

jQuery Mobile

DEVELOP AND DESIGN



Kris Hadlock

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1249 Eighth Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
510/524-2178
510/524-2221 (fax)

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To my wife, Lisa, who carried our first child while I wrote this book.

*Only true love can withstand the amount of time that it
takes to write a book while having a new baby.*

*And to my son, Lucas, words cannot
express the love I feel for you.*

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kris Hadlock has been a web developer and designer since 1996, working on projects for companies such as SPIN Magazine, IKEA, United Airlines, JP Morgan Chase, Canon, and Phoenix Children's Hospital, to name a few. Kris is a featured columnist and writer for numerous websites and design magazines, including Peachpit.com, InformIT.com, IBM developerWorks (www.ibm.com/developerworks), and *Practical Web Design* magazine. His other books include *Ajax for Web Application Developers* and *The ActionScript 3.0 Migration Guide*. He is the founder and lead developer-designer of Studio Sediton (www.studiosedition.com), specializing in the fusion of form and function.

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INTRODUCING THE FUTURE OF WEB DEVELOPMENT

Smartphone, tablet, and e-reader statistics are showing an unprecedented adoption rate, making the mobile web a very hot topic and requiring a new set of skills from web developers and designers. Mobile device usage is skyrocketing; according to Nielsen's third-quarter 2011 Mobile Media Report, "44 percent of U.S. mobile subscribers now own a smartphone device, compared to 18 percent just two years ago." That's more than double in two years, and "the number of smartphone subscribers using the mobile Internet has grown 45 percent since 2010." As for tablets, in June 2011 AMI-Partners (Access Markets International) forecasted that "tablet adoption among businesses with between 1 and 1,000 employees will grow by 1,000 percent by 2015."



Let's not forget e-readers, which are becoming very affordable and are more advanced than ever, increasing in shipment volume, as “year-over-year growth was 167%” according to International Data Corporation (IDC). With the introduction of the latest Kindle, mobile Internet access is now becoming a normal experience.

With these increases in adoption rate, there will no doubt be high demand for web developers who can create rich mobile web experiences. The jQuery Mobile framework gives web developers a quick and easy way to create mobile web experiences, making the mobile web space hard to ignore.

WHY JQUERY MOBILE?

As a web developer, you don't have to use the jQuery Mobile framework to create a mobile web experience. So why use it? For starters, the framework is built on the highly respected and widely used jQuery core and jQuery user interface (UI) foundation. It's currently sponsored by companies such as Mozilla, Palm, Adobe, Nokia, BlackBerry, and more. Plus, it works seamlessly across all popular mobile device platforms. The jQuery Mobile team is actively and regularly offering new releases, blogging about new features, and keeping their comprehensive online documentation up to date.

Most web developers and designers agree that browser and cross-platform testing is something they would rather not spend their time on. Imagine all of the devices that could potentially be accessing your mobile website. Then imagine having to test all of those platforms each and every time you build a mobile website—this would be painstaking and incredibly time-consuming. jQuery Mobile gives you this support from the start, as the team prides the framework on its approach to supporting a wide variety of mobile platforms. The framework is built on clean, semantic HTML, which ensures compatibility with a majority of web-enabled devices.

The framework also includes accessibility features, such as WAI-ARIA (Web Accessibility Initiative-Accessible Rich Internet Applications), a technical specification published by the World Wide Web Consortium regarding the increase of accessibility of webpages, which are integrated into the framework to support screen readers, such as VoiceOver on Apple iOS and other assistive technologies. Simply including the jQuery Mobile framework in your website unobtrusively

transforms your code from semantic HTML into a rich, interactive, and accessible mobile experience using jQuery and CSS. As you'll see throughout this book, the jQuery Mobile approach makes mobile web development incredibly easy, quick, and efficient, leaving the platform and browser testing up to the jQuery Mobile team.

jQuery Mobile isn't exclusively for web developers; web designers have access to the jQuery UI, which provides complete design control over mobile web applications. Built-in UI widgets, such as list views, dialogs, toolbars, search mechanisms, and a full set of form elements, are all customizable via the theme framework. Later in the book, you'll also learn about ThemeRoller, which lets you create up to 26 theme swatches using a simple, web-based interface. User experience (UX) designers also get some love, with access to stencils for OmniGraffle and Visio. And, of course, if you want to get geeky with it, the application programming interface (API) is available to web developers. As a web developer, you can configure defaults, handle many different events, and work with several exposed methods and properties.

