

Node.js Intro

Wholeness Statement

- Node.js allows us to run JavaScript code as a normal scripting language (outside the web). This allows us to write command line applications and build server-side web applications.
- Science of Consciousness: We see Unity in Diversity – by using the same programming language on both the client and the server we can leverage our existing knowledge.

Main Point Preview

- Node.js is a way to create JavaScript applications outside the browser. This allows us to create a JavaScript based web applications. Due to the way JavaScript works these are event-driven with non-blocking I/O, which can give excellent scalability and performance.
- *Science of Consciousness*: Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. By using event driven code instead of blocking code we can give a much better 'reaction' to an incoming event / action.

I/O needs to be done differently

- Consider two scenarios in real word:
- Movie Ticket
 - You are in a queue to get a movie ticket. You cannot get one until everybody in front of you gets one, and the same applies to the people queued behind you.
- Order Food
 - You are in a restaurant with many other people. You order your food. Other people can also order their food, they don't have to wait for your food to be cooked and served to you before they can order. In the kitchen restaurant workers are continuously cooking, serving, and taking orders. People will get their food served as soon as it is cooked.



Synchronously

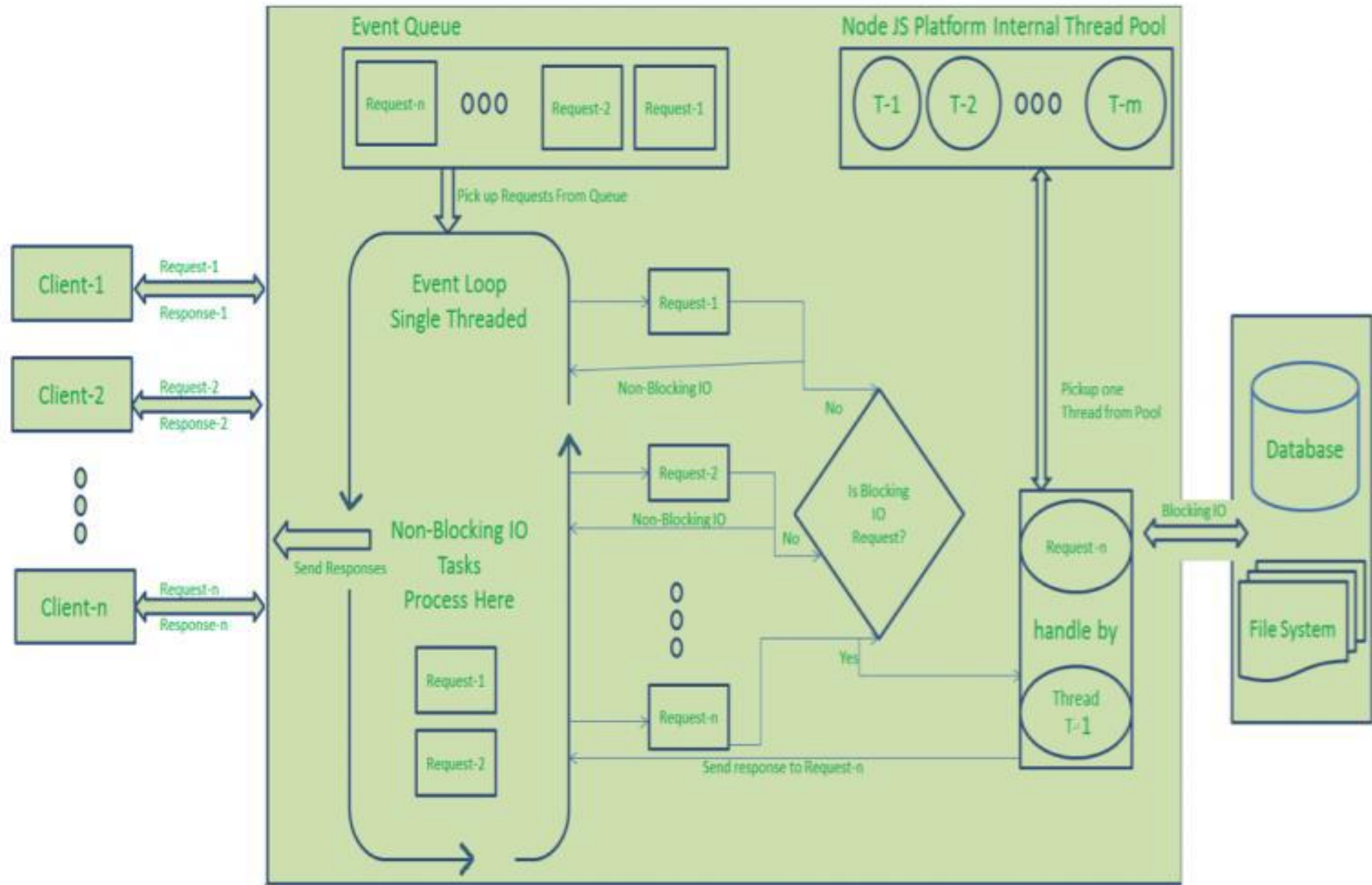


Asynchronously

Node JS Architecture

- Single Threaded Event Loop Advantages

- Handling more and more concurrent client's request is very easy.
- Even though our Node JS Application receives more and more Concurrent client requests, there is no need of creating more and more threads, because of Event loop.
- Node JS application uses less Threads so that it can utilize only less resources or memory



Node JS Application/Node JS Server

Node.js

- JavaScript runtime built on Chrome V8 JavaScript Engine
- Server-side JavaScript
- Allows script programs do I/O in JavaScript
- Event-driven, non-blocking I/O
- Single Threaded
- CommonJS module system

Setting up Node.js

- Go to nodejs.org or download nodejs. After installing Node we will be able to use it using the command line interface.
 - If Node is installed properly, Try this command: `node -v`

```
H:\courses\MSD\cs477\cs477>node -v  
v16.3.0
