

10/25 — Async Programming, Observer Pattern, and Pub/Sub



Properties of Async Programming with Callbacks

- All functions in async are done as fast as possible (demand-focused).
 - Singular: Only one callback is associated with each async call.
 - Callbacks are required by the architecture.
 - Expectation that the task completes.
 - Tight coupling between caller and callback.
 - Callbacks can only notify one specific entity that it is finished.
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Properties of Observer Pattern

- Request-oriented (waits for an event).
 - We specify: "If this event occurs in the future, run this function."
 - Different from async which says: "Do this ASAP."
 - Can fire multiple times (e.g., pressing the Enter key multiple times).
 - No expectation that the event happens (not an error if no event occurs).
 - Tight coupling (same as async).
 - One-to-many: multiple observers can run their own code when an event is detected.
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Pub/Sub Pattern

- No tight coupling between publishers and subscribers.
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Observer Pattern — Key Entities

- **Subjects** (emitters)
- **Observers** (listeners)



Finding Subjects

```
emit(eventName <string>, [...data]);
```



Observers Register with

```
.on(eventName <string>, listener <function>);
```



Example 01A: `readline-a.js` (Observer Only)

```
const readline = require('readline');
const rl = readline.createInterface({ input: process.stdin }); //
Interact with stdin

rl.on('line', (input) => { // Triggered when Enter is pressed
  console.log(`Received: ${input}`);
});

console.log("Enter any input and press enter to fire line event");
```

- The function is triggered on a new line and logs "Received: text" after pressing Enter.



Async Style Version (Not Observer)

```
function captureInput() {
  rl.question(">", (input) => {
    console.log(`Received ${input}`);
  });
}
```

- This example is **not** demand-focused and **not singular**.



One-to-Many Behavior Example

```
rl.on('line', (input) => { console.log(`Received: ${input}`); });
rl.on('line', (input) => { console.log(`Received: ${input}`); });

console.log("Enter any input and press enter to fire line event");
```

- Outputs input twice, showing one-to-many behavior.



Listener Delay Problem Example

- If we put a `setTimeout` around listeners, they wouldn't work until timeout is over.
- Only the **last input** would get processed.

Example 01C: readline-c.js

```
const readline = require('readline');
const rl = readline.createInterface({ input: process.stdin });
rl.setMaxListeners(32); // Default is 10

function print(input) {
  console.log(`Received: ${input}`);
  rl.on('line', print);
}

rl.on('line', print);
console.log("If you need more listeners use the method setMaxListeners");
```

! Mistake in the Code Above

- Initially, one observer is set up.
- Every time it runs, it **adds another listener**, leading to exponential listener growth.
- Listeners persist until the program exits.

Example 02A: DayEmitter.js

```
const EventEmitter = require('events');

class DayEmitter extends EventEmitter {
  constructor(update_time = 240) {
    super();
    this.day = new Date();
    this.update_time = update_time; // How many ms represent a
day
  }
  start() {
    this.day.setDate(this.day.getDate() + 1); // Add 1
to day
    let mm = `${(this.day.getMonth() + 1 + "").padStart(2, "0")}`; //
Month
    let dd = `${(this.day.getDate() + "").padStart(2, "0")}`; //
Day
    this.emit('newday', { mm_dd: `${mm}/${dd}` }); // Emit event
with data
    this.sleep();
  }
  sleep() {
    setTimeout(() => this.start(), this.update_time);
  }
}

module.exports = DayEmitter;
```

- Defines a class inheriting from `EventEmitter`, so it gets access to `.on()`, `.emit()`, etc.
- Constructor input: number of milliseconds representing a "day" (default: 240ms).
- `start()` updates the date and emits the 'newday' event.
- `sleep()` uses recursion + `setTimeout()` to loop continuously.

Example 02B: `index.js` (Observer File)

```
const DayEmitter = require("../modules/DayEmitter");
const day_emitter = new DayEmitter();

day_emitter.on("newday", function({ mm_dd }) {
  process.stdout.cursorTo(0, 0);
  process.stdout.clearLine();
  process.stdout.write(mm_dd);
  process.stdout.cursorTo(0, 1);
});

console.clear();
day_emitter.start();
```

- A clock-style system: every time new data occurs (newday event), it's printed on screen.
- Cursor movement is used to position the output neatly.

Multiple Observers Example with Additional Data

```
day_emitter.on("newday", function({ mm_dd }) {
  process.stdout.cursorTo(0, 0);
  process.stdout.clearLine();
  process.stdout.write(mm_dd);
  process.stdout.cursorTo(0, 1);
});

day_emitter.on("newday", function({ temp }) {
  process.stdout.cursorTo(5, 0);
  process.stdout.clearLine();
  process.stdout.write(temp);
  process.stdout.cursorTo(0, 1);
});

day_emitter.on("newday", function({ weather }) {
  process.stdout.cursorTo(10, 0);
  process.stdout.clearLine();
  process.stdout.write(weather);
  process.stdout.cursorTo(0, 1);
});
```

- Simulates displaying time, temperature, and weather at different cursor positions.
 - Shows one-to-many observer behavior.
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Using Destructuring with Multiple Event Properties

- If we emit multiple fields in one object:

```
this.emit('newday', { mm_dd, weather, temp });
```

- Each observer can destructure only what they need:

```
day_emitter.on("newday", function({ mm_dd }) {  
    // Handle just date  
});  
  
day_emitter.on("newday", function({ temp }) {  
    // Handle just temperature  
});
```

- Prevents unused variables and keeps logic clean.