

JQuery 101: Setting html attributes and content using JQuery

Posted At : 15 June 2010 23:30 | Posted By : Shaun McCran
Related Categories: JQuery, Javascript

This article follows one from a few days ago, where I explained how to use the JQuery `.attr()` method to get html attributes. In this article I will show you how a small change to the same `.attr()` method will allow you to set the value of html attributes.

I'll also cover the `.text()` and `.html` methods as they allow very similar functionality.

This article is the second in a planned series demonstrating some of the key concepts of the JQuery library, and how to use it, starting at a beginner level and working up.

[Here is an example of setting attributes using JQuery .](#)

In this article we are using the `.attr()` method to use JQuery to set html attribute values from elements within the DOM.

The `.attr()` method can be used to set or create a html attribute when you declare the attribute name followed by a value. The code below is taken from the example link in this article.

```
</script language="javascript" src="pathTo/jquery.js"></script>

<script type="text/javascript">
  $(document).ready(function() {

    $("#setBorder").click(function() {
      $(".exampleDiv").attr( { class: "endState" } );
    });

    $("#setId").click(function() {
      $(".exampleDiv").attr( { id: "Created id value" } );
    });

    $("#setHtml").click(function() {
      $(".exampleDiv").html( '<b>New<br/> text</b>' );
    });
  });
</script>
```

```

    });

    $("#setText").click(function() {
        $(".exampleDiv").text('New text');
    });

    $("#setTitle").click(function() {
        $(".exampleImg").attr( { title: "This is my new title div", border: "10"
    });

    });
</s/crypt>

<style>
.startingState {width: 100px; height: 100px; border: 1px #000 solid;}
.endState {width: 100px; height: 100px; border: 5px #ff0000 solid;}
</style>

<ul>
setBorder </a>Set the div's class value to a different style
setId </a>Create and Set the div's id value to something new</a>(you'll have to view
setHtml </a>Set the content of the div using html</a>
setText </a>Set the content of the div using text only</a>
setTitle </a>Set the title attribute of an image, and give it a
    </ul>

<div class="exampleDiv startingState">Starting state div</div>
    <br>&nbsp;<br>

    

```

Looking at the code above we can see that we include a reference to the JQuery library, then we have five functions. Each of these five functions has a trigger in the five links below it, that triggers the associated JQuery method.

The method works by listing the attribute you want to set, followed by a colon, then the value, IE a name value pair. These are separated with a comma. If you declare an attribute that does not exist it will be created, whereas if you set the value for an existing attribute it will be over written.

```
$(".exampleDiv").attr( { class: "endState" } );
```

So the line above we are setting the value of the class attribute to 'endstate'.

```
$(".exampleImg").attr( { title: "This is my new title div", border: "10" } );
```

In this example we are adding a title to an image, and setting the border element to 10px, using name value pairs separated by a comma.

Two of the other examples above are using the .html() and .text() methods. These both work in a very similar way to the .attr() method in that you can use them to get or set the values of DOM objects, based on whether they have values within the parenthesis.

```
$(".exampleDiv").html('<b>New<br/> text</b>');  
$(".exampleDiv").text('New text');
```

The .html() method gets / sets the html content inside the target element, much like the innerHTML javascript method.

The .text() method will get / set the text(unformatted) inside the target element.

Both of these will get / set the values of child elements as well, if they are targeted at DOM objects that contain multiple elements

[Here is an example of setting attributes using JQuery](#) .

A lot of this information is documented on the JQuery API site here:

<http://api.jquery.com/attr/>
<http://api.jquery.com/html/>
<http://api.jquery.com/text/>