

Ajax-Enabled Rich Internet Applications with XML and JSON

16.1 Introduction

- Usability of web applications has lagged behind that of desktop applications
- Rich Internet Applications (RIAs)
 - Web applications that approximate the look, feel and usability of desktop applications
 - Two key attributes—performance and rich GUI
- RIA performance
 - Comes from Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (Ajax), which uses client-side scripting to make web applications more responsive

16.1 Introduction

- Ajax applications separate client-side user interaction and server communication, and run them in parallel, making the delays of server-side processing more transparent to the user
- “Raw” Ajax uses JavaScript to send asynchronous requests to the server, then updates the page using the DOM
- When writing “raw” Ajax you need to deal directly with cross-browser portability issues, making it impractical for developing large-scale applications

16.1 Introduction (Cont.)

- Portability issues
 - Hidden by Ajax toolkits, such as jQuery, and ASP.NET Ajax which provide powerful ready-to-use controls and functions that enrich web applications and simplify JavaScript coding by making it cross-browser compatible
- Achieve rich GUI in RIAs with
 - JavaScript toolkits, providing powerful ready-to-use controls and functions that enrich web applications
- Client-side of Ajax applications
 - Written in HTML5 and CSS3
 - Uses JavaScript to add functionality to the user interface

16.1 Introduction (Cont.)

- XML and JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) are used to structure the data passed between the server and the client
- The Ajax component that manages interaction with the server is usually implemented with JavaScript's **XMLHttpRequest** object
 - Abbreviated as XHR
- The server processing can be implemented using any server-side technology, such as PHP, ASP.NET and JavaServer Faces

16.1 Traditional Web Applications

- Traditional web applications
 - User fills in the form's fields, then submits the form
 - Browser generates a request to the server, which receives the request and processes it
 - Server generates and sends a response containing the exact page that the browser will render
 - Browser loads the new page and temporarily makes the browser window blank
 - Client waits for the server to respond and reloads the entire page with the data from the response

16.1 Traditional Web Applications

- While a synchronous request is being processed on the server, the user cannot interact with the client web browser
- The synchronous model was originally designed for a web of hypertext documents
 - Some people called it the “brochure web”
 - Model yielded erratic application performance

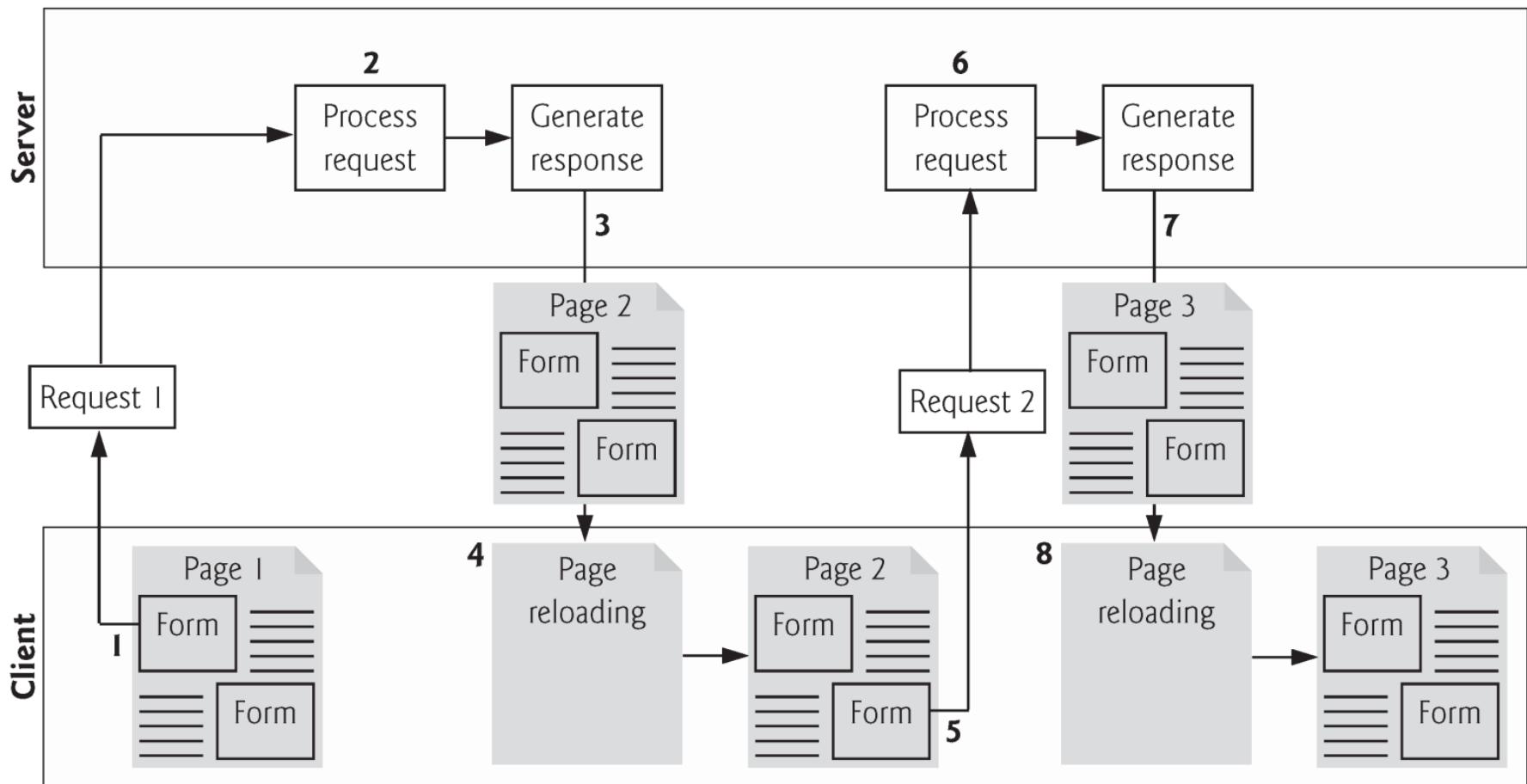


Fig. 16.1 | Classic web application reloading the page for every user interaction.

16.1 Ajax Web Applications

- In an Ajax application, when the user interacts with a page
 - Client creates an **XMLHttpRequest** object to manage a request
 - **XMLHttpRequest** object sends the request to and awaits the response from the server
 - Requests are asynchronous, allowing the user to continue interacting with the application while the server processes the request concurrently
 - When the server responds, the **XMLHttpRequest** object that issued the request invokes a callback function
 - Typically uses partial page updates to display the returned data in the existing web page without reloading the entire page

16.1 Ajax Web Applications

- Callback function updates only a designated part of the page
- Partial page updates help make web applications more responsive, making them feel more like desktop applications
- The web application does **not** load a new page while the user interacts with it

