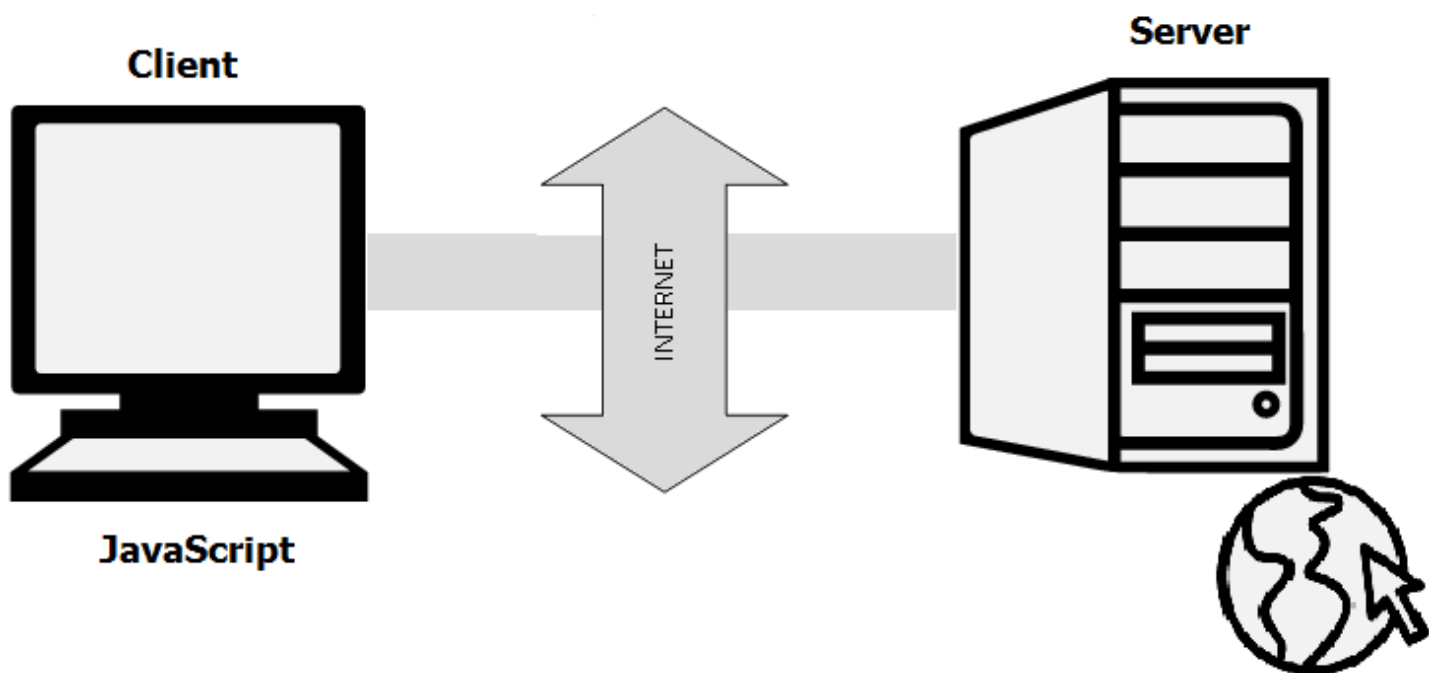# What is JavaScript?

JavaScript is a very powerful **client-side scripting language**. JavaScript is used mainly for enhancing the interaction of a user with the webpage. In other words, you can make your webpage more lively and interactive, with the help of JavaScript. JavaScript is also being used widely in game development and Mobile application development.

Javascript History

JavaScript was developed by Brendan Eich in 1995, which appeared in Netscape, a popular browser of that time.

Brendan Eich -
Creator of JavaScript

The language was initially called LiveScript and was later renamed JavaScript. There are many programmers who think that JavaScript and Java are the same. In fact, **JavaScript and Java are very much unrelated. Java is a very complex programming language whereas JavaScript is only a scripting language**. The syntax of JavaScript is mostly influenced by the programming language C.

How to Run JavaScript?

Being a scripting language, **JavaScript cannot run on its own. In fact, the browser is responsible for running JavaScript code**. When a user requests an HTML page with JavaScript in it, the script is sent to the browser and it is up to the browser to execute it. The main advantage of JavaScript is that **all modern web browsers support** JavaScript. So, you do not have to worry about whether your site visitor uses Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox or any other browser. JavaScript will be supported. Also, JavaScript **runs on any operating system** including Windows, Linux or Mac. Thus, JavaScript overcomes the main disadvantages of VBScript (Now deprecated) which is limited to just IE and Windows.

Tools You Need

To start with, you need a text editor to write your code and a browser to display the web pages you develop. You can use a text editor of your choice including Notepad++, Visual Studio Code, Sublime Text, Atom or any other text editor you are comfortable with. You can use any web browser including Google Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Internet Explorer etc.

Summary

- JavaScript is a **client-side scripting language** developed by Brendan Eich.
- JavaScript can be **run on any operating systems** and almost all web browsers.
- You need a text editor to write JavaScript code and a browser to display your web page.