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Chapter 1: Introduction to web development for mobile devices

This chapter introduces the topic of web development for mobile devices, and outlines the advantages and disadvantages of developing web applications for this platform. This chapter also discusses tools and basic design principles, and provides an overview of the modules that make up this course. In this lab you will install the BlackBerry Web Plug-in for Eclipse and view web sites with the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator.
1.1 **Download and Install the BlackBerry Web Plug-in for Eclipse**

In this exercise, you will download and install the BlackBerry Web Plug-in for Eclipse.

1. Download the BlackBerry Web Plug-in for Eclipse (including the Eclipse® IDE package) from the BlackBerry Developer zone.

2. Launch the exe. file

3. Complete the steps in the wizard.
1.2 Set Eclipse preferences for the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator

1. From the Eclipse Window menu, select Preferences.

2. In the left pane, expand BlackBerry Web, and select Services.

3. In the right pane, under Simulator Preferences, perform any of the following actions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| Choose a different default simulator for debugging. | Under Current selected simulator, click Select.  
  1. To display all installed simulators, click the Show all simulators check box.  
  2. Select a simulator.  
  3. Click OK. |
| Close the simulator before launching a page. | Select Close Simulator before relaunching a web page check box to close the simulator each time you begin a new debug session for the same page. |
| Confirm restart of the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator. | If you set the simulator to restart at each debug session, select the Ask before restarting simulator check box to display a confirmation dialog prior to restarting the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator. |
| Confirm reset of the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator. | Select the Ask before resetting simulator check box to display a confirmation dialog prior to resetting the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator. |
| Restore the current session after a reset. | Select the Restore current session after reset check box to restore the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator to its state prior to the reset. The launch mode, either run or debug, is maintained after the reset. The URL from the current session is also maintained after the reset. |
| Enable debugging of local JavaScript® and HTML source files. | Select the Allow source debugging for HTML and JS files check box to enable debugging for local JavaScript and HTML source files. When this check box is not selected, remote debugging is also enabled for local source files. |
| Enable JavaScript support in the BlackBerry® Browser. | Select the Prompt to turn on Browser JavaScript support when simulator starts check box to display a dialog box prior to restarting the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator prompting you to enable JavaScript in the BlackBerry Browser. |
| Revert file changes made during remote debugging sessions. | Select the Automatically revert file changes in the Remote Debugging Project check box to revert generated remote debugging files to their original state. You should not modify these files. |
1.3 Explore the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator

In this exercise, you will explore the functionality of the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator and compare web browser and mobile browser design and display.

1. Launch the BlackBerry® Mobile Data System.

2. Launch the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator.

3. Using the BlackBerry Simulator Navigation key, open the Browser.

4. View the following web sites in the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator and in a web browser. Compare the differences between the two different displays in terms of design, layout, and download speed. What recommendations for improvements would you make?

   • www.ebay.com
   • www.moviefone.com
   • www.bbc.co.uk
   • www.nwa.com
   • www.bloomberg.com
   • www.zagat.com

Note:
The BlackBerry MDS client must be running before you launch the BlackBerry Smartphone Simulator. Do not close the BlackBerry MDS window.