WebAssembly brings the Web to a new era

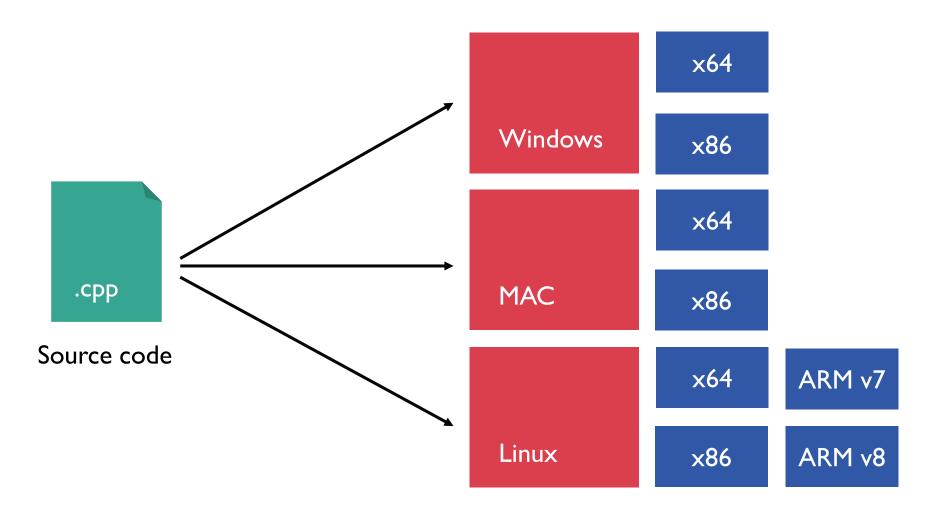
Boyan Mihaylov @boyanio boyan.io

WebAssembly (WASM) is compiler target for programs on the Web

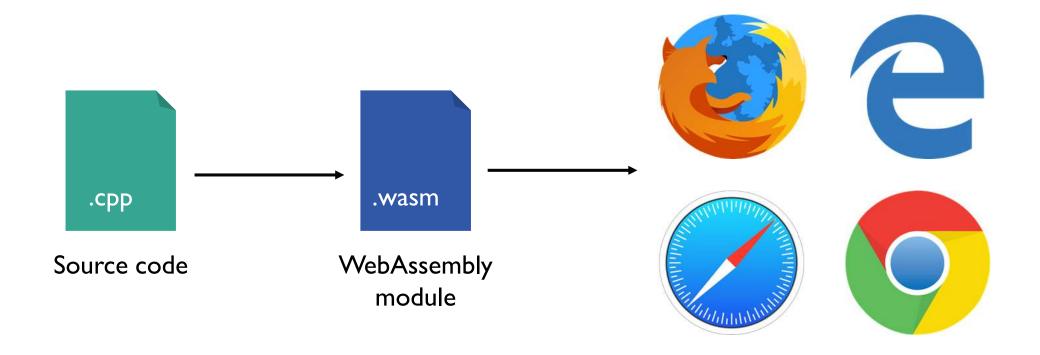
```
D:\wasm>type index.c
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
  printf("Hello, cool people!\n");
 return 0;
D:\wasm>clang index.c
D:\wasm>a.exe
Hello, cool people!
D:\wasm>emcc index.c -s WASM=1 -o a.js
D:\wasm>node a.js
Hello, cool people!
D:\wasm>
```

@boyanio

Traditional multi-target compilation



Multi-target compilation with WebAssembly



```
function add(a, b) {
  return a + b;
}
```

```
\rightarrow add(2, 3)
<· 5
> add("a", 5)
< "a5"
> add("a", null)
 "anull"
> add(5, {})
"5[object Object]"
> add({}, "a")
"[object Object]a"
> add("a")
"aundefined"
```

<- 4

weak typing, implicit conversion

"73"

...not really consistent

<· 4

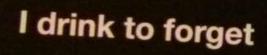
string - string = number ?

"73"

"+" is for concatenation

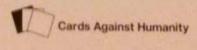
"+ +" is for addition?

