What is the primary purpose of AJAX?

AJAX, also known as Asynchronous JavaScript and XML is way of accessing servers or databases from a web page. AJAX is not a programming language. It can access the server and or databases without having to reload the browser which is a huge benefit when it comes to web development. The way it does this is with something known as a XMLHttpRequest. Traditionally the return data was often in the form of XML but today it is most often returned in the form of JSON or JavaScript Object Notation. This makes the data a bit easier to work with as it is structured very similar to JS objects and can be accessed in very much the same ways.

Some advantages:

One of the obvious advantages when it comes to using AJAX is its ability to receive data from a server or database that can be used in a web application browser without having to reload. This ultimately leads to increased UX along with less of a burden on the network at times. An additional benefit is that is supported across many browsers today. In contrast to something like fetch() that isn’t supported as much in browsers due to not requiring an external party library.

Some disadvantages:

The major disadvantage to AJAX is that although it is supported in many browsers, many require additional code to implement properly cross browser. This can lead to a difficult case of managing UX at times. In addition a failure of any request can fail the load of the whole page often times.