JavaScript API History

Back to JS page

> **Note:** For the basic `window.history` object (back/forward/go), see 05.2114-js-WindowHistory. This topic covers the History API from the Web API perspective.

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The History back() Method

The `history.back()` method loads the previous URL in the history list:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h2>JavaScript API History</h2>
<p>From w3schools.com, Experiment by Teeratus_R</p>

<h4>The History back() Method</h4>
<button onclick="goBack()">Go Back</button>
<p id="demo"></p>

<script>
function goBack() {
  window.history.back();
}

// Show current history length
document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML =
  "History length: " + window.history.length;
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

Example 1

Result View Example

The History go() Method

The `history.go()` method loads a specific URL from the history list:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h2>JavaScript API History</h2>
<p>From w3schools.com, Experiment by Teeratus_R</p>

<h4>The History go() Method</h4>
<button onclick="goBack()">Go Back 1 Page</button>
<button onclick="goForward()">Go Forward 1 Page</button>
<button onclick="reloadPage()">Reload (go 0)</button>
<p id="demo"></p>

<script>
function goBack() {
  window.history.go(-1);
}

function goForward() {
  window.history.go(1);
}

function reloadPage() {
  window.history.go(0);
}

document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML =
  "History API provides navigation control<br>" +
  "history.go(-1): back<br>" +
  "history.go(1): forward<br>" +
  "history.go(0): reload<br>" +
  "Current history length: " + window.history.length;
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

Example 2

Result View Example

History Object Properties

The History object has a `length` property that returns the number of URLs in the history list:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h2>JavaScript API History</h2>
<p>From w3schools.com, Experiment by Teeratus_R</p>

<h4>History Object Properties</h4>
<p id="demo"></p>

<script>
let text = "History Object Properties:<br><br>";
text += "history.length: " + window.history.length + "<br>";
text += "(Number of URLs in the history list)<br><br>";

text += "Note: For security reasons,<br>";
text += "history does not allow reading<br>";
text += "the actual URLs in the history.";

document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = text;
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

Example 3

Result View Example

History Object Methods

The History object provides methods for navigating and manipulating the browser history:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h2>JavaScript API History</h2>
<p>From w3schools.com, Experiment by Teeratus_R</p>

<h4>History Object Methods</h4>
<p id="demo"></p>

<script>
let text = "History Object Methods:<br><br>";

text += "<b>history.back()</b><br>";
text += "- Loads the previous URL<br>";
text += "- Same as clicking the Back button<br><br>";

text += "<b>history.forward()</b><br>";
text += "- Loads the next URL<br>";
text += "- Same as clicking the Forward button<br><br>";

text += "<b>history.go(n)</b><br>";
text += "- Loads a specific page from history<br>";
text += "- Negative numbers go back<br>";
text += "- Positive numbers go forward<br>";
text += "- go(0) reloads the current page<br><br>";

text += "Current history length: " + window.history.length;

document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = text;
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

Example 4

Result View Example

Document

Document in project

You can Download PDF file.

Reference

- W3Schools JavaScript API History
- See also: 05.2114-js-WindowHistory for Window History basics