



Chapter 13

JavaScript Events

Internet & World Wide Web
How to Program, 5/e



OBJECTIVES

In this chapter you'll:

- Learn the concepts of events, event handlers and event bubbling.
- Create and register event handlers that respond to mouse and keyboard events.
- Use the `event` object to get information about an event.
- Recognize and respond to many common events.



13.1 Introduction

13.2 Reviewing the `load` Event

13.3 Event `mousemove` and the `event` Object

13.4 Rollovers with `mouseover` and `mouseout`

13.5 Form Processing with `focus` and `blur`

13.6 More Form Processing with `submit` and `reset`

13.7 Event Bubbling

13.8 More Events

13.9 Web Resource

13.1 Introduction

- ▶ JavaScript events
 - allow scripts to respond to user interactions and modify the page accordingly
- ▶ Events and event handling
 - help make web applications more dynamic and interactive

13.2 Reviewing the Load Event

- ▶ The window object's load event fires when the window finishes loading successfully (i.e., all its children are loaded and all external files referenced by the page are loaded)
- ▶ *Every* DOM element has a load event, but it's most commonly used on the window object.
- ▶ The next example reviews the load event.
- ▶ The load event's handler creates an interval timer that updates a span with the number of seconds that have elapsed since the document was loaded. The document's paragraph contains the span.



```
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3  <!-- Fig. 13.1: onload.html -->
4  <!-- Demonstrating the load event. -->
5  <html>
6      <head>
7          <meta charset = "utf-8">
8          <title>load Event</title>
9          <link rel = "stylesheet" type = "text/css" href = "style.css">
10         <script src = "load.js"></script>
11     </head>
12     <body>
13         <p>Seconds you have spent viewing this page so far:
14             <span id = "soFar">0</span></p>
15     </body>
16 </html>
```

Fig. 13.1 | Demonstrating the window's load event. (Part 1 of 2.)

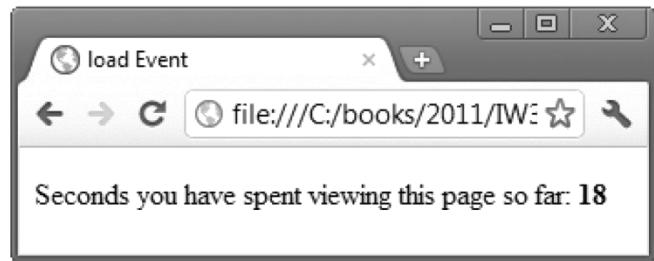


Fig. 13.1 | Demonstrating the window's `load` event. (Part 2 of 2.)



```
1 // Fig. 13.2: load.js
2 // Script to demonstrate the load event.
3 var seconds = 0;
4
5 // called when the page loads to begin the timer
6 function startTimer()
7 {
8     window.setInterval( "updateTime()", 1000 );
9 } // end function startTimer
10
11 // called every 1000 ms to update the timer
12 function updateTime()
13 {
14     ++seconds;
15     document.getElementById( "soFar" ).innerHTML = seconds;
16 } // end function updateTime
17
18 window.addEventListener( "load", startTimer, false );
```

Fig. 13.2 | Script that registers window's load event handler and handles the event.



13.2 Reviewing the Load Event (Cont.)

- ▶ An **event handler** is a function that responds to an event.
- ▶ Assigning an event handler to an event on a DOM node is called **registering an event handler**
- ▶ Method `addEventListener` can be called multiple times on a DOM node to register more than one event-handling method for an event.
- ▶ It's also possible to remove an event listener by calling `removeEventListener` with the same arguments that you passed to `addEventListener` to register the event handler.
- ▶ If a script in the head attempts to get a DOM node for an HTML element in the body, `getElementById` returns `null` because the body has not yet loaded



13.2 Reviewing the Load Event (Cont.)

- ▶ Two models for registering event handlers
 - Inline model treats events as attributes of HTML elements
 - Traditional model assigns the name of the function to the event property of a DOM node
- ▶ The inline model places calls to JavaScript functions directly in HTML code.
- ▶ The following code indicates that JavaScript function start should be called when the body element loads:

```
<body onload = "start()">
```
- ▶ The traditional model uses a property of an object to specify an event handler.
- ▶ The following JavaScript code indicates that function start should be called when document loads:

```
document.onload = "start()";
```



13.3 Event mouseMove and the event Object

- ▶ `mousemove` event occurs whenever the user moves the mouse over the web page
- ▶ The next example creates a simple drawing program that allows the user to draw inside a table element in red or blue by holding down the *Shift* key or *Ctrl* key and moving the mouse over the box.
 - `ctrlKey` property contains a boolean which reflects whether the *Ctrl* key was pressed during the event
 - `shiftKey` property reflects whether the *Shift* key was pressed during the event

```
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3  <!-- Fig. 13.3: draw.html -->
4  <!-- A simple drawing program. -->
5  <html>
6      <head>
7          <meta charset="utf-8">
8          <title>Simple Drawing Program</title>
9          <link rel = "stylesheet" type = "text/css" href = "style.css">
10         <script src = "draw.js"></script>
11     </head>
12     <body>
13         <table id = "canvas">
14             <caption>Hold <em>Ctrl</em> (or <em>Control</em>) to draw blue.
15             Hold <em>Shift</em> to draw red.</caption>
16             <tbody id = "tablebody"></tbody>
17         </table>
18     </body>
19 </html>
```

Fig. 13.3 | Simple drawing program. (Part 1 of 3.)

a) User holds the *Shift* key and moves the mouse to draw in red.

