

Array.push() and unique items

Asked 3 years, 4 months ago Active 5 months ago Viewed 46k times



I have a simple case of pushing unique values into array. It looks like this:

32



1

```
this.items = [];  
  
add(item) {  
  if(this.items.indexOf(item) > -1) {  
    this.items.push(item);  
    console.log(this.items);  
  }  
}
```

Seems pretty straight-forward, right? No, as it appears. It doesn't add any values. I am sure it's some kind of silly mistake on my side, but I can't seem to find it.

javascript

asked Apr 19 '16 at 13:10



[Tomek Buszewski](#)

3,386 7 49 91

9 Answers



Yep its small mistake

58



```
if(this.items.indexOf(item) === -1) {  
  this.items.push(item);  
  console.log(this.items);  
}
```

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JagsSparrow

3,972 3 20 37

Ha ha, I don't know what I was thinking! Thanks! – [Tomek Buszewski](#) Apr 19 '16 at 13:15

You can use [Set](#) structure from ES6 to make your code faster and more readable:

20

```
// Create Set
this.items = new Set();

add(item) {
  this.items.add(item);

  // Set to array
  console.log([...this.items]);
}
```

answered Jun 11 '18 at 7:57



Sergey Zhigalov

281 3 3

only supported in chrome – [Gags](#) Aug 29 '18 at 18:01

@Gags not true, work on all major recent browsers. developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/... – [Bsienn](#) Nov 16 '18 at 7:50

As a heads up. If like me you use JSON.stringify in your code, adding Sets will cause issues without further updates. – [John Duskin](#) Jan 24 at 16:48

I LOVE this. Had nearly forgotten about set. I'm going to be using this a lot, particularly nice in TypeScript. – [Methodician](#) Aug 27 at 20:55

I guess ES6 has set data structure, which you can use for unique entries

6

answered Apr 19 '16 at 14:30



Vivek Kumar

2,049 3 26 59

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Set is also an array, store sequential data but only unique one not duplicate. – Vivek Kumar Apr 19 '16 at 16:52

▲ Your logic is saying, "if this item exists already, then add it." It should be the opposite of that.

3

Change it to...

▼

```
if (this.items.indexOf(item) == -1) {  
    this.items.push(item);  
}
```

answered Apr 19 '16 at 13:14



[ManoDestra](#)

4,983 5 15 40

▲ try [.includes\(\)](#)

3

▼

```
[1, 2, 3].includes(2);    // true  
[1, 2, 3].includes(4);    // false  
[1, 2, 3].includes(3, 3); // false  
[1, 2, 3].includes(3, -1); // true  
[1, 2, NaN].includes(NaN); // true
```

so something like

```
const array = [1, 3];  
if (!array.includes(2))  
    array.push(2);
```

note the browser compatibility at the bottom of the page, however.

edited Apr 16 at 3:44

answered Apr 16 at 3:15



[lachlan.p.jordan](#)

85 2 7

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1 I think this is definitely more elegant than `.indexOf` . I never knew this existed before. – [DarthCadeus](#) Apr 16 at 4:01

You have to use `== -1`, if is equals to `-1` doest not contains in your array

2

```
this.items = [];  
  
add(item) {  
  if(this.items.indexOf(item) == -1) {  
    this.items.push(item);  
    console.log(this.items);  
  }  
}
```

answered Apr 19 '16 at 13:14



[fdfey](#)

485 2 11

If you use **Lodash**, take a look `_.union` function:

1

```
let items = [];  
items = _.union([item], items)
```

answered Aug 16 '18 at 11:45



[KitKit](#)

1,441 3 16 34

so not sure if this answers your question but the `indexOf` of the items you are adding keep returning `-1`. Not to familiar with js but it appears the items do that because they are not in the array yet. I made a jsfiddle of a little modified code for you.

0

```
this.items = [];
```

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```

document.write("added items to array");
document.write("<br>");
function add(item) {
    //document.write(this.items.indexOf(item));
    if(this.items.indexOf(item) <= -1) {

        this.items.push(item);
        //document.write("Hello World!");
    }
}

document.write("array is : " + this.items);

```

<https://jsfiddle.net/jmpalmisano/Lnommkbw/2/>

answered Apr 19 '16 at 13:21



jmp

1,078 2 7 9



0



```

var helper = {};
for(var i = 0; i < data.length; i++){
    helper[data[i]] = 1; // Fill object
}
var result = Object.keys(helper); // Unique items

```

answered Nov 29 '18 at 19:57



Martin Morawiec

11

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