JavaScript Programming

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How do you program in JavaScript?

From Wikipedia:

... supporting **object-oriented**, imperative, and **functional programming**

... 

- Mostly programming conventions (i.e. patterns) rather than language features
Object-oriented programming: methods

- A property of an object can be a function

```javascript
var o = {count: 0};
o.increment = function (amount) {
    if (amount == undefined) {
        amount = 1;
    }
    this.count += amount;
    return this.count;
}
```

- Method invocation:

```javascript
o.increment(); // returns 1
o.increment(3); // returns 4
```
**this**

- In methods this will be bound to the object

```javascript
var o = {oldProp: 'this is an old property'};
o.aMethod = function() {
    this.newProp = "this is a new property";
    return Object.keys(this); // will contain 'newProp'
}
o.aMethod(); // will return ['oldProp','aMethod','newProp']
```

- In non-method functions:
  - this will be the global object
  - Or if "use strict"; this will be undefined
functions can have properties too

```javascript
function plus1(value) {
    if (plus1.invocations == undefined) {
        plus1.invocations = 0;
    }
    plus1.invocations++;
    return value + 1;
}
```

- `plus1.invocations` will be the number times function is called
- Acts like static/class properties in object-oriented languages
Object-oriented programming: classes

Functions are classes in JavaScript: Name the function after the class

```
function Rectangle(width, height) {
  this.width = width;
  this.height = height;
  this.area = function() { return this.width*this.height; }
}
```

```
var r = new Rectangle(26, 14);  // {width: 26, height: 14}
```

Not correct way of adding methods

Functions used in this way are called **constructors**:

```
r.constructor.name == 'Rectangle'
```

```
console.log(r): Rectangle { width: 26, height: 14, area: [Function] }
```
Object-oriented programming: inheritance

- Javascript has the notion of a **prototype** object for each object instance
  - Prototype objects can have prototype objects forming a **prototype chain**

- On an object property read access JavaScript will search the up the prototype chain until the property is found
  - Effectively the properties of an object are its **own** property in addition to all the properties up the prototype chain. This is called prototype-based inheritance.

- Property updates are different: always create property in object if not found
  - Can lead to fun in AngularJS
Using prototypes

```javascript
function Rectangle(width, height) {
    this.width = width;
    this.height = height;
}
Rectangle.prototype.area = function() {
    return this.width*this.height;
}
var r = new Rectangle(26, 14);  // {width: 26, height: 14}
var v = r.area();             // v == 26*14
Object.keys(r) == [ 'width', 'height' ]  // own properties
```

Note: Dynamic - changing prototype will cause all instances to change
Prototype versus object instances

var r = new Rectangle(26, 14);

Understand the difference between:

r.newMethod = function() { console.log('New Method called'); };

And:

Rectangle.prototype.newMethod =
  function() { console.log('New Method called'); }
Inheritance

Rectangle.prototype = new Shape(...);

- If desired property not in Rectangle.prototype then JavaScript will look in Shape.prototype and so on.
  - Can view prototype objects as forming a **chain**. Lookups go up the prototype chain.

- **Prototype-based inheritance**
  - Single inheritance support
  - Can be dynamically created and modified
Functional Programming

- Imperative:
  ```javascript
  for (var i = 0; i < anArr.length; i++) {
    newArr[i] = anArr[i]*i;
  }
  ```
- Functional:
  ```javascript
  newArr = anArr.map(function (val, ind) {
    return val*ind;
  });
  ```
- Can write entire program as functions with no side-effects
  ```javascript
  anArr.filter(filterFunc).map(mapFunc).reduce(reduceFunc);
  ```
Can mostly but not totally avoid functional style

- Asynchronous events done with callback functions

Browser:

```javascript
function callbackFunc() { console.log("timeout"); }
setTimeout(callbackFunc, 3*1000);
```

Server:

```javascript
function callbackFunc(err, data) { console.log(String(data)); }
fs.readFile('/etc/passwd', callbackFunc);
```
Closures

An advanced programming language concept you need to know about

```javascript
var globalVar = 1;
function localFunc(argVar) {
    var localVar = 0;
    function embedFunc() {return ++localVar + argVar + globalVar;}
    return embedFunc;
}
var myFunc = localFunc(10); // What happens if a call myFunc()? Again?
```

- myFunc closure contains argVar, localVar and globalVar
Using Scopes and Closures

- Consider effect on the scopes of:

```
var i = 1;
```

Versus

```
(function () {
    var i = 1;
})(());
```
Using closures for private object properties

```javascript
var myObj = (function() {
    var privateProp1 = 1;  var privateProp2 = "test";
    var setPrivate1 = function(val1) { privateProp1 = val1; }
    var compute = function() {return privateProp1 + privateProp2;}
    return {compute: compute, setPrivate1: setPrivate1};
})();

typeof myObj;       // 'object'
Object.keys(myObj); // [ 'compute', 'setPrivate1' ]

What does myObj.compute() return?
```
Closures can be tricky with imperative code

```javascript
// Read files './file0' and './file1' and return their length
for (var fileNo = 0; fileNo < 2; fileNo++) {
    fs.readFile('./file' + fileNo, function (err, data) {
        if (!err) {
            console.log('file', fileNo, 'has length', data.length);
        }
    });
}
```