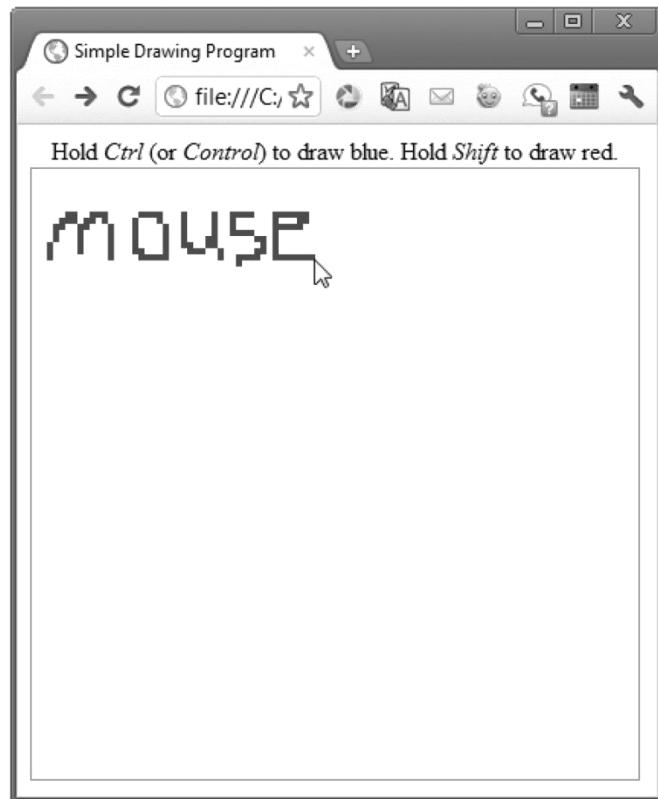


Fig. 13.3 | Simple drawing program. (Part 2 of 3.)

b) User holds the *Ctrl* key and moves the mouse to draw in blue.

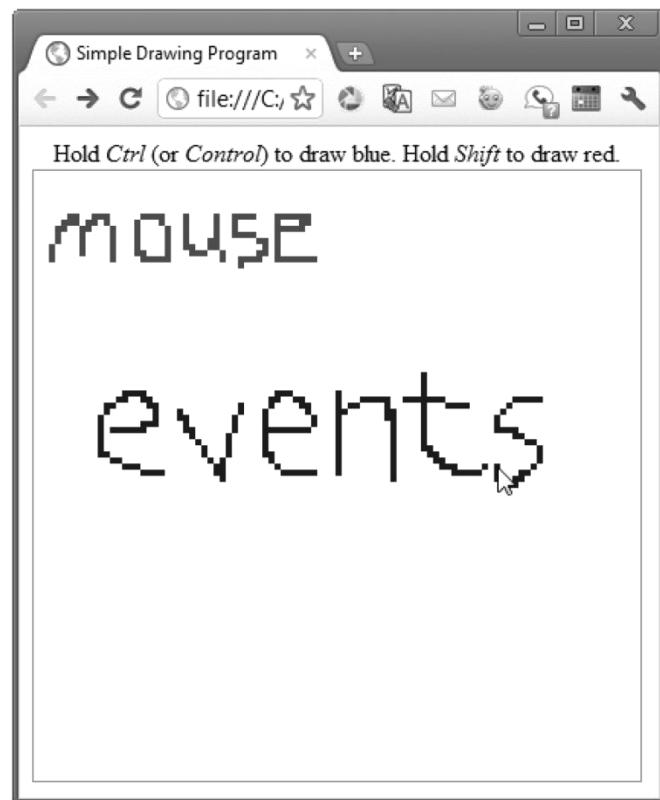


Fig. 13.3 | Simple drawing program. (Part 3 of 3.)

```
1 // Fig. 13.4: draw.js
2 // A simple drawing program.
3 // initialization function to insert cells into the table
4 function createCanvas()
5 {
6     var side = 100;
7     var tbody = document.getElementById( "tablebody" );
8
9     for ( var i = 0; i < side; ++i )
10    {
11        var row = document.createElement( "tr" );
12
13        for ( var j = 0; j < side; ++j )
14        {
15            var cell = document.createElement( "td" );
16            row.appendChild( cell );
17        } // end for
18
19        tbody.appendChild( row );
20    } // end for
21}
```

