Using Web Workers With React

By Chen Feldman
Frontend Architect

Vamos

Vamos

AHA!
MOMENT

Lecture’s Timeline

Asynchronous Programming != Parallel

Service vs Web Workers

Live Demo Web Workers

What will be the output?

```
setTimeout(() => {
    console.log('Timeout ended');
},0);

console.log('Call stack sync action');
```

The Output

Call stack sync action

Timeout ended

So again, what will be the output?

```
async function action(){
    console.log('A');
  setTimeout(()⇒{
    console.log('B');
  },0);
  doSomethingForAWhile(2);
  console.log('C');
}

function doSomethingForAWhile(seconds){
    let startDate = Date.now();
  let currentDate = startDate;

  while (currentDate - startDate < (seconds * 1000)) {
    currentDate = Date.now();
  }
}

action();
```

The Output

A

C

B


Live Demo - Using Async Abilities

Sync | Worker

```
let myString = 'data';
```

Analyzed Words

Analyzed Characters

Most repeated word:

Calculate

Live Demo

Let’s solve it using promise!!!

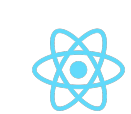
Recommended Using Promise

- Network calls (server, API)
- I/O operations

Promises Will Not Perform Better

- Image processing
- Heavy UI calculations & logics
- Running algorithms inside the main thread

Asynchronous Does Not Mean Parallel!



Let’s Use Workers Instead!

Workers - What Are They?

Script that runs on a thread separate to the browser's main thread

From :https://bitsofco.de/web-workers-vs-service-workers-vs-worklets/

Represents a background task that can be created via script

From :https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Worker

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Workers Types - Service Worker

- A proxy between the browser and the network/cache
- Are able to intercept any network request from the main document
- Use case :

  working offline (PWA) returning from cache instead of network

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- Dedicated (specific web page) vs Shared worker (shared between pages)
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Common use cases: spell checking, code analyzing, image processing...

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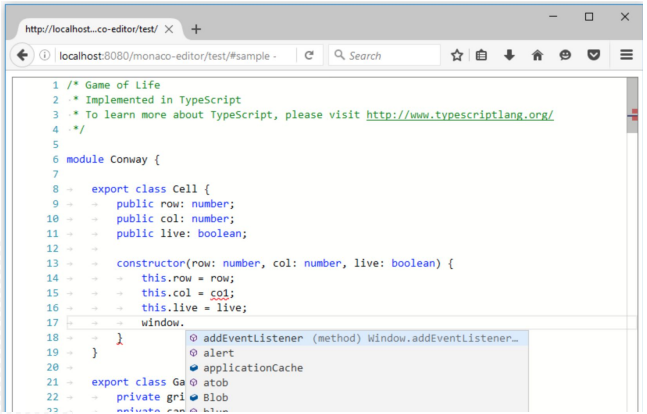
FYI - Products Who Uses Web Workers

- Monaco Editor (VS Code Online)

  https://dev.decoupled.com/docs-magic-webWorker-example-monaco



- Google Squoosh app

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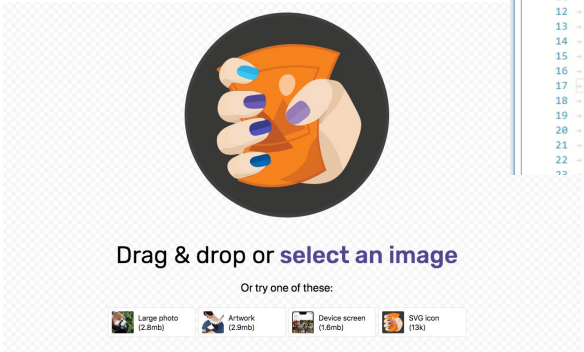

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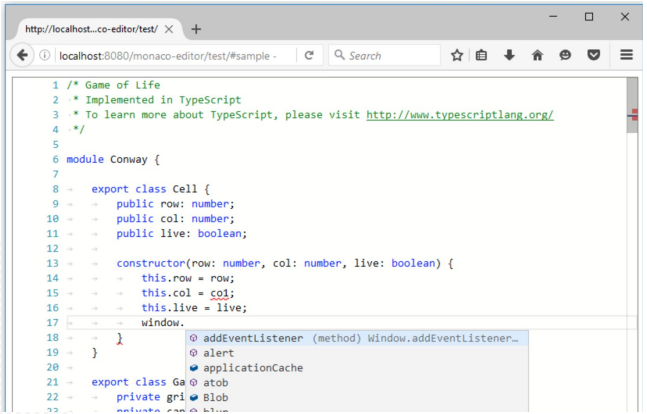

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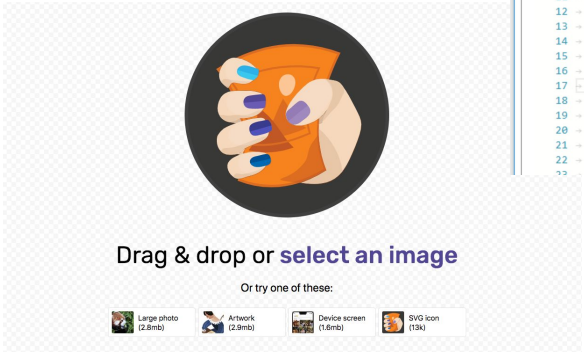


BUT I DON'T KNOW
HOW IT WORKS.

