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

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
- src/demo.js
- src/demo.test.js
- package.json
- plus several tool configuration files discussed later

Modern JS Tools Demo Name Mark Hello, Mark!

npm Overview

https://www.npmjs.com/

Purpose

- installs Node packages
- manages dependencies
- scripts common tasks

Alternatives

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



npm Details

- 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
 - npm run script-name and npm script-name runs an npm script

for "special" scripts

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npm Scripts

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

```
"build": "npm-run-all verify bundle",
"bundle": "webpack",
"clean": "rm -rf build coverage",
"cover": "CI=true jest src -- --coverage",
"cover-open": "open coverage/lcov-report/index.html",
"flow": "flow",
"format": "prettier-eslint --write src/**/*.js",
"lint": "eslint --quiet src --ext .js",
"test": "jest --watch src",
"verify": "npm-run-all lint flow cover"
```

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



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
- 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, Visual Studio Code, Vim, WebStorm

may also want eslint-plugin-flowtype,
eslint-plugin-html, and eslint-plugin-react

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/emo.js
 - remove semicolon from if statement in getGreeting function
 - 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"
- can also format JSX, Flow, TypeScript, JSON, CSS, Less, Sass, Markdown, and more

Alternatives

- Standard https://standardjs.com/
 - no semicolons
 - space after function names before left paren



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 .js files under src directory, enter npm run format
- --write option overwrites existing files with formatted versions
- Can also configure in a .prettierrc file

```
{
  "bracketSpacing": false,
  "singleQuote": true
}
```

- Doesn't run on files under node_modules by default
- Editor/IDE integrations available
 - Atom, Emacs, JetBrains, Sublime, Vim, Visual Studio Code

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
- --no-semi omits semicolons
- --print-width n defaults to 80



- --single-quote
- 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
  prop1="value1"
  prop2="value1"
  prop3="value1"
  prop4="value1"
  prop4="value1"
  content
  </something>

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

```
{ foo='1' bar=true } VS. {foo='1' bar=true}
```

prettier-eslint-cli

https://github.com/prettier/prettier-eslint-cli

- Command-line interface to prettier-eslint
- "Formats your JavaScript using prettier followed by eslint --fix"
- "Get the benefits of Prettier's superior formatting capabilities, but also benefit from the configuration capabilities of ESLint"
- npm install -D prettier-eslint-cli
- To use from an npm script,
 change prettier to prettier-eslint

Prettier and CSS



- While Prettier can process CSS files, ESLint cannot
- So it doesn't make sense to run prettier-eslint-cli on CSS files
- Consider adding a separate npm script like

```
"format-css": "prettier --write src/**/*.css",
```

- If using Sass
 - no need to format generated CSS files

Prettier Demo

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

Babel Overview

Purpose

- transpiles JavaScript code to different JavaScript code
- to 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; called "transpiling"
 - ex. ES modules
- to use JS features not yet finalized by ECMAScript (via plugins)
 - ex. object rest and spread operators
- to use features that may never be part of ECMAScript
 - ex. Flow

Alternatives

TypeScript - also adds types and support for custom syntax

BABEL

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 build"
```

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 versions of Node.js
- 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/

babel-plugin-transform-object-rest-spread

- transforms code that uses object spread and object rest into equivalent code that doesn't
- https://babeljs.io/docs/plugins/transform-object-rest-spread/

To use a plugin

- install with npm as a dev dependency
- configure in .babelrc (see next slide)

Babel Configuration

- In .babelrc file
- Example

Babel Demo

- See babel script in package.json
- rm -rf build
- npm run babel
- Note files in build 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

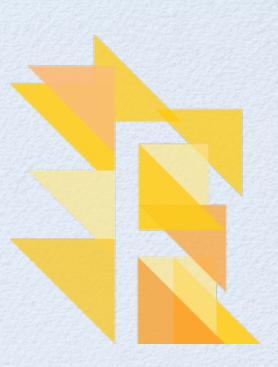
https://flow.org/

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-tpyes, eslint-plugin-flow-type, and flow-bin
- Editor/IDE integrations available
 - Atom, emacs, Sublime, Visual Studio 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

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- 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 not be added to JavaScript

Flow

Flow Demo

- See flow Script in package.json
- Modify src/demo.js
 - change type of getGreeting name parameter to number
 - change return type of getGreeting 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 automatically reruns tests 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",
- Can use to test React components
 - but isn't specific to React
 - support "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 on filenames
 - 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 and test 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 on 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": "CI=true npm run test-nowatch -- --coverage",
"cover-open": "open coverage/lcov-report/index.html",
```

