

JavaScript

Lecture 4c (Ajax)

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JavaScript Introduction

Topics discussed this presentation

- Asynchronous JavaScript & XML (Ajax).
- This presentation based on jQuery Ajax.
- Using a very small subset of available functionality.

Ajax

What is it?

- A technology to manage transmission of data.
- Between client and server.
- Generally text-based data.
- Binary data transmission also possible.
- In this course we focus on text-based.
- Originally data format Extensible Markup Language (XML).
- JSON now increasingly the format of choice.

Ajax

Why use it?

- Once Upon a Time in the Web . . .
- data request caused whole-page refresh.
- Ajax requests server what it needs,
- when it needs it and,
- for exactly where on page it is needed. . .
- finding the target with perfect aim.
- This avoids nuisance page flicker and,
- facilitates greater efficiency.



Ajax

Asynchronous communication

- Web page sends HTTP Ajax request.
- User free to continue other page activity.
- Request processed independently.
- Server transmits response to web page.
- Synchronous communication also possible.



jQuery

Donation ajax call

The jQuery function: `$()` or `jQuery()`

A jQuery function

```
$.ajax({  
  type: 'POST',  
  url: '/donation/donate',  
  data: formData,  
  success: function (response) {  
    // Make use of response object  
  },  
});
```

HTTP method

See routes file for controller action name

The form data: example amountDonated

Asynchronous callback function

Process the response data in this block

jQuery

Donation ajax call

```
<form class="ui form" action="/donation/donate" method="POST">  
  ...  
  ...  
</form>
```

```
<form class="ui form">  
  ...  
  ...  
</form>
```

Ajax requires **form** change

jQuery

Donation ajax call

```
<form class="ui form segment">
  <input name="candidateEmail" type="hidden">
  <input name="amountDonated" type="hidden">
  <div class="ui blue submit button">Donate <i class="add icon"></i></div>
```

HTML

```
$('.ui.submit.button').click(function() {
  var formData = $('ui.form.segment input').serialize();
  $.ajax({
    type: 'POST',
    url: '/donation/donate',
    data: formData,
    success: function(response) {
      console.log("make donation page submitForm response: " + response.progress);
    }
  });
});
```

JavaScript

Provides routing to controller action donate

The form data: example amountDonated

Asynchronous call back delivers response

Controller

```
JSONObject obj = new JSONObject();
obj.put("progress", getProgress());
renderJSON(obj);
```

Composes and transmits JSON object response

jQuery

Asynchronous Java and XML (Ajax)

Not using Ajax

Press Donate button

Entire page refreshes

Noticeable flicker

Using Ajax

Press Donate button

Only the progress bar affected

No noticeable flicker

Home	Sign Up	Log In	Make Donation	Report	Log Out
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Welcome Homer

Please give generously

Amount ▾

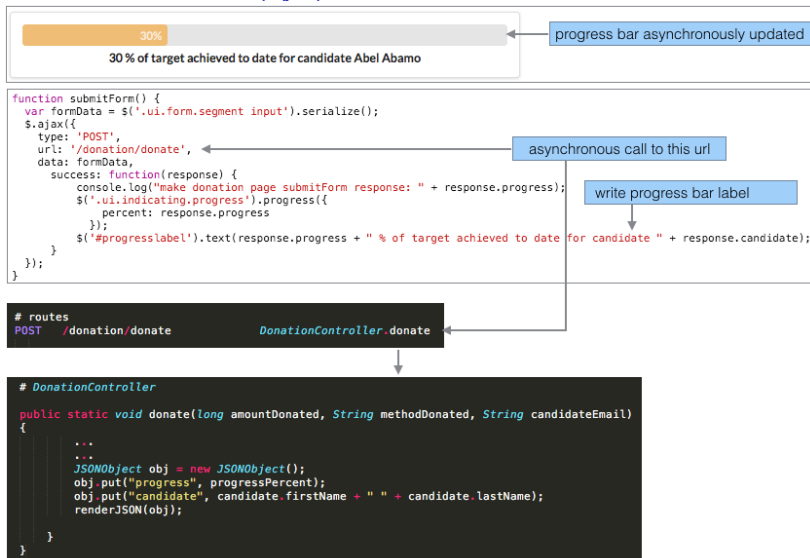
☒ PayPal
☐ Direct

DONATE +

Amount target achieved

jQuery

Asynchronous Java and XML (Ajax)



JavaScript

Presentation summary

- Ajax
 - Asynchronous JavaScript & XML (Ajax)
 - Now Asynchronous JavaScript & JSON (AJAN -:)
 - In widespread use.
 - Allows specific page element refresh.
 - Avoids flicker associated with whole-page refresh.

JavaScript

Some suggestions for consideration

- Write code complying with ECMAScript6 (ES6).
- Use quality IDE such as WebStorm.
- Apply styleguide, example Airbnb.
- Use strict mode.
- Avoid use of global variables:
 - Use global abatement or other techniques.
- Do not rely on semicolon insertion.
- Do not use:
 - `==` (use `===`)
 - `!=` (use `!==`)
- Avoid use of *continue* statement.
- Do not use block-less statements (e.g. following *for*, *while*, *if*).

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