

# Demystifying Node and React

WordPress + Node.js Workshop\*

*And more.. mind-blowingly more! After this workshop you will know all-the-things!*

# Objectives & Audience

This workshop is:

- For **everyone**. No programming experience necessary!
- Hands-on (optionally). You can do the exercises right on your Mac.
- A starting point. You will be demystified, but we'll take questions too.

After this workshop, you should:

- Have a basic understanding of Node.js, React, Redis, and how they can work with WordPress on VIP Go.
- Understand how data travels between the browser, and Node and WordPress in a decoupled architecture.
- Be able to get a complete stack running using Docker Compose on your desktop.
- Be comfortable having conversations with clients about Node.js and React.

# Workshop Optional Prerequisites

*We'd encourage everyone to bring their MacBook to the workshop and follow along.*

*If you have time before the workshop, please install these apps:*

Install XCode or Command Line Tools `$ xcode-select --install`

Install Homebrew <https://brew.sh/>

Install Visual Studio Code <https://code.visualstudio.com/download>

Install Docker Desktop (and follow the simple tutorial to create your first project in Docker Hub) <https://www.docker.com/products/docker-desktop>



- Part One *What is Node.js and React.js?*
- Part Two *Understanding the decoupled architecture*
- Part Three *Creating a Node & React app*
- Part Four *Common Node.js Language*
- Part Five *Node.js & VIP*



# What is Node.js and React.js?

Some history:



In order to have a web page, you need 3 files: HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.

HTML is for markup: titles, paragraphs, lists... CSS is for styling: changing colors, spacing... Both make a static web page.

JavaScript is used to make pages dynamic: animations, HTTP requests... JavaScript is a programming language, HTML and CSS are not.

Part One *What is Node.js and React.js?*

Some history:

Problem: JavaScript interpreters (programs transforming JavaScript files to machine code, equivalent to a compiler) were tied to the browsers. Which made JavaScript only work on browsers.

In 2008, Google open sourced Chrome V8, the JavaScript interpreter in Chrome as a standalone program.

Node.js was born the same year to use Chrome V8 in the server.



Part One *What is Node.js and React.js?*

What are these things: Node and React?

## Node.js

A JavaScript runtime for  
the server

<https://nodejs.org/en/about/>

## React.js

A JavaScript library for  
building user interfaces

<https://reactjs.org/>

> React does not run only on Node.js, it runs in any JavaScript runtime including a browser. It does use Node, in development mode, to assist with development, and uses a node package manager to manage and install dependencies.

