

# JQuery Outline – 2 Days

## **Objective:**

jQuery: Novice to Ninja is a compilation of best-practice jQuery solutions to meet the most challenging JavaScript problems. In this question-and-answer book on jQuery, you'll find a cookbook of ready-to-go solutions to help breathe life into your web page.

Topics covered include: - Scrolling, Resizing and Animating Webpage elements - Backgrounds, Slideshows, and Crossfaders - Menus, Tabs, and Panels - Buttons, Fields, and Controls - Lists, Trees, and Tables - Frames, Windows, and Dialogs - Adding interactivity with Ajax - Using the jQuery User Interface Themeroller - Writing your own jQuery plug-ins.

## **Chapter 1: *Falling in Love with jQuery***

Before we dive into learning all the ins and outs of jQuery, we'll have a quick look at why you'd want to use it in the first place: why it's better than writing your own JavaScript, and why it's better than the other JavaScript libraries out there. We'll brush up on some CSS concepts that are key to understanding jQuery, and briefly touch on the basic syntax required to call jQuery into action.

## **Chapter 2: *Selecting, Decorating, and Enhancing***

Ostensibly, jQuery's most significant advantage over plain JavaScript is the ease with which it lets you select elements on the page to play with. We'll start off this chapter by teaching you how to use jQuery's selectors to zero in on your target elements, and then we'll look at how you can use jQuery to alter those elements' CSS properties.

**Chapter 3: *Animating, Scrolling, and Resizing*** jQuery excels at animation: whether you'd like to gently slide open a menu, or send a dialog whizzing across the screen, jQuery can help you out. In this chapter, we'll explore jQuery's wide range of animation helpers, and put them into practice by enhancing a few simple user interface components. We'll also have a quick look at some animation-like helpers for scrolling the page and making elements resizable.

**Chapter 4: *Images, Slideshows, and Cross-fading*** With the basics well and truly under our belts, we'll turn to building some of the most common jQuery widgets out there: image galleries and slideshows. We'll learn how to build lightbox displays, scrolling thumbnail galleries, cross-fading galleries, and even take a stab at an iPhoto-style flip-book.

**Chapter 5: *Menus, Tabs, Tooltips, and Panels*** Now that we're comfortable with building cool UI widgets with jQuery, we'll dive into some slightly more sophisticated controls: drop-down and accordion-style menus, tabbed interfaces, tooltips, and various types of content panels. We're really on a roll now: our sites are looking less and less like the brochure-style pages of the nineties, and more and more like the Rich Internet Applications of the twenty-first century!

**Chapter 6: Construction, Ajax, and Interactivity** This is the one you've all been waiting for: Ajax! In order to make truly desktop-style applications on the Web, you need to be able to pass data back and forth to and from the server, without any of those pesky refreshes clearing your interface from the screen—and that's what Ajax is all about. jQuery includes a raft of convenient methods for handling Ajax requests in a simple, cross-browser manner, letting you leave work with a smile on your face. But before we get too carried away—our code is growing more complex, so we'd better take a look at some best practices for organizing it.

### **Chapter 7: Forms, Controls, and Dialogs**

The banes of every designer, forms are nonetheless a pivotal cornerstone of any web application. In this chapter, we'll learn what jQuery has to offer us in terms of simplifying our form-related scripting. We'll learn how to validate forms on the fly, offer assistance to our users, and manipulate checkboxes, radio buttons, and select lists with ease. Then we'll have a look at some less conventional ways of allowing a site's users to interact with it: a variety of advanced controls like date pickers, sliders, and drag and drop. We'll round it off with a look at modal dialogs in the post-popup world, as well as a few original nonmodal notification styles. What a chapter!

### **Chapter 8: Lists, Trees, and Tables**

No matter how "Web 2.0" your application may be, chances are you'll still need to fall back on the everyday list, the humdrum tree, or even the oft-derided table to present information to your users. This chapter shows how jQuery can make even the boring stuff fun, as we'll learn how to turn lists into dynamic, sortable data, and transform tables into data grids with sophisticated functionality.

### **Chapter 9: Plugins, Themes, and Advanced Topics**

jQuery is more than just cool DOM manipulation, easy Ajax requests, and funky UI components. It has a wealth of functionality aimed at the more *ninja-level* developer: a fantastic plugin architecture, a highly extensible and flexible core, customizable events, and a whole lot more. In this chapter, we'll also cover the jQuery UI theme system, which lets you easily tailor the appearance of jQuery UI widgets to suit your site, and even make your own plugins skinnable with themes.