An emerging community is helping to support the framework with a number of third-party apps and frameworks that you can use to build jQuery Mobile apps. In addition, jQuery Mobile compatible plug-ins and extensions are popping up to help web developers integrate custom widgets and add capabilities to the existing core functionality.

One very important third-party framework is blurring the line between native and mobile web-based development. As an HTML5 app platform, PhoneGap allows you to author native applications using web technologies. With PhoneGap, your web applications can easily be ported into native apps that can do things like retrieve contact information, access cameras, use geolocation, store data, and much more. To learn more about PhoneGap, visit phonegap.com. There's even a section in the jQuery Mobile online documentation about it. With these sorts of possibilities, you no longer need to program multiple versions of a native application. This makes native application development less desirable, because the same application you develop for an iPhone would need to be completely redeveloped for Android, BlackBerry, Windows Mobile, and others. Oh, and don't forget that every new release will need to be updated for every one of these different platforms. The jQuery Mobile framework provides mobile web experiences that rival native application development by giving you instant access to web applications and websites via the web browser, eliminating the need to download and install mobile applications.

WHO THIS BOOK IS FOR

This book is for people who have basic HTML experience and are interested in creating mobile websites using the jQuery Mobile framework.

WHO THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR

This book is not for people who have never created a webpage.

HOW YOU WILL LEARN

In this book, you'll learn by doing. Each chapter includes sample code and descriptions to give you a deep understanding of how things work. You can also find the code samples on the book's website (www.peachpit.com/jquerymobile).

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

This book will teach you everything from the basics of how to create pages to custom-theming them and developing your own jQuery Mobile content-management system with WordPress and Drupal. By the time you finish this book, you'll be a jQuery Mobile expert.

WRAPPING UP

The jQuery Mobile framework is a powerful framework that is supported by mobile industry leaders. It can easily be added to an existing website to create a mobile web experience that is not only touch-friendly, but also supported on a majority of the leading mobile platforms as well as handicap accessible. Design control, page transitions, widget integration, scripting, API access, and much more are all at your fingertips through this framework's easy-to-use features and built-in progressive enhancement techniques.

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SUPPORTED
jQUERY MOBILE
PLATFORMS

The jQuery Mobile framework supports the majority of modern desktop, smartphone, tablet, and e-reader platforms. Rather than spending your time testing multiple devices, you can rest assured that you're offering support for many platforms from the start. This is because the jQuery Mobile platform takes a progressive enhancement approach, which not only brings rich interactive experiences to devices, but also provides support for older browsers and phones. When a browser fails to recognize certain HTML5-specific code, the webpage renders as a simple, yet functional webpage. Users on older phones or browsers are familiar with a limited web experience, therefore this approach still renders an acceptable basic HTML webpage in these cases.



Currently, Android and Apple iOS are the leading mobile operating systems. Android has the largest operating system market share (44.2 percent), while Apple has the largest smartphone market share in the United States (28.6 percent). The Windows, BlackBerry, SymbianOS, and Palm/HP webOS operating systems comprise the remaining majority of smartphone market share (Figure 1). All of these platforms/operating systems are supported by the jQuery Mobile framework.

MAJOR PLATFORMS

The following list provides a bit more information on the major platforms that are fully supported by the jQuery Mobile framework.



IOS

iOS is Apple's mobile operating system. Originally developed for the iPhone, it has been extended to support other Apple devices such as the iPod Touch, iPad, and Apple TV. iOS uses Safari as its web browser.



ANDROID

Android is an open-source software project and operating system led by Google. It has been used in a plethora of phones, tablets, and other devices since its release under the Apache license. Android uses Google Chrome as its web browser.



Windows Phone

WINDOWS PHONE

Windows Phone is Microsoft's mobile operating system. The system is integrated with third-party and other Microsoft services. Windows Phone uses Internet Explorer Mobile as its web browser.

