INFO 151 Web Systems and Services

Week 4 (T2)

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Course Overview

Weeks 1 – 3

- Introduction to Web Systems and Services
- Creating Web-Pages and Web-Sites with a Markup Language
- Introductory HTML 4 and HTML 5 with CSS

Weeks 4 – 6

- Client-Side Web Programming
- Introductory JavaScript

Weeks 7 – 9

- Server-side Programming
- Introductory PHP
- Introduction to Database, SQL, and MySQL

Sources of Resources

- The sources of information and resources for JavaScript may be found at the:
 - w3schools.com web-site: (url: https://www.quanzhanketang.com/)
- The w3schools.com web-site available to you has limited resources for PHP
 - For information on PHP see the recommended course text book:
 - Sams Teach Yourself PHP, MySQL & JavaScript All-in-One Sixth Edition

JavaScript Functions Variable scope

Session Overview

- In this session we will introduce JavaScript Functions including:
 - syntax / prototypes / invocation (calling) / return / functions as variables
- We will consider:
 - variable scope and lifetime
 - Variable scope and closure
- We will provide worked examples showing:
 - The JavaScript <script> embedded in an HTML file with documentation
 - The output achieved

Functions

JavaScript Functions

- Functions form an essential element in JavaScript programming
- A function is defined once and may be re-used (i.e., *executed* (or 'called') multiple times. This promotes:
 - The same code (function) can be re-used multiple times with different *arguments* and *variable values* (to produce different results)
 - Code re-use which improves the code by reducing errors
 - Reduces the need to write a specific operation multiple times
- A JavaScript function
 - Is a block of code designed to perform a particular task.
 - Is executed when "something" invokes it (or 'calls' it)

JavaScript Function Syntax

- A JavaScript function is defined with the *function* keyword, followed by a *name*, followed by parentheses (...)
- Function names can contain letters, digits, underscores, and dollar signs (the same rules as *variables*).
- The parentheses may include parameter names separated by commas: (parameter1, parameter2, ...)
- The code to be executed, by the function, is placed inside a block defined by curly brackets: { }

JavaScript Function Prototype

- JavaScript functions follow a pre-defined pattern (termed a prototype)
- The function prototype is as follows:

```
function name(parameter1, parameter2, ...) {
    code to be executed
}
```

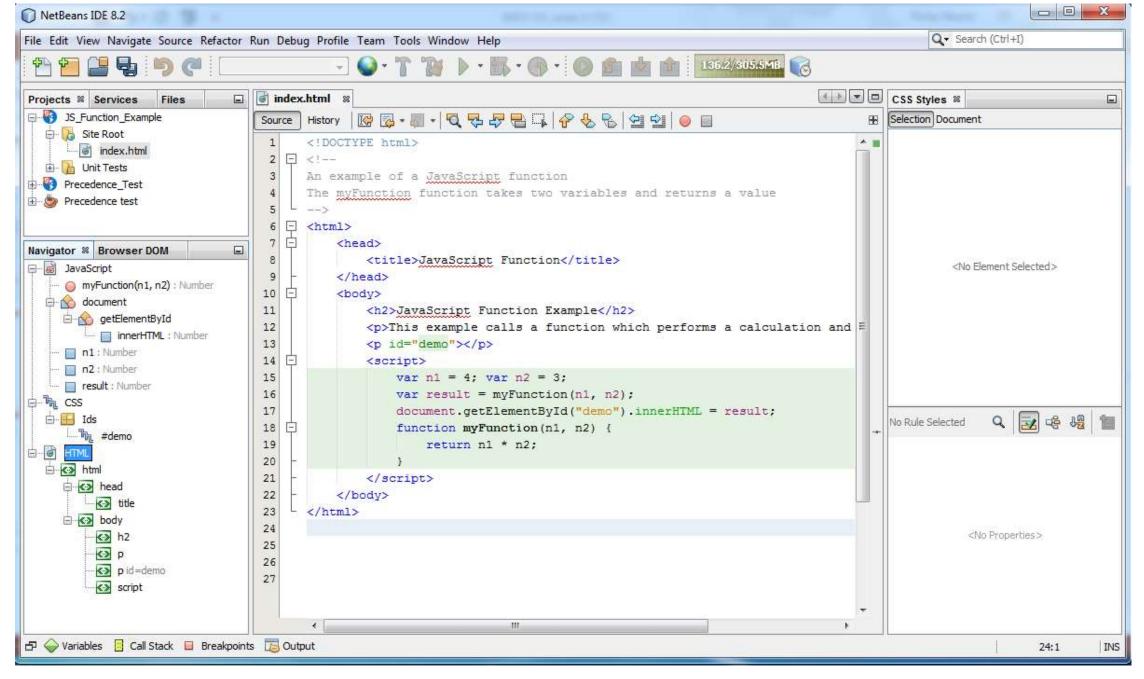
- Function *parameters* are listed inside the parentheses () in the function definition
- A function can contain no passed parameters
- Function arguments are the values received by the function when it is invoked
- Inside the function, the arguments (the parameters) behave as local variables

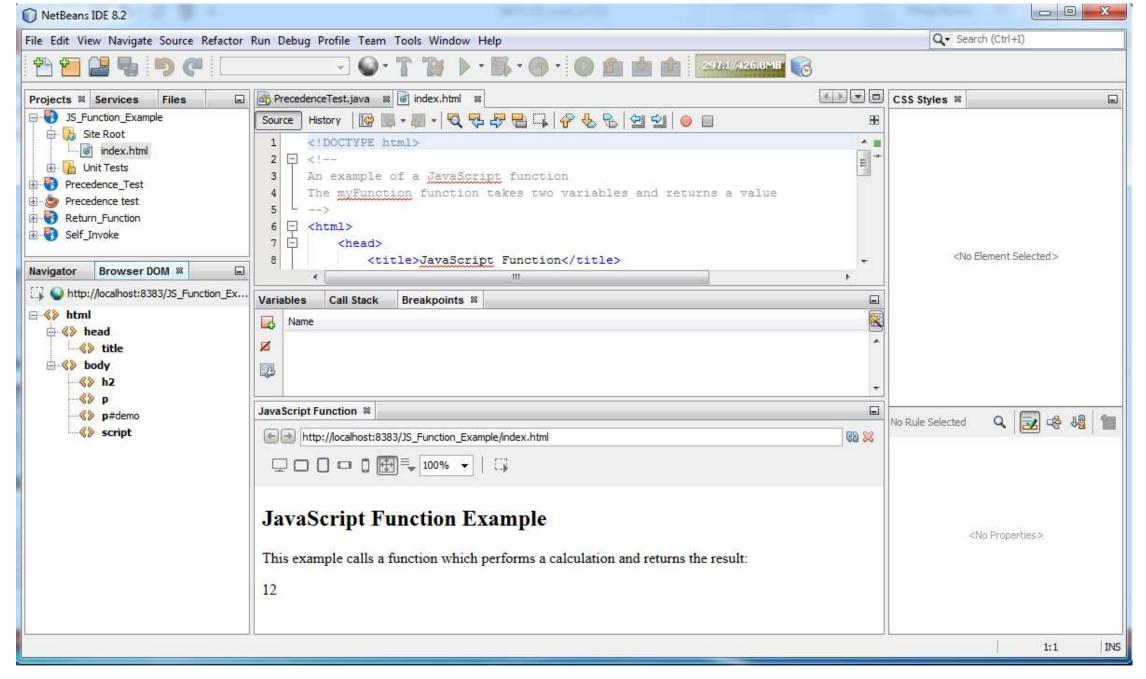
Function Invocation

- When a function is assigned to a property of an object it is termed a method of that object
 - Within the body of the method the keyword *this* refers to the *object*
- Within the body of a function the arguments [] array contain the complete set of arguments passed to the function
 - The JavaScript code inside the function will execute when "something" *invokes* (or *calls*) the function
- JavaScript is essentially an event-driven program, events can include:
 - When a user *clicks* a button in a form (or) when it is *called* from JavaScript code

Function Example

- The following example of a JavaScript function
- From the following slides we can see:
 - Lines 14 21: the JavaScript <script>
 - Line 15: the *variable declaration* and *assignment*
 - Line 16: the variable *result* is *declared* and *assigned* with the *value* returned by the *function*
 - Line 17: outputs the *result* to the web-browser
 - Line 18: the function prototype with the (two) variables passed to the function for processing
 - Line 19: calculates the return result and returns the result to line 16
- The output is shown in the embedded NetBeans web kit





