

The Path to Native TypeScript

Marco Ippolito



Marco Ippolito

 Senior Security Engineer @HeroDevs

 Node.js TSC & Releaser

 @satanacchio



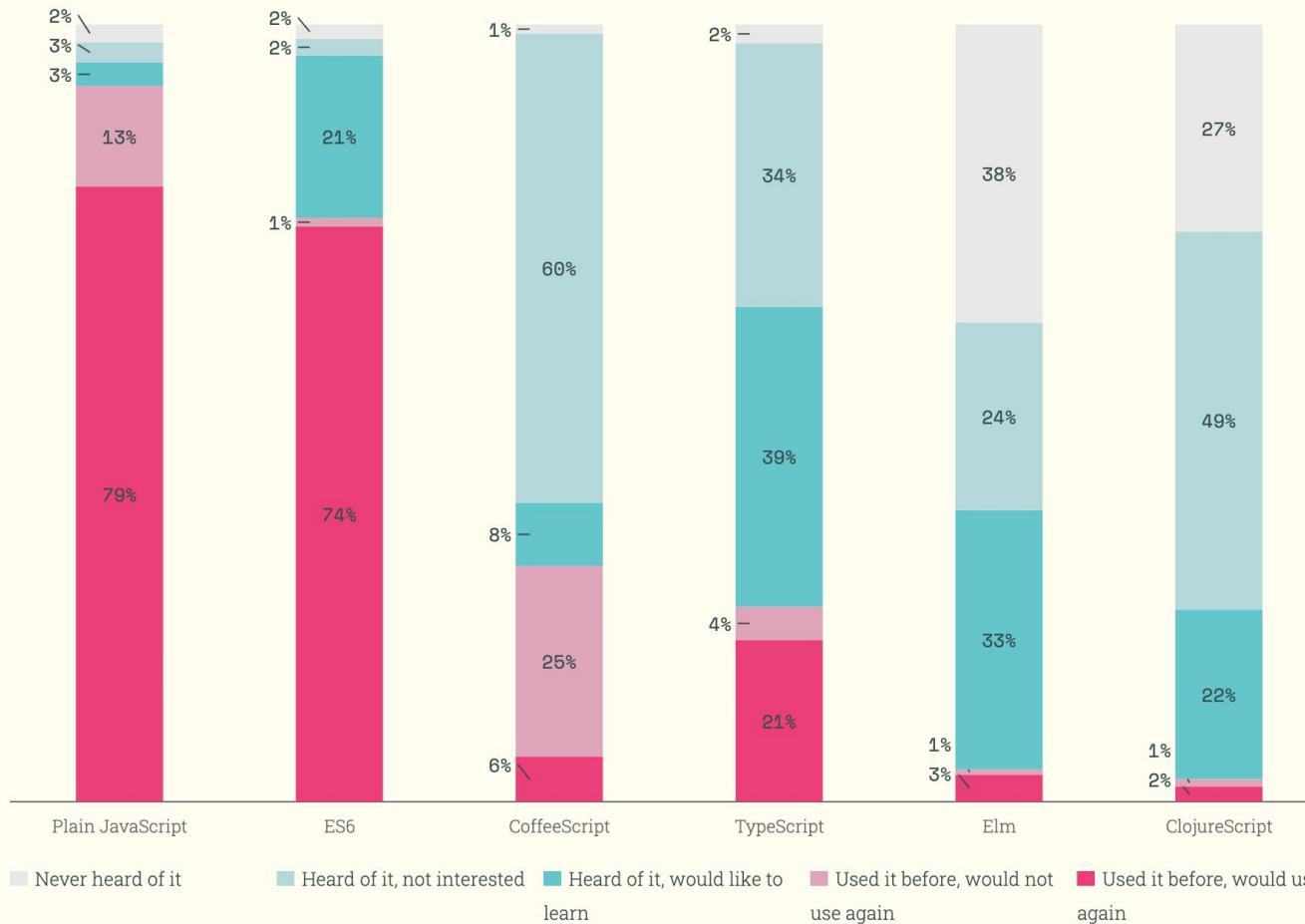
Timeline of human beings



State of JS 2016

