

Javascript, The Swiss Army Knife of Programming Languages

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23-11-2013

About me



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Features

- Loosely typed language

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- Object literal notation

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- Global variables
- Functions are first class objects

Features

ECMAScript

The standard that defines JavaScript is the third edition of *ECMAScript Programming Language*.

Hello World

index.html

```
<html>
  <head>
    <script>
      document.writeln('Hello, world!');
    </script>
  </head>
  <body>
  </body>
</html>
```

Syntax

Comments

Block comments formed with `/* */` and line-ending comments starting with `//`. Example:

```
/*  
    We are learning Javascript and comments are very important  
*/  
document.writeln('Hello World!'); // Output: Hello World!
```

Syntax

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Block comments formed with `/* */` and line-ending comments starting with `//`. Example:

```
/*
  We are learning Javascript and comments are very important
*/
document.writeln('Hello World!'); // Output: Hello World!
```

Names

Starts with a letter or underscore and optionally followed by on or more letters, digits or underscores. Beware of some reserved words.

bullet	// valid	_mana	// valid
3force	// invalid	lucky42	// valid
rocket-launcher	// invalid	grenade_launcher	// valid

Syntax

Numbers

Single number type represented internally as 64-bit floating point.

```
42
```

```
3.141516
```

```
10e5
```

```
1/0 // Output: Infinity
```

```
0/0 // Output: NaN
```

Syntax

Numbers

Single number type represented internally as 64-bit floating point.

```
42
3.141516
10e5
1/0 // Output: Infinity
0/0 // Output: NaN
```

Strings

Can be wrapped in single quotes or double quotes. It can contains 0 or more characters. All characters in Javascript are 16 bits wide.

```
‘Hello World’
‘Hello World’
‘This is\n a multiline string’
‘You can write ‘ on single quotes string’
```

Syntax

Functions

```
function helloWorld (name) {  
    console.log('Hello ' + name + '!');  
}  
  
helloWorld('David'); // Output 'Hello David!'  
  
var myFunction = function () {  
    console.log('Hi there!');  
};  
  
myFunction(); // Output: 'Hi there!'
```

Syntax

Variables

Use the `var` keyword followed by a name to declare a variable. When used inside of a function, the `var` statement defines the function's private variables.

```
var player; // variable player declared on a global scope

function test() {
  var enemy; // Scoped to function test
}
```


Syntax

Strict (in)equality

```
10 == '10' // Output: true, auto type coercion  
10 === '10' // Output: false strict equality  
10 != '10' // Output: false, auto type coercion  
10 !== '10' // Output: true strict inequality
```

Syntax

Strict (in)equality

```
10 == '10' // Output: true, auto type coercion
10 === '10' // Output: false strict equality
10 != '10' // Output: false, auto type coercion
10 !== '10' // Output: true strict inequality
```

null and undefined

```
console.log(mario); // Error: mario is not defined

function exists (mario) {
  console.log(mario);
}

exists(); // Output undefined

console.log(null == undefined) // Output: true
console.log(null === undefined) // Output: false
```

Syntax

if, else

```
var testOk = true;

if (testOk) {
    console.log('Captain obvious');
} else {
    console.log('I'm bored');
}
```

Here are the *falsey* values:

- false
- null
- undefined
- The empty string
- The number 0
- The number NaN

All other values are *truthy*.

Syntax

switch

```
var weapon = 'rocketlauncher';

switch(weapon) {
  case 'pistol':
    console.log('piu piu');
    break;
  case 'shotgun':
    console.log('paaam!');
    break;
  case 'rocketlauncher'
    console.log('BOOOOM!');
    break;
  default:
    console.log('falcon punch!');
    break;
}
```

Syntax

while, do while

```
var counter = 0;
while (counter < 10) { // Ends when counter is equal to 10
    console.log(counter);
    counter += 1;
}

do {
    console.log(counter);
    i -= 1;
} while(counter > 0); // Ends when counter is equal to 0
```

Syntax

while, do while

```
var counter = 0;
while (counter < 10) { // Ends when counter is equal to 10
    console.log(counter);
    counter += 1;
}

do {
    console.log(counter);
    i -= 1;
} while(counter > 0); // Ends when counter is equal to 0
```

for

```
var i;

for (i = 0; i < 10; i += 1)
    console.log(i);
}
```


Objects

- Objects in Javascript are mutable keyed collections.