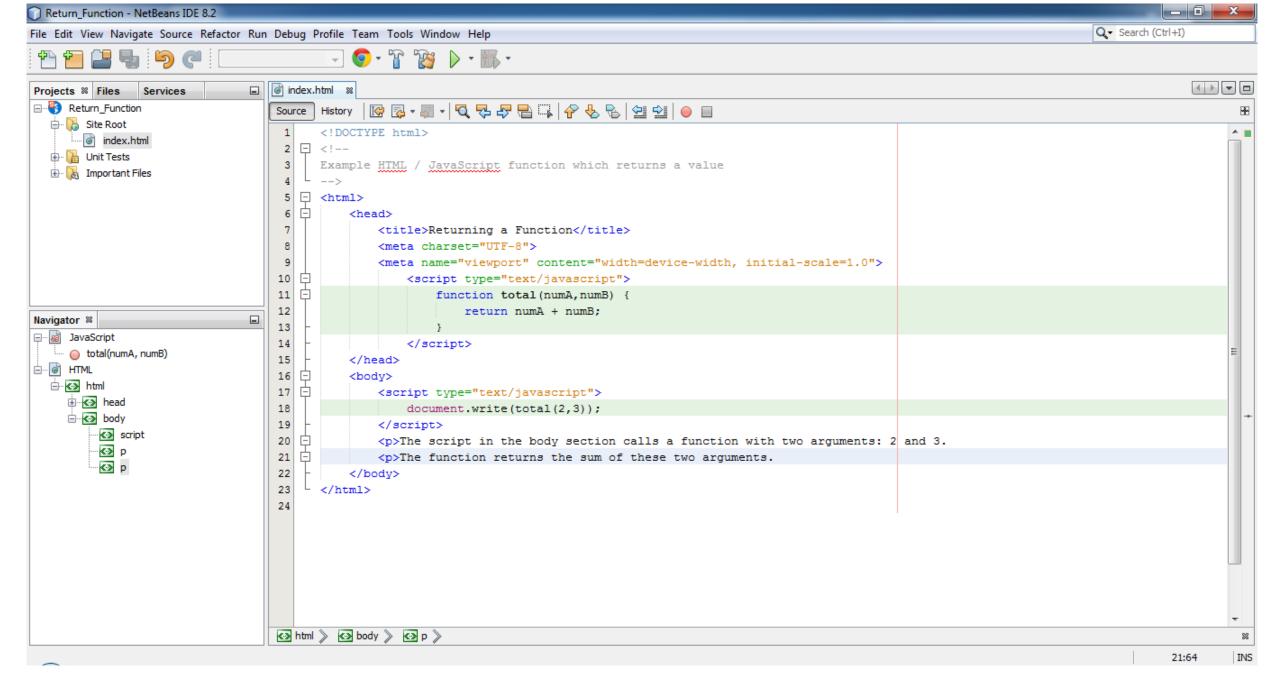
Function Return

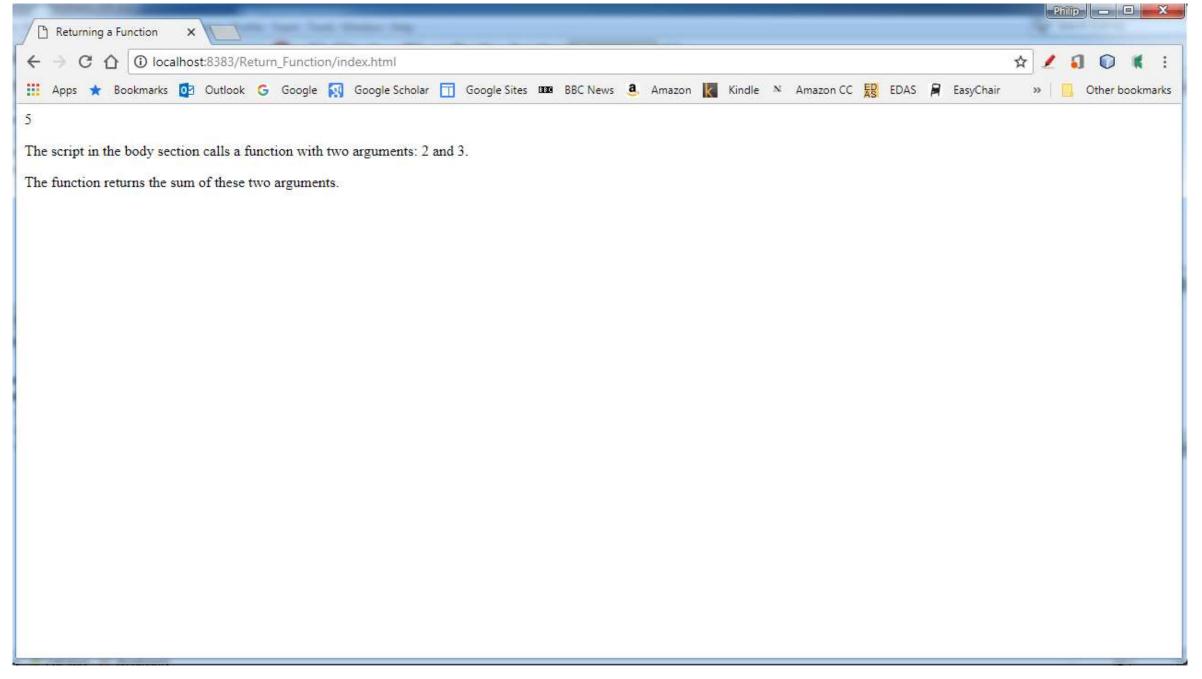
Function Return

- JavaScript functions receive input parameters and process the inputs to produce an output (the result)
- To process the inputs the body of the function will implement variables and statements to compute the result
- If the function was invoked from a *statement*, JavaScript will "*return*" to execute the code after the invoking statement
- The result is returned to the caller by the return statement
 - When JavaScript reaches a return statement the function will stop executing
 - Functions often compute a return value the return value is "returned" back to the "caller":
- A function can return only one result

Simple Function Return Example

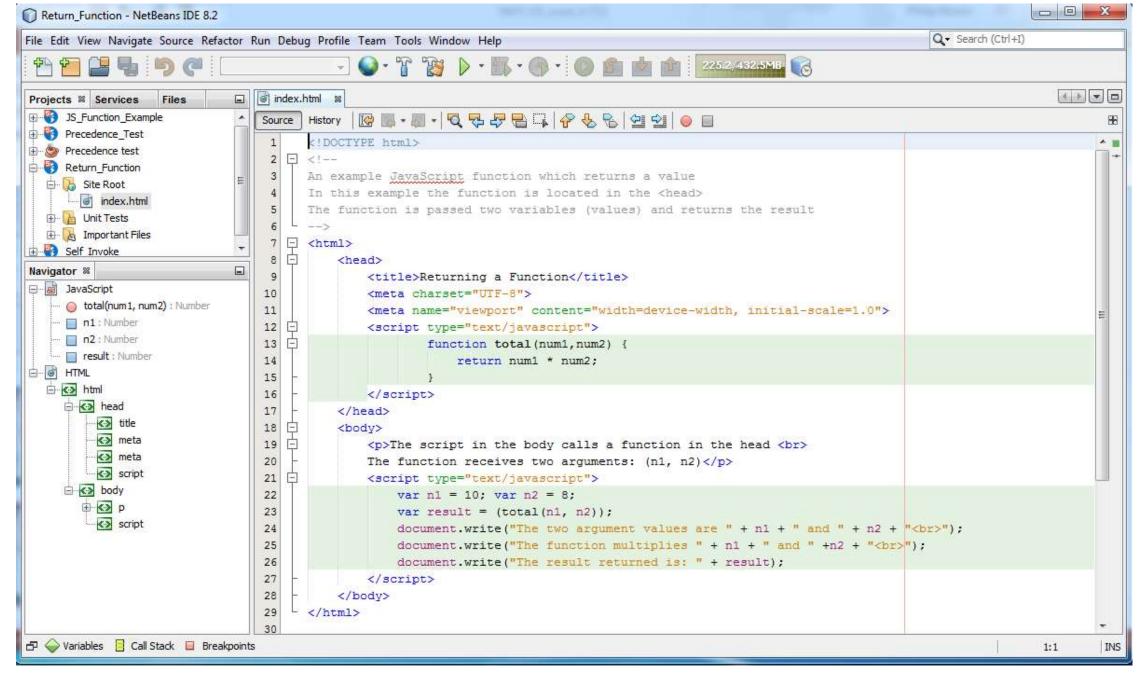
- The following example shows a simple JavaScript function
- From the following slides we can see:
 - Lines 10 14: is the JavaScript <script> located in the <head>
 - Lines 11 13: is the total () function (located in the <head>)
 - Lines 17 18: is the <script> in the <body>
 - Line 18: the total () function (located in the <head>) is called and the parameters passed to the function
 - Lines 24 26: outputs the result from the function
- The output is shown in the embedded NetBeans web kit

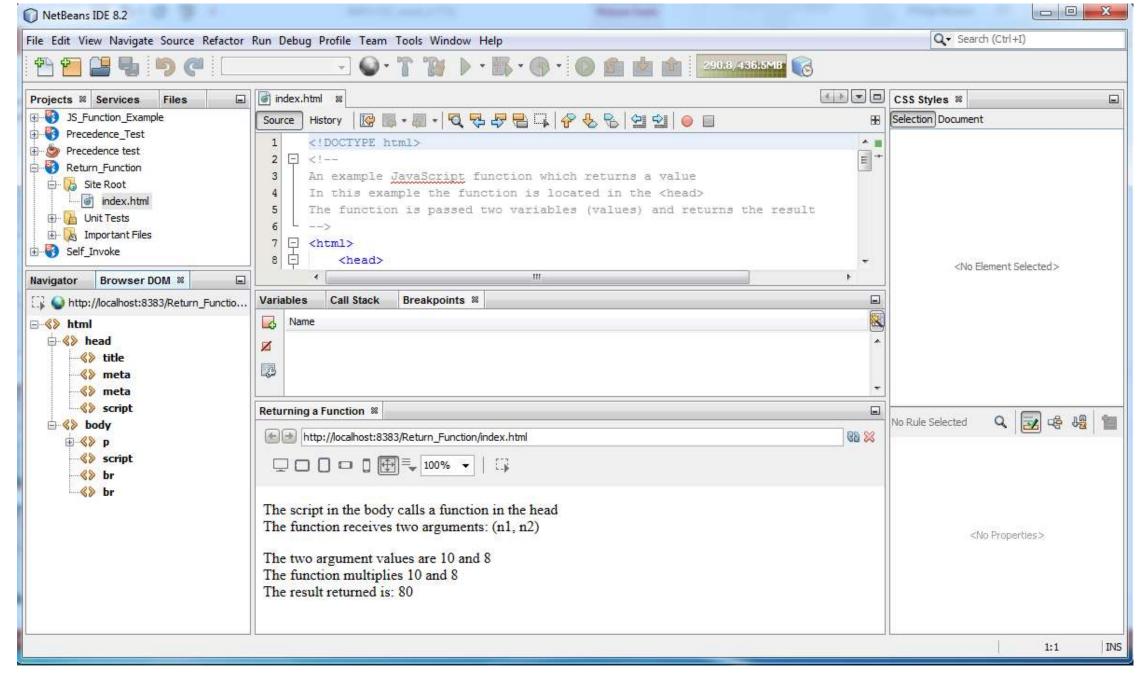




Function Return Example with Variables

- The following example shows a JavaScript function
- From the following slides we can see:
 - Lines 12 16: is the JavaScript <script> located in the <head>
 - Lines 13 15: is the total () function (located in the <head>)
 - Lines 21 27: is the <script> in the <body>
 - Line 23: the variable result is defined and is assigned the function call
 - Lines 24 26: outputs the result from the function
- The output is shown in the embedded NetBeans web kit





