Associative Arrays

A Key-Value Pair Structure

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What is an Associative Array ?

- Arrays indexed by **string keys**
- Hold a set of pairs **[key => value]**
  - The key is a **string**
  - The **value** can be of **any** type

Key	Value
John Smith	+1-555-8976
Lisa Smith	+1-555-1234
Sam Doe	+1-555-5030

Declaration

- An associative array in JavaScript is just an **object**
- We can declare it **dynamically**

```
let assocArr = {
  'one': 1,
  'two': 2,
  'three': 3,
  [key]: 6
};
```

```
assocArr['four'] = 4;
```

```
assocArr.five = 5;
```

```
let key = 'six';
assocArr[key] = 6;
```

Quotes are used if the key contains **special characters**

Valid ways to access **values** through **keys**

Using for – in

- We can use **for-in** loop to iterate through the keys

```
let assocArr = {};
assocArr['one'] = 1;
assocArr['two'] = 2;
assocArr['three'] = 3;

for(let key in assocArr) {
   console.log(key + " = " + assocArr[key]);
}
```

```
// one = 1
// two = 2
// three = 3
```

Problem: Phone Book

- Write a function that reads **names** and **numbers**
- Store them in an associative array and print them
- If the same name occurs, save the **latest** number

```
['Tim 0834212554',
 'Peter 0877547887',
 'Bill 0896543112',
 'Tim 0876566344']
```

```
Tim -> 0876566344
Peter -> 0877547887
Bill -> 0896543112
```

Solution: Phone Book

```
function solve(input) {
  let phonebook = {};
  for (let line of input) {
    let tokens = line.split(' ');
    let name = tokens[0];
    let number = tokens[1];
    phonebook[name] = number;
  }
  for (let key in phonebook) {
    console.log(`${key} -> ${phonebook[key]}`);
  }
}
```

Manipulating Associative Arrays

- Check if a key is **present**:

```
let assocArr = { /* entries */ };
if (assocArr.hasOwnProperty('John Smith')) { /* Key found */ }
```

- **Remove** entries:

```
delete assocArr['John Smith'];
```

- Iterate **destructured** entries:

```
for (let [key, value] of Object.entries(assocArr)) {
  console.log(`${key} -> ${value}`);
}
```

Problem: Meetings

- Write a function that reads **weekdays** and **names**
- Print a **success** message for every successful appointment
- If the same weekday occurs a second time, print a **conflict message**
- In end, print a list of all meetings
- See **example** input and output on **next slide**

Example: Meetings

- Parsing input and success/conflict messages

```
['Monday Peter',
 'Wednesday Bill',
 'Monday Tim',
 'Friday Tim']
```

```
Scheduled for Monday
Scheduled for Wednesday
Conflict on Monday!
Scheduled for Friday
```

- Final list output

```
Monday -> Peter
Wednesday -> Bill
Friday -> Tim
```

Solution: Meetings

```
function solve(input) {
  let meetings = {};
  for (let line of input) {
    let [weekday, name] = line.split(' ');

    if (meetings.hasOwnProperty(weekday)) {
      console.log(`Conflict on ${weekday}!`);
    } else {
      meetings[weekday] = name;
      console.log(`Scheduled for ${weekday}`);
    }
  }

  // TODO: Print result
}
```

Sorting Associative Arrays

- Objects **cannot be sorted**; they must be converted first
  - Convert to **array** for **sorting**, **filtering** and **mapping**:

```
let phonebook = { 'Tim': '0876566344',
                  'Bill': '0896543112' };

let entries = Object.entries(phonebook);
console.log(entries); // Array of arrays with two elements each
// [ ['Tim', '0876566344'],
//   ['Bill', '0896543112'] ]

let firstEntry = entries[0];
console.log(firstEntry[0]);  // Entry key -> 'Tim'
console.log(firstEntry[1]);  // Entry value -> '0876566344'
```

The entry is turned into an array of [key, value]

Sorting By Key

- The **entries** array can be **sorted**, using a **Compare function**
  - To **sort by key**, use the **first element** of each entry

```
entries.sort((a, b) => {
  keyA = a[0];
  keyB = b[0];
  // Perform comparison and return negative, 0 or positive
});
```

  - You can also **destructure** the entries

```
entries.sort(([keyA, valueA],[keyB, valueB]) => {
  // Perform comparison and return negative, 0 or positive
});
```

Problem: Sort Addressbook

- Write a function that reads **names** and **addresses**
- Values will be separated by **":"**
- If same name occurs, save the **latest** address
- Print list, **sorted** alphabetically by **name**

```
['Tim:Doe Crossing',
 'Bill:Nelson Place',
 'Peter:Carlyle Ave',
 'Bill:Ornery Rd']
```

→

```
Bill -> Ornery Rd
Peter -> Carlyle Ave
Tim -> Doe Crossing
```

Solution: Sort Addressbook

```
function solve(input) {
  let addressbook = {};
  for (let line of input) {

    let [name, address] = line.split(':');
    addressbook[name] = address;

  }
  let sorted = Object.entries(addressbook);
  sorted.sort((a, b) => a[0].localeCompare(b[0]));

  // TODO: Print result
}
```