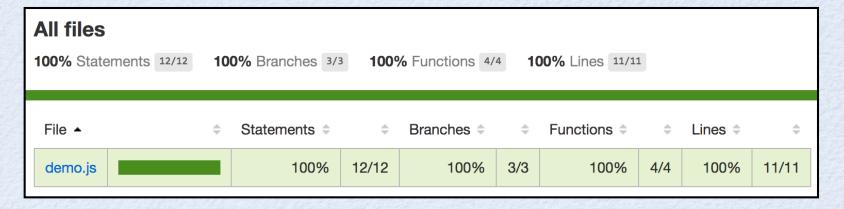
Istanbul Configuration

- Can configure to fail if coverage is below specified thresholds
- package.json Changes

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

Istanbul Demo ...

- See cover, cover-open, verify, and build scripts in package.json
- npm run cover
- npm run cover-open



... Istanbul Demo

- Change handleNameChange test in demo.test.js to test.skip
- npm run cover
- Refresh browser
- Click demo.js
 to see detail
- Note uncovered code paths

```
All files demo.js
83.33% Statements 10/12
                            100% Branches 3/3
                                                   75% Functions 3/4
                                                                          81.82% Lines 9/11
         // @flow
  1
   2
   3
         export function getGreeting(name: string = 'World'): string {
   4 4x
            if (name === '') name = 'nobody';
   5
           return `Hello, ${name}!`;
   6
   7
   8
         export function handleGreet(
   9
            nameInput: HTMLInputElement,
  10
           messageDiv: HTMLDivElement,
  11
            event: Event
  12
         ): void {
  13 1x
            event.preventDefault();
  14
           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 Overview

Purpose

- bundle JavaScript files and other resources into a single JavaScript file to load into browsers faster
- enable 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 Loaders

- webpack 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"
- 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."

"Loaders enable webpack to

- 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
- To install loaders used here
 - npm install -D babel-loader css-loader style-loader
- To use from an npm script, add following to package.json

"bundle": "webpack",

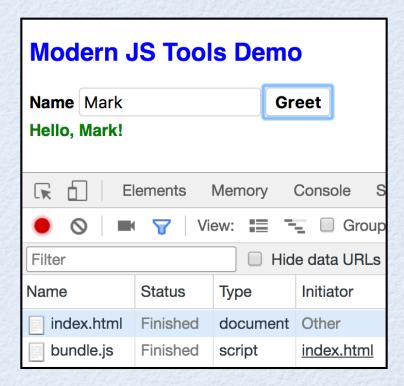
webpack Configuration

- A common complaint about webpack is that it is difficult to configure
- It can be, but here is a simple webpack.config.js

```
module.exports = {
  entry: './src/index.js',
  output: {
    path: dirname, current directory
    filename: 'build/bundle.js'
  },
  module: {
    loaders: [
        test: /\.js$/,
        exclude: /node modules/,
        loader: 'babel-loader'
      },
        test: /\.css$/,
        exclude: /node modules/,
        loader: 'style-loader!css-loader'
      },
```

webpack Demo

- rm -rf build
- npm bundle
- Note contents of build directory
 - Only bundle.js
- Open index.html in browser
- Note files loaded in devtools Network tab



Wrap Up

- Configuring tools requires a bit of work, but the 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!