

Web 2.0

Lecture 2: Introduction to JavaScript

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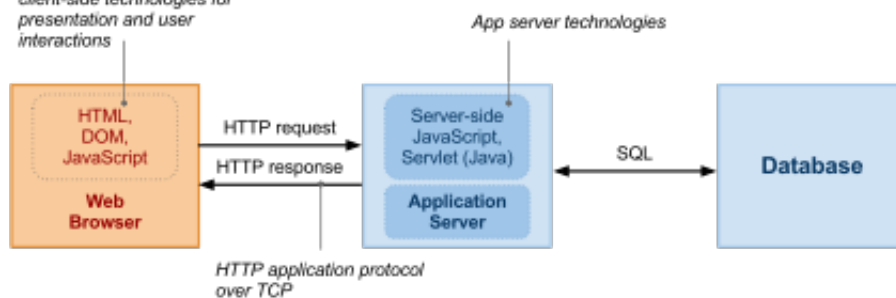
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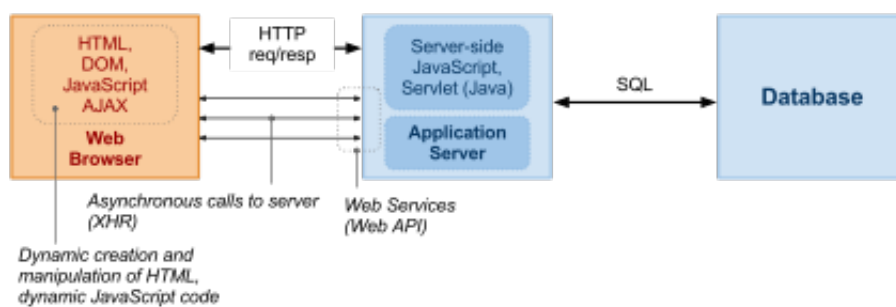
Web 2.0 Application Architecture

Web Application

client-side technologies for
presentation and user
interactions



Web 2.0 Application



JavaScript

- Lightweight, interpreted, object-oriented language
- Standard
 - *All major browsers support ECMAScript 5.1*
- Major characteristics
 - *First-class functions*
 - *functions as first-class citizens*
 - *language supports: passing functions as arguments to other functions, returning functions as values from other functions, assigning functions to variables or storing them in data structures.*
 - *Anonymous functions*
 - *Functions not bound to a variable*
 - *Closures*

Overview

- **JavaScript Basics**
- Server-side JavaScript

Quick JavaScript Intro

- Objects and Arrays

```
1 // objects - key/value pairs
2 var obj = { name: "Tomas", main-city : "Innsbruck", value : 3 };
3 obj.name = "Peter"; // assign the name property another value
4 obj["main-city"] = "Prague"; // another way to access object's values; it's not an array!
5
6 // arrays
7 var a = ["Tomas", "Peter", "Alice"];
8 for (var i = 0; i < a.length; i++)
9     // do something with a[i]
10
11 // combinations of arrays and objects
12 var obj_a = [
13     { name: "Tomas", city: "Innsbruck" },
14     { name : "Peter", city : "Prague" },
15     { name : "Alice", cities : ["Prague", "Brno"] } ];
16
17 for (var i = 0; i < obj_a.length; i++)
18     // do something with obj_a[i].name, ...
```

- Functions

```
1 // assign a function to a variable
2 var minus = function(a, b) {
3     return a - b;
4 }
5
6 // call the function;
7 // now you can pass 'minus' as a parameter to another function
8 var r2 = minus(6, 4);
```

Quick JavaScript Intro (Cont.)

- Function Callbacks

– You can use them to handle asynchronous events occurrences

```
1 // function returns the result through a callback, not directly;
2 // this is not a non-blocking I/O, just demonstration of the callback
3 function add(a, b, callback) {
4     callback(a + b);
5 }
6
7 // assign the callback to a variable
8 var print = function(result) {
9     console.log(result);
10 };
11
12 // call the function with callback as a parameter
13 add(7, 8, print);
```

- Functions as values in object

```
1 var obj = {
2     data : [2, 3, "Tomas", "Alice", 4 ],
3
4     getIndexOf : function(val) {
5         for (var i = 0; i < this.data.length; i++)
6             if (data[i] == val)
7                 return i;
8         return -1;
9     }
10 }
11
12 obj.getIndexOf(3); // will return 2
```

Overview

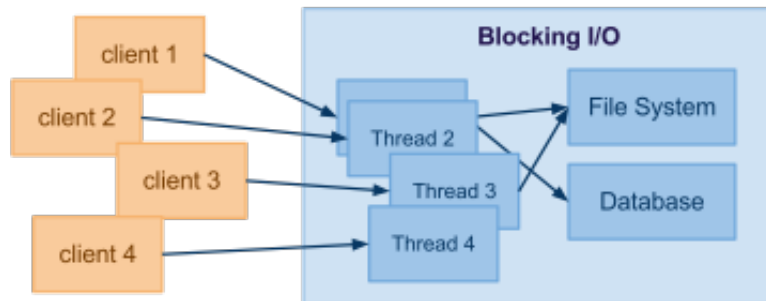
- JavaScript Basics
- **Server-side JavaScript**

