Document: createAttributeNS() method

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{{ ApiRef("DOM") }}

The `createAttributeNS()` method of the {{domxref("Document")}} interface creates a new attribute node with the specified namespace URI and qualified name.

The object created is a node implementing the {{domxref("Attr")}} interface. The DOM does not enforce what sort of attributes can be added to a particular element in this manner.

Syntax

```
createAttributeNS(namespaceURI, qualifiedName)
```

Parameters

- `namespaceURI`

    - : A string that specifies the {{DOMxRef("Attr.namespaceURI", "namespaceURI")}} to associate with the attribute, or the empty string. In HTML documents, most attributes are in the **null namespace** — use the empty string for these. Use a specific namespace URI only when creating a namespaced attribute, such as `xml:lang` or `xml:space`. Some namespace URIs are:
        - XML: `http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace` (for `xml:lang`, `xml:space`)
        - XMLNS: `http://www.w3.org/2000/xmlns/` (for `xmlns`, `xmlns:*`)
        - XLink: `http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink` (for `xlink:href`, `xlink:title`, etc.)
- `qualifiedName`
    - : A string containing the qualified name of the new attribute. The {{DOMxRef("Attr.name", "name")}} property of the created attribute is initialized with this value.
      The format of the qualified name is `prefix:localName` or `localName`, where the parts are defined as:
        - `prefix` {{optional_inline}}
            - : A "short alias" for the namespace. The prefix is optional, but if it is specified the `namespaceURI` parameter must also be specified. If the prefix is set to `xml` or `xmlns`, the `namespaceURI` must be set to `http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace` or `http://www.w3.org/2000/xmlns/`, respectively.
              The value is used to initialize the new attribute's {{DOMxRef("Attr.prefix", "prefix")}} property. Defaults to `null`.
        - `localName`
            - : The local name of the attribute. The value is used to initialize the new attribute's {{DOMxRef("Attr.localName", "localName")}} property.

Return value

The new {{domxref("Attr")}} node.

Exceptions

- `NamespaceError` {{domxref("DOMException")}}
    - : Thrown if the `namespaceURI` value is:
        - not a valid namespace URI.
        - set to the empty string when `prefix` has a value.
        - not the value `http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace` or `http://www.w3.org/2000/xmlns/` when `prefix` is set to `xml` or `xmlns`, respectively.
- `InvalidCharacterError` {{domxref("DOMException")}}
    - : Thrown if either the `prefix` or `localName` is not valid:

- The `prefix` must have at least one character, and cannot contain ASCII whitespace, `NULL`, `/`, or `>` (U+0000, U+002F, or U+003E, respectively).
- The `localName` must have at least one character, and may not contain ASCII whitespace, `NULL`, `/`, `=` or `>` (U+0000, U+002F, U+003D, or U+003E, respectively).

> [!NOTE] Earlier versions of the specification were more restrictive, requiring that the `localName` be a valid XML name.

Examples

Creating a namespaced attribute

This example creates an `xml:lang` attribute with the XML namespace and attaches it to a paragraph element. This attribute specifies the language of the element's content for XML processing.

```
<p id="greeting">Bonjour!</p>
```

```
const el = document.getElementById("greeting");
const attr = document.createAttributeNS(
  "http://www.w3.org/XML/1998/namespace",
  "xml:lang",
);
attr.value = "fr";
el.setAttributeNode(attr);
```

Creating an unprefixed attribute

In HTML documents, unprefixed attributes (such as SVG presentation attributes like `viewBox`) are in the null namespace. Use the empty string for the `namespaceURI` parameter to match this.

```
<svg id="svg"></svg>
```

```
const svg = document.getElementById("svg");
const attr = document.createAttributeNS("", "viewBox");
attr.value = "0 0 100 100";
```

```
svg.setAttributeNode(attr);
console.log(svg.getAttribute("viewBox")); // "0 0 100 100"
```

Note that, in most cases, you can use {{domxref("Element.setAttribute()")}} instead of `createAttributeNS()` for unprefixed attributes:

```
svg.setAttribute("viewBox", "0 0 100 100");
```

Specifications

{{Specifications}}

Browser compatibility

{{Compat}}

See also

- {{domxref("Document.createAttribute()")}}
- {{domxref("Document.createElementNS()")}}
- {{domxref("Element.setAttributeNS()")}}
- {{domxref("Element.setAttributeNode()")}}
- {{domxref("Element.setAttributeNodeNS()")}}

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