Introduction to Server-side JavaScript (with NODE JS)

Compared to an ordinary server-side language like PHP that uses multithreaded execution, Node.js uses an event-based server execution process. Node.js is more often called as "Node" which is one of the good options if you are, say looking for a tool that will be able to run JavaScript applications on both server and client side. This short discussion will talk about things such as what Node.js is, some installation tips, and we will add up some hosting provider suggestions.

What led to the development of Node?

One of the things that make Node unique is its event-based asynchronous functions. Instead of waiting for Input/Output operations, it uses and event loop. Node can extend to millions of concurrent connections since it is capable of making use of its processing power even if when the server is just waiting for any other operation. Node is a server-side JavaScript that was built with Google's V8 JavaScript engine. It was developed by Ryan Dahl in 2009 as an open source programming language. The idea that we can't utilize the event based functions of JavaScript in the client to a server is one of the main reasons as to why they developed Node.js.

How to install and test installation

If you are thinking about applying the basic tutorial that you are about to read by installing node.js on your computer, then we got you covered! Just follow the steps below:

1) Download the installer @https://nodejs.org/en/
2) Run the installer
3) Follow the prompts on the installer.
4) Restart your computer to complete the installation process.
5) After restarting your computer, check if node was installed by opening a command line tool like Windows Command Prompt, Powershell etc. Type "node –v" which is a command that would print a version number of node.js installed on your computer.
6) Also check if NPM is installed and its version by typing "npm –v" on a command line tool.

Now let's try to test if node.js works by creating a JavaScript file

1) Create a JavaScript file and name it "check.js".
2) Add the code console.log('Node is installed and is working fine.');
3) Now open your command line tool then navigate to wherever you saved the JavaScript file.
4) Enter the command "node check.js".
5) This should display the message "Node is installed and is working fine."