Blackbird offers a dead-simple way to log messages in JavaScript and an attractive console to view and filter them. **You might never use `alert()` again.**

Demos

Output all message types

```
log.debug( 'www.jb51.net' );
log.info( '脚本之家' );
log.warn( 'this is a warning message' );
log.error( 'this is an error message' );
```
Click the block to execute the code

Generate test string

```
log.profile( 'generate test string' );

var testContent = '';
for ( var i = 0; i < 3000; i++ ) {
  testContent += '-';
}

log.profile( 'generate test string' );
```
Click the block to execute the code

Setup

Adding Blackbird to your page

1. Download the files and place them on your server or in a local directory on your computer.
2. Include blackbird.js in your page.
3. Inlcude blackbird.css in your page.

Your HTML source should look similar to the following code:

```html
<html>
  <head>
    <script type="text/javascript" src="blackbird.js"></script>
    <link type="text/css" rel="Stylesheet" href="blackbird.css" />
    ...
  </head>
  ...
```

Browser compatibility

Blackbird is has been smoke-tested on the following browsers:

- Internet Explorer 6+
- Firefox 2+
- Safari 2+
- Opera 9.5

Usage

Public API

`log.toggle()`

Hide/show Blackbird

`log.move()`

Move Blackbird to next fixed positions: top-left, top-right, bottom-left, bottom-right

`log.resize()`

Expand/contract Blackbird

`log.clear()`

Clear all contents of Blackbird

`log.debug( message )`

Add a debug message to Blackbird

message: the string content of the debug message

```
log.info( message )
```
Add an info message to Blackbird

message: the string content of the info message

```
log.warn( message )
```
Add a warning message to Blackbird

message: the string content of the warn message

```
log.error( message )
```
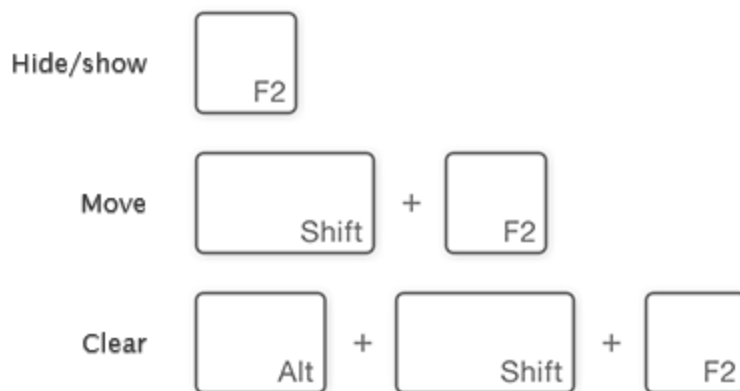Add an error message to Blackbird

message: the string content of the warn message
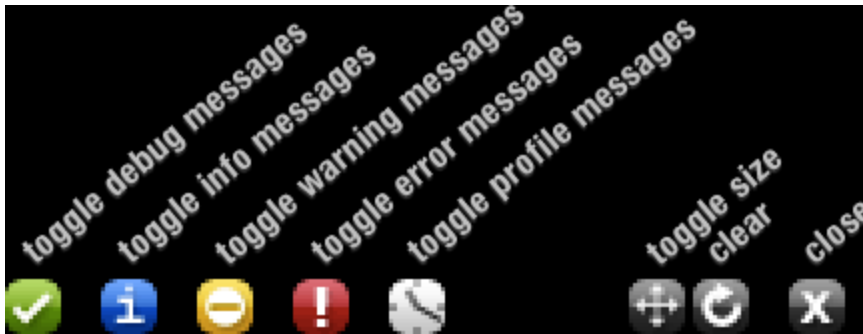
```
log.profile( label )
```
Start/end a time profiler for Blackbird. If a profiler named `string` does not exist, create a new profiler. Otherwise, stop the profiler `string` and display the time elapsed (in ms).

Label: the string identifying a specific profile timer

Keyboard controls

Hide/show   [F2]

Move   [Shift] + [F2]

Clear   [Alt] + [Shift] + [F2]

Interface controls

Pressing the Alt key while clicking any message filter control will only show messages of that type. For example, Alt + click ✓ to show only debug messages.

Bookmarklets

Drag the following links to your bookmarks toolbar for quick access to Blackbird commands:

- [clear](#)
- [move](#)
- [resize](#)
- [toggle](#)

Customization

Changing the namespace

The default configuration attaches the public API for Blackbird to the global variable `log`. It is possible to have conflicts with existing variable declarations, and it is possible to redefine the global variable `log` in other blocks of JavaScript. If you want to define a different variable for Blackbird, such as `blackbird`, replace the assignment for `NAMESPACE` with any other string.

```
var NAMESPACE = 'log';
```

can be replaced with:

```
var NAMESPACE = 'blackbird';
```

or:

```
var NAMESPACE = 'myCustomLog';
```

The global API will be affected by this change. If you choose to replace `log` with `myCustomLog`, then `log.debug` will become `myCustomLog.debug`.

Capture & cancel logging statements

If you're shipping code with logging statements, you might want to capture and cancel commands intended for Blackbird. The following code will do this:

```
var log = {
  toggle: function() {},
  move: function() {},
  resize: function() {},
  clear: function() {},
  debug: function() {},
  info: function() {},
  warn: function() {},
  error: function() {},
  profile: function() {}
};
```

About

Credits

The code (blackbird.js, blackbird.css) and image assets (blackbird_panel.png, blackbird_icons.png) were created by G. Scott Olson.

The concept for Blackbird was sparked by JavaScript Logging, an article by David F. Miller. The first iteration of this project, named jsLogger, was developed for internal use at Orbitz. In the fall of 2007, jsLogger was rewritten from the ground up, given a facelift, and named project Blackbird.

Contributing to the Blackbird Project

Blackbird is an open source project. If you're interested in contributing, you can start by checking out the project page on Google Code.