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JSON vs XML



Both JSON and XML can be used to receive data from a web server.

The following JSON and XML examples both defines an employees object, with an array of 3 employees:

JSON is Like XML Because

- Both JSON and XML are "self describing" (human readable)
- Both JSON and XML are hierarchical (values within values)

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- Both JSON and XML can be parsed and used by lots of programming languages
- Both JSON and XML can be fetched with an XMLHttpRequest

JSON is Unlike XML Because

- JSON doesn't use end tag
- JSON is shorter
- JSON is quicker to read and write
- JSON can use arrays

The biggest difference is:

XML has to be parsed with an XML parser. JSON can be parsed by a standard JavaScript function.

Why JSON is Better Than XML

XML is much more difficult to parse than JSON. JSON is parsed into a ready-to-use JavaScript object.

For AJAX applications, JSON is faster and easier than XML:

Using XML

- Fetch an XML document
- Use the XML DOM to loop through the document
- Extract values and store in variables

Using JSON

- Fetch a JSON string
- JSON.Parse the JSON string



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