Add SVG element to existing SVG using DOM
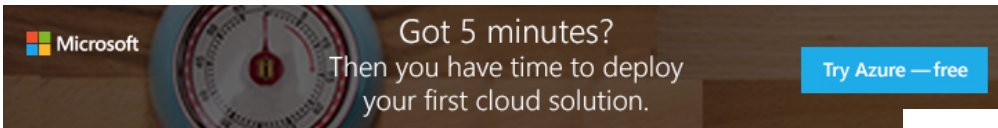
I have a HTML construction that resembles the following code:

```
<div id='intro'>
<svg>
//draw some svg elements
<svg>
</div>
```

I want to be able to add some elements to the SVG defined above using javascript and DOM. How would I accomplish that? I was thinking of

```
var svg1=document.getElementById('intro').getElementsByTagName('svg');
svg1[0].appendChild(element);//element like <line>, <circle>
```

I am not very familiar with using DOM, or how to create the element to be passed to appendChild so please help me out with this or perhaps show me what other alternatives I have to solve this issue. Thanks a lot.

javascript   html   html5   dom   svg

edited May 10 '13 at 19:46   asked May 10 '13 at 18:46

biggdman
618   6   17   33

2 Answers

If you want to create an HTML element, use `document.createElement` function. SVG uses
namespace, that's why you have to use `document.createElementNS` function.

```
var svg = document.getElementsByTagName('svg')[0]; //Get svg element
var newElement = document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg", 'path');
//Create a path in SVG's namespace
newElement.setAttribute("d","M 0 0 L 10 10"); //Set path's data
newElement.style.stroke = "#000"; //Set stroke colour
newElement.style.strokeWidth = "5px"; //Set stroke width
svg.appendChild(newElement);
```

This code will produce something like this:

```
<svg>
 <path d="M 0 0 L 10 10" style="stroke: #000; stroke-width: 5px;" />
</svg>
```

createElement : https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Document/createElement

createElementNS : https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Document/createElementNS

edited Aug 14 '15 at 12:34   answered May 10 '13 at 19:51

1   I get `Uncaught TypeError: Cannot read property 'setAttribute' of null`. – B Seven Jan 6 '15 at 1:25

Show the codes. Does the SVG element exist? – m93a Jan 7 '15 at 14:02

2   Upvoting because useful answer and because Hackerman – Dominic Boulanger Jul 13 '15 at 15:03

1   a plus for the img – maioman Aug 3 '15 at 14:39

Man om man am i glad i searched google for hackerman :D – Persijn Aug 14 '15 at 11:38

If you're dealing with svg's a lot using JS, I recommend using d3.js. Include it on your page, and do something like this:

```
d3.select("#svg1").append("circle");
```

answered May 10 '13 at 18:56

ragingsquirrel3
238 1 11

10   I would like to do it using plain javascript, without external libraries or functions – biggdman May 10 '13 at 19:03

Just what I needed! Thanks. – EvertW May 23 '15 at 15:34