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Prototype

All objects created from object literals are linked to `Object.prototype`. If we try to retrieve a property value from an object, and if the object lacks the property name, then Javascript attempts to retrieve the property value from the prototype object.

Objects

Object.create

```
var soldier = {  
  hp: 10,  
  strength: 5,  
  weapon: 'Pistol'  
};  
  
var knight = Object.create(soldier);  
knight.weapon = 'Sword';  
knight.shield = true;  
  
console.log(knight.hp); // Output: 10  
console.log(knight['weapon']); // Output: 'Sword'  
console.log(knight.shield); // Output: true
```

Visit <http://www.objectplayground.com/> for a graphical explanation

Objects

hasOwnProperty

```
console.log(knight.hasOwnProperty('hp')); // Output: false  
console.log(knight.hasOwnProperty('shield')); // Output: true
```

Objects

hasOwnProperty

```
console.log(knight.hasOwnProperty('hp')); // Output: false  
console.log(knight.hasOwnProperty('shield')); // Output: true
```

for in

```
for (attr in knight) {  
    if(knight.hasOwnProperty(attr)) {  
        console.log('Knight property ' + attr + ' with value ' +  
            knight[attr]);  
    }  
}  
// Knight property weapon with value 'Sword'  
// Knight property shield with value true
```


Objects

hasOwnProperty

```
console.log(knight.hasOwnProperty('hp')); // Output: false  
console.log(knight.hasOwnProperty('shield')); // Output: true
```

for in

```
for (attr in knight) {  
    if(knight.hasOwnProperty(attr)) {  
        console.log('Knight property ' + attr + ' with value ' +  
            knight[attr]);  
    }  
}  
// Knight property weapon with value 'Sword'  
// Knight property shield with value true
```

delete

```
console.log(knight.weapon); // Output: 'Sword'  
delete knight.weapon;  
console.log(knight.weapon); // Output: 'Pistol'
```

Functions

Functions are the **fundamental modular unit** of Javascript. They are used for code reuse, information hiding, and composition. The thing that is special about functions is that they can be invoked.

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Function.prototype and constructor

Functions are objects linked to `Function.prototype`. Every function object is also created with a `prototype` property. Its value is an object with a `constructor` property whose value is the function.

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Functions

Invoking a function suspends the execution of the current function, passing control and parameters to the new function. In addition to the declared parameters, every function receives two additional parameters: `this` and `arguments`.

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Invocation (1/4): Method invocation pattern

```
var enemy = {  
  hp: 5,  
  rage: 0,  
  attack: function () {  
    this.rage += 1;  
  }  
};  
  
enemy.attack();  
console.log(enemy.rage); // Output: 1
```

Functions

Invocation (2/4): Function invocation pattern

```
// part of code omitted
physicsManager.collisionsDetected = 0;
physicsManager.checkCollision = function (entity1, entity2) {
  var bbCollision = function (bb1, bb2) {
    // Collision code omitted
    var collision = true;
    if (collision) {
      // WARNING: 'this' is the global object and not 'physicsManager'
      this.collisionsDetected += 1;
    }
    return collision;
  };

  bbCollision(entity1.getBB(), entity2.getBB());
};

if (physicsManager.checkCollision(enemy, player)) {
  player.takeDamage(enemy.strength);
}

console.log(physicsManager.collisionsDetected); // Output: 0
```

Functions

Invocation (2/4): Function invocation pattern (workaround)

```
physicsManager.collisionsDetected = 0;

physicsManager.checkCollision = function (entity1, entity2) {
  var that = this;

  var bbCollision = function (bb1, bb2) {
    // Collision code omitted
    var collision = true;
    if (collision) {
      that.collisionsDetected += 1;
    }
    return collision;
  };

  bbCollision(entity1.getBB(), entity2.getBB());
};

if (physicsManager.checkCollision(enemy, player)) {
  player.takeDamage(enemy.strength);
}
```


