Lesson 1:
Introduction to JavaScript
Objectives

- List key JavaScript characteristics, including object-based nature, events, platform-independence, and differences between scripting languages and programming languages
- Identify common programming concepts, including objects, properties and methods
- Describe various JavaScript versions and flavors, including ECMA standards, JScript and similarities with proprietary scripting languages
- Distinguish between server-side and client-side JavaScript applications, including JavaScript interpreters and rendering engines
- Describe acceptable coding practices, including appropriate use of comment tags and the `<noscript>` tag
Introduction to Scripting

• JavaScript
  • A scripting language for adding dynamic interactivity to Web pages
  • Generally used on the client side but can also be used on the server side

• Origins of JavaScript
JavaScript Characteristics

- JavaScript is a scripting language
- JavaScript is object-based, not object-oriented
- JavaScript is event-driven
- JavaScript is platform-independent
- JavaScript enables quick development
- JavaScript is relatively easy to learn
JavaScript and
Common Programming Concepts

• Objects
• Properties
• Values
• Methods
JavaScript Flavors and Versions

• JavaScript vs. Java
• JavaScript, JScript and ECMA
• JavaScript vs. VBScript
  • Visual Basic and VBScript
• JavaScript versions
Server-Side vs. Client-Side Applications

- Server-side applications of JavaScript
- Client-side applications of JavaScript
  - Embedding JavaScript into X/HTML
  - The HTML 4.0 *type* attribute
  - The *language* attribute and deprecated code
  - Script versioning for your browser
  - External scripts
  - The `<noscript>` tag
Annotating Your Code with Comments

• Single-line comment indicator (//)

• Multiple-line comment indicator (/ * . . . */)

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Summary

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Lesson 1 Quiz

• What is a scripting language?
  • A) Meta-language used to create other languages
  • B) Markup language used to format text and graphics on the web
  • C) Programming language used for procedural dialog-based functions
  • D) Interpreted language providing a subset of a full programming language
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• A key characteristic of JavaScript is that it is:
  • A) platform-dependent
  • B) object-oriented
  • C) event-driven
  • D) difficult to learn
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• Which task is an example of a client-side JavaScript application?
  • A) Sending a message to a Web page user
  • B) Saving client state in a multi-page process
  • C) Enabling a server-side image map
  • D) Connecting a Web page to a database
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• Which tag is used to embed JavaScript into an X/HTML document?
  • A) The X/HTML <language> tag
  • B) The JavaScript <script> tag
  • C) The X/HTML <javascript> tag
  • D) The X/HTML <script> tag
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• Which syntax indicates a multiple-line comment in JavaScript?
  • A) /*_*/
  • B) <!---->
  • C) //
  • D) //-->
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  • C) //
  • D) //-->