ECMA: Standard ECMA-262 - ECMAScript® 2018 Language Specification (Javascript)

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JavaScript is an implementation of ECMAScript.

Table 1: Data sheet for ECMAScript® 2018 Language Specification

Title	EECMAScript® 2018 Language Specification
Acronym	ECMAScript
Version	9
Series	TR
Document Number	ECMA-262
Release Date	June 2018
About Specification	
Download	https://www.ecma-international.org/publications/files/ECMA-ST/Ecma-262.pdf

Note: The following is an excerpt from the official ECMA description. It is provided here as a convenience and is not authoritative. Refer to the original document as the authoritative reference.

Overview

ECMAScript is an object-oriented programming language for performing computations and manipulating computational objects within a host environment. ECMAScript as defined here is not intended to be computationally self-sufficient; indeed, there are no provisions in this specification for input of external data or output of computed results. Instead, it is expected that the computational environment of an ECMAScript program will provide not only the objects and other facilities described in this specification but also certain environment-specific objects, whose description and behaviour are beyond the scope of this specification except to indicate that they may provide certain properties that can be accessed and certain functions that can be called from an ECMAScript program.

ECMAScript was originally designed to be used as a scripting language, but has become widely used as a general purpose programming language. A scripting language is a programming language that is used to manipulate, customize, and automate the facilities of an existing system. In such systems, useful functionality is already available through a user interface, and the scripting language is a mechanism for exposing that functionality to program control. In this way, the existing system is said to provide a host environment of objects and facilities, which completes the capabilities of the scripting language. A scripting language is intended for use by both professional and nonprofessional programmers.

ECMAScript was originally designed to be a Web scripting language, providing a mechanism to

enliven Web pages in browsers and to perform server computation as part of a Web-based client-server architecture. ECMAScript is now used to provide core scripting capabilities for a variety of host environments. Therefore the core language is specified in this document apart from any particular host environment. ECMAScript usage has moved beyond simple scripting and it is now used for the full spectrum of programming tasks in many different environments and scales. As the usage of ECMAScript has expanded, so has the features and facilities it provides. ECMAScript is now a fully featured general-purpose programming language.

Some of the facilities of ECMAScript are similar to those used in other programming languages; in particular C, Java™, Self, and Scheme.

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