Functions

Invocation (3/4): Constructor invocation pattern

```
var Player = function (name) {  
    this.name = name;  
    this.lives = 3;  
};  
  
Player.prototype.sayMyName = function () {  
    console.log('My name is ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var david = new Player('David');  
david.sayMyName(); // Output: 'My name is David'
```

Functions

Invocation (3/4): Constructor invocation pattern (without new)

```
var Player = function (name) {  
    this.name = name;  
    this.lives = 3;  
};  
  
Player.prototype.sayMyName = function () {  
    console.log('My name is ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var manfred = Player('Manfred'); // oops  
try {  
    manfred.sayMyName(); // raise an error because manfred is undefined  
} catch (e) {  
    console.log('[ ' + e.name + ' ] ' + e.message);  
}  
  
// Global variables feast  
console.log(name); // Output: 'Manfred'  
console.log(lives); // Output: 3
```

Functions

Invocation (4/4): Apply invocation pattern

```
var enemy = {  
  rage: 0,  
  attack: function () {  
    this.rage += 1;  
  }  
};  
  
var anotherEnemy = {  
  rage: 10  
};  
  
enemy.attack.apply(anotherEnemy, []);  
  
console.log(anotherEnemy.rage); // Output: 11
```

Functions

Arguments

```
function doActions() {  
    var i, l;  
  
    // WARNING: arguments is an Array-like object  
    for (i = 0, l = arguments.length; i < l; i += 1) {  
        console.log('Doing action ' + arguments[i]);  
    }  
}  
  
doActions('jump', 'attack');  
/*  
    Output:  
    'Doing action jump'  
    'Doing action attack'  
*/
```

Functions

Closure

Javascript does have function scope. That means that the parameters and variables defined in a function are not visible outside of the function, and that a variable defined anywhere within a function is visible everywhere within the function.

```
var player = new Player();

function isGameOver() {
    var enemy = new Enemy();

    function checkHit() {
        return enemy.hit(player);
    }

    return checkHit();
}

isGameOver();
```

Functions

Module pattern

```
var physicsModule = (function () { // IIEF pattern
    var detectedCollisions = 0;

    function checkBBCollision(bb1, bb2) {
        var collision = false;
        // collision code skipped
        if (collision) {
            detectedCollisions += 1;
        }
        return collision;
    }

    function checkCollision(entity1, entity2) {
        checkBBCollision(entity1.getBB(), entity2.getBB());
    }

    return {
        checkCollision: checkCollision
    };
})();

console.log(physicsModule.detectedCollisions); // Output: undefined
console.log(physicsModule.checkBBCollision); // Output: undefined
console.log(typeof physicsModule.checkCollision); // Output: 'function'
```

Inheritance

Javascript provides a much richer set of code reuse patterns. It can ape the classical pattern, but it also supports other patterns that are more expressive.

Inheritance

Javascript provides a much richer set of code reuse patterns. It can ape the classical pattern, but it also supports other patterns that are more expressive.

Javascript is a class-free language

In classical languages, objects are instances of classes, and a class can inherit from another class. Javascript is a prototypal language, which means that objects inherit directly from other objects.

Inheritance

Pseudoclassical pattern

```
var Alien = function (name) {  
  this.name = name;  
};  
  
Alien.prototype.talk = function () {  
  console.log('%?saf? ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var SmartAlien = function (name) {  
  this.name = name;  
};  
  
SmartAlien.prototype = new Alien();  
  
SmartAlien.prototype.speech = function () {  
  this.talk();  
  console.log('...I mean, my name is ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var enemy = new SmartAlien('Roger');  
enemy.speech();  
// Output: '%?saf? Roger  
//          ...I mean, my name is Roger'
```

Inheritance

Prototypal pattern

```
var alien = {  
  name: '%?&789',  
  talk: function () {  
    console.log('%?saf? ' + this.name);  
  }  
};  
  
var smartAlien = Object.create(alien);  
smartAlien.speech = function () {  
  this.talk();  
  console.log('...I mean, my name is ' + this.name);  
};  
  
var enemy = Object.create(smartAlien);  
enemy.name = 'Roger';  
enemy.speech();  
// Output: '%?saf? Roger  
//          ...I mean, my name is Roger'
```

