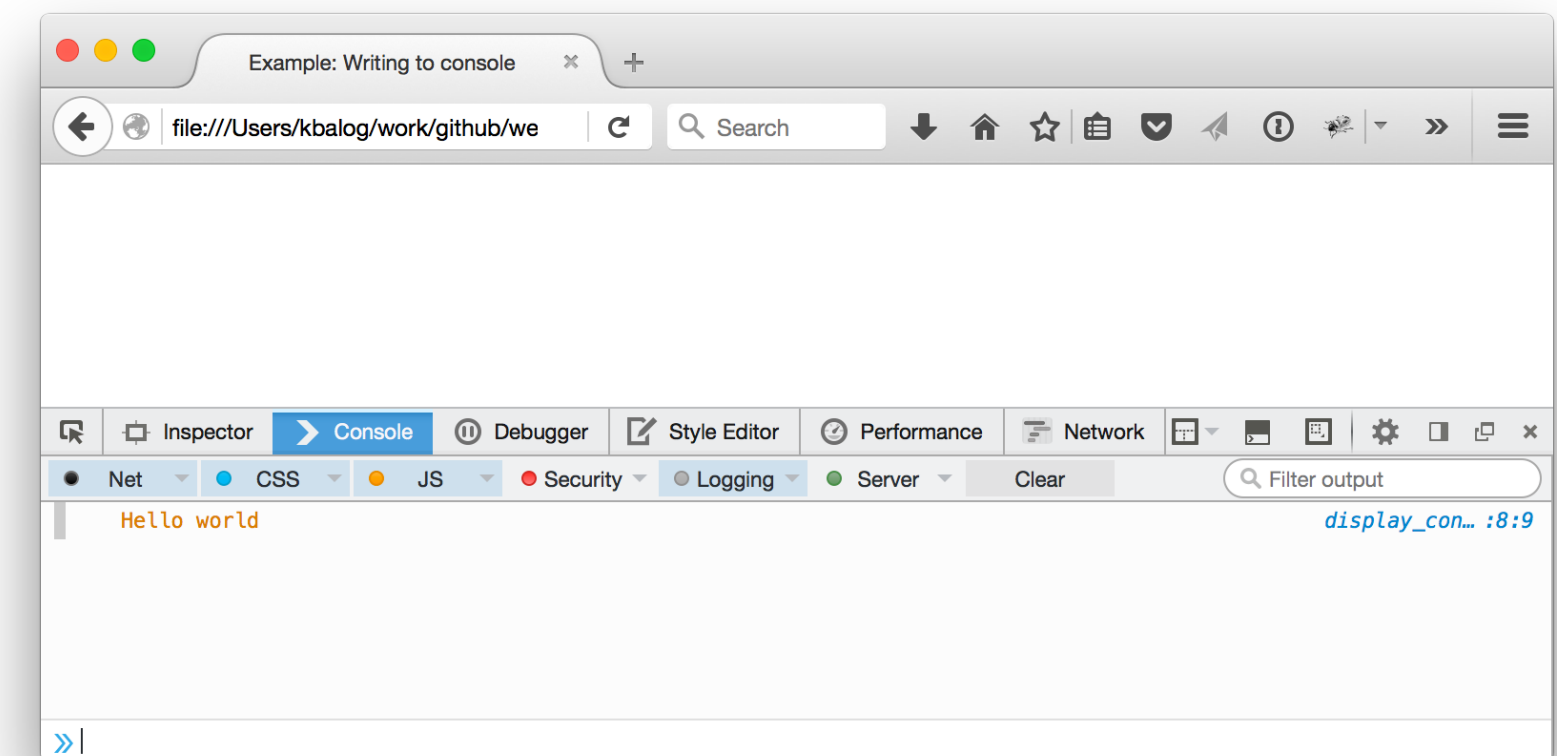
- They work the same way as in Java
- **break;** "jumps out" of a loop
- **continue;** "jumps over" one iteration in the loop

Display possibilities

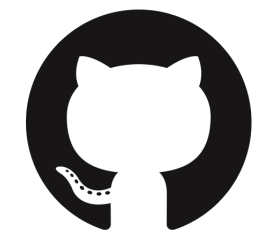
- JS can "display" data in different ways:
 - Writing into the browser console, using **console.log()**
 - Writing into an alert box, using **window.alert()**
 - Writing into the HTML output using **document.write()**
 - Writing into an HTML element, using **innerHTML**
 - Setting the value of a HTML form element using **element.value**

Where to find the console?