```
 - Hit **Ctrl+C** twice or **Ctrl+D** once to quit Node.
- Github Node.js:
<https://github.com/nodejs/nodejs.org>

Node Versions

- **Current:** Under active development. Code for the Current release is in the branch for its major version number (for example, [v10.x](#)). Node.js releases a new major version every 6 months, allowing for breaking changes. This happens in April and October every year. Releases appearing each October have a support life of 8 months. Releases appearing each April convert to LTS (see below) each October.
- **LTS:** Releases that receive Long-term Support, with a focus on stability and security. Every even-numbered major version will become an LTS release. LTS releases receive 18 months of *Active LTS* support and a further 12 months of *Maintenance*. LTS release lines have alphabetically-ordered codenames, beginning with v4 Argon. There are no breaking changes or feature additions, except in some special circumstances.

First Program

```
setTimeout(function () { console.log("world"); }, 2000); console.log("hello");
```

hello_world.js

```
% node hello_world.js
```

```
Hello
```

```
// 2 seconds later...
```

```
World
```

 node.js file name is reserved in Node

Node exits automatically when there is nothing else to do (end of process). Let's change it to never exit, but to keep it in loop!

Node API is not all asynchronous. Some parts of it are synchronous like, for instance, some file operations. Don't worry, they are very well marked: they always end with "Sync". They should only be used when initializing.

The Server Global Environment

- In Node we run JS on the server so we don't have `window` object.
- Instead Node provides us with global modules and methods that are automatically created for us (*they aren't part of ECMA specifications*)
 - `module`
 - `global` (*The global namespace object*)
 - `process`
 - `buffer`
 - `require`
 - `setInterval(callback, delay)` and `clearInterval()`
 - `setTimeout(callback, delay)` and `clearTimeout()`
- Doc: <https://nodejs.org/api/globals.html>

Global Scope in Node

- Browser JavaScript by default puts everything into its `window` global scope.
- Node.js was designed to behave differently with **everything being local by default**. In case we need to set something globally, there is a `global` object that can be accessed by all modules. (not recommended)
- The document object that represent **DOM** of the web page is nonexistent in Node.js.