Inheritance

Functional pattern

```
var alien = function (spec) {
  var that = {};

  var killHumans = function () { // Private access
    console.log('*Using ' + spec.weapon + '*');
  };

  that.talk = function () {
    console.log('%&78 ' + spec.name);
    if (spec.weapon) {
      killHumans();
    }
  };

  return that;
};

var enemy = smartAlien({ name: 'Roger' });
enemy.speech();
// Output: '%?saf? Roger
//          *Using Pistol*
//          ...I mean, my name is Roger'
```

```
var smartAlien = function (spec) {
  spec.weapon = 'Pistol'; // Private access
  var that = alien(spec);

  that.speech = function () {
    that.talk();
    console.log('...I mean, my name is ' +
      spec.name);
  };
  return that;
};
```

Arrays

Arrays doesn't exist

Javascript provides an object that has some array-like characteristics. It converts array subscripts into strings that are used to make properties.

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Arrays literals

```
var enemies = [];  
  
console.log(enemies[9999]); // Output: undefined  
  
enemies[0] = 'Sigma';  
console.log(enemies[0]); // Output: 'Sigma'  
  
enemies[1] = 9000; // We can mix different types  
console.log(enemies[1]); // Output: 9000
```

Arrays

Remove elements

```
var enemies = ['Grassman', 'Bowser', 'Sephiroth'],  
    players = ['David', 'Manfred', 'Joanmi'];
```

```
delete enemies[1]; // Bad idea  
console.log(enemies[1]); // Output: undefined  
console.log(enemies.length); // Output: 3
```

```
players.splice(1, 1); // Yeah!  
console.log(players[1]); // Output: 'Joanmi'  
console.log(players.length); // Output: 2
```


What is Node.js?

Website definition

Node.js is a platform built on Chrome's JavaScript runtime for easily building fast, scalable network applications. Node.js uses an event-driven, non-blocking I/O model that makes it lightweight and efficient, perfect for data-intensive real-time applications that run across distributed devices.



Installation

From source-code or pre-built installer

Visit <http://nodejs.org/download/> and choose the package for your platform.

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Using nvm (UNIX environments)

Visit <https://github.com/creationix/nvm> and follow instructions.

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From source-code or pre-built installer

Visit <http://nodejs.org/download/> and choose the package for your platform.

Using `nvm` (UNIX environments)

Visit <https://github.com/creationix/nvm> and follow instructions.

Check installation

```
$ node -v  
v0.8.21  
$ npm -v  
1.2.11
```

Node packages

Node.js has a lot of packages that can be installed using `npm`. You can publish your own code as a node package and it will be available through `npm`.

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Installing packages

```
$ npm install <package_name>
```


What is Bower?

Website definition

Bower is a package manager for the web. It offers a generic, unopinionated solution to the problem of front-end package management, while exposing the package dependency model via an API that can be consumed by a more opinionated build stack.



Installation

Using npm

```
$ npm install -g bower
```


Installation

Using npm

```
$ npm install -g bower
```

Verify installation

```
$ bower -v  
1.2.7
```

Commands

bower init

Creates a bower.json file for including our application dependencies. Also, it's mandatory in order to register our application as a bower package or used on our internal projects through bower.

```
$ bower init
// Press ENTER for default answers
$ cat bower.json
{
  'name': 'js-workshop-code',
  'version': '0.0.0',
  'homepage': 'https://github.com/ultrayoshi/js-workshop-code',
  'authors': [
    'ultrayoshi <david@imesmes.com>'
  ],
  'license': 'MIT',
  'ignore': [
    '**/*.*',
    'node_modules',
    'bower_components',
    'test',
    'tests'
  ]
}
```

Commands

bower search

Find all packages or a specific package

```
$ bower search jquery
Search results:
jquery git://github.com/components/jquery.git
jquery-ui git://github.com/components/jqueryui
jquery.cookie git://github.com/carhartl/jquery-cookie.git
jquery-placeholder git://github.com/mathiasbynens/jquery-placeholder.git
jquery-file-upload git://github.com/blueimp/jQuery-File-Upload.git
jasmine-jquery git://github.com/velesin/jasmine-jquery
jquery.ui git://github.com/jquery/jquery-ui.git
jquery.scrollTo git://github.com/flesler/jquery.scrollTo.git
jquery-migrate git://github.com/appleboy/jquery-migrate.git
jquery-waypoints git://github.com/imakewebthings/jquery-waypoints.git
...
```

