

jQuery: animating a tag cloud

jQuery can virtually animate any kind of HTML elements or structures, so why don't we use it to animate a tag cloud? The effect we want to achieve is a zoom animation with a smooth bounce on hover. For that reason, we'll also use jQuery UI. Let's see how.

We start with the following markup:

```
<ul id="tag-cloud">
  <li class="tc-1"><a href="#">CSS</a></li>
  <li class="tc-2"><a href="#">HTML5</a></li>
  <li class="tc-2"><a href="#">JavaScript</a></li>
  <li class="tc-3"><a href="#">jQuery</a></li>
  <li class="tc-4"><a href="#">PHP</a></li>
  <li class="tc-5"><a href="#">Wordpress</a></li>
</ul>
```

Then we add the following styles:

```
body {
  margin: 2em;
  padding: 0;
  font: 100% Arial, sans-serif;
}

#tag-cloud {
  width: 18em;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 1em;
  line-height: 1.4;
  background: #f5f5f5;
  border-radius: 12px;
  box-shadow: 3px 3px 3px #ccc;
```

```
}
```

```
#tag-cloud li {  
    margin: 0 0.5em;  
    display: inline;  
}
```

```
#tag-cloud li a {  
    color: #d34545;  
    text-decoration: none;  
    font-weight: bold;  
}
```

```
#tag-cloud li a:hover {  
    color: #fff;  
    background: #d34545;  
    padding: 3px 5px;  
    border-radius: 6px;  
}
```

```
#tag-cloud li.tc-2 a {  
    font-size: 1.2em;  
}
```

```
#tag-cloud li.tc-3 a {  
    font-size: 1.4em;  
}
```

```
#tag-cloud li.tc-4 a {  
    font-size: 1.6em;  
}
```

```
#tag-cloud li.tc-5 a {
```

```
    font-size: 1.8em;
}
```

With jQuery, we'll use the base font size of each item to create our animation:

```
$(function() {

    $('li', '#tag-cloud').each(function() {

        var $li = $(this);
        var $a = $('a', $li);
        var fontSize = parseInt($a.css('fontSize'));

        $a.hover(function() {

            $a.stop(true, true).animate({
                fontSize: fontSize + 4 + 'px'
            }, 'slow', 'easeOutBounce');

        }, function() {

            $a.stop(true, true).animate({
                fontSize: fontSize + 'px'
            }, 'slow', 'easeOutBounce');

        });

    });

});
```

You can see the demo below.

Demo

Live demo