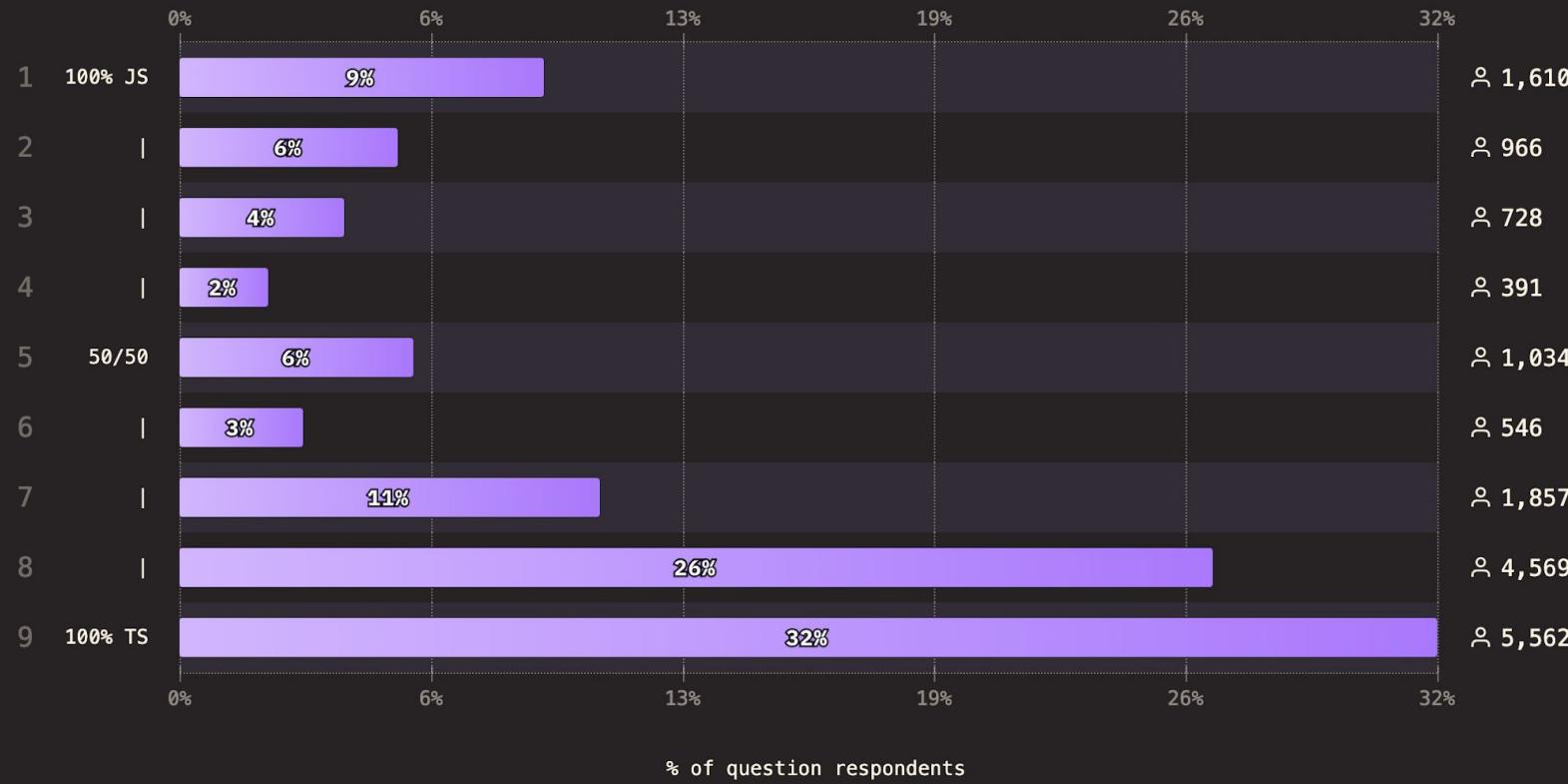
Filter: All Interest Satisfaction

Show: Percents Numbers



JavaScript/TypeScript Balance

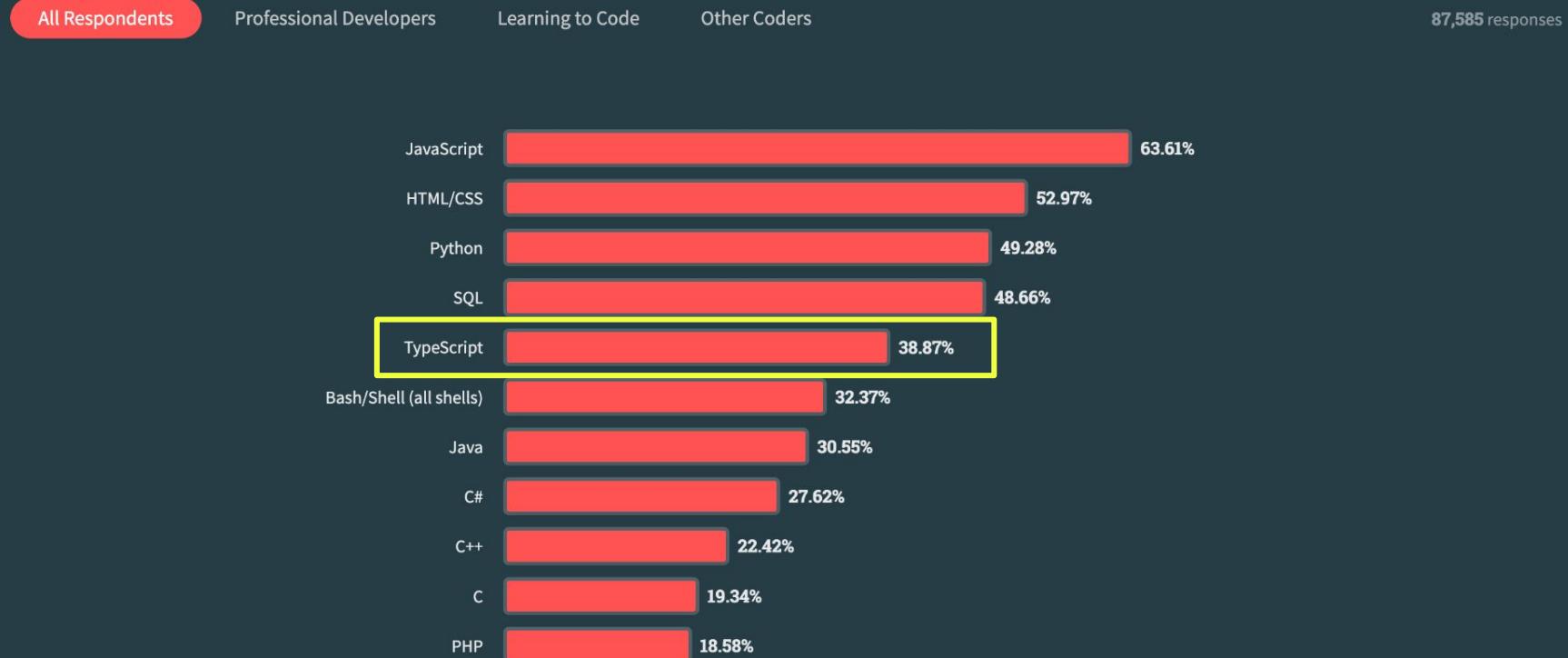
[State of JS 2023](#)



Most popular technologies

