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Things we will learn

What is GraphQL?

Querying with GraphQL

⏱️ Adding GraphQL to your app (SQL database, gRPC service)

Using GraphQL to connect different data types

Choosing a GraphQL library

What is GraphQL?

Prarthana Sannamani @prar_s ·2 Aug 2018
GraphQL is a specification, so it is just a document. It specifies a query language for APIs + server side run time to execute them. You can implement it in any language. The original Facebook implementation is in Node. It is database agnostic and transport layer agnostic. 😮

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Things you'll learn:

- Schema
- Query Language
- Resolvers

Querying

- Specify only the data you need!
- Make one query for all the data you need!
- Get all related data in a single query, without having to manually match it
- GraphQL playground for experimenting and exploration

Adding GraphQL to your app

- Choose a GraphQL library
- Define your schema
- Add resolver functions to satisfy the schema

Demo application:

https://github.com/rmars/emojivoto

Connecting data

- Using resolvers, we can stitch together data from different sources!

Things I don't have time to tell you about

- Mutations
  - For adding / updating data
- Subscriptions
  - The server can send updates back to the client when data changes!

Choosing a GraphQL library

- https://graphql.org/code/
- Available for many languages!
- General advice:
  - Look at commit velocity
  - Look at open / resolved issues
  - Documentation
  - Help

GraphQL pros

G█ exactly the data you request (small!)

G█ all the data in a single request (fast!)

A█ exploration and documentation

G█ at for prototyping

S█ ch together all the data!

GraphQL cons

It's easy to request a LOT of data

Watch your query depth!

Client caching (HTTP caching per URL not possible)

Cache your backend queries / db lookups!

Learning curve (not too bad though)

bit.ly/wwg-graphql