One feature that sets Dojo apart is its support for back and forward buttons. Though the feature does not work on every browser (unfortunately, Safari is the odd duck), you can actually register a callback method that will fire if the user clicks either the back button or the forward button. Dojo also attempts to answer the bookmarking issue that is inherent with Ajax by providing a changeURL flag.

Dojo seems to be one of the more mature toolkits, and its focus on usability is refreshing. It appears to be pretty stable, and it has some momentum behind it. Dojo has a fairly active mailing list, but some additional documentation would be helpful. You can find more information at dojotoolkit.org.

**Rico**

Rico is one of the newest frameworks on the market; it was developed at Sabre Airline Solutions and then made into an open-source implementation. Of course, rico is Spanish for rich, which indicates the project’s overall goal of providing a suite of components for developing rich Internet applications. Browser support is fairly strong, though surprisingly Safari is omitted.

Where Dojo is clearly focused on usability, Rico seems designed for drag-and-drop actions, data grids, and what they term cinematic effects (moving widgets, fading a div, and so on). The Rico Web site has a number of interesting demos where the code is outlined—a nice touch for developers looking to get something up and running quickly. The documentation is a bit sparse, but that is likely to change as the framework matures.

You can download Rico as a single file, though you will also need the Prototype JS library. You can find more information at openrico.org/home.page.

**qooxdoo**

qooxdoo is another new entry to the Ajax framework field that picks up where HTML leaves off by providing a JavaScript-based toolkit. Though in the early alpha stage, qooxdoo offers some polished widgets. Using qooxdoo, you can mimic many of the features found on standard thick clients such as menu bars, tooltips, grid layouts, and drag-and-drop support.

qooxdoo does have some useful documentation, including a helpful explanation of the details under the hood. qooxdoo’s strength is clearly its sophisticated widgets. If your goal is to create a thin application that can barely be discerned from its thick cousin, you should try qooxdoo. You can find more information at qooxdoo.oss.schlund.de.

**TIBET**

Depending on your interpretation of when Ajax first appeared, TIBET may be the oldest framework in existence. According to the documentation, the TIBET team has been working on this toolkit since 1997 with the goal of providing enterprise-class Ajax support. TIBET looks to go beyond just simply wrapping the XMLHttpRequest object; it provides support for Web Services, low-level protocols, and prebuilt wrappers for Google, Amazon, and many other commonly used services.

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1. Internet Explorer rightly receives the majority of the complaints when it comes to nonstandard behavior with Ajax techniques—just ask the authors! That said, while developing this book, we did find a surprising amount of “odd” behavior in Safari (which greatly disappointed the recent Mac convert in the pair).