- Firefox
 - Tools/Web Developer/Web console
- Chrome
 - View/Developer/JavaScript console
- Internet Explorer (IE9+)
 - Developer Tools



Exercises #1, #2 (#2b)



[https://github.com/kbalog/web-programming/tree/master/](https://github.com/kbalog/web-programming/tree/master/exercises/js/basics)
exercises/js/basics

Types & variables

Declaring variables

- **Implicitly**, by assigning it a value

```
name = "John";
```

- **Explicitly**, using a declaration statement (recommended)

```
var name = "John";
```

- Declaring many variables in one statement:

```
var name = "John", age = 23, car = "Audi A4";
```

- JS is loosely typed
 - Type is determined by the interpreter
 - A variable can change its data type

Variable names

- Can contain letters, digits, underscores, and dollar signs
- Must begin with a letter (or \$ or _)
- Variable names are case sensitive!
- Reserved words cannot be used
- Variable naming conventions
 - Use camelCase
 - Variables that begin with \$ are usually reserved for JavaScript libraries
 - Don't start variables with _ unless you have a very good reason to do so (you'll know if you do)

Primitive types

- number
 - **123**, **1.23**, **1.e2**
- string
 - **"John"**, **'August'**
- boolean
 - **true**, **false**
- null
 - **null** (reserved word) — represents "no value"
- undefined
 - variable explicitly defined, but not assigned a value

Data types

- Can contain values
 - string
 - number
 - boolean
 - object
 - function
- Cannot contain values
 - null
 - undefined

The typeof operator

- The **typeof** operator can be used to find the data type of a JavaScript variable

```
typeof "John"           // Returns string
typeof 3.14              // Returns number
typeof NaN              // Returns number
typeof false            // Returns boolean
typeof [1,2,3,4]         // Returns object
typeof {name:'John', age:34} // Returns object
typeof new Date()        // Returns object
typeof function () {}   // Returns function
typeof myCar             // Returns undefined (if myCar is not declared)
typeof null             // Returns object
```


Implicit type conversions

- Interpreter performs several different implicit type conversions (called *coercions*)
 - When JavaScript tries to operate on a "wrong" data type, it will try to convert the value to a "right" type

```
"August" + 1997 // returns "August 1997"  
1997 + "August" // returns NaN
```

- The result is not always what you would expect

```
5 + null // returns 5 // because null is converted to 0  
"5" + null // returns "5null" // because null is converted to "null"  
"5" + 2 // returns 52 // because 2 is converted to "2"  
"5" - 2 // returns 3 // because "5" is converted to 5  
"5" * "2" // returns 10 // because "5" and "2" are converted to 5 and 2
```

== VS. ===

- Using == (or !=) type coercion will occur
 - This can bring unpredictable results

```
99 == "99"      // true
0 == false      // true
'\n\n\n' == 0   // true
'\n\n\n' == 0   // true
```

- Using === (or !==) type coercion will never occur (recommended)
 - Exact comparison of the actual values

```
99 === "99"     // false
0 === false     // false
'\n\n\n' === 0  // false
'\n\n\n' === 0  // false
```

Predefined objects

- Primitive data types with values can also be objects
 - number => Number
 - string => String
 - boolean => Boolean
- JS coerces between primitive type values and objects
- Don't create Number/String/Boolean objects!
 - Slows down execution speed and complicates the code.

Explicit type conversions

- Typically needed between strings and numbers
- Numbers to strings
 - Using the constructor of the String class

```
var num = 6;  
var str = String(num);
```

- Using the toString() method of the String class

```
var num = 6;  
var str = num.toString();
```

Explicit type conversions (2)

- Strings to numbers
 - Using the constructor of the Number class

```
var str = "153";  
var num = Number(str);
```

- Using the **parseInt()** or **parseFloat()** global functions

```
var num1 = parseInt("10");  
var num2 = parseFloat("10.33");
```

Operators

- Comparison
 - `==` (`===`), `!=` (`!==`), `<`, `>`, `<=`, `>=`
- Boolean operators
 - `&&`, `||` (short-circuit)
- Numeric operators
 - `+`, `-`, `*`, `/`, `%`, `++`, `--`
- String concatenation
 - ```
var str = "two " + "words";
```
- Notice that `+` is addition for numbers and concatenation for strings!

