

Service Calls are Asynchronous (async)

Async is (IMO) the #2 hardest things in JS

- We mostly skipped #1 (`this` keyword)
- We mostly skipped #3 (prototypes)

So async may stand out as difficult

- But you are here to learn
- **async and promises are awesome**
 - Once you learn

Async in a nutshell

Async examples:

- A request to an express server
- A `click` event listener

You say:

- When (something) happens
 - Call this callback

The callback doesn't happen immediately

- It happens "asynchronously"
 - "not in order"

Key lesson: single-threaded

Remember that your JS runs single-threaded

This means your code will never interrupt itself

- Any running synchronous code...
 - Such as the callback
- ...will finish before any other code runs

This is great for you the developer

All synchronous code will finish without interruption

Key lesson: async results are async

If you want a result that comes from async code

- Such as from a service call
- You can't use that result...
 - ...in the code that triggered async

```
let name = "";
setTimeout( () => {
  name = "Jorts";
}, 0); // Run this callback ASAP
console.log(name); // Never "Jorts"
```

async results must be handled async

Async/Await

We will now be covering **promises**

A newer syntax allows you to avoid much of the syntax

- Using **async** and **await** keywords

We will NOT be using async/await

- They ARE NOT bad!
- But they hide what you need to know
- Once you know promises (after this course)
 - You can use `async/await`
 - And you will understand them better

Callbacks

Async results are handled with **callbacks**

For DOM events you register a handler

- Called when appropriate

For Service calls, same idea

- Also for filesystem calls on Node
- Or Database interactions on Node

Pyramid of Doom

When you have nested async callbacks:

```
connectToDatabase( "dbinfo", (db) => {  
  db.authenticateToDatabase( "user", (db) =>  
    db.prepareStatement( "sql", (stmt) => {  
      stmt.executeStatement( "variable", (results) => {  
        doSomething(results);  
      });  
    });  
  });  
});
```

It gets ugly, fast

Known as the **Pyramid of Doom**

- Nested callbacks make an indented triangle

Promises

Promises are a way to track callbacks

- A promise object represents an async operation
 - Is **pending**, **resolved**, or **rejected**
 - Has a `.then()` method
 - You pass callbacks to `.then()`
 - Callbacks called when promise **resolves**
 - If already resolved
 - Callbacks are **queued** immediately
 - Nothing interrupts current code
 - If rejects
 - `.then()` callback NOT called

Promise object .then() method

Calling `.then()` w/callback

- Returns a NEW promise object!
 - Promise returned by `.then()`
- Resolves after callback runs

When X finishes, THEN call Y

- Done once Y call is complete

Simple promise example

```
console.log(1);  
returnsAPromise().then( () => console.log(2) );  
console.log(3);
```

Always logs 1 3 2

Always

Why never 1 2 3?

Chaining

```
const one = Promise.resolve(); // returns a resolved promise
const two = one.then( () => console.log(1) );
const three = two.then( () => console.log(2) );
console.log(3);
```

A more compact version using **chaining**:

```
Promise.resolve()
  .then( () => console.log(1) )
  .then( () => console.log(2) );
console.log(3);
```

Result is **always** 3 1 2

Chained example

```
Promise.resolve()  
  .then( () => console.log(1) )  
  .then( () => console.log(2) );  
console.log(3)
```

1. `Promise.resolve()` returns a resolved promise
2. First `.then()` returns a new pending promise
 - Cannot and DOES NOT call callback yet
3. Second `.then()` returns a new pending promise
4. `console.log(3)` runs as part of current sync code
5. Sync code done, `console.log(1)` can and does run
6. That pending promise is now resolved
7. `console.log(2)` now can and does run
8. That pending promise is now resolved

Resolve values

Promises might "resolve" with a value

- This value is passed to any `.then()` callbacks
- Value is **NOT** returned by the `then()` call

Examples use `Promise.resolve()`

- To get a resolved promise
- For examples
- Most "real" promises resolve differently

Resolve Value is not returned

```
const promise = Promise.resolve("hi");

const fromThen = promise.then(
  (text) => console.log(`callback: ${text}`)
);

console.log(`from then: ${fromThen}`);
```

Results:

```
from then: [object Promise]
callback: hi
```

Remember: `then()` returns a new pending promise

Golden rule: Async results must be handled async

Resolve with what

- A promise resolves with a value
- `.then()` on a promise returns a new promise

What value does the new promise resolve with?