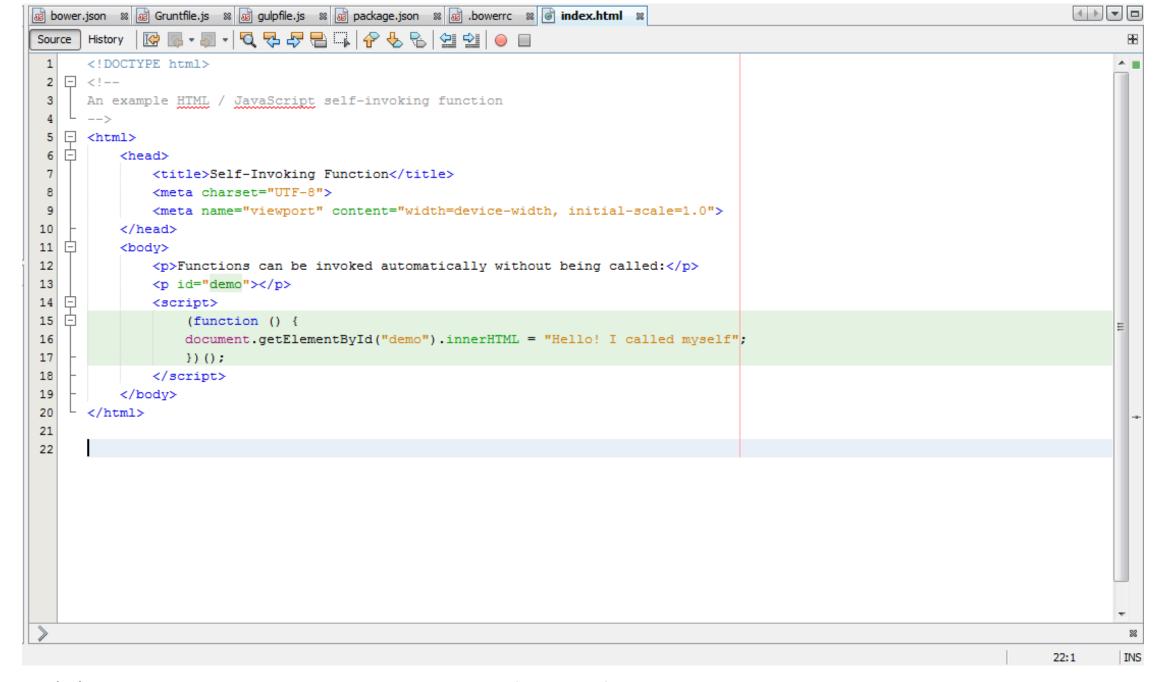
Self-Invoking Functions

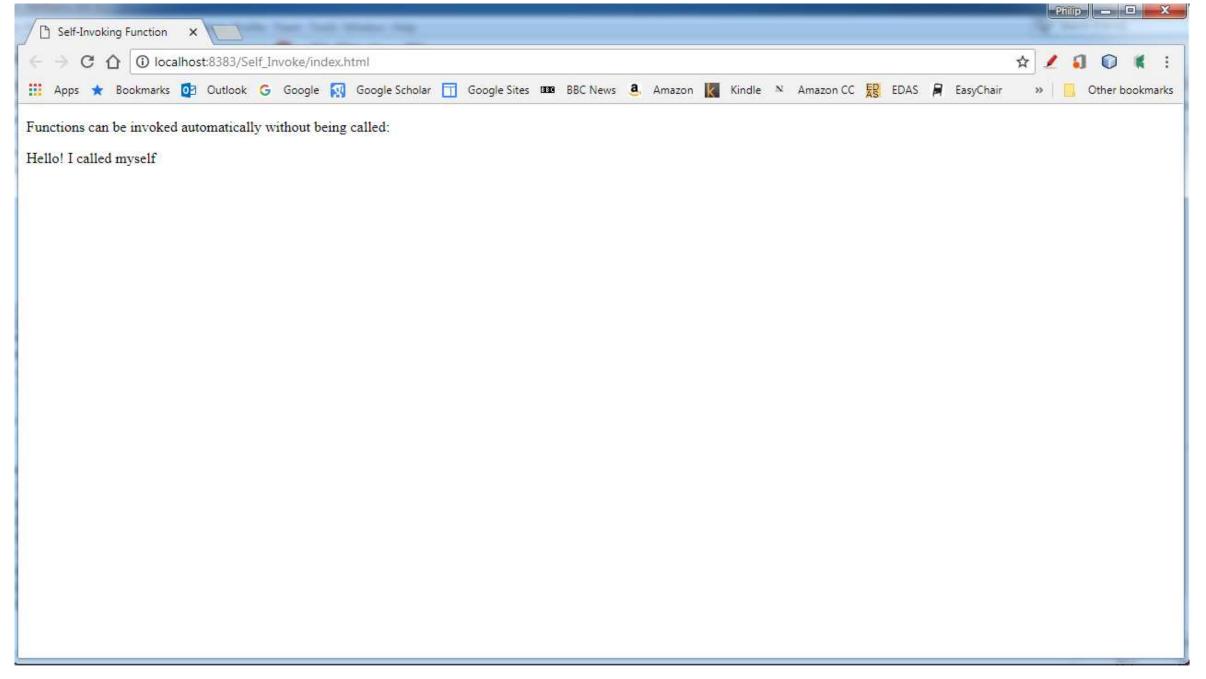
Self Invoking Functions

- A Function expression(s) can be made self-invoking
- A self-invoking expression is invoked automatically without being called
- Function expressions will execute automatically if the expression is followed by parentheses ()
- self-invoking can not be used for a function declaration.
- Parentheses () must be added around the function to indicate that it is a function expression

Self Invoking Function Example

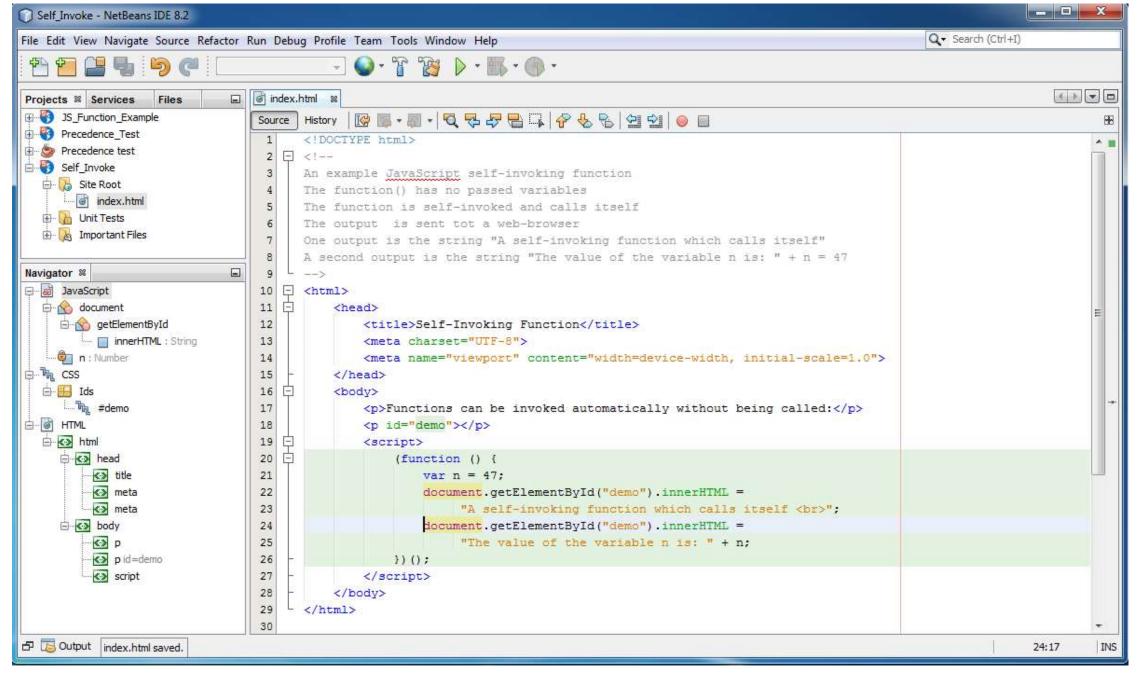
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
< ht.ml>
<body>
Functions can be invoked automatically without being called:
<script>
(function () {
   document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = "self invoked";
} ) ();
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

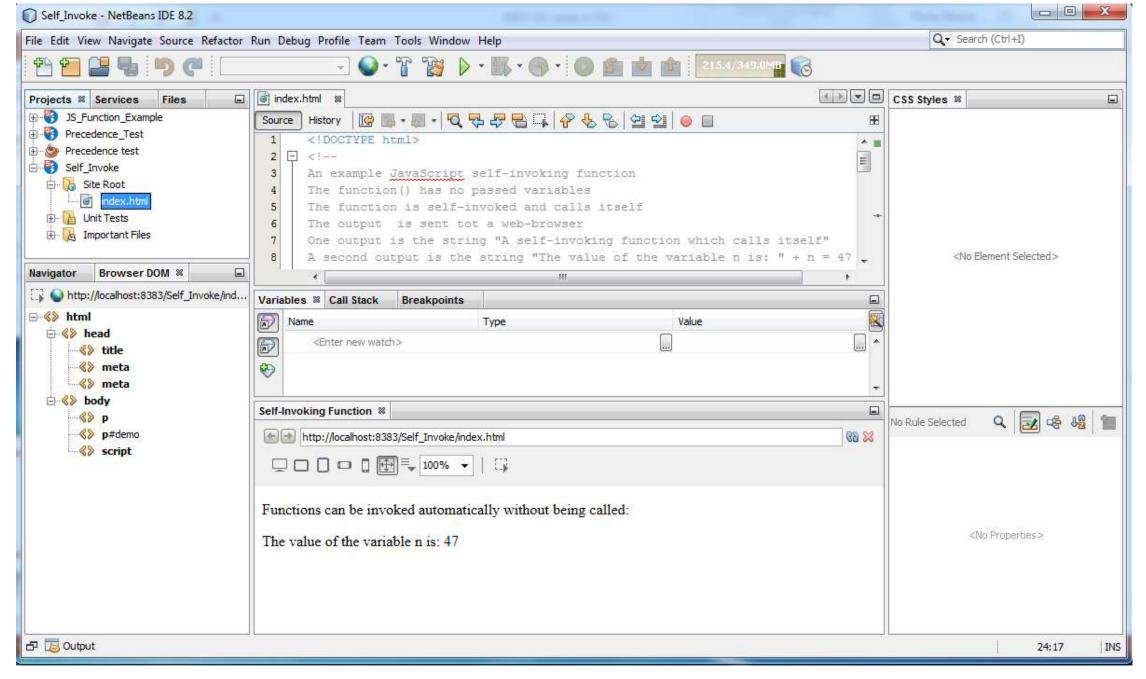




Self Invoking Function Example with a Variable

- The following example of a JavaScript function
- From the following slides we can see:
 - Lines 19 27: the JavaScript **<script>**
 - Lines 20 24: the *function()*
 - Line 21: the variable (n) declaration
 - Lines 23 24 and 24 25: the output to a web-browser
 - Line 26: the line of code (}) ();) invokes the function
 - The invocation process is similar to inner classes in the Java programming language
- The output is shown in the embedded NetBeans browser





Functions as Variables

Function as Variables

- Functions can be used the same way as variables are used
 - For example in all types of: formulas / assignments / calculations
- In the JavaScript code:
 - function () { })(); (self-invoking)
 - function();
 - The () operator *Invokes* (or *calls*)the function
- Accessing a function without the () will return the function definition instead of the function result

