

# COM506 Professional Web Services Development

## Lab Feedback

Practical

A3

Date

04 Oct 16

### Section

### Issue

#### General

Most browsers prevent the use of Ajax/Javascript for opening data files unless the file is delivered via HTTP (i.e. the file is being obtained from a web server.)

#### General

**IMPORTANT:** Some browsers treat whitespace in an XML file as blank text nodes. This has a serious effect on the operation of our code that attempts to parse the XML. We can avoid this by stripping the whitespace from the XML source before parsing (see the '*showLetter.html*' example)

#### A3.1 (page 3)

Remember that the text contained in a node is itself a node in the XML tree. For example, in the XML element  
**<language>Javascript</language>**  
the text node "*Javascript*" is the child of the node "*language*"

#### A3.2 (page 7)

See separate worked solution for "*showLetter.html*"

#### A3.3 (page 9)

When generating the drop-down list, take note of the way in which the table rows are generated in the "*listStock.html*" example. Here, we use HTML to specify the **<table>** and **</table>** tags, but use a Javascript function to loop across the collection of items and output a **<tr>** for each.

The equivalent for the drop-down list would be to use HTML to generate the **<select>** and **</select>** framework, but use a Javascript function to loop across the collection of objects and output an **<option>** tag for each. Alternatively, the Javascript code can easily generate the entire **<select>** structure.

#### A3.3 (page 9)

The technique here is to have a function **showCurrentItem()** that displays details of the item indicated by the value of the '*currentItem*' variable. All that the 'next' and 'previous' buttons have to do is then to increment or decrement the '*currentItem*' variable and re-call **showCurrentItem()** to update the display.