In a recent attempt to move away from a dependency on jQuery and Bootstrap I have been messing around with building modules that emulate the same things in vanilla javascript. The move was originally inspired from using Angular and not wanting to manipulate the DOM in the jQuery which I had originally learned. I recently had to implement a modal for a project of mine and built a vanilla JS module which can be uses site wide by implementing the same functionality as Bootstraps JS eg (data-target). Here is a step by step guide and you can also download the entire code base here.

HTML

First the HTML which will be reusable across the site. The important thing to note here is the id we assign to the modal-container. This is the id we will target with the data attribute value to toggle the modal on and off. Also we add a button on the page with the class modal-open and a data-target attribute of the id of the modal.

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CSS

The css is pretty basic, setting a modal-overlay to a fixed position and top and left values of 0 to cover the whole page. Also a black background color with an opacity so you can see the content underneath.

//

The modal box is also fixed position with a width of 75%. This can be set to whatever value you would like to cover the page. We use a top 50% and left 50% with transform: translate(-50%, -50%); This will align the modal in the center of the screen.

//

Next we add some padding to the modal content and position the close button absolutely to the modal in the top right corner. You can swap out the X for an icon you prefer.

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Now you should be able to see the modal sitting over the top of the page, but with no way to show or hide it. Time for JS! We build a Modal module which is scoped to prevent global leakage of variables. Within this module we start with a init function which will scan the document for elements that have the class modal-open and assign a click event listener to each one.

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We do the same for the modal-box-close classes.

//

We now write the logic for opening and closing the modals. The open modal function takes a target which is the element that you clicked on to open it. We get the value of data-target of that element, which should be the ID of the modal you want to open. Then we set the css display property to block and add a active class.

In order to traverse up the DOM to find the modal-container from the modal-box-close we need to write a helper function. There is also a polyfill for this if the browser does not support elem.matches. To find more info on these helper functions and traversing the DOM with vanilla JS refer here. <https://gomakethings.com/climbing-up-and-down-the-dom-tree-with-vanilla-javascript/>

For the close modal function, we use the getClosest helper to traverse up the DOM and find modal-container. We remove the active class and set the display to none.

//

Now in our main.js file we just call the modal.init() function to bind the event listeners once the document has loaded.