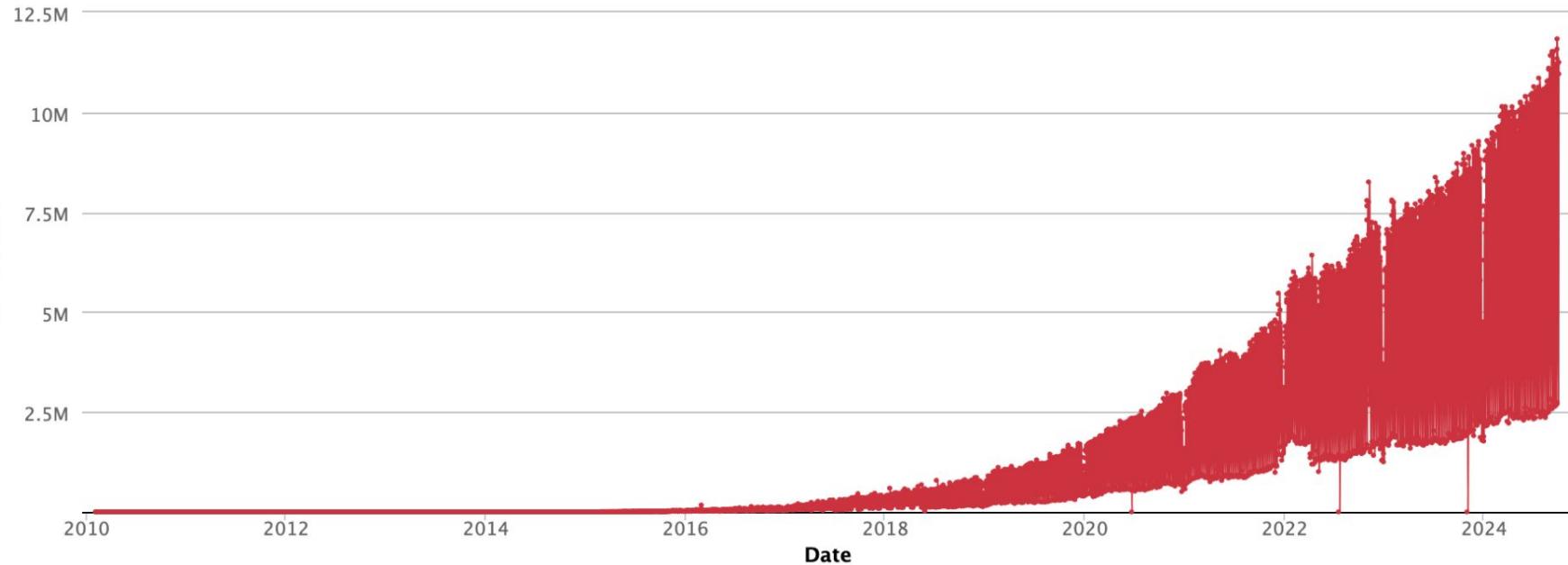
[Stack Overflow 2023](#)

This year, we're comparing the popular technologies across three different groups: All respondents, Professional Developers, and those that are learning to code.

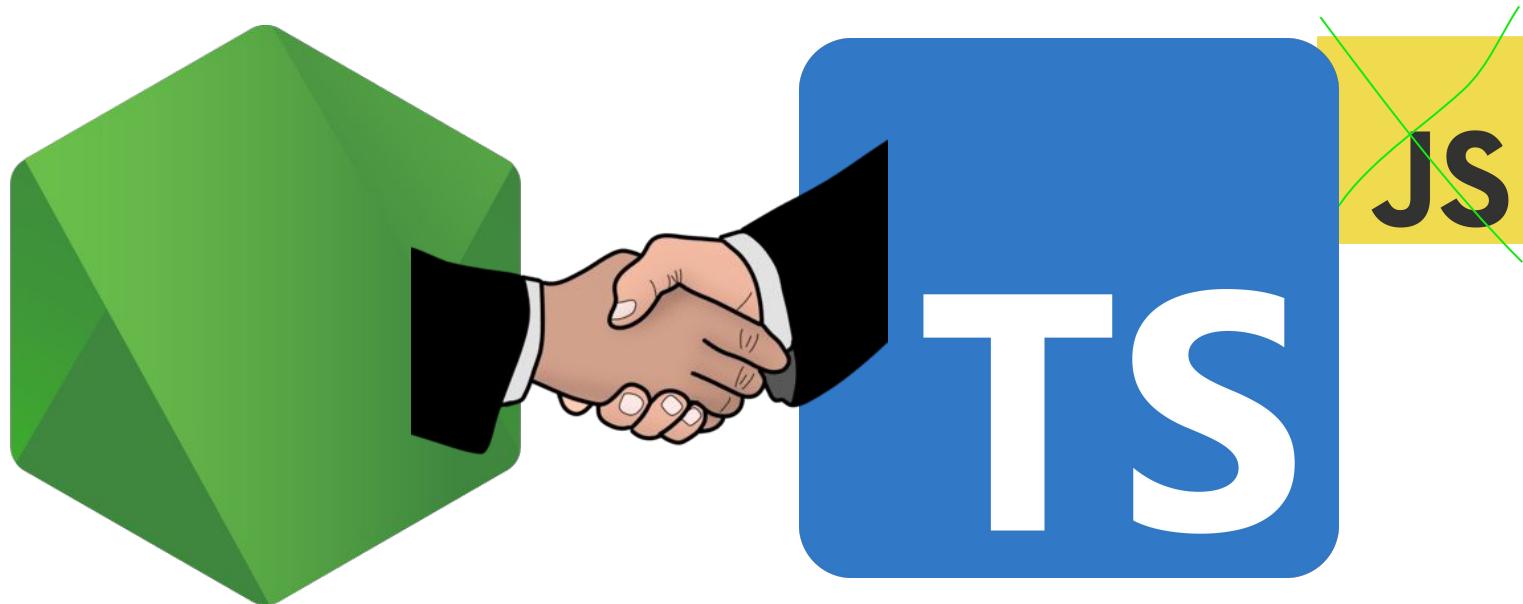




Downloads per day
Click and drag in the plot to zoom in



TYPESCRIPT SUPPORT IN NODE.JS



TypeScript Support #43816

About native support for typescript!! #24101

 Closed

ahmedkamalio opened this issue on Nov 5, 2018 · 14 comments

 Closed avin-kavish



avin-kavish.com

What is the p

With TypeScript
proposition to u

Currently, users
process, progra
doesn't use the
speed boost.

It's more ergonc

What is the f

support for

 Closed insinfo



insinfo commented on Oct 27, 2021

support for native typescript like deno



2

How could we support typescript without vendoring it? #43818

 Open

mcollina opened this issue on Jul 13, 2022 · 95 comments



mcollina commented on Jul 13, 2022 · edited

Member ...

I would like Node.js to support the following user experience

```
$ node script.ts
TypeScript support is missing, install it with:
npm i --location=global typescript-node-core
$ npm i --location=global typescript-node-core
...
$ node script.ts
"Hello World"
```



(I picked the typescript-node-core name at random, I would be extremely happy if that could be ts-node)

Note that `script.ts` could evaluate to either cjs or mjs depending on the `tsconfig.json` file.

Originally posted by @mcollina in #43408 (comment)

ode main.ts
: es6 and es7 features not supported, I also know that it's
can be done with node and it's going to be great feature of

typescript like node foo.ts in s

ient

Types/TypeScript - Follow on mini-summit - July 28 at 10:30 ET #149

 Closed

mhdawson opened this issue on Jul 21, 2022 · 15 comments

 Closed insinfo



insinfo commented on Oct 27, 2021

support for native typescript like deno



2

just for comment

What alternatives have you considered?

