# Comp 324/424 - Client-side Web Design - Slides

# Fall Semester 2017 - Week 12

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## **Contents**

- HTML5, CSS, JS example
- Complementary Server-side considerations
  - Node.js
- Server-side considerations
- Data storage
  - Redis

## working with Flickr API - update travel notes JS

- room for improvement, updates, abstraction, and general refactoring of the existing code
- return to this issue when we consider refactoring the code in general
- there are still a few simple features we need to add
- for example,
  - add images to the .contextual-output section, resize .note-output section
  - moves focus to the current images
  - check loading progress of the notes and images
  - show feedback to the user
  - need to output a title for the images
  - set using the search query

## working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- first modification is to resize the .notes-output
- create more space for the images
- gently shift focus to the new images
- update existing .createImage() function in the contextual.js file

```
//manage new image output
function createImage(data) {
...
    if (checkVisible($(".contextual-output img")) === true) {
        $(".note-output").removeClass("col-12");
        $(".note-output").addClass("col-4");
        $(".contextual-output").fadeIn("slow");
    }
...
}
```

- add check to ensure images are not visible in the DOM
- remove current class from .note-output section
- 12 column class for the grid
- add new grid class to resize .note-output to 4 columns
- then fade in the .contextual-output class
- set in the app's HTML to a class of .col-8

## working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- next modification is some initial error handling
- checking for an empty array of images from the returned Flickr JSON
- check processImages() function for an empty array of image items

```
if (response.items.length === 0) {
  var img = "";
  createImage(img);
} else {
  //return images from items array...
}
...
```

- checks images in the items array for the promise object
- if not, send an empty variable as a parameter to our createImage() function

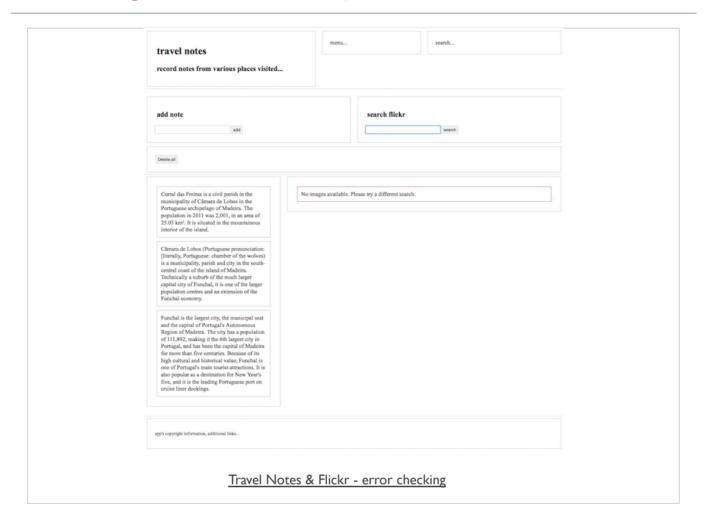
## working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- check for empty value in createImage() function
- handle the simple errors as follows

```
if (data !== "") {
    //create each image element
    var $img = $('<img class="flex-img">').attr("src", data);
    //add image
    img_output = $img;
} else {
    var $img_error = $('').html("No images available...");
    //add error
    img_output = $img_error;
}
```

- we've abstracted the return variable for the image output
  - can hold either the image or the error output...
- add a check to see whether the .contextual-output section is visible or not
- modify the column class for the .note-output section
- then append our image output
- then show the .contextual-output section within the app
- DEMO travel notes & Flickr

# Image - HTML5, CSS, & JS - Travel Notes & Flickr



### working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- continue to modify and build our Travel Notes app
- add some metadata for the returned images
- using the title and link from the search query response
- add initial metadata output in the contextual.js file
  - modify the processImages() function
  - metadata from Flickr JSON response in the deferred promise object

