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PWAI: JS Research Project

The functionality of webpages has come a long way with today’s seamless and aesthetic behaviors thanks to JavaScript. JavaScript has evolved significantly over the years and has made it possible to bring designs to life in the web world, making it friendly to interact and entertaining for users today. It is almost safe to say without JavaScript a webpage would be lifeless. With all the great benefits learning this language can bring to the table for a developer, it’s also important to learn and be aware of new technologies. As with any tech career, you will always be learning new developments to improve and keep up with the trends. One of those developments that pairs very well with JavaScript is its buddy jQuery.

In a world where web developers had to code in raw JavaScript that sometimes would get a little too lengthy and increasing the risk of encountering buggy issues, today jQuery condenses JavaScript to simplify code and syntax. JQuery is essentially a JavaScript library that delivers those blocks of code in a single line method (W3Schools). Not to mention it reduces file size and helps the page load faster (Hein).

Although jQuery has been around for only eight years, its ease of use and broad browser acceptance lead it to be the foundation of the modern web (Marvin). According to W3Schools, the jQuery library features HTML/DOM Manipulation, CSS Manipulation, effects and animation, simplification of AJAX calls, and so much more. With its extensive library and simpler code, “developers find jQuery intuitive and easy to learn…” which increases the production time on applications (Hein).

Considering the fact of its simplicity, unlike JavaScript, jQuery can make Flash run for their money. As mentioned above, jQuery can produce animated applications just like a Flash-based website. Flash is on the opposite side of the spectrum of simple as it may take years for a developer to really master the Flash software to produce desirable applications. However, jQuery can produce the same results on a shorter learning time length since all you need to know is JavaScript and HTML (Hein). Another point is one of the drawbacks of building a Flash-based website leads to extra work since you would have to still code for other browsers that are not compatible with Flash websites. However with jQuery, it has a combination of CSS, HTML, JavaScript, and AJAX - all markup languages that are meant to work well with each other. This means you don’t have to write extra code or build an entire different website – only work through one source to manage an engaging website for users (Marvin).

JQuery is here to stay - it is not some fad language. With it’s reputation, it is definitely more favorable then Flash amongst developers. It also helps streamline the process of developing complicated JavaScript code, hence increasing its popularity in the web development community. Even large web companies utilize and support jQuery such as Google, Microsoft, IBM, and Netflix (W3Schools). The future of jQuery now lies in the hands of the mobile community since mobile devices now have as much usage power as desktops. According to the article written by Rob Marvin, who interviewed jQuery Foundation president Dave Methvin, “As far as code goes, we’re in the process of merging the UI and Mobile code. There’s not a bright line between the two now that phones are as powerful as desktops,” said Methvin.

The future of jQuery is very promising and a highly exceptional tool for web developers today.

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