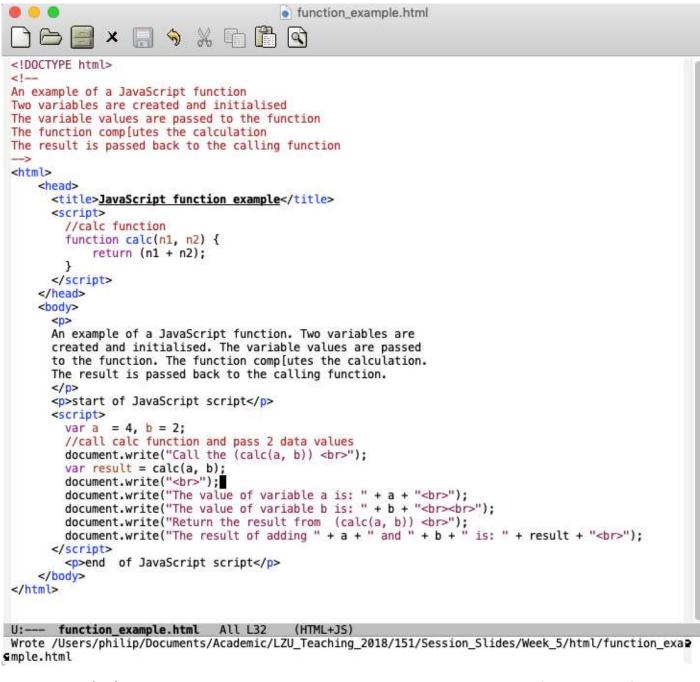
Function as Variables

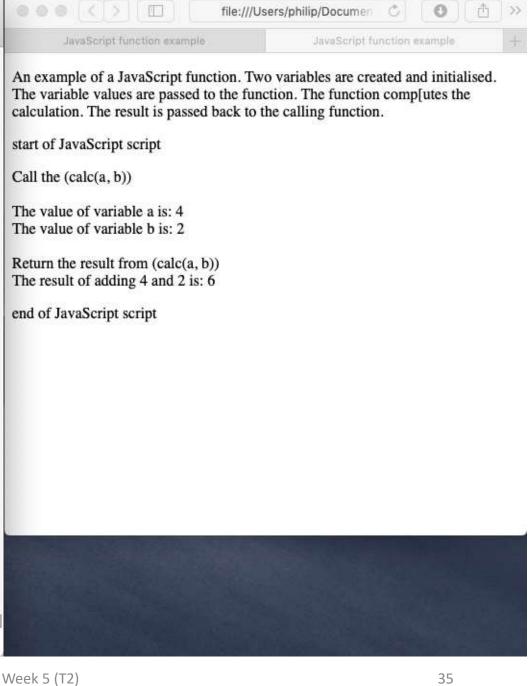
- In the worked examples shown in the NetBeans IDE we have demonstrated
 - The function prototype
 - Examples of functions and the passing of variables
 - The use of a function() as a variable
 - The assignment of a function() return result to a variable
 - The output to a web-browser with string operators
- Functions form the basis for JavaScript programming and the control of variables.

Worked Function Examples

Functions

- In the following worked example:
 - I show a function located in the <head> of the HTML file
 - The function is invoked (or called) in the <script> located in the <body>
 of the HTML file
 - The following slide shows:
 - The JavaScript program
 - The output
 - The program is written using EMACS
 - Note: the comments documenting the code and its purpose



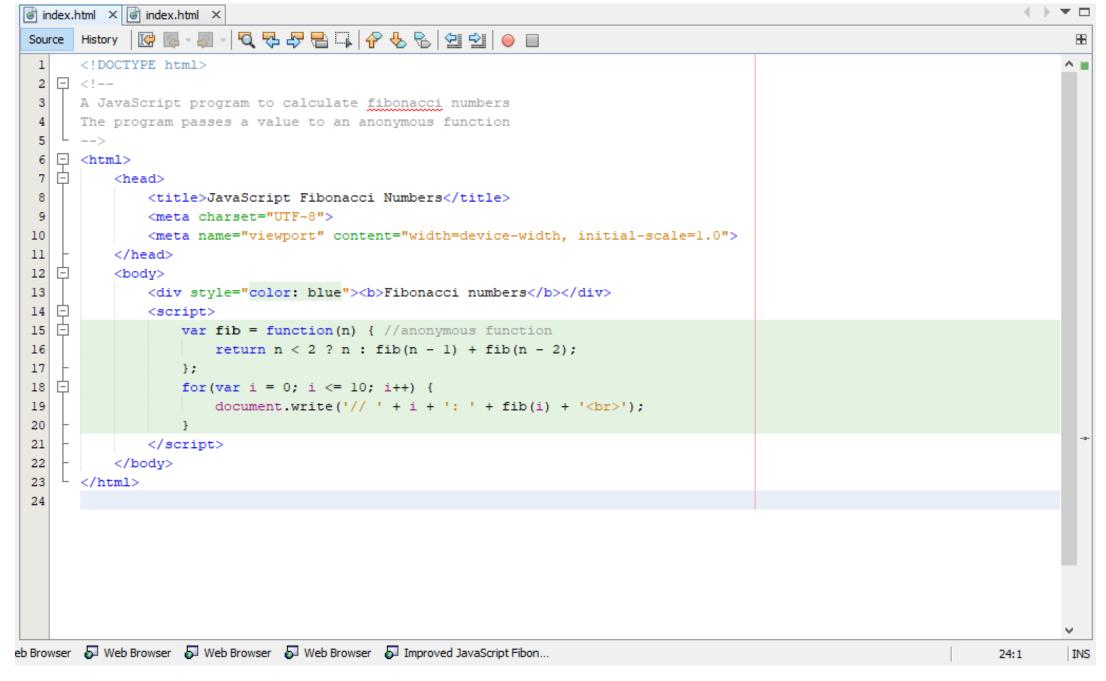


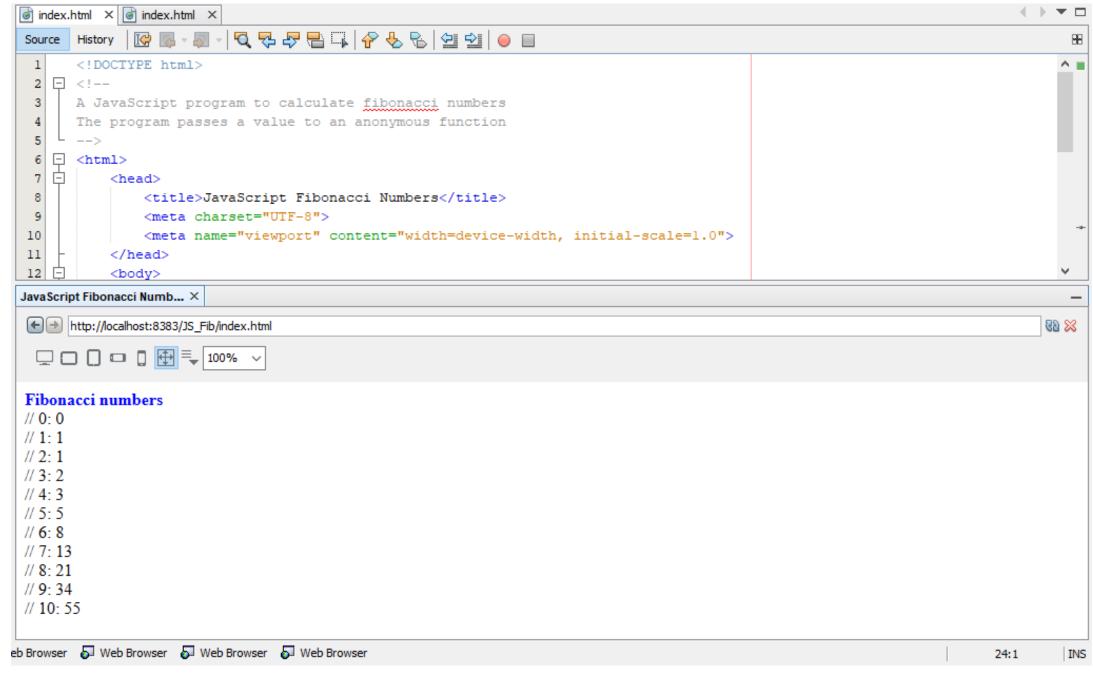
Memoization (1)

- In the following worked examples I show the calculation of Fibonacci numbers
- The first example works but there are 453 function calls: I call the function 11 times and it calls itself 442 times
- In the second example there are 29 function calls: again I call the function 11 times but it calls itself only 18 times
 - The second example improves on the first example using a process termed "memoization" where the values of the function calls previously calculated values are remembered by the program

Memoization (2)

