

AJAX / Intro to jQuery

Recap

Last week we introduced **AJAX** as a means of communicating with a server without doing a full browser refresh.

You can use the built-in type **XMLHttpRequest**, but in general it's widely accepted to use a third-party framework like **jQuery** to simplify your code.

- Any questions around AJAX?

Today's Outline

- Get Familiar with jQuery's syntax
- More AJAX and jQuery practice

jQuery

jQuery is a javascript utility framework built to simplify the code required to achieve normal browser operations.

- HTML / DOM manipulation
- AJAX
- Event Handling
- Animation

jQuery - Why

- jQuery is a javascript utility knife, one dependency to handle most of what you will need for smaller-sized applications.
- Cross-browser compliant (1.x - IE 6, 2.x - IE 9)
- You will write much less code than relying on native javascript functionality.

jQuery - Getting Started

When you load jQuery on a page, it creates a global object `$` to gain access to all of its functions.

This can be confusing because `$` works as both a function and an object.

```
$('#selectAnElement');
```

```
$.ajax();
```

jQuery - Selectors

jQuery has a selector engine “Sizzle” that uses simple CSS3 selectors to get references to HTML objects.

```
<div id="helpText" ></div>
```

```
var helpText = document.getElementById('helpText'); // built-in js
```

```
var jqueryText = $('#helpText');
```

jQuery - Selectors

Once you have a reference to an HTML object through jQuery, modifying it is much simpler. Use the “html” function to get or set the html of a DOM object.

```
$('#helpText').html('This is some help text.')
```

```
// <div> This is some help text. </div>
```

```
var helpText = document.getElementById('helpText');
```

```
helpText.innerHTML = 'This is some help text.';
```


jQuery - Selectors

You can select by class instead of by id to get access to and manipulate multiple items.

// Before

```
<div class="section"></div>
```

```
<div class="section"></div>
```

```
$('.section').html('All of the content.');
```

// After

```
<div class="section">All of the content.</div>
```

```
<div class="section">All of the content.</div>
```

jQuery - Selectors

In addition to modifying the contents of the html, you can also...

`$('#myDiv').addClass('newClass');` // Useful for styles or animations.

`$('#myDiv').remove();` // Remove the element from the DOM

`$('#myDiv').clone();` // Copy html from one element.

`$('#myDiv').append('More Html');` // Adds HTML to the end of the markup.

`$('#myDiv').prepend('Content');` // Adds HTML to the beginning of the markup.

jQuery - Selectors

Demo

Questions before moving on?

Workshop

- Chat Application