

Global Functions using JavaScript

Global functions are commonly used when creating JavaScript code in EIS sections and other documents. Sample JavaScript code used to create global functions is shown below. Some of these were submitted by students and well worth sharing with all of you.

<begin code sample>

```
function myFunction(param) {  
    // body of function  
}  
//Option 1 - create a global variable to reference the function  
glMyFunction=myfunction  
  
//Option 2 - create a document variable to reference the function  
ActiveDocument.myFunction=myFunction  
  
//Option 3 - create a section variable to reference the function  
this.Parent.myFunction=myFunction  
  
//Option 4 - create a section variable to reference the function  
this.myFunction=myFunction
```

<end code sample>

Option 1 is the most common way but it creates a true global variable and can be dangerous. It remains in memory even after you close the document. A second document can share or over-write it. You are never sure what problem may occur when using this code. You can call the function from anywhere as follows:

```
glMyFunction(myParam)
```

Option 2 is safer as it vanishes when you close the document. It cannot be confused by a different variable with the same name. You can call it in several ways from the same document:

```
myFunction(myParam)
```

Or

```
ActiveDocument.myFunction(myParam)
```

Option 3 and 4 are even safer as they allow you to create plug and play components without fear of name clashes. Name clashes occur when multiple components created around different EIS sections each declare functions with the same name. In Option 3 the code sample is in a Shape, "this.Parent" is the parent object of the "this" - which is the Shape object in which the script exists.

In Option 4 the code sample is in the OnActivate or OnDeactivate of the section and "this" is therefore the section object.

In both option 3 and option 4, if the Section is called "EIS", the function can only be called in the following way

```
ActiveDocument.Sections["EIS"].myFunction(myParam)
```

NOTE: This Newscast was tested on Brio R6.6.0.51

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