Commands

bower search

Find all packages or a specific package

```
$ bower search jquery
Search results:
jquery git://github.com/components/jquery.git
jquery-ui git://github.com/components/jqueryui
jquery.cookie git://github.com/carhartl/jquery-cookie.git
jquery-placeholder git://github.com/mathiasbynens/jquery-placeholder.git
jquery-file-upload git://github.com/blueimp/jQuery-File-Upload.git
jasmine-jquery git://github.com/velesin/jasmine-jquery
jquery.ui git://github.com/jquery/jquery-ui.git
jquery.scrollTo git://github.com/flesler/jquery.scrollTo.git
jquery-migrate git://github.com/appleboy/jquery-migrate.git
jquery-waypoints git://github.com/imakewebthings/jquery-waypoints.git
...
```

bower home <package>

Opens a package homepage into your favorite browser

```
$ bower home jquery
```

Commands

bower install [package]

Install a package locally

```
$ bower install jquery --save-dev
bower jquery#*                cached git://github.com/components/jquery.git#2.0.3
bower jquery#*                validate 2.0.3 against git://github.com/components/jquery.git#*
bower jquery#~2.0.3           install jquery#2.0.3

jquery#2.0.3 bower_components/jquery
```

--save-dev option add the package as a dependency of your application.
Leave package name blank in order to install all your dependencies.

Commands

bower install [package]

Install a package locally

```
$ bower install jquery --save-dev
bower jquery##          cached git://github.com/components/jquery.git#2.0.3
bower jquery##          validate 2.0.3 against git://github.com/components/jquery.git##
bower jquery#~2.0.3      install jquery#2.0.3

jquery#2.0.3 bower_components/jquery
```

--save-dev option add the package as a dependency of your application.
Leave package name blank in order to install all your dependencies.

bower list

List local packages

```
$ bower list
bower check-new      Checking for new versions of the project dependencies..
js-workshop-code#0.0.0 /home/david/code/js-workshop-code
jquery#2.0.3
```


Simple exercise using jQuery

Exercise

- Start with the sample code on tag `boss_stage_1`
- Remember to install your dependencies using `bower`
- Create a function for creating character objects
- Create another function for creating player objects inheriting from characters
- Create another function for creating enemy objects inheriting from characters
- Use the jQuery sample code and complete 'Attack' and 'Drink potion' actions.
- Use `console.log` to debug your actions

What is Grunt?

Definition

Grunt is a Javascript Task Runner. Simplify your life automating tedious tasks like minification, compilation, unit testing, etc. There are a lot of available Grunt plugins, take a look to the plugin directory at <http://gruntjs.com/plugins>.



Installation

Using npm

```
$ npm install -g grunt-cli
```

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```

Gruntfile.js and package.json

Grunt needs a `Gruntfile.js` on your project's directory in order to work. Also, we need a `package.json` (similar to our `bower.json` but for our server-side dependencies) to add our Grunt plugins as a dependencies for our project.

```
$ npm init  
// Default answers  
$ npm install grunt --save-dev
```

Gruntfile.js

Basic Gruntfile.js

```
module.exports = function (grunt) {  
  grunt.registerTask('default', []);  
};
```

Gruntfile.js

Basic Gruntfile.js

```
module.exports = function (grunt) {  
  grunt.registerTask('default', []);  
};
```

Run default task

```
$ grunt  
Done, without errors
```

JSHint

JSHint is a tool that helps to detect errors and potential problems in your Javascript code.