Recall: Application Server

- Environment that runs an application logic
 - *Client communicates with AS via an application protocol*
 - *Client – Browser, application protocol – HTTP*
- Terminology
 - *Application Server × Web Server × HTTP Server*
 - *AS is a modular environment; provides technology to realize enterprise systems*
 - *AS contains a Web server/HTTP server*
 - *We will deal with Web server only*
- Two major models to realize communication
 - *Blocking I/O (also called synchronous I/O)*
 - *Non-blocking I/O (also called asynchronous I/O)*
- A technology we will look at
 - *Node.js – runs server-side Javascript*

Blocking I/O Model

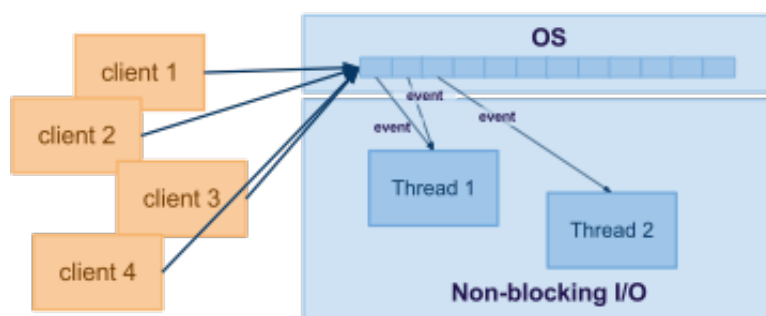
- The server creates a thread for every connection
 - For example, 1K connections = 1K threads, big overhead



- Characteristics
 - the thread is reserved for the connection
 - When processing of the request requires other interactions with DB/FS or network communication is slow
 - scales very bad as the thread's execution is "blocked"

Non-Blocking I/O Model

- Connections maintained by the OS, not the Web app
 - The Web app registers events, OS triggers events when occur



- Characteristics
 - Event examples: new connection, read, write, closed
 - The app may create working threads, but controls the number!
 - much less number of working threads as opposed to blocking I/O

Node.js

- Node.js
 - *Emerging Web server technology, very efficient and fast!*
 - *Event-driven I/O framework, based on JavaScript V8 engine*
 - *Only one worker thread*
 - *Open sourced, @GitHub, many libraries*
 - *Future platform for Web 2.0 apps*
- Every I/O as an event
 - *reading and writing from/to files*
 - *reading and writing from/to sockets*

```
1 // pseudo code; ask for the last edited time of a file
2 stat( 'somefile', function( result ) {
3     // use the result here
4 } );
```

HTTP Server in Node.js

- HTTP Server implementation
 - *server running at 138.232.189.127, port 8080.*

```
1 // http library
2 var http = require("http");
3
4 http.createServer(function(req, res) {
5     // check the value of host header
6     if (req.headers.host == "company.cz") {
7         res.writeHead(201, "Content-Type: text/plain");
8         res.end("This is the response...");
9     } else ;
10    // handle enterprise.com app logic...
11 }).listen('0.0.0.0', 8080);
```

– *Test it using Telnet*

```
1 telnet 138.232.189.127 8080
2 # ...lines omitted due to brevity
3 GET /orders HTTP/1.1
4 Host: company.cz
5
6 HTTP/1.1 201 OK
7 Content-Type: plain/text
8
9 This is the response...
```

Google Apps Script

- Google Apps Script
 - *JavaScript cloud scripting language*
 - *easy ways to automate tasks across Google products and third party services*
- You can
 - *Automate repetitive processes and workflows*
 - *Link Google products with third party services*
 - *Create custom spreadsheet functions*
 - *Build rich graphical user interfaces and menus*

```
1 // create spreadsheet menu
2 function onOpen() {
3   var ss = SpreadsheetApp.getActiveSpreadsheet();
4   var menuEntries = [ {name: "Say Hi", functionName: "sayHi"},
5                       {name: "Say Hello", functionName: "sayHello"} ];
6   ss.addMenu("Tutorial", menuEntries);
7 }
8
9 function sayHi() {
10  Browser.msgBox("Hi");
11 }
12
13 function sayHello() {
14  Browser.msgBox("Hello");
15 }
```

Rhino

- Rhino
 - *open-source implementation of JavaScript written entirely in Java*
 - *managed by the Mozilla Foundation*
 - *also provides another implementation of JavaScript engine written in C named SpiderMonkey*
 - *typically embedded into Java applications to provide scripting to end users*
 - *core language only and doesn't contain objects or methods for manipulating HTML documents*
 - *enabling development of webapps with javascript in containers like Jetty, Tomcat, and of course Google AppEngine*

```
1 $ cat echo.js
2 for (i in arguments) {
3   print(arguments[i])
4 }
5 $ java org.mozilla.javascript.tools.shell.Main echo.js foo bar
6 foo
7 bar
8 $
```