Part Two *What is Node.js and React.js?*



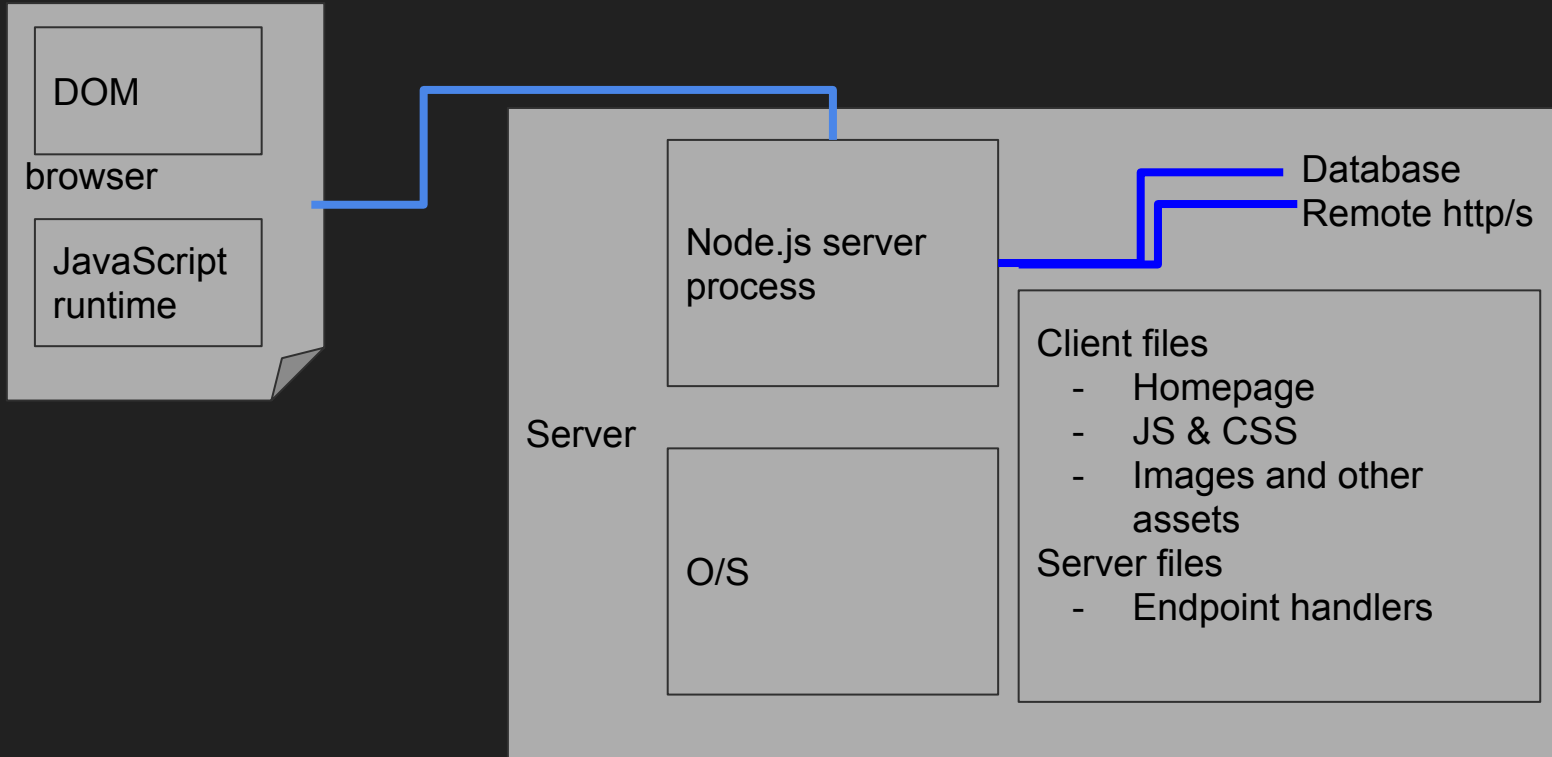


# Understanding the decoupled architecture

A simple decoupled architecture:



**Part Two** *Understanding the decoupled architecture*



Node.js and React Typical Combination

## Things to remember about React.js:

- + **You can serve React from WordPress**

React is not tied to Node.js. You can construct your pages and serve them directly with WordPress

- + **You're not obliged to use React everywhere on your site**

React can be your whole site, some of it, or just a module somewhere in a page

- + **React uses Node Package Manager**

To install and manage dependencies. Node Package Manager (NPM) is used

- + **React runs on a browser (usually)**

Different JavaScript frameworks used to build rich frontend applications

- + **You have other choices**

Even if we talk here about React. There are other choices: Vue, Angular, etc. Or you can use JavaScript without a framework if you don't need a complex user interface

## Things to remember about Node.js:

### + A standalone service

Node.js runs as a standalone server and isn't always tied with a WordPress backend

### + Can be connected with other services

Node.js can be connected with other services using HTTP(s) and also supports libraries for databases, memcache, etc.

### + Offered on VIP Go

It is commonly used to decouple WordPress, but can also be used as a separate service

### + Node.js uses NPM too

Like React, Node.js uses NPM to manage dependencies too

### + Runs on a server (usually)

Node.js usually run on a server



# Creating a Node & React app

## Setting up Node.js:

### 1 Install Node Version Manager

```
$ curl -o- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/nvm-sh/nvm/v0.34.0/install.sh | bash
```