Fig. 13.4 | JavaScript code for the simple drawing program. (Part I of 2.)



```
22 // register mousemove listener for the table
23 document.getElementById( "canvas" ).addEventListener(
24     "mousemove", processMouseMove, false );
25 } // end function createCanvas
26
27 // processes the onmousemove event
28 function processMouseMove( e )
29 {
30     if ( e.target.tagName.toLowerCase() == "td" )
31     {
32         // turn the cell blue if the Ctrl key is pressed
33         if ( e.ctrlKey )
34         {
35             e.target.setAttribute( "class", "blue" );
36         } // end if
37
38         // turn the cell red if the Shift key is pressed
39         if ( e.shiftKey )
40         {
41             e.target.setAttribute( "class", "red" );
42         } // end if
43     } // end if
44 } // end function processMouseMove
45
46 window.addEventListener( "load", createCanvas, false );
```

Fig. 13.4 | JavaScript code for the simple drawing program. (Part 2 of 2.)



Property	Description
altKey	This value is <code>true</code> if the <i>Alt</i> key was pressed when the event fired.
cancelBubble	Set to <code>true</code> to prevent the event from bubbling. Defaults to <code>false</code> . (See Section 13.7, Event Bubbling.)
clientX and clientY	The coordinates of the mouse cursor inside the client area (i.e., the active area where the web page is displayed, excluding scrollbars, navigation buttons, etc.).
ctrlKey	This value is <code>true</code> if the <i>Ctrl</i> key was pressed when the event fired.
keyCode	The ASCII code of the key pressed in a keyboard event. See Appendix D for more information on the ASCII character set.
screenX and screenY	The coordinates of the mouse cursor on the screen coordinate system.
shiftKey	This value is <code>true</code> if the <i>Shift</i> key was pressed when the event fired.
target	The DOM object that received the event.
type	The name of the event that fired.

Fig. 13.5 | Some event-object properties.



13.4 Rollovers with mouseover and mouseout

- ▶ When the mouse cursor enters an element, an mouseover event occurs for that element
- ▶ When the mouse cursor leaves the element, a mouseout event occurs for that element
- ▶ Creating an Image object and setting its src property preloads the image

```
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3  <!-- Fig 13.6: mouseoverout.html -->
4  <!-- Events mouseover and mouseout. -->
5  <html>
6      <head>
7          <meta charset = "utf-8">
8          <title>Events mouseover and mouseout</title>
9          <link rel = "stylesheet" type = "text/css" href = "style.css">
10         <script src = "mouseoverout.js"></script>
11     </head>
12     <body>
13         <h1><img src = "heading1.png" id = "heading"
14             alt = "Heading Image"></h1>
15         <p>Can you tell a color from its hexadecimal RGB code
16             value? Look at the hex code, guess its color. To see
17             what color it corresponds to, move the mouse over the
18             hex code. Moving the mouse out of the hex code's table
19             cell will display the color name.</p>
```

Fig. 13.6 | HTML5 document to demonstrate mouseover and mouseout. (Part 1 of 6.)



```
20 <div>
21   <ul>
22     <li id = "Black">#000000</li>
23     <li id = "Blue">#0000FF</li>
24     <li id = "Magenta">#FF00FF</li>
25     <li id = "Gray">#808080</li>
26     <li id = "Green">#008000</li>
27     <li id = "Lime">#00FF00</li>
28     <li id = "Maroon">#800000</li>
29     <li id = "Navy">#000080</li>
30     <li id = "Olive">#808000</li>
31     <li id = "Purple">#800080</li>
32     <li id = "Red">#FF0000</li>
33     <li id = "Silver">#C0C0C0</li>
34     <li id = "Cyan">#00FFFF</li>
35     <li id = "Teal">#008080</li>
36     <li id = "Yellow">#FFFF00</li>
37     <li id = "White">#FFFFFF</li>
38   </ul>
39 </div>
40 </body>
41 </html>
```

Fig. 13.6 | HTML5 document to demonstrate mouseover and mouseout. (Part 2 of 6.)

a) The page loads with the blue heading image and all the hex codes in black.