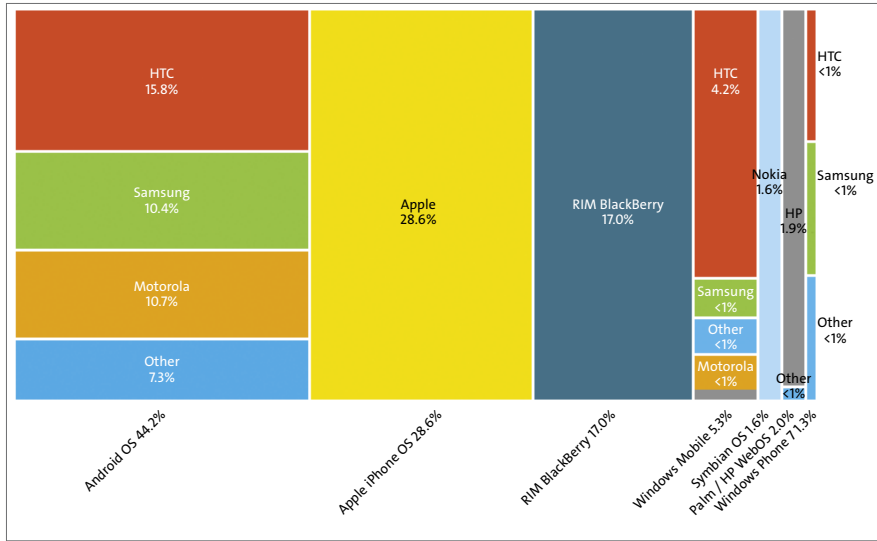


FIGURE 1 Operating system market share as of 2011.



BLACKBERRY

BlackBerry is powered by a proprietary mobile operating system, offered on its own set of smartphones and tablets.



WEBOS

webOS is the open-source operating system used by Palm devices. webOS uses the WebKit layout engine in its web browser, simply named Web.

GRADED SUPPORT

jQuery Mobile uses a three-tier, graded list of the platforms that are supported by the framework. The tiers are A, B, and C. A includes a full experience with the option of Ajax-based page transitions, B includes the same experience minus the Ajax-based page transitions, and C is a basic, yet functional, HTML experience.

A-grade support includes all the major mobile operating systems that were mentioned previously and more, including Apple iOS, Android, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, Palm/HP webOS, Kindle 3, Kindle Fire, and more. B-grade support includes BlackBerry 5, Opera Mini, and Nokia SymbianOS. C-grade support includes BlackBerry 4, Windows Mobile, and all older smartphones and feature phones. This list is always evolving; to see an up-to-date list, visit jquerymobile.com and check out the supported platforms.

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4

CREATING MULTIPAGE WEBSITES

Now that we've covered the basics of structuring mobile webpages, we'll take a deeper look and get a better understanding of the functionality behind them. As mentioned in Chapter 3, "Getting Started with jQuery Mobile," there are two ways to structure webpages for jQuery Mobile: incorporate all the pages in the same file, or create separate files for each page like a typical website. Understanding the different page template types is the foundation for customizing a number of different page-related functionalities. In addition to learning about the page template types, you'll also see how to preload and cache pages, work with different page transitions, and customize loading messages. You'll learn to create custom functionality to take your pages to the next level.



MULTIPAGE TEMPLATE

Internal linking occurs automatically when you have multiple jQuery Mobile pages in the same HTML file. As you've learned, jQuery Mobile pages are defined by adding a `data-role` with a value of `page` to an HTML element and anything within that page becomes relative to that page. In jQuery Mobile, typical separate webpages are considered *single-page* templates, while webpages that contain multiple pages are considered *multipage* templates. Let's refer back to our multipage template example from the previous chapter (with a few small additions):

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;
    → charset=UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
    → initial-scale=1">
    <title>Multipage template - jQuery Mobile: Design and
    → Develop</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="http://code.jquery.com/
    → mobile/1.0.1/jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.css" />
    <script src="http://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/
    → jquery/1.7.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
    <script src="http://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.0.1/
    → jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.js"></script>
  </script>
    <script type="text/javascript" src="assets/js/ui.js">
  </script>
  </head>
  <body class="container">
    <div data-role="page" id="page-one" data-title="Page 1">
      <div data-role="header">
        <h1>Page 1</h1>
      </div>
```



