Node Intro

Questions

- What is Node.js?
- How do I run (and exit) the Node.js REPL?
- How do I create and run a Node.js program?
- How do I create and use a Node module?
- What is `npm`?
- How do I set up a Node project with npm?
- What is `package.json`?
- How do I find and use npm modules?

What is Node.js

- The Google Chrome V8 JavaScript Engine
- "Runtime"
- A program that understands JS and talks to the Operating System

How do I run (and exit) the Node.js REPL?

Just type `node` in a Terminal!

```
node
```

To exit, try one of the following:

- Ctrl-C (twice)
- Ctrl-D
- `.exit`

How do I create and run a Node.js program?

Just write some JavaScript in a file!

```
console.log('Hello Node!');
```

Then...

```
node hello.js
```

How do I create and use a Node module?

Assign `module.exports` in one file

```javascript
// 1. Export the hello function
module.exports = {
    hello, // equivalent to hello: hello
    goodbye // equivalent to goodbye: goodbye
};
```

Require that file path in another file

```javascript
const {hello, goodbye} = require('./greetings');
hello('Oakley');
goodbye('Felicia');
```

What is npm?

- Node
- Packaged
- Modules

Or: "Node Package Manager"

How do I set up a Node project with npm?

```
npm init -y
```

This creates `package.json`

What is `package.json`?

- metadata about your project
- contains list of 3rd party modules
- it's a manifest that lists out everything needed for your project to run

How do I find and use npm modules?

Search on npmjs.com

Then `require` the modules (with no `./`)

Why no `./`? Because Node knows to look in the `node_modules` directory by default.

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How do I install something globally?

Add a `-g` to the `npm install` command:

```
npm install -g cowsay
```

And should I?

Try not to. It's best for all of your dependencies to be part of your project.

Should I ever commit my `node_modules` to git?

Aw hell naw.