

# Jquery and OpenCms

Matt Butcher  
Aleph-Null, Inc.  
<http://aleph-null.tv>

# The Strengths of OpenCms

- Built on Mature Core Technologies
- Solid Object-Oriented Architecture
- Feature-packed Workplace
- JSP for Templates, Structured XML for Content
- **One Notable Weakness:** Few Tools for Building Rich Client-Side Applications

# Change is in the Air

OpenCms 7.04 brought jQuery support to the backend. jQuery drives recent improvements to direct edit. It also handles new features in Template Two.

And it looks like jQuery may become a standard component in 7.05 (or whatever the next release is).

# What is jQuery

- A Javascript library for
  - Querying the DOM (HTML or XML)
  - Manipulating CSS
  - Handling Browser Events
  - Providing AJAX, AHAH, JSON, etc.
  - Adding Effects
  - And (with jQuery UI, Plugins, etc.) Adding More UI Components

# jQuery Offers OpenCms Developers

- **AJAX Support:** With jQuery on the client side, it becomes trivial to add AJAX services to your web pages.
- **Reducing Load:** By moving display logic to the client, the need for round-trip requests to the server can be reduced.
- **Improved Look and Feel:** With strategic use of jQuery's tools, we can create better user interfaces.

# Examples

- Simple Example
- Navigating an Image Gallery
- Getting a List of Resources using JSON and AJAX

# Extending jQuery

Using jQuery's plugin and extension mechanisms, you can easily create other rich interface components.

jQuery UI is an excellent companion to jQuery.

# How to Use jQuery in OpenCms

- Get jQuery
  - On 7.04, you have it already.
  - Previous Releases:  
See [jquery.com](http://jquery.com)
- Installation
  - Just put it somewhere in the VFS that is accessible to users.
- Using It
  - Include it in your templates.
  - Or include it in individual pages or JSPs.
- Start writing jQuery-enabled Javascript.



# Things to Keep in Mind

- **Security:** When you write AJAX applications, make sure you are not “leaking” information.
- **Interoperability:** jQuery is written for multiple platforms, but it is still possible to write jQuery that doesn't work on all supported browsers. Also, older (and mobile) browsers may not be jQuery compatible. Design accordingly.
- **Avoid Chimp-Attract:** Yes, jQuery is cool. But let usability and convenience drive development.

# Conclusion

The examples here are posted at  
<http://aleph-null.tv>

Questions?