

DOM and Events - Part 1



Building Modern Web Applications - VSP2025

Karthik Pattabiraman
Abraham Chan
Mohsen Salehi

Modern Browsers

1. **Modern Browsers**
2. DOM Event Handling
3. DOM Event Propagation



Modern Browsers: Browser as an OS

- Modern Browsers are equivalent to an **OS for web applications**
 - Provide core services such as **access to the display** (DOM, location bar), and **permanent state** (cookies, local storage, history)
 - **Schedule event handlers** for different tasks and control the global ordering of events
 - Allow **network messages** to be sent and received from the server



Modern Browsers: JavaScript Execution Model

- Browser follows two phase execution model



Phase 1

- All code within the `<script></script>` tag is executed when they're loaded in the order of loading (unless the script tag is async or deferred)
- Some scripts may choose to defer execution or execute asynchronously. These are executed at the end of phase 1

Modern Browsers: JavaScript Execution Model

- Browser follows two phase execution model

Phase 2

- Waits for events to be triggered and executes handlers corresponding to the events in order of event execution (single-threaded model)
- Events can be of four kinds:
 - Load event: After page has finished loading (phase 1)
 - User events: Mouse clicks, mouse moves, form entry
 - Timer events: Timeouts, Interval
 - Networking: Async messages response arrives



Modern Browsers: window Object

- **Global object** that provides a gateway for almost all features of the web application
- Passed to standalone JS functions, and can be accessed by any function within the webpage
- Example Features
 - DOM: Through the `window.document` property
 - URL bar: Through `window.location` property
 - Navigator: Browser features, user agent etc.



Modern Browsers: window Object

- **alert**: Simple way to pop-up a dialog box on the current window with an OK button
 - Can display an arbitrary string as message
- **prompt**: Asks the user to enter a string and returns it
- **confirm**: Displays a message and waits for user to click OK or Cancel, and returns a boolean



```
1 do {  
2     var name = prompt("What is your name?");  
3     var correct = confirm("You entered: " + name);  
4 } while (!correct);  
5 // This is bad security practice - don't do this!  
6 alert("Hello " + name);
```

Modern Browsers: window Object

- `setTimeout` is used to schedule a future event asynchronously once after a specified number of milliseconds (can be set to 0)
 - Can specify arguments to event handler
 - Can be cancelled using the `clearTimeout` method



```
1 var callback = function(){
2     alert("Hello");
3 }
4 var timer = setTimeout(callback, 1000);
5
6 clearTimeout(timer);
```


Modern Browsers: window Object



- `setTimeout` is used to schedule a future event asynchronously once after a specified number of milliseconds (can be set to 0)
 - Can specify arguments to event handler
 - Can be cancelled using the `clearTimeout` method
- `setInterval` has the same functionality as `setTimeout`, except that the event fires repeatedly until `clearInterval` is invoked

```
1 var count = 0;
2 var callback = function(){
3     alert("Hello " + (count++));
4 }
5 var timer = setInterval(callback, 1000);
6 console.log("Done");
```

Class Activity



lectures/lecture-4/interval.html
lectures/lecture-4/interval.js



- Create a new function that invokes another function `func` a specified number of times `num`, asynchronously, each time after `time` ms
- The function should pass as an argument to `func` the number of times it called `func` so far
 - Hint: You can do it through `setTimeout` or `setInterval`

```
1 function invokeTimes(func, num, time){  
2   // to implement  
3 }  
4  
5 invokeTimes(function(count){  
6   alert("Hello " + count);  
7 }, 10, 1000);
```

DOM Event Handling

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3. DOM Event Propagation



Event Handling

- JavaScript code is **event-driven**, which means that you need to **register event callbacks**
- Events are of five types in JavaScript
 - Mouse Events (e.g., mouseclick, mousemove, etc)
 - Window Events (load, DOMContentLoaded, etc)
 - Form events (submit, reset, changed etc)
 - Key events (keydown, keyup, keypress etc)
 - DOM events (part of DOM3 specification)



Event Handling: Registering Event Handlers

- Two ways of registering event handlers
 - Old method (DOM 1.0): Directly add a `onclick` or `onload` property to the DOM object/window
 - Disadvantage: **Allows only one event handler** to be specified. New handlers must remember to chain the old handler, and can potentially ‘swallow’ the handler
 - New method (DOM 2.0): Allows multiple event handlers to be added to the DOM object/window



Registering Event Handlers: DOM 2.0

- The DOM 1.0 method is clunky and can be buggy. Also, difficult to remove event handlers
- DOM 2.0 event handlers
 - `addEventListener` for adding a event handler
 - `removeEventListener` for removing event handlers
 - `stopPropagation` and `stopImmediatePropagation` for stopping the propagation of an event



DOM 2.0: addEventListener

- Used to add an Event handler to an element. Does NOT overwrite previous handlers
 - Arg1: Event type for which the handler is active
 - Arg2: Function to be invoked when event occurs
 - Arg3: Whether to invoke in the 'capture' phase of event propagation (more later) - false by default



```
1 var elem = document.getElementById("mybutton");
2 elem.addEventListener("click", function(event){
3     this.style.backgroundColor = "#fff";
4     return true;
5 });
```

DOM 2.0: addEventListener

- Does not overwrite previous handlers, even those set using `onclick`, `onmouseover` etc.
- Can be used to register multiple event handlers – invoked in order of registration (handlers set through DOM 1.0 model have precedence)



```
1 var elem = document.getElementById("mybutton");
2 elem.addEventListener("click", function(event){
3     alert("Hello");
4 });
5 elem.addEventListener("click", function(event){
6     alert("World");
7 });
```