- The return value of the callback
- EXCEPT: If that return value is a promise
 - Uses resolution of THAT promise instead

Chaining returns

Callback return value (default `undefined`!)

- Becomes resolve value of promise of that `then()`

```
const result = Promise.resolve(1)
  .then( val => {
    console.log(val);
    return val+1;
  })
  .then( val => {
    console.log(val);
    return val+1;
  })
  .then( val => {
    console.log(val);
    return val+1;
  });
```

What is `result`?

Trick question!

```
const result = Promise.resolve(1)
  .then( val => {
    console.log(val);
    return val+1;
  })
  .then( val => {
    console.log(val);
    return val+1;
  })
  .then( val => {
    console.log(val);
    return val+1;
  });
```

`result` is a PROMISE

- that resolved with value 4
- but `result` is NOT 4

No Pyramid!

```
connectToDatabase( "dbinfo", (db) => {  
  db.authenticateToDatabase( "user", (db) =>  
    db.prepareStatement( "sql", (stmt) => {  
      stmt.execute( "variable", (results) => {  
        doSomething(results);  
      });  
    });  
  });  
});
```

```
connectToDatabase("dbinfo")  
  .then( (db) => db.authenticateToDatabase("user") )  
  .then( (db) => db.prepareStatement("sql") )  
  .then( (stmt) => stmt.execute("variable") )  
  .then( (results) => doSomething(results) );  
console.log("No callbacks have run yet!");
```

Promise resolve 1

```
const result = Promise.resolve(4)
  .then( (val) => val+1 );
result.then( val => console.log(val) );
```

What is the output?

Promise resolve 2

```
const result = Promise.resolve(4)
  .then( (val) => val+1 )
  .then( () => 2 )
  .then( (val) => val+3 );
result.then( val => console.log(val) );
```

What is the output?

Promise resolve 3

```
const result = Promise.resolve(4)
  .then( (val) => val+1 )
  .then( () => Promise.resolve(2) );
result.then( val => console.log(val) );
```

What is the output?

Promise resolve 4

```
const result = Promise.resolve(1)
  .then( (val) => val+1 )
  .then( () => Promise.resolve(4) )
  .then( (val) => Promise.resolve(val+4) );
console.log(result);
```

What is the output?

Common Promise issues!

```
const result = Promise.resolve(1)
  .then( (val) => val+1 )
  .then( () => Promise.resolve(4) )
  .then( (val) => Promise.resolve(val+4) );
console.log(result);
```

`result` is a PROMISE

- I'm not (just) being annoying
- This is a common misunderstanding
- `await` would match what you "expected"
- But would also silently delay further code!
- **We are not using `await` in this course**

Try/Catch catches synchronous errors

```
try {  
  console.log(1);  
  throw new Error("poop"); // deliberate error  
  console.log(2); // won't run due to error  
} catch(err) {  
  console.log(`caught ${err}`) // caught poop  
}  
console.log(3); // still runs after error
```

Result:

```
1  
caught poop  
3
```


Try/Catch is useless with Promises!

```
try {
  Promise.resolve()
    .then( () => {
      console.log(1);
      throw new Error("poop"); // deliberate error
      console.log(2); // won't run due to error
    });
} catch(err) {
  // Doesn't happen
  console.log(`caught ${err}`);
}
console.log(3);
```

Why? (Hint: output is **3 1**)

`.catch()`

Promises `catch()` method covers "failures"

- any fatal errors INSIDE a callback
 - (such promises become **rejected**)
- any returned **rejected** Promises

`.catch()` is passed a callback

- Just like `.then()`

`.catch()` also returns a promise

- **resolves** if callback runs (like `.then()`)
- Allows you to handle errors and keep going

.catch() example

```
Promise.resolve()  
  .then( () => {  
    throw new Error("poop");  
  })  
  .then( () => console.log('does not happen') )  
  .catch( err => console.log(err) )  
  .then( () => console.log('happy again') );
```

When a promise **rejects**:

Any promises created by a `.then()` on it

- Do not call their `.then()` callbacks
- Go to **rejected** status themselves
- Call any `.catch()` callbacks on themselves

Async/Await

A newer syntax is `async` and `await`

- A different way to manage promises
- Hides the `.then()` and `.catch()`
- Implicitly sets all following code to be async
- Allows normal `try/catch`

Do not use async/await for this course

I want you to become very comfortable with promises

- Hiding things makes that harder

Once out of this course, **then** use `async/await`