Comp 324/424 - Client-side Web Design

Spring Semester 2024 Week 2

Dr Nick Hayward

Course details

Lecturer

- Name: Dr Nick Hayward
- Office hours
 - Monday afternoon by appointment @ WTC
- Faculty Page

Course schedule

Important dates for this semester

- NO class Monday 15th January 2024
- Week 5 Project outline & mockup presentation
 - due Monday 12th February 2024 @ 4.15pm
- Spring break
 - NO class Monday 4th March 2024
- Week 10 DEV Week demo & presentation
 - -due Monday 18th March 2024 @ 4.15pm
- Week 15 Final project demo & presentation
 - -due Monday 22nd April 2024 @ 4.15pm
- Exam week: 29th April to 4th May 2024
- Final project report
 - -due Monday 29th April 2024 @ 4.15pm

Coursework schedule

Presentations, reports &c.

- Week 5 Project outline & mockup
 - due Monday 12th February 2024 @ 4.15pm
- Week 10 Dev Week demo & presentation
 - due Monday 18th March 2024 @ 4.15pm
- Week 15 Final project demo & presentation
 - due Monday 22nd April 2024 @ 4.15pm
- Final project report
 - -due Monday 29th April 2024 @ 4.15pm

Initial course plan - part 1

- Build and publish a web app from scratch
 - general setup and getting started
 - maintenance and publication
 - basic development and manipulation (HTML, CSS, JS...)
 - add some fun with Ajax, JSON, server-side...
 - initial testing...

Initial course plan - part 2

- Augment and develop initial app
- Explore other options
 - further libraries and options
 - tools and workflows
 - visualisations, graphics...
 - publish (again...)
- Data options
 - self hosted (MongoDB, Redis...)
 - APIs
 - cloud services, storage (Firebase, Heroku, Mongo...)
 - Project management, build tools &c.

Assignments and coursework

Course will include

- weekly bibliography and reading (where applicable)
- weekly notes, code and app examples, extras...
- weekly videos

Coursework will include

- discussions
 - class and weekly discussion topics
- various exercises, code reviews &c.
- Project outline & mockup
 - due Monday 12th February 2024 @ 4.15pm
- Dev Week demo & presentation
 - due Monday 18th March 2024 @ 4.15pm
- end of semester final assessment
 - final presentation and demo due Monday 22nd April 2024 @ 4.15pm
 - final report due Monday 29th April 2024 @ 4.15pm

Credits available during course

- course participation = 30
- discussions &c. = 5 per discussion
 - $-\sim 6$ discussions during semester
- course project
 - project outline & mockups = 15
 - Dev week = 25

- final demo & report = 50
- ~ 150 credits total

Participation

Course total = 30

- in-class participation & attendance
- participation in class discussions
- participation in group projects
- peer review of demos
- ..

Discussions & exercises

Course total = 5 credits per topic

- discussions
 - sample websites, games, services...
 - design topics, UI and UX concepts
 - topics posted to Sakai Forum
 - $-\sim 5/6$ discussion topics during semester
 - 5 credits per discussion topic
- exercises
 - test course knowledge at each stage
 - help develop course project
- extras
 - peer review of project demos
 - code, application reviews
 - .

Project assessment

Initial overview

- combination project work
 - part 1 = Project outline & mockup 15 credits
 - part 2 =Dev week demo 25 credits
 - part 3 = Final demo and report 50 credits
- group project (max. 4 persons per group)
- design and develop a web app
 - purpose, scope &c. is group's choice
 - * NO blogs, to-do lists, note-taking...
 - * NO content management systems (CMSs) such as Drupal, Joomla, WordPress...
 - * NO PHP, Python, Ruby, C# & .Net, Go, XML...
 - * NO CSS frameworks such as Bootstrap, Foundation, Materialize...
 - must implement data from either
 - * self hosted (MongoDB, Redis...)
 - * APIs
 - * cloud services, storage (Firebase, Heroku, Mongo &c.)
 - * NO SQL...e.g. MySQL, PostgreSQL &c.

