

Split First name and Last name using javascript

Asked 7 years ago Active 10 months ago Viewed 63k times



41



10

I have a user with a name **Paul Steve Panakkal**. It's a long name it won't fit to the div container. So is there anyway to split first name and lastname from it using javascript or jquery.

The name is got from PHP into a variable in JavaScript. This is then splitted using JS.

javascript

html

string

parsing

edited Oct 22 '16 at 7:01

asked Sep 9 '12 at 16:29



Subin

2,375

1

25

57

1 What exactly do you want to do with those parts then? What makes up a first name and what a last name? – [Felix Kling](#) Sep 9 '12 at 16:33

3 Worth noting, you should never make **any** assumptions about a name: kalzumeus.com/2010/06/17/... – [Lindsey D](#) May 28 '15 at 23:58

How about using this npmjs.com/package/parse-full-name – [doles](#) May 29 at 1:31

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17 Answers



You should use `split` method:

102

```
'Paul Steve Panakkal'.split(' '); // returns ["Paul", "Steve", "Panakkal"]
```



You can use it this way:



```
'Paul Steve Panakkal'.split(' ').slice(0, -1).join(' '); // returns "Paul Steve"
'Paul Steve Panakkal'.split(' ').slice(-1).join(' '); // returns "Panakkal"
```

So in common:

```
var firstName = fullName.split(' ').slice(0, -1).join(' ');
var lastName = fullName.split(' ').slice(-1).join(' ');
```

edited Sep 9 '12 at 16:39

answered Sep 9 '12 at 16:31



Danil Speransky
24.7k 3 48 67

Thank you very much. It worked. – [Subin](#) Sep 9 '12 at 16:49

- 4 The problem with `.split(" ").slice(0, -1).join(' ')` for first name is that if the string only contains one letter, it fails to give the first name. – [Hengjie](#) Jul 30 '14 at 22:54
- 2 Using your method first name would be "Paul Steve" and last name "Panakkal". What if want first name to be "Paul" and last name "Steve Panakkal" -- which means last name would be everything after the first white space. How to do it? – [Leandro Faria](#) May 1 '15 at 17:36
- 1 Also how would this solution work if they have two (highly likely) or four names (not so much)? – [Kumar](#) May 17 '17 at 12:57
- 2 In addition, what happens if there's a leading white space? It would be a good idea to "trim" the strings before splitting/slicing them.. like so `str.replace(/\s+/g, '')` – [Isimonetti](#) Jul 17 '18 at 12:03

View

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36

```
var fullName = "Paul Steve Panakkal".split(' '),
    firstName = fullName[0],
    lastName = fullName[fullName.length - 1];
```

References:

- [string.split\(\)](#) .

answered Sep 9 '12 at 16:31



David Thomas

210k 40 313 363

2 +1 for having a more efficient solution than everyone else – [Ali Gangji](#) Apr 4 '13 at 0:10

4 If you only put in "Paul" as the full name, it will use Paul as the first and last name... – [Michael](#) Jul 5 '16 at 20:51

I think, it's time to get started with regular expressions :)

12

```
"Paul Steve Panakkal".split(/(\s).+\s/).join("") // "Paul Panakkal"
```

answered Sep 9 '12 at 22:09



abuduba

3,718 6 22 37

1 This will work fine as long you are not supporting Spanish names. – [darol100](#) Jan 24 at 16:40

@darol100 Could you post any example please? – [abuduba](#) Feb 25 at 11:00

Spanish name has two last names. My name is a great example: "Darryl Norris Marquez".split(/(\s).+\s/).join("") // "Darryl Marquez", which is not right. Norris Marquez is my last name. However, I do not think there is a good way to identify a Spanish last name VS a middle name. See [@EliuX](#) for more details on how to support Spanish last name. – [darol100](#) Feb 26 at 19:02

In Spanish it can be tricky because you may have a second optional name and even complex surnames like "del Bosque" or "de la

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7

1. **name:** 1 or 2 main names
2. **lastName:** the main lastname
3. **secondLastName:** The second lastname