# Variable scope

- **global vs. local**
  - within a function, local variables take precedence over global ones
- implicitly declared => global scope
- explicitly declared (with **var**)
  - outside function definitions => global scope
  - within function definitions => local scope
- Best practice: avoid global variables

# **Objects & functions**



# Functions

```
function addOne(num) {
 return num + 1;
}

console.log(addOne(3));
```

# Functions (2)

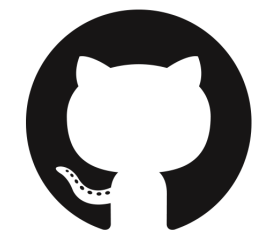
- Functions can also be assigned to variables or passed as parameters

```
var plusOne = addOne;
var result = plusOne(1); // 2

function op(operation, value) {
 return operation(value);
}
var result2 = op(addOne, 3); // 4
```

- Nesting functions definitions is possible, but not recommended

# Exercise #3 (#3b)



[https://github.com/kbalog/web-programming/tree/master/](https://github.com/kbalog/web-programming/tree/master/exercises/js/basics)  
**exercises/js/basics**

# Prototypal vs. Classical OOP

- Classical OOP (Java, C++, etc.): objects are created by instantiating classes
- Prototypal inheritance (JS): there are no classes, only objects; generalizations are called prototypes
  - It's simple and dynamic; better for dynamic languages
  - However, JS uses the constructor pattern of prototypal inheritance
    - This was to make it look more like Java, but can be confusing

# Object prototypes

- Every JS object has a **prototype**
  - Objects inherit their properties and methods from their prototype
  - The prototype is also an object

- Creating an object prototype

- Using an object constructor function

```
function Dog(name, weight, breed) {
 this.name = name;
 this.weight = weight;
 this.breed = breed;
}
```

- Then use the **new** keyword to create new objects from this prototype

```
var mydog = new Dog("Tiffy", 3.4, "mixed");
```

# Object properties

- Properties are dynamic
  - Can be added/deleted any time during interpretation

```
mydog.age = 12; // adding an age prop.
delete mydog.weight; // deleting weight pr.
```

- Checking if a property exists

```
mydog.hasOwnProperty("name") // true
```

- Listing properties

```
for (var prop in mydog) {
 console.log(prop + ": " + mydog[prop]);
}
```

# Object vs. prototype properties

- New properties can be added to an existing prototype using the **prototype** property
  - All Dog objects will have a gender property

```
Dog.prototype.gender = "unknown";
```

- Vs. adding a new property to a specific object
  - Only the mydog instance will have the gender property

```
mydog.gender = "unknown";
```

# Object methods

- Methods can be added by assigning a function to a property
  - Inside the constructor

```
function Dog(...) {
 ...
 this.info = function() {
 console.log("name: " + this.name);
 console.log("weight: " + this.weight);
 console.log("breed: " + this.breed);
 };
}
```

- Or using the **prototype** property

```
Dog.prototype.info = function() {
 ...
};
```



# Alternatively

- To reuse code and avoid nested functions

```
function printInfo() {
 console.log("name: " + this.name);
 console.log("weight: " + this.weight);
 console.log("breed: " + this.breed);
}
```

```
function Dog(...) {
 ...
 this.info = printInfo;
}
```

- Or

```
Dog.prototype.info = printInfo;
```

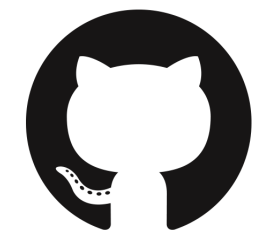
# The instanceof operator

- The **instanceof** operator returns true if an object is created by a given constructor

```
var cars = ["Saab", "Volvo", "BMW"];

cars instanceof Array; // Returns true
cars instanceof Object; // Returns true
cars instanceof String; // Returns false
cars instanceof Number; // Returns false
```