Project outline & mockup assessment

Course total = 15 credits

- begin development and design of a web application
 - built from scratch
 - * HTML5, CSS...
 - builds upon examples, technology outlined during first part of semester
 - purpose, scope &c. is group's choice
 - NO blogs, to-do lists, note-taking...
 - presentation should include initial designs, mockups, and any current HTML5 and CSS

Project outline & mockup assessment

Assessment will include the following:

- brief presentation or demonstration of current project work
 - $-\sim 10$ minutes per group
 - analysis of work conducted so far
 - presentation and demonstration...
 - * outline initial project idea and concept
 - * outline current state of web app concept and design
 - * show mockups and designs
 - * ..
 - due Monday 12th February 2024 @ 4.15pm

Dev week demo & assessment

Course total = 25 credits

- continue development of a web application
 - built from scratch
 - HTML5, CSS, plain JavaScript...
- continue design and development of initial project outline and design
- working app (as close as possible...)
 - NO content management systems (CMSs) such as Drupal, Joomla, WordPress...
 - NO PHP, Python, Ruby, C# & .Net, Java, Go, XML...
 - NO CSS frameworks, such as Bootstrap, Foundation, Materialize...
 - NO CSS preprocessors such as Sass...
 - NO template tools such as Handlebars.js &c.
- data may be implemented from either
 - self hosted (MongoDB, Redis...)
 - APIs
 - cloud services (Firebase...)
 - NO SQL...e.g. (you may NOT use MySQL, PostgreSQL &c.)
- outline research conducted
- describe data chosen for application
- show any prototypes, patterns, and designs

Dev week demo & assessment

DEV week assessment will include the following:

- brief presentation or demonstration of current project work
 - $-\sim 10$ minutes per group
 - analysis of work conducted so far
 - * e.g. during semester & DEV week
 - presentation and demonstration
 - * outline current state of web app
 - * explain what works & does not work
 - * show implemented designs since project outline & mockup
 - * show latest designs and updates
 - due Monday 18th March 2024 @ 4.15pm

Final project assessment

Course total = 50 credits

- continue to develop your app concept and prototypes
- · working app
 - NO content management systems (CMSs) such as Drupal, Joomla, WordPress...
 - NO PHP, Python, Ruby, C# & .Net, Java, Go, XML...
 - NO CSS frameworks, such as Bootstrap, Foundation, Materialize...
 - NO CSS preprocessors such as Sass...
 - NO template tools such as Handlebars.js &c.
 - must implement data from either
 - * self hosted (MongoDB, Redis...)
 - * APIs
 - * cloud services (Firebase &c....)
 - * NO SQL...e.g. (you may NOT use MySQL, PostgreSQL &c.)
- explain design decisions
 - describe patterns used in design of UI and interaction
 - layout choices...
 - what else did you consider, and then omit? (again, why?)
- show and explain implemented differences from DEV week
 - where and why did you update the app?
 - perceived benefits of the updates?
- how did you respond to peer review?

Final project assessment

Assessment will include the following:

- final presentation & demonstration of project work
 - $-\sim 10$ minutes per group
 - analysis of work conducted during semester
 - presentation and demonstration
 - * outline state of web app concept and design
 - * show final working version of web app
 - · explain designs, patterns &c.
 - · explain what does and does not work in the final app
 - · any other pertinent information on project design & development

- due Monday 22nd April 2024 @ 4.15pm
- final project report
 - written summary of project design, development, and research
 - no word/page limit...
 - suggested report outline will be provided
 - -due Monday 29th April 2024 @ 4.15pm

Goals of the course

A guide to developing and publishing interactive client-side web applications and publications.

Course will provide

- guide to developing client-side web applications from scratch
- guide to publishing web apps for public interaction and usage
- best practices and guidelines for development
- fundamentals of web application development
- intro to advanced options for client-side development
- ...

Course resources - part 1

website Course website is available at https://csteach324-424.gitlab.io

- timetable
- · course overview
- course blog
- weekly assignments & coursework
- bibliography
- links & resources
- course notes & extra notes
- videos

Course resources - part 2

GitLab

- course repositories available at https://gitlab.com/csteach324-424
 - weekly notes
 - examples
 - source code (where applicable)

Citation and attribution of work

- AI and associated generative tools may be used for project work
 - n.b. citation must be provided for any submitted material from such sources
 - e.g. code, documentation &c. generated by ChatGPT or other AI based services
- code submitted from other derived sources must also include an appropriate citation
 - e.g. from articles, websites, other projects, open source projects and repositories &c.

