

Initialization of Drop Down Menu



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Author

Message

01/16/2011 06:17:10 PM

Subject: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Claire Rigodanzo

Hi All,

Messages: 5

I hope this doesn't confuse anyone, but Pam Strehl asked a question a few days that made me start to think...and then I couldn't get it out of my head. The first item in the drop-down menu for both department and courses does not get chosen if selected. So I did some thinking and decided to do the following:

For both Department and Courses, I make the first item in the drop down menu Choose Department and Choose Courses respectively. Place the following code right before the loop that cycles through the department and/or course file. These lines of code create the first value for Department but the same logic works for Courses:

```
var selectNode = document.getElementById('selectDepartment');
selectNode.options.length = 0; // get rid of old stuff in the drop down
var course_no = "Choose Department";
addNode (selectNode, "option", course_no, course_no);
selectNode.setAttribute("onchange", "openCourses()");
```

Anyway, let me know if you need more details about this. I think it is optional for those of you who are working hard to finish the assignment but for those of you ahead of the game, it works GREAT.



01/16/2011 09:04:47 PM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Pam Strehl

Messages: 11

Location: Granite Bay, CA

Adding another option node on my department list and course list allowed me to get rid of my last (I hope) pesky initialization bug. I was able to get rid of the first problem I posted by calling the `getCourses()` function once when the page first loads. But I still wasn't able to successfully select and display the first course in a given department when it was the first choice made. Onchange wasn't being triggered, as you would expect. I couldn't find a way to display the first description only when it was selected without also displaying it the first time the page loaded. Anyhow, adding these text-type options to the top of the drop down menu totally solved my problem. Thank you!

Pam Strehl



01/16/2011 11:18:02 PM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Rosalyn Bonilla

Hi Claire & Pam,

I was thinking of doing the same thing because I often see that in other websites, and I was worried about how to trigger the user into selecting an option, if they wanted the first option! I hope I get successful results as well!



Messages: 8
Location: San Bruno

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain. Maya Angelou



01/17/2011 04:25:09 PM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Chew Kong

Thanx Claire. I added one extra item in the beginning of the drop box, and it works fine.

Messages: 9

The first time selecting of the first item of a the drop box doesn't trigger an onchange event is a known bug?

Thanx
chew



01/18/2011 02:06:11 AM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Hanrong Fan



Pam Strehl wrote:

Adding another option node on my department list and course list allowed me to get rid of my last (I hope) pesky initialization bug. I was able to get rid of the first problem I posted by calling the getCourses() function once when the page first loads. But I still wasn't able to successfully select and display the first course in a given department when it was the first choice made. Onchange wasn't being triggered, as you would expect. I couldn't find a way to display the first description only when it was selected without also displaying it the first time the page loaded. Anyhow, adding these text-type options to the top of the drop down menu totally solved my problem. Thank you!

Last edited: 01/18/2011
02:07:14 AM
Messages: 27
Location: Sunnyvale, CA

Hi Pam:

I have the same problem as you met that onchange the department does not trigger the course number in the second dropdown list. I am still debugging after midnight. I have "Select Department/Course" in the dropdown list ainitial value. How come your "adding these text-type options to the top of the drop down menu totally solved my problem"? I do not use jQuery but will learn some other time.

Good night?

Hannie



01/18/2011 07:52:53 AM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Pam Strehl

Hi Hanrong,

Messages: 11
Location: Granite Bay, CA

I'm not sure if this will solve your problem, but I'll try to better explain what I did: I added an option node to each of the dropdown menus - one for department saying "select department" and one for the course saying "select course". This way, the onchange event is triggered every time the user selects a course from the menu because they're changing their selection from

"select course" to the actual course number.

Hope this helps,

Pam

Pam Strehl



01/18/2011 08:53:13 AM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Elaine Haight



Messages: 70
Location: Palo Alto, CA

This is great that you are all working on this bug before submitting; in the past people have submitted with the bug still there in their programs! However, I am not crazy about the solution of adding another option to the menu.

1) It is best if your programs can choose an intelligent default value for any user. For example, if CIS is the most popular department, make that the default. If you have trouble coding that to work, you need to improve your code instead of changing the UI.

2) It is NOT a bug in Javascript that the onchange event is not triggered when the menu is not changed.

3) If you want a function to be called, you can always call the function. For example, when Pam originally asked this question here I suggested that she explicitly call the getCourses() function in her onload() function. This way the function will load the correct second menu at the time that the page is loaded. If she then needs the course description to display, then she should call the getDescription() function. If there is no getDescription() function, then you should write one and have it called both as a callback function and explicitly call it when the window is loaded.



01/18/2011 11:19:54 AM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Navid Kamali



Last edited: 01/18/2011
11:21:20 AM
Messages: 9

My implementation used the empty Departments line/entry as the default Department chosen. I figured the empty line in the departments.txt file was there for a reason.

I called a function to display the Description of the first course, which is selected by default, when it is displayed before the onchange event gets triggered.

Navid



01/18/2011 04:13:05 PM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Hanrong Fan



Messages: 27

Thank you all for your kindly help. Actually I made half of functions working around 5 AM this morning then went to sleep. After a few hours sleep, I got up again continuing debugging until the two dropdown menu work properly except the description does not display on clicking a course number. However, I feel confident that I'll make it work this evening and submit it. We learn by fixing the problem, don't we?.

Thank you.

Hannie

Location: Sunnyvale, CA



01/18/2011 11:24:06 PM

Subject: Re: Initialization of Drop Down Menu



Rosalyn Bonilla



Hi Harong,

I am still having quite a few difficulties with this assignment. I'm glad that Ms. Haight gave us her feedback. I want to try and do it now without putting the extra courses now. I am already a day late, but I want to turn in a complete and bug free assignment! Especially since we need it for assignment 3!

Messages: 8
Location: San Bruno

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain. Maya Angelou



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