No response



1

Challenges

- Very hard to get consensus
- Different stability guarantees between Node and TS
- tsconfig
- Pick a tool that works out of the box
- cjs/esm interop
- source-maps
- No champion

Past attempts died on the table

“Node.ts” [nodejs/loaders#164](#) was present in Bilbao in September 2023 [openjs-foundation/summit#368](#) to positive reception and multi-collaborator buy-in, but it eventually bleed out [nodejs/node#49704](#).

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Geoffrey Booth Jun 24th at 9:06 PM

(i don't want to post this too publicly): along the lines of adding sqlite, is there a native library we could include that handles stripping typescript types from javascript? so not typechecking, not converting module formats, maybe not supporting the few transforms that typescript has such as enums and legacy decorators, maybe not supporting reading a `tsconfig.json` file: really just stripping the types. i feel like there are low-level libraries for this like that esbuild uses, some rust-based tools use; could any of them be added to our codebase? (edited)

35 replies



Marco Ippolito Jun 24th at 9:10 PM

AFAIK Deno uses SWC



Geoffrey Booth Jun 24th at 9:11 PM

which is in rust, i think? how feasible would it be to add a rust library to our codebase?



Marco Ippolito Jun 24th at 9:17 PM

I read that now Rust has moved Solaris into Tier 2 so I think most of our platforms/architecture (need to check) are supported, the issue might be to add another toolchain to our build



Geoffrey Booth Jun 24th at 9:25 PM

we would need to build swc ourselves rather than including some pre-built c++ binary? i'm assuming yes, because of the variety of platforms?



1



Marco Ippolito Jun 24th at 9:26 PM

Unless there is a wasm version 😊



Geoffrey Booth Jun 24th at 9:26 PM

there is, actually: <https://swc.rs/docs/usage/wasm>

Type stripping

- No type checking
- No tsconfig
- Remove inline types
- No source maps
- Stable across TS versions



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Type stripping



```
// .ts

interface LabeledValue {
  label: string;
}

function printLabel(labeledObj: LabeledValue) {
  console.log(labeledObj.label);
}
```

Type stripping



```
// .ts
```

```
interface LabeledValue {  
    label: string;  
}
```

```
function printLabel(labeledObj: LabeledValue) {  
    console.log(labeledObj.label);  
}
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Type stripping



// .ts



```
function printLabel(labeledObj: LabeledValue) {
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Type stripping

```
// .ts

function printLabel(labeledObj: LabeledValue) {
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}
```



Type stripping



```
// .ts  
  
function printLabel(labeledObj) {  
    console.log(labeledObj.label);  
}
```



Type stripping



```
// .js

function printLabel(labeledObj) {
  console.log(labeledObj.label);
}
```

Type stripping

```
● ● ●  
// .js  
  
function printLabel(labeledObj) {  
  console.log(labeledObj.label);  
}  
  
● ● ●
```

Can we try to preserve locations?



acutmore commented on Jul 4

...

TypeScript type-stripping is something I have been actively working on at work (for internal purposes, not for landing in Node) so I'd like to just pass on some of the knowledge I gained from that.

It might be useful in both the implementation and in particular to make the validation easier. To be clear, this is just for passing on info that might be helpful to the folk doing the work here.

<https://gist.github.com/acutmore/27444a9dbfa515a10b25f0d4707b5ea2>



10



2



2



6



marco-ippolito commented on Jul 4 • edited

Member

Author

...

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It might be useful in both the implementation and in particular to make the validation easier. To be clear, this is just for passing on info that might be helpful to the folk doing the work here.

<https://gist.github.com/acutmore/27444a9dbfa515a10b25f0d4707b5ea2>

This is gold, thank you.

I think white spacing is a very good alternative to source map that could work for us @kdy1 wdyt?

Source mapping since its expensive behind a flag, white spacing by default so stack traces are in the right place



2

Blank space



```
// .js
```

```
function printLabel(labeledObj) {  
  console.log(labeledObj.label);  
}
```

@swc/wasm-typescript

- Wasm
- Battle-tested
- Type stripping support
- Fast
- Support from maintainers



Install

```
> npm i @swc/wasm-typescript
```



Repository

❖ github.com/swc-project/swc

Homepage

🔗 github.com/swc-project/swc#readme

↓ Weekly Downloads

204



Version

1.7.35

License

Apache-2.0

Unpacked Size

3.56 MB

Total Files

5

Issues

350

Pull Requests

26

Last publish

5 days ago

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350

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26

Last publish

5 days ago



bnoordhuis commented on Jul 14, 2022

Member ...

More radical: bundle [swc](#) and just run the code. :-)

(Caveat emptor: swc is a transpiler, not a type checker. But on the flip side, it also handles JSX and TSX.)



3



2



6

amaro

0.1.9 · Public · Published 5 days ago

 Readme

 Code Beta

 0 Dependencies

 1 Dependents

 10 Versions

Amaro

Amaro is a wrapper around `@swc/wasm-typescript`, a WebAssembly port of the SWC TypeScript parser. It's currently used as an internal in Node.js for **Type Stripping**, but in the future it will be possible to be upgraded separately by users. The main goal of this package is to provide a stable API for TypeScript parser, which is unstable and subject to change.