- Ends up printing two files to console both starting with:  
  - file 2 has length
  - Why?
Stepping through the execution

for (var fileNo = 0; fileNo < 2; fileNo++) {
  fs.readFile('./file' + fileNo, function (err, data) {
    if (!err) {
      console.log('file', fileNo, 'has length', data.length);
    }
  });
}
Stepping through the execution

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Stepping through the execution

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    fs.readFile('./file' + fileNo, function (err, data) {
        if (!err) {
            console.log('file', fileNo, 'has length', data.length);
        }
    });
}
```

Note that `fs.readFile` returns after it has started reading the file but before it has called the callback function. The execution does the `fileNo++` and calls back to `fs.readFile` with an argument of "./file1" and a new closure and function. The closure has only `fileNo` (which is currently 1).
for (var fileNo = 0; fileNo < 2; fileNo++) {
    fs.readFile('./file' + fileNo, function (err, data) {
        if (!err) {
            console.log('file', fileNo, 'has length', data.length);
        }
    });
}

After creating two function with closures and calling fs.readFile twice the for loop finishes. Some time later in the execution the file reads will finish and fs.readFile will call the functions we passed. Recall that fileNo is now 2.
Sometime later: file0 read finishes...

```javascript
for (var fileNo = 0; fileNo < 2; fileNo++) {
    fs.readFile('./file' + fileNo, function (err, data) {
        if (!err) {
            console.log('file', fileNo, 'has length', data.length);
        }
    });
}
```

'./file0' is read so our callback starts executing `err` is falsy so we go to the `console.log` statement.
Running callbacks....

```javascript
for (var fileNo = 0; fileNo < 2; fileNo++) {
    fs.readFile('./file' + fileNo, function (err, data) {
        if (!err) {
            console.log('file', fileNo, 'has length', data.length);
        }
    });
}
```

When evaluating the arguments to `console.log` we go to the closure and look at the current value of `fileNo`. We find it as 2. The result is we print the correct `data.length` but the wrong file number. The same thing happens for the './fileNo1' callback.
Broken fix #1 - Add a local variable

```javascript
for (var fileNo = 0; fileNo < 2; fileNo++) {
    var localFileNo = fileNo;
    fs.readFile('./file' + localFileNo, function (err, data) {
        if (!err) {
            console.log('file', localFileNo, 'has length', data.length);
        }
    });
}
```

Closure for callback now contains `localFileNo`. Unfortunately when the callback functions run `localFileNo` will be 1. Better than before since one of the printed lines has the correct fileNo.
A fix - Make fileNo an argument

```javascript
function printFileLength(fileNo) {
    fs.readFile('./file' + fileNo, function (err, data) {
        if (!err) {
            console.log('file', fileNo, 'has length', data.length);
        }
    });
}
for (var fileNo = 0; fileNo < 2; fileNo++) {
    printFileLength(fileNo);
}
Note: This works but sometimes it prints the file0 line first and sometimes it prints the file1 line first.
```
JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)

```javascript
var obj = { ps: 'str', pn: 1, pa: [1,'two',3,4], po: { sop: 1}};

var s = JSON.stringify(obj) =
    '{"ps":"str","pn":1,"pa":[1,"two",3,4],"po":{"sop":1}}'

typeof s == 'string'

JSON.parse(s)  // returns object with same properties
```

- JSON is the standard format for sending data to and from a browser
JavaScript: The Bad Parts

Declaring variables on use - Workaround: Force declarations

```javascript
var myVar = 2*typeoVar + 1;
```

Automatic semicolon insertion - Workaround: Enforce semicolons with checkers

```javascript
return "This is a long string so I put it on its own line";
```

Type coercing equals: == - Workaround: Always use ===, !== instead

```javascript
("" == "0") is false but (0 == ") is true, so is (0 == '0')
(false == '0') is true as is (null == undefined)
```

with, eval - Workaround: Don't use
Some JavaScript idioms

- Assign a default value
  ```javascript
  hostname = hostname || "localhost";
  port = port || 80;
  ```

- Access a possible undefined object property
  ```javascript
  var prop = obj && obj.propname;
  ```

- Handling multiple `this`:
  ```javascript
  fs.readFile(this.fileName + fileNo, function (err, data) {
    console.log(this.fileName, fileNo);  // Wrong!
  });
  ```
Some JavaScript idioms

- Assign a default value
  
  ```javascript
  hostname = hostname || "localhost";
  port = port || 80;
  ```

- Access a possible undefined object property
  
  ```javascript
  var prop = obj && obj.propname;
  ```

- Handling multiple this: self
  
  ```javascript
  var self = this;
  fs.readFile(self.fileName + fileNo, function (err, data) {
    console.log(self.fileName, fileNo);
  });
  ```