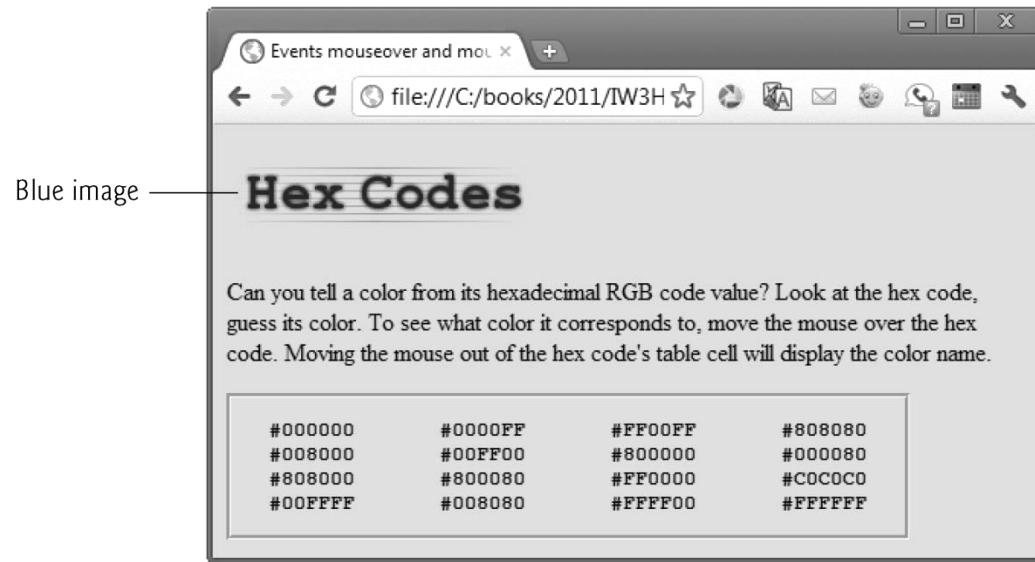


Fig. 13.6 | HTML5 document to demonstrate mouseover and mouseout. (Part 3 of 6.)

b) The heading image switches to an image with green text when the mouse rolls over it.

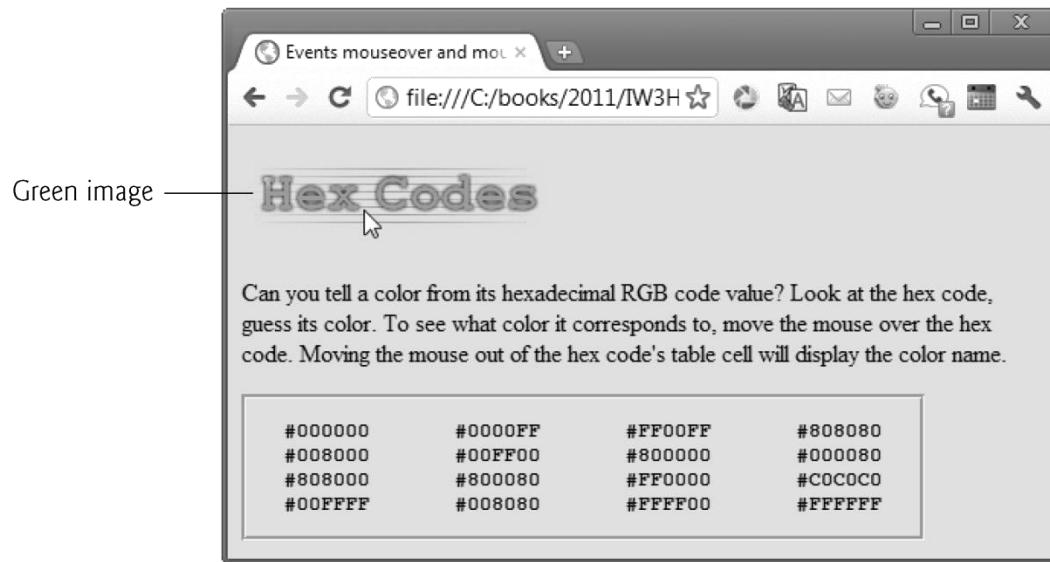


Fig. 13.6 | HTML5 document to demonstrate mouseover and mouseout. (Part 4 of 6.)

c) When mouse rolls over a hex code, the text color changes to the color represented by the hex code. Notice that the heading image has become blue again because the mouse is no longer over it.

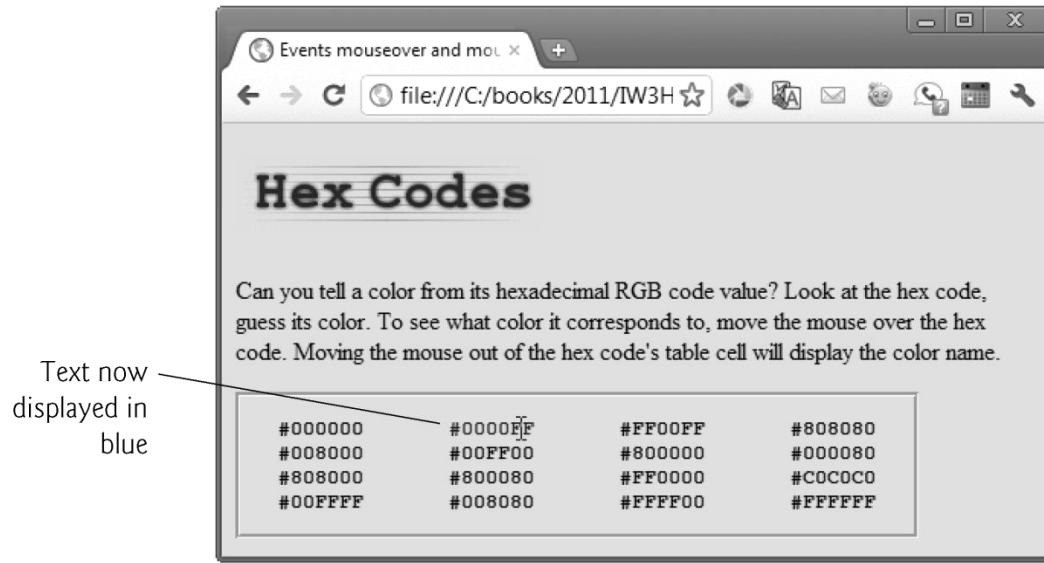


Fig. 13.6 | HTML5 document to demonstrate mouseover and mouseout. (Part 5 of 6.)

d) When the mouse leaves the hex code's table cell, the text changes to the name of the color.