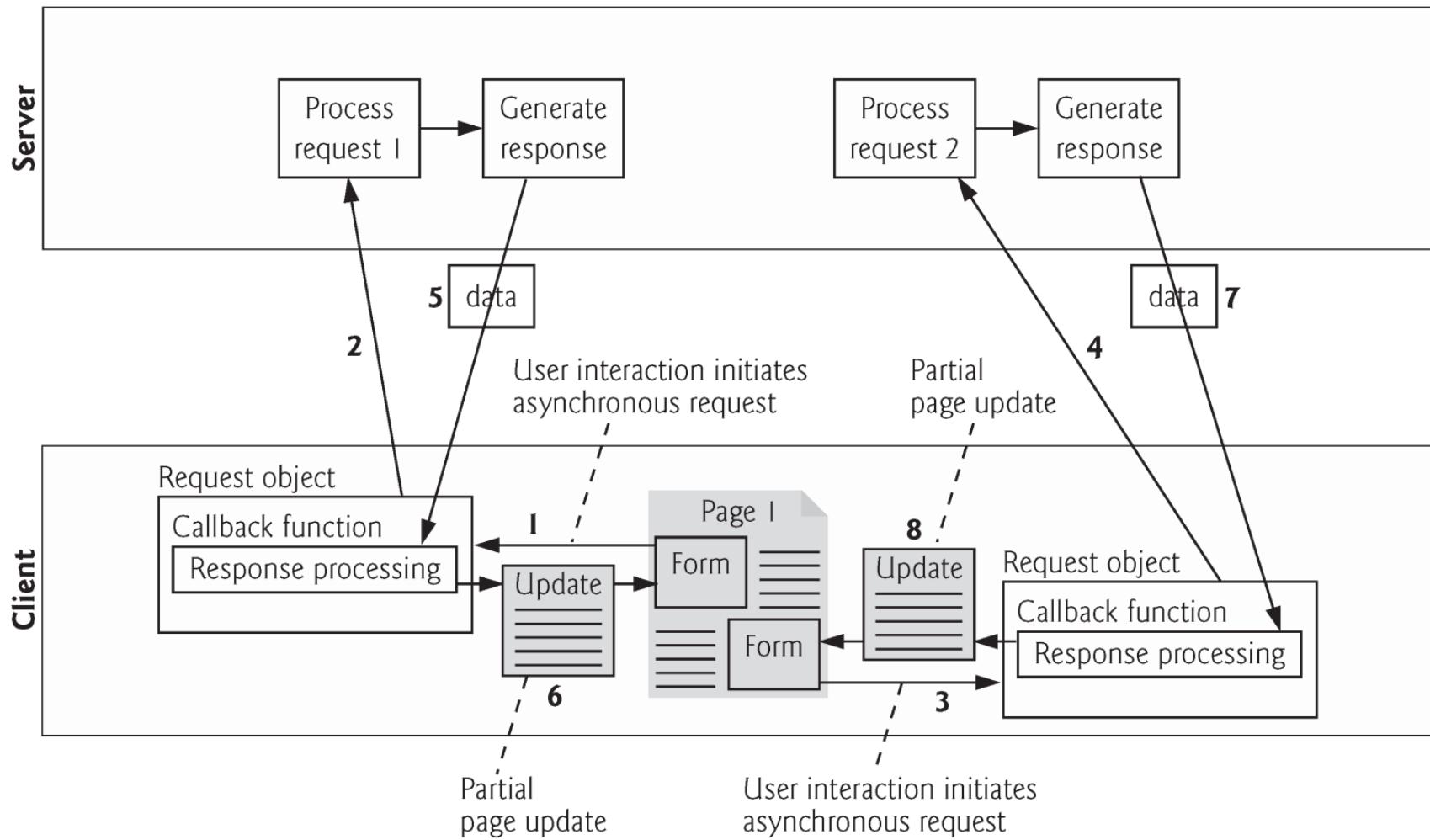


Fig. 16.2 | Ajax-enabled web application interacting with the server asynchronously.

16.2 Rich Internet Applications (RIAs) with Ajax

- Classic HTML registration form
 - Sends all of the data to be validated to the server when the user clicks the Register button
 - While the server is validating the data, the user cannot interact with the page
 - Server finds invalid data, generates a new page identifying the errors in the form and sends it back to the client
 - Renders the page in the browser
 - User fixes the errors and clicks the Register button again
 - Cycle repeats until no errors are found, then the data is stored on the server
 - Entire page reloads every time when the user submits invalid data

16.2 Rich Internet Applications (RIAs) with Ajax

- Ajax-enabled forms are more interactive
 - Entries are validated individually, dynamically as the user enters data into the fields
 - If a problem is found, the server sends an error message that is asynchronously displayed to inform the user of the problem
 - Sending each entry asynchronously allows the user to address invalid entries quickly, rather than making edits and resubmitting the entire form repeatedly until all entries are valid
 - Asynchronous requests could also be used to fill some fields based on previous fields' values (e.g., city based on zip code)

a) A sample registration form in which the user has not filled in the required fields, but attempts to submit the form anyway by clicking Register.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Sample Form" with the URL "localhost/ch19/fig19_13-14/form.html". The page contains the following content:

Registration Form

Please fill in all fields and click Register.

User Information

First name:

Last name:

Email:

Phone:

Publications

Which book would you like information about?

Operating System

Which operating system do you use?

Windows Mac OS X Linux Other

Fig. 16.3 | Classic HTML5 form: The user submits the form to the server, which validates the data (if any). Server responds indicating any fields with invalid or missing data. (Part 1 of 2.)

b) The server responds by indicating all the form fields with missing or invalid data. The user must correct the problems and resubmit the *entire* form repeatedly until *all* errors are corrected.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Sample Form" with the URL "localhost/ch19/fig19_13-14/form.html". The page contains a "Registration Form" with instructions: "Please fill in all fields and click Register." It has three sections: "User Information", "Publications", and "Operating System".

User Information

- First name: First name is required
- Last name: Last name is required
- Email: Email address is required
- Phone:

Publications

Which book would you like information about?

Operating System

Which operating system do you use?
 Windows Mac OS X Linux Other

An annotation with a red arrow points from the text "Error message in red" to the validation message "First name is required" next to the first input field.

Fig. 16.3 | Classic HTML5 form: The user submits the form to the server, which validates the data (if any). Server responds indicating

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Sample Form" with the URL "localhost/ch19/fig19_13-14/form.html". The page contains a registration form with the following fields:

- User Information**
 - First name:
 - Last name:
 - Email: Enter a valid email address, e.g., user@domain.com
 - Phone:
- Publications**

Which book would you like information about?
- Operating System**

Which operating system do you use?

Windows Mac OS X Linux Other

Fig. 16.4 | Ajax-enabled form shows errors asynchronously when user moves to another field.

16.3 History of Ajax

- The term Ajax was coined by Jesse James Garrett of Adaptive Path in February 2005, when he was presenting the previously unnamed technology to a client
- Ajax technologies (HTML, JavaScript, CSS, dynamic HTML, the DOM and XML) had existed for many years prior to 2005
- In 1998, Microsoft introduced the **XMLHttpRequest** object to create and manage asynchronous requests and responses
- Popular applications like Flickr, Google's Gmail and Google Maps use the **XMLHttpRequest** object to update pages dynamically

16.3 History of Ajax

- Examples:
 - Flickr uses the technology for its text editing, tagging and organizational features
 - Gmail continuously checks the server for new e-mail
 - GoogleMaps allows you to drag a map in any direction, downloading the new areas on the map without reloading the entire page
- Ajax has enabled “webtop” applications to challenge the dominance of established desktop applications
- This has become increasingly significant as more and more computing moves to “the cloud”

16.4 “Raw” Ajax Example using the XMLHttpRequest Object

- **XMLHttpRequest** object
 - Resides on the client
 - Is the layer between the client and the server that manages asynchronous requests in Ajax applications
 - Supported on most browsers, though they may implement it differently
- To initiate an asynchronous request
 - Create an instance of the **XMLHttpRequest** object
 - Use its open method to set up the request, and its send method to initiate the request

16.4 “Raw” Ajax Example using the XMLHttpRequest Object

- When an Ajax application requests a file from a server, the browser typically caches that file
 - Subsequent requests for the same file can load it from the browser’s cache



Performance Tip 16.1

When an Ajax application requests a file from a server, such as an HTML5 document or an image, the browser typically caches that file. Subsequent requests for the same file can load it from the browser’s cache rather than making the round trip to the server again.