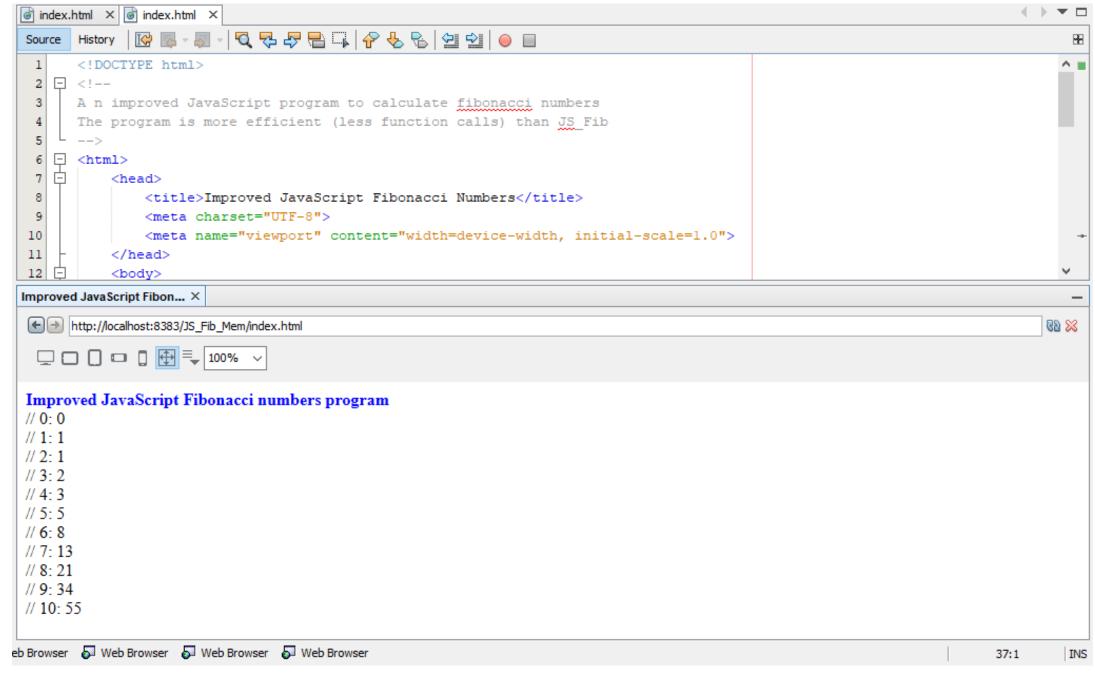
- In the following slides we can see the memo[] array hidden in a closure (introduced later in this tutorial)
- The reduction in the number of function calls results from the storage of previously calculated values in the memo[] array
 - When the program is run the function carries out a 'lookup' of the array and if the result exists it is immediately returned
- The following slides show:
 - The recursive function
 - The improved recursive function with *closure* using *memoization*





```
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index.html × index.html ×
              Source History
       <!DOCTYPE html>
    <!--
       A n improved JavaScript program to calculate fibonacci numbers
       The program is more efficient (less function calls) than JS Fib
       -->
       <html>
           <head>
               <title>Improved JavaScript Fibonacci Numbers</title>
               <meta charset="UTF-8">
               <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  10
           </head>
 12
           <body>
 13
               <div style="color: blue">
                   <br/>b>Improved JavaScript Fibonacci numbers program</b>
 14
 15
               </div>
 16
               <script>
                   var memoizer = function(memo, formula) {
 17
 18
                       var recur = function(n) {
                           var result = memo[n];
 19
                           if(typeof result !== 'number') {
 20
 21
                               result = formula(recur, n);
                               memo[n] = result;
 23
 24
                           return result:
 25
                       };
 26
                       return recur;
 27
                   };
                   var fib = memoizer([0, 1], function(recur, n) {
 28
                       return recur(n - 1) + recur(n - 2);
 29
 30
                   });
                                                                                                                             v
                   for(var i = 0; i <= 10; i++)
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  7 =
           <head>
                                                                                                                              A -
               <title>Improved JavaScript Fibonacci Numbers</title>
               <meta charset="UTF-8">
               <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
  10
  11
            </head>
  12
           <body>
 13
               <div style="color: blue">
  14
                   <b>Improved JavaScript Fibonacci numbers program</b>
  15
               </div>
 16
               <script>
  17
                   var memoizer = function(memo, formula) {
 18
                       var recur = function(n) {
 19
                           var result = memo[n];
  20
                           if(typeof result !== 'number') {
                               result = formula(recur, n);
  21
  22
                               memo[n] = result;
  23
  24
                            return result;
  25
                        };
  26
                        return recur;
  27
                   };
                   var fib = memoizer([0, 1], function(recur, n) {
  28
                       return recur(n - 1) + recur(n - 2);
  29
                   });
  30
                   for(var i = 0; i <= 10; i++) {
  31
  32
                       document.write('// ' + i + ': ' + fib(i) + '<br>');
  33
  34
               </script>
           </body>
  35
       </html>
  36
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Scope

- Scope in a computer program controls the visibility and lifetime of variables
- In many high-level languages' variables defined within a block can be released when execution of the block is finished
- JavaScript does not include block scope (even thought the syntax suggests it does)
- In JavaScript ES6 (introduced in a later tutorial) the **let** keyword (shown later in this tutorial) has been introduced to provide a measure of block scope

Global and Local Scope

- In JavaScript there are two levels of scope:
 - Global scope
 - Local scope
- Any variable:
 - Declared outside of a function has Global scope
 - An identifier (variable) created without the var keyword is automatically converted into a Global variable
 - Global variables are accessible from anywhere in JavaScript code
 - All scripts and functions in a web-page can access global variables

Function Scope

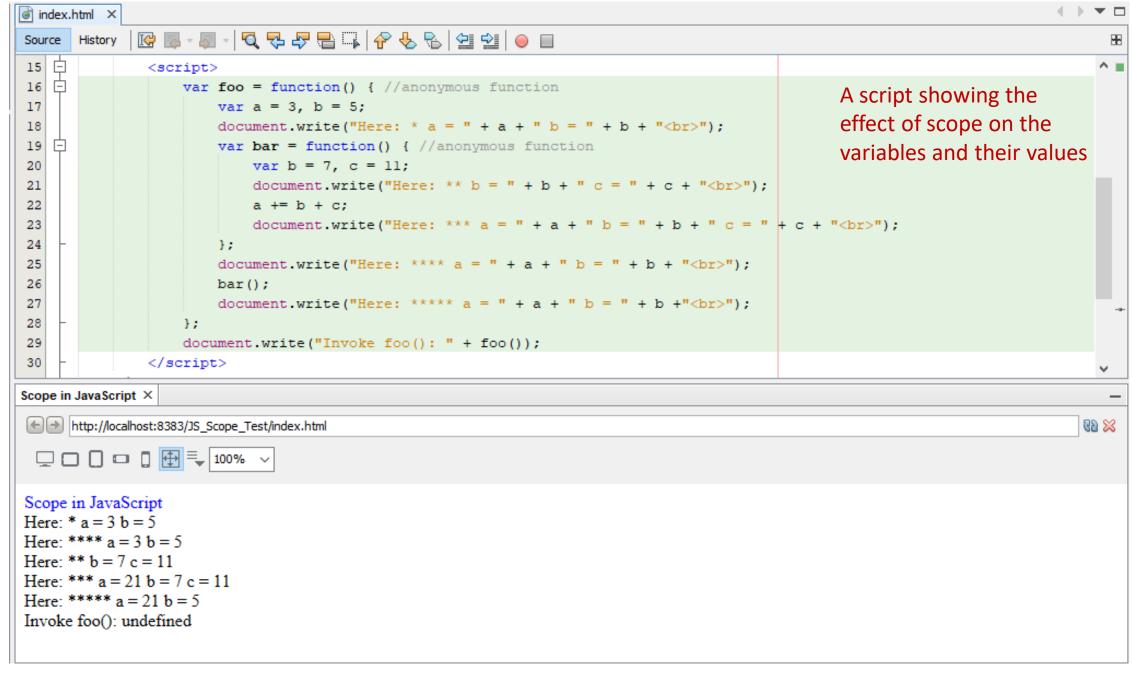
- JavaScript does include function scope
- A function variable has function scope
 - Variables declared within a function has function scope
 - A variable declared within that function is only accessible from that function and any nested functions
 - Function arguments (parameters) work as local variables inside functions
 - An identifier (variable) created in a function without the **var** keyword is automatically converted into a **Global** variable

Local Scope

- Variables declared within a JavaScript function, become **local** to the function.
- Local variables have Function scope
 - They can only be accessed within the function
- Since local variables are only recognized inside their functions
 - Variables with the same name can be used in different functions
- Local variables are:
 - Created when a function executes
 - Deleted when the function is terminates
- Function arguments (*parameters*) are local variables inside functions

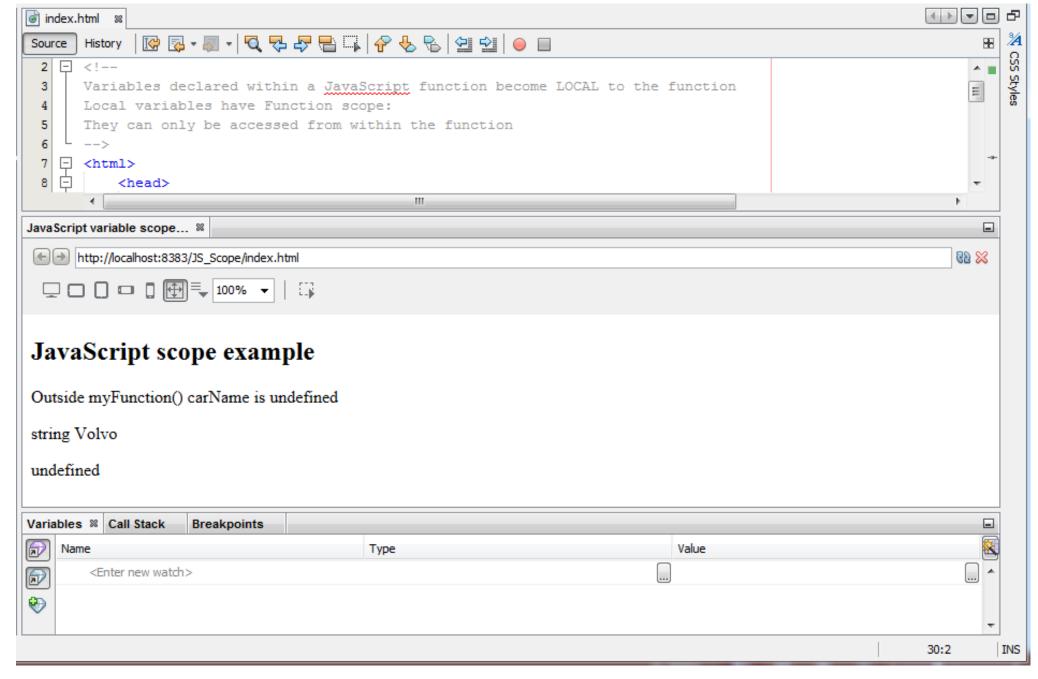
Global Variables and Scope

- Global JavaScript Variables:
 - A variable declared outside a function is a GLOBAL variable
 - A Global variable has Global scope: all scripts and functions on a web page can access it
 - Assigning a value to a variable that has not been declared will automatically create a Global variable
- There are some significant changes implemented in JavaScript ES:
 - This will be addressed in another tutorial
- The following worked examples show variable scope and the resulting output in range of JavaScript programs

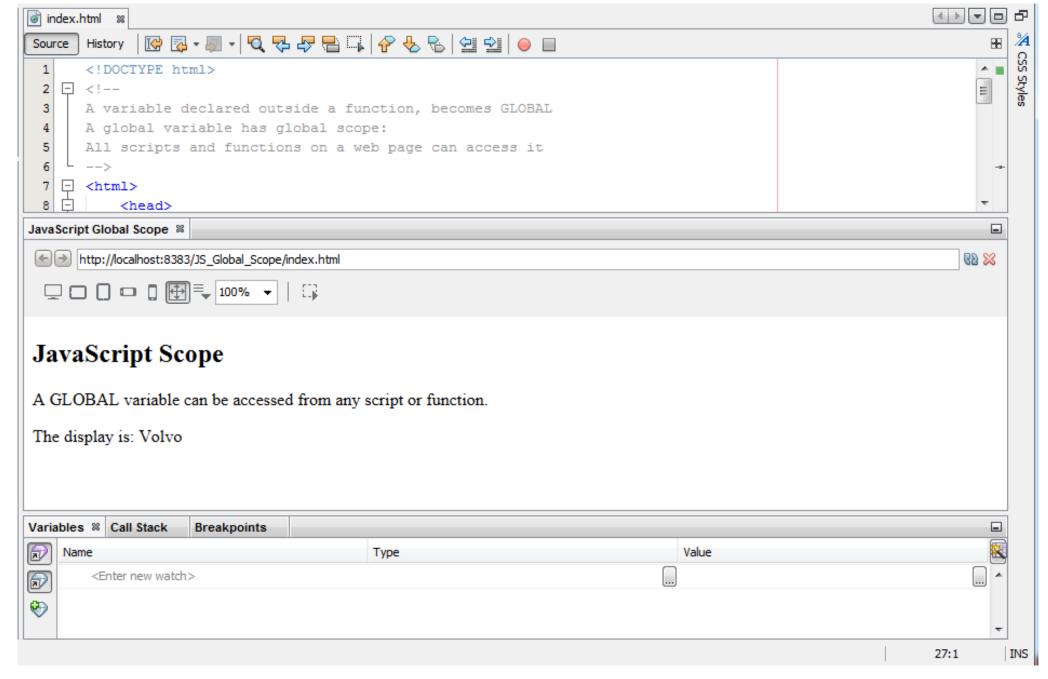


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                                                                                                            *
Source
 2 = <!--
     Variables declared within a JavaScript function become LOCAL to the function
     Local variables have Function scope:
     They can only be accessed from within the function
    L -->
   - <html>
          <head>
             <title>JavaScript variable scope example</title>
10
             <meta charset="UTF-8">
11
             <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
12
         </head>
         <body>
             <h2>JavaScript scope example</h2>
14
             Outside myFunction() carName is undefined
15
16
             17

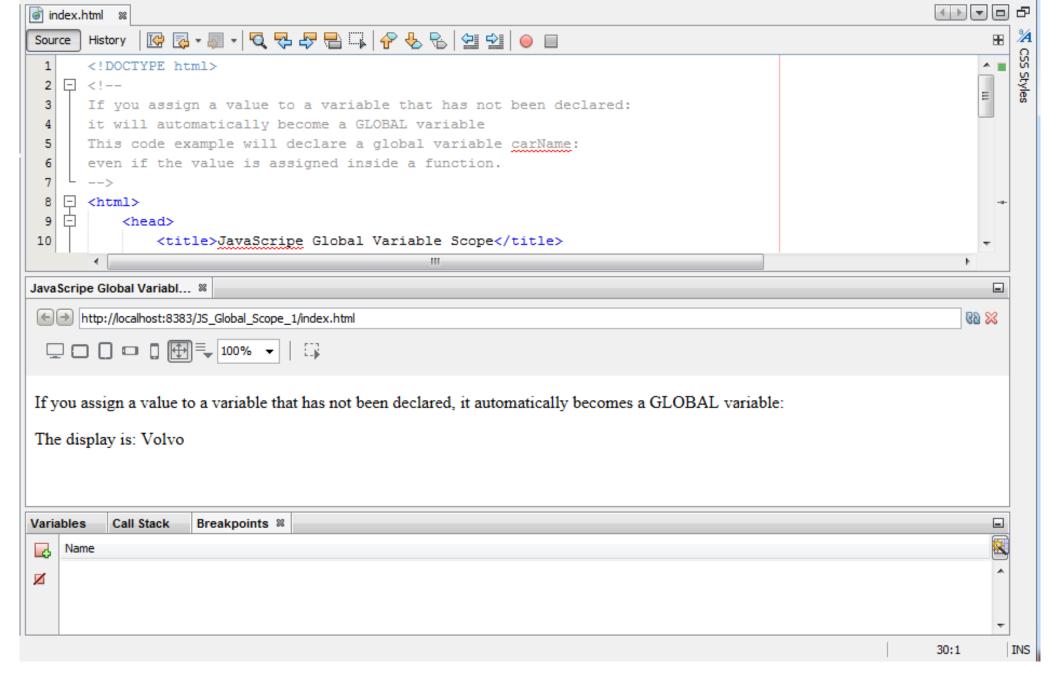
18
   <script>
19
                 myFunction();
                 function myFunction() {
20
                     var carName = "Volvo";
21
                     document.getElementById("demo1").innerHTML =
                                            typeof carName + " " + carName;
24
25
                     document.getElementById("demo2").innerHTML =
26
                                            typeof carName;
             </script>
         </body>
29
       </html>
30
```