Node.js Event Loop

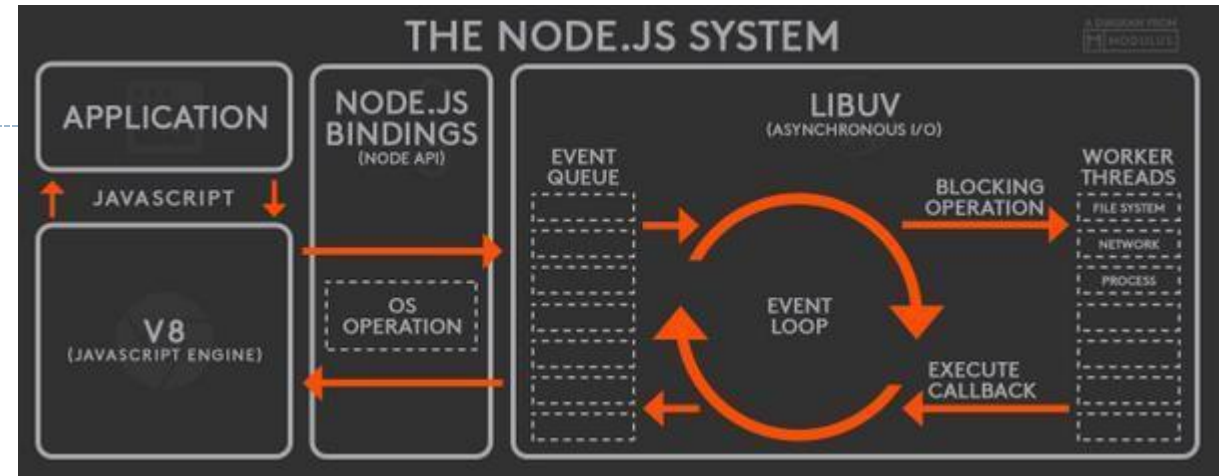


Main Point Preview

- Node's event loop is expanded beyond what the browser provides to include non-blocking I/O with libuv. The loop is bigger and has a couple of different stages, `setImmediate()` and `process.nextTick()` are additional ways that you can hook into the event loop.
- ***Science of Consciousness***: Rest and Activity are the steps of Progress. The event loop lets our code finish (rest) and then jump into action again once the appropriate event has occurred.

What's inside Node?

