

Web Programming Step by Step

Lecture 15

Unobtrusive JavaScript

Reading: 8.1 - 8.3

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8.1: Global DOM Objects

- 8.1: Global DOM Objects
- 8.2: DOM Element Objects
- 8.3: The DOM Tree

The six global DOM objects

Every Javascript program can refer to the following global objects:

name	description
<code>document</code>	current HTML page and its content
<code>history</code>	list of pages the user has visited
<code>location</code>	URL of the current HTML page
<code>navigator</code>	info about the web browser you are using
<code>screen</code>	info about the screen area occupied by the browser
<code>window</code>	the browser window

The `window` object

the entire browser window; the top-level object in DOM hierarchy

- technically, all global code and variables become part of the window object
- properties:
 - `document`, `history`, `location`, `name`
- methods:
 - `alert`, `confirm`, `prompt` (popup boxes)
 - `setInterval`, `setTimeout`, `clearInterval`, `clearTimeout` (timers)
 - `open`, `close` (popping up new browser windows)
 - `blur`, `focus`, `moveBy`, `moveTo`, `print`, `resizeBy`, `resizeTo`, `scrollBy`, `scrollTo`

The document object

the current web page and the elements inside it

- properties:
 - anchors, body, cookie, domain, forms, images, links, referrer, title, URL
- methods:
 - getElementById
 - getElementsByName
 - getElementsByTagName
 - close, open, write, writeln
- complete list

The location object

the URL of the current web page

- properties:
 - host, hostname, href, pathname, port, protocol, search
- methods:
 - assign, reload, replace
- complete list

The navigator object

information about the web browser application

- properties:
 - `appName`, `appVersion`, `browserLanguage`, `cookieEnabled`, `platform`, `userAgent`
 - complete list
- Some web programmers examine the `navigator` object to see what browser is being used, and write browser-specific scripts and hacks:

```
if (navigator.appName === "Microsoft Internet Explorer") { ... JS
```

- (this is poor style; you should not need to do this)

The screen object

information about the client's display screen

- properties:
 - `availHeight`, `availWidth`, `colorDepth`, `height`, `pixelDepth`, `width`
 - complete list

The `history` object

the list of sites the browser has visited in this window

- properties:
 - `length`
- methods:
 - `back`, `forward`, `go`
- `complete` list
- sometimes the browser won't let scripts view `history` properties, for security

Unobtrusive JavaScript (8.1.1)

- JavaScript event code seen previously was *obtrusive*, in the HTML; this is bad style
- now we'll see how to write *unobtrusive JavaScript* code
 - HTML with minimal JavaScript inside
 - uses the DOM to attach and execute all JavaScript functions
- allows *separation* of web site into 3 major categories:
 - **content** (HTML) - what is it?
 - **presentation** (CSS) - how does it look?
 - **behavior** (JavaScript) - how does it respond to user interaction?

Obtrusive event handlers (bad)

```
<button id="ok" onclick="okayClick();" >OK</button> HTML  
  
// called when OK button is clicked  
function okayClick() {  
    alert("booyah");  
} JS  
  
 output
```

- this is bad style (HTML is cluttered with JS code)
- goal: remove all JavaScript code from the HTML body

Attaching an event handler in JavaScript code

```
// where element is a DOM element object  
element.event = function; JS  
  
$("ok").onclick = okayClick; JS  
  
 output
```

- it is legal to attach event handlers to elements' DOM objects in your JavaScript code
 - notice that you do **not** put parentheses after the function's name
- this is better style than attaching them in the HTML
- Where should we put the above code?

