Modern JavaScript Tools

slides at https://github.com/mvolkmann/talks

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The Plan

For each topic we will cover ...

- 1) purpose
- 2) alternatives
- 3) how to configure and use
- 4) demo

Demo App

"Hello World" web app

- very simple to avoid distracting from focus on tools
- doesn't use any framework to avoid bias toward one
- available at https://github.com/mvolkmann/modern-js-tools

Notable files

- index.html
- demo.css
- src/index.js uses ES6 import
- src/demo.js uses ES6 exports
- src/demo.test.js tests for demo.js
- package.json
- plus several tool configuration files discussed later

Modern JS Tools Demo Name Mark Hello, Mark! Greet

To run enter these in separate terminals: npm run build npm run sync

npm Overview

https://www.npmjs.com/

Purpose

- installs Node packages
- manages dependencies in package.json and package-lock.json
- scripts common tasks

Alternatives

- for installing and managing dependencies yarn
- for scripting tasks gulp and Grunt



npm Details

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- Automatically installed when Node.js is installed
 - can install separately, but why?
- Initially an acronym for Node Package Manager
 - they are trying hard to convince us that it's not an acronym now ... not sure why
- Common commands
 - npm init asks questions and creates package.json
 - npm install name installs a specified package as a runtime dependency
 - npm install -D name installs a specified package as a development dependency
 - npm install installs all dependencies listed in package.json
 - and creates package-lock.json file
 - npm run script-name runs an npm script can omit run for "special" scripts
 - npx command see https://www.npmjs.com/package/npx

npm Scripts

- Defined in package.json
- Can write in a way that works on Windows and *nix platforms
 - shx "Portable Shell Commands for Node" also see shelljs at https://shelljs.org
 - https://github.com/shelljs/shx
 - cross-env "Run scripts that set and use environment variables across platforms"
 - https://github.com/kentcdodds/cross-env also see **cross-run** at https://github.com/sheerun/cross-run

Examples

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ESLint Overview

http://eslint.org/

Purpose

- "The pluggable linting utility for JavaScript and JSX"
- can report many syntax errors and potential run-time errors
- can report deviations from specified coding guidelines

Alternatives

- JSLint from Douglas Crockford
- JSHint a more configurable, less opinionated version of JSLint
- TSLint for TypeScript



ESLint Details

- Error messages identify violated rules,
 making it easy to adjust them if you disagree
- Has --fix mode that can fix violations of many rules
 - modifies source files
- To install, npm install -D eslint babel-eslint

"You only need to use **babel-eslint** if you are using **types** (Flow) or **experimental features** not supported in ESLint itself yet."

To use from an npm script, add following to package.json

```
"lint": "eslint --quiet src --ext .js", --quiet only reports errors
```

- Editor/IDE integrations available
 - Atom, Eclipse, emacs, Intellij IDEA, Sublime, VS Code, Vim, WebStorm

```
may also want eslint-plugin-flowtype, eslint-plugin-html, and eslint-plugin-react eslint-plugin-html lints JS in HTML files
```

ESLint Rules

- No rules are enforced by default
- Desired rules must be configured
- See list of current rules at http://eslint.org/docs/rules/
- Configuration file formats supported
 - JSON .eslintrc.json; can include JavaScript comments; most popular
 - JavaScript .eslintrc.js

see mine at https://github.com/mvolkmann/ MyUnixEnv/blob/master/.eslintrc.ison

- YAML .eslintrc.yaml
- inside package.json using eslintConfig property
- use of .eslintrc containing JSON or YAML is deprecated
- Searches upward from current directory for these files
 - combines settings in all configuration files found with settings in closest taking precedence
 - configuration file in home directory is only used if no other configuration files are found

ESLint Demo

- See lint script in package.json
- Modify src/demo.js
 - remove an "e" from name of handleGreet function
- npm run lint

Prettier Overview

https://github.com/prettier/prettier

Purpose

- "An opinionated JavaScript formatter ...
 with advanced support for language features
 from ES2017, JSX, Flow, TypeScript, CSS, LESS, and SCSS"
- "Parses your JavaScript into an AST and pretty-prints the AST, completely ignoring any of the original formatting"
 - "Well actually, some original styling is preserved when practical see empty lines and multi-line objects."
- can also format JSON, Markdown, and more

