

SPIES, MOCKS, AND STUBS

Fake it 'til you make it

PREMISE

- **Pure functions are easy to test**
 - Example: addition
 - Input (1, 2, 3) => reliable output (6), the same every time
- **Non-pure functions are trickier**
 - Example 1: readFile
 - Input (filename) => output depends on file contents, which can change even if the filename does not
 - Example 2: func depends on other funcs (e.g. randomized output)
- **We want isolation!**

SPIES

SPIES

- **An object that “spies” on a function to records metadata**
 - Whether the function was called
 - How many times it was called
 - Arguments it was called with
 - etc...
- **Can also be a dummy function to pass around**
 - Output of this function doesn't matter, we only care about how it's being used by another function (e.g. callback with right args)

STUB

STUBS

- Like a spy... but fake!
- Spies “spy” on a function (calls original/same behavior)
- Stubs *replace* a function entirely, “stubbing” their output
- Use cases:
 - Replacing external requests (e.g. AJAX, db queries) - takes too long and not predictable outcome
 - Testing behavior tracks based on function output (e.g. coin flip: if Math.random gives >0.5, return heads; else tails)

MOCK

MOCKS

- **Like a stub... but *with more functionality!***
 - Allows you to stub all methods in an object at once
 - Comes with built-in assertions

“LEAVE IT HOW YOU FOUND IT”

RESTORE

- **When using mocks and stubs, you are replacing behavior of functions that have other important tasks to get back to once you're done with testing!**
- **It's important to restore things to their original state whenever appropriate**

WHERE TO FIND THESE COOL TOOLS?!

- **Spies/mocks/stubs often come packaged with your testing framework of choice**
 - Each may have slightly different descriptions of “mock”/“stub”/“spy”
 - No need to get too hung up about terminology - consult specific documentation and find the right tool for your task!
- **You can also pick standalone tools (much like how we chose chai for assertions)**
 - Sinon.js is a popular choice for Mocha