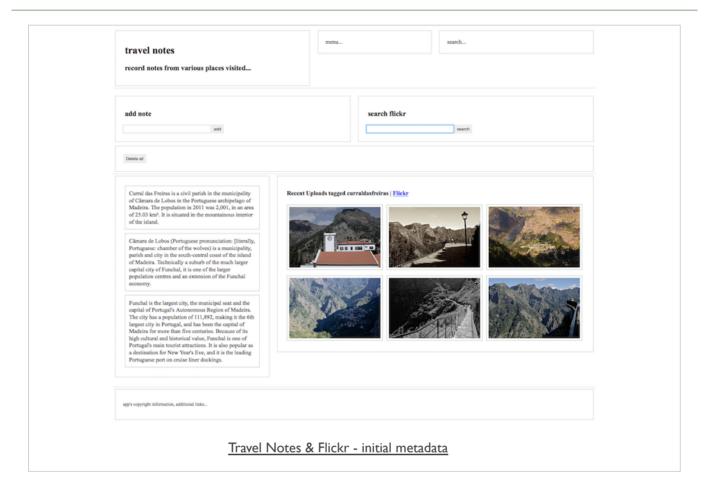
```
...
//create object for search metadata
var search_meta = {title:response.title, link:response.link};
...
```

then pass this to a new function, called metaOutput()

```
//prepare and render metadata for returned search...
function metaOutput(data) {
   if (data !== "") {
      //search metadata from response
      var search_title = data.title;
      var search_link = data.link;
      //build heading output for metadata heading
      var metaHeading = '<h6>'+search_title+' | <a href="'+search_link+'">Flickr</a></h6>';
      //render metadata to contextual-output
   $(".contextual-output").prepend(metaHeading);
   }
}
```

DEMO - travel notes & Flickr - initial metadata

# Image - HTML5, CSS, & JS - Travel Notes & Flickr



## travel notes - basic refactoring of JS

- as we continue to add features and modify existing code
- may start to see unnecessary repetition and function calls in the code
- eg: initial error handling for our contextual images
  - createImage() function is being called in the processImages() function
  - · called regardless of returned image data
- createImage() is being used unnecessarily to manage the error handling
- move check to processImages() function
- then call function to render necessary error message

```
function outputError(message) {
  var $img_error = $('').html(message);
  //check for visible contextual-output - if not visible
  if (checkVisible($(".contextual-output")) === true) {
    $(".note-output").removeClass("col-12");
    $(".note-output").addClass("col-4");
  }
  //append output to DOM
  $(".contextual-output").append($img_error);
  //fade in contextual-output with appended results
  $(".contextual-output").fadeIn("slow");
}
```

## travel notes - basic refactoring of JS

updated processImages() function can call .outputError() function as needed

```
if (response.items.length !== 0) {
//logic to add metadata and each image...
}
else {
  var img_error = "No images available - please try a different search.";
  outputError(img_error);
}
...
```

- use this function to output error messages for any type of contextual data
- also remove some unnecessary replication of code
- by adding a simple function to change an element's class

```
//modify element class - from, to
function changeClass(element, size1, size2) {
    $(element).removeClass(size1);
    $(element).addClass(size2);
}
```

- resize a class, for example to modify our grid output
- call this function pass the selector to update, original class to remove, and new class to add

## working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- add a modification to check for the image loading and the notes
- offer status feedback to the user

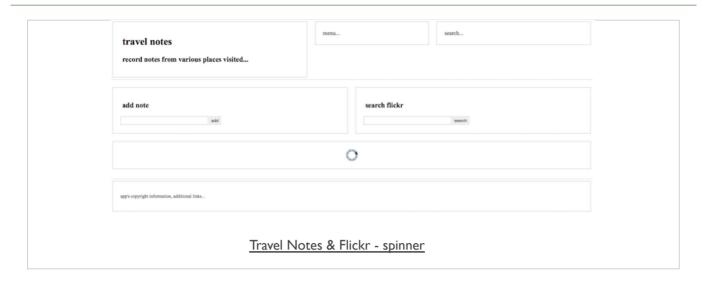
```
//add initial loader spinner for ajax...
$(".contextual-output").html('<img class="spinner" src="assets/images/ajax-loader.gif">');
```

remove it when the deferred promise object has returned

```
//remove ajax spinner
$(".spinner").remove();
```