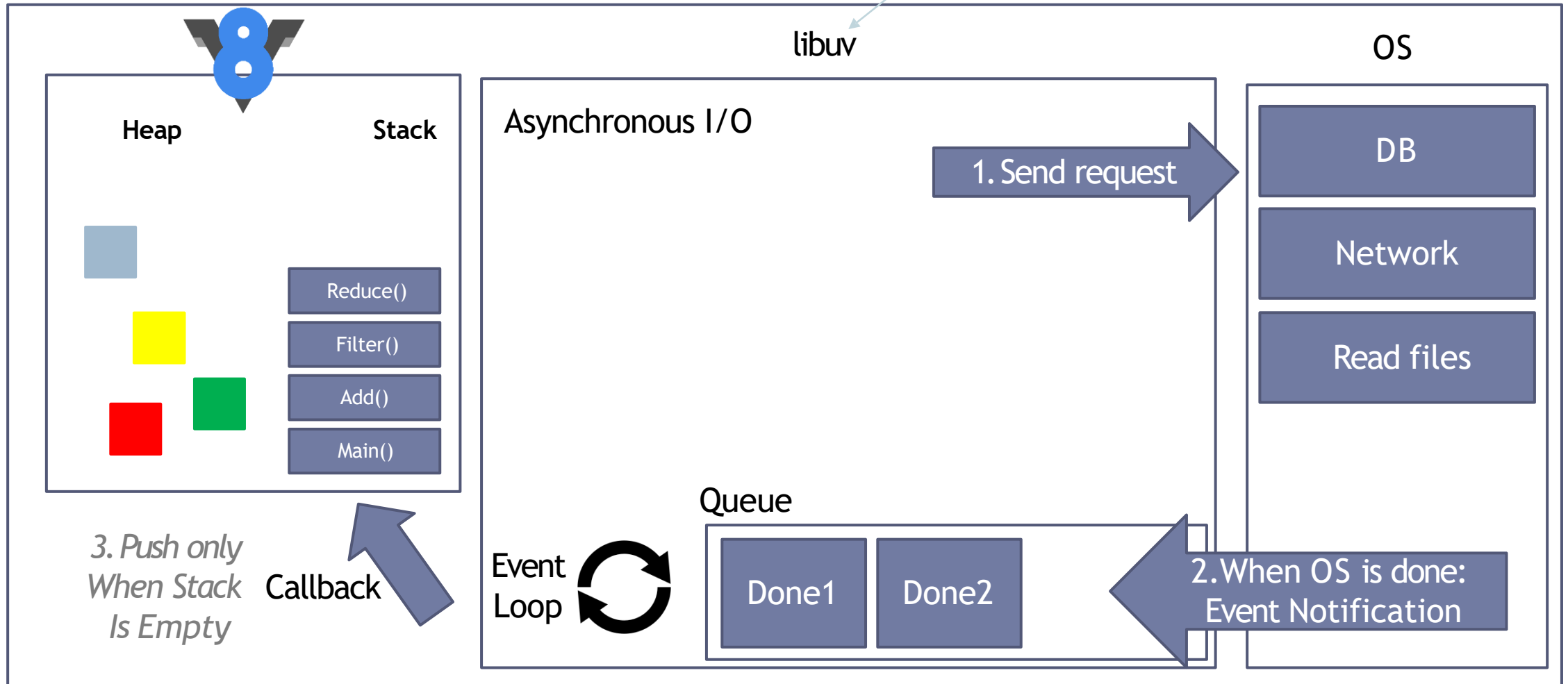
- **V8**
 - Google's open source JavaScript engine.
 - Translates your JS code into machine code
 - V8 is written in C++.
 - Read more about how V8 works [here](#).
- **libuv**
 - a multi-platform support library with a focus on asynchronous I/O.
 - Asynchronous file and file system operations
 - Thread pool
 - ...
- **Binding**
 - A wrapper around a library written in one language and expose the library to codes written in another language so that codes written in different languages can communicate.
- **Other Low-Level Components**
 - such as [c-ares](#), [http parser](#), [OpenSSL](#), [zlib](#), and etc, mostly written in C/C++.
- **Application**
 - here is your code, modules, and Node.js' [built in modules](#), written in JS



JS on the Server

An abstract non-blocking IO operations (Async) using thread pool

Part of NodeJs



What's the event loop?

The event loop is what allows Node.js to perform non-blocking I/O operations — despite the fact that JavaScript is single-threaded — by offloading operations to the system kernel whenever possible.

