

# Practical JavaScript

Ethan Brown

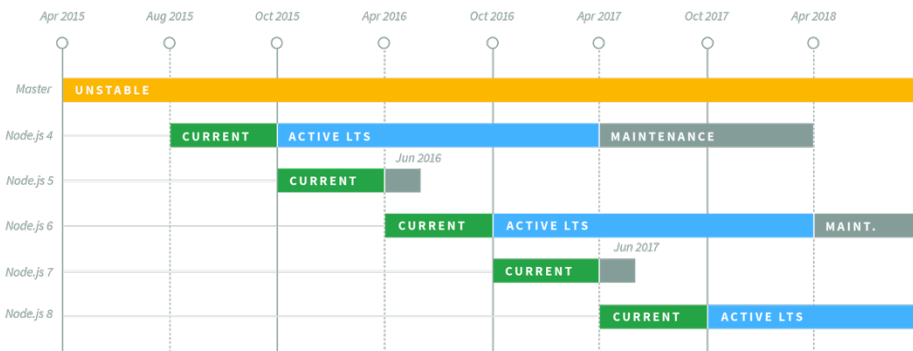
# Language Versions & Terminology

- JavaScript (JS) = ECMAScript (ES), for all practical intents and purposes
- ES2015 = ES6 = Harmony
- ES2016, ES2017: yearly language updates moving forward
- ES5: High browser compatibility
- TC39: Language specification committee
- [Ben McCormick on JavaScript versioning](#)
- [Kangax compatibility table](#)

# Node.js

- What's [Node](#)?
- LTS = Long-term Support
- [Current LTS: 6.x \(Boron\)](#)
- nvm: Easy way to switch between Node versions
- What's [npm](#)?
  - Package manager
  - Not just for Node

Node.js Long Term Support (LTS) Release Schedule



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# JavaScript Ecosystem: The Big Players

- [Express](#): Node-based web server
- [React](#): Front-end framework (Facebook)
  - Unopinionated, flexible
  - Offers path to other platforms with [React Native](#) and [React VR](#)
  - [Flux](#) and [Redux](#): important, powerful paradigms, good for larger projects
- [Angular](#): Front-end framework (Google)
  - Relatively opinionated, complex, robust
  - Possibly path to mobile with [NativeScript](#)

# What about persistence?

- [MongoDB](#): robust, stable, popular
- [Firebase](#) (Google): simple, offers other services like authentication and storage
- [DynamoDB](#) (Amazon): robust, good choice if using AWS
- [CouchDB](#) (Apache): up-and-coming, good synchronization/offline support
- [Redis](#): key-value pair database, good for caching, sessions

# What You'll Need: Local Environment

	Windows	Linux	OSX
Version control	<a href="#">Git</a>	<a href="#">Git</a> OR: sudo apt-get git (Ubuntu/Mint) OR: sudo yum install git (Fedora)	<a href="#">Git</a> OR: brew install git
Terminal (Bash)	Git Bash (installed with Git)	Built-in	Built-in (⌘+Space, <b>type</b> terminal)
Text editor	<a href="#">Visual Studio Code</a> (recommended) <a href="#">Vim</a> / <a href="#">Emacs</a> <a href="#">Atom</a> <a href="#">Notepad++</a>	<a href="#">Visual Studio Code</a> (recommended) <a href="#">Vim</a> / <a href="#">Emacs</a> <a href="#">Atom</a>	<a href="#">Visual Studio Code</a> (recommended) <a href="#">Vim</a> / <a href="#">Emacs</a> <a href="#">Atom</a> <a href="#">Brackets</a>
Node	<a href="#">Node 6.x LTS</a>	<a href="#">Node 6.x LTS</a>	<a href="#">Node 6.x LTS</a>
Web browser	<a href="#">Chrome</a> <a href="#">Firefox</a> <a href="#">Opera</a>	<a href="#">Chrome</a> <a href="#">Firefox</a> <a href="#">Opera</a>	<a href="#">Chrome</a> <a href="#">Firefox</a> <a href="#">Opera</a>