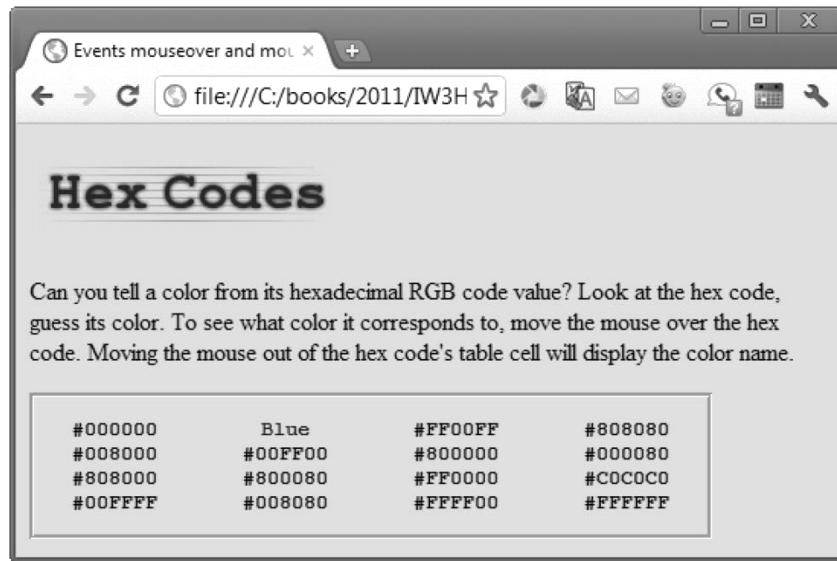


Fig. 13.6 | HTML5 document to demonstrate mouseover and mouseout. (Part 6 of 6.)



Performance Tip 13.1

Preloading images used in rollover effects prevents a delay the first time an image is displayed.



```
1 // Fig 13.7: mouseoverout.js
2 // Events mouseover and mouseout.
3 image1 = new Image();
4 image1.src = "heading1.png";
5 image2 = new Image();
6 image2.src = "heading2.png";
7
8 function mouseOver( e )
{
9
10    // swap the image when the mouse moves over it
11    if ( e.target.getAttribute( "id" ) == "heading" )
12    {
13        e.target.setAttribute( "src", image2.getAttribute( "src" ) );
14    } // end if
15
16    // if the element is an li, assign its id to its color
17    // to change the hex code's text to the corresponding color
18    if ( e.target.tagName.toLowerCase() == "li" )
19    {
20        e.target.setAttribute( "style",
21            "color: " + e.target.getAttribute( "id" ) );
22    } // end if
23 } // end function mouseOver
```

Fig. 13.7 | Processing the mouseover and mouseout events. (Part 1 of 2.)



```
24
25 function mouseOut( e )
26 {
27     // put the original image back when the mouse moves away
28     if ( e.target.getAttribute( "id" ) == "heading" )
29     {
30         e.target.setAttribute( "src", image1.getAttribute( "src" ) );
31     } // end if
32
33     // if the element is an li, assign its id to innerHTML
34     // to display the color name
35     if ( e.target.tagName.toLowerCase() == "li" )
36     {
37         e.target.innerHTML = e.target.getAttribute( "id" );
38     } // end if
39 } // end function mouseOut
40
41 document.addEventListener( "mouseover", mouseOver, false );
42 document.addEventListener( "mouseout", mouseOut, false );
```

Fig. 13.7 | Processing the mouseover and mouseout events. (Part 2 of 2.)



13.5 Form Processing with focus and blur

- ▶ focus event fires when an element gains focus
 - i.e., when the user clicks a form field or uses the *Tab* key to move between form elements
- ▶ blur fires when an element loses focus
 - i.e., when another control gains the focus



```
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3  <!-- Fig. 13.8: focusblur.html -->
4  <!-- Demonstrating the focus and blur events. -->
5  <html>
6      <head>
7          <meta charset = "utf-8">
8          <title>A Form Using focus and blur</title>
9          <link rel = "stylesheet" type = "text/css" href = "style.css">
10         <script src = "focusblur.js"></script>
11     </head>
12     <body>
13         <form id = "myForm" action = "">
14             <p><label class = "fixed" for = "name">Name:</label>
15                 <input type = "text" id = "name"
16                     placeholder = "Enter name"></p>
17             <p><label class = "fixed" for = "email">E-mail:</label>
18                 <input type = "email" id = "email"
19                     placeholder = "Enter e-mail address"></p>
20             <p><label>Click here if you like this site
21                 <input type = "checkbox" id = "like"></label></p>
22             <p><label for = "comments">Any comments?</label>
23                 <textarea id = "comments"
24                     placeholder = "Enter comments here"></textarea>
```

Fig. 13.8 | Demonstrating the focus and blur events. (Part 1 of 3.)

```
25      <p><input id = "submit" type = "submit">
26          <input id = "reset" type = "reset"></p>
27      </form>
28      <p id = "helpText"></p>
29  </body>
30 </html>
```

a) The blue message at the bottom of the page instructs the user to enter a name when the **Name:** field has the focus.