■ DEMO - travel notes & Flickr - spinner

# Image - HTML5, CSS, & JS - Travel Notes & Flickr



## JS Server-side considerations - save data

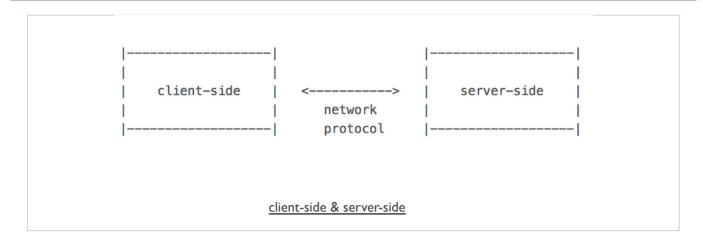
## save JSON in travel notes app

- need to be able to save our simple notes
- now load from a ISON file as the app starts
- also we can add new notes, delete existing notes...
- not as simple as writing to our existing JSON file direct from JS
  - security implications if that was permitted directly from the browser
- need to consider a few server-side options
- could use a combination of PHP on the server-side
  - with AJAX jQuery on the client-side
  - traditional option with a simple ajax post to a PHP file on the server-side
- consider JavaScript options on the client and server-side
- brief overview of working with Node.js

## Server-side considerations - intro

- normally define computer programs as either client-side or server-side programs
- server-side programs normally abstract a resource over a network
- enabling many client-side programs to access at the same time
- a common example is file requests and transfers
- we can think of the client as the web browser
- a web server as the remote machine abstracting resources
- abstracts them via hypertext transfer protocol
- HTTP for short
- designed to help with the transfer of HTML documents
  - HTTP now used as an abstracted wrapper for many different types of resources
  - may include documents, media, databases...

# Image - Client-side and server-side computing



## intro - what is Node.js?

- Node.js is, in essence, a JavaScript runtime environment
  - designed to be run outside of the browser
- designed as a general purpose utility
- can be used for many different tasks including
  - asset compilation
  - monitoring
  - scripting
  - web servers
- with Node.js, role of JS is changing
  - moving from client-side to a support role in back-end development

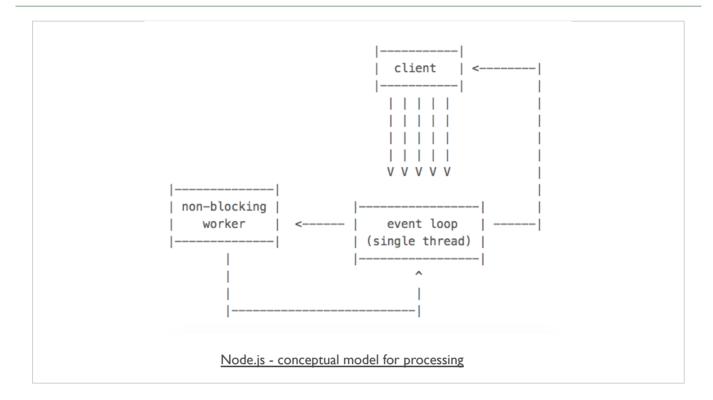
## intro - speed of Node.js

- a key advantage touted for Node.js is its speed
- many companies have noted the performance benefits of implementing Node.js
- including PayPal, Walmart, LinkedIn...
- a primary reason for this speed boost is the underlying architecture of Node.js
- Node.js uses an event-based architecture
- instead of a threading model popular in compiled languages
- Node.js uses a single event thread by default
- all I/O is asynchronous

## intro - conceptual model for processing in Node.js

- how does Node.js, and its underlying processing model, actually work?
- client sends a hypertext transfer protocol, HTTP, request
- request or requests sent to Node.js server
- event loop is then informed by the host OS
  - passes applicable request and response objects as JavaScript closures
  - passed to associated worker functions with callbacks
- long running jobs continue to run on various assigned worker threads
- responses are sent from the non-blocking workers back to the main event loop
  - returned via a callback
- event loop returns any results back to the client
  - effectively when they're ready