Alternatives

- Standard https://standardjs.com/
 - no semicolons
 - space after function names before left paren in definitions
 ex. function foo (bar, baz) {



Prettier Details

- To install, npm install -D prettier
- To use from an npm script, add following to package.json

```
"format": "prettier --no-bracket-spacing --single-quote --write 'src/**/*.{css,js}'",

to format all matching files under src directory, enter npm run format

--write option overwrites existing files with formatted versions

Can also configure in .prettierrc file

| windows use escaped double-quotes |
|-write \"src/**/*.{css,js}\"",
|-write \"src/**/*.{css,js}\"",
```

- Doesn't run on files under node modules by default
- Editor/IDE integrations available

"singleOuote": true

Atom, Emacs, JetBrains, Sublime, Vim, VS Code

Create .prettierignore file and add package.json to it to avoid thrashing because npm install rewrites this file.

Prettier Options



- -- jsx-bracket-same-line
 - puts closing > of JSX start tags on last line instead of on new line



- --no-bracket-spacing
- omits spaces between brackets in object literals
- VS. {foo='1' bar=true} { foo='1' bar=true }

- --no-semi omits semicolons
- --parser for use with TypeScript, set to "typescript"
- --print-width *n* defaults to 80



--single-quote This may become the default. See https://github.com/prettier/prettier/issues/4102

- uses single quotes instead of double quotes for string delimiters
- --tab-width n defaults to 2
- --trailing-comma
 - adds trailing commas wherever possible; defaults to none
- --use-tabs uses tabs instead of spaces for indentation
- and more lesser used options

<something <something prop1="value1" prop1="value1" prop2="value1" prop2="value1" prop3="value1" prop3="value1" VS. prop4="value1" prop4="value1"> content content </something> </something>

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Prettier Demo

- See format Script in package.json
- Modify src/demo.js
 - remove several semicolons
 - mess up lots of indentation
 - put onLoad parameter on a separate line
- npm run format and reload file in editor to see changes or trigger from editor/IDE plugin

Babel Overview

Purpose

- transpiles JavaScript code to different JavaScript code
- can use newer JS features in environments that don't support them yet
 - reads modern JS code and generates new JS code that runs in older environments
 - ex. ES modules
- can use JS features not yet finalized by ECMAScript (via plugins)
 - ex. String trimStart and trimEnd methods | stage 3 proposal

- can use features that may never be part of ECMAScript
 - ex. Flow for type checking

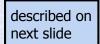
Alternatives

TypeScript - also adds types and support for custom syntax



Babel Details

To install, npm install -D babel-cli babel-preset-env



To use from an npm script, add following to package.json

```
"babel": "babel src -d dist"
```

not needed if using webpack and babel-loader

Babel Plugins

Recommended plugins

- babel-preset-env
 - "automatically determines the Babel plugins you need based on your supported environments"
 - can target specific browser versions and Node.js versions
 - https://babeljs.io/docs/plugins/preset-env/
- babel-plugin-transform-flow-strip-types
 - removes Flow type declarations from .js files
 - https://babeljs.io/docs/plugins/transform-flow-strip-types/
- To use a plugin
 - install with npm as a dev dependency
 - configure in .babelrc (see next slide)

environments are specified in .babelrc

Babel Configuration

- In .babelrc file
- Example

Babel Demo

- See babel script in package.json
 - only there for this demo since webpack (covered later) will also run babel
- rm -rf dist
- npm run babel
- Note files in dist directory

Why Use Types?



- Can find type errors before runtime
 - more convenient than waiting until runtime
- Types document expectations about code
 - types of variables, object properties, function parameters, and function return types
 - comments can be used instead, but those
 - are more verbose
 - tend to be applied inconsistently
 - easily go out of date when code is updated
- Increases refactoring confidence
 - don't have to wonder what assumptions callers made about supported types
- Removes need to write ...
 - error checking code for type violations
 - type-related unit tests
- Editor/IDE plugins can use types to highlight issues and provide code completion

Why Avoid Types?