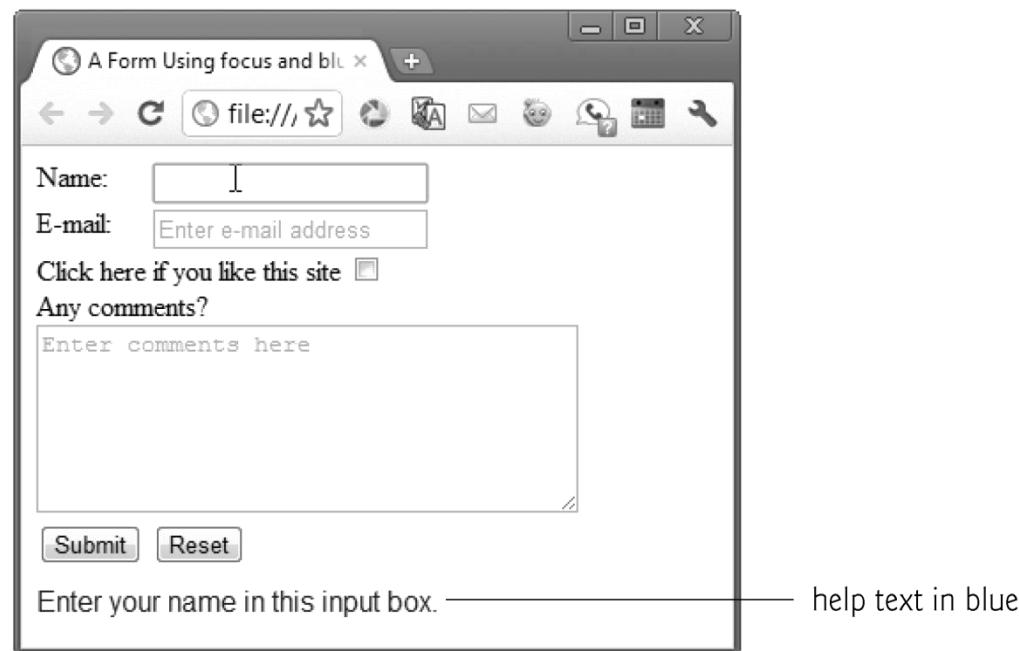


Fig. 13.8 | Demonstrating the focus and blur events. (Part 2 of 3.)

b) The message changes depending on which field has focus—this window shows the help text for the **comments** **textarea**.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "A Form Using focus and blur". The window contains the following form elements:

- A "Name:" label followed by a text input field with the placeholder "Enter name".
- An "E-mail:" label followed by a text input field with the placeholder "Enter e-mail address".
- A checkbox labeled "Click here if you like this site" with the checked state.
- A text area labeled "Any comments?" with a placeholder "Enter any comments here that you'd like us to read." containing a single character "[".
- Two buttons at the bottom: "Submit" and "Reset".

The text area has a tooltip "Enter any comments here that you'd like us to read." displayed below it.

Fig. 13.8 | Demonstrating the focus and blur events. (Part 3 of 3.)



```
1 // Fig. 13.9: focusblur.js
2 // Demonstrating the focus and blur events.
3 var helpArray = [ "Enter your name in this input box.",
4   "Enter your e-mail address in the format user@domain.",
5   "Check this box if you liked our site.",
6   "Enter any comments here that you'd like us to read.",
7   "This button submits the form to the server-side script.",
8   "This button clears the form.", "" ];
9 var helpText;
10
11 // initialize helpTextDiv and register event handlers
12 function init()
13 {
14   helpText = document.getElementById( "helpText" );
15
16   // register listeners
17   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "name" ), 0 );
18   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "email" ), 1 );
19   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "like" ), 2 );
20   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "comments" ), 3 );
21   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "submit" ), 4 );
22   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "reset" ), 5 );
23 } // end function init
24
```

Fig. 13.9 | Demonstrating the focus and blur events. (Part 1 of 2.)



```
25 // utility function to help register events
26 function registerListeners( object, messageNumber )
27 {
28     object.addEventListener( "focus",
29         function() { helpText.innerHTML = helpArray[ messageNumber ]; },
30         false );
31     object.addEventListener( "blur",
32         function() { helpText.innerHTML = helpArray[ 6 ]; }, false );
33 } // end function registerListener
34
35 window.addEventListener( "load", init, false );
```

Fig. 13.9 | Demonstrating the focus and blur events. (Part 2 of 2.)



