

# Introduction to JavaScript

## For web browsers

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# NUS Hackers



<http://nushackers.org>

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# About Me

Hi! I'm Julius. My GitHub is  
`https://github.com/indocomsoft`

A Year 1 Computer Science Undergraduate who loves hacking  
and building systems.

I took CS1101S taught in JavaScript and have been doing web  
development intensively for the past 2 years.

(Not so important) I also enjoy Aerospace Engineering, Music  
Theory and History (my favourite games are KSP and EU4 hit me up if you play those too)

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## Required Software

- **Google Chrome** (<http://chrome.google.com/>)
- **Sublime Text 3** (<http://www.sublimetext.com/3>) or any decent text editor

**Materials** can be found at

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gaiBcnkGRwZ3w3z1j8H\\_CZqpV6iPcQmz?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gaiBcnkGRwZ3w3z1j8H_CZqpV6iPcQmz?usp=sharing)

**Code snippets** at

<https://hackmd.io/0bxMdu7SS0ijP0089-G75w?view>

# JavaScript Drum Kit

- A sneak peek on what we will be building today.
- Do raise your hands if you're lost!

# Why and What is Javascript?

- HTML & CSS defines a webpage's structure and style statically.
- JavaScript allows more dynamic aspect of the web:
  - User interaction
  - Modifying the webpage
  - Communicating with a server
- Javascript is:
  - dynamic and weakly-typed
  - multi-paradigm (prototype-based object-oriented, imperative, functional, event-driven)

## Short History

- It was first included by Netscape Navigator in 1995.
- It has since been standardised by Ecma Int'l.
- Consequently, the standard is called ECMAScript.
- There are several editions of the standard:
  - ECMAScript 5.1
  - ECMAScript 6 (ES6, also called ES2015)
  - ECMAScript 7 (ES7, also called ES2016)
- For the purpose of today's Hackerschool, we will focus more on ES6.



## Resources

- Mozilla Developer Network (<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript>) offers one of the best documentation of JavaScript.
- Even Microsoft is redirecting its web docs to MDN<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><https://blogs.windows.com/msedgedev/2017/10/18/documenting-web-together-mdn-web-docs/>

## Following along

- All modern web browsers have an integrated JavaScript interpreter. You can run codes in this presentation by using the console.
- For Firefox and Chrome, go to **Developer Tools** (keyboard shortcut: Ctrl+Shift+I or Command + Option + I)

# Data Types

There are 6 primitive data types in ES6:

- Null
- Undefined
- **Number**
- **String**
- Symbol
- **Boolean**

## 3 Important Primitive Data Types

- **Number** = A numeric data type in the double-precision 64-bit floating point format

```
1  typeof 1101          // returns "number"
2  typeof 5.00          // returns "number"
3  typeof Math.PI       // returns "number"
```

- **String** = sequence of characters

```
1  typeof "asd"         // returns "string"
2  typeof 'asd'         // returns "string"
```

- **Boolean** = only 2 possible values: true and false

```
1  typeof true          // returns "boolean"
2  typeof false         // returns "boolean"
```

## Variable Declaration

- Traditionally, variables are declared using `var`.
- However, since ES6, there are 2 more ways to declare variable, `let` (allows reassignment) and `const` (prevents reassignment).
- The difference is in scoping<sup>2</sup>. Generally, I would advise using `let` and `const`.

```

1  var name = "Julius"
2  let mood = "happy"
3  const birthyear = 1997
4  name = "indocomsoft" // OK
5  mood = "excited"      // OK
6  birthyear = 2001      // Error

```

---

<sup>2</sup>`var` is function-scoped while `let` and `const` are block-scoped

# Array

- **Array** is an ordered collection of data.

```
1 // Empty array
```

```
2 []
```

```
3
```

```
4 let arr = [1, 2, 3, "a", true]
```

```
5 a[0] // 1
```

```
6 a[3] // "a"
```

```
7 a[4] // true
```

- There are many built-in Array methods. Look them up at MDN!

# Object

- **Object** is a data structure containing data and instructions (fields and methods).

```

1  // Empty object
2  {}
3
4  // Literal object
5  let car = { "brand": "Tesla", "model": "X",
6             ↪  "production_year": 2015 }
7  car["brand"]           // "Tesla"
8  car.model              // "X"
9  car["production_year"] // 2015
10 car.production_year    // 2015
11 car.name               // undefined

```

# Function

- **Function** is a code snippet.

```

1  function plusOne(x) {
2      return x + 1;
3  }
4  plusOne(2)                                // Returns 3
5
6  let plusOne = (x) => x + 1; // Arrow functions
7  plusOne(2)                                // Returns 3
8
9  // Functions can be passed around
10 let op = (f, v) => f(v);
11 op(plusOne, 5);                            // Returns 6

```



## if - else if - else Flow Control

- Logical operators: && (and), || (or), ! (not)

## if - else if - else Flow Control

- Logical operators: `&&` (and), `||` (or), `!` (not)
- Comparison operators: `==` (equality), `!=` (inequality), `===` (identity/strict equality), `!==` (non-identity/strict inequality), `>`, `>=`, `<`, `<=`.