- Takes time to ...
 - learn type syntax
 - master applying them
- Makes code more verbose
- Can hamper prototyping and rapid development
 - developers can lose focus when distracted by having to satisfy a compiler or type checker

When to Use Types



Use types when

- application is large, complex, or critical
- expected lifetime of code is long and refactoring is likely
- code will be written and maintained by a team of developers

Avoid types when

the conditions above are not present

Flow Overview



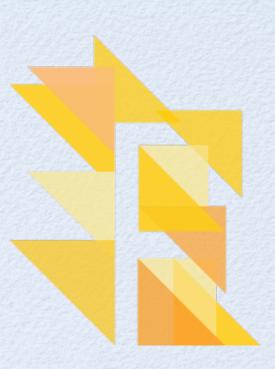
https://flow.org/

Purpose

- "A static type checker, designed to find type errors in JavaScript programs"
- catches many errors without types
 using type inference and flow analysis
- "precisely tracks the types of variables as they flow through the program"
- can gradually add types

Alternatives

TypeScript - https://www.typescriptlang.org/



Flow Details



- Open source tool from Facebook
- Most ES6+ features are supported
 - for a list, see https://github.com/facebook/flow/issues/560
- Supports React and JSX
- To install, npm install -D name
 - Where name is babel-cli, babel-eslint, babel-plugin-transform-flow-strip-types, eslint-plugin-flowtype, and flow-bin
- Editor/IDE integrations available
 - Atom, emacs, Sublime, VS Code, Vim, WebStorm
- Too much to say about this
 - see slides at https://github.com/mvolkmann/talks/blob/master/flow.key.pdf
 and talk video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kt3urZOg4g

To install type definitions for all dependencies in package.json, npm install -g flow-typed flow-typed install flow init (creates flowconfig edit flowconfig and add flow-typed after [libs]

Reasons to Prefer Flow Over TS

- Catches more errors without adding types
 - via better flow analysis
- Strict null checking is the default
 - also true for new TS projects that use "tsc --init"
- Uses nominal rather than structural type checking for classes
 - the right thing to do
- Just does type checking, not transpiling, so Babel can be used for transpiling
 - can tell TS to target ES6 and then run that output through Babel, but that feels awkward
- Just adds types
 - TS extends the language with features that may never be added to JavaScript

Flow Demo



- See flow script in package.json
- Modify src/demo.js
 - change type of getGreeting name parameter to number
 - change type of handleGreet messageDiv parameter to HTMLInputElement
- npm run flow
 or see errors provided by editor/IDE plugin

Jest Overview



https://facebook.github.io/jest/

Purpose

- a JavaScript test framework "built on top of Jasmine"
- "runs your tests with a fake DOM implementation (via jsdom) so that your tests can run on the command line"
- can watch source and test files and have tests automatically rerun when they change
 - can run all tests or only those that failed in last run

Alternatives

- Mocha https://mochajs.org/
- Jasmine https://jasmine.github.io/
- **AVA** https://github.com/avajs/ava
- Tape https://github.com/substack/tape



Jest Details



- To install, npm install -D jest
- To use from an npm script, add following to package.json
 "test": "jest",
- Has good support for mocking and spies
 - create a mock function with jest.fn()
 - add a mock implementation with jest.fn.mockImplementation(someFn)
 - test that a mock function was called with
 expect(mockFn).toBeCalled() Or
 expect(mockFn).toBeCalledWith(arg1, arg2, ...)
 - for more see https://facebook.github.io/jest/docs/en/mock-function-api.html
- Can use to test React components
 - but isn't specific to React
 - supports "snapshot tests" for React components (more on next slide)
 - default test framework of apps created with create-react-app

Jest Snapshot Tests



- Snapshot tests assert that ...
 - a component will render same content as last successful test
- The first time snapshot tests are run ...
 - toMatchSnapshot matchers save a representation of the rendered output
 in a subdirectory of the test file named __snapshots__ snapshot directories should
- In subsequent runs ...
 - the same representation is generated again and compared to what was saved in last successful run
- When snapshot tests fail ...
 - scroll back to review differences in rendered output
 - if changes are correct, press "u" to accept them
 - overwrites previous snapshot files with new ones
 - if changes are incorrect, fix code and run tests again
- Requires react-test-renderer
 - npm install -D react-test-renderer