Software Engineering Observation 16.1

For security purposes, the XMLHttpRequest object doesn't allow a web application to request resources from domains other than the one that served the application. For this reason, the web application and its resources must reside on the same web server (this could be a web server on your local computer). This is commonly known as the **same origin policy (SOP)**. SOP aims to close a vulnerability called **cross-site scripting**, also known as **XSS**, which allows an attacker to compromise a website's security by injecting a malicious script onto the page from another domain. To get content from another domain securely, you can implement a **server-side proxy**—an application on the web application's web server—that can make requests to other servers on the web application's behalf.

16.4.1 Asynchronous Requests

- When the third argument to **XMLHttpRequest** method `open` is true, the request is asynchronous
 - `asyncRequest = new XMLHttpRequest();`
 - http://www.w3schools.com/xml/dom_httprequest.asp
- The **XMLHttpRequest open** method to prepare an asynchronous GET request
 - `asyncRequest.open("GET", url, true);`

16.4.2 Exception Handling

- An exception is an indication of a problem that occurs during a program's execution
- Exception handling enables you to create applications that can resolve (or handle) exceptions
 - In some cases allowing a program to continue executing as if no problem had been encountered
- **try block**
 - Encloses code that might cause an exception and code that should not execute if an exception occurs
 - Consists of the keyword try followed by a block of code enclosed in curly braces ({})

16.4.2 Exception Handling

- When an exception occurs
 - **try** block terminates immediately
 - **catch** block catches (i.e., receives) and handles an exception
- **catch** block
 - Begins with the keyword **catch**
 - Followed by an exception parameter in parentheses and a block of code enclosed in curly braces
- Exception parameter's name
 - Enables the catch block to interact with a caught exception object, which contains name and message properties

```
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3  <!-- Fig. 16.5: SwitchContent.html -->
4  <!-- Asynchronously display content without reloading the page. -->
5  <html>
6  <head>
7      <meta charset = "utf-8">
8      <style type = "text/css">
9          .box { border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px }
10     </style>
11     <title>Switch Content Asynchronously</title>
12     <script>
13         var asyncRequest; // variable to hold XMLHttpRequest object
14
15         // set up event handlers
16         function registerListeners()
17         {
18             var img;
19             img = document.getElementById( "cpphttp" );
20             img.addEventListener( "mouseover",
21                 function() { getContent( "cpphttp8.html" ); }, false );
22             img.addEventListener( "mouseout", clearContent, false );
23             img = document.getElementById( "iw3http" );
```

Fig. 16.5 | Asynchronously display content without reloading the page. (Part 1 of 7.)

```
24     img.addEventListener( "mouseover",
25         function() { getContent( "iw3http.html" ); }, false );
26     img.addEventListener( "mouseout", clearContent, false );
27     img = document.getElementById( "jhttp" );
28     img.addEventListener( "mouseover",
29         function() { getContent( "jhttp.html" ); }, false );
30     img.addEventListener( "mouseout", clearContent, false );
31     img = document.getElementById( "vbhttp" );
32     img.addEventListener( "mouseover",
33         function() { getContent( "vbhttp.html" ); }, false );
34     img.addEventListener( "mouseout", clearContent, false );
35     img = document.getElementById( "vcshttp" );
36     img.addEventListener( "mouseover",
37         function() { getContent( "vcshttp.html" ); }, false );
38     img.addEventListener( "mouseout", clearContent, false );
39     img = document.getElementById( "javafp" );
40     img.addEventListener( "mouseover",
41         function() { getContent( "javafp.html" ); }, false );
42     img.addEventListener( "mouseout", clearContent, false );
43 } // end function registerListeners
44
```

Fig. 16.5 | Asynchronously display content without reloading the page. (Part 2 of 7.)

```
45    // set up and send the asynchronous request.
46    function getContent( url )
47    {
48        // attempt to create XMLHttpRequest object and make the request
49        try
50        {
51            asyncRequest = new XMLHttpRequest(); // create request object
52
53            // register event handler
54            asyncRequest.addEventListener(
55                "readystatechange", stateChange, false);
56            asyncRequest.open( "GET", url, true ); // prepare the request
57            asyncRequest.send( null ); // send the request
58        } // end try
59        catch ( exception )
60        {
61            alert( "Request failed." );
62        } // end catch
63    } // end function getContent
64
```

Fig. 16.5 | Asynchronously display content without reloading the page. (Part 3 of 7.)

```
65      // displays the response data on the page
66      function stateChange()
67      {
68          if ( asyncRequest.readyState == 4 && asyncRequest.status == 200 )
69          {
70              document.getElementById( "contentArea" ).innerHTML =
71                  asyncRequest.responseText; // places text in contentArea
72          } // end if
73      } // end function stateChange
74
75      // clear the content of the box
76      function clearContent()
77      {
78          document.getElementById( "contentArea" ).innerHTML = "";
79      } // end function clearContent
80
81      window.addEventListener( "load", registerListeners, false );
82  
```

</script>

</head>

Fig. 16.5 | Asynchronously display content without reloading the page. (Part 4 of 7.)

```
84 <body>
85     <h1>Mouse over a book for more information.</h1>
86     <img id = "cpphttp" alt = "C++ How to Program book cover"
87         src = "http://test.deitel.com/images/thumbs/cpphttp8.jpg">
88     <img id = "iw3http" alt = "Internet & WWW How to Program book cover"
89         src = "http://test.deitel.com/images/thumbs/iw3http5.jpg">
90     <img id = "jhttp" alt = "Java How to Program book cover"
91         src = "http://test.deitel.com/images/thumbs/jhttp9.jpg">
92     <img id = "vbhttp" alt = "Visual Basic 2010 How to Program book cover"
93         src = "http://test.deitel.com/images/thumbs/vb2010http.jpg">
94     <img id = "vcshhttp" alt = "Visual C# 2010 How to Program book cover"
95         src = "http://test.deitel.com/images/thumbs/vcsharp2010http.jpg">
96     <img id = "javafp" alt = "Java for Programmers book cover"
97         src = "http://test.deitel.com/images/thumbs/javafp.jpg">
98     <div class = "box" id = "contentArea"></div>
99 </body>
100 </html>
```

Fig. 16.5 | Asynchronously display content without reloading the page. (Part 5 of 7.)

a) User hovers over *C++ How to Program* book-cover image, causing an asynchronous request to the server to obtain the book's description. When the response is received, the application performs a *partial page update* to display the description.