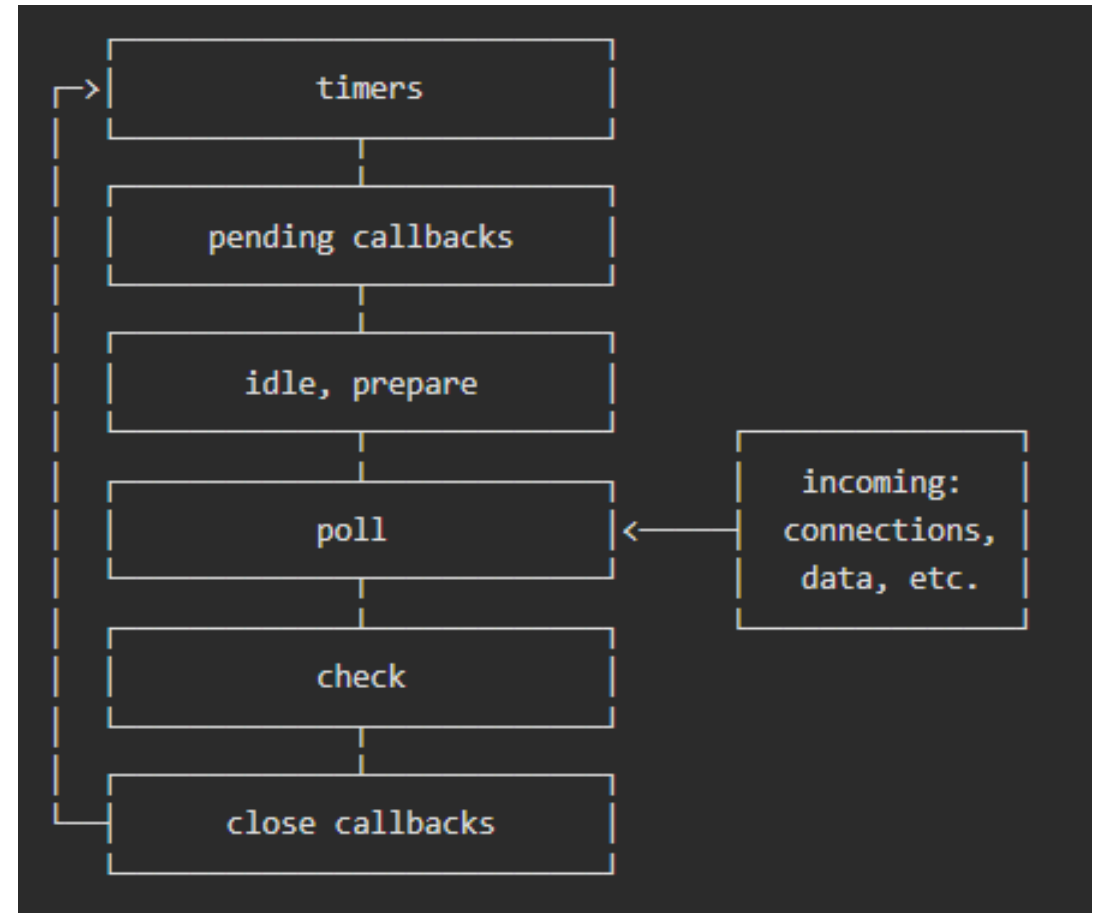
— from node.js doc

A loop that picks events from the event queue and pushes their callbacks into the call stack.

Node.js runs using a **single thread**, at least from a Node.js developer's point of view. Under the hood Node uses many threads through **libuv**.

Event Loop

- **timers**: this phase executes callbacks scheduled by `setTimeout()` and `setInterval()`.
- **pending callbacks**: executes I/O callbacks deferred to the next loop iteration.
- **idle, prepare**: only used internally.
- **poll**: retrieve new I/O events; execute I/O related callbacks (almost all with the exception of close callbacks, the ones scheduled by timers, and `setImmediate()`); node will block here when appropriate.
- **check**: `setImmediate()` callbacks are invoked here.
- **close** callbacks: some close callbacks, e.g. `socket.on('close', ...)`.



<https://nodejs.org/en/docs/guides/event-loop-timers-and-nexttick/>

setTimeout vs setImmediate

- **setTimeout**
 - schedules a callback to run after a specific time, the functions are registered in the **timers phase** of the event loop.
- **setImmediate**
 - schedules a callback to run at **check phase** of the event loop after IO events' callbacks.

