

Introduction to JavaScript

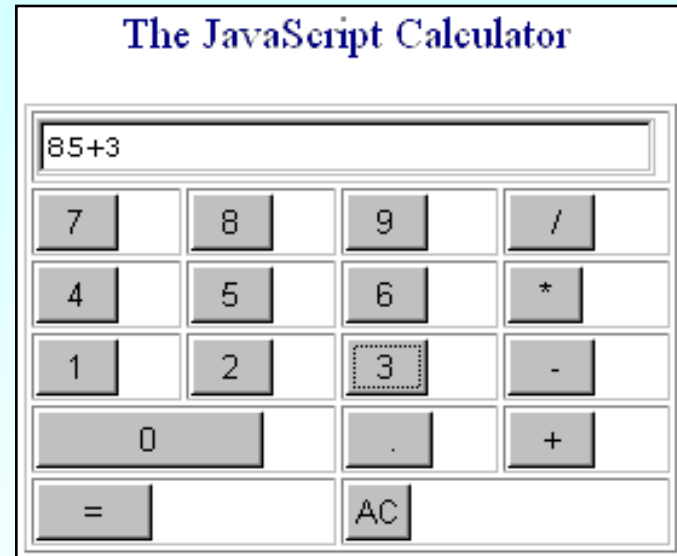
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What is JavaScript?

- Browsers have limited functionality
 - Text, images, tables, frames
- JavaScript allows for interactivity
- Browser/page manipulation
 - Reacting to user actions
- A type of programming language
 - Easy to learn
 - Developed by Netscape

JavaScript Allows Interactivity

- Improve appearance
 - Especially graphics
 - Visual feedback
- Site navigation
- Perform calculations
- Validation of input
- Other technologies



How Does It Work?

- Embedded within HTML page
 - View source
- Executes on client
 - Fast, no connection needed once loaded
- Simple programming statements combined with HTML tags
- Interpreted (not compiled)
 - No special tools required

What is Java?

- Totally different
- A full programming language
- Much harder!
- A compiled language
- Independent of the web
- Sometimes used together

Learning JavaScript

- Special syntax to learn
- Learn the basics and then use other people's (lots of free sites)
- Write it in a text editor, view results in browser
- You need to revise your HTML
- You need patience and good eyesight!