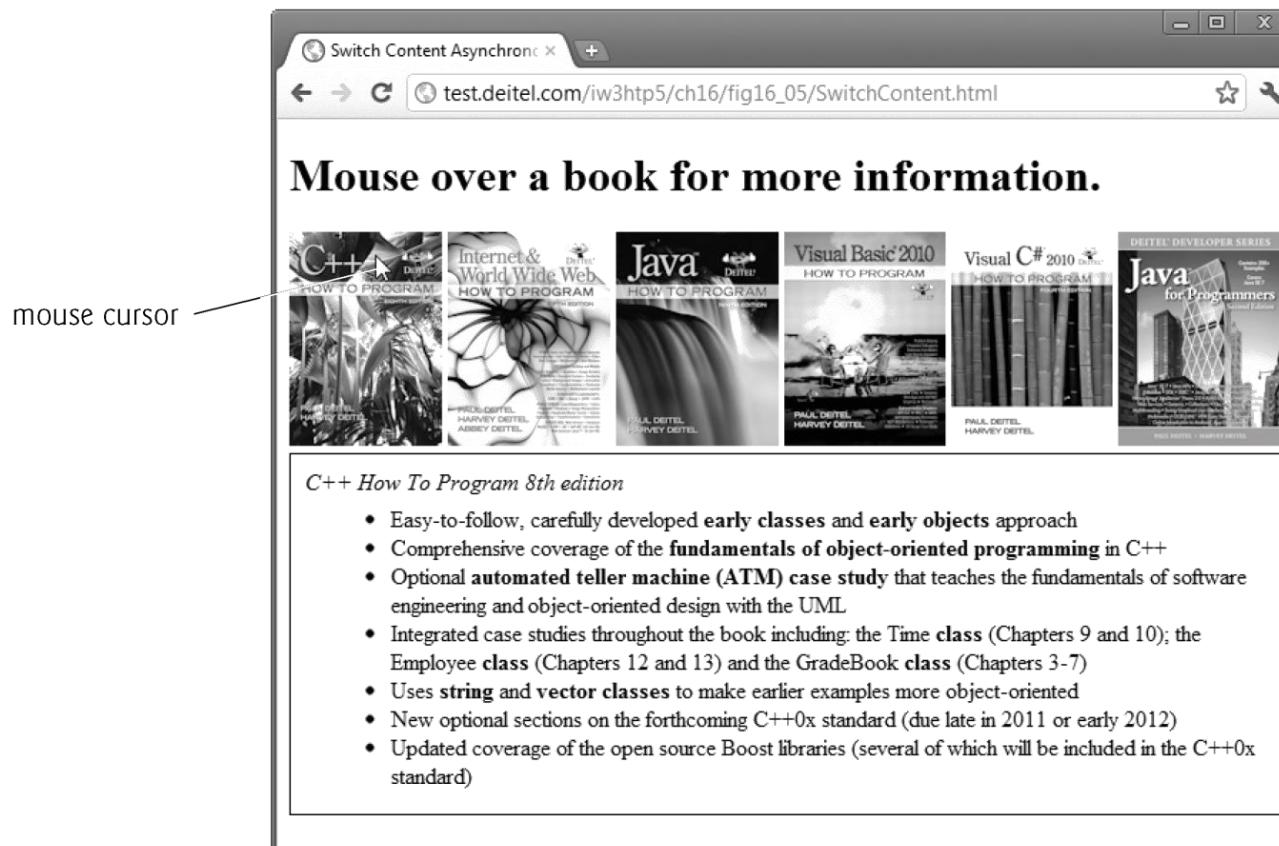


Fig. 16.5 | Asynchronously display content without reloading the page. (Part 6 of 7.)

- b) User hovers over *Internet & World Wide Web How to Program* book-cover image, causing the process to repeat.

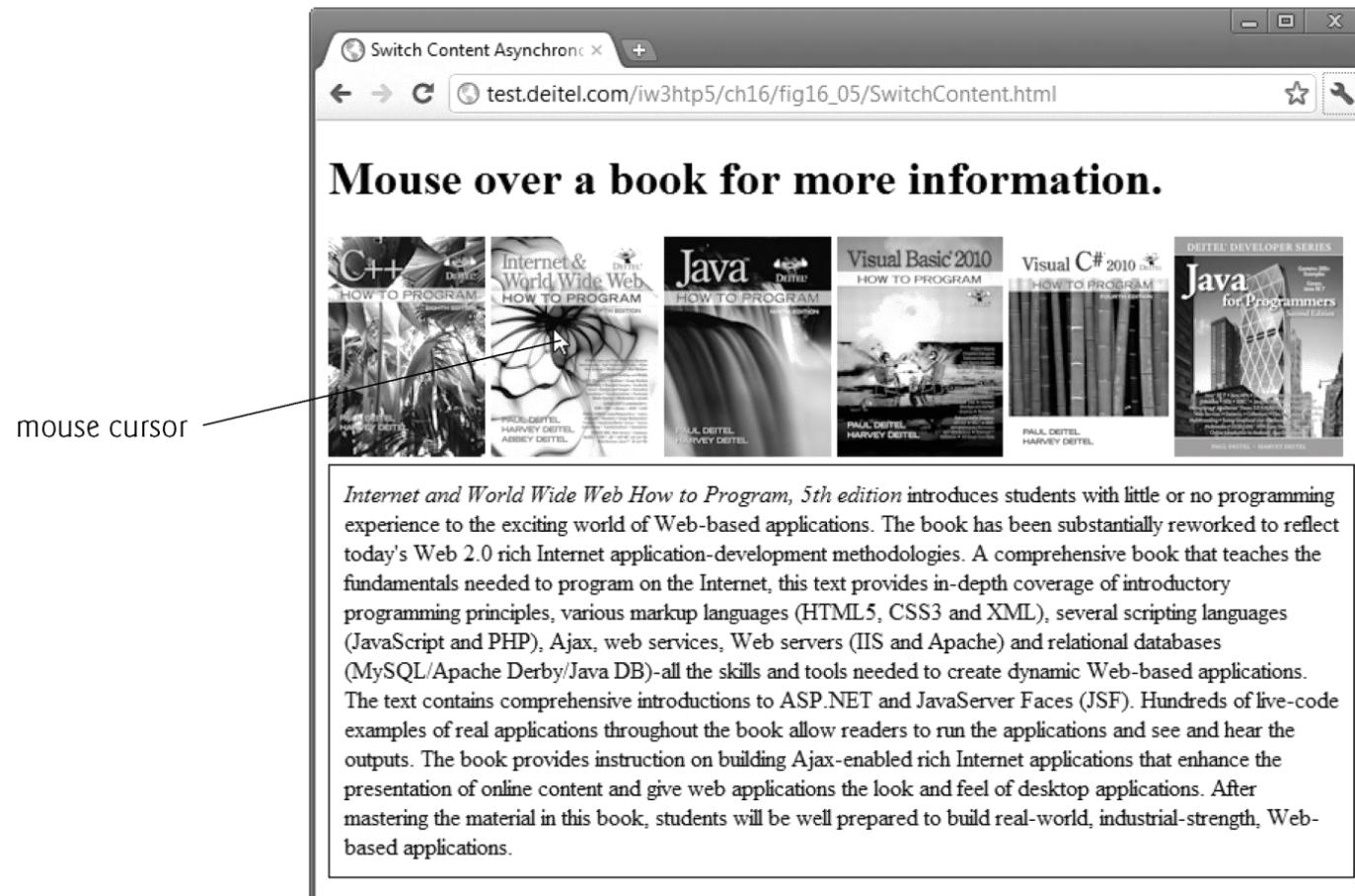


Fig. 16.5 | Asynchronously display content without reloading the page. (Part 7 of 7.)