# Cloud 9

1. Go to <https://c9.io>
2. Sign in or sign up if you don't already have an account
3. Once you have logged in, click on "Create a new workspace"
4. Give your workspace a name (example: "practical-javascript")
5. Choose "Node.js" template
6. Press "Create workspace"
7. In the terminal, type `nvm install 6`
8. In the terminal, type `npm install -g yarn` (ignore deprecation warning)

# Test Frameworks

- Jest

- Newcomer
- Designed for React development, but can be used in any context
- Great tools

- Jasmine

- Popular, robust
- Used by Jest, by default

- Mocha

Don't know about



# Assertion Libraries

- Node's built-in [assert](#): convenient in a pinch
- [Jest assertions \(expect\)](#): ideal if you're using Jest
- [Chai](#): popular, robust, can be used with Jest
- [Must](#)
- [Should.js](#)

# Types of Test and the Test Pyramid

- **Unit tests**

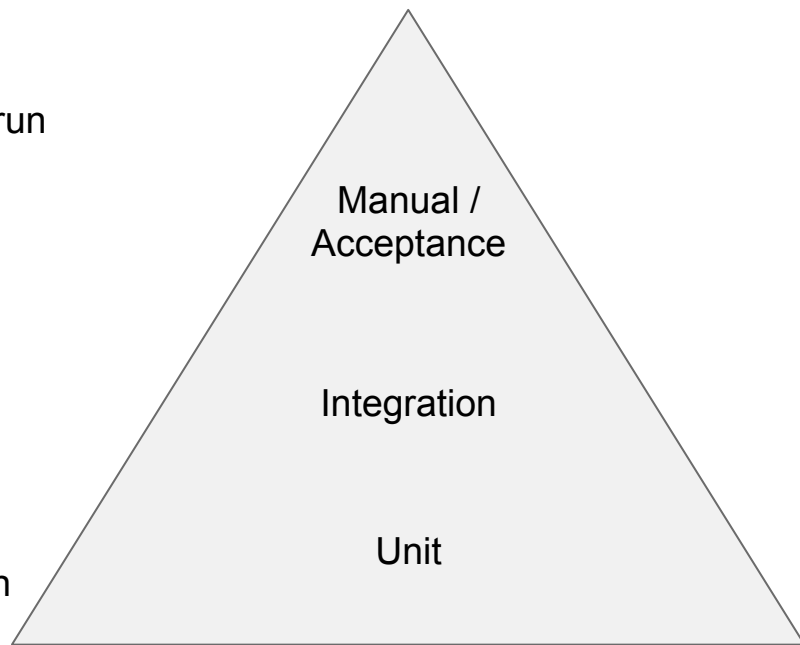
- Numerous!
- Fast and easy to run!
- Written by devs
- High coverage

- **Integration/acceptance tests**

- Much fewer than unit tests
- Complicated to write/automate

Fewer Tests  
Involved/slow to run

More tests  
Easy/fast to run



# Testing Front-End Code

- Historically difficult problem
- [Selenium](#)/[WebdriverIO](#) automates browser testing
- [BrowserStack](#)/[Sauce Labs](#) make Selenium easier (for \$\$)
- React has *great* picture for front-end testing in [Jest](#)/[Enzyme](#)

# The project: weighted scoring matrix (WSM)

Criteria	Weight	Scott	Julie	Chelsea
Documentation	30%	8	9	9
Maintainability	40%	6	9	8
Clarity	20%	9	7	9
Elegance	10%	5	8	9
SCORE	100%	7.1	8.5	8.6

Add Criteria

Add Person

# Your first unit test

- Create directory for tests: `mkdir -p app/__tests__`
- Create new file (right click on `app/__tests__` in Workspace browser, click on “New File”, enter `wsm.test.js`)
- Double-click on newly created file, and enter these contents:  
`const wdm = require('../wsm.js')`

```
test('wsm module should export a function', () => {  
  expect(typeof wdm).toBe('function')  
})
```

# Install Jest and configure project

- Install Jest: `yarn add -D jest`
- Edit package.json file, and add the following (anywhere is fine; I usually do it between “author” and “dependencies”):

```
"author": "Mostafa Eweda <mo.eweda@gmail.com>",  
"scripts": {  
  "test": "jest"  
},  
"jest": {  
  "roots": ["<rootDir>/app"]  
},  
"dependencies": {
```

- You can now run tests: `npm test` (or `yarn test`)...they'll fail!

