

Blackbird offers a dead-simple way to log messages in JavaScript and an attractive console to view and filter them. **You might never use `alert()` again.**

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Demos

Output all message types

```
log.debug( 'this is a debug message' );
log.info( 'this is an info message' );
log.warn( 'this is a warning message' );
log.error( 'this is an error message' );
```

Click the block to execute the code

Generate test string

```
log.profile( 'generate test string' );

var testContent = '';
for ( var i = 0; i < 3000; i++ ) {
    testContent += '-';
}

log.profile( 'generate test string' );
```

Click the block to execute the code

Setup

Adding Blackbird to your page

1. [Download the files](#) and place them on your server or in a local directory on your computer.
2. Include `blackbird.js` in your page.
3. Include `blackbird.css` in your page.

Your HTML source should look similar to the following code:

```
<html>
<head>
  <script type="text/javascript" src="/PATH/TO/blackbird.js"></script>
  <link type="text/css" rel="Stylesheet" href="/PATH/TO/blackbird.css" />
  ...
</head>
...
```

Browser compatibility

Blackbird is has been smoke-tested on the following browsers:

- Internet Explorer 6+
- Firefox 2+
- Safari 2+
- Opera 9.5

Usage

Public API

<code>log.toggle()</code>	Hide/show Blackbird
<code>log.move()</code>	Move Blackbird to next fixed positions: top-left, top-right, bottom-left, bottom-right
<code>log.resize()</code>	Expand/contract Blackbird
<code>log.clear()</code>	Clear all contents of Blackbird
<code>log.debug(message)</code>	Add a debug message to Blackbird <i>message: the string content of the debug message</i>
<code>log.info(message)</code>	Add an info message to Blackbird <i>message: the string content of the info message</i>
<code>log.warn(message)</code>	Add a warning message to Blackbird <i>message: the string content of the warn message</i>
<code>log.error(message)</code>	Add an error message to Blackbird <i>message: the string content of the warn message</i>
<code>log.profile(label)</code>	Start/end a time profiler for Blackbird. If a profiler named string does not exist, create a new profiler. Otherwise, stop the profiler string and display the time elapsed (in ms). <i>Label: the string identifying a specific profile timer</i>

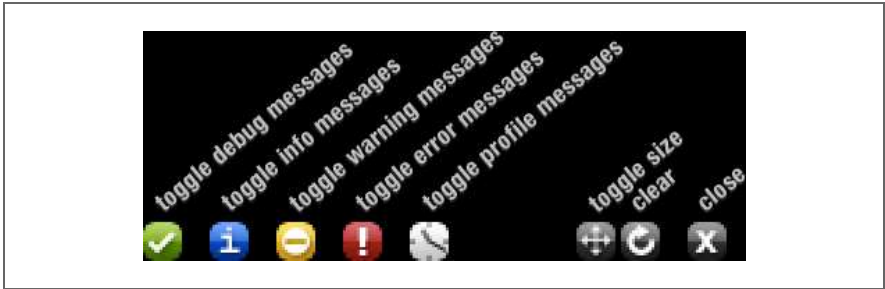
Keyboard controls

Hide/show




Move

Clear

Interface controls



Pressing the Alt key while clicking any message filter control will only show messages of that type. For example, Alt + click  to show only debug messages.

	generate test string
	generate test string: 2ms
	...

<input type="checkbox"/>	this is a debug message
<input type="checkbox"/>	this is an info message
<input type="checkbox"/>	this is a warning message
<input type="checkbox"/>	this is an error message
<input type="checkbox"/>	generate test string
<input type="checkbox"/>	generate test string: 1ms

☒ Visible on page load

Bookmarklets

Drag the following links to your bookmarks toolbar for quick access to Blackbird commands:

- [clear](#)
- [move](#)
- [resize](#)
- [toggle](#)

Customization

Changing the namespace

The default configuration attaches the public API for Blackbird to the global variable `log`. It is possible to have conflicts with existing variable declarations, and it is possible to redefine the global variable `log` in other blocks of JavaScript. If you want to define a different variable for Blackbird, such as `blackbird`, replace the assignment for `NAMESPACE` with any other string.

```
var NAMESPACE = 'log';
```

can be replaced with:

```
var NAMESPACE = 'blackbird';
```

or:

```
var NAMESPACE = 'myCustomLog';
```

The global API will be affected by this change. If you choose to replace `log` with `myCustomLog`, then `log.debug` will become `myCustomLog.debug`.

Capture & cancel logging statements

If you're shipping code with logging statements, you might want to capture and cancel commands intended for Blackbird. The following code will do this:

```
var log = {
  toggle: function() {},
  move: function() {},
  resize: function() {},
  clear: function() {},
  debug: function() {},
  info: function() {},
  warn: function() {},
  error: function() {},
  profile: function() {}
};
```

About

Credits

The code (`blackbird.js`, `blackbird.css`) and image assets (`blackbird_panel.png`, `blackbird_icons.png`) were created by G. Scott Olson.

The concept for Blackbird was sparked by [JavaScript Logging](#), an article by David F. Miller. The first iteration of this project, named `jsLogger`, was developed for internal use at [Orbitz](#). In the fall of 2007, `jsLogger` was rewritten from the ground up, given a facelift, and named project Blackbird.

Contributing to the Blackbird Project

Blackbird is an open source project. If you're intereted in contributing, you can start by checking out the project page on [Google Code](#).