Main Thread (main.js)

```
let mathWorker = new Worker('mathWorker.js');

mathWorker.postMessage({firstNumber:20,secondNumber:10});

mathWorker.addEventListener("message", (event) => {
    // Do some logic here with the data event.data
}
```

Web Worker (mathWorker.js)

```
// mathWorker.js
self.addEventListener("message", (event) => {
    postMessage(doMathCalculation(event.data));
});

function doMathCalculation(first,second){
  return first * second;
}
```

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postMessage

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How It Works - Communication

- Event-based communication
- postMessage - data is **cloned** and **not shared** between the two
- Main thread can also terminate the worker - mathWorker.terminate()

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How It Works - Communication

```
mathWorker.addEventListener("messageerror", (event) => {
    console.error(`Error from worker: ${event}`);
});

mathWorker.terminate();
```


@LateNightSeth
WAIT, WHAT?


Live Demo - Our Demo Using Workers


Live Demo - Debugging

Advantages

- New working thread - working on background
- Not blocking the UI
- Simple communication (event-based)
- Split responsibility between workers for even better performance
- Can communicate with server (not every library)
- Can be terminated in any given moment by main thread

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Disadvantages

- Cannot communicate with the DOM
  - Cannot load images or create canvas elements
- Limited access to functions and properties inside the window object
- Communication and passing data has some price when done too much
  - You cannot control the context switching behind the scenes

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Browser compatibility

Support varies for different types of workers. See each worker type's page for specifics.

Update compatibility data on GitHub

	Chrome	Edge	Firefox	Internet Explorer	Opera	Safari	Android webview	Chrome for Android	Firefox for Android	Opera for Android	Safari on iOS	Samsung Internet
`Worker`	4	12	3.5	10	10.6	4	4	18	4	11	5.1	1.0
`Worker()` constructor	4	12	3.5	10	10.6	4	4	18	4	11	5.1	1.0
`message` event	4	12	3.5	10	10.6	4	4	18	4	11.5	5.1	1.0
`messageerror` event	60	18	57	?	47	?	60	60	57	47	?	8.0
`onmessage`	4	12	3.5	10	10.6	4	4	18	4	11	5.1	1.0
`onmessageerror`	60	18	57	?	47	?	60	60	57	44	?	8.0
`postMessage`	Yes	12	Yes	10 ★	47	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	44	Yes	Yes
`terminate`	4	12	3.5	10	10.6	4	4	18	4	11	5.1	1.0

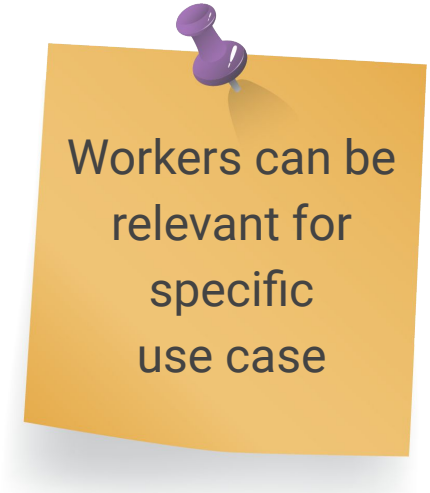
Recommended Open Source - Ecosystem

- Comlink (by Google) - https://github.com/GoogleChromeLabs/comlink
- Workerize - https://github.com/developit/workeriz
- Parallel.js - https://github.com/parallel-js/parallel.js
- useWorker React hook - https://github.com/alewin/useworker

Takeaways

JS is not really working in parallel

Takeaways



Takeaways

Choose it because of your real needs

Not because it's cool

Takeaways

Takeaways

JS is not really working in parallel

Workers can be relevant for specific use case

Choose it because of your real needs

Not because it's cool

Go Go Go!

Write Some Awesome Code!

Recommended Links

- Link to my frameworks race demo
- Open source libs to make your life easier using web workers
  - https://github.com/GoogleChromeLabs/comlink
  - https://github.com/developit/workerize
- Real-world examples that uses web workers
  - https://github.com/GoogleChromeLabs/squoosh/
  - https://microsoft.github.io/monaco-editor/
  - https://github.com/parallel-js/parallel.js - parallel js lib using web workers
- Recommended reading/video resources
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aGhZQkoFbQ

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www.ranlevi.com/software

https://github.com/ChenFeldman

https://www.linkedin.com/in/chen-feldman-2404682a/

Credits

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiPytIxrZtU

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcYuOOe-kbw

https://www.newline.co/fullstack-react/articles/introduction-to-web-workers-with-react/

https://blog.logrocket.com/integrating-web-workers-in-a-react-app-with-comlink/

https://medium.com/prolanceer/optimizing-react-app-performance-using-web-workers-79266afd4a7

https://kentcdodds.com/blog/speed-up-your-app-with-web-workers

https://www.jstips.co/en/javascript/improving-your-async-functions-with-webworkers/

https://github.com/nodeca/pica?fbclid=IwAR3bvSvU4HPQyU-1VTHr24-4ZGTL-eGSLdG3tBs9TP0jxEdMXjOb-eZbHpE

https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/web-workers-in-action-2c9ff33be266/

https://blog.logrocket.com/real-time-processing-web-workers/, https://dev.to/trezy/loading-images-with-web-workers-49ap

kevinhoyt.com/2018/10/23/image-processing-in-a-web-worker/

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Worker

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLF0n9SACd4&feature=youtu.be

https://www.sitepoint.com/using-web-workers-to-improve-image-manipulation-performance/

https://medium.com/samsung-internet-dev/web-workers-in-the-real-world-d61387958a40

https://bitsofco.de/web-workers-vs-service-workers-vs-worklets/

https://github.com/Shopify/quilt/blob/master/packages/react-web-worker/README.md

https://medium.com/@azizhk/building-an-async-react-renderer-with-diffing-in-web-worker-f3be07f16d90