

# Enhancing user assistance with jQuery

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In this tutorial, I will demonstrate and explain how to use jQuery to enhance HTML5-based user assistance (help, policies and procedures, knowledge bases, and other types of content). I will provide an overview of jQuery, demonstrate how to customize jQuery plugins, and provide resources for finding plugins.

## Overview

- What is jQuery?
- How to use plugins
- How to customize plugins
- Where to find plugins

## What is jQuery?

- Most popular JavaScript library (65% of top 10 million websites)
- Released in 2006
- Simplifies scripting

## jQuery framework libraries

- jQuery: <http://jquery.com/download>
- jQuery mobile: <http://jquerymobile.com/download>
- jQuery UI: <http://jqueryui.com/download>

## Sample script link

```
<script src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/3.1.0/jquery.min.js"></script>
```

## Sample CSS link

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquerymobile/1.4.5/jquery.mobile.min.css" />
```

## How to customize scripts/plugins

- CSS
- Options
- Configurator (see [prismjs.com](http://prismjs.com))

## Where to find plugins

- [plugins.jquery.com](http://plugins.jquery.com)
- [www.jquery-plugins.net](http://www.jquery-plugins.net)
- [www.jqueryrain.com](http://www.jqueryrain.com)
- [www.unheap.com](http://www.unheap.com)

## Examples

I will describe and demonstrate the following plugins during the presentation.

### UI plugins

- Aware: <https://github.com/xoxco/awarejs>
- Chardin: <https://github.com/heelhook/chardin.js>
- Equalize: <http://tsvensen.github.io/equalize.js>
- StickUp: <https://lirancohen.github.io/stickUp>

### Image plugins

- DropCaptions: <http://www.catchmyfame.com/2009/10/23/jquery-drop-captions-plugin-released>
- Magnify: <http://thdoan.github.io/magnify>
- Twenty Twenty: <http://zurb.com/playground/twentytwenty>

### Table plugins

- HeatColor: <http://www.jnathanson.com/blog/client/jquery/heatcolor>
- TableExport: <https://github.com/clarketm/TableExport>
- RWD changing horizontal to vertical columns: [codepen.io/JasonAGross/full/rjmyx](http://codepen.io/JasonAGross/full/rjmyx)
- RWD converting table to paragraphs: [codepen.io/aarongustafson/full/ucJGv](http://codepen.io/aarongustafson/full/ucJGv)
- RWD filtering rows: [codepen.io/pixelchar/full/rfuqK](http://codepen.io/pixelchar/full/rfuqK)
- RWD non-scrolling columns: [zurb.com/playground/projects/responsive-tables/index.html](http://zurb.com/playground/projects/responsive-tables/index.html)
- RWD separating tables: [css-tricks.com/examples/ResponsiveTables/responsive.php](http://css-tricks.com/examples/ResponsiveTables/responsive.php)
- RWD showing/hiding content: [jsbin.com/apane6/14](http://jsbin.com/apane6/14)

### Link plugins

- jsTOC: <http://projects.jga.me/toc>
- qTip2: <http://qtip2.com>

### PDF plugin

- jsPDF: <https://parall.ax/products/jspdf>

### Formatting plugins

- Prism: <http://prismjs.com>

### Usability plugins

- DynamicMaxHeight: <http://joanclaret.github.io/jquery-dynamic-max-height>
- ReadingTime: <https://github.com/michael-lynch/reading-time>
- Wordsmith: <http://getwordsmith.co>

### Review plugins

- Annotator: <http://annotatorjs.org>

### Cookie plugin

- Cookiefy: <https://kmarryo.github.io/jquery.cookiefy>

## Sample files

See [www.clickstart.net](http://www.clickstart.net) for sample files.

## **About the presenter**

Scott DeLoach is the Founder of Click**Start**, where he provides training and consulting for MadCap Flare, embedded user assistance, CSS, and HTML5. He has been developing browser-based help systems for 20 years, and he has received four Best in Show awards for his work from STC.

Scott is a certified Flare instructor, and he is the author of *MadCap Flare Developer's Guide*, *CSS to the Point*, *HTML5 to the Point*, and *Word 2013 to the Point*. For more information about Scott's books see [www.lulu.com/clickstart](http://www.lulu.com/clickstart).

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