# Exercise #4



[https://github.com/kbalog/web-programming/tree/master/](https://github.com/kbalog/web-programming/tree/master/exercises/js/basics)  
**exercises/js/basics**

# Built-in objects

- Number
- Math
- Array
- String
- Date

# The Number object

[http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref\\_obj\\_number.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_obj_number.asp)

- Properties
  - Constant values: **Number.MIN\_VALUE**, **Number.MAX\_VALUE**
- Methods
  - **toString()** — converts to String

```
var num = 6;
var str = num.toString();
```

# The Math object

[http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref\\_obj\\_math.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_obj_math.asp)

- Properties
  - Constant values: **Math.PI**
- Methods (call them using **Math.**)
  - **abs(x)** — absolute value
  - **round(x)**, **ceil(x)**, **floor(x)** — rounding
  - **min(x,y,z...)**, **max(x,y,z...)** — min/max value
  - **random()** — random number between 0 and 1
  - **sin(x)**, **cos(x)**, **exp(x)**, ...

# The Array object

[http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref\\_obj\\_array.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_obj_array.asp)

- Creating

- Using the new keyword

```
var emptyArray = new Array();
var fruits = new Array("orange", "apple");
```

- Using the array literal (recommended)

```
var emptyArray = [];
var fruits = ["orange", "apple"];
```

- Properties

- **length** — sets or returns the number of elements
    - only the assigned elements actually occupy space

# The Array object (2)

- Methods
  - **join(x,y,...)** — joins two or more arrays
  - **indexOf(x)**, **lastIndexOf(x)** — search for an element and return its position
  - **pop()**, **push(x)** — remove/add element to/from the end of the array
  - **shift()**, **unshift(x)** — remove/add element to/from the beginning of the array
  - **sort()** — sorts the elements
  - **reverse()** — reverses the order of elements
  - **concat(x)** — joins all elements into a string



# Array example

```
function printArray(arr) {
 for (var i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {
 document.write(arr[i] + "
");
 }
}

var fruits1 = ["orange", "apple"];
var fruits2 = ["banana", "mango"];
fruits = fruits1.concat(fruits2); // create a new array by concatenating 2 arrays
printArray(fruits);

var last = fruits.pop(); // remove last element (mango)
fruits.push("kiwi"); // add a new element to the end of the array
fruits.sort(); // sort array
printArray(fruits);
```

# The String object

[http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref\\_obj\\_string.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_obj_string.asp)

- Properties
  - **length** — length of the string
- Methods
  - **charAt(x)** — returns character at a given position
  - **indexOf(x)**, **lastIndexOf(x)** — search for a substring, return its position
  - **substr(x,y)** — extracts substring
  - **replace(x,y)** — replaces substring
  - **trim()** — removes whitespaces from both ends of a string
  - **split(x)** — splits a string into an array of substrings

# The Date object

[http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref\\_obj\\_date.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_obj_date.asp)

- Different ways to instantiate:

```
var today = new Date(); // current date
var dt = new Date(2013, 10, 09); // 2013-10-09
```

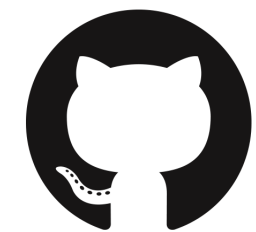
- Get day, month, year, etc.
  - **dt.getDay(), dt.getMonth(), dt.getYear()**
- Compare two dates

```
if (dt1 > dt2) {...}
```

- Set date

```
var dt2 = new Date();
dt2.setDate(dt2.getDate() + 5); // 5 days into the future
```

# Exercises #5, #6 (#6b)



[https://github.com/kbalog/web-programming/tree/master/](https://github.com/kbalog/web-programming/tree/master/exercises/js/basics)  
**exercises/js/basics**

# Best practices

- Avoid global variables
- Put variable declarations at the top of each script or function
- Initialize variables when declaring them
- Treat numbers, strings, or booleans as primitive values, not as objects
- Use `[]` instead of `new Array()`
- Beware of automatic type conversions
- Use `===` comparison

# References

- W3C JavaScript and HTML DOM reference  
<http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/default.asp>
- W3C JS School  
<http://www.w3schools.com/js/default.asp>
- Mozilla JavaScript reference  
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference>