

# How to disable dragging of images and text selection in web pages

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## Overview

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This example demonstrates how to disable the dragging of images and the selection of text.

In webkit and some other web browsers and in QtWebKit (of Qt 4.6.3), images inside HTML button elements can be dragged, even by accident. When dragging happens, clicking the button is not possible. Further, since the dragging or text selection happen in the same way in QtWebKit as the panning of the web page, dragging and text selection happen very often. Thus developer should consider to disable the text selection and image dragging completely.

Here we show the client side solution for this problem, implemented with JavaScript, CSS and HTML.

Note that preventing text selection or preventing drag and drop operation does not prevent users to copy the content and images to their local file system.

## Source: JavaScript

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For each element to which you want to disable dragging, like images, use the function below.

```
window.onload = init;

function init() {
    disableDraggingFor(document.getElementById("draggingDisabled"));
}

function disableDraggingFor(element) {
    // this works for Firefox and WebKit in future according to
    http://help.dottoro.com/lhqsqbtn.php
    element.draggable = false;
    // this works for older web layout engines
    element.onmousedown = function(event) {
        event.preventDefault();
        return false;
    };
}
```

Currently, the `element.draggable` does not work in QtWebKit or the webkit of Safari 4.0.3.

Note that you should never call `disableDragging` for body element, since the `onmousedown` event bubbles, and if it is cancelled in the body element with `event.preventDefault()`, effects can be strange. For example, unfocusing the text input element by clicking elsewhere is not working, since the click event's default behaviour, unfocusing (blurring) the input element, is prevented. Further, if the application is run in a device with on-screen keyboard, the keyboard pops up when the mouse up event is happened in QtWebKit (of Qt 4.6.3), even if the mouse up event is not inside the text area.

## Source: Relevant CSS elements

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Add these CSS definitions to disable the text selection for most elements (note: the list of elements here is not complete). The `-*-user-select` definitions disable selecting of the text, and the `-webkit-user-drag` disables the dragging of the element.

Currently, the `-webkit-user-drag` works in the webkit of Safari 4.0.3, but not in the webkit of the QtWebKit of Qt 4.6.3.

```
html, body, div, span, object,
form, input, h1, h2, button, label, a, img {
    -moz-user-select: none;
    -webkit-user-select: none;
```

```
/* this will work for QtWebKit in future */  
-webkit-user-drag: none;  
}
```

However, since you probably want that the user can select the text input to be able to write into it, enable selection for text input elements as follows:

```
input[type=text] {  
  -moz-user-select: text;  
  -webkit-user-select: text;  
}
```

## Source: Relevant HTML elements

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Here we define the dragging disabled image, which is put here inside a button.

```
<h1>You can't select this text by accident!</h1>  
<button>  
    
</button>
```

## Postconditions

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Now the web page can be scrolled without accidentally selecting the text at the same time. Also the images are not dragged accidentally, when clicking them.

## Supplementary material

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The complete example page containing the examples discussed can be downloaded at [File:Testwebkit-disable-drag-and-text-select.zip](#).