## if - else if - else Flow Control

- Logical operators: && (and), || (or), ! (not)
- Comparison operators: == (equality), != (inequality), === (identity/strict equality), !== (non-identity/strict inequality), >, >=, <, <=.

```
1  let x = 10;  
2  if (x < 10) {  
3    console.log("smaller")  
4  } else if (x > 10) {  
5    console.log("larger")  
6  } else {  
7    console.log("equal")  
8  }
```

# Truthy and Falsy

- Values that translate to true and false respectively.
- List of falsy values:

```
1  if (false)
2  if (null)
3  if (undefined)
4  if (0)
5  if (NaN)
6  if ('')
7  if ("")
```

- Other values are by definition truthy

```
1  let me = { "name": "Julius", "age": 21 }
2  if (me.address) console.log("address exists!")
3  else console.log("address is missing")
```

# JavaScript is dynamic and weakly typed!

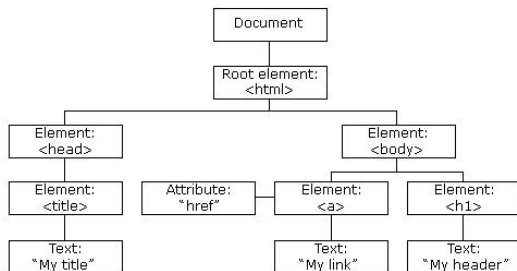
- Be careful! JavaScript was designed to not throw error as far as it could. So, given an ambiguous instruction, it will try to guess what you really meant.
- A case in point: WAT  
<https://www.destroyallsoftware.com/talks/wat>

## Brief Review on HTML & CSS

- HTML defines a document's structure
- CSS defines a document's style

# The HTML DOM

- HTML DOM (Document Object Model) is the Web API that allows JavaScript to dynamically change a webpage.
- In JavaScript, the API can be accessed using the `document` object.
- A HTML Document can be represented as a tree:



# Selecting an element

- Use the `document.querySelector`<sup>3</sup> function.

## Syntax

```
1 | element = document.querySelector(selectors);
```

### Parameters

#### `selectors`

A [DOMString](#) containing one or more selectors to match. This string must be a valid CSS selector string; if it isn't, a `SYNTAX_ERR` exception is thrown. See [Locating DOM elements using selectors](#) for more about selectors and how to manage them.

**Note:** Characters which are not part of standard CSS syntax must be escaped using a backslash character. Since JavaScript also uses backspace escaping, special care must be taken when writing string literals using these characters. See [Escaping special characters](#) for more information.

### Return value

A [Element](#) object representing the first element in the document that matches the specified set of [CSS selectors](#).

If you need a list of all elements matching the specified selectors, you should use [querySelectorAll\(\)](#) instead.

---

<sup>3</sup><https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Document/querySelector>



## Example of `document.querySelector`

```
1 document.querySelector("audio[data-key='65']");
```

What does this do?

- `document.querySelector` will select the first element.
- CSS selector string `"audio[data-key='65']"`
  - an element with an audio tag
  - whose data-key attribute is 65

## The <audio> tag and data-\* attribute

```
<audio data-key="65" src="sounds/clap.wav"></audio>
```

- The <audio> tag is used to embed sound content in documents, containing one or more audio sources specified in the src attribute or with a <source> elements.
- data-\* attribute is a new feature introduced in HTML5. It is for extensibility purposes, allowing us to store extra information on standard HTML elements.

## Playing audio file

- An `<audio>` element provides a method to play the audio it contains: `audioElement.play()`;
- Thus, to play audio, we can do this:

```
1  let clap =  
    ↪ document.querySelector("audio[data-key='65']");  
2  clap.play();  
3  let hihat =  
    ↪ document.querySelector("audio[data-key='83']");  
4  hihat.play();  
5  let kick =  
    ↪ document.querySelector("audio[data-key='68']");  
6  kick.play();  
7  // So on and so forth
```

# DRY! (Don't Repeat Yourself)

- Remember your CS1010/CS1101S! Abstraction!

```
1 function playSound(keyCode) {  
2   let audio =  
   ↳ document.querySelector("audio[data-key='" +  
   ↳ keyCode + "']");  
3   audio.play();  
4 }  
5  
6 playSound(65);
```

# DRY! (Don't Repeat Yourself)

- Remember your CS1010/CS1101S! Abstraction!

```
1 function playSound(keyCode) {  
2   let audio =  
    ↪ document.querySelector("audio[data-key='" +  
    ↪ keyCode + "']");  
3   audio.play();  
4 }  
5  
6 playSound(65);
```

- Now try running `playSound(65);` in rapid succession. The same audio waits until it is finished before playing again!