Amaro means "bitter" in Italian. It's a reference to **Mount Amaro** on whose slopes this package was conceived.

How to Install

To install Amaro, run:

```
npm install amaro
```

How to Use

Install

```
> npm i amaro
```



Repository

 github.com/nodejs/amaro

Homepage

 github.com/nodejs/amaro#readme

Weekly Downloads

1,552



Version

0.1.9 

License

MIT

Unpacked Size

3.57 MB

Total Files

7

module: add --experimental-strip-types #53725

Edit

Merged

nodejs-github-bot merged 8 commits into `nodejs:main` from `marco-ippolito:feat/typescript-support` on Jul 24

Conversation 272

Commits 8

Checks 29

Files changed 89

+2,190 -28



marco-ippolito commented on Jul 4 · edited by benjamngr

Member

...

Moderation Note: This PR has been posted on several social network platforms and thus attracts a lot of mostly off-topic comments.

If you've used this feature and ran into issues or have specific feedback to provide - please open a new issue
<https://github.com/nodejs/node/issues/new/choose>

It is possible to execute TypeScript files by setting the experimental flag `--experimental-strip-types`.

Node.js will transpile TypeScript source code into JavaScript source code.

During the transpilation process, no type checking is performed, and types are discarded.

Roadmap

Refs: [nodejs/loaders#217](#)

Motivation

I believe enabling users to execute TypeScript files is crucial to move the ecosystem forward, it has been requested on all the surveys, and it simply cannot be ignored. We must acknowledge users want to run `node foo.ts` without installing external dependencies or loaders.

There is a TC39 proposal for [type annotations](#)

Reviewers

VoltrexKeyva

RedYetiDev

ChALkeR

aduh95

GeoffreyBooth

privatenumber

benjamngr

karlhorky

jakebailey

wojtekmaj

RyanCavanaugh

magic-akari

DanielRosenwasser

targos

aymen94

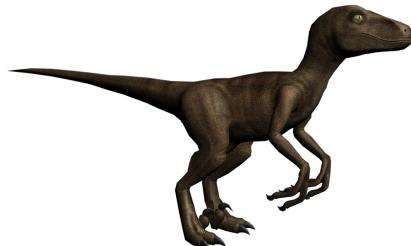
legendedcas

Motivation

I believe enabling users to execute TypeScript files is crucial to move the ecosystem forward, it has been requested on all the surveys, and it simply cannot be ignored. We must acknowledge users want to run `node foo.ts` without installing external dependencies or loaders.

Experimental TypeScript support

Node v22.6.0 features experimental
TypeScript support with the flag
--experimental-strip-types



Limitations

- No TypeScript features that require transformation
- No downleveling
- No .js imports for .ts file
- Type keyword required for type imports
- No running .ts in node_modules



TypeScript features that require transformation



```
// .ts

namespace MathUtil {
    export const add = (a: number, b: number) => a + b;
}

enum Direction {
    Up = 1,
    Down,
    Left,
    Right,
}
```

Node v23.8.0 supports type only namespaces



```
namespace MathUtil {  
  export type Circle = {  
    x: number;  
    y: number;  
    radius: number;  
  }  
}
```

Node v22.7.0 adds TypeScript features support with the flag

--experimental-transform-types

Source-maps are enabled by default



TypeScript features that require transformation



```
// .js

(function(MathUtil) {
    MathUtil.add = (a, b)=>a + b;
})(MathUtil || (MathUtil = {}));

var Direction = function(Direction) {
    Direction[Direction["Up"] = 1] = "Up";
    Direction[Direction["Down"] = 2] = "Down";
    Direction[Direction["Left"] = 3] = "Left";
    Direction[Direction["Right"] = 4] = "Right";
    return Direction;
}(Direction || {});
var MathUtil;
```

TypeScript custom paths are not supported

```
// tsconfig.json
{
  "compilerOptions": {
    "paths": {
      "app/*": ["./src/app/*"],
      "config/*": ["./src/app/_config/*"],
      "environment/*": ["./src/environments/*"],
      "shared/*": ["./src/app/_shared/*"],
      "helpers/*": ["./src/helpers/*"],
      "tests/*": ["./src/tests/*"]
    }
  }
}
```

But you can use Node.js subpath imports

```
// package.json
{
  "imports": {
    "#dep": {
      "node": "dep-node-native",
      "default": "./dep-polyfill.js"
    }
  }
}
```

Limitations

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- **No downleveling**
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using Declarations and Explicit Resource Management

TypeScript 5.2 adds support for the upcoming [Explicit Resource Management](#) feature in ECMAScript. Let's explore some of the motivations and understand what the feature brings us.