# Pass the tests!

- Create new file (right click on app in Workspace browser, click on “New File”, enter wsm.js)
- Double-click on newly created file, and enter these contents:

```
function wsm() {  
}
```

```
module.exports = wsm
```

- You can now run tests: `npm test` (or `yarn test`)...they'll fail!

# Other Useful Resources

- [CodePen](#): great for front-end developers, portfolios
- [jsBin](#): similar to CodePen, less designer-y
- [ESLint](#): makes working on a team less contentious!
- [Airbnb styleguide](#) (minus semicolons)
- [Standard JS](#) (minus comma-dangle)
- [Stack Overflow](#) (obviously)
- [Front-End Focus](#)



# Practical JavaScript

Ethan Brown

# Callbacks: JavaScript Institution Since 1996

*Declaration* (or definition) is not *referencing* is not *invocation* (or calling):

Declaration:

```
function hello() {  
  console.log('hello!')  
}
```

Reference:

hello

Invocation:

hello()



# Functions are first-class citizens

Aliasing/storing:

```
const anotherHello = hello
```

Passing one function to another:

```
anotherFunction(hello)
```

Returning one function from another:

```
function yetAnotherFunction() {  
    return hello  
}
```

# Callbacks: JavaScript Institution Since 1996

Declaration:

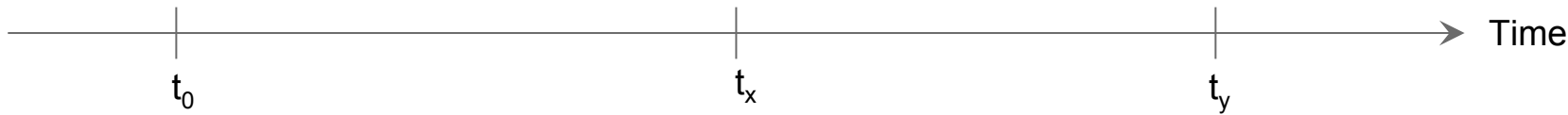
```
function hello() {  
  console.log('hello!')  
}
```

Reference:

```
setTimeout(hello, 1000)
```

Invocation (by *setTimeout*):

```
hello()
```




# What the heck is async anyway?

## Synchronous

Code  Execution

<code>console.log(1)</code>	0:00.001: 1
<code>console.log(2)</code>	0:00.002: 2
<code>console.log(3)</code>	0.00.003: 3

## Asynchronous

Code  Execution

<code>setTimeout(() =&gt; console.log(1), 5)</code>	0:00.001: 2
<code>console.log(2)</code>	0:00.002: 3
<code>console.log(3)</code>	0.00.006: 1

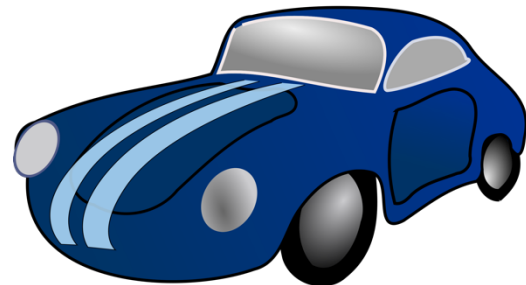
# Why do we need async?

- User actions (clicking, typing, etc.)
- Network activity (requests take time)
- Disk activity (disks are slow)
- Long-running processes

# Why is async hard?

- Cognitive dissonance: we write code in one sequence, it executes in another
- Data synchronization becomes an issue
- Determining the source of errors becomes more difficult

```
function createCar() {  
  return {  
    state: {  
      ignition: 'off',  
      brakes: 'off',  
      accelerator: 'off',  
    },  
    start() { this.state.ignition = 'on' },  
    stop() { this.state.ignition = 'off' },  
    brake(t) {  
      this.state.brakes = 'on'  
      setTimeout(() => this.state.brakes = 'off', t)  
    },  
    accelerate(t) {  
      this.state.accelerator = 'on'  
      setTimeout(() => this.state.accelerator = 'off', t)  
    },  
  }  
}
```





# Car callbacks

```
function createCar(onStart, onStop, onBrake, onAccelerate) {  
  return {  
    //...  
    start() {  
      this.state.ignition = 'on'  
      onStart()  
      //...  
    }  
  }  
}  
const c = createCar(() => console.log('car started!'))  
c.start()
```

3 callback invoked!