```

<div data-role="content">
  <p>Body copy for page 1</p>
  <p><a href="#page-two">Link to page 2</a></p>
</div>
<div data-role="footer">
  Copyright
</div>
</div>
<div data-role="page" id="page-two" data-title="Page 2">
  <div data-role="header">
    <h1>Page 2</h1>
  </div>
  <div data-role="content">
    <p>Body copy for page 2</p>
    <a href="#page-one">Link to page 1</a>
  </div>
  <div data-role="footer">
    Copyright
  </div>
</div>
</body>
</html>

```

Within this multipage template are two pages defined by div elements with custom ids. The jQuery Mobile framework shows only one of these pages at a time, and it uses the data-title attribute to change the page title dynamically. The page that is shown by default is determined by the order of the source code. In this example, the first page has an id of page-one, but if the pages in this file were switched, so that the element with an id of page-two came first, then that would be the default page to load. In other words, the value of the id attribute doesn't

FIGURE 4.1 A multipage template with two pages and the transition in between.



determine what page is shown by default; the default page is determined only by the source code order. However, the `id` is used for other important purposes, such as linking pages to one another.

This is where jQuery Mobile pages begin to act like separate webpages. Note that hyperlinks have been added to the original template to link from one page to another. This is somewhat like the toggle functionality that's common in JavaScript development, where `id` values are used to hide and reveal certain HTML elements. The difference here is that jQuery Mobile handles the functionality for you. To link from one page to another you simply need to:

1. Create a hyperlink.
2. Type the pound sign (#).
3. Specify the `id` value of the page you want to link to.

The end result looks like this:

```
<a href="#page-two">Link to page 2</a>
```

It's similar to creating a page anchor; the difference is that you're referencing the `id` value of another page. Remember that each page needs a unique `id` value. In this case, I've used `page-one` and `page-two`, but you can use something more descriptive and relative to the content of your jQuery Mobile page. The cool thing about the jQuery Mobile framework is that it transitions dynamically from one page to another without requiring you to write an ounce of code. **Figure 4.1** shows an example of this code in both page views and the transition from one to another.

SINGLE-PAGE TEMPLATE

Single-page templates are separate HTML files that act as independent webpages, just like any standard webpage. The main difference is in how jQuery Mobile connects webpages using Ajax. As with multipage templates, the Ajax-based navigation in single-page templates uses hashtags to create a page history. The Ajax-based navigation used by jQuery Mobile is the default, but it can be turned off by setting the `ajaxEnabled` setting to `false` in the configuration. You'll learn more about the configuration settings later in this book.

Ajah is an abbreviation that is sometimes used for Asynchronous JavaScript and HTML. Ajah is essentially Ajax without the XML; the `XMLHttpRequest` is still used, but HTML is exchanged with the server rather than XML. This is what jQuery Mobile uses as the user browses independent webpages. We briefly covered how the jQuery Mobile framework uses the `XMLHttpRequest` to load subsequent pages in the previous chapter, but there's a lot to learn and understand about this simple request.

One great thing about the jQuery Mobile framework is how it tracks history: it supports the back and forward buttons! Also, while subsequent pages load, the framework provides a default loading message and transitions between pages. The default page transition is to slide between two pages, and the default loading message is a spinning icon with a "loading..." message. Both options are configurable, as you'll learn in the next chapter. For now, let's see how hashtags and history work in jQuery Mobile.

HASHTAGS AND HISTORY

jQuery Mobile uses hashtags to manage history in single- and multipage templates. The window object's `location.hash` is used to make changes and updates to the history, so the back and forward buttons function as usual, which is uncommon in other Ajax-based systems. Essentially, jQuery Mobile prevents the default functionality of all hyperlinks and uses the hashtag functionality to handle history. Not only is the history updated, the hashtag system also creates a valid URL that can be bookmarked for later reference.

The only issue with jQuery Mobile's hashtag-based navigation is that it doesn't support deep linking. However, there are some workarounds you can use to support this functionality. With a little help from jQuery, you can add a script, like the following, to your webpage and your deep links will function as usual:

```
$(document).ready(function() {  
    $('a[href^="#"]').bind('click vclick', function () {  
        location.hash = $(this).attr('href');  
        return false;  
    });  
});
```

In HTML, all hyperlinks that include a pound sign (#) as their first character are identified as anchors. This script uses a regular expression that includes the caret symbol to identify all anchor elements that have an href attribute with a value that begins with the pound sign. Once these elements have been selected, you can use the bind method to bind a click and vclick event to the anchor tags and assign an anonymous function handler as the callback.

The callback function sets the window object's location.hash to the value of the anchor and returns false to prevent the browser from performing the default action associated with clicking the hyperlink.

NOTES: The caret (^) symbol is often used in regular expressions to designate the beginning of a string.

The vclick event is an option used in jQuery Mobile by devices that support touch events. The event supports faster page changes and during page transitions it keeps the address bar hidden.

Hyperlinking from single-page to multipage templates with Ajax enabled will load only the first page in the source code of the multipage template. To link to a multipage template from a single-page template, you must use an external hyperlink by using rel="external" or data-ajax="false".

LINK TYPES

jQuery Mobile supports standard HTML link types as well as a number of custom link types related to the mobile experience. The following tables offer a list of the supported link types available through the jQuery Mobile framework. Each table shows options categorized based on their end result and/or support of Ajax.

Table 4.1 describes links that support Ajax.

TABLE 4.1 Link types that support Ajax

HYPERLINK MARKUP	DESCRIPTION
<code> → Hyperlink within same domain </code>	A standard HTML link that is transformed by the jQuery Mobile framework to use Ajax, include page transitions, and support page history.
<code> Open a dialog</code>	An option used for dialog windows that is not tracked in page history.
<code>Back button</code>	This option can be used to navigate back in page history; it's a great option for providing a back button from a page or dialog. The href is ignored in A- and B-grade browsers, but is necessary for C-grade browsers.

GRADED SUPPORT

As mentioned in the book's introduction, jQuery Mobile uses a three-tier graded list of platforms that are supported by the framework: A, B, and C. A includes a full experience with the option of Ajax-based page transitions; B includes the same experience minus the Ajax-based page transitions; and C is a basic yet functional HTML experience.

A-grade support includes all the major mobile operating systems mentioned previously and others, including Apple iOS, Android, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, Palm WebOS, Kindle 3, and Kindle Fire. B-grade support includes BlackBerry 5, Opera Mini, and Nokia Symbian. C-grade support includes BlackBerry 4, Windows Mobile, and all older smartphones and feature phones. Visit jquerymobile.com to see an up-to-date list of supported platforms.

Table 4.2 describes a list of hyperlinks that disable the Ajax page-transition functionality. These hyperlinks are great for pages on an external domain, pages that open in a new window, linking from single to multipage templates, or linking to pages where you don't want to use Ajax.

Table 4.3 includes link types that stem from a basic HTML hyperlink with the addition of specific attributes.

TABLE 4.2 Link types that disable Ajax

HYPERLINK MARKUP	DESCRIPTION
<code>External → hyperlink</code>	Linking to a page on an external domain automatically disables the Ajax functionality.
<code> → External hyperlink</code>	By default this attribute defines a hyperlink as external, which not only disables Ajax, but also removes it from the page hashtag history and refreshes the webpage. This option can be transformed using jQuery to open new windows in a standards-compliant way.
<code>Hyperlink disables Ajax</code>	This option provides a way to define a hyperlink as external, which not only disables Ajax, but also removes it from the page hashtag history and refreshes the webpage.

TABLE 4.3 Miscellaneous link types

HYPERLINK MARKUP	DESCRIPTION
<code>Phone Number</code>	This hyperlink initiates a phone call when clicked on some phones.
<code> → Email link</code>	This hyperlink initiates a new email that's prefilled with the specified email address.
<code>Hyperlink</code>	This hyperlink returns false. It's useful when creating a back button as in Table 4.1.

The jQuery Mobile framework uses many hyperlink attributes to create enhancements to otherwise normal HTML webpages. This is just another reason why jQuery Mobile is more appealing than creating a mobile website from scratch. It lets you focus on what matters, eliminating the need to write core functionality every time you create a new mobile website.

The following examples show a few of the link types covered in the tables.

This webpage offers three examples of the link types that can be used in jQuery Mobile: an internal link, an external link, and a link that disables Ajax:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;
    → charset=UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
    → initial-scale=1">
    <title>Single-page template - Page 1 - jQuery Mobile: Design
    → and Develop</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="http://code.jquery.com/
    → mobile/1.0.1/jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.css" />
    <script src="http://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/
    → jquery/1.7.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
    <script src="http://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.0.1/
    → jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.js"></script>
    </script>
  </head>
  <body class="container">
    <div data-role="page">
      <div data-role="header">
        <h1>Page 1</h1>
      </div>
      <div data-role="content">
        <p><a href="single-page-2.html">Link to page 2</a></p>
        <p><a href="single-page-2.html" rel="external">
        → External Link to page 2</a></p>
        <p><a href="single-page-2.html" data-ajax="false">
        → Ajax-disabled link to page 2</a></p>
      </div>
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

```

        </div>
        <div data-role="footer">
            Copyright
        </div>
    </div>
</body>
</html>

```

An internal link requires no special markup and is where the framework will interject and create a page transition between the current page and the page that's being linked to. An external link is one that requires the `rel` attribute, which must be set to a value of `external`. Setting a hyperlink as external disables Ajax, removes it from the page hashtag history, and refreshes the webpage when the link is clicked. The link that disables Ajax requires a `data-ajax` attribute with a value of `false`. This disables Ajax, removes it from the page hashtag history, and refreshes the webpage, just like the previous example, with the main difference being that the `rel="external"` attribute can be used as a standards-compliant way to create hyperlinks that target new windows with a little help from jQuery.

In this next example, there's an internal link and a hyperlink that acts as a back button:

```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
    <head>
        <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;
        → charset=UTF-8">
        <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
        → initial-scale=1">
        <title>Single-page template - Page 2 - jQuery Mobile: Design
        → and Develop</title>
        <link rel="stylesheet" href="http://code.jquery.com/
        → mobile/1.0.1/jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.css" />

```

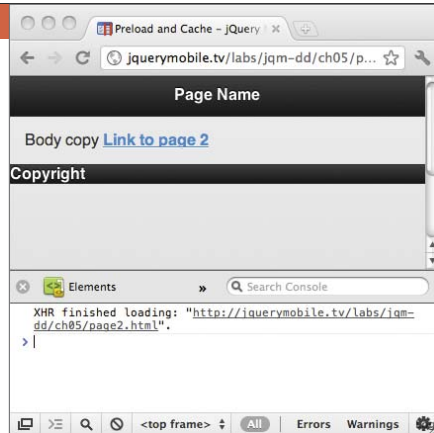


```
<script src="http://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/
→ jquery/1.7.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
<script src="http://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.0.1/
→ jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.js"></script>
</head>
<body class="container">
  <div data-role="page">
    <div data-role="header">
      <h1>Page 2</h1>
    </div>
    <div data-role="content">
      <p><a href="single-page.html">Ajax link to page 1</a></p>
      <p><a href="#" data-rel="back">Back button</a></p>
    </div>
    <div data-role="footer">
      Copyright
    </div>
  </div>
</body>
</html>
```

Setting the `data-rel` attribute to `back` creates a hyperlink that acts like a back button. When this link is clicked, the jQuery Mobile framework automatically links to the previous page in history.

PRELOADING AND CACHING PAGES

FIGURE 4.2 A page being preloaded by jQuery Mobile using the prefetch attribute.



Page caching is very important when working with anything web-based. Cache refers to hidden storage where files are collected. By default, browsers handle webpage caching by putting the associated files in a local directory on the user's computer so the webpage and its associated assets will load more quickly during subsequent visits. jQuery Mobile takes this concept a step further: the framework allows pages to be cached even before they're linked to or displayed in the browser. Taking advantage of this functionality is as easy as using an HTML attribute named `data-prefetch`. Simply add it to any hyperlink in your webpage, and once the webpage has loaded, the URLs that these hyperlinks point to will be preloaded and cached. The following line of code shows how to add this attribute to a hyperlink to preload and cache the page it's pointing to:

```
<a href="page2.html" data-prefetch>Link to page 2</a>
```

When running this example in a web browser, the request is made immediately upon page load. **Figure 4.2** shows an example of the XMLHttpRequest being made from Chrome when the page loads.

The framework also provides a way to handle page preloading via the application programming interface (API). We'll talk more specifically about the API later in the book, but it's important to know how to access it.

NOTE: The application programming interface (API) allows for communication among multiple pieces of software.

To preload pages programmatically, you first need to access the jQuery Mobile object:

```
$.mobile
```

Once the document object is ready, use the `loadPage` method to pass the URL you want to preload and define a number of properties for the request:

```
$(document).ready(function() {  
    $.mobile.loadPage( "page2.html", {  
        type: false,  
        reloadPage: false,  
        type: 'get'  
    });  
});
```

There are quite a few arguments you can pass as options in the `loadPage` method. **Table 4.4** lists those optional arguments.

TABLE 4.4 `loadPage` optional arguments

ARGUMENT	DESCRIPTION
<code>data</code>	Holds an object or string that can be sent with an Ajax page request.
<code>loadMsgDelay</code>	Sets the number of milliseconds to delay before showing the load message. The default is 50 milliseconds.
<code>pageContainer</code>	Holds the loaded page. The default is the jQuery Mobile page container, but this is customizable.
<code>reloadPage</code>	Defines whether or not to reload the page being requested. The default value is <code>false</code> .
<code>role</code>	When the page is loaded, this defines the <code>data-role</code> value that will be applied.
<code>type</code>	Specifies whether the request is a get or a post.

In addition to providing control for preloading files, the jQuery Mobile framework provides control for caching pages in the document object model (DOM). Just like the preload option, you can define whether a page should be cached in the DOM via an HTML attribute or the jQuery Mobile API. The following example shows how the attribute can be used in a page tag to cache a webpage:

```
<div data-role="page" data-dom-cache="true">
```

To cache a webpage using the API, you can set all pages to cache by default:

```
$.mobile.page.prototype.options.domCache = true;
```

Or, you can cache a page independently. You would cache a page with an id of my-page like so:

```
$('#my-page').page(true);
```

When working with the single-page template, jQuery Mobile also manages the pages it preloads so the DOM doesn't get too large. If many pages are kept in the DOM, the browser's memory usage can get out of control and the browser will likely slow down or crash. To manage the memory size, the framework removes pages that are loaded via Ajax from the DOM automatically via the pagehide event when the visitor navigates away from them. You'll learn more about this and other events later in the book.

There are a number of benefits to preloading and caching pages. They load quicker and prevent the Ajax loading message from appearing when a visitor tries to access the preloaded page. However, it's important to keep in mind that each preloaded page creates an additional HTTP request, which uses more bandwidth. Therefore, it's important to preload pages only when you think visitors are likely to view a subsequent webpage.

WORKING WITH PAGE TRANSITIONS

A number of page transitions can be used with the jQuery Mobile framework. All the page transitions are CSS-based effects. When using Ajax navigation, the page transitions work between linked pages or form submissions. **Table 4.5** lists the available page transitions in the framework.

TABLE 4.5 Page transitions

METHOD	DESCRIPTION
slide	Slides the hyperlinked page in from the right to replace the current page. Slide is the default page transition.
slideup	Slides the hyperlinked page up to replace the current page.
slidedown	Slides the hyperlinked page down from the top to replace the current page.
pop	Zooms the hyperlinked page in from the center of the current page and replaces it.
fade	Fades in the hyperlinked page over the current page and replaces it.
flip	Creates a 3D effect where the hyperlinked page appears to be on the backside of the current page as it flips and the hyperlinked page comes into view.

NOTE: Use the flip transition with caution, because it is supported only by browsers that support 3D CSS transform rendering.

Each of these page transitions is easy to set up globally as a default using the `defaultPageTransition` property. To set it up properly, it's necessary to bind to the `mobileinit` event, which is accessible through the API via the jQuery Mobile object:

```
$(document).bind("mobileinit", function() {  
    $.mobile.defaultPageTransition = 'fade';  
});
```

The binding of the event handler needs to be executed before the jQuery Mobile library loads. Therefore, in your HTML file, arrange your JavaScript files in a specific order:

```
<script src="http://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/1.7.1/  
→ jquery.min.js"></script>  
<script src="assets/js/custom-jqm-transitions.js"></script>
```

```
<script src="http://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.0.1/  
→ jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.js"></script>
```

They can also be set on a per-link basis to override the default page transition. This option is useful for a number of situations, such as creating pop-up windows that use the pop transition:

```
<a href="popup.html" data-transition="pop">Pop-up</a>
```

Or, form submissions that use the flip transition:

```
<form action="" method="get" data-transition="flip">  
  <input type="text" name="name">  
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
</form>
```

It's even possible to set the page transition to none to disable the page transition for a particular hyperlink or form submission:

```
<form action="" method="get" data-transition="none">  
  <input type="text" name="name">  
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
</form>
```

jQuery also creates a reverse transition by automatically applying the same page transition when the back button is pressed.

The complete example code for the global and individual page transitions looks like the following:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
  <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;  
  → charset=UTF-8">  
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,  
  → initial-scale=1">
```

```

<title>Page Transitions - jQuery Mobile: Design and Develop
→ </title>

<link rel="stylesheet" href="http://code.jquery.com/
→ mobile/1.0.1/jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.css" />

<script src="http://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/1.7.1/
→ jquery.min.js"></script>

<script src="assets/js/custom-jqm-transitions.js"></script>

<script src="http://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.0.1/
→ jquery.mobile-1.0.1.min.js"></script>
</head>
<body class="container">
  <div data-role="page">
    <div data-role="header"><h1>Page Name</h1></div>
    <div data-role="content">
      <p><a href="popup.html" data-transition="pop">Pop-up
      → </a></p>
      <form action="" method="get" data-transition="flip">
        <input type="text" name="name">
        <input type="submit" value="Submit">
      </form>
    </div>
    <div data-role="footer">Copyright</div>
  </div>
</body>
</html>

```

Beginning with the head of the document, you can see that the jQuery library is loaded first, then the custom JavaScript where the `mobileinit` event from our previous example is bound and the default page transition is set. Last, but not least, the jQuery Mobile library is loaded. Within the page there's a hyperlink that has a pop transition applied and a form that has a flip transition applied.

CUSTOMIZING LOADING MESSAGES

When pages are loading, a default message appears if there's a delay or if the page is not yet preloaded. The jQuery Mobile framework allows you to customize this message and a page-error loading message.

You can customize the loading message through the `loadingMessage` property. Set `loadingMessage` to any custom string by binding to the `mobileinit` event, which jQuery Mobile fires as soon as the document loads.

```
$(document).bind("mobileinit", function() {  
    $.mobile.loadingMessage = 'Please wait';  
});
```

This code will display a loading message that says “Please wait.” The default message used for page loading is “Loading.” The property can also be set to `false` to display no message at all:

```
$(document).bind("mobileinit", function() {  
    $.mobile.loadingMessage = false;  
});
```

When there is an error loading a page, jQuery Mobile displays a message that can also be customized through the API. The default message for page-load errors is “Error Loading Page.” You can set the `pageLoadErrorMessage` property to any custom string as the error message:

```
$(document).bind("mobileinit", function() {  
    $.mobile.pageLoadErrorMessage = 'There was an error, please try  
    → again.';  
});
```


WRAPPING UP

Working with pages is easy with jQuery Mobile: all you really need to know is basic HTML and a few mobile-related attributes. With most of the heavy lifting being done by the framework, it's easy to focus on the results of the website you're building. Understanding the internal functionality behind how pages work in jQuery Mobile is what begins to set you up for writing custom functionality. Customizing specific functionality in the messaging and behind the scenes helps to personalize your website. The level of customization that jQuery Mobile provides can be very useful in making a website more user-friendly. Visual indicators, like custom loading messages and page transitions, set expectations for visitors and provide them with a frame of reference, so they know when certain things are happening. Preloading and caching improves usability by speeding up page loads and giving visitors what they want when they want it. jQuery Mobile provides fine-grained control to enhance mobile websites in a custom way.

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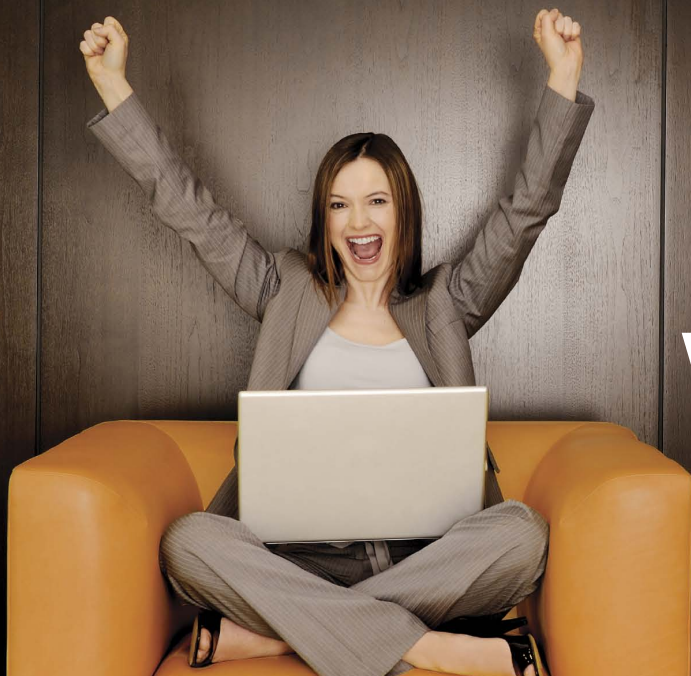
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