ECMAScript Explicit Resource Management

TC
39

NOTE: This proposal has subsumed the [Async Explicit Resource Management](#) proposal. This proposal repository should be used for further discussion of both sync and async explicit resource management.

This proposal intends to address a common pattern in software development regarding the lifetime and management of various resources (memory, I/O, etc.). This pattern generally includes the allocation of a resource and the ability to explicitly release critical resources.

For example, ECMAScript Generator Functions and Async Generator Functions expose this pattern through the `return` method, as a means to explicitly evaluate `finally` blocks to ensure user-defined cleanup logic is preserved:

Decorators

TC
39

Stage: 3

Decorators are a proposal for extending JavaScript classes which is widely adopted among developers in transpiler environments, with broad interest in standardization. TC39 has been iterating on decorators proposals for over five years. This document describes a new proposal for decorators based on elements from all past proposals.

This README describes the current decorators proposal, which is a work in progress. For previous iterations of this proposal, see the commit history of this repository.

Introduction

Decorators are *functions* called on classes, class elements, or other JavaScript syntax forms during definition.

```
@defineElement("my-class")
class C extends HTMLElement {
  @reactive accessor clicked = false;
}
```



Limitations

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TypeScript allows the '.ts' extension in imports with the flag **--allowImportingTsExtensions**. But is only with **--noEmit** or **--emitDeclarationOnly**.

```
● ● ●  
// index.ts  
  
import foo from "foo.ts"
```

```
● ● ●  
tsc index.ts  
  
TSError: × Unable to compile TypeScript: error TS5096: Option  
'allowImportingTsExtensions' can only be used when either 'noEmit' or  
'emitDeclarationOnly' is set.
```

Announcing TypeScript 5.7

Path Rewriting for Relative Paths

There are several tools and runtimes that allow you to run TypeScript code "in-place", meaning they do not require a build step which generates output JavaScript files. For example, ts-node, tsx, Deno, and Bun all support running `.ts` files directly. More recently, Node.js has been investigating such support with `--experimental-strip-types` (soon to be unflagged!) and `--experimental-transform-types`. This is extremely convenient because it allows us to iterate faster without worrying about re-running a build task.

There is some complexity to be aware of when using these modes though. To be maximally compatible with all these tools, a TypeScript file that's imported "in-place" **must** be imported with the appropriate TypeScript extension at runtime. For example, to import a file called `foo.ts`, we have to write the following in Node's new experimental support:

 Copy

```
// main.ts

import * as foo from "./foo.ts"; // <- we need foo.ts here, not foo.js
```

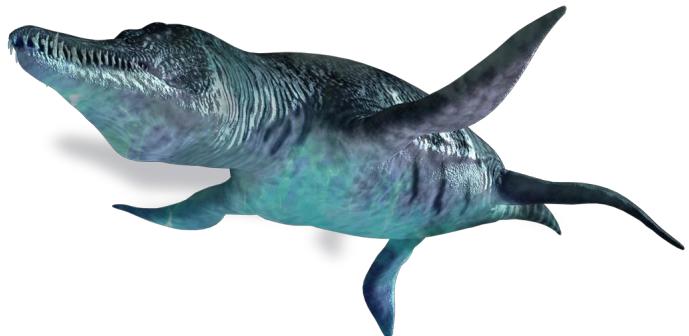
With the new flag
--rewriteRelativeImportExtensions
TypeScript will rewrite the '.ts' extension to '.js'.

```
// Under --rewriteRelativeImportExtensions...

// these will be rewritten.
import * as foo from "./foo.ts";
import * as bar from "../someFolder/bar.mts";

// these will NOT be rewritten in any way.
import * as a from "./foo";
import * as b from "some-package/file.ts";
import * as c from "@some-scope/some-package/file.ts";
import * as d from "#/file.ts";
import * as e from "./file.js";
```

But what about existing
source code?



Fix it automatically: /c. correct-ts-specifiers

Before

```
import { URL } from 'node:url';

import { bar } from '@dep/bar';
import { foo } from 'foo';

import { Bird } from './Bird';
import { Cat } from './Cat.ts';
import { Dog } from '../Dog/index.mjs';
import { baseUrl } from '#config.js';
    ...

export { Zed } from './zed';

// should be unchanged

const nil = await import('./nil.js');
```

After

```
import { URL } from 'node:url';

import { bar } from '@dep/bar';
import { foo } from 'foo';

import { Bird } from './Bird/index.ts';
import { Cat } from './Cat.ts';
import { Dog } from '../Dog/index.mts';
import { baseUrl } from '#config.js';
    ...

export type { Zed } from './zed.d.ts';

// should be unchanged

const nil = await import('./nil.ts');
```



Known limitation (WIP)

`correct-ts-specifiers` can't yet update type imports missing the `type` keyword when resolving via "`types`" in a `package.json` with no implementation (eg, no `"exports"` or `"main"` fields, or `./index.js`).

```
{  
  "name": "i-dont-work-yet",  
  "types": "./index.d.ts"  
}
```

Limitations

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- No decorators
- No .js imports for .ts file
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```
import type { Type1, Type2 } from './module.ts';
import { fn, type FnParams } from './fn.ts';
```



```
import { Type1, Type2 } from './module.ts';
import { fn, FnParams } from './fn.ts';
```



Limitations

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```
node --experimental-strip-types ./node_modules/foo/index.ts
```

ERR_UNSUPPORTED_NODE_MODULES_TYPE_STRIPPING

Added in: v22.6.0

Type stripping is not supported for files descendent of a `node_modules` directory.