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be checked into version control

Jest Watch Mode



- To enable, add --watch option to jest command
- Can iteratively change code being tested and tests and have tests rerun automatically on save from any editor/IDE
- Can filter tests to run
 - to filter on file name, press p and enter a regex pattern
 - to filter on test name, press t and enter a regex pattern
 - to return to running all tests, press a
 - to quit watch mode, press q
 - to show usage help for additional options, press w
- Add .only and/or .skip
 to describe, test, and it function names
 to focus testing

Enzyme Overview



http://airbnb.io/enzyme/

Purpose

tests interactions with React components
 by finding elements and simulating events on them

Alternatives

React test-utils - https://reactjs.org/docs/test-utils.html

Enzyme Details



- To install, npm install -D enzyme
- Steps
 - render a component with mount, render, or shallow
 - these return a wrapper object representing what was rendered
 - find an input element whose interaction will be tested
 - by calling find on wrapper object
 - supports a subset of CSS selectors
 - simulate an event on it
 - by calling simulate on wrapper returned by find
 - make assertions about changes that should occur
 - can use expect from Jest

render performs static rendering. This generates static HTML. Assertions can only test what is rendered.

Shallow performs shallow rendering. The component and its top-level children are rendered, but not their descendants. Assertions can test what the parent renders and can simulate events on those elements.

mount performs full rendering. The top component and all its ancestors are rendered. Assertions can test everything that is rendered and simulate events on everything.

Jest Demo



- See test script in package.json
- npm t
 - runs tests in watch mode
 - initially all tests pass
- Modify src/demo.js
 - remove comma from string returned by getGreeting
 - change === to !== in handleNameChange
 - note errors when tests run automatically
 - fix errors one at a time
 - press w to see options
 - press **q** to quit

Istanbul Overview

https://istanbul.js.org/

- Purpose
 - collects and reports code coverage statistics
- Alternatives
 - nothing notable



Istanbul Details

- Ships with Jest
 - Jest reports code coverage of tests using Istanbul
- If not using Jest, npm install -D istanbul
- To use from an npm script, add following to package.json

"cover": "open coverage/lcov-report/index.html",

!Windows, consider https://www.npmjs.com/package/opener

- assumes Jest is configured to collect test coverage data
- To exclude code from coverage statistics, use special comment // istanbul ignore word where word is next, if, or else
 - good for code that should never be executed or is very difficult to execute from a test
 - is using this considered cheating?

Istanbul Configuration

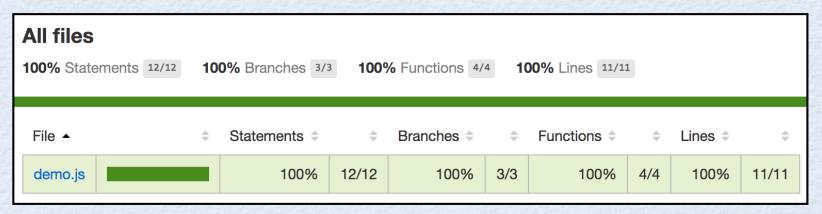
- Can configure to fail if coverage is below specified thresholds
- When using Jest, can configure in package.json Or jest.json
- jest.json

```
"collectCoverage": true,
"collectCoverageFrom": [
    "src/**/*.js",
    "!src/index.js"
],
"coverageThreshold": {
    "global": {
        "branches": 100,
        "functions": 100,
        "lines": 100,
        "statements": 100
    }
}

can have more than one statement on same line
}
```

Istanbul Demo ...