# Image - Client-side and server-side computing



#### intro - threaded architecture

- concurrency allows multiple things to happen at the same time
- common practice on servers due to the nature of multiple user queries
- Java, for example, will create a new thread on each connection
- threading is inherently resource expensive
- size of a thread is normally around 4MB of memory
- naturally limits the number of threads that can run at the same time
- also inherently more complicated to develop platforms that are thread-safe
- thereby allowing for such functionality
- due to this complexity
- many languages, eg: Ruby, Python, and PHP, do not have threads that allow for real concurrency
- without custom binaries
- JavaScript is similarly single-threaded
- able to run multiple code paths in parallel due to events

#### intro - event-driven architecture

- JavaScript originally designed to work within the confines of the web browser
- had to handle restrictive nature of a single thread and single process for the whole page
- synchronous blocking in code would lock up a web page from all actions
  - JavaScript was built with this in mind
- due to this style of I/O handling
  - Node.js is able to handle millions of concurrent requests on a single process
- added, using libraries, to many other existing languages
  - Akka for Java
  - EventMachine for Ruby
  - Twisted for Python
  - ...
- JavaScript syntax already assumes events through its use of callbacks
- **NB:** if a query etc is CPU intensive instead of I/O intensive
  - thread will be tied up
  - · everything will be blocked as it waits for it to finish

#### intro - callbacks

- in most languages
- send an I/O query & wait until result is returned
- wait before you can continue your code procedure
- for example, submit a query to a database for a user ID
- server will pause that thread/process until database returns result for ID query
- in |S, this concept is rarely implemented as standard
- in |S, more common to pass the I/O call a callback
- in JS, this **callback** will need to run when task is completed
- eg: find a user ID and then do something, such as output to a HTML element
- biggest difference in these approaches
  - whilst the database is fetching the user ID query
  - thread is free to do whatever else might be useful
  - eg: accept another web request, listen to a different event...
- this is one of the reasons that Node.js returns good benchmarks and is easily scaled
- **NB:** makes Node.js well suited for I/O heavy and intensive scenarios

### install Node.js

- a number of different ways to install **Node.js**, **npm**, and the lightweight, customisable web framework **Express**
- run and test Node.js on a local Mac OS X or Windows machine
- download and install a package from the following URL
- Node.is download
- install the Node module, Express
- Express is a framework for web applications built upon Node.js
- minimal, flexible, & easily customised server
- use npm to install the Express module

npm install -g express

- g option sets a global flag for Express instead of limited local install
- installs Express command line tool
- allows us to start building our basic web application
- now also necessary to install Express application generator

npm install -g express-generator

#### **NPM** - intro

- **npm** is a package manager for Node.js
- Developers can use **npm** to share and reuse modules in Node.js applications
- **npm** can also be used to share complete Node.js applications
- example modules might include
  - Markup, YAML etc parsers
  - database connectors
  - Express server
  - •
- **npm** is included with the default installers available at the Node.js website
- test whether **npm** is installed, simply issue the following command

## npm

- should output some helpful information if **npm** is currently installed
- **NB:** on a Unix system, such as OS X or Linux
  - best to avoid installing **npm** modules with sudo privileges

## **NPM** - installing modules

install existing **npm** modules, use the following type of command

### npm install express

- this command installs module named express in the current directory
- it will act as a local installation within the current directory
- installing in a folder called node\_modules
- this is the default behaviour for current installs
- we can also specify a global install for modules
- eg: we may wish to install the **express** module with global scope

### npm install -g express

■ again, the -g flag specifies the required global install

## **NPM** - importing modules

- import, or effectively add, modules in our Node.js code
  - use the following declaration

```
var module = require('express');
```

- when we run this application
  - Node.js looks for the required module library and its source code

## **NPM** - finding modules

- official online search tool for **npm** can be found at
  - npmjs
- top packages include options such as
  - browserify
  - express
  - grunt
  - bower
  - karma
  - •
- also search for Node modules directly
- search from the command line using the following command

npm search express

returns results for module names and descriptions

## NPM - specifying dependencies

- ease Node.js app installation
- specify any required dependencies in an associated package. json file
- allows us as developers to specify modules to install for our application
- which can then be run using the following command

```
npm install
```

- helps reduce the need to install each module individually
- helps other users install an application as quickly as possible
- our application's dependencies are stored in one place
- example package.json

```
{
"name": "app",
"version": "0.0.1",
"dependencies": {
   "express": "4.2.x",
   "underscore": "-1.2.1"
}
}
```

