Viewing SharePoint Data Using jQuery

This chapter will introduce the different ways you can use jQuery to work with SharePoint data. As mentioned in Chapter 1, some of the great features that SharePoint offers developers are the document libraries and lists. As in the previous chapter, this chapter will include lots of hands-on examples to help you understand what’s going on and how to take it to the next level.

SharePoint already offers an easy to use user interface for working with SharePoint data. The lists and libraries generate forms for you, and you can customize the forms using InfoPath.

Most of the data is presented in a grid fashion as in Figure 5-1, there are other styles to use but they are more on the functional side of things rather than the pretty.

Figure 5-1. A SharePoint custom list displaying food items
Consider a list of products that you want to sell: seeing them all in a grid is certainly functional, but it won’t deliver a particularly high “wow” factor for your audience. Maybe a carousel would be a better option to allow a user to spin through the options.

You can access SharePoint data using jQuery in three ways. The first is using the Server Object Model to load data and using jQuery just to work with the data. The second method is using the SharePoint web services, and the third is using the SharePoint 2010 Client Object Model.

Creating a jQuery Web Part to View Images from a Picture Library

In this series of examples, you will learn some of the ways you can access images stored in a picture library. You will be learning useful concepts as the examples progress, building upon what you have learned already.

In the first example, you will access the images by manually telling jQuery the location of the files to use, making this a static example. This example will be displaying images of five fruits that have been put into a document library called Fruits, as shown in Figure 5-2. Each of the fruits has a small version (e.g., apple_small.png) and a large version (e.g., apple_large.png).

![Figure 5-2. Picture library showing fruit images](image-url)