

Web Development Cheatsheet

All the terms you need to know.

1

action (controller) a function that handles a user request within a software application.

argument synonymous with parameter.

array a data structure that can contain multiple elements/values at once.

asset media files used throughout software application; in web development these generally include CSS stylesheets, JavaScript files, images, and other media files.

attribute a property of an HTML element that allows you to associate additional information with it.

back end the portion of a software application residing on a web server responsible for communicating with the database and supplying information to the front end, to be displayed to the user.

call (function) to execute a function.

column (database) a set of data values of the same data type.

comment explanatory text used to describe the functionality of source code that has no bearing on the code's functionality.

controller the entities responsible for handling user actions within a software application, generally responsible for retrieving the necessary data and passing it to the designated view.

CSS standing for Cascading Style Sheets, is the language used for altering the appearance of HTML elements on a web page.

data information used by software applications.

data structure a particular way of storing or representing data.

data type the classification or kind of a piece of information (e.g. string, numeric, boolean).

database a stored collection of organized data.

development writing source code to produce software.

development environment a technical setup used for the creation of software application.

dynamic content that varies based on various specifications and/or user input.

event an action, typically caused by a user's interaction, detected and handled by an application.

field A piece of information within a database table row.

framework code designed to provide built-in access to common functionality and help structure and organize the building of a software application.

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front end the portion of a software application responsible for rendering user interfaces and handling user interactivity.

function pieces of code, packaged together, designed to perform a specific task. helper a set of functions that assist with a certain type of functionality.

HTML or HyperText Markup Language, is the language used to create web pages.

HTTP or HyperText Transfer Protocol, is the protocol used by the World Wide Web, defining how messages are formatted and transmitted and how web servers and browsers should react to different commands.

initialize assigning an initial value to a data object or variable.

JavaScript a programming language allowing for the implementation of user interactivity and asynchronous communications.

loop code statements that can be executed multiple times, in succession, performing designated operations for each iteration.

method a piece of code that is called by name that is associated with an object (i.e. a function that belongs to an object, such as a model method).

model a representation of a type of data object.

model-view-controller (MVC) a pattern that organizes the different responsibilities of a software application around models, views, and controllers.

nesting (HTML) HTML elements contained within other elements, with varying levels of depth.

null a special value used to designate that a piece of data does not exist, such as for a column value in a database row (database).

object-oriented programming The concept of organizing a software application's data and functionality around the creation and manipulation of objects.

parameter a special kind of variable used to pass a value to a function.

programming synonymous with development.

programming language a language used to communicate with a computer. As in traditional writing, software code can also be written in different languages. Each has their own vocabulary as well as their own syntax, just as in a written/spoken language..

property an attribute, or value, associated with an object.

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3

query an instruction, or command, that allows us to interact with our database and perform actions such as retrieving data.

record (database) synonymous with row (database).

request (HTTP) a message sent, formatted according to the HTTP protocol.

route a definition that associates a certain URL with a specific controller action (controller).

row (database) a single data item, stored in a database table.

snippet a small piece of source code.

software a set of instructions (written in code) that can be interpreted by a machine, in order to produce various results. This is a blanket term that includes mobile apps, computer programs, and web apps.

source code what a software application is comprised of. Code is to software as words are to a book.

source code editor a text editor specialized for writing, and editing, source code of software applications.

static information or content that doesn't change.

string a piece of text.

stylesheet document that contains CSS code to make our HTML elements actually look nice.

syntax the set of rules that determine how you properly write statements in a programming language. Just like in English, you don't end a sentence with a comma, in JavaScript, you must end individual statements with a semicolon.

table (database) a collection of data values of a similar type in a database

tag (HTML) HTML code syntax used to represent elements on a web page.

template a layout used to deliver a consistent presentation across pages in a software application.

variable a symbolic name used to store a value.

view the entity responsible for creating the physical structure and layout, including any necessary data information, and displaying it to the user.

web app a software application that lives on the web.

web development writing code to produce a website or web app.

web server a computer that can deliver content that can be accessed via the Internet.