Adding a DOM Element

Basic Example

In this example, you will use D3.js to add a DOM element to a basic webpage.

Start with a basic HTML webpage:

```
1   <!DOCTYPE html>
2   <html>
3     <head>
4       <script type="text/javascript" src="d3.v2.min.js"></script>
5     </head>
6     <body>
7       <p>Hello!</p>
8     </body>
9   </html>
```
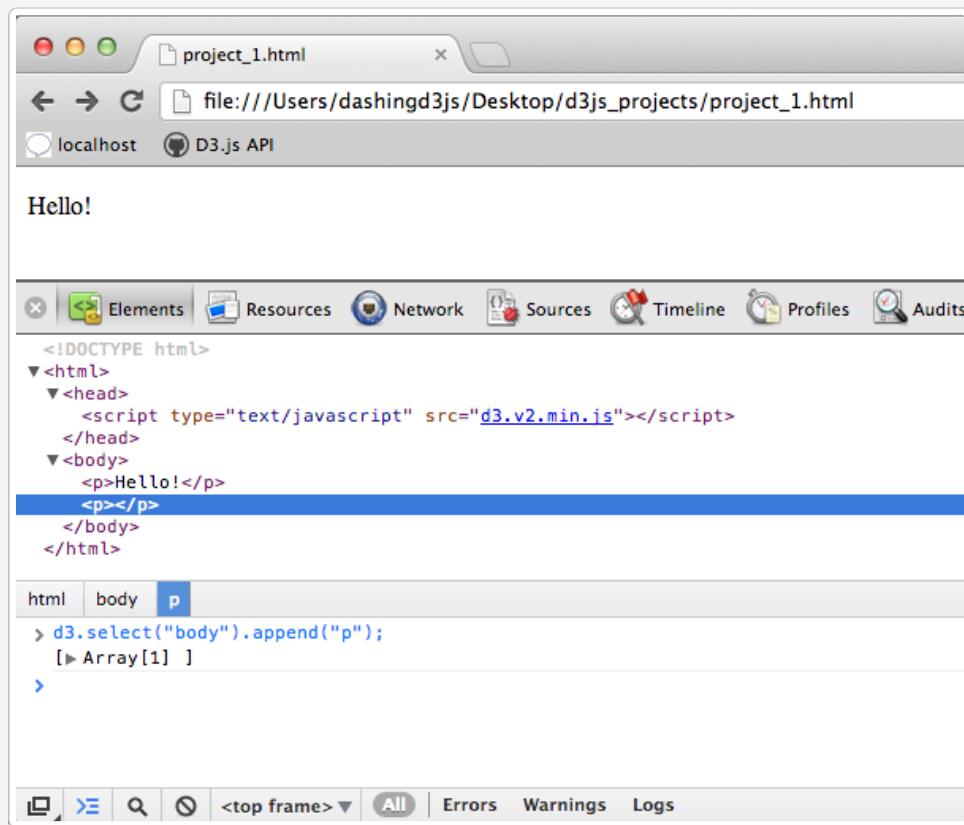
Next open the Developer Tools (Webkit Inspector). To make things easier, click on the icon that looks like an arrow with three lines. This will give you the JavaScript Console and the HTML elements in one view. The button is at the very bottom of the image and is colored blue when you click on it.

In the JavaScript Console, type the following and then hit return:

```
1   d3.select("body").append("p");
```

When you hit return, a paragraph "p" element is added to the HTML DOM. You can see the added empty paragraph after the **<p>Hello!</p>** paragraph.

```
project_1.html                    ×

←  →  C    file:///Users/dashingd3js/Desktop/d3js_projects/project_1.html

localhost     D3.js API

Hello!


⊗   Elements    Resources   Network   Sources   Timeline   Profiles   Audits

   <!DOCTYPE html>
  ▼<html>
    ▼<head>
         <script type="text/javascript" src="d3.v2.min.js"></script>
      </head>
    ▼<body>
         <p>Hello!</p>
         <p></p>
      </body>
   </html>

  html   body   p

  > d3.select("body").append("p");
    [▶ Array[1] ]
  >

  ▣  ≽≡  Q  ⊘  <top frame> ▼  (All)  │ Errors  Warnings  Logs
```

Congratulations - you've added an HTML element to the DOM using D3.js! Later we will add SVG elements just as easily as we did above.

D3.js Select Method

The first part of the JavaScript code that we wrote is **.select("body")**.

