Events

Mendel Rosenblum
DOM communicates to JavaScript with Events

Event types:
- Mouse-related: mouse movement, button click, enter/leave element
- Keyboard-related: down, up, press
- Focus-related: focus in, focus out (blur)
- Input field changed, Form submitted
- Timer events
- Miscellaneous:
  - Content of an element has changed
  - Page loaded/unloaded
  - Image loaded
  - Uncaught exception
Event handling

Creating an event handler: must specify 3 things:

- What happened: the event of interest.
- Where it happened: an element of interest.
- What to do: JavaScript to invoke when the event occurs on the element.
Specifying the JavaScript of an Event

- Option #1: in the HTML:
  ```html
  <div onclick="gotMouseClick('id42'); gotMouse=true;">...</div>
  ```

- Option #2: from Javascript using the DOM:
  ```javascript
  element.onclick = mouseClick;
  ```
  or
  ```javascript
  element.addEventListener("click", mouseClick);
  ```
Event object

- Event listener functions passed an Event object
  Typically sub-classed MouseEventHandler, KeyboardEventHandler, etc.

- Some Event properties:
  type - The name of the event ('click', 'mouseDown', 'keyUp', ...)
  timeStamp - The time that the event was created
  currentTarget - Element that listener was registered on
  target - Element that dispatched the event
MouseEvent and KeyboardEvent

- Some MouseEvent properties (prototype inherits from Event)
  - `button` - mouse button that was pressed
  - `pageX`, `pageY`: mouse position relative to the top-left corner of document
  - `screenX`, `screenY`: mouse position in screen coordinates

- Some KeyboardEvent properties (prototype inherits from Event)
  - `keyCode`: identifier for the keyboard key that was pressed
    - Not necessarily an ASCII character!
  - `charCode`: integer Unicode value corresponding to keypress, if there is one.
Draggable Rectangle - HTML/CSS

```html
<style type="text/css">
  #div1 {
    position: absolute;
  }
</style>

...  

<div id="div1" onmousedown="mouseDown(event);"
    onmousemove="mouseMove(event);"
    onmouseup="mouseUp(event);">Drag Me!</div>
```
Draggable Rectangle - JavaScript

```javascript
var isMouseDown = false; // Dragging?
var prevX, prevY;

function mouseDown(event) {
    prevX = event.pageX;
    prevY = event.pageY;
    isMouseDown = true;
}

function mouseUp(event) {
    isMouseDown = false;
}

function mouseMove(event) {
    if (!isMouseDown) {
        return;
    }
    var elem = document.getElementById("div1");
    elem.style.left = (elem.offsetLeft +
                      (event.pageX - prevX)) + "px";
    elem.style.top = (elem.offsetTop +
                      (event.pageY - prevY)) + "px";
    prevX = event.pageX;
    prevY = event.pageY;
}
```
Deciding which handler(s) are invoked for an event?

- Complicating factor: elements can contain or overlap other elements

Suppose user clicks with the mouse on "xyz" in:

```html
<body>
  <table>
    <tr>
      <td>xyz</td>
    </tr>
  </table>
</body>
```

If I have handlers on the td, tr, table, and body elements which get called?

- Sometimes only the innermost element should handle the event
- Sometimes it's more convenient for an outer element to handle the event
Capturing and Bubbling Events

- Capture phase (or "trickle-down"):
  - Start at the outermost element and work down to the innermost nested element.
  - Each element can stop the capture, so that its children never see the event.

```javascript
event.stopPropagation();
```

```javascript
 element.addEventListener(eventType, handler, true);
```

- Bubble phase - Most on handlers (e.g. onclick) use bubble, not onfocus/blur
  - Invoke handlers on the innermost nested element that dispatches the event (mostly right thing)
  - Then repeat on its parent, grandparent, etc. Any given element can stop the bubbling:

```javascript
event.stopPropagation();
```

```javascript
 element.addEventListener(eventType, handler, false);
```

- Handlers in the bubble phase more common than capture phase
Example: Timer Events

- Run `myfunc` once, 5 seconds from now:
  ```javascript
  token = setTimeout(myFunc, 5*1000);
  ```
  Function is called in specified number of milliseconds

- Run `myfunc` every 50 milliseconds:
  ```javascript
  token = setInterval(myfunc, 50);
  ```

- Cancel a timer:
  ```javascript
  clearInterval(token);
  ```

- Used for animations, automatic page refreshes, etc.
Event Concurrency

- Events are serialized and processed one-at-a-time
- Event handling does not interleave with other Javascript execution.
  - Handlers run to completion
  - No multi-threading.
- Make reasoning about concurrency easier
  - Rarely need locks.
- Background processing is harder than with threads
Event-based programming is different

- Must wait for someone to invoke your code.
- Must return quickly from the handler (otherwise the application will lock up).
- Key is to maintain control through events: make sure you have declared enough handlers; last resort is a timer.
- Node.js uses event dispatching engine in JavaScript for server programming