Beginning jQuery

Jack Franklin

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Dedicated to Mum, Dad and Sam

Contents at a Glance

Foreword	xiii
About the Author	xv
About the Technical Reviewer	xvii
Acknowledgments	xix
■ Chapter 1: JavaScript You Need to Know	1
■ Chapter 2: The Basics of jQuery	15
■ Chapter 3: Traversing the DOM.....	29
■ Chapter 4: DOM Manipulation with jQuery	43
■ Chapter 5: An Introduction to Events.....	59
■ Chapter 6: More Events	71
■ Chapter 7: Animation.....	83
■ Chapter 8: Ajax with jQuery.....	103
■ Chapter 9: Writing a jQuery Plug-in.....	121
■ Chapter 10: More jQuery Plug-ins	139
■ Chapter 11: A jQuery Image Slider	157
Index.....	179

Contents

- Foreword xiii
- About the Author xv
- About the Technical Reviewer xvii
- Acknowledgments xix
- Chapter 1: JavaScript You Need to Know 1
 - Using JavaScript on a Web Page 2
 - Syntax Conventions 3
 - Comments 3
 - Variables 3
 - Types 4
 - Functions 5
 - Functions Returning Values 7
 - Conditionals 7
 - Debugging with the Console 9
 - Arrays 10
 - Loops 11
 - More console.log() 14
 - Summary 14
- Chapter 2: The Basics of jQuery 15
 - The Document Object Model (DOM) 16
 - Downloading jQuery 17
 - The jQuery API Documentation 18

Writing Some jQuery	19
Animation Example	22
Summary	28
■ Chapter 3: Traversing the DOM	29
CSS Selectors in jQuery	29
Traversal Methods	31
Further Traversal	33
Chaining Methods	35
Further Filtering	40
Summary	42
■ Chapter 4: DOM Manipulation with jQuery	43
CSS	43
animate() and Animation Convenience Methods	45
Attributes and Properties	47
text() and html()	48
Removing Elements from the DOM	48
Creating New Elements	50
Inserting into the DOM	51
DOM Insertion, Around	51
DOM Insertion, Inside	53
DOM Insertion, Outside	55
Efficient DOM Insertion	56
Summary	57
■ Chapter 5: An Introduction to Events	59
Popular Events	60
Interacting with the Element	62
Triggering Events	62
Unbinding from Events	63
The Event Object	63

Building an Accordion	65
Summary.....	70
■ Chapter 6: More Events	71
Event Delegation	71
Event Propagation	73
When Should I Worry About Event Propagation?	76
Preventing Default Behavior.....	76
A Note on return false;.....	78
Your Own Events	78
The Accordion, Take 2.....	80
Summary.....	82
■ Chapter 7: Animation.....	83
The animate() Method.....	83
Basic Usage	83
Easing	84
Passing in Two Objects	86
Animation Shortcuts	86
More Convenience Methods.....	86
Fading.....	87
Sliding.....	87
Sliding and Fading.....	87
The Animation Queue	88
A Common Problem	89
Fixing Your Accordion	90
The Image Slider	94
Summary.....	102
■ Chapter 8: Ajax with jQuery.....	103
JSON.....	103
Parsing JSON in JavaScript.....	105

Ajax with jQuery	106
Setting Up a Local Development Server	108
A Real API: Dribbble.....	112
Summary.....	119
■ Chapter 9: Writing a jQuery Plug-in.....	121
Why a Plug-in?	121
Your First jQuery Plug-in	121
Improvements	124
Immediately-Invoked Function Expressions.....	125
Giving the User Options	126
Adding Options to Your Plug-ins.....	129
The Accordion Plug-in	131
Adding Callback Support	136
Summary.....	138
■ Chapter 10: More jQuery Plug-ins	139
The Dribbble API Plug-in.....	139
The getShots method	143
Improving getShots	146
Minifying Your Code.....	148
More Refactoring.....	149
Documentation	154
Summary.....	155
■ Chapter 11: A jQuery Image Slider	157
Plan of Attack	157
Project Setup.....	157
Plug-in Setup.....	160
Animating the Slider	160

Infinitely Looping.....	161
Catch Up.....	164
Keeping Track.....	166
Keyboard Support.....	171
Automatic Animation	172
Bug Fixing	174
Summary.....	176
Conclusion.....	178
Index.....	179

Foreword

I'm a Christian, I love my family, I work for appendTo, and I love to learn! I think Jack and I share the common desire to learn.