The code is:

```
function parseName(input) {
    var fullName = input || "";
    var result = {};

    if (fullName.length > 0) {
        var nameTokens = fullName.match(/[A-ZÁ-ÚÑÜ][a-zá-úñü]+|([aeodlsz]+\s+)+[A-ZÁ-ÚÑÜ][a-zá-úñü]+/g) || [];

        if (nameTokens.length > 3) {
            result.name = nameTokens.slice(0, 2).join(' ');
        } else {
            result.name = nameTokens.slice(0, 1).join(' ');
        }

        if (nameTokens.length > 2) {
            result.lastName = nameTokens.slice(-2, -1).join(' ');
            result.secondLastName = nameTokens.slice(-1).join(' ');
        } else {
            result.lastName = nameTokens.slice(-1).join(' ');
            result.secondLastName = "";
        }
    }

    return result;
}
```

The surnames are required if you are going to specify a second name. Try it out with:

- Eliecer Hernández Garbey
- Oscar de la Hoya
- José Julian Martí Pérez
- Manuel de Céspedes del Castillo
- Calixto García Íñiguez

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- María de la Caridad del Bosque y Loynáz

Comment your experiences with it.

edited Mar 17 '17 at 22:09

answered Oct 19 '16 at 21:34



EliuX

4,718

24

26

if you assume the last word is the last name and a single word name is also a last name then ...

3

```
var items = theName.split(' '),
    lastName = items[items.length-1],
    firstName = "";

for (var i = 0; i < items.length - 1; i++) {
    if (i > 0) {
        firstName += ' ';
    }
    firstName += items[i];
}
```

edited Oct 21 '14 at 2:49

answered Sep 9 '12 at 16:31



ThisGuy

1,633

1

22

28



Visual Micro

1,472

13

23

Extended version of Speransky Danil's answer which handles the case where the supplied string has only one word in it.

3

```
/**
 * Gets the first name, technically gets all words leading up to the last
 * Example: "Blake Robertson" --> "Blake"
 * Example: "Blake Andrew Robertson" --> "Blake Andrew"
 * Example: "Blake" --> "Blake"
 * @param str
 * @returns {*}
 */
exports.getFirstName = function(str) {
```

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```

    }
    return arr.slice(0, -1).join(' '); // returns "Paul Steve"
}

/**
 * Gets the last name (e.g. the last word in the supplied string)
 * Example: "Blake Robertson" --> "Robertson"
 * Example: "Blake Andrew Robertson" --> "Robertson"
 * Example: "Blake" --> "<None>"
 * @param str
 * @param {string} [ifNone] optional default value if there is not last name, defaults
to "<None>"
 * @returns {string}
 */
exports.getLastName = function(str, ifNone) {
    var arr = str.split(' ');
    if(arr.length === 1) {
        return ifNone || "<None>";
    }
    return arr.slice(-1).join(' ');
}

```

answered Nov 30 '14 at 4:34



blak3r

10.5k 12 64 87

I tried below code and it works cool for me

3

```

var full_name = 'xyz abc pqr';
var name = full_name.split(' ');
var first_name = name[0];
var last_name = full_name.substring(name[0].length.trim());

```

In above example:

(1)

```

If full_name = 'xyz abc pqr';
first name = "xvz":

```

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(2)

```
If `full_name` = "abc":
Then first_name = "abc";
and last_name = "";
```

edited Mar 17 '17 at 22:09



ssc-hrep3

5,950 3 18 60

answered Jun 15 '16 at 7:05



Akash Jain

465 1 4 19

1 It should be `full_name.substring(name[0].length).trim();` with the trim function at the end – [davidivad](#) Feb 28 '18 at 20:35

Use this code:

2

You'll need to change the line: `splitFullName("firstName","lastName","fullName");` and make sure it includes the right field IDs from your form.

```
function splitFullName(a,b,c){
    String.prototype.capitalize = function(){
        return this.replace( /(^|\s)([a-z])/g , function(m,p1,p2){ return
p1+p2.toUpperCase(); } );
    };
    document.getElementById(c).oninput=function(){
        fullName = document.getElementById(c).value;
        if((fullName.match(/ /g) || []).length ===0 ||
fullName.substring(fullName.indexOf(" ")+1,fullName.length) === ""){
            first = fullName.capitalize();
            last = "null";
        }else if(fullName.substring(0,fullName.indexOf(" ")).indexOf(".")>-1){
            first = fullName.substring(0,fullName.indexOf(" ")).capitalize() + " " +
fullName.substring(fullName.indexOf("
")+1,fullName.length).substring(0,fullName.substring(fullName.indexOf("
")+1,fullName.length).indexOf(" ")).capitalize();
            last = fullName.substring(first.length +1,fullName.length).capitalize();
        }else{
            first = fullName.substring(0,fullName.indexOf(" ")).capitalize();
            last = fullName.substring(fullName.indexOf(" ") +1,fullName.length).capitalize();
        }
    }
}
```

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```

document.getElementById(a).value = first;
document.getElementById(b).value = last;
};
//Initial Values
if(document.getElementById(c).value.length === 0){
    first = document.getElementById(a).value.capitalize();
    last = document.getElementById(b).value.capitalize();
    fullName = first + " " + last ;
    console.log(fullName);
    document.getElementById(c).value = fullName;
}

}

//Replace the ID's below with your form's field ID's
splitFullName("firstName","lastName","fullName");