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Intro to Client-side web design

- allows us to design and develop online resources and publications for users
 - both static and interactive
- restrict publication to content
 - text, images, video, audio...
- develop and publish interactive resources and applications
- client-side scripting allows us to offer
 - interactive content within our webpages and web apps
- interaction is enabled via code that is downloaded and compiled, in effect, by the browser
- such interaction might include
 - a simple mouse rollover or similar touch event
 - user moving mouse over a menu
 - * simple but effective way of interacting

Client-side and server-side - Part 1

Client-side

- scripts and processes are run on the user's machine, normally via a browser
 - source code and app is transferred to the user's machine for processing
- code is run directly in the browser
- predominant languages include HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (JS)
 - HTML = HyperText Markup Language
 - CSS = Cascading Style Sheets
 - $-\,$ many compilers and transpilers now available to ease this development
 - * e.g. Go to JavaScript...
- reacts to user input
- code is often visible to the user (source can be read in developer mode etc...)
- in general, cannot store data beyond a page refresh
 - HTML5 and local web APIs are changing this...
- in general, cannot read files directly from a server
 - HTTP requests required
- single page apps create rendered page for the user

Client-side and server-side - Part 2

Server-side

- code is run on a server
 - languages such as PHP, Ruby, Python, Java, C#...
 - in effect, any code that can run and respond to HTTP requests can also run a server
- enables storage of persistent data
 - data such as user accounts, preferences...
- code is not directly visible to the user
- responds to HTTP requests for a given URL
- can render the view for the user on the server side

and so on...

Getting started

- basic building blocks include HTML, CSS, and JS
- many tools available to work with these technologies
- three primary tools help with this type of development
- web browser
 - such as Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Opera, Safari...
- editor
 - such as Sublime, Microsoft's Visual Studio Code...
- version control
 - Git, (Mercurial, Subversion)
 - GitHub, Bitbucket...

Getting started - Web Browsers

- choose your favourite
 - Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge...
 - not IE
- developer specific tools
 - Chrome etc view source, developer tools, JS console
 - Firefox also includes excellent developer tools
- cross-browser extension for web developers
 - Web Developer

Getting started - Editors

Many different choices including

Linux, OS X, and Windows

- Sublime
- Visual Studio Code

OS X specific

- BBEdit
 - TextWrangler

and so on.

Video - Atom 1.0

Source - YouTube - Introducing Atom 1.0

HTML - Intro

- acronym for HyperText Markup Language
- simple way to structure visual components of a website or web application
- HTML also uses keywords, or element tags
 - follow a defined syntax
- helps us to create web pages and web applications

- web browsers, such as Chrome or Firefox, may render for viewing
- an error can stop a web page from rendering
 - more likely it will simply cause incorrect page rendering
- interested in understanding the core of web page designing
 - understand at least the basics of using HTML

HTML - structure of HTML

• basic HTML tag defines the entire HTML document

HTML - Element syntax - part 1

Constructed using elements and attributes, which are embedded within an HTML document.

Elements should adhere to the following,

- start with an opening element tag, and close with a matching closing tag
 - names may use characters in the range **0-9**, **a-z**, **A-Z**
- content is, effectively, everything between opening and closing element tags
- elements may contain empty or void content
- $\bullet\,$ empty elements should be closed in the opening tag
- most elements permit attributes within the opening tag

HTML - Element syntax - part 2

An element's start tag adheres to a structured pattern, which may be as follows,

- 1. a < character
- 2. tag name
- 3. optional attributes, which are separated by a space character
- 4. optional space characters (one or more...)
- 5. optional / character, indicating a void element
- 6. a > character

For example,

```
<!-- opening element tag --> <div>
```

```
<!-- void element --> <br />
```

HTML - Element syntax - part 3

An element's end tag also adheres to a pattern, again exactly as defined as following,

- 1. a < character
- 2. a / character
- 3. element's tag name (i.e. name used in matching start tag)
- 4. optional space characters (one or more...)
- 5. a > character

For example,

```
<!-- element's matching end tag --> </div>
```

NB: void elements, such as $\langle br / \rangle$ or $\langle img / \rangle$, do *not* specify end tags.

