Javascript, The Swiss Army Knife of Programming Languages

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About me

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Features

- Loosely typed language

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- Object literal notation

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- Prototypal inheritance

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- Prototypal inheritance
- 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

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!
```

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

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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
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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 *falsy* 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
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```
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    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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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.

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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', 'Sephirot'],
    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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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
```

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Using npm

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$ 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

```javascript
module.exports = function (grunt) {
    grunt.initConfig({
        jshint: {
            all: {
                options: {
                    jshintrc: '.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

Running grunt or grunt jshint command manually is a bit painful. We can automate this process using another grunt plugin.

Watch

Running `grunt` or `grunt jshint` command manually is a bit painful. We can automate this process using another grunt plugin.

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.min.js': '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.min.js'' 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.min.js
```

Grunt's playground

Exercise

- Start with the sample code on tag boss_stage_2
- Remember to install your front-end dependencies using bower install
- Remember to install your back-end dependencies using bower install
- Run grunt watch
- Fix all js lint errors
- Add basic stylesheet to the application
- Install grunt-contrib-csslint and grunt-contrib-cssmin
- Concat css files and optimize them