< 10





JavaScript



WebAssembly is a typed language

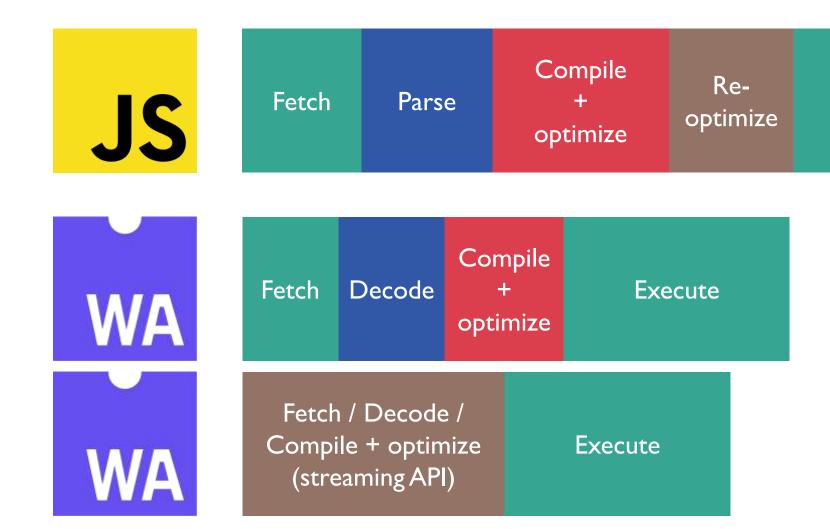
It supports 32 and 64-bit integers (i32, i64) and floating points (f32, f64)

Binary representation (.wasm)

```
0061 736d 0100 0000 0187 8080 8000 0160 027f 7f01 7f03 8280 8080 0001 0004 8480 8080 0001 7000 0005 8380 8080 0001 0001 0001 0681 8080 8000 0007 9080 8080 0002 066d 656d 6f72 7902 0003 6164 6400 000a 8d80 8080 0001 8780 8080 0000 2001 2000 6a0b
```

Textual representation (.wat)

```
(module
  (table 0 anyfunc)
  (memory $0 1)
  (export "memory" (memory $0))
  (export "add" (func $add))
  (func $add (; 0;) (param $0 i32) (param $1 i32) (result i32)
    (i32.add
      (get_local $1)
      (get_local $0)
```



GC

Execute

WebAssembly provides consistent, predictable performance

System WebAssembly V

NumRunners 15

Close Controls

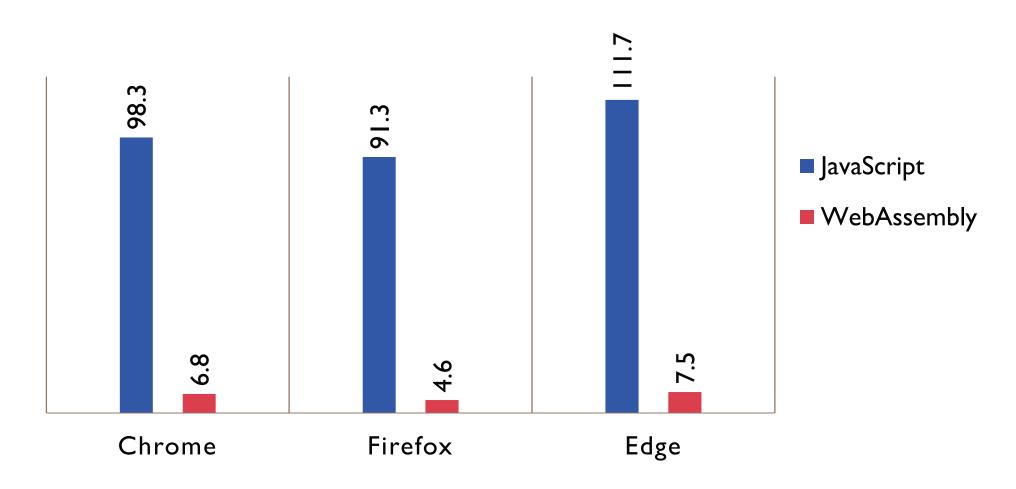


3D animation performance

https://github.com/sessamekesh/wasm-3d-animation-demo

Performance comparison

Average animation time (ms)





The Adobe Flash plugin has crashed.

