Announcements

Project 2A due Wednesday

Tip of the Day: In solving programming problems, look for analogous situations & morph that solution

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Once Is Not Enough

Repeating instructions is the source of great power in computing

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Iteration

"Iteration" is another term for "repeat"

- Iteration doesn't suffer from the question of whether the first item is counted … in iteration it always is. (*Use "repeat" and "iterate" interchangeably unless it matters.*)
- Iterating is usually called "looping" in programming
- Programming languages have many kinds of statements to help program loops
- In JS we will use the **for**-statement

Anatomy of **for**

The **for**-statement syntax

```
for ( <initialize>; <continue test>; <next iteration> ) {
        <statement list>
}
```

for's 3 control specifications -- the "control trio"-- are connected by an iteration variable

<initialize> -- gives iteration variable its first value

<continue test> -- this test is performed before starting each cycle of loop; if false, quit

<next iteration> -- the change to the iteration variable after each cycle

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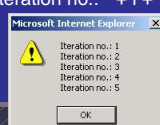# An Iteration

Iterations can count …

```
<html><head><title>Test Page</title></head> <body>
  <script language="JavaScript">
    var i, text = "";  // Initialize text to empty string
    for (i=1; i<=5; i=i+1) {
        text = text + "Iteration no.: " + i + "\n";
    }
    alert(text);
  </script></body>
</html>
```

Newline in JS

Microsoft Internet Explorer
Iteration no.: 1
Iteration no.: 2
Iteration no.: 3
Iteration no.: 4
Iteration no.: 5
OK

Iterations Control Actions

Iterations can replicate other things…

```
<html><head><title>Test Page</title></head> <body>
  <script language="JavaScript">
    var i, text="It's funny!";
    for (i=1; i<=3; i=i+1) {
        text = text + " Ha!";
    }
    alert(text);
  </script></body>
</html>
```

Microsoft Internet Explorer
It's funny! Ha! Ha! Ha!
OK

It is possible to make it a lot funnier by changing the limit variable to, say, i<=1000

Key Points of Loops

The most important features of loops:

- The starting value of the iteration variable
- The ending value of the iteration variable
- The amount the iteration variable changes
- *As explained in the book, it is possible to completely control these features by properly setting the "control trio," but programmers have gotten in the habit of writing a single kind of iteration: WFI*

World Famous Iteration

To loop *n* times the WFI has this form

```
for ( i=0; i<n;  i++) {
    <statement list>
}
```

Same as i=i+1

WFI starts at 0, steps by 1, stops (before) n
0, 1, 2, …, n-1

Advantages:
- Fast to type
- The number of iterations is the number after **<**
- 0-origin makes it handy for most computations

"Off By 1" Error

The most common error when working with iterations is to miscount by 1

- Everyone makes this mistake
- A common place where the "off by 1" error matters is in how many times a loop loops
- The importance of the WFI is it tells exactly

Number of iterations

```
for ( i=0; i<n;  i++) {
    <statement list>
}
```

Using Iteration in JS

Print out a row of things

```
<html><head><title>Test Page</title></head> <body>
    <script language="JavaScript">
        var i;
        for (i=0; i<5; i++) {
            document.write('[ ' + i + ' ]');
        }
    </script></body>
</html>
```
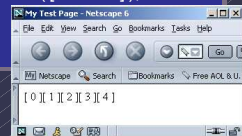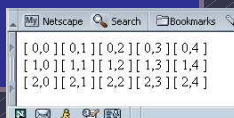
My Test Page - Netscape 6
File Edit View Search Go Bookmarks Tasks Help

My Netscape   Search   Bookmarks   Free AOL & U...

[0][1][2][3][4]

Doubly Nested Loop

A loop within a loop repeats repetitions

```
<html><head><title>Test Page</title></head> <body>
    <script language="JavaScript">
        var i, j;
        for (j=0; j<3; j++) {
            for (i=0; i<5; i++) {
                document.write('[ ' + j + ',' + i + ' ]');
            }
        }
    </script></body>
</html>
```

The new code is shown in white

My Netscape   Search   Bookmarks

[0,0][0,1][0,2][0,3][0,4]
[1,0][1,1][1,2][1,3][1,4]
[2,0][2,1][2,2][2,3][2,4]

Arrays and Indexes

We know about names with multiple instances: *Rocky* 3, QE 2, John Paul 2

- The number is called the name's *index*
- The least index is called the index *origin*
- In programming, variables that can be indexed are called *arrays*
- Declare arrays in JavaScript:
- var *<identifier>* = new Array (*<num elements>*);
- JavaScript arrays are 0-origin
- Reference array elements w/ brackets: A(0)

Arrays and Loops

Loops and arrays work together

- Declare an array and initialize elements to 8

```
var j, A = new Array(5);
for (j=0; j<5; j++) {
  A[j] = 8;
}
```

Five elements: A(0), A(1), A(2), A(3) & A(4)

WFI and array's indices both start at 0

Notice what would change to have 1000 elements -- arrays and loops give power

Summary

Iteration is very powerful because a small amount of code specifies a lot of computation

- **for** gives full range of looping limits, steps
- Use any form of **for** that works, but using the WFI is a good habit to adopt
- In a doubly nested loop one iteration has another iteration as its *<statement list>*
- Arrays are variables with many elements that are referred to by their index