Map-based Web App Basics: Hello World

In this chapter I lay the groundwork for building a map-based web app. Before I get into the heart of development work, I briefly cover the basic concepts and tools necessary to develop a map-based web app (using HTML/CSS and JavaScript), and I give an overview of Google Maps JavaScript API v3. Then I dive into web app development by proposing a Hello World app and commenting on its code.

Reviewing the Resources

To develop a map-based web app using HTML/CSS and JavaScript, you should be familiar with these basic concepts and tools:

- Mobile Safari
- iOS simulator
- Web servers
- Text editors
- Map-based apps

Let’s quickly review these now.

Mobile Safari

The browser on iOS devices (iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch) is Mobile Safari, which comes bundled with every iOS version. Other browsers are also available in the App Store, but they are less used than Mobile Safari. The browser’s rendering engine is based on WebKit, the same engine used in the Safari desktop version, in Google Chrome, in Android Web browser, and in many other browsers.
Unlike the full version, Mobile Safari does not support Adobe Flash. To run and test the web apps we are going to talk about in this book we will need to use Mobile Safari on an iOS mobile device or via a simulator. When using Mobile Safari for developing web apps I suggest that you turn its debug option on to help with debugging the apps. To do this, click on your iPad or iPhone home screen, click on Settings, and then Safari. You will see a screen like the one shown in Figure 2-1. Make sure that JavaScript is enabled, and then open Advanced and set Web Inspector to On (Figure 2-2). To use the Web Inspector you have to cable connect your iOS device to a computer where Safari desktop version is installed. This way you can access your device directly from the Safari’s Develop menu on your computer. Note that you have enable the Develop menu in Safari’s Advanced Preferences on your computer.

![Figure 2-1. Make sure that JavaScript is enabled](image)