



AJMenu

Version 1.61

USER'S GUIDE

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1 Product Information

NavSurf AJMenu is a versatile DHTML/JavaScript navigation menu. AJMenu can be configured to act as a horizontal menu bar or vertical menu. You can even use several AJMenu navigation menus on one web page. In addition, several levels of dropdown menus can be added. It is an ideal navigation interface for small businesses or corporate web sites with thousands of web pages.

2 Installing the script on your web site

To integrate AJMenu on your web site, you could either adopt a hands-on approach by editing the code from the example included in the download and consulting this user guide when in doubt. You could also follow the step-by-step instructions below:

1. Copy and paste HTML code to your web page
2. Configure the menu
3. Edit the font settings
4. Install AJMenu on the web site

2.1 Copy and paste HTML code to your web page

2.1.1 Add the JavaScript code to the <head> section

Copy and paste the following code into the <head> section of your web page.

```
<link rel="STYLESHEET" type="text/css" href="ajmenu.css">  
<script language="JavaScript1.2" src="ajlib.js"></script>  
<script language="JavaScript1.2" src="ajmenu.js"></script>
```

ajmenu.css is the CSS document containing the style sheets which define the font settings of the menu.

ajlib.js contains the libraries used by the main program.

ajmenu.js contains the main program script of the menu.

2.1.2 Add the “onload” and “onresize” event handler to the <body> tag

The “onload” and “onresize” event handler have to be added to the <body> tag to load the menu after the page has finished loading:

```
<body onload = "loadMenu()" onresize = "loadMenu()" ... ... >
```

Where denotes your own body attributes.

2.1.3 Place the menu at the desired location in the <body> section

Add the code below in the <body> section of the web page. Place the following code at the location where the menu should appear:

```
<script language="JavaScript1.2" src="menu_def.js"></script>  
<script language="JavaScript1.2">displayMenu();</script>
```

menu_def.js contains the menu definition and settings. **Note that the copy and paste code assumes that the html and script files are in the same directory. If they are in different directories, the src value should contain the appropriate relative or absolute URL of the files.**

2.1.4 Add the menu creation code after </body> tag

Add the code below just before the </body> tag, at the end of web page:

```
<script language="JavaScript1.2">createMenu();</script>
```

2.2 Configure the menu

To configure the menu, you have to edit *menu_def.js*, a text file that can be edited using your favorite text editor. Follow the step-by-step instructions below to configure the menu.

2.2.1 Add and configure the main menu

Next, we add the main menu to the web page. The syntax is as follows:

```
ajmenu1 = new mainMenu(layout, spacing, background color, highlight color,  
font color, highlight font color, background-image, menu_direction);
```

layout: specifies the layout of the menu. "horizontal" or "vertical" (optional)

spacing: spacing between the menu items. (optional)

background color: background color of the main menu (optional, default: black).

highlight color: color of the background when the mouse moves over a menu item (optional, default: black)

font color: font color of the menu items (optional, default: white).

highlight font color: font color when the mouse moves over a menu item (optional, default: white). Not supported by Netscape 4.x browsers.

background-image: filename of the background-image (optional, default: ")

menu_direction: set the menus to roll out from the 'right' or 'left' of the parent menu. This parameter will apply to all menus in the navigation menu.

All color parameters can be specified in either text form, e.g. 'black' or RGB triplets, e.g. '#000000'. Note that the presence of the # symbol. You could set the background color to transparent by setting the color to 'transparent'. Only one instance of the main menu is allowed. For running several instances of AJMenu on one web page, please refer to Section 4.5.

Note that the menus may display outside the page if the direction is set to 'left'. It is up to the web designer to take the necessary precautions to avoid that.

2.2.2 Add menu items to the main menu

After configuring the main menu, add menu items to the main menu. There are several ways of adding items to the main menu, depending on your need:

Adding menu items with text and link only:

```
ajmenu1.addItem(text1, url1, text2, url2, ...);
```

Adding menu items with text, URL and target frame:

```
ajmenu1.addItemWithTarget(text1, url1, target1, text2, url2, target2, ...);
```

Adding menu items with rollover image effects:

```
ajmenu1.addImages(url1, image_normal1, image_over1, url2, image_normal2,  
image_over2 ...);
```

Adding menu items with rollover image effects and target frame:

```
ajmenu1.addImagesWithTarget(url1, image_normal1, image_over1, target1, url2,
image_normal2, image_over2, target2...);
```

text : text description of the menu item (required)
url : URL which will load when the user clicks on the menu item (required)
image_normal: image file to display when the mouse is outside the menu item.
image_over : image file to display when the mouse is over the menu item.
target : target window or frame in which the link will load.

e.g. ajmenu1.addItem('Menu 1', 'menu1.html', 'Menu 2', 'menu2.html');