- See these scripts in package.json
 - build Calls verify
 - verify CallS test
 - test runs tests and records coverage in files under coverage directory
 - cover opens coverage report in coverage/lcov-report/index.html
- npm run test
- npm run cover



... Istanbul Demo

- Modify demo.test.js
 - change test for handleNameChange to test.skip
- npm run test
- Refresh browser
- Click demo.js
 to see detail
- Note uncovered code paths

```
All files demo.js
83.33% Statements 10/12
                                                   75% Functions 3/4
                            100% Branches 3/3
                                                                         81.82% Lines 9/11
         // @flow
  3
         export function getGreeting(name: string = 'World'): string {
           if (name === '') name = 'nobody';
  5
     4x
           return `Hello, ${name}!`;
  6
  7
  8
         export function handleGreet(
  9
           nameInput: HTMLInputElement,
 10
           messageDiv: HTMLDivElement,
           event: Event
 11
 12
         ): void {
 13 1x
           event.preventDefault();
 14
     1x
           messageDiv.textContent = getGreeting(nameInput.value);
 15
 16
 17
         export function handleNameChange(
 18
           nameInput: HTMLInputElement,
 19
           greetButton: HTMLButtonElement
 20
         ): void {
 21
           const name = nameInput.value;
 22
           greetButton.disabled = name.length === 0;
 23
```

webpack 4 Overview



https://webpack.js.org/

Purpose

- bundles JavaScript files and other resources into a single JavaScript file to load into browsers faster
- enables use of ES6 import/export syntax rather than adding a script tag for each .js file in main HTML

Alternatives

- Rollup https://rollupjs.org/
- Browserify http://browserify.org/
- Parcel https://parceljs.org/

Webpack 4 supports "zero configuration" in some cases, but not when using Flow.

Parcel does support this with no configuration!



webpack Loaders



- Optionally uses "loaders" to convert non-JS files into JS files so they can be bundled
- Examples of loaders | see https://webpack.js.org/loaders/
 - babel-loader "allows transpiling JavaScript files using Babel"
- "Loaders enable webpack to process more than just JavaScript files (webpack itself only understands JavaScript). They give you the ability to leverage webpack's bundling capabilities for all kinds of files by converting them to valid modules that webpack can process."
- css-loader "interprets @import and url() like import/require() and will resolve them"
- sass-loader "loads a SASS/SCSS file and compiles it to CSS"
- style-loader "adds CSS to the DOM by injecting a <style> tag"

webpack Details



- To install, npm install -D webpack webpack-cli
- To install any loaders used
 - npm install -D babel-loader css-loader style-loader
 - and for Babel, npm install -D babel-core babel-preset-env
- To use from an npm script, add following to package.json

```
"bundle": "webpack --mode development",
```

defaults to production

- development mode optimizes for developer error messages
- production mode optimizes for size
- Has watch mode to automatically create a new bundle when files change
 - not on by default, add "watch: true" to configuration
 - but doesn't provide live reload, so manually refresh browser
- Also consider webpack-dev-server
 - "Uses webpack with a development server that provides live reloading."
 - "for development only"

webpack Configuration



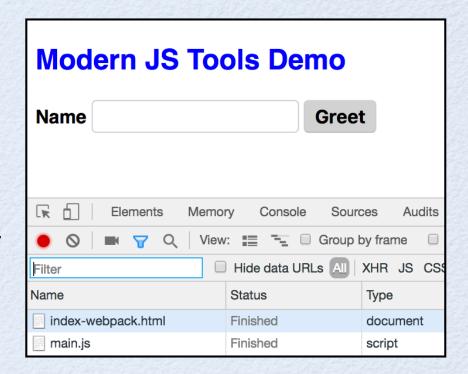
- A common complaint about webpack is that it is difficult to configure
- It can be, but here is a simple webpack.config.js
- TRY WITHOUT THIS FILE!

```
module.exports = {
  entry: './src/index.js',
  output: {
    path: dirname, current directory
    filename: 'dist/main.js'
  },
  module: {
    rules: [
         test: /\.js$/,
         exclude: /node modules/,
        use: 'babel-loader'
      },
         test: /\.css$/,
         exclude: /node modules/,
         use: [
           {loader: 'style-loader'},
                                       run in opposite of
           {loader: 'css-loader'}
                                        specified order
     },
  watch: true
```

webpack Demo



- npm run clean
- npm run bundle
 - will continue running due to watch mode
- Note contents of list directory
 - only main.js
- Open index-webpack.html in browser
- Note first two files loaded in devtools Network tab
 - CSS is on line 96 in main.js



