**Using User Input**

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ITS340: Introduction to Programming with JavaScript

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The user experience is an important part of web development, and JavaScript helps enhance that experience. In this critical thinking assignment, the goal was to create an account ID value based on the user’s first and last initials and zip code. Then, the information was to be added to an empty array. Below is the process, screenshots, and the experience and challenges experienced while writing and testing this code.

**The Process**

After adding appropriate authorship information in the comments section, the script tag was included in the HTML file before the closing body tag. A .js file in which to build the program was created and saved to the folder. I instructed the processor to interpret the document in strict mode and declared the newAccountArray variable with an empty array value. The createID() function included information provided by our textbook (Vodnik & Gosselin, 2015). I declared additional local variables for fields, acctid, firstInit, and lastInit. An *if* statement followed these variables to check if the fname, lname, and zip variables are non-null, and then further code told the program what to do if the condition were true. Finally, I created the createListenersEvent() function to generate the account ID and add information to the array.

**Figure 1**

JavaScript Code for Using User Input

Text

Description automatically generated

**Figure 2**

User Input and Account ID Creation

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

**Experience and Challenges**

This project was considerably more advanced than the previous five. I enjoyed the challenge, and I had an epic “user error.” In the past, I’ve spent three hours on a semicolon while troubleshooting a broken website; the error I created in *this* scenario takes the cake with a nearly four-hour “fix” time. The Account ID was not populating, and the console kept throwing a Reference error for the newAccountArray. I tried several versions of adding this variable to no avail.

Finally, the problem presented itself while sitting in the drive line to pick up my kids from school. As I watched a group of children play a “mimic me” type of game on the playground, I remembered I’d actually opened the .htm and created the .js files in my editor *before* creating a copy of the Hands-on Project. I then opened and tested the program in the browser from the *copied* folder, which didn’t have the files. Other than that “issue,” there were no challenges encountered in creating an account ID value with info added to an array.

**Reference**

Vodnik, S., & Gosselin, D. (2015). *JavaScript: The web warrior series.* (6th ed.). Cengage.