## Starting audio before the previous play finishes

- How do you solve this? Use the HTML DOM, `HTMLMediaElement.currentTime`<sup>4</sup>!

```

1  function playSound(keyCode){
2      let audio =
    ↪   document.querySelector("audio[data-key='" +
    ↪   keyCode + "']");
3      audio.currentTime = 0; // Add this
4      audio.play();
5  }
6
7  playSound(65);
8  playSound(65);

```

<sup>4</sup><https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/HTMLMediaElement/currentTime>

## CSS class

- Recall how we apply styles to HTML documents: by including a CSS stylesheet, and then adding appropriate class attributes to the HTML elements.
- For example, each key in the drum kit has class key

```
<div data-key="65" class="key">
  <kbd>A</kbd>
  <span class="sound">clap</span>
</div>
```

```
.key { /* various styles */ }
.playing {
  transform: scale(1.1);
  border-color: #ffc600;
  box-shadow: 0 0 1rem #ffc600;
}
```

## Adding/Removing a CSS class

- Now, what we want to do is to add a CSS class playing when the audio is playing, and then remove the class when the key has been scaled up.
- This can easily achieved through a HTML DOM method `Element.classList`<sup>5</sup>

```
1      let clapKey =  
    ↪   document.querySelector("div[data-key='65']");  
2      clapKey.classList.add('playing');  
3      clapKey.classList.remove('playing');
```

---

<sup>5</sup><https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Element/classList>



## Events and Listeners

- As mentioned in slide 4, JavaScript is event-driven.
- Analogy:

<b>(Events)</b> <b>When the customers re- quests for...</b>	<b>(Listeners)</b> <b>Inform these people...</b>
Spaghetti	Chef
Washroom	Toilet manager
Pizza	Pizza Hut, Canadian Pizza, Domino's

- Event:** signal from the browser that something has happened. The browser then conveys this signal to all **listeners** of that event.

## Callback functions as Listener

- In JavaScript, we have callback functions as listeners that is invoked whenever an event occurs.
- To register a function as a listener, we use the HTML DOM function `document.addEventListener(eventType, callback)`

```
1 document.addEventListener('keydown', () => {  
2     console.log(event);  
3 });
```

- `console.log()` is the equivalent of print in other languages.

# Putting everything together

When user hits the key:

1. Play the sound associated with the key
2. At keypress, add `.playing` class to the `<div>` associated with the key
3. When it has been completely scaled, remove `.playing` class from `<div>`

## Play the sound associated with they key

```
1 function playSound(keyCode){  
2   let audio =  
   ↳ document.querySelector("audio[data-key='" +  
   ↳ keyCode + "']");  
3   audio.currentTime = 0;  
4   audio.play();  
5 }
```

## At keypress, add .playing class

```
1 function playSound(keyCode) {  
2   let audio =  
   ⇨ document.querySelector("audio[data-key='" +  
   ⇨ keyCode + "']");  
3   let key = document.querySelector("div[data-key='" +  
   ⇨ keyCode + "']");  
4   key.classList.add('playing');  
5   audio.currentTime = 0;  
6   audio.play();  
7 }
```

## Filter for Bad Input

- data-key is represents the ASCII code of the keys.
- If the key pressed is not any of the keys in the HTML document, then do nothing.

```

1  function playSound(keyCode) {
2      let audio =
    ⇨  document.querySelector("audio[data-key='" +
    ⇨  keyCode + "']");
3      let key = document.querySelector("div[data-key='" +
    ⇨  keyCode + "']");
4      if (audio !== null) {
5          key.classList.add('playing');
6          audio.currentTime = 0;
7          audio.play();
8      }
9  }
```

## Listeners on multiple elements

- We can do so using `document.querySelectorAll`<sup>6</sup> and `Array.forEach`<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup><https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Document/querySelectorAll>

<sup>7</sup>[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global\\_Objects/Array/forEach](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global_Objects/Array/forEach)

## Listeners on multiple elements

- We can do so using `document.querySelectorAll`<sup>6</sup> and `Array.forEach`<sup>7</sup>

```
1 let keys = document.querySelectorAll('.key');
2 keys.forEach(key =>
  ↪ key.addEventListener('transitionend', event
  ↪ => {
  ↪ event.target.classList.remove('playing');
  ↪ }));
```

---

<sup>6</sup><https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Document/querySelectorAll>

<sup>7</sup>[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global\\_Objects/Array/forEach](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global_Objects/Array/forEach)



## Talk to us!

- **Feedback form:** <https://tinyurl.com/HS2018JS>
- **Upcoming hackerschool:**  
Introduction to Machine Learning Part 1