The Birth of Node: Where Did it Come From? Creator Ryan Dahl Shares the History

by Amber Harris | Apr 1, 2013 | 0 comments

We get a lot of great guests on theCube, but one of our most popular segments was with Ryan Dahl, the creator of Node, who tells us in his own words how his creation first came about. His story begins about seven years ago, when he saw a demo on Flickr, he believes, where one could post an image and would see the progress bar going and people were blown away.

"You would think the web browser is sending a file…" he said.

"The way that these progress bars is as you're uploading a file, you reach around on the side and ask the server, 'how much have I uploaded?' and the server responds, 'okay 3 percent, 5 percent' and so this way the user can kind of see how the progress bar is going."

Handling multiple requests at once was difficult during that time, Dahl explains, because someone uploading a particular file that could be going on for several minutes at the same time and you have this extra request coming in that needs a response concurrently.

"Turns out, a lot of the frameworks were designed in a way that they made the assumption a request — response is something that happens instantaneously and that your entire web development experience should be abstracted as a function. You get a request, you return a response. That is the extent of your context."

"Node was originally born out of this problem — how can you handle two things at the same time? Non-blocking sockets is one way. Node is more or less the idea, or exploring the idea: what if everything was non-blocking? What if you never waited for any IO to happen?"

For example, the non-blocking IO, what falls out of that? And pairing that with JavaScript, it turns out you can make a web upload progress bar with this, among other things.

"In early 2009, I had the idea of putting JavaScript and non-blocking IO together and see if something useful could be built, and I worked on that between four and six months before I had a demo I could work with. I showed off the demo at a European conference"

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As the interview closed, Dahl proudly said, "I think one thing we do very well with Node is integrate other people into the community. We're very open about what we're working on and trying to bring people into the project."

See Part 1 of Dahl's captivating segment below:

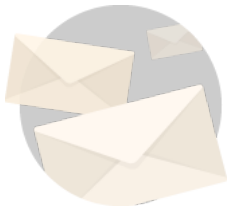| About	Latest Posts

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The Status of Flash for Practitioners

- David Floyer

CIO and senior IT executives should minimize investments in HDDs for latency storage investments going forward. Storage practitioners should focus on moving latency storage to flash, implementing a sound catalog strategy for the management of snapshots, and a strategy for linking to on-premise or cloud-based capacity resources. Any storage that involves assisting end-users and customers should be regarded as latency storage.

Public Cloud Market Shares 2014 and 2015

- Ralph Finos

A companion piece to Wikibon's Public Cloud Market Forecast 2015-2026, this research

examines the revenue from SaaS, IaaS and PaaS vendors. The competitive environment surrounding the Public Cloud is in flux. SaaS remains turbulent with new entrants successfully gaining share and incumbent licensed software providers trying to develop SaaS offerings and reclaim leadership positions they have maintained for a decade or more. The IaaS segment leadership is beginning to crystalize as a function of scale, but PaaS is just formulating and finding its way. As such, enterprises need to be wary of which providers are winning and losing (and where), but more importantly what they themselves intend to accomplish with Public Cloud.

Managing a Virtual Flash World, where Snapshots are King and Knave

- David Floyer

Cataloging and automated policy management are the key enablers of a virtual flash world, where storage snapshots are both King and Knave. Combining cataloging and automated policy management is the only solution to enabling storage copy reduction in harmony is risk management and compliance. This enables and justifies an all-flash data center, enables data to be available quicker to the business and other IT functions, and drives greater business and IT productivity and responsiveness. CIOs and senior management should create a small team of the best and brightest, create an optimized all-flash virtual environment with a programmatically integrated catalog in a subset of the datacenter, and demonstrate the practicality and benefits of this environment to the business and IT.

The M(any) Angles of VMworld 2015 on theCUBE

- Stuart Miniman

VMworld has grown to be one of the largest and most important technology industry events. Wikibon has attended this event for many years and will have its largest presence this year as part of a double-set of theCUBE. Coverage will examine the broad and diverse ecosystem including storage, cloud, networking and much more.

Realities of the New Infrastructure Stack

- Stuart Miniman

Flash, Hyperconvergence, OpenStack, Containers and Platforms are some of the hottest infrastructure technologies today. This article looks at the realities of each area to determine what is real and where users should be cautious.

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