Parcel Overview

https://parceljs.org/

Purpose

- transpiles using Babel
- bundles JavaScript files and other resources into a single JavaScript file to load into browsers faster
- enables use of ES6 import/export syntax
 rather than adding a script tag for each .js file in main HTML

From web site

- "offers blazing fast performance utilizing multicore processing, and requires zero configuration"
- "can take any type of file as an entry point, but an HTML or JavaScript file is a good place to start"
- "has a development server built in, which will automatically rebuild your app as you change files and supports hot module replacement for fast development"



Alternatives

- Rollup https://rollupjs.org/
- Webpack https://webpack.js.org/



Parcel Details

- To install, npm install -D parcel-bundler
- To process Sass files, npm install -D node-sass
- To use from an npm script, add following to package.json

```
"parcel": "parcel index.html",
```

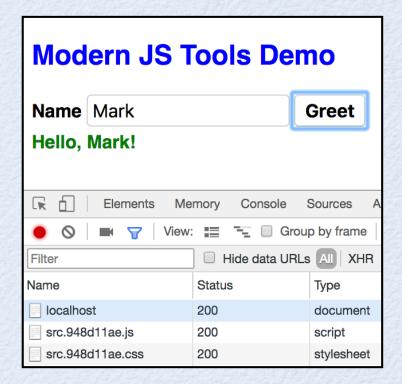
- Writes files to dist directory, starts local server, and watches for changes
 - browse localhost:1234
- To build without starting server and without watch

```
"parcel": "parcel build index.html",
```

For more options, see https://parceljs.org/cli.html

Parcel Demo

- npm run clean
- npm run parcel
 - will continue running with watch mode
- Note contents of dist directory
 - index.html
 - src.something.js
 - src.something.css
- Browse localhost:1234
- Note first .js and .css files loaded in devtools Network tab



Browsersync



https://www.browsersync.io/

- Purpose
 - provides live reload of browser for development testing
- Alternatives
 - livereload in npm more complicated setup
 - several commercial tools
- To install,
 npm install -D browser-sync
- To start from an npm script, add following to package.json

```
"sync": "browser-sync start --server --files 'index.html' 'build/bundle.js'",

Many more options!

| another option for --files |
| '**/*.css, **/*.html, **/*.js' |
```



Browsersync Demo



- Modify index.html
 - change button text Greet to Howdy
- Modify demo.js
 - change Hello to Howdy in getGreeting function
- Note how browser picks up changes without manually rebuilding and refreshing

Husky Overview

https://github.com/typicode/husky

Purpose

- "Git hooks made easy"
- can specify in package.json instead of in separate files in .git/hooks directory
- one use is to configure a Git hook for prepush that runs ESLint, Prettier, and tests and doesn't push if any of those fail

Alternatives

- manually create in .git/hooks directory (just using Git)
- pre-commit (in npm)
- ghooks (in npm)



Husky Detail

- To install, npm install -D husky
- In package.json

```
"scripts": {
    ...
    "prepush": "npm run verify",
    "cover": "jest --coverage",
    "verify": "npm-run-all lint format test",
    ...
}
```

- Can bypass
 - git push --no-verify
 - mostly useful to push to own branch rather than master

```
alias pushn='git push --no-verify origin `git rev-parse --abbrev-ref HEAD`'
gets name of current branch
```

Husky Demo

- Modify demo.test.js
 - change test for handleNameChange to test.skip
 - will cause test coverage to fall below goals
- Commit change
 - git commit -av
- Attempt to push changes
 - git push
 - runs the lint, format, and test scripts
 - if any of these fail, the push is not performed

Wrap Up

- Configuring tools requires a bit of work,
 but the information and automation they provide is well worth the effort
- Tools reduce time spent performing tedious tasks
 - like finding bugs, formatting code, and running tests
- Go forth and automate!

Bonus Tool: Emmet

an editor plugin for quickly entering HTML and CSS; see article at https://objectcomputing.com/resources/publications/sett/march-2018-emmet-editor-plugin