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index.html 🛭
      History | 🔀 🐶 - 💹 - | 🕄 🖓 - 👺 - 🖺 | 🕌 | 🚱 - 😓 | 🖆 - 🚇 |
      <!DOCTYPE html>
   <!--
      A variable declared outside a function, becomes GLOBAL
     A global variable has global scope:
      All scripts and functions on a web page can access it
    L -->
   - <html>
          <head>
              <title>JavaScript Global Scope</title>
10
              <meta charset="UTF-8">
11
              <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
12
          </head>
         <body>
14
             <h2>JavaScript Scope</h2>
15
             A GLOBAL variable can be accessed from any script or function.
16
             17
             <script>
18
                var carName = "Volvo";
19
               myFunction();
               function myFunction() {
20
                     document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML =
21
22
                                            "The display is: " + carName;
23
              </script>
 24
          </body>
 25
      </html>
 26
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index.html №
      History | 🔀 🐶 - 🗐 - | 🔾 🖓 - 👺 🖶 🖫 | 🚱 😓 | 💇 💇 | 🍥 🔲
      <!DOCTYPE html>
   <!--
      If you assign a value to a variable that has not been declared:
     it will automatically become a GLOBAL variable
     This code example will declare a global variable carName:
     even if the value is assigned inside a function.
     <html>
          <head>
10
             <title>JavaScripe Global Variable Scope</title>
11
              <meta charset="UTF-8">
12
             <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
13
          </head>
14
         <body>
   白
15
             <a>>
                If you assign a value to a variable that has not been declared,
16
                 it automatically becomes a GLOBAL variable:
17
18
             19
20
             <script>
                 mvFunction();
21
                 // code here can use carName as a global variable
22
                 document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = "The display is: " + carName;
23
24
                 function myFunction() {
                     carName = "Volvo";
25
                                                            Note: carName = "Volvo" has not used
26
27
             </script>
                                                            var : carName is automatically converted
          </body>
                                                            into a Global variable
      </html>
30
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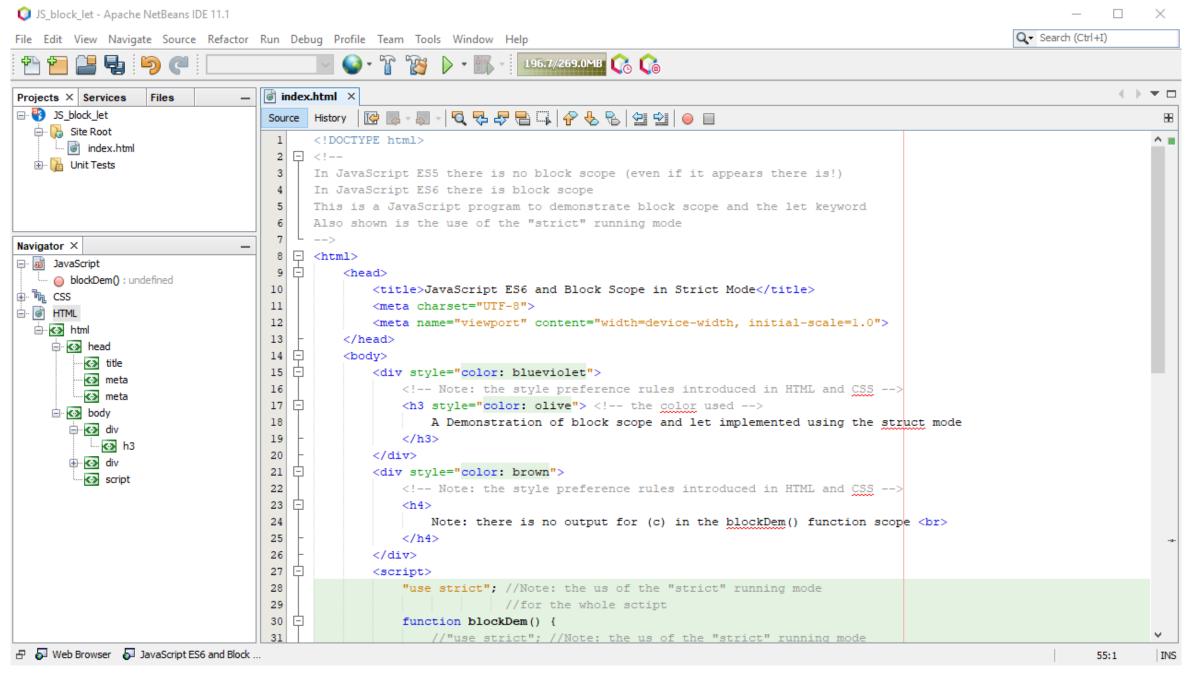