HTML - Element syntax - part 4

- HTML, XHTML, can be written to follow the patterns and layouts of XML
- HTML elements can also be nested with a parent, child, sibling...
 - relationship within the overall tree data structure for the document
- as the HTML page is loaded by a web browser
 - the HTML DOM (document object model) is created
- basically a tree of objects that constitutes the underlying structure
 - the rendered HTML page
- DOM gives us an API (application programming interface)
 - a known way of accessing, manipulating the underlying elements, attributes, and content
- DOM very useful for JavaScript manipulation

Example - DOM structure & JavaScript

• traverse DOM tree with JavaScript generator

HTML - attribute syntax - part 1

- HTML attributes follow the same design pattern as XML
- provide additional information to the parent element
- placed in the opening tag of the element
- follow the standard syntax of name and value pairs
- many different permitted legal attributes in HTML
- four common names that are permitted within most HTML elements
 - class , id , style , title

HTML - attribute syntax - part 2

Four common names permitted within most HTML elements

- class
 - specifies a classname for an element
- id
 - specifies a unique ID for an element
- style
 - specifies an inline style for an element
- title
 - specifies extra information about an element
 - can be displayed as a tooltip by default

NB:

- cannot use same name for two or more attributes
 - regardless of case
 - on the same element start tag

HTML - attribute syntax - part 3

A few naming rules for attributes

- empty attribute syntax
 - <input disable>
- unquoted attribute-value syntax
 - <input value=yes>
 - value followed by / , at least one space character after the value and before /
 - i.e. usage with a void element...
- single quoted attribute-value syntax
 - <input type='checkbox'>
- double quoted attribute-value syntax
 - <input title="hello">

NB:

- further specific restrictions may apply for the above
- consult W3 Docs for further details
- above examples taken from W3 Docs Syntax Attributes Single Quoted

Example - HTML - custom attributes - part 1

Example - HTML - custom attributes - part 2

```
/*
  * attributes.js
  * - basic access for custom attributes
  */

// get example blockquote nodes
let quotes = document.body.getElementsByTagName('blockquote');

// loop through quotes - freeze quotes object using Array.from to create array
for (let quote of Array.from(quotes)) {
   if (quote.getAttribute('data-visible')) {
      quote.setAttribute('data-visible', 'false');
   }
}
```

• example - Basic Attribute

Example - HTML - custom attributes - part 3

```
/*
 * attributes.js
 * - basic access for custom attributes
 * - add event listener for mouse click
 */

// get example blockquote nodes
let quote = document.getElementById('berryhead');

// add event listener to quotes object
quote.addEventListener('click', () => {
   if (quote.getAttribute('data-visible') === 'true') {
      quote.setAttribute('data-visible', 'false');
      quote.style.color = '#779eab';
   } else {
      quote.setAttribute('data-visible', 'true');
      quote.style.color = '#0000';
   }
});
```

- example Basic Attribute 2
- MDN Using Dynamic Styling Information

HTML - Doctype - HTML5

- DOCTYPE is a special instruction to the web browser
 - concerning the required processing mode for rendering the document's HTML
- doctype is a required part of the HTML document
- first part of our HTML document
- should always be included at the top of a HTML document, e.g.

<!DOCTYPE html>

or

<!doctype html>

- doctype we add for HTML5 rendering
- not a HTML element, simply tells the browser required HTML version for rendering

DOM Basics - intro

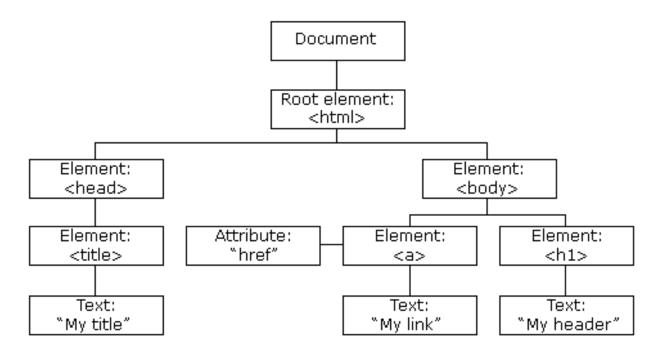


Figure 1: HTML DOM

A brief introduction to the document object model (DOM)

• Source - W3Schools - JS HTML DOM

DOM Basics - what is DOM?

