WEBPACK

Live Reloading

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WEBPACK WATCH

Webpack can run in WATCH mode where it watches source files and recompile them whenever they change.

If one of the files in the dependency graph is updated, a new bundle is created automatically.

Webpack config object key named watch takes a Boolean value and is used to run webpack in watch mode.

In watch mode, Webpack does not reload the browser page automatically.

Only the generation of a fresh bundle(s) is automatic.

Browser has to be refreshed manually to reflect changes.

WEBPACK-DEV-SERVER

Webpack comes with a component named webpack-dev-server (WDS) that provides with a simple web server and the ability to use live reloading.

Live Reloading basically reloads the web app automatically in the browser, whenever source code of the web app changes.

WDS is configured using a key named "devServer" in the config object.

Here is a simple example that gzips and serves everything from 'dist' directory at port 8080.

```
devServer: {
    contentBase: path.join(__dirname, "dist"),
    compress: true,
    port: 8080,
    open:true
}
```

devServer.open key takes a Boolean value and opens web app in default browser after WDS starts.

npm install webpack-dev-server --save-dev

The WDS is actually a little Node.js Express server, which serves the webpack bundle

The bundle emitted by WDS is served from memory at the path specified in 'contentBase'.

Physical bundle file is not created.

If an old bundle already exists at the same URL path, the bundle in memory takes precedence (by default).

END OF CHAPTER

APPENDIX