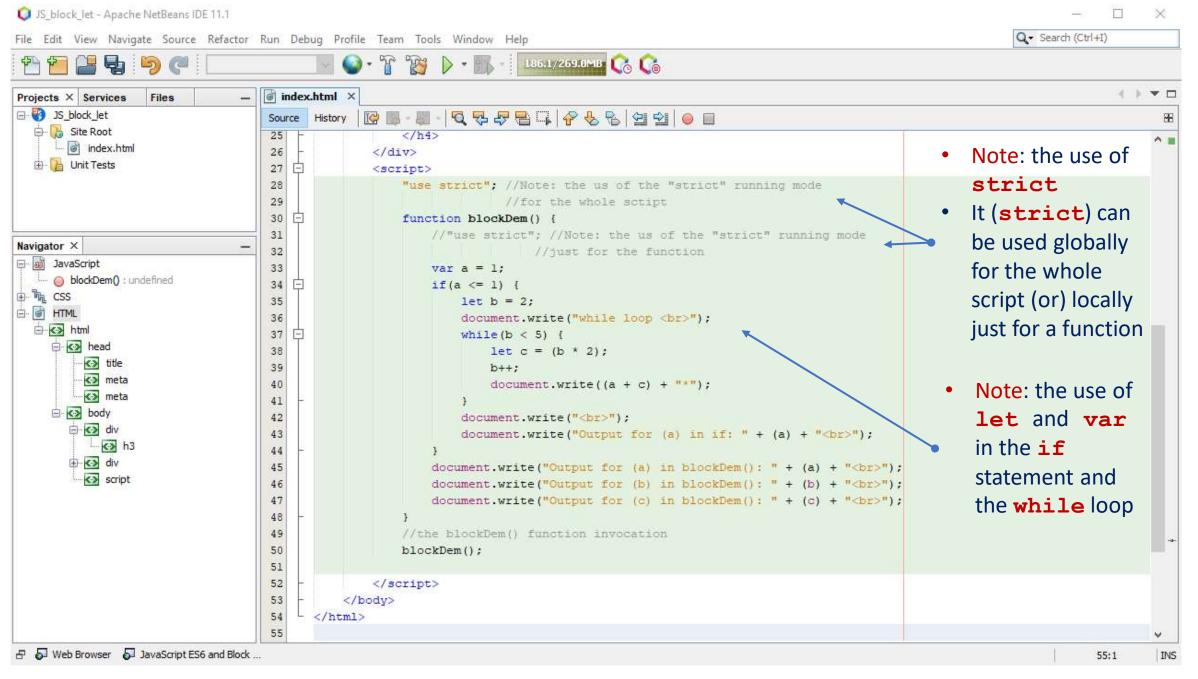
Variable Scope

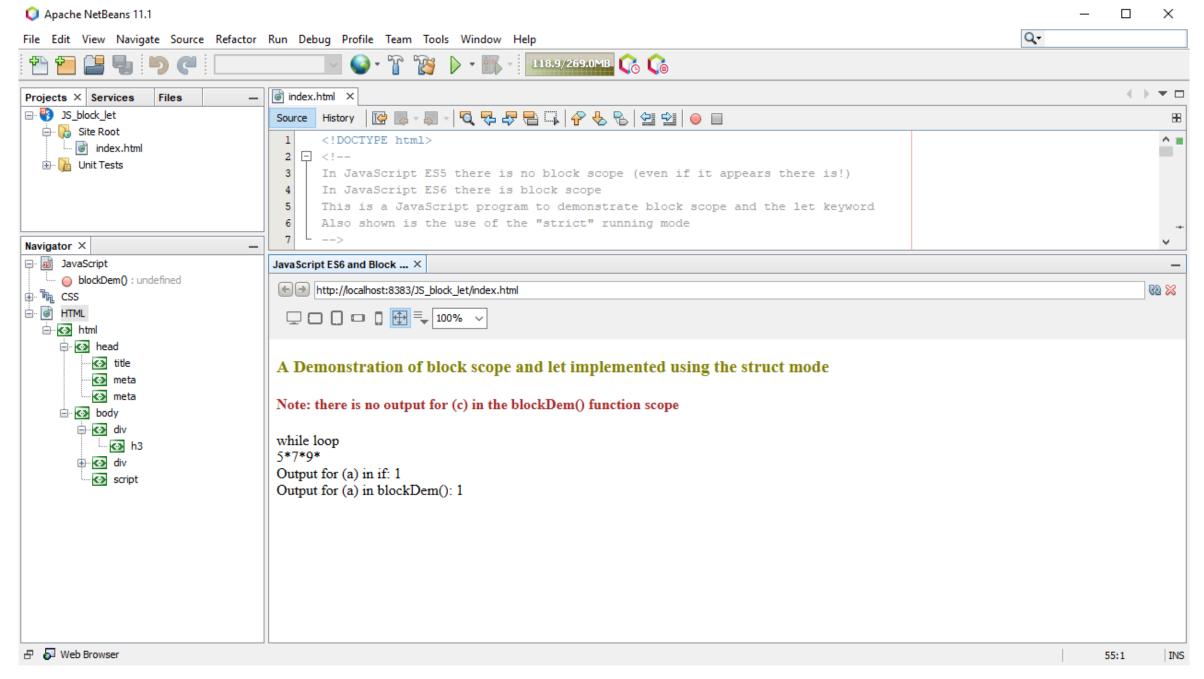
- In JavaScript functions we must consider variable *scope*
- We have introduced:
 - Global variables
 - Local variables
 - Variables with function scope
 - Variables with block scope (a block is defined by the { ... })
 - For example: a block can be a for loop (which includes nested for loops) or an IF statement (with nested IF statements)
- Developments in the JavaScript ES6 standard
 - The ECMA standard supports block-level scope using the let keyword
 - The following slides demonstrate block scope and let

JavaScript Functions and Scope

- In the JavaScript ES5 language standard there is block scope support
- However: JavaScript ES6 has introduced block scope using let
- JavaScript ES6 has a large number of revisions and additions when compared to ES5:
 - For comprehensive details of the Es6 JavaScript language specification see:
 - https://www.ecma-international.org/ecma-262/10.0/index.html#Title
 - https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/javascript
- The following worked example shows the ES6 block scope and **let** and the use of the **strict** running mode shown used globally and locally







Variable Lifetime

- The lifetime of a JavaScript variable is defined the scope
- Global JavaScript variables
 - Are available across a JavaScript program while the program is running
 - The program is running while the web-page is open
- In a web browser
 - Global variables are destroyed (deleted) when the web-page (or tab) is closed
 - However: global variables remain available to new web-pages loaded into the same window object
- Local (function scope) variables
 - The function scope variables are created when the function object is created (called)
 - Function scope variables are *destroyed* (deleted) on function *exit*

Why is Variable Scope Important?

- As we have seen JavaScript is based on a Global object
 - This can be a problem for JavaScript programming
 - Programmers must know how and when variable is modified
- Why is this important?
 - Unrestricted access to a variable (a feature of the *Global object*) may be required and useful
 - However: *uncontrolled* changes to the variable (data) can be a significant problem
 - Uncontrolled (Global) variables may result in unreported errors
 - Such errors are not syntax errors but logic errors

Static Variables

- Global variables can be a problem for JavaScript
- There may be times when a static variable is needed in a JavaScript function
 - Static variables have restricted (local) scope when used within a function and their values cannot be modified outside a function / and maintain their value between function calls
 - Global variables can be modified outside a function
- Why is this important?
 - Using global variables in a function may be required (or) it may result in (unreported) logic errors

- Global variables can be modified outside a function
- In contrast consider where variables are declared as function parameters:
 - Variables declared static are destroyed on the function's exit
 - A static variable will not lose its value when the function exits and will still hold that value should the function be called again
- Why is this important?
 - A global variable may be required (such as a constant)
 - However: local (function) scope may be required as there are potential issues with variable naming and variable name re-use (with logic errors)

- Why is variable scope and static variables important?
- A Global variable (e.g., PI) can be modified outside a function
 - This is a problem for a *constant* where a variable used multiple times (such as a *pre-set value for PI*) will must not be modified
- However: local (function) scope may be required
 - To avoid potential issues with variable naming
 - To restrict the visibility of a variable (the scope)
 - To prevent problems with *name re-use*
 - Such problems may result in logic errors (correct syntax but incorrect result)
 - Logic errors are not reported and are very hard to identify and correct

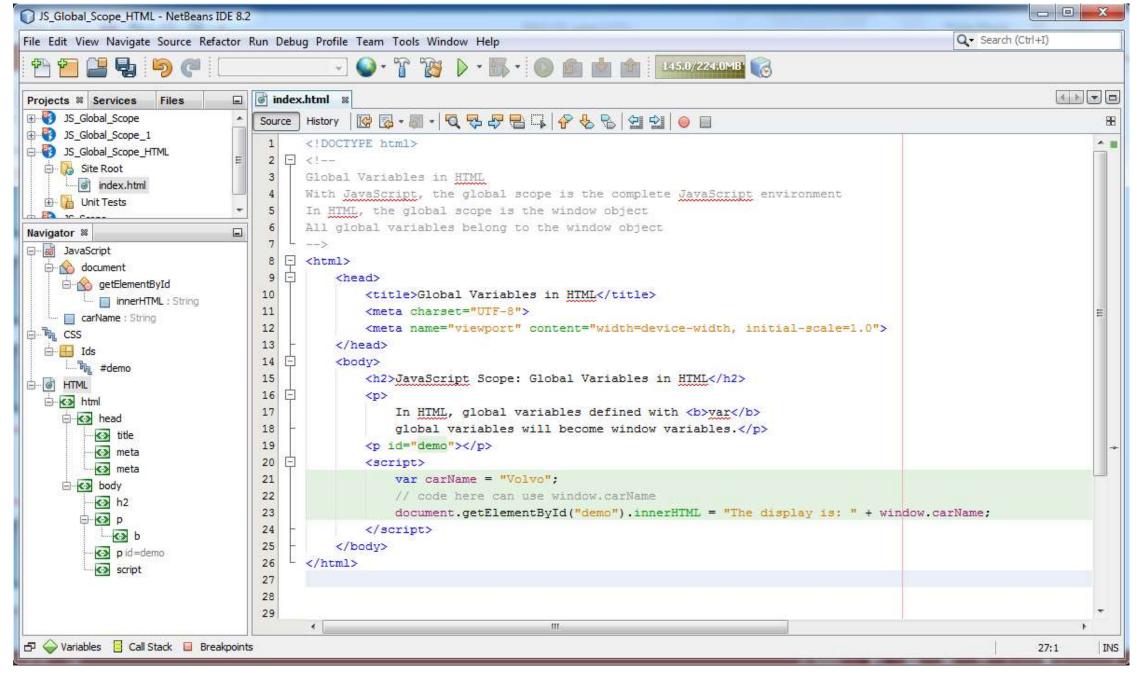
- As we have seen functions provide a means by which variable scope and access may be controlled
- Where variables are declared as function parameters:
 - A static variable has restricted local scope in a function
 - The values for a static variable when used in a function cannot be modified outside the function
 - A **static** variable will not lose its value when the function exits and will still hold that value if the function is called again
- These properties help to
 - Understand the program logic
 - Control variable visibility

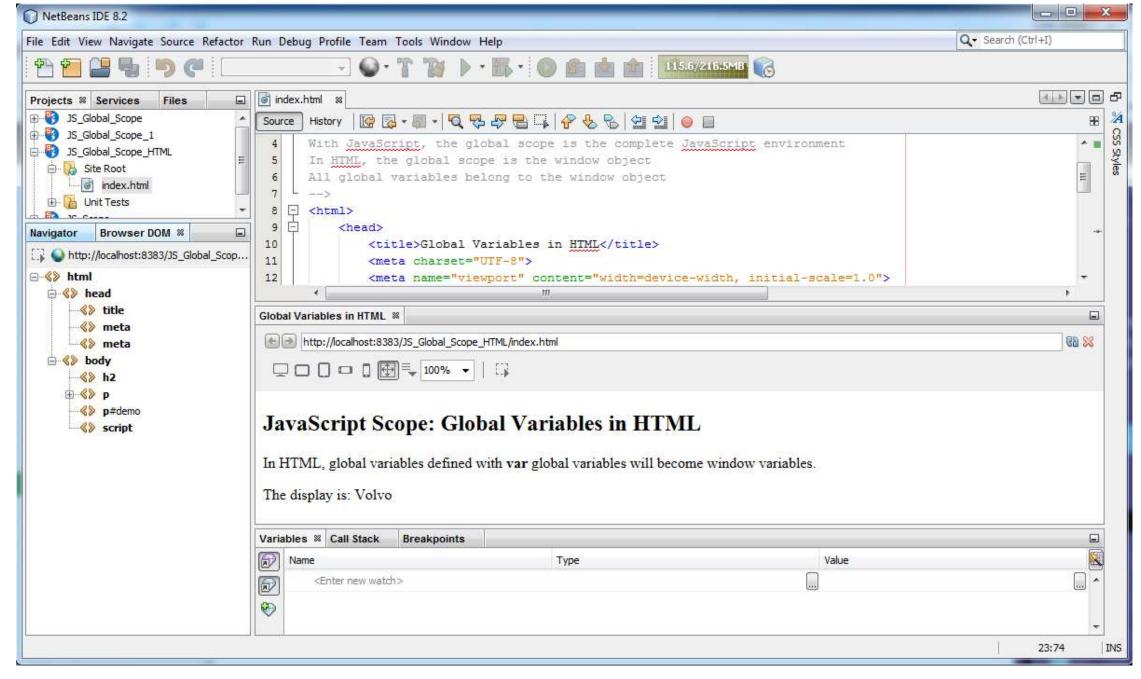
JavaScript Objects and Functions as Variables

