

GraphQL

FROM THE GROUND UP

demystifying the GraphQL server-side

What is it?

GraphQL

a Type/Schema System

a Query Language

What is it good for?

- Can be used as an alternative to REST apis
 - Strong schema built in
 - Client controls shape of data - no overfetching
 - Strong opinions - no RESTfulness arguments

What else?

- Can be used as a generic query language:
 - GatsbyJS - wrangles assets to generate a static site
 - Prisma.io - used as a data access layer
 - DGraph.io - used to query a graph database

There's a dizzying array of tools...



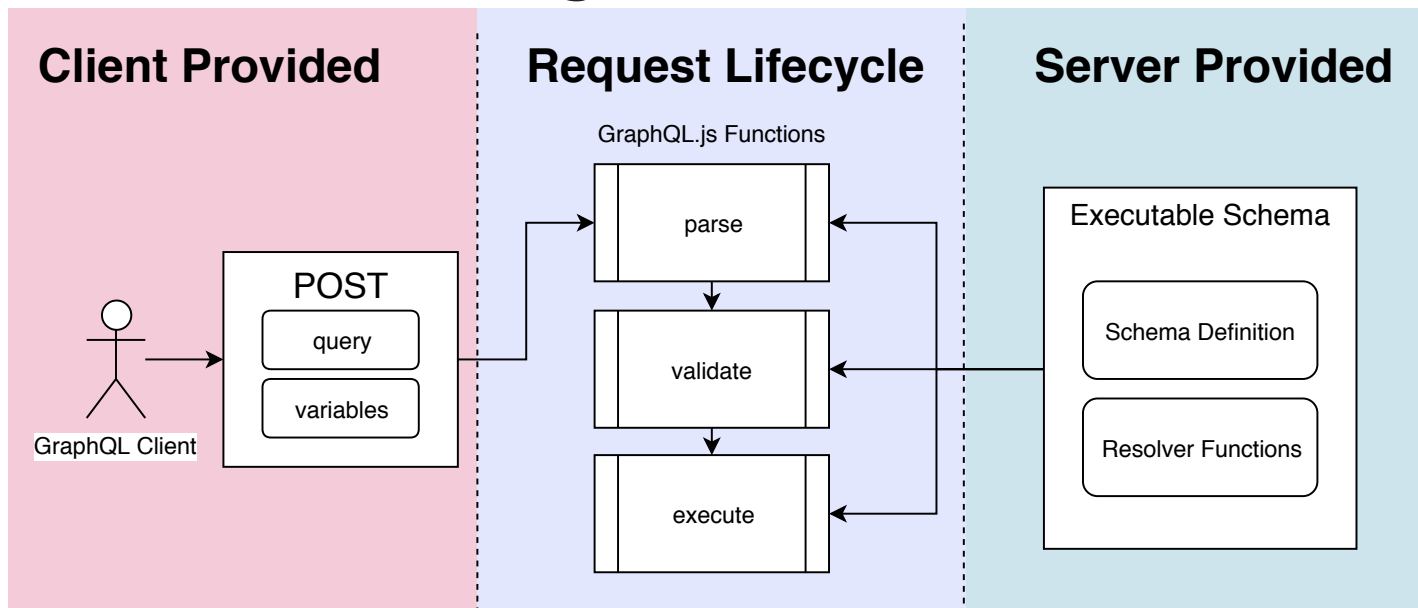
Two main options for node servers:

- **express-graphql** - open source contributed by facebook
- **apollo-server** - community open source by the makers of apollo client

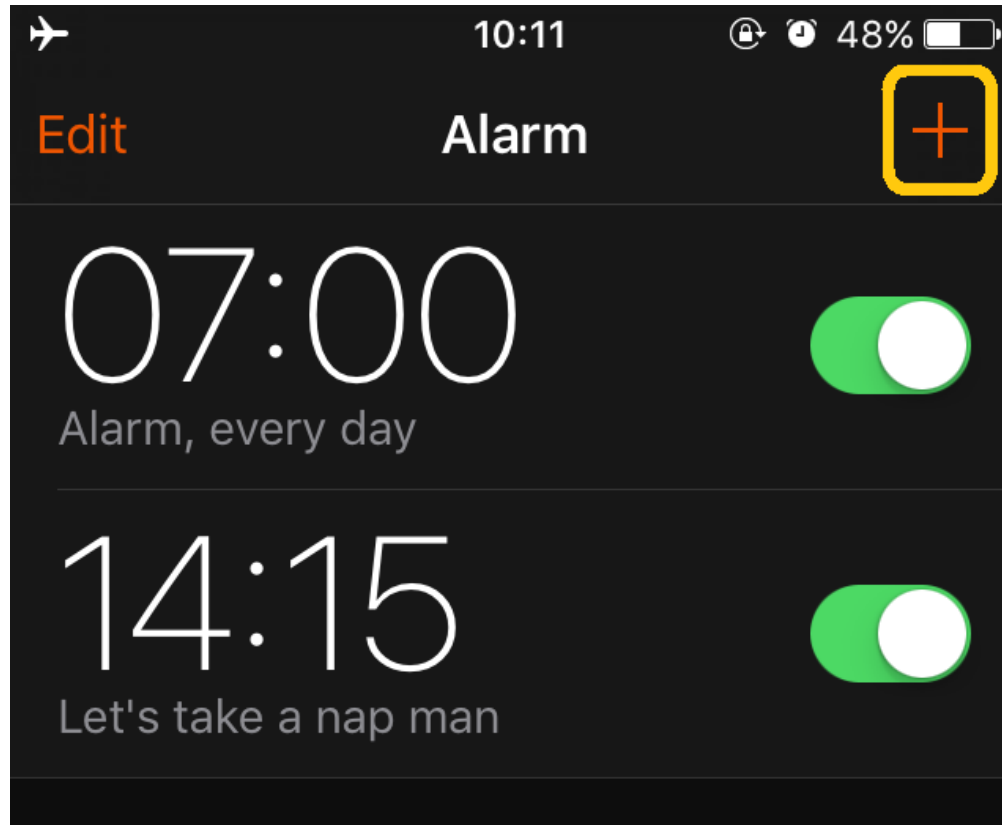
Let's see how they work...



Building a mental model



Let's build a thing.



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