

# JAVASCRIPT, ARBORTEXT EDITOR, AND YOU

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this presentation is to introduce developers both to Javascript itself and to using this language to customize Arbortext. Why use Javascript? First, Javascript allows you to get complicated things done quickly. You can utilize the power of Java without the overhead of recompiling your code after every change. Second, Javascript is fast becoming the most universally deployed language in the world – it is used as a scripting language in many programs (including Arbortext Advanced Print Publisher), and of course in every web browser. In other words, Javascript skills are widely applicable everywhere in an XML deployment.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

James Sulak is a developer at Jones McClure Publishing, specializing in Arbortext customizations and XML publishing for multiple platforms, including print and the web. To do this, James uses Javascript, XSLT, XProc, XQuery, C#, and coffee.

## EXAMPLES

All examples, including a complete custom folder, are available from the PTC/User 2010 online portal, and at [www.jamessulak.com](http://www.jamessulak.com). By modifying editor-presentation.bat to point to your epic.exe and the included example custom folder, you can launch Arbortext with these customizations and try out the examples yourself. This document and the slides are also available for download.

Before functions in a Javascript file can be executed, the Javascript file has to be sourced in Arbortext. To do so:

1. Open the command line by going to Tools > Preferences > Window and checking “Command line.”
2. On the command line, type “source ‘XX.js’, replacing “XX” with the Javascript file in question.

## RESOURCES

- **[www.mozilla.org/rhino/](http://www.mozilla.org/rhino/)**  
The home page for Mozilla Rhino, the open-source implementation of Javascript for the JVM. Includes downloads and documentation.
- ***Javascript: The Good Parts*, by Douglas Crockford**  
A brief but dense introduction to effectively using the Javascript language.
- **[developer.mozilla.org/en/Core\\_Javascript\\_1.5\\_Reference/Global\\_Objects/Array](http://developer.mozilla.org/en/Core_Javascript_1.5_Reference/Global_Objects/Array)**  
Documentation for the various array methods mentioned in the presentation