

How do I get the information from a meta tag with JavaScript?

Asked 7 years, 10 months ago Active 6 months ago Viewed 118k times

▲ The information I need is in a meta tag. How can I access the "content" data of the meta tag when property="video" ?

102 HTML:

▼ `<meta property="video" content="http://video.com/video33353.mp4" />`



32

javascript

html

greasemonkey

meta-tags

edited Jun 29 '18 at 3:19



brasofilo

22.1k

10

71

145

asked Sep 23 '11 at 5:20



supercoolville

2,854

15

40

58

- 1 Note that `<meta>` is supposed to have a `name` attribute, not `property`. Developers using the standard attribute will need to adapt the code given by most answers. – Jens Bannmann Jun 6 '17 at 11:53

13 Answers

▲ You can use this:

105



```
function getMeta(metaName) {  
  const metas = document.getElementsByTagName('meta');  
  
  for (let i = 0; i < metas.length; i++) {  
    if (metas[i].getAttribute('name') === metaName) {  
      return metas[i].getAttribute('content');  
    }  
  }  
  
  return '';  
}
```

```
console.log(getMeta('video'));
```

edited Oct 20 '18 at 0:55



neiker

7,537 3 24 25

answered Sep 23 '11 at 5:25



Saket

35.4k 10 51 74

-
- 2 Thanks for the help, but I couldn't get this to work. – [supercoolville](#) Sep 23 '11 at 6:09
-
- Find the updated script above. this should work! – [Saket](#) Sep 23 '11 at 6:15
-
- 6 What you really want is 'let' to keep them locally defined ;) – [tommed](#) Mar 23 '15 at 21:54
-
- 9 If you can use `querySelector`, you can do something like this: `document.querySelector("meta[property='og:url']").getAttribute('content')` – [Nishchal Gautam](#) Jun 17 '16 at 1:04
-
- 3 I think this answer is not more relevant and you should really use stackoverflow.com/questions/7524585/... – [Sergei Basharov](#) Jan 21 '17 at 17:10
-

The other answers should probably do the trick, but this one is simpler and does not require jQuery:

156

```
document.head.querySelector("[property~=video][content]").content;
```

edited Aug 27 '18 at 18:20



Aeyoun

2,812 2 23 38

answered Feb 26 '16 at 10:20



joepio

1,836 1 9 12

-
- 10 Simple, elegant and has no dependencies. Better than the accepted answer imo – [Raniz](#) Nov 3 '16 at 10:38
-
- 5 Even though my meta is in the `<head>` tag, `document.head.querySelector` gave me `null` but `document.querySelector` worked perfectly – [Robin van Baalen](#) Apr 15 '17 at 15:42
-
- 7 To get it working with OG tags add quotes to it like this_: `var title = document.head.querySelector("[property='og:title']");` – [arpo](#) May 8 '17 at 8:21
-
- Nlce. Which purpose does the part `"[content]"` serve? Without it, I also get the meta element. – [citykid](#) Apr 30 at 9:28
-

A lot of hard to read answer here. One liner here

73

```
document.querySelector("meta[property='og:image']").getAttribute("content");
```

answered Oct 12 '16 at 15:29



Ced

7,970

2

46

95

very nice and simple. – [dchayka](#) Nov 17 '16 at 21:05

There is an easier way:

19

```
document.getElementsByName('name of metatag')[0].getAttribute('content')
```

answered May 30 '16 at 18:19



muchacho

257

3

6

This works back to at least IE11, which makes it more useful. – [rprez](#) Feb 26 at 0:23

The `document.querySelector` version works all the way to IE8, so it's plenty – [fregante](#) Apr 19 at 4:17

15

```
function getMetaContentByName(name, content){  
    var content = (content==null)?'content':content;  
    return document.querySelector("meta[name='"+name+"'']").getAttribute(content);  
}
```

Used in this way:

```
getMetaContentByName("video");
```

The example on this page:

```
getMetaContentByName("twitter:domain");
```

answered Feb 15 '14 at 14:44



devMariusz

151 1 2

I used this tidbit, but on a certain page was getting a type error as undefined because the meta tag itself was missing. I resolved that by assigning a variable and wrapping the `document.querySelector` in a try statement so I could get "" by default in case of error. – bgmCoder Jan 14 '16 at 22:32



```
$("#meta[property='video']").attr('content');
```

13



answered Dec 30 '13 at 3:36



Elise Chant

3,229 3 17 31

9 Assuming jquery, or some library; not javascript – ILMostro_7 Dec 23 '15 at 22:34



In JQuery you can achieve this with:

11

```
$("#meta[property='video']").
```



In JavaScript you can achieve this with:

```
document.getElementsByTagName('meta').item(property='video');
```

edited Mar 29 '13 at 17:09



Wouter J

36.5k 11 90 102

answered Mar 29 '13 at 16:51



Prameet Jain


143 1 4

4 looks like "item(property='video');" part is not working – Marcin Nov 27 '13 at 11:51

9 This seems to work (atleast in chrome): `document.getElementsByTagName('meta')['video'].getAttribute('content');` if the markup is as below:

<meta name="video" content="http://video.com/video33353.mp4" /> – [samdeV](#) Aug 8 '14 at 21:51 