13.6 More Form Processing with submit and reset

- ▶ submit and reset events fire when a form is submitted or reset, respectively
- ▶ The anonymous function executes in response to the user's submitting the form by clicking the **Submit** button or pressing the *Enter* key.
- ▶ confirm method asks the users a question, presenting them with an OK button and a Cancel button
 - If the user clicks OK, confirm returns true; otherwise, confirm returns false
- ▶ By returning either true or false, event handlers dictate whether the default action for the event is taken
- ▶ If an event handler returns true or does not return a value, the default action is taken once the event handler finishes executing



```
1 // Fig. 13.10: focusblur.js
2 // Demonstrating the focus and blur events.
3 var helpArray = [ "Enter your name in this input box.",
4   "Enter your e-mail address in the format user@domain.",
5   "Check this box if you liked our site.",
6   "Enter any comments here that you'd like us to read.",
7   "This button submits the form to the server-side script.",
8   "This button clears the form.", "" ];
9 var helpText;
10
11 // initialize helpTextDiv and register event handlers
12 function init()
13 {
14   helpText = document.getElementById( "helpText" );
15
16   // register listeners
17   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "name" ), 0 );
18   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "email" ), 1 );
19   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "like" ), 2 );
20   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "comments" ), 3 );
21   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "submit" ), 4 );
22   registerListeners( document.getElementById( "reset" ), 5 );
23
24   var myForm = document.getElementById( "myForm" );
```

Fig. 13.10 | Demonstrating the focus and blur events. (Part I of 3.)



```
25 myForm.addEventListener( "submit",
26     function()
27     {
28         return confirm( "Are you sure you want to submit?" );
29     }, // end anonymous function
30     false );
31 myForm.addEventListener( "reset",
32     function()
33     {
34         return confirm( "Are you sure you want to reset?" );
35     }, // end anonymous function
36     false );
37 } // end function init
38
39 // utility function to help register events
40 function registerListeners( object, messageNumber )
41 {
42     object.addEventListener( "focus",
43         function() { helpText.innerHTML = helpArray[ messageNumber ]; },
44         false );
45     object.addEventListener( "blur",
46         function() { helpText.innerHTML = helpArray[ 6 ]; }, false );
47 } // end function registerListener
48
49 window.addEventListener( "load", init, false );
```

Fig. 13.10 | Demonstrating the focus and blur events. (Part 2 of 3.)

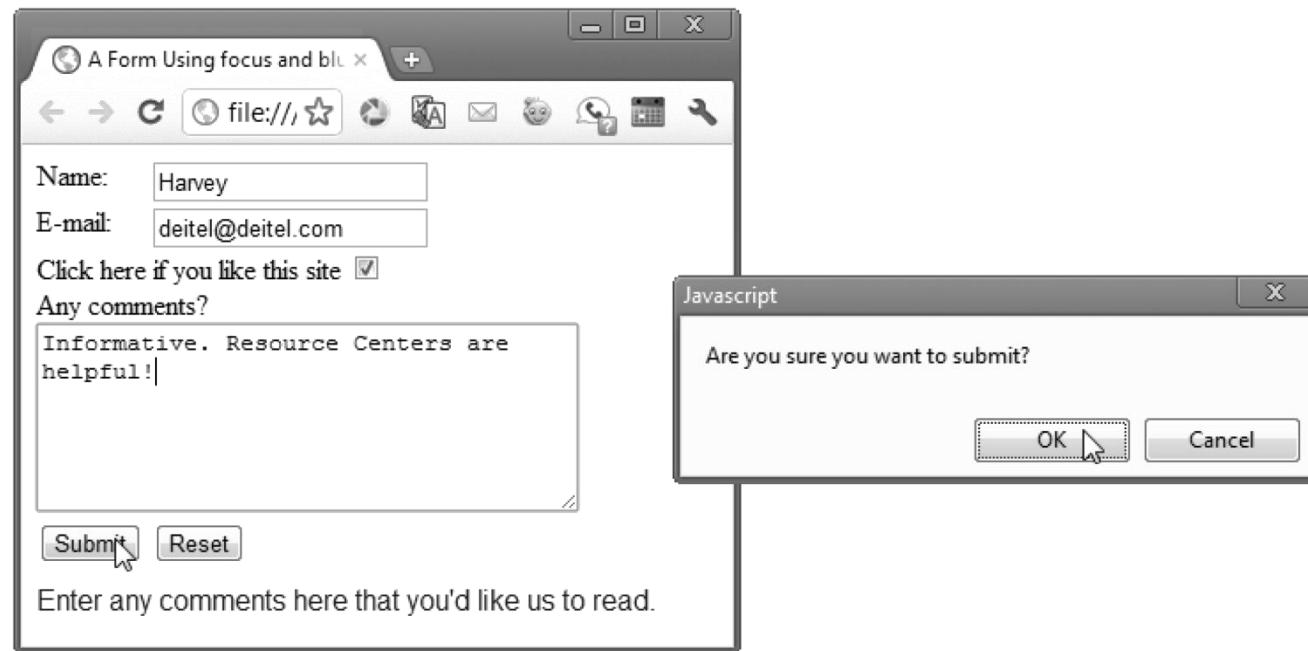


Fig. 13.10 | Demonstrating the focus and blur events. (Part 3 of 3.)