- In JavaScript: objects and functions are also variables
- When assigning a value to an undeclared variable:
 - The variable will automatically become a Global variable
- The reason for this is:
 - In JavaScript: all top-level variables are grouped in a common namespace (the Global object)
 - Global scope is the complete JavaScript environment
- The Global design of JavaScript is potentially an issue

Global Scope in HTML

- In JavaScript controlling the scope and lifetime of a JavaScript variable can be achieved using functions
- Controlling Global Variables in HTML
 - In JavaScript **global** scope is the complete JavaScript environment
 - In HTML global scope is the window object
 - All global variables belong to the window object)
- In web browsers
 - Global variables are deleted when the browser window (or tab) is closed
 - Global variables remain available to new pages loaded into the same window
 - This is clearly a potential source of a broad range of problems

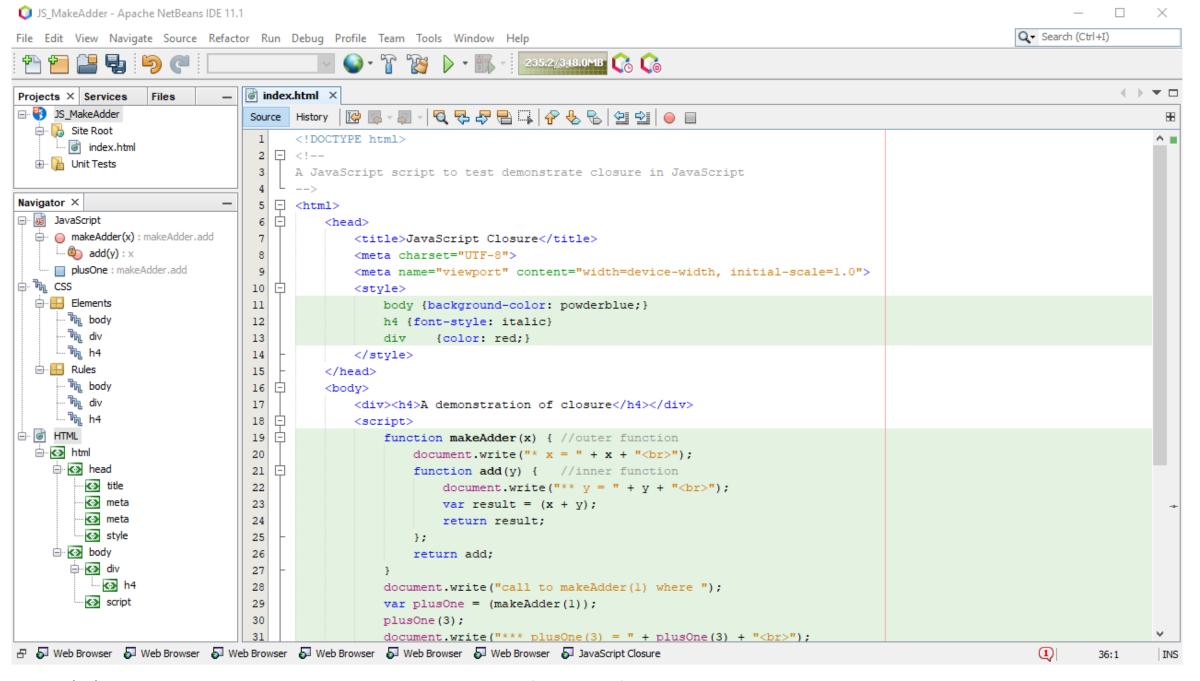


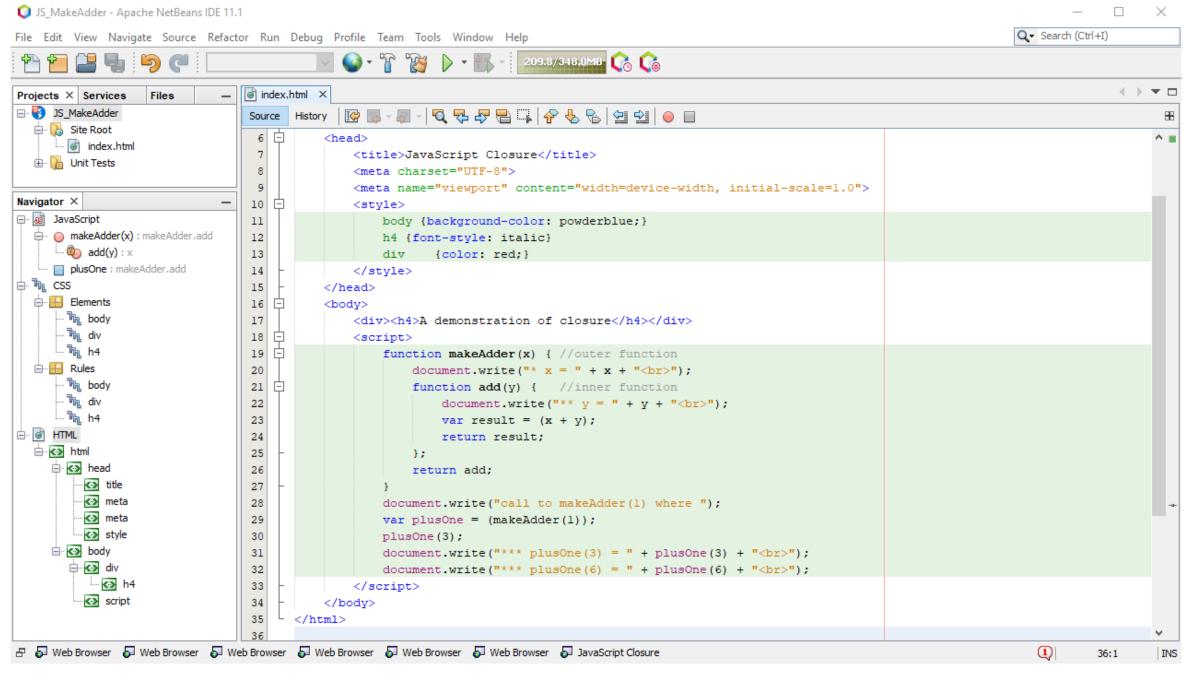


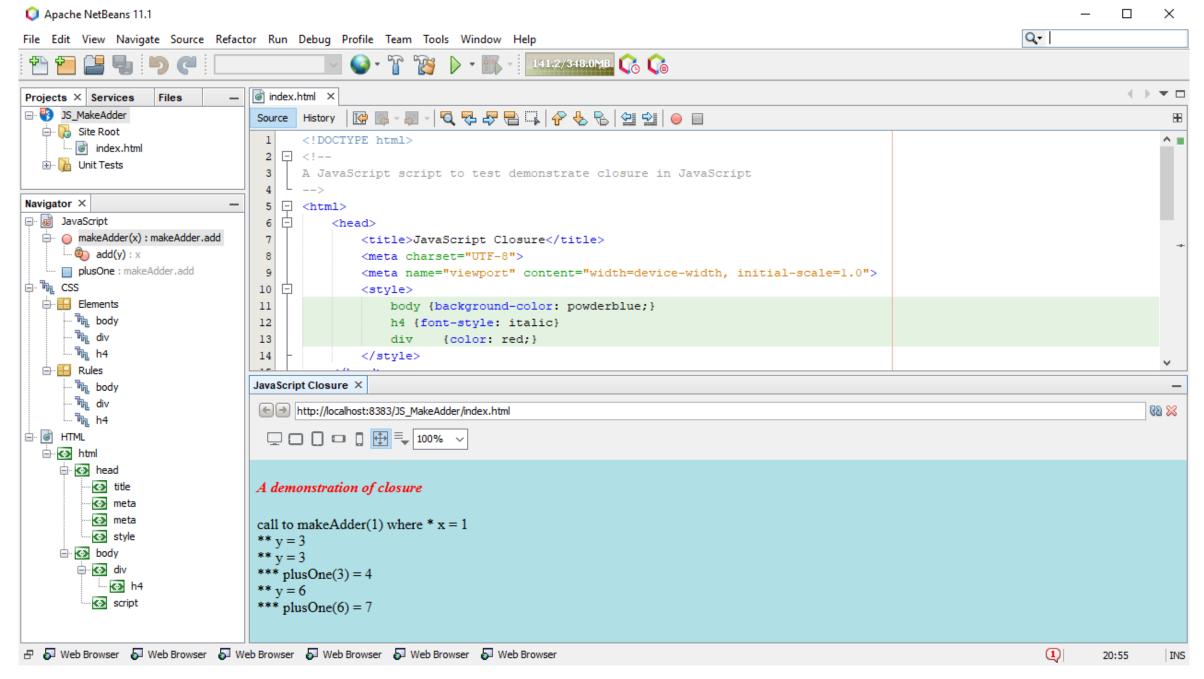
Variable Scope and Closure

Closure

- In JavaScript *closure* is an important (and least understood) concept
- Closure is a way to remember and continue to access a function's scope (the variable(s)) when a function has terminated
- In the following worked example:
 - The **reference** to the inner **add** (...) is returned with each call to the outer **makeAdder** (...)
 - var plusOne = makeAdder(1): sets the value of (x) to (1)
 - plusOne (3): now sets the value of (y) to (3)
 - The inner add (...) function now adds x + y (1+3) and returns 4







Review

- We have introduced the basics of JavaScript functions
- We have shown the JavaScript function:
 - syntax / prototype / invocation (calling)
- We have shown worked examples for:
 - functions / self-invoking functions / function return / functions as variables / variable scope, lifetime, and closure
- The worked examples are shown in the NetBeans IDE
 - The output is shown in the NetBeans embedded web kit
- We have provided an overview of variable scope and lifetime