

# Creating a Date Last Modified JavaScript

**Purpose:** To let the user see the last time the webpage was updated and saved. This puts a date on the information. This helps when using the information for research.

**Issues:** mobile devices may not be able to read the script, users may have browser scripting turned off, browser may be too old to read JavaScript, administration rights may interfere with the running of the script

```

1  var date = new Date ();
2  var dayOfWeek = new Array(7);
3  dayOfWeek[0] = "Sunday";
4  dayOfWeek[1] = "Monday";
5  dayOfWeek[2] = "Tuesday";
6  dayOfWeek[3] = "Wednesday";
7  dayOfWeek[4] = "Thursday";
8  dayOfWeek[5] = "Friday";
9  dayOfWeek[6] = "Saturday";
10 var month = new Array(12);
11 month[0] = "January";
12 month[1] = "February";
13 month[2] = "March";
14 month[3] = "April";
15 month[4] = "May";
16 month[5] = "June";
17 month[6] = "July";
18 month[7] = "August";
19 month[8] = "September";
20 month[9] = "October";
21 month[10] = "November";
22 month[11] = "December";
23 var weekday = dayOfWeek[date.getDay()];
24 var monthOfYear = month[date.getMonth()];
25 var realDate = date.getDate();
26 var year = date.getFullYear();
27 var comma = ",";
28 var pretext = "Today is ";
29 var space = " ";
30 document.write( pretext + weekday + comma + monthOfYear + space + realDate + comma + year);
    
```

**Step 1:** Open up the current date JavaScript made in a previous tutorial and save it as lastmodified.js this will create a copy of the current date JavaScript for us to modify.

**Step 2:** Next we will modify the new **Date();** function so it reads out the date the document was last saved. TO do this we insert **document.lastModified** into the parthesis of the new Date(); function.

```

1  var date = new Date (document.lastModified);
2  var dayOfWeek = new Array(7);
3  dayOfWeek[0] = "Sunday";
4  dayOfWeek[1] = "Monday";
5  dayOfWeek[2] = "Tuesday";
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23 var weekday = dayOfWeek[date.getDay()];
24 var monthOfYear = month[date.getMonth()];
25 var realDate = date.getDate();
26 var year = date.getFullYear();
27 var comma = ",";
28 var pretext = "Today is ";
29 var space = " ";
30 document.write( pretext + weekday + comma + monthOfYear + space + realDate + comma + year);
    
```

**Step 3:** The final thing we need to do is to change the pretext variable to **“Date Last Modified: ”** this will let it say that before the date.

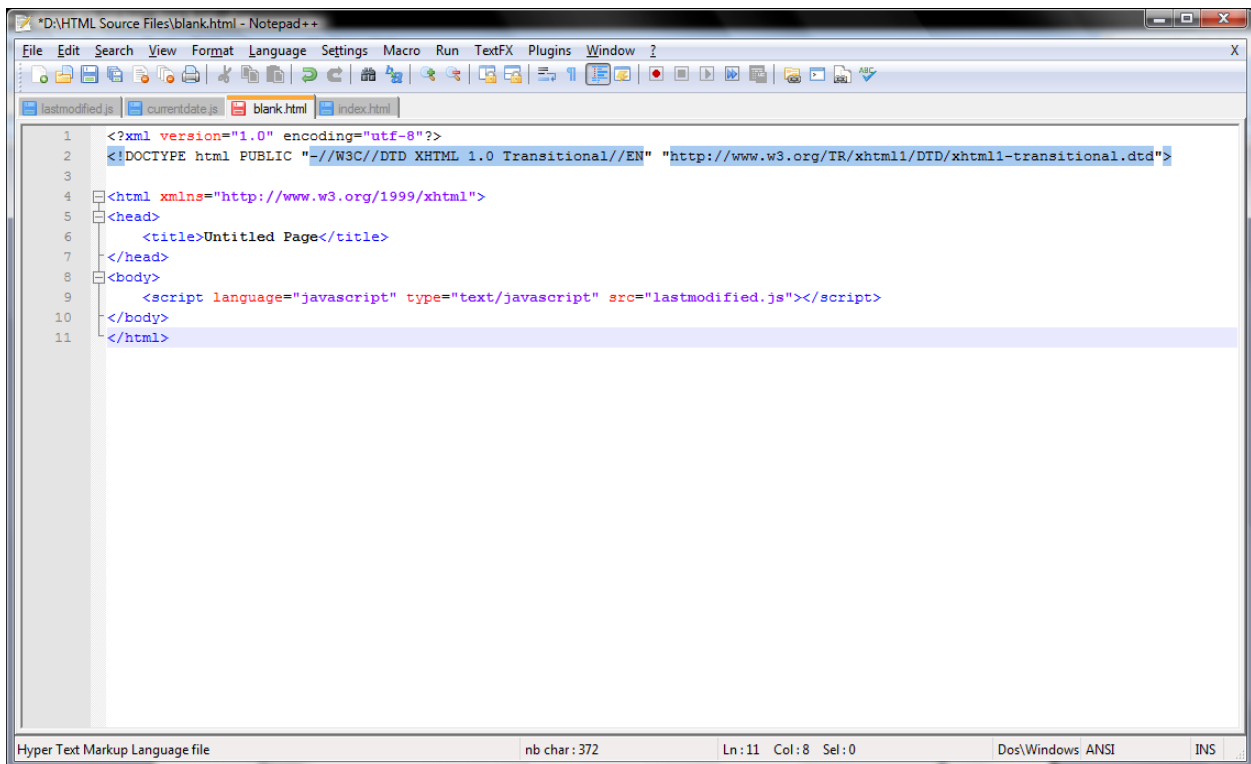
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23 var weekday = dayOfWeek[date.getDay()];
24 var monthOfYear = month[date.getMonth()];
25 var realDate = date.getDate();
26 var year = date.getFullYear();
27 var comma = ",";
28 var pretext = "Date Last Modified: ";
29 var space = " ";
30 document.write( pretext + weekday + comma + monthOfYear + space + realDate + comma + year);
    
```

**Step 4:** Now we need to attach the JavaScript File to the webpage and it will display the date on the webpage. This done by adding the following code.

```
<script type="text/javascript" language="javascript" src="lastmodified.js"></script>
```

This is how to attach an external JavaScript to a webpage. When using JavaScript, a **<noscript></noscript>** should follow the JavaScript. What you place inside the noscript tags is up to you but should say something to the effect to enable JavaScript.



The screenshot shows a Notepad++ window titled "D:\HTML Source Files\blank.html - Notepad++". The code editor contains the following HTML code:

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2 <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
3
4 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
5 <head>
6   <title>Untitled Page</title>
7 </head>
8 <body>
9   <script language="javascript" type="text/javascript" src="lastmodified.js"></script>
10 </body>
11 </html>
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Hyper Text Markup Language file", "nb char: 372", "Ln: 11 Col: 8 Sel: 0", and "Dos\Windows ANSI INS".