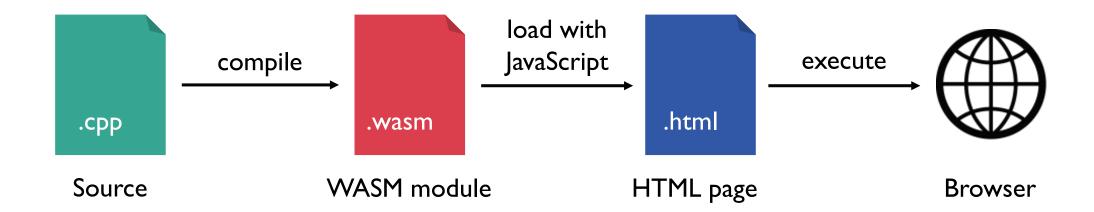
<u>Send crash report</u>

Reusing code on the Web

WebAssembly enables code reusability between native and Web



How to produce WebAssembly



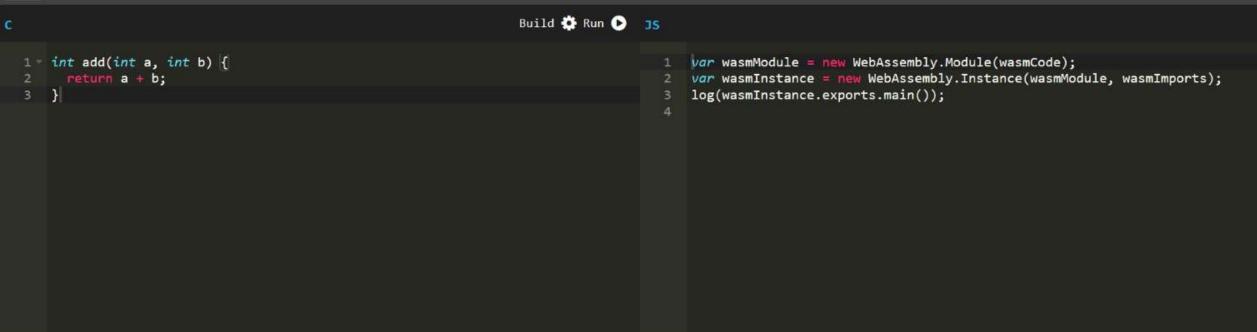
Text Format

(i32.add (get local (get_local









Wast 🚣 Wasm 🚣 Output

(module (table 0 anyfunc) (memory \$0 1) (export "memory" (memory \$0)) (export "add" (func \$add)) (func \$add (; 0;) (param \$0 i32) (param \$1 i32) (result i32)

Wasm Fiddle

https://wasdk.github.io/WasmFiddle/

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Canvas 🔼 Clear 🗶



Open Source LLVM to JavaScript compiler

emcc index.c -s WASM=I -o index.js

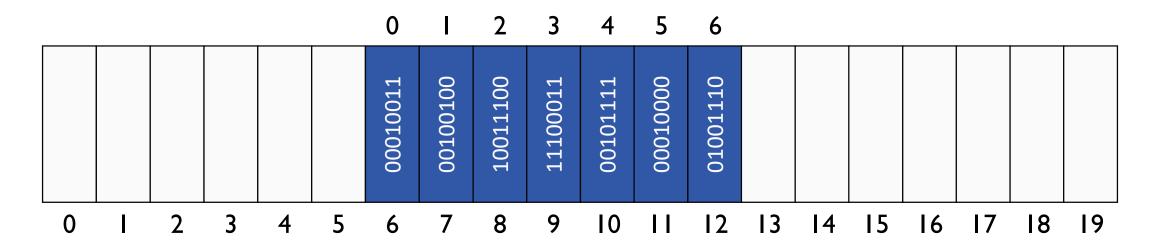
The distributable, loadable, and executable unit of code in WebAssembly is called a **module**.

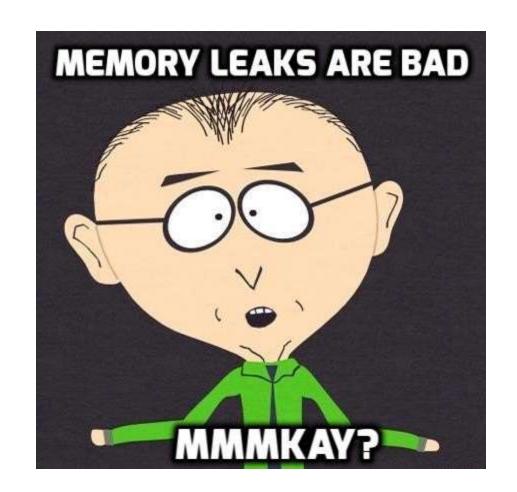
Module imports & exports

```
const imports = {
                                          const exports = module.exports;
 "name": {
                                          exports.printName();
   "first": "Anna",
                                          exports.reverseName();
   "last": "Nanna"
 "print": function (what) {
   console.log(what);
```