16.4.3 Callback Functions

- A **callback** function is registered as the event handler for the **XMLHttpRequest** object's **readystatechange** event
 - Whenever the request makes progress, the **XMLHttpRequest** calls the **readystatechange** event handler
 - Progress is monitored by the **readyState** property, which has a value from 0 to 4
 - http://www.w3schools.com/ajax/ajax_xmlhttprequest_onreadystatechange.asp
 - The value 0 indicates that the request is not initialized and the value 4 indicates that the request is complete

16.4.4 XMLHttpRequest Object Event, Properties and Methods

- The following figures summarize some of the **XMLHttpRequest** object's properties and methods, respectively
- The properties are crucial to interacting with asynchronous requests
- The methods initialize, configure and send asynchronous requests
 - http://www.w3schools.com/xml/dom_httprequest.asp

| Event or Property | Description |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <code>readystatechange</code> | Register a listener for this event to specify the <i>callback</i> function—the event handler that gets called when the server responds. |
| <code>readyState</code> | Keeps track of the request's progress. It's usually used in the callback function to determine when the code that processes the response should be launched. The <code>readyState</code> value 0 signifies that the request is uninitialized; 1 that the request is loading; 2 that the request has been loaded; 3 that data is actively being sent from the server; and 4 that the request has been completed. |
| <code>responseText</code> | Text that's returned to the client by the server. |
| <code>responseXML</code> | If the server's response is in XML format, this property contains the XML document; otherwise, it's empty. It can be used like a <code>document</code> object in JavaScript, which makes it useful for receiving complex data (e.g., populating a table). |

Fig. 16.6 | XMLHttpRequest object event and properties. (Part 1 of 2.)

| Event or Property | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| status | HTTP status code of the request. A <code>status</code> of 200 means that request was <i>successful</i> . A <code>status</code> of 404 means that the requested resource was <i>not found</i> . A <code>status</code> of 500 denotes that there was an <i>error</i> while the server was processing the request. For a complete status reference, visit www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc2616/rfc2616-sec10.html . |
| statusText | Additional information on the request's status. It's often used to display the error to the user when the request fails. |

Fig. 16.6 | XMLHttpRequest object event and properties. (Part 2 of 2.)

| Method | Description |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <code>open</code> | Initializes the request and has two <i>mandatory</i> parameters—method and URL. The method parameter specifies the purpose of the request—typically GET or POST. The URL parameter specifies the address of the file on the server that will generate the response. A third optional Boolean parameter specifies whether the request is <i>asynchronous</i> —it's set to <code>true</code> by default. |
| <code>send</code> | Sends the request to the server. It has one optional parameter, <code>data</code> , which specifies the <i>data to be POSTed to the server</i> —it's set to <code>null</code> by default. |
| <code>setRequestHeader</code> | Alters the request header. The two parameters specify the header and its new value. It's often used to set the <code>content-type</code> field. |
| <code>getResponseHeader</code> | Returns the header data that precedes the response body. It takes one parameter, the name of the header to retrieve. This call is often used to <i>determine the response's type</i> , to parse the response correctly. |
| <code>getAllResponseHeaders</code> | Returns an array that contains all the headers that precede the response body. |
| <code>abort</code> | Cancels the current request. |

Fig. 16.7 | XMLHttpRequest object methods.

16.5 Using XML and the DOM

- When passing structured data between the server and the client, Ajax applications often use XML because it consumes little bandwidth and is easy to parse
- **XMLHttpRequest** object `responseXML` property
 - Contains the parsed XML returned by the server
- DOM method **createElement**
 - Creates an HTML5 element of the specified type
- DOM method **appendChild**
 - Inserts one HTML5 element into another
- **innerHTML** property of a DOM element
 - Can be used to obtain or change the HTML5 that is displayed in a particular element

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3 <!-- Fig. 16.8: PullImagesOntoPage.html -->
4 <!-- Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. -->
5 <html>
6 <head>
7 <meta charset="utf-8">
8 <title> Pulling Images onto the Page </title>
9 <style type = "text/css">
10    li { display: inline-block; padding: 4px; width: 120px; }
11    img { border: 1px solid black }
12 </style>
13 <script>
14   var asyncRequest; // variable to hold XMLHttpRequest object
15
```

Fig. 16.8 | Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. (Part 1 of 8.)

```
16 // set up and send the asynchronous request to get the XML file
17 function getImages( url )
18 {
19     // attempt to create XMLHttpRequest object and make the request
20     try
21     {
22         asyncRequest = new XMLHttpRequest(); // create request object
23
24         // register event handler
25         asyncRequest.addEventListener(
26             "readystatechange", processResponse, false);
27         asyncRequest.open( "GET", url, true ); // prepare the request
28         asyncRequest.send( null ); // send the request
29     } // end try
30     catch ( exception )
31     {
32         alert( 'Request Failed' );
33     } // end catch
34 } // end function getImages
35
```

Fig. 16.8 | Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. (Part 2 of 8.)

```
36 // parses the XML response; dynamically creates an unordered list and
37 // populates it with the response data; displays the list on the page
38 function processResponse()
39 {
40     // if request completed successfully and responseXML is non-null
41     if ( asyncRequest.readyState == 4 && asyncRequest.status == 200 &&
42         asyncRequest.responseXML )
43     {
44         clearImages(); // prepare to display a new set of images
45
46         // get the covers from the responseXML
47         var covers = asyncRequest.responseXML.getElementsByTagName(
48             "cover" )
49
50         // get base URL for the images
51         var baseUrl = asyncRequest.responseXML.getElementsByTagName(
52             "baseurl" ).item( 0 ).firstChild.nodeValue;
53
54         // get the placeholder div element named covers
55         var output = document.getElementById( "covers" );
56
57         // create an unordered list to display the images
58         var imagesUL = document.createElement( "ul" );
```

Fig. 16.8 | Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. (Part 3 of 8.)

Since the baseURL has no child nodes, we use item(0).firstChild.nodeValue to obtain the directory address and store it in variable baseURL

```
59          // place images in unordered list
60          for ( var i = 0; i < covers.length; ++i )
61          {
62              var cover = covers.item( i ); // get a cover from covers array
63
64              // get the image filename
65              var image = cover.getElementsByTagName( "image" ).
66                  item( 0 ).firstChild.nodeValue;
67
68              // create li and img element to display the image
69              var imageLI = document.createElement( "li" );
70              var imageTag = document.createElement( "img" );
71
72              // set img element's src attribute
73              imageTag.setAttribute( "src", baseUrl + escape( image ) );
74              imageLI.appendChild( imageTag ); // place img in li
75              imagesUL.appendChild( imageLI ); // place li in ul
76
77          } // end for statement
78
79          output.appendChild( imagesUL ); // append ul to covers div
80      } // end if
81  } // end function processResponse
```

Fig. 16.8 | Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. (Part 4 of 8.)

```
82
83     // clears the covers div
84     function clearImages()
85     {
86         document.getElementById( "covers" ).innerHTML = "";
87     } // end function clearImages
88
89     // register event listeners
90     function registerListeners()
91     {
92         document.getElementById( "all" ).addEventListener(
93             "click", function() { getImages( "all.xml" ); }, false );
94         document.getElementById( "simply" ).addEventListener(
95             "click", function() { getImages( "simply.xml" ); }, false );
96         document.getElementById( "howto" ).addEventListener(
97             "click", function() { getImages( "howto.xml" ); }, false );
98         document.getElementById( "dotnet" ).addEventListener(
99             "click", function() { getImages( "dotnet.xml" ); }, false );
100        document.getElementById( "javaccpp" ).addEventListener(
101            "click", function() { getImages( "javaccpp.xml" ); }, false );
102        document.getElementById( "none" ).addEventListener(
103            "click", clearImages, false );
104    } // end function registerListeners
```

Fig. 16.8 | Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. (Part 5 of 8.)

