



A Simple Bookmarklet

Exercise: Saving Small, Self-contained Snippets of Script

Introduction

This exercise will show you how to use inline JavaScript to provide simple 'macro' capability for a browser.

This exercise is adapted from an example found at <http://www.bookmarklets.com>.

The Exercise

In this exercise, you will create a bookmarklet that simply manipulates the Cascading Style Sheet attributes of any HTML 'A' elements it finds in the page being displayed in the window from which the script was executed.

Set Up

Make a new directory for this exercise. Call this directory **bm**:

```
C:\> mkdir bm
C:\> cd bm
```

All the files that you subsequently create as you do this exercise should be contained in this directory.

Create the HTML/Script Source

Create the following in a file called **bm.html** (note that the href strings beginning with 'javascript:' should each consist of only *one* line, any line breaks are merely artefacts of formatting):

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Bookmarklet Container Page</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p>
      <a
href="javascript:for(i=0;i<document.all.length;i++){if(document.all[i].tag
Name=='A'){with(document.all[i].style){if(textDecoration=='none'){void(tex
tDecoration='underline')}}else{void(textDecoration='none')}}}">Activate
the Bookmarklet</a>
      <br />
      <a href="javascript:void(0)">This link does absolutely nothing</a>
    </p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Points of interest

- This script works by modifying each *A* element's text-decoration CSS property. Notice how this is accessible to JavaScript as the 'name-mangled' textDecoration property.
- Notice that the usual tenets relating to good source-code layout have been ignored in this case. The size of a URL string is typically restricted so it is good practice to reduce the size of a bookmarklet wherever possible.

Activate the Bookmarklet

Simply click on the first link on the page...

You can right-click on this link and select "Add to Favourites..." and this small piece of functionality becomes available for use when required.