Array and Object Destructuring

- The **destructuring assignment** syntax makes it possible to unpack values from arrays, or properties from objects, into distinct variables
- On the left-hand side of the assignment to define what values to unpack from the sourced variable

```
const x = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];
const [y, z] = x;
console.log(y); // 1
console.log(z); // 2
```

```
obj = { a: 1, b: 2 };
const { a, b } = obj;
// is equivalent to:
// const a = obj.a;
// const b = obj.b;
```

Sorting By Value

- To **sort by value**, use the **second element** of each entry

```
entries.sort((a, b) => {
  valueA = a[1];
  valueB = b[1];
  // Perform comparison and return negative, 0 or positive
});
```

- You can also **destructure** the entries

```
entries.sort([keyA, valueA],[keyB, valueB]) => {
  // Perform comparison and return negative, 0 or positive
});
```

Sets

Storing Unique Elements

What is a Set?

- Store **unique values** of any type, whether **primitive** values or **object** references
- Set objects are **collections** of values

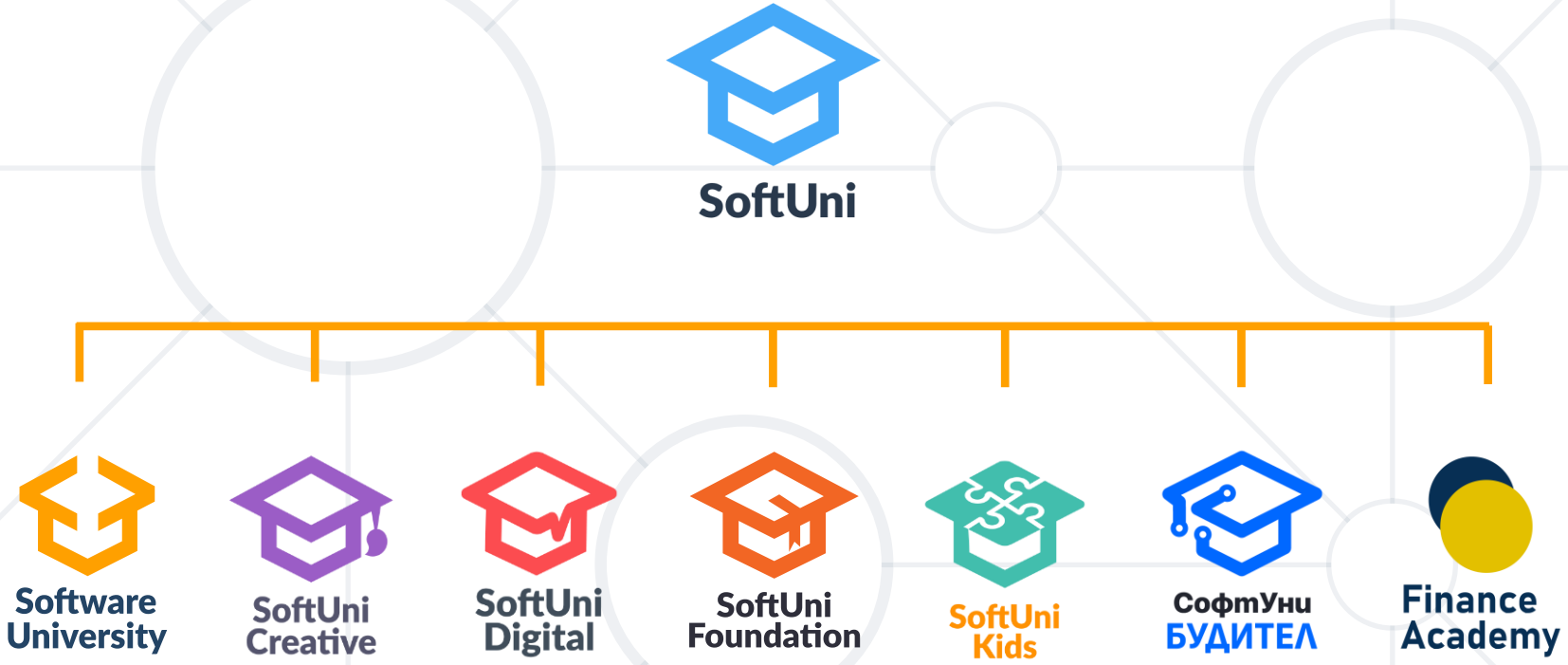
```
let set = new Set([1, 2, 2, 4, 5]);
// Set(4) { 1, 2, 4, 5 }
set.add(7)); // Add value
console.log(set.has(1));
// Expected output: true
```

- Can **iterate** through the elements of a set in **insertion** order

Summary

- We can use both **Objects** and **Maps** to store **key-value** pairs
- In practice, **Objects** are used more often
- **Maps** have advantages in some cases:
  - You may use **any data type** as **key**
  - They are **iterable**
  - They have a **size property**

Questions?



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