A BRIEF HISTORY OF JAVASCRIPT

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

1961

- Ecma International is founded
- Originally named ECMA (European Computer Manufacturers Association), founded to standardize computer systems in Europe
- Floppy disks, FAT filesystem, cyclic redundancy check, C++, JSON, ECMAScript

MAY 1995

- Brendan Eich creates "Mocha" in 10 days, later renamed to LiveScript
- Original idea was a scripting language that was loosely typed, not classically object oriented, and interpreted - distinct from a compiled language
- Targeted at web developers who wanted a simple way to interact with page elements

MAY 1995

- Lives in its own runtime environment provided by the browser
- Prototype based instead of class-based OO

SEPTEMBER 1995

- LiveScript ships with Netscape Navigator 2.0

DECEMBER 1995

- LiveScript renamed to "JavaScript"
- The popularity of Java at the time led to this name partially as a PR move

JULY 1996

- Microsoft releases JScript with IE 3.0
- Begins a long and painful period of fragmentation with Netscape Navigator and other browsers
  - Scripting languages and DOM specifications

JUNE 1997

- Ecma International publishes first edition of ECMA-262 specification
- Big step towards browser standards reunification

JUNE 1998

- Ecma International publishes second edition of ECMA-262 specification

OCTOBER 1998

- Document Object Model (DOM) Level 1 Specification released by W3C
- Provided complete and consistent model for an entire HTML/XML document and how to change any part of it

DECEMBER 1999

- Third edition of ECMA specification published
- Adds support for regex, exception handling

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DECEMBER 2000

- First recognizable version of XMLHttpRequest released in Gecko 0.6
- Allowed an HTTP request to be sent to a server, and the response loaded back into the script without reloading the page.

NOVEMBER 2004

- Mozilla releases a browser successor to Netscape Navigator, named Firefox

FEBRUARY 2005

- The term "Ajax" is coined in a whitepaper by Jesse James Garrett

AUGUST 2006

- First stable release of jQuery
- Eventually will become the most popular JavaScript library

JANUARY 2008

- First Public Working Draft of HTML5 specification released
- Semantic elements like <header>, <section>
- Form control of numbers, datetimes
- <svg>, <canvas>, <audio>, <video>
- HTML localStorage, Web Worker, Geolocation, History APIs

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SEPTEMBER 2008

- Google simultaneously releases their new web browser Chrome and a new JavaScript engine, V8

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MAY 2009

- Node.js initially released
- Open source runtime environment allowing for server-side execution
- Utilizes Google's V8 JavaScript engine

DECEMBER 2009

- ECMA 3.1 / 5 specification published
- Adds strict mode, getters/setters, formal support for JSON library

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2009

- GetAngular.com developers Miško Hevery and Adam Abrons create the first version of a JSON storage service that will later be taken over by Google and become AngularJS
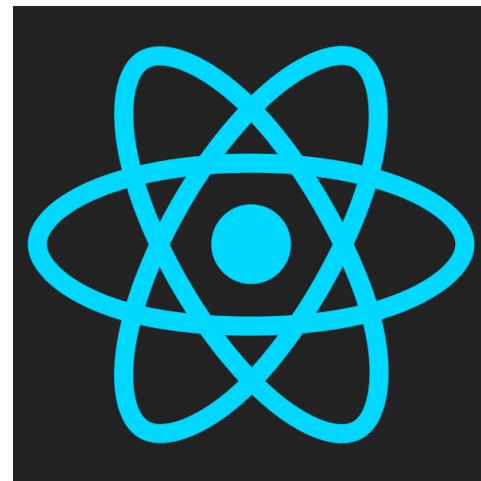
JUNE 2011

- ECMA 5.1 specification published
- No new features, just specification alignment with other standards entities

JULY 2012

- First Public Working Draft of HTML5.1 specification released
- HTML5.0 reaches Candidate Recommendation later in the year

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MAY 2013

- Facebook announces new library React for building user interfaces
- Uses virtual DOM diffing for more efficient updating of the actual DOM

JUNE 2013

- W3C introduces Working Draft for Web Components, a complement to existing DOM constructs
- Enables the use of custom elements, HTML imports, templates, and the shadow DOM

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JUNE 2015

- ECMA 6 specification published
- Introduces classes, modules, iterators, generators, syntax cleanup, and lots of other good stuff

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- ECMA 7 specification
- Being created in parallel to ES6
- Enhancements for promises, operator overloading, types
- Alternate numeric types – no more 0.1 + 0.2 != 0.3

TAKEAWAYS

- Standards != implementation
- JavaScript isn't the crippled language it once was
- Sweeping changes are coming

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