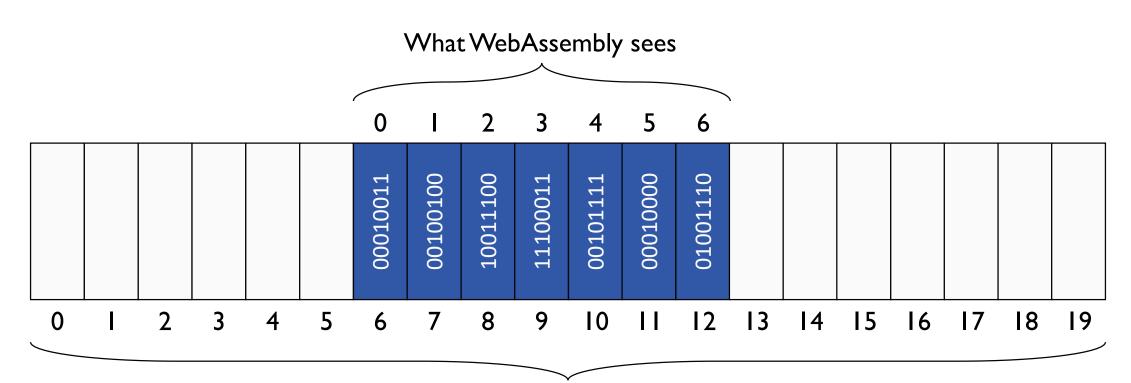
Linear memory

```
const imports = {
    "env": {
        "memory": new WebAssembly.Memory({ initial: 10, maximum: 100}),
        ...
    }
};
```





Linear memory



What JavaScript sees

Loading WebAssembly

```
// Traditional approach
fetch('app.wasm')
  .then(result => result.arrayBuffer())
  .then(buffer => WebAssembly.instantiate(buffer, imports))
  .then(({ module, instance }) => {
    instance.exports.main();
  });
// Using the streaming API
WebAssembly.instantiateStreaming(fetch('app.wasm'), imports)
  .then(({ module, instance }) => {
    instance.exports.main();
  });
```



WASM REPLACING JAVASCRIPT?

22:57

WILL WEBASSEMBLY OVERTAKE JAVASCRIPT IN WEB APPLICATION CODING NEEDS?



What about rewriting existing Web frameworks in WebAssembly?

No direct DOM access at the moment. Do you really want to program in C/C++?
But...

Rewriting existing Web frameworks in WebAssembly could benefit native compilation









Webassembly integration. Split the core into two parts. #8193

https://github.com/vuejs/vue/issues/8193

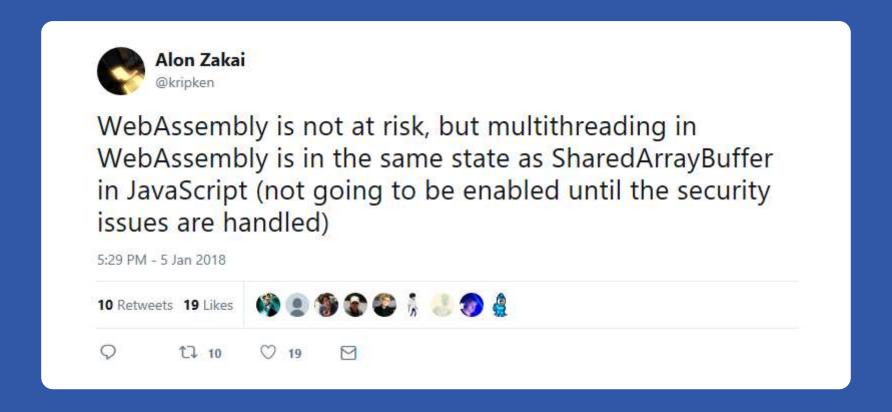


Initial stab at porting `asm/stack.ts` to Rust #752

https://github.com/glimmerjs/glimmer-vm/pull/752

How secure is WebAssembly?





WebAssembly runs in a memory-safe sandboxed environment

WebAssembly - OTHER

Usage Global % of all users

71%

WebAssembly or "wasm" is a new portable, size- and load-timeefficient format suitable for compilation to the web.



MS Edge status: Preview Release

What languages can be compiled to WebAssembly?

https://boyan.io/wasm-wheel/



What's next?

Direct access to the DOM and WebAPIs Integration with browser's GC Multi-threading (maybe)

The future of Web belongs to those, who compile

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