



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Using Javascript](http://codex.wordpress.org/Using_Javascript)

Version Date

8 August 2005

Using Javascript

Javascript will work within WordPress. If used within the [template files](#), most Javascript will work fine. Using them within a post is another matter, though.

Once you enter the world of PHP, it is really hard to go back to using Javascript, but they still serve their purpose. If you can replace a Javascript with PHP code, tags, or script in WordPress, do so. Your life will be much easier. If not, here are a few tips to make your Javascript work in WordPress.

Javascript in Template Files

To use Javascript repeatedly within your site, you can either set the call for the Javascript, or the script itself, in the `head` of your `header.php` template file, between the meta tags and the style sheet link, no differently than you would if you were using Javascript in any HTML page. To "load" the Javascript file into your site, in the `head`, add something like this:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="/scripts/emailpage.js"></script>
```

Be sure that you define the `type` correctly, as your site will not validate without it.

In the spot where you wish to use the Javascript, set the call for the Javascript. For example, you are using a Javascript that sets a link for users to "email this page" to a friend and you want it to be under the post title. It might look like this:

```
<h3 class="storytitle">
<a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>" rel="bookmark">
<?php the_title(); ?></a></h3>
<div class="emailpage">
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
emailpage();
//--></script>
</div>
```

Javascript in Posts

To use Javascript inside of posts in WordPress, you need to take a few more steps. Odds are that this usage is for one or only a few instances, so adding the script to the header would be unnecessary.

For the occasional or one time use of Javascript, you need to put the script into a Javascript file and then call it out from within the post. Make sure that each script is defined by its function name such as:

```
function updatepage(){var m="Page updated "+document.lastMo.....}
```

To include a Javascript **inside** a post, you need to combine both the call to the script file with the call to the Javascript itself.

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="/scripts/updatepage.js"></script>
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
updatepage();
//--></script>
```

Creating a Multiple Script File

You might have a collection of scripts that you call from time to time, like a scripts which calculate time zones or distance, or maybe scripts that create some effect or accent on your page. For recurring Javascripts, consider grouping them together into one file.

For this example, name the group Javascripts file `scriptfile.js` (choose whatever you want) and say it contains the `updatepage`, `emailpage`, and `caltimezone` scripts. As you copy each Javascript into the file, make sure it has a unique **function** name such as with this condensed version:

```
function updatepage() {var m="Page updated "+document.lastMo.....}
function emailpage() {mail_str = "mailto:?subject=....}
function caltimezone() {var timerID ; function tzone(tz, os, ds, cl) {this.ct
=.....}
```

Place the script file of all the Javascripts in the head of the `header.php` template file between the meta tags and the style sheet link. It will just sit there, loaded into the browser's memory, waiting for one of the scripts inside to be called.

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="/scripts/scriptfile.js"></script>
```

In the spot in your post where you would like to use the Javascript, call it as follows:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
updatepage();
//--></script>
```

Troubleshooting Javascript

If you are having trouble with including Javascripts inside a post, use the [Text Control Plugin](http://dev.wp-plugins.org/wiki/TextControl) (<http://dev.wp-plugins.org/wiki/TextControl>) which allows you to control on a global or per post basis the ability to turn off WordPress' automatic formatting features which can quickly turn code into something readable instead of executable. Set the options on the post that you will be using the Javascript on to have **No Formatting** or **Markup** or **nl2br** and **No Character Formatting**. You may have to experiment to get it to work. As a reminder, when using the Text Control Plugin, you must first *Save and Continue Editing* the post in order to see the Text Control Plugin options.

If you choose **No Formatting**, your post's text will run together, so you will have to add paragraph tags and other HTML tags in order to format your page as WordPress normally does that for you.

If your Javascript does not work, triple check that you have not made any errors during the cut and paste into a group or single file. Be sure you used a text editor and not a word processing program to create the Javascript file. Check the name of the function in the script file as well as on your site. Not all Javascripts may work, and could possibly conflict

with your PHP commands, but this is very rare.

If you are really having trouble with this, the [WordPress Support Forum](http://codex.wordpress.org/support) (<http://codex.wordpress.org/support>) may be able to help.

Resources

- [Javascript Source](http://javascript.internet.com/) (<http://javascript.internet.com/>)
- [Script Downloads](http://www.scriptdownloads.com/) (<http://www.scriptdownloads.com/>)
- [Hotscripts](http://www.hotscripts.com/) (<http://www.hotscripts.com/>)
- [PHP Resource Index](http://php.resourceindex.com/) (<http://php.resourceindex.com/>)
- [Only PHP](http://www.onlyphp.com/) (<http://www.onlyphp.com/>)
- [PHP Scripts](#)