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grunt-contrib-jshint

```
$ npm install grunt-contrib-jshint --save-dev
```


JSHint

Gruntfile.js

```
module.exports = function (grunt) {  
  grunt.initConfig({  
    jshint: {  
      all: {  
        options: {  
          jshintsrc: '.jshintrc'  
        },  
        files: {  
          src: ['Gruntfile.js', 'js/**/*.js']  
        }  
      }  
    }  
  });  
  
  grunt.loadNpmTasks('grunt-contrib-jshint');  
  grunt.registerTask('default', ['jshint']);  
};
```

JSHint

.jshintrc

```
{
  "curly": true,
  "eqeqeq": true,
  "immed": true,
  "latedef": true,
  "newcap": true,
  "noarg": true,
  "sub": true,
  "undef": true,
  "unused": true,
  "boss": true,
  "eqnull": true,
  "browser": true,
  "node": true,
  "expr": true,
  "globals": {
  }
}
```

JSHint

Running task

```
$ grunt jshint:all
Running 'jshint:all' (jshint) task
Linting js/main.js ...ERROR
[L1:C1] W117: '$' is not defined.
$(function ( {
[L29:C18] W117: '$' is not defined.
  var el = $('#'+ character.id);
[L50:C18] W117: '$' is not defined.
  var el = $("#"+ character.id);

Warning: Task 'jshint:all' failed. Use --force to continue.
Aborted due to warnings.
$ grunt jshint
// Same output
$ grunt
// Same output
```

Watch

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`grunt-contrib-watch`

```
$ npm install grunt-contrib-watch --save-dev
```

Watch

Gruntfile.js

```
module.exports = function (grunt) {  
  grunt.initConfig({  
    // other plugin configurations omitted  
    watch: {  
      jshint: {  
        files: ['js/**/*.js'],  
        tasks: ['jshint']  
      }  
    }  
  });  
  
  // other loading npm tasks omitted  
  grunt.loadNpmTasks('grunt-contrib-watch');  
  
  grunt.registerTask('default', ['jshint']);  
};
```

Watch

Running task

```
$ grunt watch
Running "watch" task
Waiting...OK
>> File "js/main.js" changed.

Running "jshint:all" (jshint) task
Linting js/main.js ...ERROR
[L1:C1] W117: '$' is not defined.
$(function ( {
[L29:C18] W117: '$' is not defined.
    var el = $(''#' + character.id);
[L50:C18] W117: '$' is not defined.
    var el = $(''#' + character.id);

Warning: Task "jshint:all" failed. Use --force to continue.

Aborted due to warnings.
Completed in 0.646s at Sun Nov 17 2013 17:23:21 GMT+0100 (CET) - Waiting...
```

Concat

You can concat your scripts file using `grunt` in order to make fewer HTTP requests.

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You can concat your scripts file using `grunt` in order to make fewer HTTP requests.

`grunt-contrib-concat`

```
$ npm install grunt-contrib-concat --save-dev
```

Concat

Gruntfile.js

```
module.exports = function (grunt) {  
  grunt.initConfig({  
    // other plugin configurations omitted  
    concat: {  
      options: {  
        separator: ';' ,  
      },  
      dist: {  
        src: ['bower_components/jquery/jquery.js', 'js/main.js'],  
        dest: 'build/built.js'  
      }  
    }  
  });  
  
  // other loading npm tasks omitted  
  grunt.loadNpmTasks('grunt-contrib-concat');  
  
  grunt.registerTask('default', ['jshint', 'concat']);  
};
```

Concat

Running task

```
$ grunt concat  
Running 'concat:dist' (concat) task  
File 'dist/built.js' created.
```

```
Done, without errors.
```

Uglify

You can optimize your scripts using `grunt` in order to minimize its size.
Combine with `concat` for better results.

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You can optimize your scripts using `grunt` in order to minimize its size. Combine with `concat` for better results.

`grunt-contrib-uglify`

```
$ npm install grunt-contrib-uglify --save-dev
```

Uglify

Gruntfile.js

```
module.exports = function (grunt) {  
  grunt.initConfig({  
    // other plugin configurations omitted  
    uglify: {  
      build: {  
        files: {  
          'dist/built.js.min': 'dist/built.js'  
        }  
      }  
    }  
  });  
  
  // other loading npm tasks omitted  
  grunt.loadNpmTasks('grunt-contrib-uglify');  
  
  grunt.registerTask('default', ['jshint', 'concat', 'uglify']);  
};
```

Uglify

Running task

```
$ grunt uglify
Running 'uglify:build' (uglify) task
File 'dist/built.js.min' created.

Done, without errors.

$ ls -l dist
total 328
-rw-rw-r-- 1 david david 247260 Nov 17 18:05 built.js
-rw-rw-r-- 1 david david  84949 Nov 17 18:12 built.js.min
```