

Introduction to AJAX

Bringing Interactivity & Intuitiveness Into Web Applications



Applications today

You have two basic choices: Desktop applications and Web applications

Desktop applications

- ✓ It usually come on a CD and install completely on your computer.
- ✓ The code that runs these applications resides on your desktop.
- ✓ It is usually pretty fast, has great user interfaces and is incredibly dynamic.

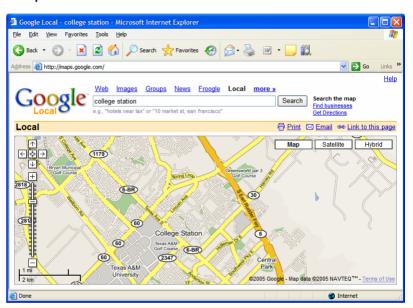
Web applications

- ✓ It runs on a Web server and you access the application with your Web browser
- ✓ It provides services you could never get on your desktop (think about Amazon.com and eBay).
- ✓ waiting for a server to respond, waiting for a screen to refresh, waiting for a request to come back and generate a new page.
 - Ajax attempts to bridge the gap between the functionality and interactivity

What is AJAX?

- A Web development technique for creating interactive web applications
 Intension
 - ✓ Shift a great deal of interaction to the Web surfer's computer
 - ✓ Used to retrieve data and update selected parts of the page without refreshing the entire page
 - ✓ Example: Google Suggest, Google Maps





Increase the Web page's interactivity, speed, and usability; better user experience

The "birth" of Ajax

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Explore / Interestingness /

« March 2006

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THURSDAY APRIL 1, 2004

3/31/05: Google Pioneers Use of Old

Microsoft Tools in New Web Programs

"Ajax"

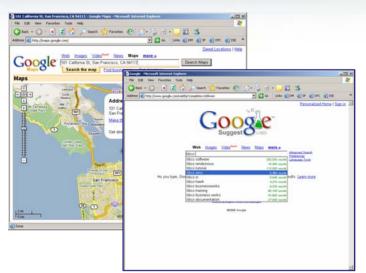
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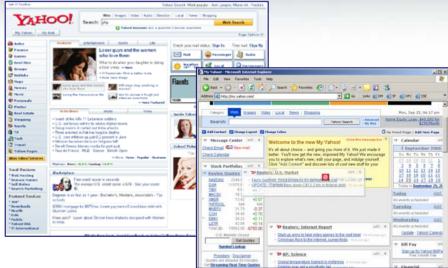
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5%. And according to a press release, Adam Sm



Ajax Enriched HTML Pages









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Technologies

You might already know the components of Ajax

XHTML (or HTML) and CSS

✓ Marking up and styling information

DOM accessed with a client-side scripting language

Dynamically display and interact with the information presented

XMLHttpRequest object

✓ Exchange data asynchronously with the web server

XML

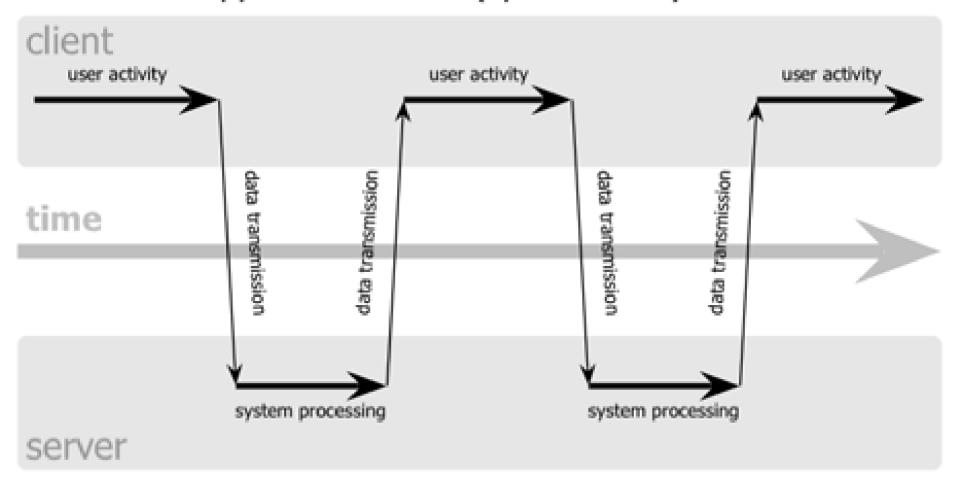
✓ Format for transferring data

Why Do I Care About AJAX?

- Enables building Rich Internet Applications (RIA)
- Allows dynamic interaction on the Web
- Improves performance
- Real-time updates
- No plug-ins required

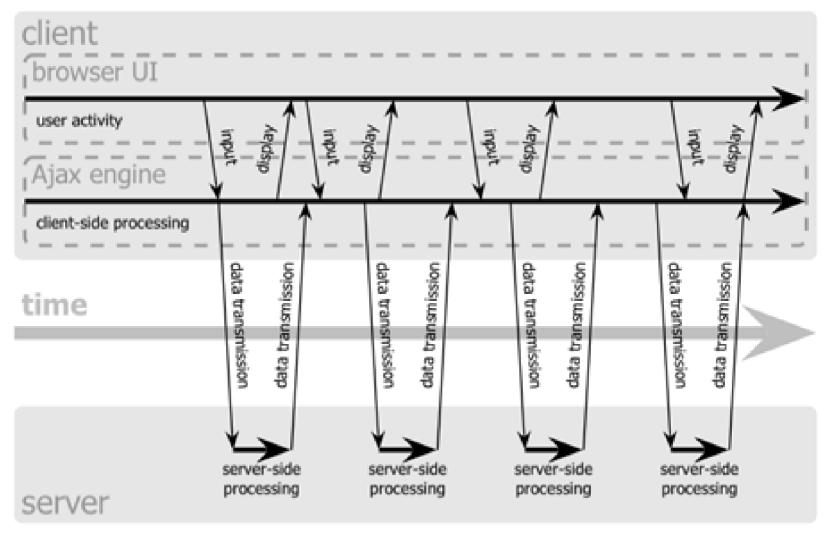
Classic Web Application Model

classic web application model (synchronous)



Ajax web application model

Ajax web application model (asynchronous)



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