

IF140303-Web Application Development

Session-01: Introduction to Elixir

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What is Elixir?

- Elixir is a dynamic, functional programming language designed for building scalable and maintainable applications.
- It runs on the Erlang VM (BEAM), known for its ability to handle large amounts of concurrent processes.
- Elixir leverages Erlang's capabilities for distributed systems, fault-tolerance, and low-latency messaging.
- Its syntax is inspired by Ruby, making it accessible for developers familiar with Ruby.

How to Install Elixir

■ On macOS:

- Use Homebrew: `brew install elixir`

■ On Ubuntu:

- Install dependencies: `sudo apt-get install wget gnupg`
- Add the Elixir repository:
`wget -qO- https://deb.nodesource.com/setup_16.x | sudo -E bash -`
- Install Elixir: `sudo apt-get install elixir`

■ On Windows:

- Download the installer from the Elixir website:
`https://elixir-lang.org/install.html`

- Verify the installation by running: `elixir --version`

Module Documentation

```
1  defmodule Lottery do
2  @moduledoc """
3  This module provides functionalities for managing a lottery
   system.
4  It includes functions for creating, shuffling, checking for
   numbers, and distributing numbers within the lottery pool
   .
5  """
```

- @moduledoc provides documentation for the Lottery module.
- Describes the module's purpose and the functionalities it offers.
- Includes functions for creating, shuffling, checking, and distributing numbers.

Elixir: Lottery Module

```
1  defmodule Lottery do
2    def greet do
3      "Good luck!"
4    end
end
```

- The Lottery module handles lottery operations such as creating pools, shuffling, and checking numbers.

Greeting Function

```
1  def greet do
2    "Good luck!"
3  end
```

- The greet/0 function returns a simple greeting message.

Generating Lottery Pool

```
1 @spec generate_pool() :: [<<_::24, _::_*16>>, ...]
2 def generate_pool do
3   numbers = ["Number 1", "Number 2", "Number 3", "Number 4", "
4     Number 5", "Number 6"]
5   pots = ["Pot 1", "Pot 2", "Pot 3", "Pot 4"]
6
7   for pot <- pots, number <- numbers do
8     "#{number} in #{pot}"
9   end
end
```

- generate_pool/0 creates a list of lottery numbers across multiple pots.
- The nested for comprehensions combine numbers with pot labels.

Shuffling the Pool

```
1  def randomize(pool) do
2    Enum.shuffle(pool)
3  end
```

- randomize/1 shuffles the list of lottery numbers.
- Utilizes Enum.shuffle/1 to randomize the order.

Checking Number Presence

```
1  @spec contains?(any(), any()) :: boolean()  
2  def contains?(pool, number) do  
3    Enum.member?(pool, number)  
4  end
```

- contains?/2 checks if a number is present in the lottery pool.
- Uses Enum.member?/2 to verify presence.

Distributing the Pool

```
1  def distribute(pool, draw_size) do
2    Enum.split(pool, draw_size)
3  end
4  end
```

- `distribute/2` splits the pool into two lists based on the draw size.
- Returns a tuple containing two lists.

```
1  @doc """
2  Splits the pool into two parts based on draw_size.
3
4  ## Parameters
5
6  - pool: List of lottery numbers.
7  - draw_size: Number of items in the first part.
8
9  ## Returns
10
11 - A tuple with two lists: the first with draw_size items,
12   and the second with the rest.
13
14 ## Example
15
16 iex> Lottery.distribute(["Number 1 in Pot 1", "Number 2 in
17   Pot 2"], 1)
18 {"Number 1 in Pot 1", "Number 2 in Pot 2"}
```

Function Documentation (2)

- `@doc` provides documentation for the `distribute/2` function.
- Describes the parameters: `pool` and `draw_size`.
- Details the return value: a tuple with two lists.
- Provides an example usage.

Function Name/Number

- In Elixir, `function name/number` refers to the arity of a function.
- The number after the slash (/) indicates the number of arguments the function takes.
- For example:
 - `greet/0` has 0 arguments.
 - `generate_pool/0` has 0 arguments.
 - `contains?/2` has 2 arguments.
 - `distribute/2` has 2 arguments.
- This notation is useful for distinguishing between different functions with the same name but different arity.

What is Functional Programming?



- Functional programming is a paradigm that treats computation as the evaluation of mathematical functions.
- It avoids changing-state and mutable data.
- Functions are first-class citizens, meaning they can be passed as arguments, returned from other functions, and assigned to variables.
- It emphasizes the use of pure functions, which have no side effects and always produce the same output for the same input.

Key Concepts of Functional Programming (1)



- **Immutability:** Data cannot be modified after it is created. Instead, new data structures are created.
- **Pure Functions:** Functions that do not cause side effects and return the same result for the same inputs.
- **Higher-Order Functions:** Functions that can take other functions as arguments or return them as results.
- **First-Class Functions:** Functions are treated as first-class citizens, allowing them to be assigned to variables, passed as arguments, and returned from other functions.

Key Concepts of Functional Programming(2)



- **Declarative Style:** Focuses on what to compute rather than how to compute it, emphasizing expressions and declarations over statements.
- **Recursion:** Functional programming often uses recursion as the primary mechanism for iteration, avoiding traditional loops.