13.7 Event Bubbling

- ▶ Event bubbling
 - The process whereby events fired on *child* elements “bubble” up to their *parent* elements
 - When an event is fired on an element, it is first delivered to the element’s event handler (if any), then to the parent element’s event handler (if any)
- ▶ *If you intend to handle an event in a child element alone, you should cancel the bubbling of the event in the child element’s event-handling code by using the cancelBubble property of the event object*

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2
3 <!-- Fig. 13.11: bubbling.html -->
4 <!-- Canceling event bubbling. -->
5 <html>
6   <head>
7     <meta charset="utf-8">
8     <title>Event Bubbling</title>
9     <script src = "bubbling.js">
10    </head>
11    <body>
12      <p id = "bubble">Bubbling enabled.</p>
13      <p id = "noBubble">Bubbling disabled.</p>
14    </body>
15 </html>
```

Fig. 13.11 | Canceling event bubbling. (Part 1 of 3.)

a) User clicks the first paragraph, for which bubbling is enabled.



b) Paragraph's event handler causes an alert.



c) Document's event handler causes another alert, because the event bubbles up to the document.

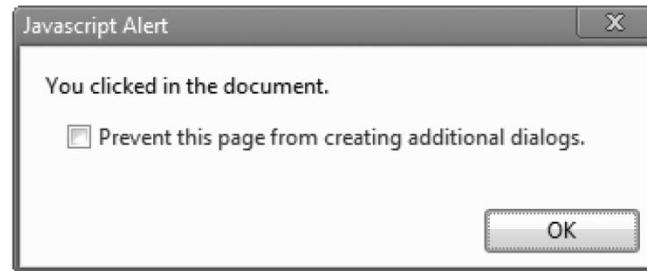


Fig. 13.11 | Canceling event bubbling. (Part 2 of 3.)

d) User clicks the second paragraph, for which bubbling is disabled.



e) Paragraph's event handler causes an alert. The document's event handler is not called.



Fig. 13.11 | Canceling event bubbling. (Part 3 of 3.)



Common Programming Error 13.1

Forgetting to cancel event bubbling when necessary may cause unexpected results in your scripts.



```
1 // Fig. 13.12: bubbling.js
2 // Canceling event bubbling.
3 function documentClick()
4 {
5     alert( "You clicked in the document." );
6 } // end function documentClick
7
8 function bubble( e )
9 {
10    alert( "This will bubble." );
11    e.cancelBubble = false;
12 } // end function bubble
13
14 function noBubble( e )
15 {
16    alert( "This will not bubble." );
17    e.cancelBubble = true;
18 } // end function noBubble
19
```

Fig. 13.12 | Canceling event bubbling. (Part I of 2.)

```
20 function registerEvents()
21 {
22     document.addEventListener( "click", documentClick, false );
23     document.getElementById( "bubble" ).addEventListener(
24         "click", bubble, false );
25     document.getElementById( "noBubble" ).addEventListener(
26         "click", noBubble, false );
27 } // end function registerEvents
28
29 window.addEventListener( "load", registerEvents, false );
```

Fig. 13.12 | Canceling event bubbling. (Part 2 of 2.)

13.8 More Events

- ▶ The following slide lists some common events and their descriptions. The actual DOM event names begin with "on", but we show the names you use with addEventListener here.



Event	Description
abort	Fires when image transfer has been interrupted by user.
change	Fires when a new choice is made in a <code>select</code> element, or when a text input is changed and the element loses focus.
click	Fires when the user clicks the mouse.
dblclick	Fires when the user double clicks the mouse.
focus	Fires when a form element gets the focus.
keydown	Fires when the user pushes down a key.
keypress	Fires when the user presses then releases a key.
keyup	Fires when the user releases a key.
load	Fires when an element and all its children have loaded.
mousedown	Fires when a mouse button is pressed.
mousemove	Fires when the mouse moves.
mouseout	Fires when the mouse leaves an element.
mouseover	Fires when the mouse enters an element.

Fig. 13.13 | Common events. (Part 1 of 2.)



Event	Description
mouseup	Fires when a mouse button is released.
reset	Fires when a form resets (i.e., the user clicks a reset button).
resize	Fires when the size of an object changes (i.e., the user resizes a window or frame).
select	Fires when a text selection begins (applies to <code>input</code> or <code>textarea</code>).
submit	Fires when a form is submitted.
unload	Fires when a page is about to unload.

Fig. 13.13 | Common events. (Part 2 of 2.)