Purpose of web bundlers:

The purpose of a web bundler is to make loading web pages more efficient by reducing the amount of fetches required by merging files together and making them smaller. This could be combining all of the css and javascript in a project. The process of combining all of the files reduces the size of everything by compressing text as much as possible with no white space and changing variable and function names to something smaller.

Webpack:

Webpack is a web bundler that does pretty much everything vite can. From research it seems like webpack is significantly slower to bundle large projects and requires additional libraries for supporting file types like css. The positives, which can be seen as a negative, is that it is much lower level, allowing for more control and features then vite has. Webpack is much older which means it has access to a lot more loaders and plugins, can code split, and many more configuration options.

Browserify:

Browserify is a web bundler that focuses on just javascript. It seems like this web bundler focuses on ease of use above anything else. From the lack of anything on it, it seems like it was the hot new thing a decade ago but quickly fell out of favor. Despite its ease of use it does not have a javascript build automation tool, which can make using it time consuming.

Suggestions, improvements, and enjoyments:

To preface this, most of my problems are probably self-inflicted, so if you feel that you appropriately touched on them then just discard everything I have to say. For some reason I thought this lab was this week's lab (week 14) and not the lab of week 13 during the break so I didn't do it when I would have if I had known and it derailed what I had planned to do this week. I wish this lab was more clearly marked as the assignment you mentioned, as when I watched the video I didn't see anything in canvas at the time and just assumed you had forgotten about the assignment (being this lab), but I should have just messaged you on teams instead of assuming.