https://davidwalsh.name/customeventJavaScript events have been the gateway to user interaction within the browser since its inception. Not only do events tell us when an interaction happens, but events tell us type of interaction, the nodes involved, and provide us methods for working with the event. Creating custom events and triggering them have always been trickier. Using JavaScript's CustomEvent API, that trickery can be eliminated. The CustomEvent API allows developers to not only create custom events but trigger them on DOM nodes, passing data along the way. Best of all, the API is super simple!

**The JavaScript**

When working with customizing events, there's two components included in an event being "custom": a custom event name and the ability to trigger that event. Adding an event listener to an element, however, stays the same:

myElement.addEventListener("userLogin", function(e) {

console.info("Event is: ", e);

console.info("Custom data is: ", e.detail);

})

Here we've added a userLogin event, just as easily as we could add a native mouseover or focus event -- that's not special. The special part is creating and triggering the event:

// First create the event

var myEvent = new CustomEvent("userLogin", {

detail: {

username: "davidwalsh"

}

});

// Trigger it!

myElement.dispatchEvent(myEvent);

The CustomEvent constructor allows for creation of the custom event, allowing you to pass both a custom event name as well as a number of special properties; dispatchEvent triggers the event on the given element. Let's make the event to be triggered super-customized by configuring its bubbling, cancelable, detail properties:

var myEvent = new CustomEvent("userLogin", {

detail: {

username: "davidwalsh"

},

bubbles: true,

cancelable: false

});

Creating and trigger custom events with custom data is incredibly useful. Not only can you create your own naming convention for events, but you may also pass custom data along the way! You can keep up with browser support on the [CustomEvent API on MDN](https://developer.mozilla.org/en/DOM/CustomEvent), but this API is available in most modern browsers.