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how to compare two string dates in javascript?

Asked 6 years, 7 months ago Active 7 months ago Viewed 90k times



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I have two string dates in the format of m/d/yyyy. For example, "11/1/2012", "1/2/2013". I am writing a function in JavaScript to compare two string dates. The signature of my function is `bool isLater(string1, string2)`, if the date passed by string1 is later than the date passed by string2, it will return true, otherwise false. So, `isLater("1/2/2013", "11/1/2012")` should return true. How do I write a JavaScript function for this?

javascript

date

asked Feb 8 '13 at 20:52



GLP

1,245

14

46

79

create two Date objects from your strings and compare them as numbers. – [georg](#) Feb 8 '13 at 20:53

2 convert the strings to native JS datetime objects (see stackoverflow.com/questions/5619202/). from there it gets easy. – [Marc B](#) Feb 8 '13 at 20:54

1 how do I create two date objects from strings? – [GLP](#) Feb 8 '13 at 20:54

5 Answers



74



```
var d1 = Date.parse("2012-11-01");
var d2 = Date.parse("2012-11-04");
if (d1 < d2) {
    alert ("Error!");
}
```

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Garry

2,990

2

24

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-
- 1 will it work if the format of the dates are 12/31/1992? where MM/dd/YYYY ? – [KyelJmD](#) Aug 7 '13 at 8:20
-
- 1 It works for MM/dd/YYYY format as well. @AnttiHaapala It does seem to work with all operator. – [Rajush](#) Dec 16 '15 at 19:10
-
- 2 I retracted my comment whereby I claimed that this does not work for == , since when I glimpsed at the code I thought it was comparing Date objects. However, Date.parse returns an integer instead (now how convenient is that) and this code would work for equality as well. Still, beware that new Date('2015-10-10') == new Date('2015-10-10') is false! – [Antti Haapala](#) Dec 17 '15 at 5:20
-
- 1 It's not working for format DD/MM/yyyy why can anybody pls tell me ?? – [Sudhanshu Gaur](#) Jun 25 '16 at 12:28
-
- 1 If you can Post your Code then we will be able to help you out.make sure you are not using New Keyword for Date.parse. Date.parse is only a method. – [Garry](#) Nov 15 '16 at 14:36
-

Parse the dates and compare them as you would numbers:

7

```
function isLater(str1, str2)
{
    return new Date(str1) > new Date(str2);
}
```

If you need to support other date format consider a library such as [date.js](#).

answered Feb 8 '13 at 20:54



Matt Zeunert

12.1k

3

39

72

-
- 1 I'd like to note that this works only for compare operators, not equality == or != . – [Antti Haapala](#) Dec 2 '15 at 6:11
-
- 2 It's not working for format DD/MM/yyyy why can anybody pls tell me ?? – [Sudhanshu Gaur](#) Jun 25 '16 at 12:44
-
- 1 It is not working for format dd-MM-yyyyy – [meenu1meen](#) Feb 22 '18 at 10:32
-
- 1 @meenu1meen There are only a few parseable data formats in the JavaScript spec. Browsers also support some others despite them not being in the spec (e.g. most parse mm-dd-yyyy). But there are no guarantees and you need to parse it explicitly in your own code or using a library. – [Matt Zeunert](#) Feb 23 '18 at 5:06
-

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You can simply compare 2 strings

6

```
function isLater(dateString1, dateString2) {  
    return dateString1 > dateString2  
}
```

Then

```
isLater("2012-12-01", "2012-11-01")
```

returns true while

```
isLater("2012-12-01", "2013-11-01")
```

returns false

answered Mar 13 '17 at 10:03



fuyi

1,437

3

15

30

1 "2017/10/26" > "2017/10/7" gives false :D – [ahmadalibaloch](#) Oct 7 '17 at 12:52

4 @CaseyC it's not about syntax. It's about the lack of the leading zero before '7'. If you pass exactly 2017/10/26 and 2017/10/7 you'll get false . It is important that the format should be very specific for this solution to work. – [Max](#) Nov 27 '18 at 16:54

@max is right. Not syntax, it's format specific. I deleted my comment because it's misleading. – [CaseyC](#) Nov 29 '18 at 0:39

what is going on here?? parseInt("2012-12-01") is just 2012. I don't understand what is happening behind the scenes or why this could be okay – [Ray Foss](#) Jun 6 at 14:53

@RayFoss parseInt tries to match the first integer value it finds. Since 2012 is the first integer in your string, it evaluates to 2012. If you want to get an integer composed of all the digits in your string, you have to manipulate the string to strip out all of your non digit characters. – [Steve Pak](#) Sep 16 at 15:42

Directly parsing a date string that is not in yyyy-mm-dd format, like in the [accepted answer](#) does not work. The answer by [vitran](#) does

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*// takes two strings as input, format is dd-mm-yyyy
// returns true if d1 is smaller than or equal to d2*

```
function compareDates(d1, d2){
  var parts = d1.split('/');
  var d1 = Number(parts[2] + parts[1] + parts[0]);
  parts = d2.split('/');
  var d2 = Number(parts[2] + parts[1] + parts[0]);
  return d1 <= d2;
}
```

P.S. would have commented directly to vitran's post but I don't have the rep to do that.

edited Aug 22 '18 at 13:03

answered Aug 22 '18 at 12:57



Steven Kuipers

532 3 12

Thank you. This works even for a custom date format. – [wkhwilo](#) Aug 3 at 20:25

If your date is not in format standar yyyy-mm-dd (2017-02-06) for example 20/06/2016. You can use this code

0

```
var parts = '01/07/2016'.val().split('/');
var d1 = Number(parts[2] + parts[1] + parts[0]);
parts = '20/06/2016'.val().split('/');
var d2 = Number(parts[2] + parts[1] + parts[0]);
return d1 > d2
```

answered Apr 27 '17 at 15:00



vitran

9 1

This doesn't work. It treats all parts of the date with equal significance. You want something like `var d1 = Number(parts[2] * 10000 + parts[1] * 100 + parts[0]);` – [Bumptious Q Bangwhistle](#) Aug 22 at 9:11

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