### 2 Install the latest Node.js version

```
$ nvm install 10
```

&

```
$ nvm install 10
```

### 3 (Optional) Install Yarn

```
$ curl -o- -L https://yarnpkg.com/install.sh | bash
```

&

```
$ yarn --version
```

## Part Two *Why Node.js?*

# EX1 - Create a Node.js Server

## Create folder and server directory

Create (mkdir) or clone

```
$ cd ~  
$ git clone  
https://github.com/Automattic/vip-gm2019-workshop-node.git  
$ cd vip-gm2019-workshop-node  
$ mkdir server; cd server
```

Initialize & add packages

```
$ yarn init -y  
$ touch index.js  
$ yarn add morgan express cors axios  
$ yarn add --dev nodemon
```

Add code & test

```
$ node index.js  
$ curl http://localhost:4000/ping
```

```
// v1 - basic ping/pong demo  
const express = require('express')  
const morgan = require('morgan')  
const cors = require('cors')  
const axios = require('axios')  
  
const port = 4000  
  
// Express  
const app = express()  
  
app.use(express.json())  
app.use(morgan('dev'))  
app.use(cors())  
  
app.get('/ping', (req, res) => {  
  return res.send('pong')  
})  
  
app.listen(port, () => {  
  console.log(`listening on PORT ${port}`)  
})
```



# What did we just do?

**Yarn** installed packages into `node_modules`

**Express** is a minimal web application framework. `app` instantiates that.

**Morgan** is logging the requests.

The app is set up with a request handler for `/ping` which simply returns “pong”

`app.listen` listens on port 4000 and then matching handlers may take action

Express: <https://expressjs.com/>

Node package module reference:

<https://www.npmjs.com/package/morgan>

<https://www.npmjs.com/package/cors>

<https://www.npmjs.com/package/axios>

# EX2 - Fetching data

v2 adds a listener on `/users` that returns a list of users fetched from [randomuser.me](https://randomuser.me)

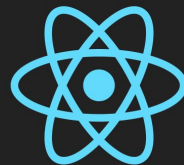
```
app.get('/users', async (req, res) => {  
  const count = req.query.count || 10  
  const response = await  
    axios.get(`https://randomuser.me/api?results=${count}`)  
  res.json({data: response.data.results})  
})
```

```
$ node index-2.js
```

```
$ curl localhost:4000/users
```

```
$ curl localhost:4000/users?count=1
```

# EX3 - Create a React application



## Install create-react-app

```
$ cd ~/vip-gm2019-workshop-node  
$ yarn global add create-react-app
```

## Create and run client app

```
$ create-react-app client  
$ cd client  
$ yarn start
```

A browser should load localhost:3000

Update App.js (hotloaded) to load the JSON

```
import React from 'react';  
import logo from './logo.svg';  
import './App.css';  
  
function App() {  
  const [count, setCount] = React.useState(0)  
  const [people, setPeople] = React.useState([])  
  
  async function getPeople() {  
    const res = await  
    fetch(`http://localhost:4000/users?count=${count}`)  
    const resData = await res.json()  
    setPeople(resData.data)  
  }  
  
  return (  
    <div className="App">  
      <header className="App-header">  
        <img src={logo} className="App-logo"  
alt="logo" />  
        <div>  
          <h1>React and Node People Fetcher</h1>  
          <input  
            style={{  
              fontSize: '2rem'  
            }}  
            type="text" />  
          <button type="button" value="Fetch" />  
        </div>  
      </header>  
      <div>  
        <p>Count: {count}</p>  
        <p>People: {people}</p>  
      </div>  
    </div>  
  )  
}
```

# EX4 - Build a production client

Build the client

```
$ yarn build
```

Note the new build directory

Update the server and start node

```
$ node index-4.js
```

Open localhost:4000 in a browser

```
const port = 4000
```

```
// Serve client built files  
app.use(express.static(path.join(__dirname,  
  '../client/build')))
```

```
// map / to build index.html  
app.get('/', (req, res) => {  
  res.sendFile('index.html', {root:  
    path.join(__dirname, '../client/build') });  
})
```

# Adding Redis



Install redis (requires Homebrew)

```
$ brew install redis
```

To have launchd start redis now and restart at login:

```
brew services start redis
```