- DOM is a platform and language independent way
 - to access and manipulate underlying structure of HTML document
- structured as a representation of a tree data structure
 - its manipulation follows this same, standard principle
- DOM tree is constructed using a set of nodes
 - tree is designed as a hierarchical representation of the underlying document
- each node on our tree is an element within our HTML document
- ullet inherent hierarchical order originates with the ${f root}$ element
 - root sits at the top of our tree
 - descends down following lineage from node to node
- each node is a child to its parent
 - we can find many siblings per node as well
- root at the top of the tree...

Image - HTML DOM

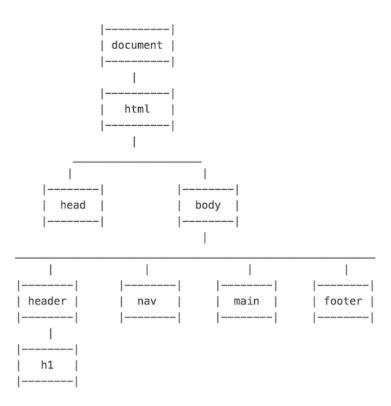


Figure 2: HTML DOM

DOM Basics - useful elements

element tag usage & description

container element for a HTML document

element tag	usage & description			
<head></head>	contains metadata and document information			
<body></body>	contains main content rendered as the HTML document			
<header></header>	page header			
<nav></nav>	navigation, stores and defines a set of links for internal or external navigation			
<main></main>	defined primary content area of document			
<footer></footer>	page footer			
<section></section>	a section of a page or document			
<article></article>	suitable for organising and containing independent content			
<aside></aside>	defines content aside from the content which contains this element			
<figure></figure>	logical grouping of image and caption			
	image - can be local or remote using url in src attribute			
<figcaption></figcaption>	image caption			
<h1>, <h2></h2></h1>	headings from 1 to 6 $(1 = largest)$			
<a>	anchor - link to another anchor, document, site			
	paragraph			
<dl></dl>	unordered, ordered, definition lists			
<	list item, used with , 			
<dt></dt>	definition term, used with <dl></dl>			
<dd></dd>	definition description, used with <dl></dl>			
	standard table with rows, columns			
>	table row, used with			
	table heading, used with and child to			
	table cell, used with and child to			
<div></div>	non-semantic container for content, similar concept to <section></section>			
	group inline elements in a HTML document			
<canvas></canvas>	HTML5 element for drawing on the HTML page			
<video></video>	HTML5 element for embedding video playback			
<audio></audio>	HTML5 element for embedding audio playback			

NB: <div> and can be used as identifiers when there is no other suitable element to define parts of a HTML5 document. e.g. if there is no defined or significant semantic meaning...

DOM Basics - sample

```
<main>
     <section>
       >
         Welcome to the Ancient Egypt information site.
       <figure>
         <img src="philae-demo2.jpg" alt="philae temple" width="333px"</pre>
         height="200px">
         <figcaption>Ptolemaic temple at Philae, Egypt</figcaption>
       </figure>
     </section>
     <aside>
       Temple at Philae in Egypt is Ptolemaic era of Egyptian history.
     </aside>
   </main>
   <footer>
     foot of the page...
   </footer>
 </body>
</html>
```

• Demo - DOM Basics - Sample

DOM Basics - index.html page

index.html usage and structure

- basic index.html page for loading web apps
- app will start with the index.html document
 - html pages saved as .html or .htm
 - .html more common...
- index.html acts as a kickstart
 - for loading and rendering the app
 - loads other app resources CSS, JS...
- consistent elements in the HTML DOM
 - <html> , <head> , and <body>
- HTML5 apps will add
 - <header> , <main> , and <footer> (when required)
 - many other elements for building the app...