1 @samdeV, this is the cleanest of all the solutions here. Submit it as your own answer. :) – [frandroid](#) Nov 5 '15 at 22:22

1 @samdeV, also you don't need to .getAttribute('content'), you can just .content: document.getElementsByTagName('meta')['video'].content. I just tested, this works fine in Firefox as well. – [frandroid](#) Nov 5 '15 at 22:39 

I am now informed that it doesn't work in Safari. Damnit. – [frandroid](#) Nov 9 '15 at 16:18

Way - [1]

```
4 function getMetaContent(property, name){  
    return document.head.querySelector("[+"property+"="+name+"]").content;  
}  
console.log(getMetaContent('name', 'csrf-token'));
```

You may get error: Uncaught TypeError: Cannot read property 'getAttribute' of null

Way - [2]

```
function getMetaContent(name){  
    return document.getElementsByTagName('meta')[name].getAttribute("content");  
}  
console.log(getMetaContent('csrf-token'));
```

You may get error: Uncaught TypeError: Cannot read property 'getAttribute' of null

Way - [3]

```
function getMetaContent(name){  
    name = document.getElementsByTagName('meta')[name];  
    if(name != undefined){  
        name = name.getAttribute("content");  
        if(name != undefined){  
            return name;  
        }  
    }  
    return null;  
}
```

```
}  
console.log(getMetaContent('csrf-token'));
```

Instead getting error, you get `null` , that is good.

edited Oct 2 '18 at 2:02

answered Jan 7 '18 at 11:11



Юрий Светлов

464 1 5 17

▲ This code works for me

2

```
<meta name="text" property="text" content="This is text" />  
<meta name="video" property="text" content="http://video.com/video33353.mp4" />
```

▼ JS

```
var x = document.getElementsByTagName("META");  
var txt = "";  
var i;  
for (i = 0; i < x.length; i++) {  
    if (x[i].name=="video")  
    {  
        alert(x[i].content);  
    }  
}
```

Example fiddle: <http://jsfiddle.net/muthupandiant/ogfLwdwt/>

answered Feb 5 '15 at 11:10



muTheTechie

504 4 18

Its work for me – muTheTechie Feb 5 '15 at 11:11

2

```
function getDescription() {
    var info = document.getElementsByTagName('meta');
    return [].filter.call(info, function (val) {
        if(val.name === 'description') return val;
    })[0].content;
}
```

update version:

```
function getDesc() {
    var desc = document.head.querySelector('meta[name=description]');
    return desc ? desc.content : undefined;
}
```

edited Apr 10 '16 at 1:34

answered Jul 22 '15 at 3:46



Vanilla

82 4

Here's a function that will return the content of any meta tag and will memoize the result, avoiding unnecessary querying of the DOM.

0

```
var getMetaContent = (function(){
    var metas = {};
    var metaGetter = function(metaName){
        var theMetaContent, wasDOMQueried = true;;
        if (metas[metaName]) {
            theMetaContent = metas[metaName];
            wasDOMQueried = false;
        }
        else {
            Array.prototype.forEach.call(document.getElementsByTagName("meta"),
function(el) {
                if (el.name === metaName) theMetaContent = el.content;
                metas[metaName] = theMetaContent;
            });
            console.log("Q:wasDOMQueried? A:" + wasDOMQueried);
            return theMetaContent;
        }
    }
    return metaGetter;
})();
```

`getMetaContent("description");` */* getMetaContent console.Logs the content of the*

*description metatag. If invoked a second time it confirms that the DOM was only queried once */*

And here's an extended version that also queries for [open graph tags](#), and uses [Array#some](#):

```
var getMetaContent = (function(){
    var metas = {};
    var metaGetter = function(metaName){
        wasDOMQueried = true;
        if (metas[metaName]) {
            wasDOMQueried = false;
        }
        else {
            Array.prototype.some.call(document.getElementsByTagName("meta"),
function(el) {
                if(el.name === metaName){
                    metas[metaName] = el.content;
                    return true;
                }
                if(el.getAttribute("property") === metaName){
                    metas[metaName] = el.content;
                    return true;
                }
                else{
                    metas[metaName] = "meta tag not found";
                }
            });
            console.info("Q:wasDOMQueried? A:" + wasDOMQueried);
            console.info(metas);
            return metas[metaName];
        }
        return metaGetter;
    })();

    getMetaContent("video"); // "http://video.com/video33353.mp4"
```

edited May 5 '15 at 20:38

answered Apr 29 '15 at 14:23



[cssimsek](#)

931 10 16



I personally prefer to just get them in one object hash, then I can access them anywhere. This could easily be set to an injectable variable and then everything could have it and it only grabbed once.

0 By wrapping the function this can also be done as a one liner.

```
var meta = (function () {  
    var m = document.querySelectorAll("meta"), r = {};  
    for (var i = 0; i < m.length; i += 1) {  
        r[m[i].getAttribute("name")] = m[i].getAttribute("content")  
    }  
    return r;  
})();
```

answered Oct 1 '16 at 11:45



Wes Jones

66 5

FYI according to <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/meta> global attributes are valid which means the `id` attribute can be used with `getElementById`.

0

answered Jan 13 at 4:36



jmoz

5,193 3 25 27

