

Quick jQuery Overview

Hi and welcome to the first lesson inside the JavaScript and jQuery module. In this video, I am going to give you a quick overview of what jQuery actually is.

The main difference between JavaScript and jQuery

So the main difference between JavaScript and jQuery, JavaScript and jQuery are mentioned interchangeably. So, it can be confusing to separate the two. Just remember JavaScript is a standalone programming language. While jQuery is a collection of JavaScript code, not its own language. jQuery is not a separate programming language. It is a JavaScript library, so it has been built on top of JavaScript. It was created to simplify writing JavaScript. What that means is when we load the jQuery file it includes all sorts of different functions and methods we can use which would normally require a lot of code to achieve in plain JavaScript. So it basically saves us a lot of time and a lot of effort.

Why developers use jQuery?

In addition to understanding what jQuery is, it's helpful to understand why developers use it. So, here are a few points why we might want to use jQuery. jQuery makes JavaScript programming faster and more efficient. It is open source meaning anyone can contribute, modify it. You can use it free of charge for any project and it has a large user community, meaning it's easy to find resources and information. jQuery has an extensive documentation page, it includes all sorts of inline code

examples. So it's very useful to go there whenever you're wondering about a function or a method. jQuery also plays well with other JavaScript libraries you might be using and it has a ton of different plugins that lets you extend jQuery functionality as needed.

What jQuery does?

So what exactly jQuery does: it deals with different browsers and how they would handle playing JavaScript. So, using jQuery, we do not need to worry if our code is browser compatible and some common tasks you can do with jQuery are things like creating an event or manipulating data on a page, HTML manipulation, CSS manipulation. We're going to be using it for animation and customizing stuff on a page. There are all sorts of different things you can do with it.

jQuery plugins

jQuery is super useful for simplifying some functions and it can be extended even more powerfully in the form of plugins. Plugins are created by jQuery users based on code in the jQuery library and can be then shared publicly online. Can be found in many places but those found on the official jQuery UI user interface repository can safely be considered quality work since they are curated by jQuery's known professional community.

Hopefully, that gives you a good overview of what jQuery is and in the following lessons, we'll look into how we can actually start using it inside our Divi websites.