```
105
106     window.addEventListener( "load", registerListeners, false );
107     </script>
108 </head>
109 <body>
110     <input type = "radio" name ="Books" value = "all"
111         id = "all"> All Books
112     <input type = "radio" name = "Books" value = "simply"
113         id = "simply"> Simply Books
114     <input type = "radio" name = "Books" value = "howto"
115         id = "howto"> How to Program Books
116     <input type = "radio" name = "Books" value = "dotnet"
117         id = "dotnet"> .NET Books
118     <input type = "radio" name = "Books" value = "javaccpp"
119         id = "javaccpp"> Java/C/C++ Books
120     <input type = "radio" checked name = "Books" value = "none"
121         id = "none"> None
122     <div id = "covers"></div>
123 </body>
124 </html>
```

Fig. 16.8 | Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. (Part 6 of 8.)

a) User clicks the **All Books** radio button to display all the book covers. The application sends an *asynchronous* request to the server to obtain an XML document containing the list of book-cover filenames. When the response is received, the application performs a *partial page update* to display the set of book covers.



Fig. 16.8 | Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. (Part 7 of 8.)

b) User clicks the **How to Program Books** radio button to select a subset of book covers to display. Application sends an *asynchronous* request to the server to obtain an XML document containing the appropriate subset of book-cover filenames. When the response is received, the application performs a *partial page update* to display the subset of book covers.



Fig. 16.8 | Image catalog that uses Ajax to request XML data asynchronously. (Part 8 of 8.)

16.6 Creating a Full-Scale Ajax-Enabled Application

- JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)
 - Simple way to represent JavaScript objects as strings
 - A simpler alternative to XML for passing data between the client and the server
 - http://www.w3schools.com/js/js_json.asp
- JSON object
 - Represented as a list of property names and values contained in curly braces

16.6 Creating a Full-Scale Ajax-Enabled Application

- Array
 - Represented in JSON with square brackets containing a comma-separated list of values
 - Each value in a JSON array can be a string, a number, a JSON representation of an object, true, false or null
- JSON strings
 - Easier to create and parse than XML
 - Require fewer bytes
 - For these reasons, JSON is commonly used to communicate in client/server interaction

16.6.1 Using JSON

- Each object in JSON is represented as a list of property names and values contained in curly braces, in the following format
 - **{ "propertyName1" : value1, "propertyName2": value2 }**
- Arrays are represented in JSON with square brackets in the following format
 - **[value1, value2, value3]**

16.6.2 Rich Functionality

- The previous examples in this chapter requested data from files on the server
- The next example is an address-book application that communicates with a server-side web service
- The application uses server-side processing to give the page the functionality and usability of a desktop application
- We use JSON to encode server-side responses and to create objects on the fly
- Each time the user clicks a name, the address book uses Ajax functionality to load the person's address from the server and expand the entry without reloading the page
 - In parallel with allowing the user to click other names

```
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3  <!-- Fig. 16.9 addressbook.html -->
4  <!-- Ajax enabled address book application. -->
5  <html>
6  <head>
7      <meta charset="utf-8">
8      <title>Address Book</title>
9      <link rel = "stylesheet" type = "text/css" href = "style.css">
10     <script src = "AddressBook.js"></script>
11 </head>
12 <body>
13     <div>
14         <input id = "addressBookButton" type = "button"
15             value = "Address Book">
16         <input id = "addEntryButton" type = "button"
17             value = "Add an Entry">
18     </div>
19     <div id = "addressBook"">
20         <p>Search By Last Name: <input id = "searchInput"></p>
21         <div id = "Names"></div>
22     </div>
```

Fig. 16.9 | Ajax-enabled address-book application. (Part I of 7.)

```
23 <div id = "addEntry" style = "display : none">
24     <p><label>First Name:</label> <input id = "first"></p>
25     <p><label>Last Name:</label> <input id = "last"></p>
26     <p class = "head">Address:</p>
27     <p><label>Street:</label> <input id = "street"></p>
28     <p><label>City:</label> <span id = "city" class = "validator">
29         </span></p>
30     <p><label>State:</label> <span id = "state" class = "validator">
31         </span></p>
32     <p><label>Zip:</label> <input id = "zip">
33         <span id = "validateZip" class = "validator"></span></p>
34     <p><label>Telephone:</label> <input id = "phone">
35         <span id = "validatePhone" class = "validator"></span></p>
36     <p><input id = "submitButton" type = "button" value = "Submit"></p>
37     <div id = "success" class = "validator"></div>
38 </div>
39 </body>
40 </html>
```

Fig. 16.9 | Ajax-enabled address-book application. (Part 2 of 7.)

a) Page is loaded. All the entries are displayed.



b) User clicks on an entry. The entry expands.

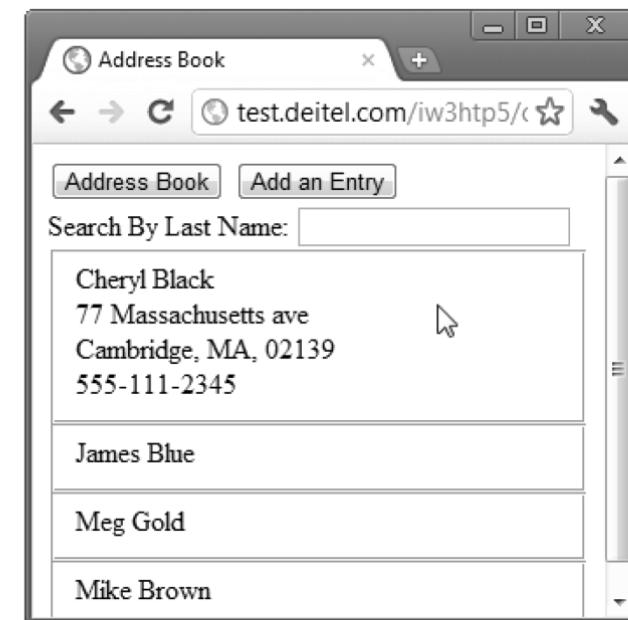


Fig. 16.9 | Ajax-enabled address-book application. (Part 3 of 7.)

c) User types "B" in the search field. Application loads the entries whose last names start with "B".



d) User types "Bl" in the search field. Application loads the entries whose last names start with "Bl".

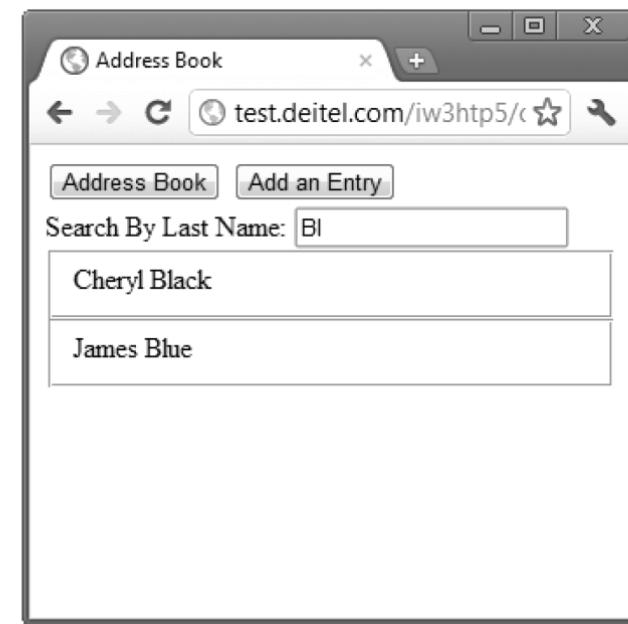


Fig. 16.9 | Ajax-enabled address-book application. (Part 4 of 7.)

e) User types "Bla" in the search field.
Application loads the entries whose last names
start with "Bla".

A screenshot of a web browser window titled "Address Book". The address bar shows "test.deitel.com/iw3http5/c". Below the title bar are two buttons: "Address Book" and "Add an Entry". A search bar is labeled "Search By Last Name: Bla". Below the search bar, the results show one entry: "Cheryl Black".

f) User clicks **Add an Entry** button. The form
allowing user to add an entry is displayed.

A screenshot of a web browser window titled "Address Book". The address bar shows "test.deitel.com/iw3http5/c". Below the title bar are two buttons: "Address Book" and "Add an Entry". The "Add an Entry" button has been clicked, displaying a form with fields for First Name, Last Name, Street, City, State, Zip, and Telephone, along with a "Submit" button.

Fig. 16.9 | Ajax-enabled address-book application. (Part 5 of 7.)

g) User enters a valid ZIP code, then tabs to the next field. The server finds the city and state associated with the ZIP code entered and displays them on the page.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Address Book" with the URL "test.deitel.com/iw3http5/c". The page contains fields for "First Name" and "Last Name", both of which are empty. Below these are sections for "Address" with fields for "Street" (1 Main Street), "City" (Maynard), "State" (MA), "Zip" (01754), and "Telephone" (empty). A "Submit" button is at the bottom. The browser's address bar shows the URL.

h) The user enters a telephone number and tries to submit the data. The application does not allow this, because the First Name and Last Name are empty.

The screenshot shows the same "Address Book" application. The "First Name" and "Last Name" fields are still empty. When the user attempts to click the "Submit" button, an error message "First Name and Last Name must have a value." appears below the "Telephone" field. The rest of the address information remains the same as in the previous screenshot.

Fig. 16.9 | Ajax-enabled address-book application. (Part 6 of 7.)

- i) The user enters the last name and the first name and clicks the **Submit** button.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Address Book". The URL is "test.deitel.com/iw3htp5/c". The page contains a form with the following fields:

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| First Name: | John |
| Last Name: | Gray |
| Address: | |
| Street: | 1 Main Street |
| City: | Maynard |
| State: | MA |
| Zip: | 01754 |
| Telephone: | 555-555-9643 |

Below the form is a "Submit" button. A tooltip message "First Name and Last Name must have a value." is displayed near the bottom left of the form area.

- j) The address book is redisplayed with the new name added in.

The screenshot shows the same "Address Book" window after the entry has been submitted. The list of contacts now includes the new entry:

- Cheryl Black
- James Blue
- John Gray
- Meg Gold
- Mike Brown

Fig. 16.9 | Ajax-enabled address-book application. (Part 7 of 7.)