## initial Express usage

- now use Express to start building our initial basic web application
- Express creates a basic shell for our web application
- cd to working directory and use the following command

express /node/test-project

- command makes a new directory
  - populates with required basic web application directories and files
- cd to this directory and install any required dependencies,

npm install

then run our new app,

npm start

or run and monitor our app,

nodemon start

## initial Express server - setup

- we've now tested **npm**, and installed our first module with **Express**
- test **Express**, and build our first, simple server
- initial directory structure

```
|- .
|- 424-node
|- node_modules
```

• need to do is create a |S file to store our server code, so we'll add server.js

```
|- .
|- 424-node
|- node_modules
|- server.js
```

start adding our Node.js code to create a simple server

## initial Express server - server.js - part I

add some initial code to get our server up and running

```
/* a simple Express server for Node.js*/
var express = require("express"),
    http = require("http"),
    appTest;

// create our server - listen on port 3030
appTest = express();
http.createServer(appTest).listen(3030);

// set up routes
appTest.get("/test", function(req, res) {
    res.send("welcome to the 424 test app.");
});
```

then start and test this server as follows at the command line

```
node server.js
```

## initial Express server - server.js - part 2

open our web browser, and use the following URL

```
http://localhost:3030
```

- this is the route of our new server
  - to get our newly created route use the following URL

```
http://localhost:3030/test
```

- this will now return our specified route, and output message
- update our server.js file to support root directory level routes

```
appTest.get("/", function(req, res) {
  res.send("Welcome to the 424 server.")
});
```

now load our server at the root URL

```
http://localhost:3030
```

stop server from command line using CTRL and c

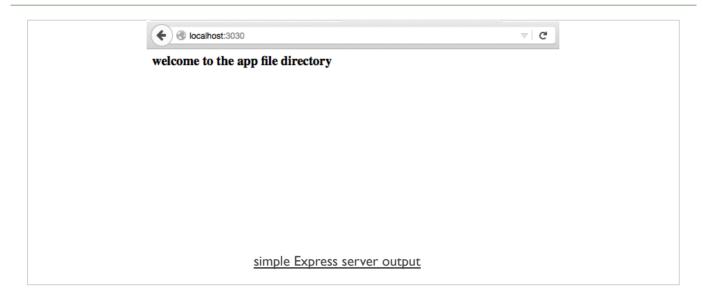
## initial Express server - server.js - part 3

- currently, initial Express server is managing some static routes for loading content
- we simply tell the server how to react when a given route is requested
- what if we now want to serve some HTML pages?
- Express allows us to set up routes for static files

```
//set up static file directory - default route for server
appTest.use(express.static(__dirname + "/app"));
```

- now defining Express as a static file server
  - · enabling us to publish our HTML, CSS, and JS files
  - published from our default directory, /app
- if requested file not available
  - server will check other available routes
  - or report error to browser if nothing found
- DEMO 424-node

# Image - Client-side and server-side computing



## working with data - JSON

- let us now work our way through a basic Node.js app
- serve our JSON, then read and load from a standard web app
- create our initial server.js file

```
var express = require('express'),
    http = require("http"),
    jsonApp = express(),
    notes = {
        "travelNotes": [{
            "created": "2015-10-12T00:00:002",
            "note": "Curral das Freiras..."
        }]
     };

jsonApp.use(express.static(__dirname + "/app"));

http.createServer(jsonApp).listen(3030);

//json route
jsonApp.get("notes.json", function(req, res) {
    res.json(notes);
});
```

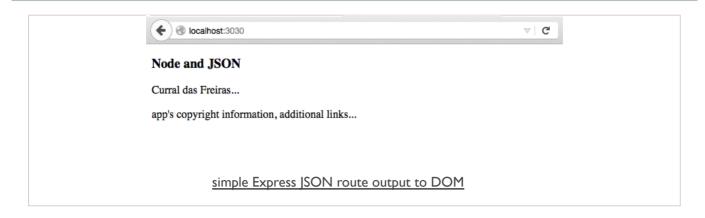


#### working with data - JSON

- now have our get routes setup for JSON
- now add some client-side logic to read that route
- render to the browser
- same basic patterns we've seen before
  - using jQuery's .getJSON() function

```
...
$.getJSON("notes.json", function (response) {
   console.log("response = "+response.toSource());
   buildNote(response);
})
...
```

