

State of modern JavaScript development

04.02.2017.

Stanko Tadić

HELLO, MY NAME IS STANKO TADIĆ

and I'm a Principal Developer at Work & Co.

I love development, music and cartoons.

You might say I'm a geek.



Jose Aguinaga [Follow](#)

Web Engineer. Previously @numbrs, @plaidhq, currently @getflynt. Javascript, #people, startups, fi...
Oct 3, 2016 · 12 min read

How it feels to learn JavaScript in 2016



Eric Clemmons [Follow](#)

Creator of React Resolver, Genesis/Evolution for WordPress. Purveyor of a better Developer Experi...
Dec 27, 2015 · 4 min read

Javascript Fatigue

A few days ago, I met up with a friend & peer over coffee.

Saul: "How's it going?"

Me: "Fatigued."

Saul: "Family?"

Me: "No, Javascript."

More accurately, I meant *React* and the Javascript ecosystem that comes with it.

...

For starters, consider that [Pete Hunt](#) asked why React is overwhelming for beginners:



Floyd O'Phone
@floydophone

[Follow](#)

Too many newbies getting overwhelmed by react's learning

Today, I'll try to answer two questions

- 1. Is JavaScript development complicated?**
- 2. Is JavaScript going in the right direction?**

Yes, JavaScript development is complicated. And it will continue to get more complicated.

WHY IS IT COMPLICATED?

Web development itself is inherently complicated. But somebody has to do it.

WEB IS EVOLVING

and JavaScript developers must keep up with it

- Hundreds of different browsers, systems and devices.
- Inherently slow connections. Apps should load fast for everyone, everywhere.
- Client's expectations - web apps required to mimic native apps.
- Making everything accessible.
- Web client, but also server, mobile, hybrid and native as well.

HOW TO FIGHT THE COMPLEXITY?

Take it one step at a time, and use
the right tool for the right job.

GAS - Gear Acquisition Syndrome

Obsession with shiny things is a personal problem and something you can avoid.

So, stay off the hype train!



**Pretty much any programming
language and its ecosystem is complex**

**Yes, JavaScript is going in the
right direction.**

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR LANGUAGES

JavaScript is maybe the most important technology
in the software engineering today.

Probably because of the great ecosystem and huge
amount of resources available.

*“Make it work, make it
right, make it fast.”*

— KENT BECK

FOR LAST 20ish YEARS

We were just trying to make it work.

Today, JavaScript has really good tools, and has finally caught up with other big languages.

STANDARDS ARE STILL EVOLVING

ES2016 (ES7) got a final feature set.
Browsers are getting better ES support.

More tools are released every day.

Where to start?

LEARN BASICS FIRST

People starting with JavaScript are skipping the basics, and then get overwhelmed with advanced stuff.

Learn prototypal inheritance and functional programming, instead of jumping and getting lost in the *<insert fancy technology>* boilerplate.

And don't forget HTML and CSS

**A lot of JavaScript developers are
identifying with the language itself**

AND START WITH (TECH) ELITISM

Making fun of people that don't know JavaScript, or rolling eyes to every negative comment is not helping.

This is the easiest way to loose personal credibility, and make the whole community suffer for it.

INSTEAD WE SHOULD HELP OTHERS

And show them why JavaScript is not the mess
people think it is.

Steer new developers away from unproven tools.
Show them the good stuff.

LET ME REMIND YOU

Being a developer is hard,
and learning new tools is a big part of the job.

AS FOR THE JAVASCRIPT “HATERS”

Have no doubt...

...JavaScript is here to stay

YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO AVOID IT

Software is a really big part of business today.
And JavaScript is a big part of software
development.

So try to learn more about it,
and it's pros and cons.

**And hopefully you'll agree
how awesome it is**



CONCLUSION

1. JavaScript is here to stay

And everything is fine with it. It will keep growing, and get more “complicated”. But it will keep getting better, along with its ecosystem.

2. For JavaScript developers

Don't identify yourself with technology. You are loosing credibility if you do, and you are hurting yourself and the community. Help people who are starting with JavaScript. This is true for any other technology.

3. For the ones starting with JavaScript

Start small and from the basics. Learn prototypal inheritance and functional programming thoroughly. Then move on to the more advanced stuff. Don't just rant about how hard and “stupid” it is.

4. Stay off the hype train

Obsession with shiny things can be very dangerous. Did I mention GAS already?

5. Right thing for the right job

Use JavaScript when it makes sense to use it. Again, this applies to the any other technology. And remember, the best technology is the one you know best.

THANK YOU!
Questions?

Shameless self promotion

- <https://stanko.github.io>
- <https://github.com/Stanko>
- <https://linkedin.com/in/stankotadic>