```
1 // Fig. 16.10 addressbook.js
2 // Ajax-enabled address-book JavaScript code
3 // URL of the web service
4 var webServiceUrl = "/AddressBookWebService/Service.svc";
5
6 var phoneValid = false; // indicates if the telephone is valid
7 var zipValid = false; //indicates if the ZIP code is valid
8
9 // get a list of names from the server and display them
10 function showAddressBook()
11 {
12     // hide the "addEntry" form and show the address book
13     document.getElementById( "addEntry" ).style.display = "none";
14     document.getElementById( "addressBook" ).style.display = "block";
15
16     callWebService( "/getAllNames", parseData );
17 } // end function showAddressBook
18
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part I of 15.)

```
19 // send the asynchronous request to the web service
20 function callWebService( methodAndArguments, callBack )
21 {
22     // build request URL string
23     var requestUrl = webServiceUrl + methodAndArguments;
24
25     // attempt to send the asynchronous request
26     try
27     {
28         var asyncRequest = new XMLHttpRequest(); // create request
29
30         // set up callback function and store it
31         asyncRequest.addEventListener("readystatechange",
32             function() { callBack( asyncRequest ); }, false);
33
34         // send the asynchronous request
35         asyncRequest.open( "GET", requestUrl, true );
36         asyncRequest.setRequestHeader("Accept",
37             "application/json; charset=utf-8" );
38         asyncRequest.send(); // send request
39     } // end try
40     catch ( exception )
41     {
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 2 of 15.)

```
42         alert ( "Request Failed" );
43     } // end catch
44 } // end function callWebService
45
46 // parse JSON data and display it on the page
47 function parseData( asyncRequest )
48 {
49     // if request has completed successfully, process the response
50     if ( asyncRequest.readyState == 4 && asyncRequest.status == 200 )
51     {
52         // convert the JSON string to an Object
53         var data = JSON.parse(asyncRequest.responseText);
54         displayNames( data ); // display data on the page
55     } // end if
56 } // end function parseData
57
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 3 of 15.)

```
58 // use the DOM to display the retrieved address-book entries
59 function displayNames( data )
60 {
61     // get the placeholder element from the page
62     var listBox = document.getElementById( "Names" );
63     listBox.innerHTML = ""; // clear the names on the page
64
65     // iterate over retrieved entries and display them on the page
66     for ( var i = 0; i < data.length; ++i )
67     {
68         // dynamically create a div element for each entry
69         // and a fieldset element to place it in
70         var entry = document.createElement( "div" );
71         var field = document.createElement( "fieldset" );
72         entry.onclick = function() { getAddress( this, this.innerHTML ); };
73         entry.id = i; // set the id
74         entry.innerHTML = data[ i ].First + " " + data[ i ].Last;
75         field.appendChild( entry ); // insert entry into the field
76         listBox.appendChild( field ); // display the field
77     } // end for
78 } // end function displayAll
79
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 4 of 15.)

```
80 // search the address book for input
81 // and display the results on the page
82 function search( input )
83 {
84     // get the placeholder element and delete its content
85     var listBox = document.getElementById( "Names" );
86     listBox.innerHTML = ""; // clear the display box
87
88     // if no search string is specified, all the names are displayed
89     if ( input == "" ) // if no search value specified
90     {
91         showAddressBook(); // Load the entire address book
92     } // end if
93     else
94     {
95         callWebService( "/search/" + input, parseData );
96     } // end else
97 } // end function search
98
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 5 of 15.)

```
99 // Get address data for a specific entry
100 function getAddress( entry, name )
101 {
102     // find the address in the JSON data using the element's id
103     // and display it on the page
104     var firstLast = name.split(" "); // convert string to array
105     var requestUrl = webServiceUrl + "/getAddress/"
106         + firstLast[ 0 ] + "/" + firstLast[ 1 ];
107
108     // attempt to send an asynchronous request
109     try
110     {
111         // create request object
112         var asyncRequest = new XMLHttpRequest();
113
114         // create a callback function with 2 parameters
115         asyncRequest.addEventListener("readystatechange",
116             function() { displayAddress( entry, asyncRequest ); }, false );
117
118         asyncRequest.open( "GET", requestUrl, true );
119         asyncRequest.setRequestHeader("Accept",
120             "application/json; charset=utf-8"); // set response datatype
121         asyncRequest.send(); // send request
122     } // end try
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 6 of 15.)

```
I23     catch ( exception )
I24     {
I25         alert ( "Request Failed." );
I26     } // end catch
I27 } // end function getAddress
I28
I29 // clear the entry's data
I30 function displayAddress( entry, asyncRequest )
I31 {
I32     // if request has completed successfully, process the response
I33     if ( asyncRequest.readyState == 4 && asyncRequest.status == 200 )
I34     {
I35         // convert the JSON string to an object
I36         var data = JSON.parse(asyncRequest.responseText);
I37         var name = entry.innerHTML // save the name string
I38         entry.innerHTML = name + "<br>" + data.Street +
I39             "<br>" + data.City + ", " + data.State
I40             + ", " + data.Zip + "<br>" + data.Telephone;
I41
I42         // change event listener
I43         entry.onclick = function() { clearField( entry, name ); };
I44     } // end if
I45 } // end function displayAddress
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 7 of 15.)

```
146
147 // clear the entry's data
148 function clearField( entry, name )
149 {
150     entry.innerHTML = name; // set the entry to display only the name
151     entry.onclick = function() { getAddress( entry, name ); };
152 } // end function clearField
153
154 // display the form that allows the user to enter more data
155 function addEntry()
156 {
157     document.getElementById( "addressBook" ).style.display = "none";
158     document.getElementById( "addEntry" ).style.display = "block";
159 } // end function addEntry
160
161 // send the ZIP code to be validated and to generate city and state
162 function validateZip( zip )
163 {
164     callWebService ( "/validateZip/" + zip, showCityState );
165 } // end function validateZip
166
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 8 of 15.)