I first noticed Jack Franklin when he launched the JavaScript Playground web site. I watched as he regularly posted many relevant topics about the front-end development world. I then saw him branch out and experiment with server-side JavaScript—recording and sharing screencasts, speaking at conferences, and now writing this book.

I was honored when he contacted me to write the foreword for his book. jQuery has come a long way since 2006. There have been many books written about it and I'm certain there will be many more to come. The thing I like about Jack is that he is first and foremost a JavaScript scholar. As you read through his book, he takes special care to introduce his readers to proper JavaScript concepts in order to shield them from confusion down the road.

jQuery tends to be an easy library for many developers and designers to learn, but the danger comes when they start to feel friction with the actual JavaScript language, not the jQuery library. Jack appreciates this friction and tries to alleviate that roadblock for his readers.

Jack gives a good overview of the main topics that jQuery covers and provides numerous code examples and snippets for his readers to grasp. I personally find that the technical books I most enjoy reading are ones that have code sprinkled here and there so that I can fully grasp the concepts explained in the prose.

jQuery is a fast-evolving library and new versions come out frequently. As a result, new features are added and others are deprecated from version to version. If you are new to jQuery or need a quick refresher, this book will navigate you toward the appropriate API methods and techniques you'll need to become proficient with the jQuery library.

Elijah Manor
Senior Architect & Trainer for appendTo
Microsoft Regional Director & Microsoft ASP.NET MVP

About the Author

Jack Franklin is a web developer and computer science student from the world heritage city of Bath, in the UK. He started creating web sites in 2005 and has experience in a number of web languages, including HTML, CSS, PHP, Ruby, Python, and others, although his focus is JavaScript. He runs the popular online resource JavaScript Playground (<http://javascriptplayground.com>) and has released a number of open-source jQuery plug-ins online.

About the Technical Reviewer

Ian Devlin is an Irish web and app developer who resides in Germany, where he works for pixelith, a web agency in Düsseldorf. He started his working life as a software developer mainly using C, and eventually turned his attention toward web technologies. In addition to writing on his own web site (www.iandevlin.com), Ian writes for HTML5 Doctor and .net magazine, curates at HTML5 Gallery, and has written for Dev.Opera and *PC Pro*. He has also written a book called *HTML5 Multimedia Develop and Design* (Peachpit Press, 2011). Outside of all that, he loves European history and taking walks in the countryside.

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I've been fortunate to have so many people help me along my journey to get me to this stage.

The first is Richard Quick, who first got me hooked on the web when I attended my first conference. He went out of his way to make me able to attend and I got home late that evening inspired, knowing it was a path I wanted to venture down.

Then there's all the folks who I got to know when I moved to Bath, who gave me advice, put up with my questions and were always willing to help. People like Dan Dineen, Justin Owen, Jamie Rumbelow, Phil Sturgeon, Julian Cheal everyone at Storm and the guys at Riot. Thanks to Alex Older for giving me my first speaking opportunity at his conference in Bristol too.

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The opportunity to write a book came about because I started blogging, and a crucial part of that was Toby Howarth, who kindly donated his time to make the site look nice. Thanks to the people who helped spread my articles across the internet and gave me advice: Stuart Robson, Elijah Manor, Anthony Killeen, Dan Sheerman, Addy Osmani, Sindre Sorhus, Rachel Shillcock, Adam Onishi, Michael Heap and Peter Cooper to name but a few.

For the duration of writing this book, I had just started working for Kainos, who were incredibly welcoming and supportive of me. Thanks to everyone there, but in particular to Stuart McKee, Luke McNeice, Will Hamill, Michael Allen, Steven Alexander, James Hughes and Tom Gray.

I was also lucky to meet and work with some other really smart people through work; people like Tim Paul, Roo Reynolds, Tom Loosemore, Ben Howdle and Alice Newton.

Finally, everyone at Apress deserves a medal for putting up with me, and the barrage of questions I sent their way, in particular Mark, Louise and Ian. Along with the rest of the Apress team they've turned my mess of words into this book you're reading.