HTML Basics - metadata & <head> element - part 1

- part of a HTML document's metadata
- allows us to set metadata for a HTML page
- customised just for that page or replicated as a site-wide implementation
- we can add numerous additional elements to <head>
- add similar links and code for JavaScript
 - use the <script> element & attributes such as type and src
 - HTML4 requires type and src
 - HTML5 requires src

```
<!-- HTML4 and XHTML -->
<script type="text/javascript" src="script.js"></script>
<!-- HTML5 -->
<script src="script.js"></script>
```

HTML Basics - metadata & <head> element - part 2

- add a <title> element with text added as the element content
 - shown in the browser tab or window heading

<title>Our Page Title</title>

• set a default base address for all relative URLs in links within our HTML

```
<base href="/media/images/" target="_blank">
```

• links now simply use the base URL or override with full URL

```
<img src="image.jpg">
<a href="http://www.flickr.com">Flickr</a>
```

• <meta /> adds metadata about the HTML document

```
<meta name="description" content="The Glass Bead Game" />
<meta name="keywords" content="novel, fiction, herman hesse, electronic edition" />
```

HTML Basics - <head> element example

HTML Basics - <body> - part 1

intro

- to define the main body of the web page we use the <body> element
- headings can be created using variants of
 - <h1>, <h2>....<h6>
- we can now add some simple text in a element

...

• add a line break using the
 element

-
 for strict XHTML void
- <hr> element adds a horizontal line
 - <hr /> for strict XHTML void
 - implies rendering division
 - instead of defined structural divide...
- comments can also be added through our HTML

```
<!-- comment... -->
```

```
HTML Basics - <body> - part 2
```

linking

- linking is an inevitable part of web design and HTML usage
- can be considered within three different contexts
 - linking to an external site
 - linking to another page within the same site
 - linking different parts of the same page
- add links to text and images within the HTML
- <a> element for links plus required attributes, e.g.

```
<!-- external link -->
<a href="http://www.google.com/">Google</a>
<!-- email link -->
<a href="mailto:name@email.com">Email</a>
<!-- internal page link -->
<a href="another_page.html">another page</a>
<!-- define internal anchor - using name attribute -->
<a name="anchor">Internal anchor</a>
<!-- define internal anchor - using ID attribute -->
<a id="anchor">Anchor</a>
<!-- internal anchor link -->
<a href="#anchor">Visit internal anchor</a>
<!-- internal anchor link on another page -->
<a href="/another_page.html#anchor">Visit internal anchor</a>
<!-- internal anchor link on a page on an external site -->
<a href="https://www.test.com/test.html#anchor">Visit internal anchor on external site</a>
```

• Demo - HTML - Internal Anchor

```
HTML Basics - <body> - part 3
```

linking - cont'd

- standard attributes supported by <a> element include
 - class, id, lang, style, title...
- optional attributes are available for <a> element including
 - target, href, name...
- target attribute specifies where the link will be opened relative to the current browser window
- possible attribute values include

```
<!-- open link in new window or tab -->
_blank
```

```
<!-- same frame -->
_self
<!-- open within parent frameset -->
_parent
<!-- open in the same window -->
_top
```

• Demo - HTML - Internal Anchors with Scroll

Video - Hyperlink

TED: How the hyperlink changed everything

Source - YouTube

HTML Basics - <body> - part 4

images

- allows us to embed an image within a web page
- element requires a minimum src attribute

```
<img src="image.jpg" />
<img src="image.jpg">
```

- other optional attributes include
 - class, id, alt, title, width, height...
- use images as links
- image maps

```
<map name="textmap">
   <area shape="rect" coords="..." alt="Quote 1" href="notes1.html" />
   </map>
```

• Demo - Woolf Online

HTML Basics - <body> - part 5

tables

- organise data within a table starting with the element
- three primary child elements include
 - table row, table header, table data
 - , , <</pre>

```
<caption>424 - basic test table</caption>

heading 1
heading 2

r>
row 1, cell 1
```

- also add a <caption>
- span multiple columns using the colspan attribute
- span multiple rows using the rowspan attribute
- Demo Basic Structural Example

Demos

- Basic Attribute
- Basic Attribute 2
- Basic Structural Example
- DOM Basics Sample
- Traverse DOM tree with JavaScript generator

Resources

- \bullet Jaffe, Jim., Application Foundations For The Open Web Platform. W3C. 10.14.2014. http://www.w3.org/blog/2014/10/application-foundations-for-the-open-web-platform/
- JS Info DOM Nodes
- W3 Docs for further details