```
167 // get city and state that were generated using the zip code
168 // and display them on the page
169 function showCityState( asyncRequest )
170 {
171     // display message while request is being processed
172     document.getElementById( "validateZip" ).
173         innerHTML = "Checking zip...";
174
175     // if request has completed successfully, process the response
176     if ( asyncRequest.readyState == 4 )
177     {
178         if ( asyncRequest.status == 200 )
179         {
180             // convert the JSON string to an object
181             var data = JSON.parse(asyncRequest.responseText);
182
183             // update ZIP-code validity tracker and show city and state
184             if ( data.Validity == "Valid" )
185             {
186                 zipValid = true; // update validity tracker
187
188                 // display city and state
189                 document.getElementById( "validateZip" ).innerHTML = "";
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 9 of 15.)

```
190     document.getElementById( "city" ).innerHTML = data.City;
191     document.getElementById( "state" ) .
192         innerHTML = data.State;
193 } // end if
194 else
195 {
196     zipValid = false; // update validity tracker
197     document.getElementById( "validateZip" ) .
198         innerHTML = data.ErrorText; // display the error
199
200     // clear city and state values if they exist
201     document.getElementById( "city" ).innerHTML = "";
202     document.getElementById( "state" ).innerHTML = "";
203 } // end else
204 } // end if
205 else if ( asyncRequest.status == 500 )
206 {
207     document.getElementById( "validateZip" ) .
208         innerHTML = "Zip validation service not available";
209 } // end else if
210 } // end if
211 } // end function showCityState
212
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 10 of 15.)

```
213 // send the telephone number to the server to validate format  
214 function validatePhone( phone )  
215 {  
216     callWebService( "/validateTel/" + phone, showPhoneError );  
217 } // end function validatePhone  
218
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 11 of 15.)

```
219 // show whether the telephone number has correct format
220 function showPhoneError( asyncRequest )
221 {
222     // if request has completed successfully, process the response
223     if ( asyncRequest.readyState == 4 && asyncRequest.status == 200 )
224     {
225         // convert the JSON string to an object
226         var data = JSON.parse(asyncRequest.responseText);
227
228         if ( data.ErrorText != "Valid Telephone Format" )
229         {
230             phoneValid = false; // update validity tracker
231             document.getElementById( "validatePhone" ).innerHTML =
232                 data.ErrorText; // display the error
233         } // end if
234     else
235     {
236         phoneValid = true; // update validity tracker
237     } // end else
238 } // end if
239 } // end function showPhoneError
240
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 12 of 15.)

```
241 // enter the user's data into the database
242 function saveForm()
243 {
244     // retrieve the data from the form
245     var first = document.getElementById( "first" ).value;
246     var last = document.getElementById( "last" ).value;
247     var street = document.getElementById( "street" ).value;
248     var city = document.getElementById( "city" ).innerHTML;
249     var state = document.getElementById( "state" ).innerHTML;
250     var zip = document.getElementById( "zip" ).value;
251     var phone = document.getElementById( "phone" ).value;
252
253     // check if data is valid
254     if ( !zipValid || !phoneValid )
255     {
256         // display error message
257         document.getElementById( "success" ).innerHTML =
258             "Invalid data entered. Check form for more information";
259     } // end if
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 13 of 15.)

```
260    else if ( ( first == "" ) || ( last == "" ) )
261    {
262        // display error message
263        document.getElementById("success").innerHTML =
264            "First Name and Last Name must have a value.";
265    } // end if
266    else
267    {
268        // hide the form and show the address book
269        document.getElementById( "addEntry" ).style.display = "none";
270        document.getElementById( "addressBook" ).style.display = "block";
271
272        // call the web service to insert data into the database
273        callWebService( "/addEntry/" + first + "/" + last + "/" + street +
274                      "/" + city + "/" + state + "/" + zip + "/" + phone, parseData );
275    } // end else
276 } // end function saveForm
277
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 14 of 15.)

```
278 // register event listeners
279 function start()
280 {
281     document.getElementById( "addressBookButton" ).addEventListener(
282         "click", showAddressBook, false );
283     document.getElementById( "addEntryButton" ).addEventListener(
284         "click", addEntry, false );
285     document.getElementById( "searchInput" ).addEventListener(
286         "keyup", function() { search( this.value ); } , false );
287     document.getElementById( "zip" ).addEventListener(
288         "blur", function() { validateZip( this.value ); } , false );
289     document.getElementById( "phone" ).addEventListener(
290         "blur", function() { validatePhone( this.value ); } , false );
291     document.getElementById( "submitButton" ).addEventListener(
292         "click", saveForm , false );
293
294     showAddressBook();
295 } // end function start
296
297 window.addEventListener( "load", start, false );
```

Fig. 16.10 | JavaScript code for the address-book application. (Part 15 of 15.)

16.6.3 Interacting with a Web Service on the Server

- An ASP.NET REST web service created for this example does the server-side processing
- The web service contains a collection of methods, including **getAllNames**, that can be called from a web application
- To invoke a method you specify the web service URL followed by a forward slash (/), the name of the method to call, a forward slash and the arguments separated by forward slashes
- Function **callWebService** requires a string containing the method to call on the server and the arguments to the method in the format described above

16.6.4 Parsing Json Data

- Each of our web service's methods in this example returns a JSON representation of an object or array of objects
- For example, when the web application requests the list of names in the address book, the list is returned as a JSON array
- Each object in has the attributes first and last
 - [{ "first": "Cheryl", "last": "Black" }, { "first": "James", "last": "Blue" }, { "first": "Mike", "last": "Brown" }, { "first": "Meg", "last": "Gold" }]

16.6.5 Creating HTML5 Elements and Setting Event Handlers

- To determine which address the user clicked, we introduce the **this** keyword
- In an event-handling function, this refers to the DOM object on which the event occurred
- Our function uses this to refer to the clicked entry
- The **this** keyword allows us to use one event handler to apply a change to one of many DOM elements, depending on which one received the event

16.6.6 Implementing Type-Ahead

- The input element declared in line 20 of Fig. 16.9 enables the user to search the address book by last name
- As soon as the user starts typing in the input box, the **keyup** event handler (registered at lines 285–286 in Fig. 16.10) calls the search function (lines 82–97)
 - Passing the input element's value as an argument
- The search function performs an asynchronous request to locate entries with last names that start with its argument value
- When the response is received, the application displays the matching list of names

16.6.6 Implementing Type-Ahead

- Each time the user changes the text in the input box, function search is called again to make another asynchronous request
- The search function first clears the address-book entries from the page (lines 85–86)
 - If the input argument is the empty string, line 91 displays the entire address book by calling function **showAddressBook**
 - Otherwise line 95 sends a request to the server to search the data
- When the server responds, callback function **parseData** is invoked, which calls function **displayNames** to display the results on the page

16.6.7 Implementing a Form with Asynchronous Validation

- The **addEntry** div in the HTML5 document contains a set of entry fields, some of which have event handlers (registered in the JavaScript start function)
 - Enable validation that occurs asynchronously as the user continues to interact with the page
- When a user enters a ZIP code, then moves the cursor to another field, the **validateZip** function is called
 - Calls an external web service to validate the ZIP code
 - If it's valid, that external web service returns the corresponding city and state