

## Introduction

Dialog boxes are one element we can't imagine a web application without. They are used for all kinds of tasks from displaying content to user notifications and input. When designed and implemented properly a dialog box can greatly enhance user experience and extend application functionality.

In this iteration of articles on Interface Widgets we will look at various ways of creating dialog boxes for your web applications.

If you are developing strictly for Internet Explorer users (e.g. for an application on a local network) you have a wider range of options at hand.

Today we will review two of them: **popup** and **modal window**.

In the next article we will go "cross-browser" and use <div> tag to create windowless pop-ups and callouts.

## Popup

IE proprietary **popup** object will allow you to easily create various menus (including context menus), dialog boxes, dropdowns and tooltips.

1. By default this object has no border – you have to use CSS to apply one.
2. A user will not be able to type anything in a text box inside a popup (although clicking will work), so it isn't suitable for user input.
3. The popup object cannot be moved or resized by the user.
4. Clicking away from the popup will automatically close it. In addition popup object can be closed explicitly by calling **hide()** method.
5. A popup object contains its own **document** object. That is why in order to call a function located in the document which opens the popup you have to use the following syntax:

```
parent.popup_name.function_name();
```

To display a pop up we use a method called **show()** with the following syntax:

```
popup_name.show(coordinate top, coordinate left, popup width, popup height, coordinate reference object);
```

Let's look at some examples.

### *Tooltip popup*

In Dreamweaver create a new page and paste the following code in the **Code View**:

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
<html>
<head>
<title>Popup Example</title>
<script language="JavaScript" type="text/JScript">
var tooltipPopup = window.createPopup();
function showPopup(dialog){
    var tooltipPopupBody = tooltipPopup.document.body;
    tooltipPopupBody.innerHTML = dialog.outerHTML;
    tooltipPopup.show(0, 0, 0, 0, document.body);
    tooltipPopup.show(event.clientX + document.body.scrollLeft, event.clientY +
document.body.scrollTop, tooltipPopupBody.scrollWidth, tooltipPopupBody.scrollHeight,
document.body);
}
```

Thanks for your interest in the " Interface Widgets: Dialog boxes" article by Alex July. To purchase the full article [click here](#)