

WebAssembly

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asm.js

- compiled C/C++ in JS
- low-level JS subset with high efficiency

```
Firefox Chrome Firefox+asm.js Native

skinning

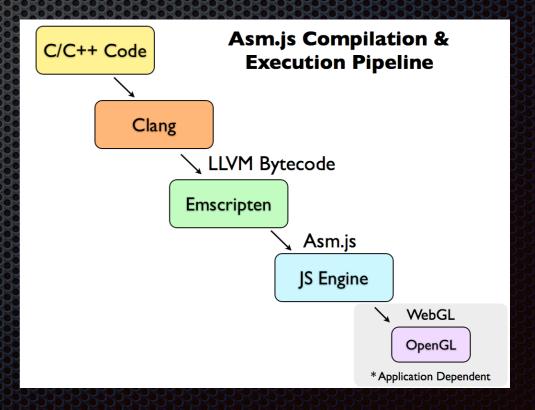
zlib

bullet

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20

Run time normalized to Native (clang -O2), lower values are better
```

```
function Vb(d) {
             var e = 0, f = 0, h = 0, j = 0, k = 0, l = 0, m = 0, n = 0,
                     o = 0, p = 0, q = 0, r = 0, s = 0;
             e = i;
             i = i + 12 | 0;
             f = e \mid 0;
             h = d + 12 | 0;
             j = c[h >> 2] | 0;
             if ((j | 0) > 0) {
                     c[h >> 2] = 0;
12
                     k = 0
13
             } else {
                     k = j
15
             j = d + 24 | 0;
             if ((c[j >> 2] | 0) > 0) {
17
                     c[j >> 2] = 0
```



Initial WebAssembly

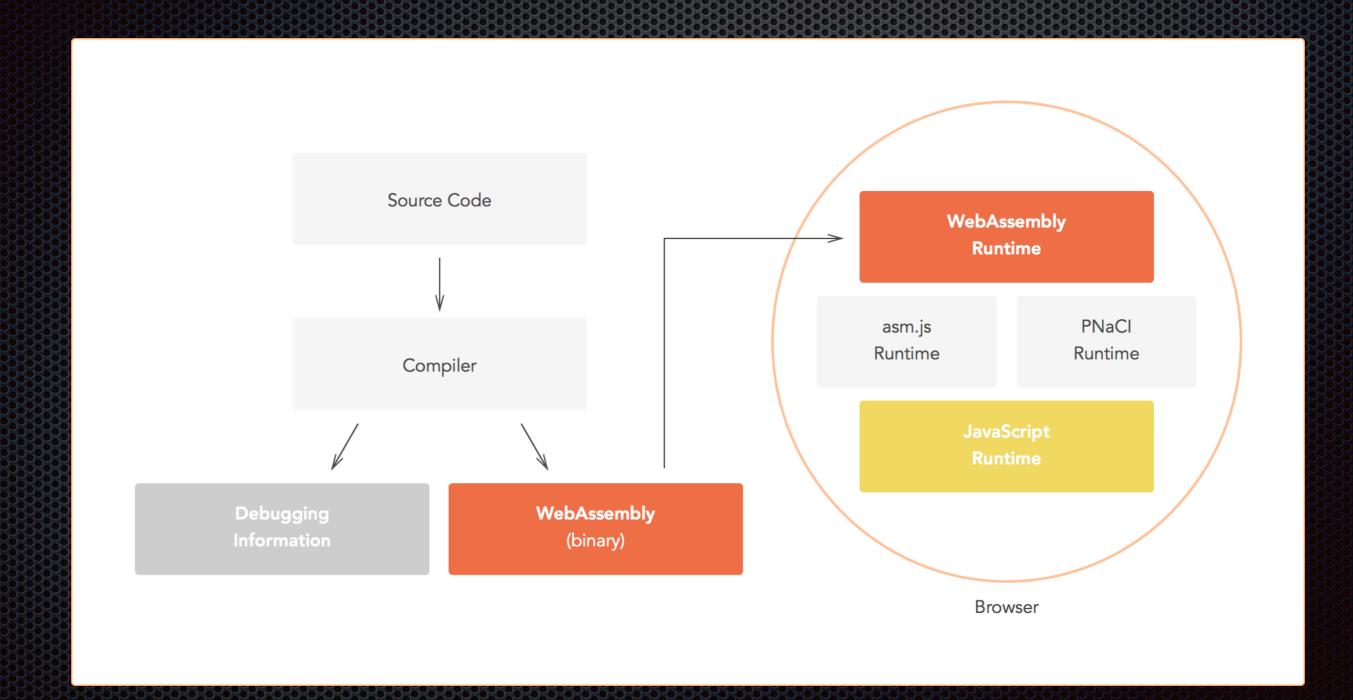
- asm.js in binary format
- **≖** But...
 - 20 times faster parsing JS
 - evolved simpler (without AOT constraints)

```
C++
                                Binary
                                                    Text
                                               get local 0
                                 20 00
                                 42 00
                                               i64.const 0
                                               i64.eq
                                 04 7e
                                               if i64
int factorial(int n) {
                                 42 01
                                                   i64.const 1
  if (n == 0)
                                 05
                                               else
    return 1;
                                                   get local 0
                                 20 00
                                 20 00
                                                   get_local 0
    return n * fac(n-1);
                                 42 01
                                                   i64.const 1
                                 7d
                                                   i64.sub
                                 10 00
                                                   call 0
                                                   i64.mul
                                 7e
                                 0b
                                               end
```

