The Web Wizard’s Guide To JavaScript

Chapter 6

Working with Dates and Times
Chapter Objectives

• To understand JavaScript’s Date object
• To learn how to add a clock to a Web page
• To find out how to display the time and date in any format you like
• To see how to add a greeting to a Web page that changes with the time of day
• To learn how to add a time-sensitive greeting to your Web page clock
• To discover how to perform calculations based on dates
The Date Object

- JavaScript contains a set of core objects, including the Date object, that exist independently of any host environment such as a Web browser.
- To use the Date object, you first create an instance of it and then apply a method to obtain date and time information.
A Simple Clock

• A quick way to create a simple clock is to use the toLocaleString() method of the Date object, which returns the date and time formatted as text.
Creating a Better Clock

• To create customized presentations of the time, you obtain the current hour, minute, and seconds using methods of the Date object.
• These values can be stored as variables and then concatenated (joined together) to create a string of text to express the time.
Creating Dynamic Greetings

• It is possible to vary the information displayed on your Web page according to the time or date.

• If code exists in the HEAD to test for the time of day, you can create variable content in the BODY using the document.write() method.
Text Fields vs. document.write()

• Use document.write() for content that will not change during the visitor’s session.
• Use text fields for content that requires updating during the visitor’s session, such as time of day.
Date Mathematics

• JavaScript’s Math object is a built-in calculator.
• To perform math operations on information obtained from text fields, you first convert the values to numbers using the parseInt() or parseFloat() function.
• Date mathematics allows you to create countdown pages to important events.