Or, if you don't want/need a background service you can just run:

```
redis-server /usr/local/etc/redis.conf
```

```
$ brew services start redis
```

```
$ redis-cli
```

```
> get foo
```

```
(nil)
```

```
> set foo bar
```

```
OK
```

```
> get foo
```

```
"bar"
```

```
> exit
```

Docs at <https://redis.io/>

redis is a bit different from Memcached:

- Different data types including lists & sets
- Operations on data
- Lua scripting
- Persistence on disk

redis-cli is powerful

```
$ redis-cli monitor
```

```
$ redis-cli --scan
```

# EX5 - Caching with Redis



## Add Redis to the server package

```
$ yarn add redis
```

```
$ node index-5.js  
listening on PORT 4000
```

```
$ curl localhost:4000/users  
$ curl localhost:4000/users?count=1
```

```
GET /users?count=1 200 315.831 ms - 1097  
GET /users?count=1 200 0.964 ms - 1099  
GET /users?count=2 200 135.653 ms - 2148  
GET /users?count=2 200 0.618 ms - 2150
```

```
$ redis-cli  
> get users-1  
{JSON STRING}  
> del users-1  
OK
```

```
const redis = require('redis')  
const client = redis.createClient(6379)  
  
client.on('error', (err) => {  
  console.log("Redis Error " + err)  
});  
  
// in get(`/users`):  
const cacheKey = 'users-' + count  
return client.get(cacheKey, async (err, results) => {  
  if (results) {  
    return res.json({ source: 'cache', data:  
      JSON.parse(results) })  
  }  
  const response = await  
    axios.get(`https://randomuser.me/api?results=${count}`)  
    client.setex(cacheKey, 3600,  
      JSON.stringify(response.data.results))  
    res.json({ source: 'api', data: response.data.results })  
  })
```

# EX5 - Caching with Redis

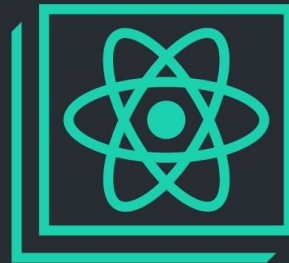


What did we add?

- Cache each endpoint with a separate key
- When it expires, the api is hit again
- Cached responses take much less time

The app behaves differently: users are no longer random!

This doesn't work for all use cases



## React and Node People Fetcher

2



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# Major WIP

Remaining slides are placeholders for now



# Dockerize

Now we'll set up a local VIP Go development environment

<https://docs.docker.com/compose/>

```
$ git clone  
https://github.com/Automattic/vip-gm2019-workshop-node.git  
$ cd vip-gm2019-workshop-node/full-docker/
```

Run compose up and a blank WordPress site should be running, along with a node site, redis, memcached, and mysql

```
$ docker-compose up -d  
$ docker-compose ps  
$ docker-compose down
```

Optionally, supply a db dump with 100 posts, and a theme repo that just returns those via REST API

You now have a WordPress local env!

# Pull WordPress content into Node & React

Modify the server to fetch /posts from the WP  
API

Modify the client app to display top posts as  
cards with a count above them

# Add some interaction

Add simple like count functionality with a new Node endpoint /like

User's /post/:id/like/ is used to increment a redis counter for a post, and then update a tally of all counts

An ajax polling request fetches the current list of likes and updates the attributes of the posts

Demonstrate how React updates the UI automatically when state changes

Slides describing what we offer

# Summary

Node.js is a server

React is a client framework that can be served from Node or WordPress

WordPress is awesome (and uses MariaDB/MySQL and memcached)

Redis is a data store that's popular with Node.js

Yarn is used to manage dependencies for React and Node.js and to build projects

Create-react-app is a bootstrap that includes all the pieces to develop and deliver React client apps

Gutenberg uses React

Docker allows you to run a server in a container and is good for closely replicating production on your Mac

Docker-compose runs interdependent microservices in multiple containers

(Our VIPd doesn't really use those)

What else?

# Resources

This workshop is on GitHub:

<https://github.com/Automattic/vip-gm2019-workshop-node>

Redis commands cheat sheet:

<https://www.cheatography.com/tasjaevan/cheat-sheets/redis/>

Docker Compose exercise

<https://docs.docker.com/compose/gettingstarted/>