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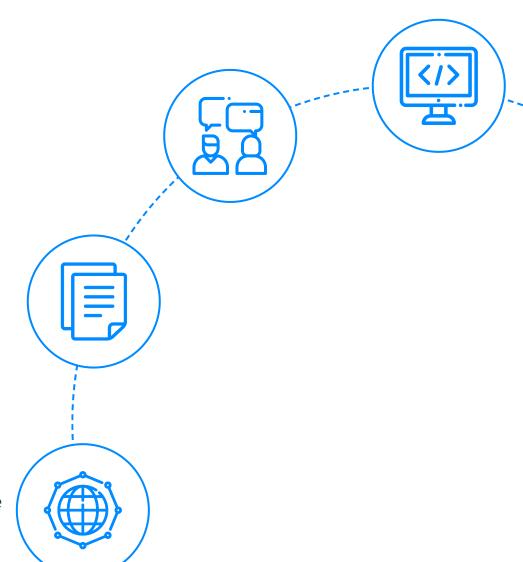
Node.js Interview Questions

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When functions can be treated like any other variable then those functions are first-class functions. There are many other programming languages, for example, scala, Haskell, etc which follow this including JS. Now because of this function can be passed as a param to another function(callback) or a function can return another function(higher-order function). map() and filter() are higher-order functions that are popularly used.

2. What is Node.js and how it works?

Node.js is a virtual machine that uses JavaScript as its scripting language and runs Chrome's V8 JavaScript engine. Basically, Node.js is based on an event-driven architecture where I/O runs asynchronously making it lightweight and efficient. It is being used in developing desktop applications as well with a popular framework called electron as it provides API to access OS-level features such as file system, network, etc.

3. How do you manage packages in your node.js project?

It can be managed by a number of package installers and their configuration file accordingly. Out of them mostly use npm or yarn. Both provide almost all libraries of javascript with extended features of controlling environment-specific configurations. To maintain versions of libs being installed in a project we use package.json and package-lock.json so that there is no issue in porting that app to a different environment.

4. How is Node.js better than other frameworks most popularly used?

- Node.js provides simplicity in development because of its non-blocking I/O and even-based model results in short response time and concurrent processing, unlike other frameworks where developers have to use thread management.

- It runs on a chrome v8 engine which is written in c++ and is highly performant with constant improvement.

- Also since we will use Javascript in both the frontend and backend the development will be much faster.

- And at last, there are ample libraries so that we don't need to reinvent the wheel.

5. Explain the steps how "Control Flow" controls the functions calls?

- Control the order of execution
- Collect data
- Limit concurrency
- Call the following step in the program.

6. What are some commonly used timing features of Node.js?

- **setTimeout/clearTimeout** – This is used to implement delays in code execution.
- **setInterval/clearInterval** – This is used to run a code block multiple times.
- **setImmediate/clearImmediate** – This is used to set the execution of the code at the end of the event loop cycle.
- **process.nextTick** – This is used to set the execution of code at the beginning of the next event loop cycle.

7. What are the advantages of using promises instead of callbacks?

The main advantage of using promise is you get an object to decide the action that needs to be taken after the async task completes. This gives more manageable code and avoids callback hell.

8. What is fork in node JS?

A fork in general is used to spawn child processes. In node it is used to create a new instance of v8 engine to run multiple workers to execute the code.

9. Why is Node.js single-threaded?

Node.js was created explicitly as an experiment in async processing. This was to try a new theory of doing async processing on a single thread over the existing thread-based implementation of scaling via different frameworks.

10. How do you create a simple server in Node.js that returns Hello World?

```
var http = require("http");
http.createServer(function (request, response) {
  response.writeHead(200, {'Content-Type': 'text/plain'});
  response.end('Hello World\n');
}).listen(3000);
```

11. How many types of API functions are there in Node.js?

There are two types of API functions:

- **Asynchronous, non-blocking functions** - mostly I/O operations which can be fork out of the main loop.

- **Synchronous, blocking functions** - mostly operations that influence the process running in the main loop.

12. What is REPL?

PL in Node.js stands for **R**ead, **E**val, **P**rint, and **L**oop, which further means evaluating code on the go

13. List down the two arguments that async.queue takes as input?

- Task Function
- Concurrency Value

14. What is the purpose of module.exports?

This is used to expose functions of a particular module or file to be used elsewhere in the project. This can be used to encapsulate all similar functions in a file which further improves the project structure.

For example, you have a file for all utils functions with util to get solutions in a different programming language of a problem statement.

```
const getSolutionInJavaScript = async ({
 problem_id
}) => {
...
};
const getSolutionInPython = async ({
 problem_id
}) => {
...
};
module.exports = { getSolutionInJavaScript, getSolutionInPython }
```

Thus using module.exports we can use these functions in some other file:

```
const { getSolutionInJavaScript, getSolutionInPython} = require("./utils")
```

15. What tools can be used to assure consistent code style?

ESLint can be used with any IDE to ensure a consistent coding style which further helps in maintaining the codebase.

Intermediate Node.js Interview Questions

16. What do you understand by callback hell?