The D3.js Select method uses CSS3 selectors to grab DOM elements. To learn more about CSS3 selectors please check this out => CSS3 Selectors

D3 looks at the document and selects the first descendant DOM element that contains the tag **body**.

Once an element is selected, D3.js allows you to apply **operators** to the element you have selected.

These operators can get or set things like "attributes", "properties", "styles", "HTML", and "text content".

D3.js Append Operator

The operator that we used is **.append("p")**.

The Append Operator **appends** a new element as the last child of the element in the current selection.
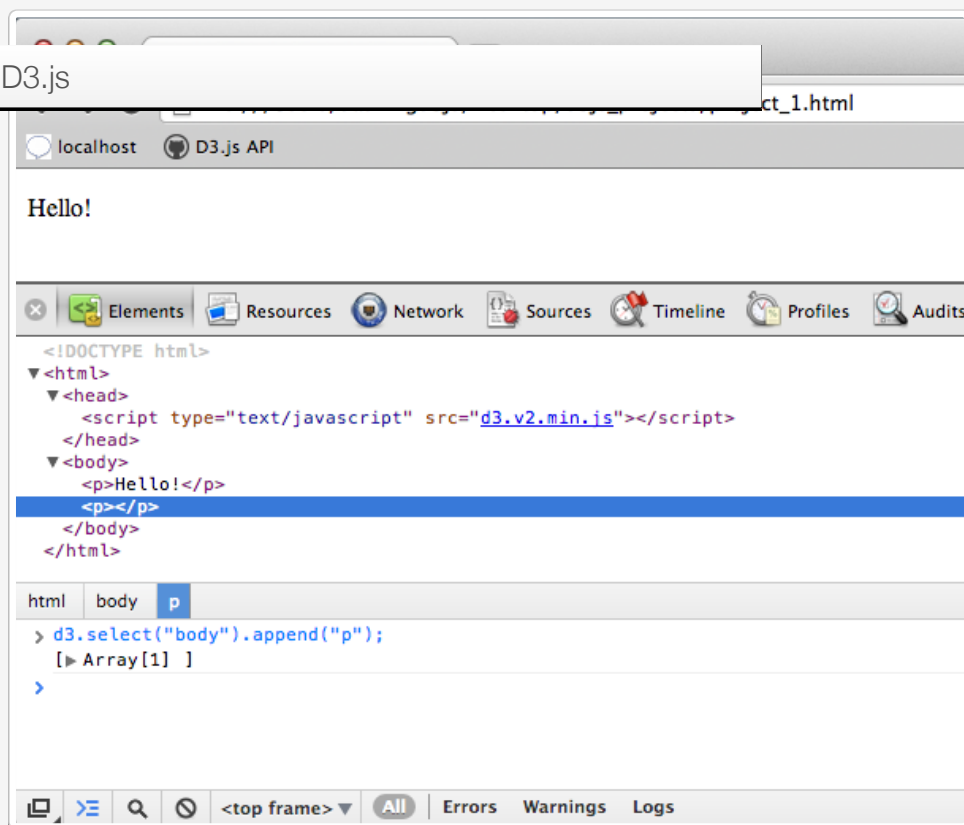
Since our current selection was **d3.select("body")**, the append operator added the "p" element

last.

Dashing D3.js   Learn D3 Faster   Sign In

localhost   D3.js API

Hello!

Elements   Resources   Network   Sources   Timeline   Profiles   Audits

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <script type="text/javascript" src="d3.v2.min.js"></script>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p>Hello!</p>
    <p></p>
  </body>
</html>
```

html   body   p

```
> d3.select("body").append("p");
  [ Array[1] ]
>
```

🗔 ≡ 🔍 ⃠   <top frame> ▼   All | Errors   Warnings   Logs

The blue highlighted line is the 2nd child element of the body element. The first child element of the body element is the paragraph element that contains the text "Hello!".

Want to better understand this topic? Check out this step-by-step course => Introductory D3 Training

← D3.js First Steps   Adding an SVG Element →

Learn D3.js

D3 Tutorial
D3 Screencasts
D3 Mapping Training
D3 Introductory Training
D3 Intermediate Training
D3 Advanced Training
D3 Corporate Training

DashingD3js.com

Blog
About
Hire Me
D3 Examples
D3 Resources
D3 & Data Viz Newsletter Archive

Data Visualization & D3.js Weekly Newsletter

Get D3.js and Data Visualization news, articles, jobs and more delivered to your inbox every Tuesday:

E-mail

Get the Newsletter

Did you sign up for the newsletter? :)