`process.nextTick(callback)`

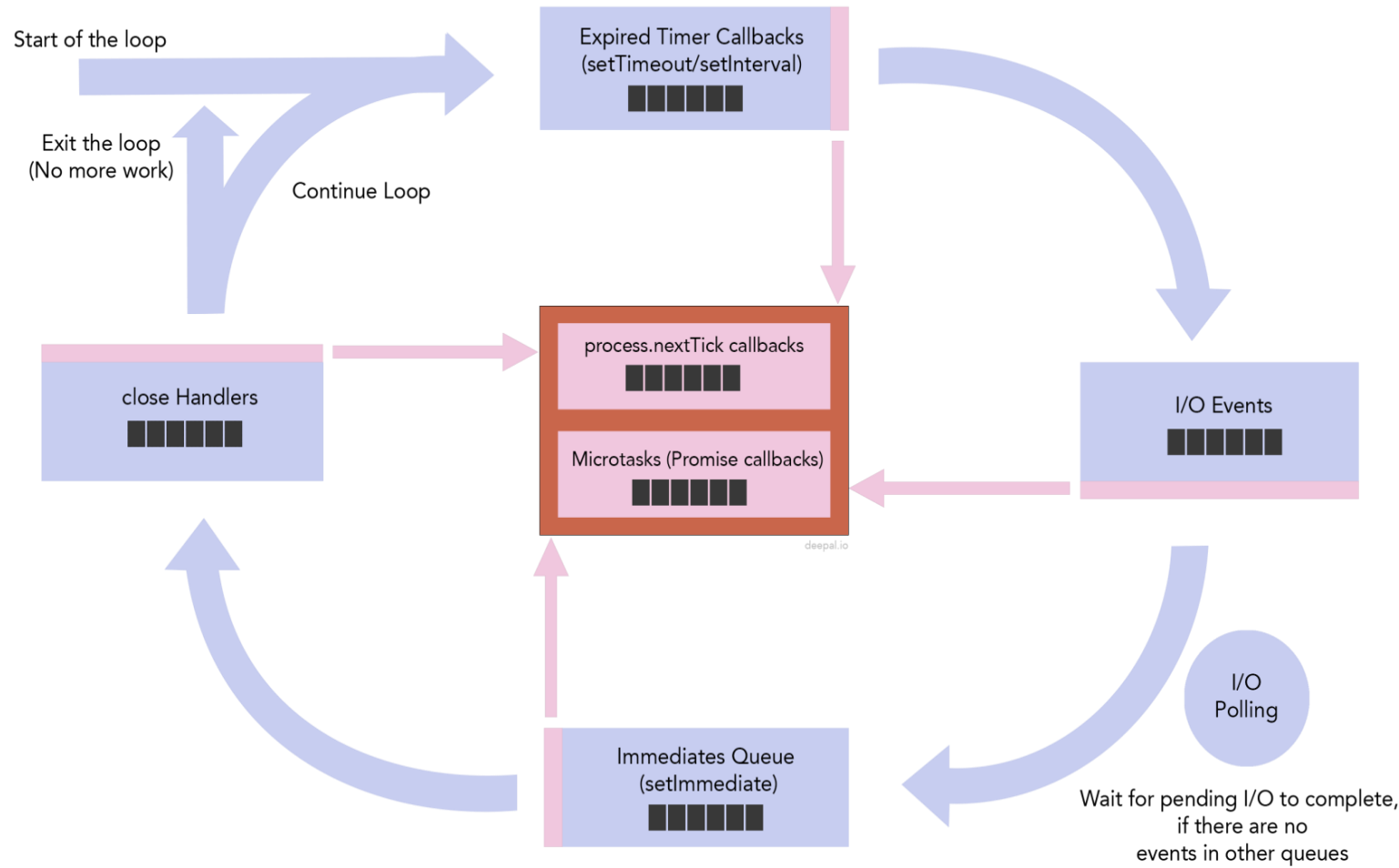
`process.nextTick()` is **not** part of the event loop, it adds the callback into the `nextTick` queue. Node processes **all the callbacks** in the `nextTick` queue after the current operation completes and before the event loop continues.

Which means it runs **before** any additional I/O events or timers fire in subsequent ticks of the event loop.

Note: the next-tick-queue is completely drained on each pass of the event loop before additional I/O is processed. As a result, recursively setting `nextTick` callbacks will block any I/O from happening, just like a `while(true)` loop.

process.nextTick(callback)

* nextTicks and Promise callback queues are processed between each timer and immediate callback in node v11 and above



NOTE:

Next tick queue is displayed separately from the other four main queues because it is **not natively provided by the libuv**, but implemented in Node.

process.nextTick(callback)

```
function foo() {  
    console.log('foo');  
}  
process.nextTick(foo);  
console.log('bar');
```

Notice that bar will be printed in the console before foo, as we have delayed the invocation of foo() till the next tick of the event loop. We can get the same result by using setTimeout() this way:

```
setTimeout(foo, 0);  
console.log('bar');
```

However, process.nextTick() is not just a simple alias to setTimeout(fn, 0).

setTimeout vs setImmediate vs process.nextTick

- `setTimeout(() => { console.log('timeout'); }, 0);`
 - `process.nextTick(()=> console.log('nexttick'));`
 - `setImmediate(() => { console.log('immediate'); });`
-
- What's the output of this code and why?