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# AJAX PHP Example

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AJAX is used to create more interactive applications.

## AJAX PHP Example

The following example demonstrates how a web page can communicate with a web server while a user types characters in an input field:

### Example

**Start typing a name in the input field below:**

First name: [                    ]

Suggestions:

## Example Explained

In the example above, when a user types a character in the input field, a function called "showHint()" is executed.

The function is triggered by the onkeyup event.

Here is the HTML code:

### Example

```
<html>
<head>
<script>
function showHint(str) {
    if (str.length == 0) {
```

```
            document.getElementById("txtHint").innerHTML = "";
            return;
        } else {
            var xmlhttp = new XMLHttpRequest();
            xmlhttp.onreadystatechange = function() {
                if (this.readyState == 4 && this.status == 200) {
                    document.getElementById("txtHint").innerHTML = this.responseText;
                }
            };
            xmlhttp.open("GET", "gethint.php?q=" + str, true);
            xmlhttp.send();
        }
    }
</script>
</head>
<body>

<p><b>Start typing a name in the input field below:</b></p>
<form>
First name: <input type="text" onkeyup="showHint(this.value)">
</form>
<p>Suggestions: <span id="txtHint"></span></p>
</body>
</html>
```

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Code explanation:

First, check if the input field is empty (str.length == 0). If it is, clear the content of the txtHint placeholder and exit the function.

However, if the input field is not empty, do the following:

- Create an XMLHttpRequest object
- Create the function to be executed when the server response is ready
- Send the request off to a PHP file (gethint.php) on the server
- Notice that q parameter is added gethint.php?q="+str
- The str variable holds the content of the input field

## The PHP File - "gethint.php"

The PHP file checks an array of names, and returns the corresponding name(s) to the browser:

```php
<?php
// Array with names
```

```php
$a[] = "Anna";
$a[] = "Brittany";
$a[] = "Cinderella";
$a[] = "Diana";
$a[] = "Eva";
$a[] = "Fiona";
$a[] = "Gunda";
$a[] = "Hege";
$a[] = "Inga";
$a[] = "Johanna";
$a[] = "Kitty";
$a[] = "Linda";
$a[] = "Nina";
$a[] = "Ophelia";
$a[] = "Petunia";
$a[] = "Amanda";
$a[] = "Raquel";
$a[] = "Cindy";
$a[] = "Doris";
$a[] = "Eve";
$a[] = "Evita";
$a[] = "Sunniva";
$a[] = "Tove";
$a[] = "Unni";
$a[] = "Violet";
$a[] = "Liza";
$a[] = "Elizabeth";
$a[] = "Ellen";
$a[] = "Wenche";
$a[] = "Vicky";

// get the q parameter from URL
$q = $_REQUEST["q"];

$hint = "";

// lookup all hints from array if $q is different from ""
if ($q !== "") {
    $q = strtolower($q);
    $len=strlen($q);
    foreach($a as $name) {
        if (stristr($q, substr($name, 0, $len))) {
            if ($hint === "") {
                $hint = $name;
            } else {
                $hint .= ", $name";
            }
        }
    }
}

// Output "no suggestion" if no hint was found or output correct values
```

```
echo $hint === "" ? "no suggestion" : $hint;
?>
```

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