

# Ajax Extensible Page

Ajax framework for building extensible web pages

(c) 2007 Denis Sureau

<http://ajax.xul.fr/extensible/>

## Licence

The A.E.P framework is distributed under the GNU GPL 2.0 Licence.

## Overview

The JavaScript library has functions to:

- Develop or summarize a whole page.
- Expand just a word, to a phrase or paragraph, and to revert by collapsing it.
- Get text to display from data hidden into the same page, or from text files.

## Interface of the library

`void quietVerbose(target)`

Switch the state of the element between collapsed or expanded.

`void develop()`

Expand all entries.

`void summarize()`

Summarize the document, collapse all entries.

## Creating the page

### Storing the data in the page

Data are stored into `<div>` tags. An identifier is given to this element. The display value is none, the content will be displayed by your wysiwig HTML editor, not by browsers.

Example:

```
<div id="x" style="display:none;">This is the expanded text.</div>
```

## Creating an extensible element

The elements to expand are stored anywhere in the page thanks to `<span>` tags.

An identifier is given to the tag and a property is added to designate the text to insert.

If this text is stored into the page, this is an identifier, otherwise if it is read from a file, it is the filename.

And event is also added to the span tag to choose the function to call.

The complete format is as this:

```
<span id="aep" name="x" onclick="quietVerbose(this);"> Text to replace </span>
```

or:

```
<span id="aep" src="xxx.txt" onclick="quietVerbose(this.id);"> Text to replace </span>
```

- **id** is the identifier of this element. The same id may be used for all AEP span elements.
- **name** is the identifier of the div that holds the replacing text and **src** the filename.
- **onclick** is the event. Several different functions may be called here (see above).
- **this** designate the current `<span>` tag. With the DOM element, the library is able to retrieve the values of all the properties of the tag.

## Adding overall commands

The links to expand or collapse the whole document are similar to the ones above, but we are using div tags instead.

Here is the format:

```
<div onclick="develop()">Expand</div>
```

```
<div onclick="summarize()">Collapse</div>
```

The `develop()` or `summarize()` function are used for text stored into the page or taken from external file.

## Or using buttons

The format is similar, but we have to load an image instead:

```
<div onclick="develop();"></div>
```

```
<div onclick="summarize();"></div>
```

## Tips and advices

### How to start with a developed page

Insert this code after including the extensible library:

```
<script language="JavaScript">
  window.onload=develop;
</script>
```

or to use onload with other functions:

```
window.onload=function()
{
  develop();
}
```

### How to change the color of the extensible text

Add a style either into a file or into the page:

```
.aep { ...style...}
```

The span tag becomes now:

```
<span id="aep" name="x" class="aep" onclick="quietVerbose(this);"> Text to
replace. </span>
```

### Changing the mouse over the text to expand

If you prefer to keep a color near that of the main text, you can change the appearance of the mouse instead:

```
.aep { cursor:help; }
```

### Links into the hidden text

Avoid to put too many external links into hidden texts, this could be viewed by search engines as a spam.

### Expanding a part at once

You can choose to develop a part of the text and hide any other part previously displayed. This is achieved by combining two function calls:

```
<span id="aep" name="x" onclick="summarize();quietVerbose(this);">Text to
expand</span>
```

## Need help?

Go to the FAQ and forum at the <http://www.xul.fr> website, feel free to request an explanation, I'll

answer to any question.