

Summary

CIS246 Web Development VI – Javascript Frameworks

Javascript Frameworks was meant to expand upon our introduction of it in CIS242 Web Development II, and included jQuery and AJAX. I am trying to convince the teacher for this class that these subjects need to be distinct classes in themselves, as I feel half a quarter to discuss them barely scratches the surface of what they are capable of. My final project for CIS116 and CIS247 is actually my own continued exploration of jQuery because I liked what I learned in this class and wanted to know more.

jQuery is a Javascript Framework that allows a developer to use “plug-ins” or libraries of code written by the developer or other programmers to expand upon a websites capabilities. This can include something as simple as validating form content and changing the coloration of tooltips to something more sophisticated such as creating slideshows or image galleries. I used simple validation of forms using colored tooltips to enhance my Pizza Parlor project from CIS242 Web Development II (although I preferred the validation regular expressions from the original project) and I am incorporating image galleries and slideshows into my final portfolio project.

AJAX was a bit more difficult for me (and I think for the entire class) because I don't think we had enough time to become familiar with the necessary code before we found ourselves producing a final project. AJAX means Asynchronous Javascript and XML, and it is basically a technique used to send and retrieve data from a server, in the background, without interfering with the display on the existing page. Unlike the previous technologies that we have been exposed to, AJAX is not a single programming language and can incorporate a number of technologies such as HTML, CSS, Javascript, XML, JSON, etc., to accomplish its goals. This allows developers to use AJAX to update specific elements or data on a page without requiring that the entire page be reloaded.

I have included both jQuery and AJAX examples of my work on the CIS246 panel under the Web Application Development ATA accordion on the Education tab. However, I think that this portfolio is more indicative of jQuery's true capabilities, and I am getting more comfortable with its usage every day.