Running ts in node_modules

- Discourage authors from publishing `ts` in libraries
- IDE needs to typecheck node_modules
- Compatibility with consumers flag
- Issues with compatibility between ts version



Node v23.6.0 enables **--experimental-strip-types** by default.



```
node file.ts

Hello World!
(node:96326) ExperimentalWarning: Type Stripping is an experimental feature and
might change at any time
(Use `node --trace-warnings ...` to show where the warning was created)
```

TypeScript syntax detection in eval



```
node --eval "import util from 'util'; const foo: string = 'Hello World!'; console.log(foo);"
Hello World!
```



How eval syntax detection works

1. Compile as **commonjs** module
2. If step 1 fails, compile as **esm** module
3. If step 2 fails with a **Syntax Error**, strip types
4. If step 3 fails with **Unsupported Syntax** or **Invalid Syntax** throw error from step 2, plus the TS error message, else compile as **commonjs**
5. If step 4 fails, compile as **esm** module

How eval syntax detection works

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TypeScript syntax detection in eval



```
node --eval "import util from 'util'; const foo      = 'Hello World!'; console.log(foo);"  
Hello World!
```



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How eval syntax detection works

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2. If step 1 fails, compile as **esm** module
3. If step 2 fails with a **Syntax Error**, strip types
4. If step 3 fails with **Unsupported Syntax** or **Invalid Syntax** throw error from step 2, plus the TS error message, else compile as **commonjs**

5. If step 4 fails, compile as **esm** module

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You can skip syntax detection by passing
--input-type=module-typescript or
commonjs-typescript



```
node --input-type module-typescript --eval "import util from 'util'; const foo: string = 'Hello World!'; console.log(foo);"  
Hello World!
```



Syntax Ambiguity



```
node -p "fetch<Object>('http://example.com')"
```

Syntax Ambiguity



```
node -p "fetch<Object>('http://example.com')"
false
```

Syntax Ambiguity



```
node -p "fetch<Object>('http://example.com')"
false
```

```
> fetch<Object>('http://example.com');
< false
```

Syntax Ambiguity



v5.7.3 ▾ Run Export ▾ Share →

```
1  fetch<Object>('http://example.com')
```

```
"use strict";
fetch('http://example.com');
```

```
node --input-type commonjs-typescript -p "fetch<Object>('http://example.com')"

Promise {
  Response {
    status: 200,
    statusText: 'OK',
    headers: Headers {
      'accept-ranges': 'bytes',
      'content-type': 'text/html',
      etag: '"84238dfc8092e5d9c0dac8ef93371a07:1736799080.121134"',
      'last-modified': 'Mon, 13 Jan 2025 20:11:20 GMT',
      'content-encoding': 'gzip',
      'cache-control': 'max-age=957',
      date: 'Thu, 13 Feb 2025 09:18:08 GMT',
      'content-length': '648',
      connection: 'keep-alive',
      vary: 'Accept-Encoding'
    },
    body: ReadableStream { locked: false, state: 'readable', supportsBYOB: true },
    bodyUsed: false,
    ok: true,
    redirected: false,
    type: 'basic',
    url: 'http://example.com/'
  }
}
```

Announcing TypeScript 5.8 Beta

The `--erasableSyntaxOnly` Option

Recently, Node.js 23.6 unflagged [experimental support for running TypeScript files directly](#); however, only certain constructs are supported under this mode. Node.js has unflagged a mode called `--experimental-strip-types` which requires that any TypeScript-specific syntax cannot have runtime semantics. Phrased differently, it must be possible to easily *erase* or "strip out" any TypeScript-specific syntax from a file, leaving behind a valid JavaScript file.

That means constructs like the following are not supported:

- `enum` declarations
- `namespaces` and `modules` with runtime code
- parameter properties in classes
- `import` aliases



```
{  
  "compilerOptions": {  
    "target": "esnext",  
    "module": "nodeNext",  
    "allowImportingTsExtensions": true,  
    "rewriteRelativeImportExtensions": true,  
    "verbatimModuleSyntax": true,  
    "erasableSyntaxOnly": true  
  }  
}
```

Next steps

- Bug fix
- Make it faster
- Unflag in v22
- Make it stable



Feedback

- Give it a try
- @nodejs/typescript repo
- bi weekly meetings, check node calendar



Thanks for listening!!!