```

Source: <http://developers.marketo.com/blog/add-a-full-name-field-to-a-marketo-form/>

edited Dec 22 '14 at 16:46



webeno

4,501 6 25 43

answered Dec 22 '14 at 16:22



Yanir Calisar

356 2 6

2

Watch out for edge-cases like only a first name being provided or two or more spaces being entered. If you only want to parse out the first and last name, this will do the trick (full name should always contain at least 1 character to avoid first_name being set to an empty string):

```

var full_name_split = "Paul Steve Panakkal".split(" ");
var first_name = full_name_split[0];
var last_name = full_name_split.length > 1 ? full_name_split[full_name_split.length - 1]
: null;

```

answered Jul 5 '16 at 20:48



Nick Schwab

21 3

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1

```
var s = "Paul Steve Panakkal";  
var a = s.lastIndexOf(' '); // Last occurrence of space  
var b = s.substring(0, a); // Paul Steve  
var c = s.substring(a+1); // Panakkal
```

answered May 25 '15 at 16:25



nonkertompf

222 1 2 11

A commenter said What if want first name to be "Paul" and last name "Steve Panakkal"

1

```
var name = "Paul Steve Panakkal" // try "Paul", "Paul Steve"  
var first_name = name.split(' ')[0]  
var last_name = name.substring(first_name.length).trim()  
console.log(first_name)  
console.log(last_name)
```

Run code snippet

[Expand snippet](#)

answered Dec 21 '16 at 10:47



Marius Andreiana

685 2 9 20

use JS `split` with space as delimiter.

0

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/JavaScript/Reference/Global_Objects/String/split

edited Sep 9 '12 at 16:33



Chris Laplante

24.8k 15 85 126

answered Sep 9 '12 at 16:30



techie_28

1,336 4 30 52

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0

```
var firstName = fullName.split(" ")[0];
```

answered Sep 8 '16 at 10:31

[Hasan Tuna Oruç](#)

598 6 12

If you mean the last name is all the names after the first name, just use:

0

```
var name = "Paul Steve Panakkal";
var arrName = name.split(" ");
var firstName = arrName.slice(0, 1).join(' ');
var lastName = arrName.slice(1, arrName.length).join(' ');
```

answered Jun 12 '17 at 15:41

[Marcelo Batemarchi](#)

6 1

This way, both firstName and lastName are always correct

0

```
var names = fullName.split(' ');
if (!names || names.length <= 1) {
  firstName = this.name;
  lastName = '';
} else {
  firstName = names.slice(0, -1).join(' ');
  lastName = names.slice(-1).join(' ');
}
```

answered Apr 4 '18 at 12:40

[Philippe Genois](#)

399 3 6

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0 You can use the split function to split the full name then the result like displaying elements in an array or list.

▼ This is what happens when you use the split function.

```
fullName.split(" ")  
["Paul", "Steve", "Panakkal"]
```

This is not saved to any variable. You can perform the split function and assign an element to a well defined variable like this.

```
var firstName = fullName.split(" ")[0];  
var lastName = fullName.split(" ")[1];  
var otherName = fullName.split(" ")[2];
```

answered Oct 28 '18 at 16:40



Josh

1 1

0

```
const fullName = 'Paul Steve Panakkal'.split(' ');  
const lastName = fullName.pop(); // 'Panakkal'  
const firstName = fullName.join(' '); // 'Paul Steve'  
console.log(firstName);  
console.log(lastName);
```

Run code snippet

[Expand snippet](#)

answered Nov 13 '18 at 9:38



dayitv89

2,227 2 22 41

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