Wasm as Future Web Platform

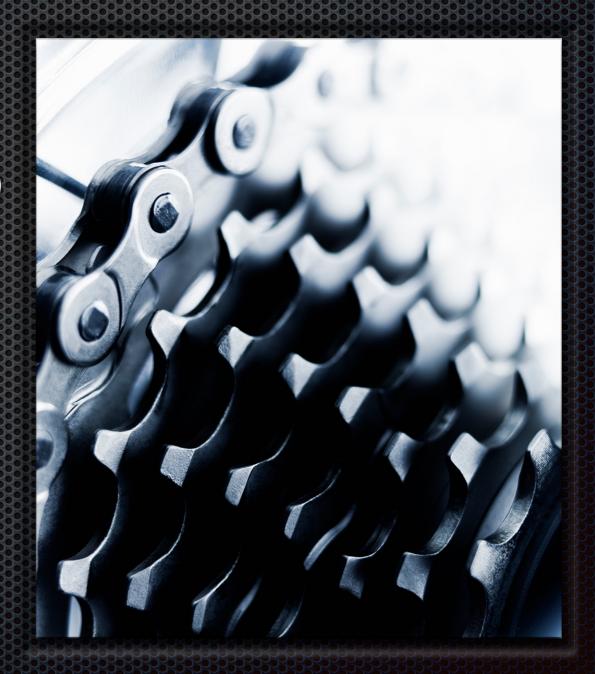
- Define an Abstract Syntax Tree (AST) stored in binary format. Close to native speed.
- Add threads, zero cost exceptions, and SIMD.
- Bring language diversity to the web platform.
- Integrate with existing platforms / support non-browser embeddings

Wasm as Future Web Platform



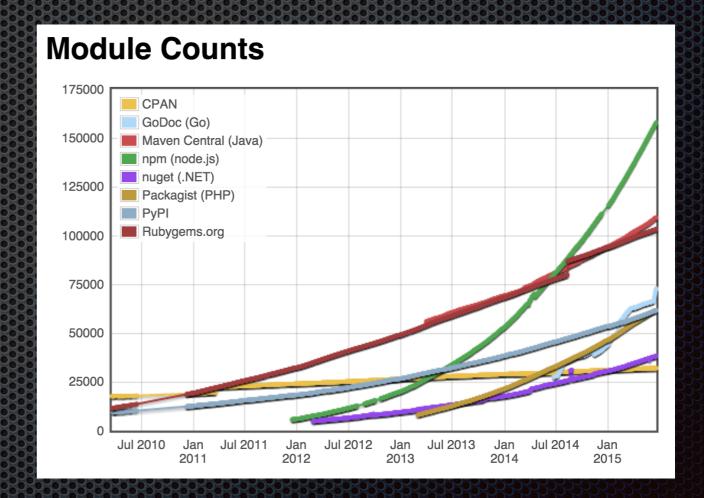
Use Cases

- Better execution for languages and toolkits that are currently crosscompiled to the Web (C/C++, GWT,...)
- Image / video editing / Games
- P2P Apps / VR / AR
- Platform simulation / Developer tools
- Server-side application
- Hybrid native apps on mobile devices



Replace Javascript?

- Again, wasm is a platform
- Javascript is competitive
- Integrate well with the existing Web platform (Javascript APIs, Modules)
- But in long term?



Summary

- WebAssembly is a continued evolution of ASM.js
- WebAssembly is promising as a low-level web platform
- WebAssembly will not replace Javascript in the near future

Reference

- https://github.com/WebAssembly/design
- http://ejohn.org/blog/asmjs-javascript-compile-target/
- https://medium.com/javascript-scene/why-we-need-webassembly-an-interview-with-brendan-eich-7fb2a60b0723#.w9vydyns8
- https://auth0.com/blog/7-things-you-should-knowabout-web-assembly/