If target is not specified, the menu items will load in the frame or window defined by the target of the main menu. Note that you could keep on use the *addItem()* function several times. For example,

```
ajmenu1.addItem(text1, url1, text2, url2, ...);
ajmenu1.addItemWithTarget(text1, url1, target1, text2, url2, target2, ...);
ajmenu1.addItem(text1, url1, text2, url2, ...);
```

If you want to add an image without rollover effects, you should use *addItem()* instead of *addImages()*. Use the tag as in standard HTML, e.g.:

```
ajmenu1.addItem('', 'menu1.html');
```

2.2.3 Add and configure the submenu

After configuring the main menus, we will proceed with the configuration of the submenus. To add a submenu, add the following statement:

```
ajmenu1 = new subMenu(node, background color, highlight color, font color,
highlight font color, background-image);
```

node : indicates the menu item to which this submenu is attached. When the mouse moves over the menu item, the submenu will open. To specify that the menu will open when the mouse moves over the 3rd menu item of the 2nd menu, the value should be "2i3". Please refer to the example script if you have any doubts on the value (required)

background color : background color of the submenu (optional, default: black)

highlight color : color of the background when the mouse moves over a menu item (optional, default: grey)

font color: font color of the menu items (optional, default: white).

highlight font color: font color when the mouse moves over a menu item (optional, default: white). Not supported by Netscape 4.x browsers.

background-image: filename of the background-image (optional, default: '')

All color parameters can be specified in either text form, e.g. 'black' or RGB triplets, e.g. '#000000'. Note that the presence of the # symbol.

2.2.4 Add menu items to the submenus

The addition of menu items to the submenu is similar as that used for the main menu with the exception that image rollover effects, i.e. *addImages()* and *addImagesWithTarget()*, are not available for the items in the submenu. Please refer back to Section 2.2.2. Once you have finished adding menu items to the submenu, you could add more submenus by repeating the steps in Section 2.2.3 and 2.2.4.

Note that the order of the statements is very important and will affect the way the script runs. This is illustrated by the example below which shows how *menu_def.js* looks like for a simple menu:

```
// Add the main menu
ajmenu1 = new mainMenu('horizontal', 20, 'black', 'navy', 'white', 'white');
// Add items to the main menu
ajmenu1.addImages('http://navsurf.com', 'navsurf.gif', 'navsurf_over.gif');
ajmenu1.addItem("Menu 2", "menu1.html", "Menu 3", "menu2.html");
// Add and configure the submenus
ajmenu1 = new subMenu('1', '#081C92', '#7E9BD4', 'white', 'black', 'bg.jpg');
// Add items to the submenu
ajmenu1.addItem('Menu 1 1', 'menu11.html');
// Add new submenus
ajmenu1 = new subMenu('2', 'blue', '#FF0000');
// Add items to the submenu
ajmenu1.addItem('Menu 2 1', 'menu21.html', 'Menu 2 2', 'menu22.html');
```

2.3 Edit the font settings

After configuring the menu, you would want to change the fonts of the menu so that it will blend with your web site. To configure the menu, you have to edit *ajmenu.css*, a text file that can be edited using your favorite text editor

```
.ajmainmenu {
    font : bold italic 9pt Arial;
    text-decoration : none;
}

.ajsubmenu {
    font : bold 9pt Arial;
```

```
    text-decoration : none;
}
```

where *ajmainmenu* is the font setting for the main menu, and *ajsubmenu* the font setting for the submenus.

Not all attributes defined by the CSS Level 1 specification are supported by AJMenu. Users should limit themselves to only the font and text-decoration attribute. Other attributes such as color, padding and border may cause display problems and should be avoided. Refer to Section 3.4 if you want to add borders around the menu items or menu borders.

2.4 Install AJMenu on the web site

After you are satisfied with the layout and contents of the menu, you can apply the changes to your web site by copying the code in Section 2.1 to all your web pages. If the web pages and the files are not in the same directory, make sure that the URL references to the files are correctly specified. If not, it will result in a broken link and the menu will not display.

3 Frequent Issues

3.1 Opening links in a designated frame

To set all the menu items in the main menu or submenu to load the link in a designated frame or window, set the “target” property of the menu to the name of the designated frame, e.g:

```
ajmenu1 = new mainMenu(...);
ajmenu1.target = 'frame_name'; // loads URL links in the designated frame.
ajmenu1.addItem(...);
```

The name of the frame can be found in the html page that generates the frames (e.g. index.htm or default.htm).

3.2 Removing the "About the applet" link to NavSurf.com

The link is absent in the registered version of the menu that can be purchased at NavSurf.com. Removing the link by any other means constitutes a copyright infringement and will result in criminal and civil prosecution.

3.3 Menu does not load in Netscape 4.x

The "onload" and "onresize" event handler must be added in order for the menu to work properly in Netscape 4.x. Refer to Section 2.1.2 for more information on how to add the event handlers to the web page.

