

Programming with NodeJS

Lesson 2: Callbacks, buffers, streams, APIs and Express

February 14th, 2017

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How does asynchronous programming differ from normal programming?

Consider this example:

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Say you really want to have a chat with your mate Paul about the weather. You have two ways to get in touch with him. You can either:

- Phone him
- Send him a letter

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Alternatively, if you send him a letter asking what the weather is like, you can do other things while you wait for the postman to come with his response. However, you have no idea how long until you will receive that response is.

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NodeJS is asynchronous. The reason for this is just the same as with Paul and the weather. If instead of talking to just Paul, you want to talk to 100s of people about the weather they are all experiencing, an asynchronous approach will allow you to keep conversations open with all of these people at the same time.

That's all for tonight!

To summarise:

- We have installed NodeJS and NPM
- We have learnt about JS syntax
- We have learnt about NodeJS and what it's useful for
- We have made a very simple http server

For next week

Source code plus lecture slides will be available online soon after the lesson.

If you are new to HackSocNotts, please join us on
<http://hacksocnotts.slack.com>.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask now or over slack.