

Have I Ever Mentioned That I <3 jQuery?

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I don't know if I've ever mentioned it before, but I really love [jQuery](#) . It's such a lightweight, yet very powerful tool. There are so many really cool things that you can do with jQuery, and I'm really no authority on the matter, but here is one really basic task that I use it for.

Many times a client will want off-site links to open up in a new window. Simple enough task, I know. Way back when in the "dark ages of the internet s ", we wrote markup kinda like this:

```
<a href= "http: //mylink.com/" target= "_blank" > click me! </a>
```

However, when working with XHTML Strict DTDs, the target attribute is not permitted. So people just used a little bit of JavaScript, like so...

```
<a href= "http: //mylink.com/" onclick= "window.open(this.href); return false ;" >click me! </a>
```

Slightly more code to write, but it still works just fine. The problem is, neither of these solutions is all that particularly elegant. Besides, who wants to have the pressure of remembering all to add that kinda crap to every off-site link in all of your pages? Worse yet, what happens if later on the client decides he/she wants the links to stay in the same browser window?

jQuery to the rescue!

```
<a href= "http: //mylink.com/" > click me! </a>
```

"Now wait just a doggone minute there, Quack! That markup has absolutely zero indication of opening in a new window!"

Correct you are! That's just basic markup. Ain't it a wonderful thing?

"Yeah, it's nice and clean, but does it produce the desired result?"

With this nice little jQuery script, it damn sure does.

```
.. /* external links */
2. $(document).ready( function () {
3.   $( "a" ).click(
4.     function () {
5.       var href = $(this).attr('href');
6.       var a1 = href.split( "quackfuzed.com" );
7.       if ( a1 == href ) {
8.         window.open(href, 'QuackFuzedOffsite');
9.         return false ;
10.      }
11.    }
12.  );
13. });
```

So what did we do here? Basically, we told the browser that any anchor that is clicked on, split it using our domain name, and if we end up with two identical strings, it's an off-site link, so open up the new window. Schweeet!

Be sure to check out all of the [jQuery plugins](#) as well. They are pretty spectacular, in my opinion. And the [jQuery list](#) is one of the most active community lists that I'm subscribed to.