- response object from our JSON
- this time from the server and not a file or API
- use our familiar functions to create and render each note
- call our normal buildNote() function
- DEMO 424-node-json I



- we've seen examples that load JSON data
  - using jQuery's .getJSON() function
- now consider jQuery's post function
  - allow us to easily send JSON data to the server
  - simply called post
- begin our updates by creating a new route in our Express server
  - one that will handle the post route

```
jsonApp.post("/notes", function(req, res) {
   //return simple JSON object
   res.json({
        "message": "post complete to server"
    });
});
```

- may look similar to our earlier get routes
  - difference due to browser restrictions
  - can't simply request direct route using our browser
  - as we did with get routes
- need to change JS we use for the client-side
  - allows us to post new route
  - then enables view of the returned message
- update our test app to store data on the server
  - then initialise our client with this stored data

- start with a simple check that the post route is working correctly
- add a button, submit a request to the post route, and then wait for the response
- add event handler for a button

```
$("#post").on("click", function() {
   $.post("notes", {}, function (response) {
      console.log("server post response returned..." + response.toSource());
   })
});
```

- submit a post request
- specify the route for the post to the Node.js server
- then specify the data to post an empty object in this example
- the specify a callback for the server's response
- test returns the following output to the browser's console,

```
server post response returned...({message:"post complete to server"})
```

- now send some data to the server
- add new note to our object
- update the server to handle this incoming object
  - process the submitted jQuery JSON into a JavaScript object
  - ready for use with the server
- use the Express module's body-parser plugin
- update server.js as follows

```
//add body-parser for JSON parsing etc...
var bodyParser = require("body-parser");
...
//Express will parse incoming JSON objects
jsonApp.use(bodyParser.urlencoded({ extended: false }));
...
```

- as server receives new JSON object
  - it will now parse, or process, this object
  - ensures it can be stored on the server for future use

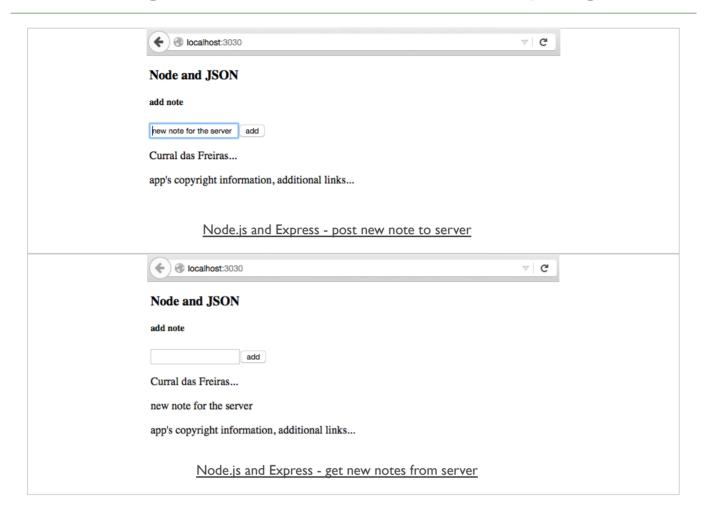
#### working with data - post data

- now update our test button's event handler
- send a new note as a JSON object
- note will retrieve its new content from the input field
  - gets the current time from the node server

```
$(".note-input button").on("click", function() {
    //get values for new note
    var note_text = $(".note-input input").val();
    var created = new Date();
    //create new note
    var newNote = {"created":created, "note":note_text};
    //post new note to server
    $.post("notes", newNote, function (response) {
        console.log("server post response returned..." + response.toSource());
    })
});
```

input field and button follow the same pattern as previous examples

DEMO - 424-node-json2



#### intro

- tested Node.js, created a server for hosting our files and routes with Express|S
  - read JSON from the server
  - updated our JSON on the server-side
- works well as long as we do not need to restart, repair, update etc our server
- data lost with restart etc...
- need to consider a persistent data storage
- independent from the application
- NoSQL options such as Redis and MongoDB
- integration with Node.js

