Has jQuery Become The De-facto Standard JavaScript Library?

By: Martin McCool
Supervisor: Glenn Strong

The JavaScript programming language has gained in popularity since its humble beginnings in the early 1990s. With the increased network capabilities and expectations for Web applications or sites, JavaScript has become the lingua franca programming language for creating interactive Web applications.

This paper looks to examine the implications that this reliance on JavaScript for Web applications has had, both on the language itself and how developers are using JavaScript. The paper will also analyse the flaws that have become apparent within JavaScript. This is an important issue for Web developers as JavaScript is the only language available to create client-side interactivity. The new HTML5 standard forces the use of JavaScript. Therefore, solutions to the problems associated with JavaScript development need to be resolved. This paper examines some of the solutions to these problems.

The use of JavaScript libraries has become an accepted and increasingly common occurrence within the JavaScript community. This paper will examine and assess the most popular libraries, to discover if these libraries are solving JavaScript's problems and if there is a single library that should be accepted as the de-facto standard JavaScript library.