

# HTTP Pull - Polling with Ajax

In this lesson, we will understand HTTP Pull, AJAX and how polling is done using AJAX.

## WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING

- AJAX – Asynchronous JavaScript & XML

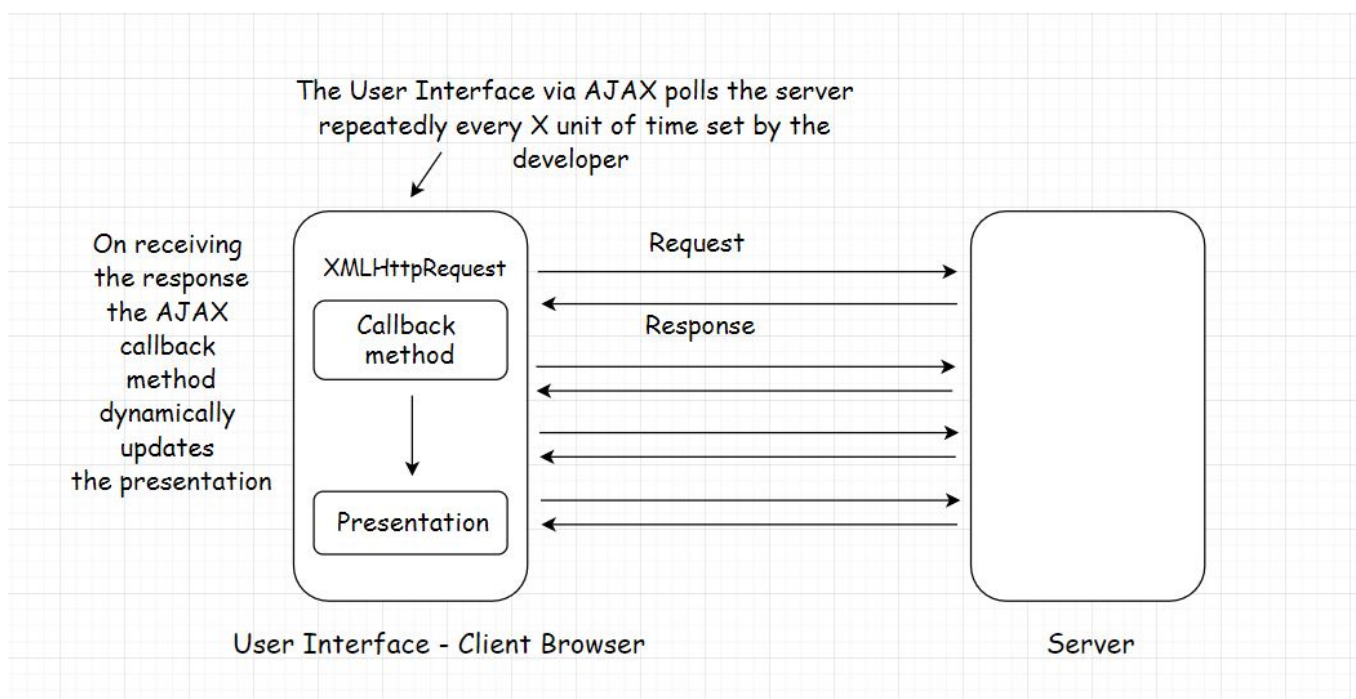
There are two ways of pulling/fetching data from the server.

The first is sending an *HTTP GET* request to the server manually by triggering an event, like by clicking a button or any other element on the web page.

The other is fetching data dynamically at regular intervals by using *AJAX* without any human intervention.

## AJAX – Asynchronous JavaScript & XML #

*AJAX* stands for asynchronous *JavaScript* & *XML*. The name says it all, it is used for adding asynchronous behaviour to the web page.



As we can see in the illustration above, instead of requesting the data manually every time with the click of a button. AJAX enables us to fetch the updated data from the server by automatically sending the requests over and over at stipulated intervals.

Upon receiving the updates, a particular section of the web page is updated dynamically by the *callback* method. We see this behaviour all the time on news & sports websites, where the updated event information is dynamically displayed on the page without the need to reload it.

AJAX uses an *XMLHttpRequest* object for sending the requests to the server which is built-in the browser and uses JavaScript to update the *HTML DOM*.

AJAX is commonly used with the *Jquery* framework to implement the asynchronous behaviour on the UI.

This dynamic technique of requesting information from the server after regular intervals is known as *Polling*.