DOM 2.0: removeEventListener

- Used to remove the event handler set by `addEventListener` functions, with the same arguments
 - No error even if the function was not set as event handler



```
1 var clickHandler = function(event){  
2     alert("Clicked");  
3 };  
4 var elem = document.getElementById("mybutton");  
5 elem.addEventListener("click", clickHandler);  
6 elem.removeEventListener("click", clickHandler);  
7
```

Event Handler Context

- Invoked in the context of the element in which it is set (**this** is bound to the target)
- Single argument that takes the **event** object as a parameter – different events have different properties, with info about the event itself
- Return value is discarded – not important
- Can access variables in the scope in which it is defined, as any other JS function
 - Can support closures within Event Handlers



Class Activity: Click Events



lectures/lecture-4/domclick.html
lectures/lecture-4/domclick.js



- Consider an HTML containing 3 buttons with ids `reset`, `up`, and `down`
- Write **3 handler functions** for the `click` event of each of the 3 buttons to do the following:
 - `resetBtn` should set the `count` to 0
 - `upBtn` should increment the `count` by 1
 - `downBtn` should decrement the `count` by 1

```
1 window.onload = function(){
2   var count = 0;
3   var resetBtn = document.getElementById("reset");
4   var upBtn = document.getElementById("up");
5   var downBtn = document.getElementById("down");
6   resetBtn.addEventListener("click", /* ??? */);
7   upBtn.addEventListener("click", /* ??? */);
8   downBtn.addEventListener("click", /* ??? */);    };
```

DOM Event Handling

1. Modern Browsers
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3. **DOM Event Propagation**

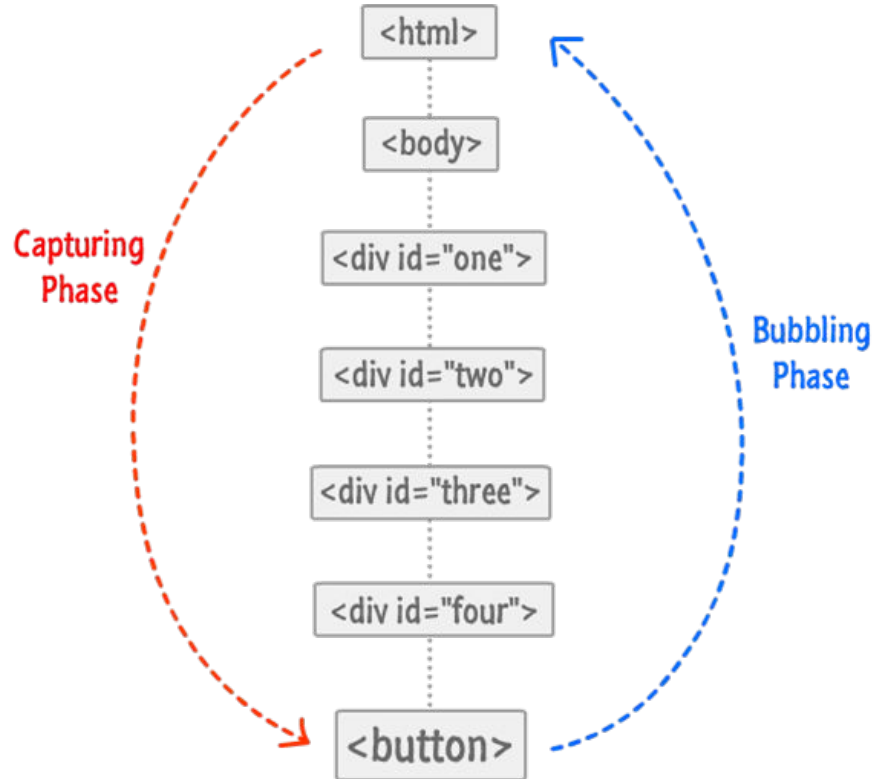


Event Propagation

- Events triggered on an element propagate through the DOM tree in 2 consecutive phases
 - **Capture phase:** Event is triggered on the topmost element of the DOM and propagates down to the event target element
 - **Bubble phase:** Event starts from the event target element and ‘bubbles up’ the DOM tree to the top
- **Exception:** for the target element itself
 - For the target element itself, the W3C standards considers a **target phase**
 - All handlers registered for the target element are always registered for the target phase – the bubble/capture phase argument is ignored when registering handlers (see later)
 - Events may therefore trigger handlers on elements different from their targets



Capture and Bubble Phases



Event Propagation Setup

- To associate an event handler with the capture phase of event propagation, set the third parameter of `addEventListener` to `true`



```
1 var div1 = document.getElementById("one");  
2 div1.addEventListener("click", handler, true);
```

- The default way of triggering event handlers is during the bubble phase (3rd argument is `false`)

Capture and Bubble Phases

```
1 var div1 = document.getElementById("one");  
2 div1.addEventListener("click", handler1, true);  
3 var div2 = document.getElementById("two");  
4 div2.addEventListener("click", handler2, true);
```



Capture Phase

- Assume that the `<div>` element `'two'` is clicked.
- `handler1` is invoked before `handler2` as both are registered during the capture phase.

Bubble Phase

- Assume that the `<div>` element `'two'` is clicked.
- `handler2` is invoked before `handler1` as they are both registered during the bubble phase.

Class Activity: Event Propagation

lectures/lecture-4/multiclick.html
lectures/lecture-4/multiclick.js

What's the messages that are printed to the console when you click each of the buttons in the html file (you should also write them in order)?



1. Button 1
2. Button 2
3. Button 3
4. Button 4

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