#### SQL or NoSQL

- common database usage and storage
  - · often thought solely in terms of SQL, or structured query language
- SQL used to query data in a relational format
- relational databases, for example MySQL or PostgreSQL, store their data in tables
  - provides a semblance of structure through rows and cells
  - easily cross-reference, or relate, rows across tables
- a relational structure to map authors to books, players to teams...
  - thereby dramatically reducing redundancy, required storage space...
- improvement in storage capacities, access...
  - led to shift in thinking, and database design in general
- started to see introduction of non-relational databases
- often referred to simply as NoSQL
- with NoSQL DBs
- redundant data may be stored
- such designs often provide increased ease of use for developers
- some NoSQL examples for specific use cases
- eg: fast reading of data more efficient than writing
- specialised DB designs

#### Redis - intro

- Redis provides an excellent example of NoSQL based data storage
- designed for fast access to frequently requested data
- improvement in performance often due to a reduction in perceived reliability
  - due to in-memory storage instead of writing to a disk
- able to flush data to disk
  - performs this task at given points during uptime
- for majority of cases considered an in-memory data store
- stores this data in a key-value format
  - similar in nature to standard object properties in JavaScript
- Redis often a natural extension of conventional data structures
- Redis is a good option for quick access to data
- optionally caching temporary data for frequent access

#### Redis - installation

• On OS X, use the Homebrew package manager to install Redis

```
brew install redis
```

- Windows port maintained by the Microsoft Open Tech Group Redis
  - or use Windows package manager https://chocolatey.org/
- for Linux download, extract, and compile Redis

```
$ wget http://download.redis.io/releases/redis-3.0.5.tar.gz
$ tar xzf redis-3.0.5.tar.gz
$ cd redis-3.0.5
$ make
```

#### Redis - server and CLI

start the Redis server with the following command,

redis-server

interact with our new server directly using the CLI tool,

redis-cli

- store some data in Redis using the set command
- create a new key for notes, and then set its value to 0
- if value is set, Redis returns OK

set notes 0

- retrieve a value using the get command
  - returns our set value of 0

get notes

Drs-MacBook-Air-2:~ ancientlives\$ redis-cli
127.0.0.1:6379> set notes 0
0K
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
"0"
127.0.0.1:6379> ■

Redis CLI - set and get

#### Redis - server and CLI

- also manipulate existing values for a given key
- eg: increment and decrement a value, or simply delete a key
- increment key notes value by I

```
incr notes
```

decrement key notes value by I

```
decr notes
```

• we can then increment or decrement by a specified amount

```
// increment by 10
incrby notes 10
// decrement by 5
decrby notes 5
```

delete our key

```
// single key deletion
del notes
// multiple keys deletion
del notes notes2 notes3
```

```
Drs-MacBook-Air-2:~ ancientlives$ redis-cli
127.0.0.1:6379> set notes 0
OK
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
"0"
127.0.0.1:6379> incr notes
(integer) 1
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
"2"
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
(integer) 2
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
(integer) 1
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
(integer) 1
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
"1"
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
"1"
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
11"
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
"1"
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
"6"

Redis CLI - increment and decrement
```

#### **Demos**

#### Travel notes app - series 4

- DEMO 4 Travel Notes & Flickr initial metadata
- DEMO 5 Travel Notes & Flickr spinner

#### Node.js

- 424-node
- 424-node-json l
- 424-node-json2

#### **Redis**

■ 424-node-redis l

### MongoDB

■ 424-node-mongo l

# **References - JS & Libraries**

- Chocolatey for Windows
  - Chocolatey package manager for Windows
- Homebrew for OS X
  - Homebrew the missing package manager for OS X
- Node.js
  - Node.js home
  - Node.js download
  - ExpressJS
  - ExpressJS body-parser
- Redis
  - redis.io
  - redis commands
  - redis npm
  - try redis
  - Windows support
- Various
  - Create your own AJAX loader