When does my code run?

```
<head>
  <script src="myfile.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
</head>

<body> ... </body>
```

HTML

```
// global code
var x = 3;
function f(n) { return n + 1; }
function g(n) { return n - 1; }
x = f(x);
```

JS

- your file's JS code runs the moment the browser loads the `script` tag
 - any variables are declared immediately
 - any functions are declared but not called, unless your global code explicitly calls them
- at this point in time, the browser has not yet read your page's body
 - none of the DOM objects for tags on the page have been created yet

A failed attempt at being unobtrusive

```
<head>
  <script src="myfile.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
</head>

<body>
  <div><button id="ok">OK</button></div>
```

HTML

```
// global code
$("ok").onclick = okayClick; // error: $("ok") is null
```

JS

- problem: global JS code runs the moment the script is loaded
- script in head is processed before page's body has loaded
 - no elements are available yet or can be accessed yet via the DOM
- we need a way to attach the handler after the page has loaded...

The `window.onload` event (8.1.1)

```
// this will run once the page has finished loading
function functionName() {
  element.event = functionName;
  element.event = functionName;
  ...
}

window.onload = functionName; // global code
```

JS

- we want to attach our event handlers right after the page is done loading
 - there is a global event called `window.onload` event that occurs at that moment
- in `window.onload` handler we attach all the other handlers to run when events occur

An unobtrusive event handler

```
<!-- look Ma, no JavaScript! -->
<button id="ok">OK</button>
```

HTML

```
// called when page loads; sets up event handlers
function pageLoad() {
  $("ok").onclick = okayClick;
}

function okayClick() {
  alert("booyah");
}

window.onload = pageLoad; // global code
```

JS

OK

output

Common unobtrusive JS errors

- many students mistakenly write `()` when attaching the handler

```
window.onload = pageLoad();  
window.onload = pageLoad;  
  
okButton.onclick = okayClick();  
okButton.onclick = okayClick;
```

JS

- our **JSLint** checker will catch this mistake
- event names are all lowercase, not capitalized like most variables

```
window.onLoad = pageLoad;  
window.onload = pageLoad;
```

JS

Anonymous functions (8.1.2)

```
function (parameters) {  
  statements;  
}
```

JS

- JavaScript allows you to declare **anonymous functions**
- quickly creates a function without giving it a name
- can be stored as a variable, attached as an event handler, etc.

Anonymous function example

```
window.onload = function() {  
  var okButton = document.getElementById("ok");  
  okButton.onclick = okayClick;  
};  
  
function okayClick() {  
  alert("booyah");  
}
```

JS

OK

output

- or the following is also legal (though harder to read and bad style):

```
window.onload = function() {  
  var okButton = document.getElementById("ok");  
  okButton.onclick = function() {  
    alert("booyah");  
  };  
};
```

JS

The keyword `this` (8.1.3)

```
this.fieldName // access field  
this.fieldName = value; // modify field  
  
this.methodName(parameters); // call method
```

JS

- all JavaScript code actually runs inside of an object
- by default, code runs inside the global window object
 - all global variables and functions you declare become part of window
- the `this` keyword refers to the current object

The keyword `this` (8.1.3)

```
function pageLoad() {
  $("ok").onclick = okayClick; // bound to okButton here
}

function okayClick() { // okayClick knows what DOM object
  this.innerHTML = "booyah"; // it was called on
}

window.onload = pageLoad;
```

JS

OK

output

- event handlers attached unobtrusively are **bound** to the element
- inside the handler, that element becomes `this` (rather than the window)

Fixing redundant code with `this`

```
<fieldset>
  <label><input type="radio" name="ducks" value="Huey" /> Huey</label>
  <label><input type="radio" name="ducks" value="Dewey" /> Dewey</label>
  <label><input type="radio" name="ducks" value="Louie" /> Louie</label>
</fieldset>
```

HTML

```
function processDucks() {
  if ($("#huey").checked) {
    alert("Huey is checked!");
  } else if ($("#dewey").checked) {
    alert("Dewey is checked!");
  } else {
    alert("Louie is checked!");
  }
  alert(this.value + " is checked!");
}
```

JS

- if the same function is assigned to multiple elements, each gets its own bound copy