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Fetch: Download progress

The `fetch` method allows to track *download* progress.

Please note: there's currently no way for `fetch` to track *upload* progress. For that purpose, please use [XMLHttpRequest](#), we'll cover it later.

To track download progress, we can use `response.body` property. It's `ReadableStream` – a special object that provides body chunk-by-chunk, as it comes. Readable streams are described in the [Streams API](#) specification.

Unlike `response.text()`, `response.json()` and other methods, `response.body` gives full control over the reading process, and we can count how much is consumed at any moment.

Here's the sketch of code that reads the response from `response.body`:

```
1 // instead of response.json() and other methods
2 const reader = response.body.getReader();
3
4 // infinite loop while the body is downloading
5 while(true) {
6   // done is true for the last chunk
7   // value is Uint8Array of the chunk bytes
8   const {done, value} = await reader.read();
9
10  if (done) {
11    break;
12  }
13
14  console.log(`Received ${value.length} bytes`)
15 }
```

The result of `await reader.read()` call is an object with two properties:

- **done** – `true` when the reading is complete, otherwise `false`.
- **value** – a typed array of bytes: `Uint8Array`.

Please note:

Streams API also describes asynchronous iteration over `ReadableStream` with `for await..of` loop, but it's not yet widely supported (see [browser issues](#)), so we use `while` loop.

We receive response chunks in the loop, until the loading finishes, that is: until `done` becomes `true`.

To log the progress, we just need for every received fragment `value` to add its length to the counter.

Here's the full working example that gets the response and logs the progress in console, more explanations to follow:

```

1 // Step 1: start the fetch and obtain a reader
2 let response = await fetch('https://api.github.com/repos/javascript-tutorial/
3
4 const reader = response.body.getReader();
5
6 // Step 2: get total length
7 const contentLength = +response.headers.get('Content-Length');
8
9 // Step 3: read the data
10 let receivedLength = 0; // received that many bytes at the moment
11 let chunks = []; // array of received binary chunks (comprises the body)
12 while(true) {
13     const {done, value} = await reader.read();
14
15     if (done) {
16         break;
17     }
18
19     chunks.push(value);
20     receivedLength += value.length;
21
22     console.log(`Received ${receivedLength} of ${contentLength}`)
23 }
24
25 // Step 4: concatenate chunks into single Uint8Array
26 let chunksAll = new Uint8Array(receivedLength); // (4.1)
27 let position = 0;
28 for(let chunk of chunks) {
29     chunksAll.set(chunk, position); // (4.2)
30     position += chunk.length;
31 }
32
33 // Step 5: decode into a string
34 let result = new TextDecoder("utf-8").decode(chunksAll);
35
36 // We're done!
37 let commits = JSON.parse(result);
38 alert(commits[0].author.login);

```

Let's explain that step-by-step:

1. We perform `fetch` as usual, but instead of calling `response.json()`, we obtain a stream reader `response.body.getReader()`.

Please note, we can't use both these methods to read the same response: either use a reader or a response method to get the result.

2. Prior to reading, we can figure out the full response length from the `Content-Length` header.

It may be absent for cross-origin requests (see chapter [Fetch: Cross-Origin Requests](#)) and, well, technically a server doesn't have to set it. But usually it's at place.

3. Call `await reader.read()` until it's done.

We gather response chunks in the array `chunks`. That's important, because after the response is consumed, we won't be able to "re-read" it using `response.json()` or another way (you can try, there'll be an error).

4. At the end, we have `chunks` – an array of `Uint8Array` byte chunks. We need to join them into a single result. Unfortunately, there's no single method that concatenates those, so there's some code to do that:
 1. We create `chunksAll = new Uint8Array(receivedLength)` – a same-typed array with the combined length.
 2. Then use `.set(chunk, position)` method to copy each `chunk` one after another in it.
5. We have the result in `chunksAll`. It's a byte array though, not a string.

To create a string, we need to interpret these bytes. The built-in [TextDecoder](#) does exactly that. Then we can `JSON.parse` it, if necessary.

What if we need binary content instead of a string? That's even simpler. Replace steps 4 and 5 with a single line that creates a `Blob` from all chunks:

```
1 let blob = new Blob(chunks);
```

At the end we have the result (as a string or a blob, whatever is convenient), and progress-tracking in the process.

Once again, please note, that's not for *upload* progress (no way now with `fetch`), only for *download* progress.

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