3.4 Adding borders around menus or menu items

You could set the "menuborder" and "itemborder" property of the menu to add borders around the menu or for all the items in the menu respectively by following the example below:

```
ajmenu1 = new subMenu(...);  
ajmenu1.menuborder = '2px solid black';  
ajmenu1.itemborder = '1px solid gray';  
ajmenu1.addItem(...);
```

Note that AJMenu does not support this feature in Netscape 4.x browsers. The property syntax follows the "border" property of CSS level 1 standard. The standard is defined by the World Wide Web Consortium and more information could be obtained at <http://www.w3.org/>

4 Advanced Issues

4.1 Calling JavaScript functions

JavaScript functions calls are identical to that in standard HTML:

```
ajmenu1.addItem('Menu 1 2 1', 'javascript:window.close()');
```

A common source of error is the indiscriminate use of the " symbol and ' symbol to denote text strings within the JavaScript functions.

4.2 Advanced Configuration Options

AJMenu can be configured easily to meet the requirements of professional web designers. Besides the basic menu and font colors defined during the initialization of the menu, many advanced features can be accessed by changing the menu properties.

Important Notes:

1. The menu properties must be placed after the menu initialization but before adding the menu items:

```
ajmenu1 = new mainMenu(...);  
ajmenu1.css = 'ajmainmenu';  
ajmenu1.cellpadding = 0;  
ajmenu1.divider = '|';  
ajmenu1.itemborder = '1px solid gray';  
ajmenu1.addItem(...);
```

2. The menu properties apply only to the particular menu where it is added. To apply the same configuration to several or all the submenus, you need to place the code after the initialization of each submenu.

Property	Default Value	Description
css	'ajmainmenu' 'ajsubmenu'	Specifies the stylesheet used by the menu
cellpadding	1	Defines the cellpadding for the menu
divider	' '	HTML code for the menu divider. Refer to Section 4.7
htmlBefore	' '	HTML code before every item in the menu. Useful for adding text or images to all the menu items
htmlAfter	' '	HTML code after every item in the menu.
pad_1	0	left padding for the horizontal menu or top padding for the vertical menu. Valid for main menu only
pad_2	0	right padding for the horizontal menu or bottom padding for the vertical menu. Valid for main menu only
itemborder	"	CSS syntax for adding borders around menu items. Refer to Section 3.4
menuborder	"	CSS syntax for adding borders around menu. Refer

		to Section 3.4
target	'_self'	Defines the target frame or window for the hyperlinks. Refer to Section 3.1

4.3 Removing the spacing between menu items

Web designers could use AJMenu as an pure image-based menu. Such menus will usually require zero spacing between the images. To achieve that, besides setting the spacing between the menu items to zero, the following properties have to be set:

```
ajmenu1 = new mainMenu('horizontal', 0, ...);
ajmenu1.cellpadding = 0;
ajmenu1.htmlBefore = "";
ajmenu1.htmlAfter = "";
ajmenu1.addItem(...);
```

4.4 Modifying the menu offset between submenus

You could change the menu offset by setting the following property in the beginning of the code before the main menus are initialized:

```
ajm_state.menuoffset = 3; // default value is 8
```

4.5 Multiple instances of the menu

You could use multiple instances of the menu on one web page. To define the second menu, create another menu definition file, e.g. *menu_def2.js*. Follow the steps in Section 2.2 and place the following code at the location where the menu should appear.

```
<script language="JavaScript1.2" src="menu_def2.js"></script>
<script language="JavaScript1.2">displayMenu();</script>
```

4.6 Adding padding to the main menu

You could add left and right padding or top and bottom padding to the main menu with the 'horizontal' or 'vertical' layout respectively by following the example below:

```
ajmenu1 = new MainMenu('horizontal', 10, '#000000', '#888888');
ajmenu1.pad_1 = 15;           // left or top padding
ajmenu1.pad_2 = 15;           // right or bottom padding
ajmenu1.addItem(...);
.....
```

4.7 Adding dividers between items in the main menu

Note that you could only add dividers between the main menu items in the horizontal navigation bar. The menu spacing must be set to a value other than zero in order to add dividers:

```
ajmenu1 = new MainMenu('horizontal', 1);
ajmenu1.divider = '|';       // divider
ajmenu1.addItem(...);
.....
```

The property can take in any valid html code. Thus, any symbol or image can be used but we advise using only simple symbols or small images as menu item dividers.

5 Technical Support

The answers to most user enquiries can be found in this documentation. Additional information, tips and articles can be found at NavSurf.com. If you experience problems configuring the applet, you could send us an email describing the problem, together with the URL of the web page or an attachment of the necessary files. All the files should be placed in a zip file to facilitate easy retrieval.

Feedback and suggestions are most welcome. Users are encouraged to give comments to help us to improve on the product and documentation.

6 Order Information

The terms and condition of the purchase as well as its procedure can be found at the order page of NavSurf.com. Besides online credit card payment, other forms of payment such as checks and postal orders are accepted. More information can be obtained by clicking on the product you wish to purchase at the order page. The payment link will load in a new window. If you do not wish to pay by credit card online, other payment options are available at the top section of the page.

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