

## 15. DATATABLES Scroller Extension.

### 15.1. Scroller Extension.

**Scroller** is a virtual rendering plug-in for DataTables which allows large datasets to be drawn on screen very quickly. What the virtual rendering means is that only the visible portion of the table (and a bit to either side to make the scrolling smooth) is drawn, while the scrolling container gives the visual impression that the whole table is visible.

This is done by making use of the pagination abilities of DataTables and moving the table around in the scrolling container DataTables adds to the page. The **scrolling container** is forced to the height it would be for the full table display using an extra element.

### 15.2. Initialization

*Scroller* can be initialised on a DataTable by using the scroller option in the DataTables options object - which is simply set to boolean true. It is also possible to use an object for fine grained control (see the reference documentation for full details).

There are a number of other **properties** that will also be used to maximise the performance benefits offered by Scroller:

- **ajax** or **data** - Data for the table. Note that a DOM sourced table will see no performance benefits with *Scroller* since all elements are already present at the client-side.
- **deferRender** - Elements will be created only when they are required
- **scrollY** - Enable vertical scrolling in DataTables.

An example initialisation using *Scroller* might look like the following code:

#### Example:

```
$('#myTable').dataTable( {  
    ajax:          '/api/data',  
    scrollY:       200,  
    deferRender:   true,  
    scroller:      true  
} );
```

## 15.3. Features

Key features of Scroller include:

- Speed! The aim of Scroller for *DataTables* is to make rendering large data sets fast
- Full compatibility with *DataTables*' deferred rendering for maximum speed
- Display millions of rows in a scrollable table
- Integration with state saving in *DataTables* (*scrolling position is saved*)
- Easy to use