

## onchange function with two arguments problem

Discussion List -> Lab Assignments -> Questions about Assignment #2

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Author

Message

01/19/2011 01:56:50 PM

**Subject:** onchange function with two arguments problem

quote

**An La**

Messages: 20

I have done with assignment2 but still unclear about the code I have:  
`selectNode.setAttribute("onchange", "reportValue(id)"); // works fine :)`

If I add one more argument for the called function then it doesn't work:

```
selectNode.setAttribute("onchange", "reportValue(id, descArray)"); // doesn't work :(
```

Do I miss any thing?

Thanks,  
AnLa

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01/19/2011 04:07:22 PM

**Subject:** Re:onchange function with two arguments problem

quote

**Arthur Stryer**



Messages: 21

Hi AnLa,

The `setAttribute()` method accepts two arguments: the name of the attribute to set and the value to set it to. If the attribute already exists, `setAttribute()` replaces its value with the one specified; if the attribute doesn't exist, `setAttribute()` creates it and sets its value. Examples:

```
div.setAttribute( "id", "someOtherId" );  
div.setAttribute( "class", "ft" );  
div.setAttribute( "title", "Some other text" );  
div.setAttribute( "lang", "fr" );  
div.setAttribute( "dir", "rtl" );
```

Hope this helps.

- Art

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01/19/2011 05:20:51 PM

**Subject:** Re:onchange function with two arguments problem

quote

**Elaine Haight**



Messages: 88

Location: Palo Alto, CA

It would help if we knew what error message you are getting.

The problem with something like this usually has to do with when "descArray" gets evaluated. `descArray` must be a variable that is declared and has a value when you are inside the method `reportValue()`. My guess is that `descArray` is defined inside the method where you are calling `setAttribute()`, and that `descArray` is not defined inside the method `reportValue()`

profile pm

01/20/2011 11:33:24 AM

**Subject:** Re:onchange function with two arguments problem

quote

**An La**

Messages: 20

Thank you Art! As always, you are so nice.

I know you're trying to help me...

Even though, your answer is not directly answering my question, it helps me to review `setAttribute()`.

So your input does count :)

Regards,

AnLa

**Arthur Stryer wrote:**

Hi AnLa,

The `setAttribute()` method accepts two arguments: the name of the attribute to set and the value to set it to. If the attribute already exists, `setAttribute()` replaces its value with the one specified; if the attribute doesn't exist, `setAttribute()` creates it and sets its value. Examples:

```
div.setAttribute( "id", "someOtherId" );  
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div.setAttribute( "dir", "rtl" );
```

Hope this helps.

- Art

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01/20/2011 11:45:35 AM

**Subject:** Re: onchange function with two arguments problem

[quote](#) [+](#)

**An La**

Last edited: 01/20/2011  
11:57:29 AM  
Messages: 20

**Elaine Haight wrote:**

It would help if we knew what error message you are getting.

Dear Professor Haight,

I have tried jslint but there is no error shown!  
I think onchange function works for one argument only.  
I have changed optionArray.html ( attached here ) to generate the problem.

Thanks,  
AnLa

optionArray.html		
Description	optionArray modified version	<a href="#">Download</a>
Filesize	3 kb	

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01/20/2011 05:38:08 PM

**Subject:** Re: onchange function with two arguments problem

[quote](#) [+](#)

**Elaine Haight**



Messages: 88  
Location: Palo Alto, CA

You have uncovered a difficult question, and I am hoping someone in the class can answer it. The problem arises when you have just one argument that you want to pass to an onchange or onclick function. You MUST use the FireFox error console, where you will see a JavaScript error when you run the program you attached in your previous post.

I will rephrase your question, and attach a simpler program that shows the problem:  
Question: How do I set an onchange or onclick function to be a function call with an argument passed to it? The difficulty is that in the function where I set the onclick attribute, my argument is defined. But in the definition of the onclick function itself, that argument is not defined.

Please run the attached program, look at the FireFox error console, and suggest a solution.

callback.js		
Description		<a href="#">Download</a>
Filesize	2 kb	

callback.html		
Description		<a href="#">Download</a>
Filesize	834 bytes	

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01/21/2011 02:30:02 AM

**Subject:** Re: onchange function with two arguments problem

[quote](#) [+](#)

**An La**

Messages: 20

Thank you for helping me to narrow down the problem.  
If I change the local var greeting to global one, it works.  
However, I don't know whether that's good solution?

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01/21/2011 08:23:21 AM

**Subject:** Re: onchange function with two arguments problem

[quote](#) [+](#)

**Elaine Haight**



Messages: 88  
Location: Palo Alto, CA

Using a global variable is a solution, yes. Just remember that you only get two global variables per program, as stated in the program guidelines.

When you do use a global variable, make sure to write a good comment for it. The reason that we try not to use global variables is that they usually cause bugs. For example, any function that uses a global variable cannot be taken from one js program and used in another, since the other program will not have that global variable defined in it.

Can anyone find a better solution?

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