1 callback provided

2 will result in callback!

# Car events

*segment-2/example-03.js*

```
function createCar() {  
  return {  
    state: {  
      ignition: 'off',  
      brakes: 'off',  
      accelerator: 'off',  
    },  
    eventHandlers: {  
      start: [],  
    },  
    on(name, handler) {  
      this.eventHandlers[name].push(handler)  
    },  
    start() {  
      this.state.ignition = 'on'  
      this.eventHandlers['start'].forEach(h => h())  
    },  
  }  
}  
  
const c = createCar()  
c.on('start', () => console.log('started!'))  
c.on('start', () => console.log('varoom!'))  
  
c.start()
```

3 events emitted!

1 event handlers registered

2 will result in events being handled!

# EventEmitter

Documentation: <https://nodejs.org/api/events.html>

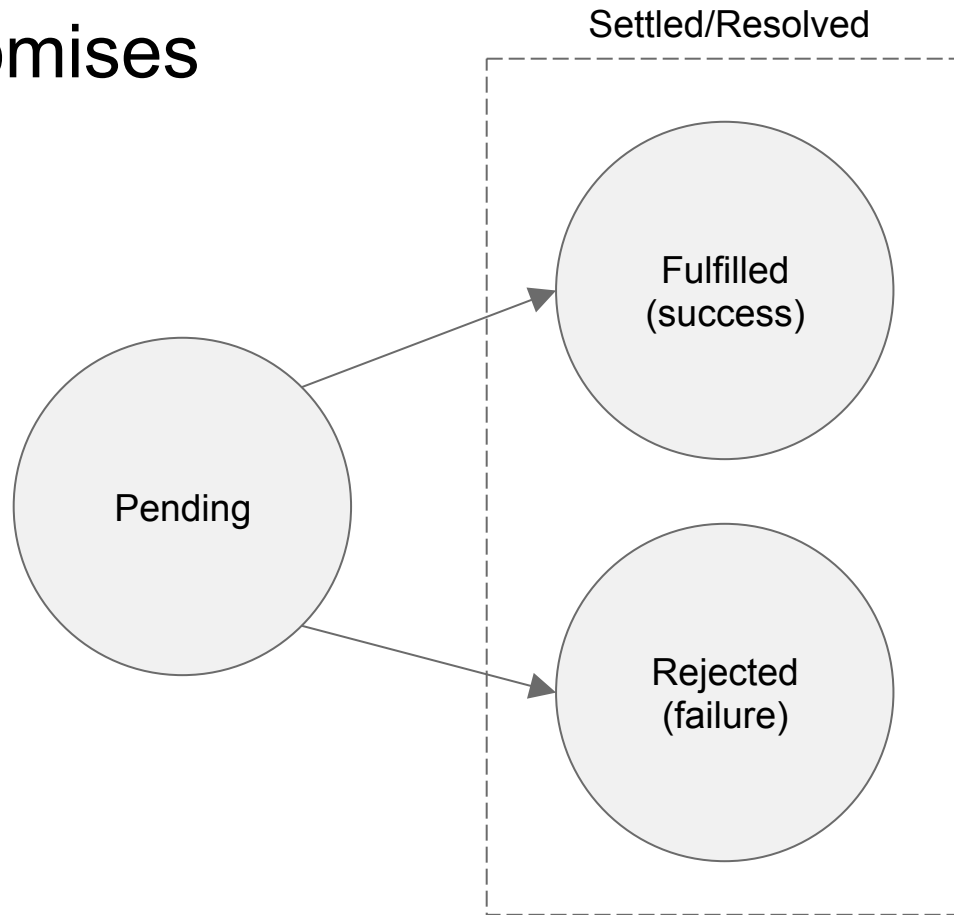
```
const EventEmitter = require('events')
```

```
class Foo extends EventEmitter (if using traditional OOP)
```

```
Object.assign(Object.create(EventEmitter.prototype), objContents)
```

See [segment-2/example-04.js](#)

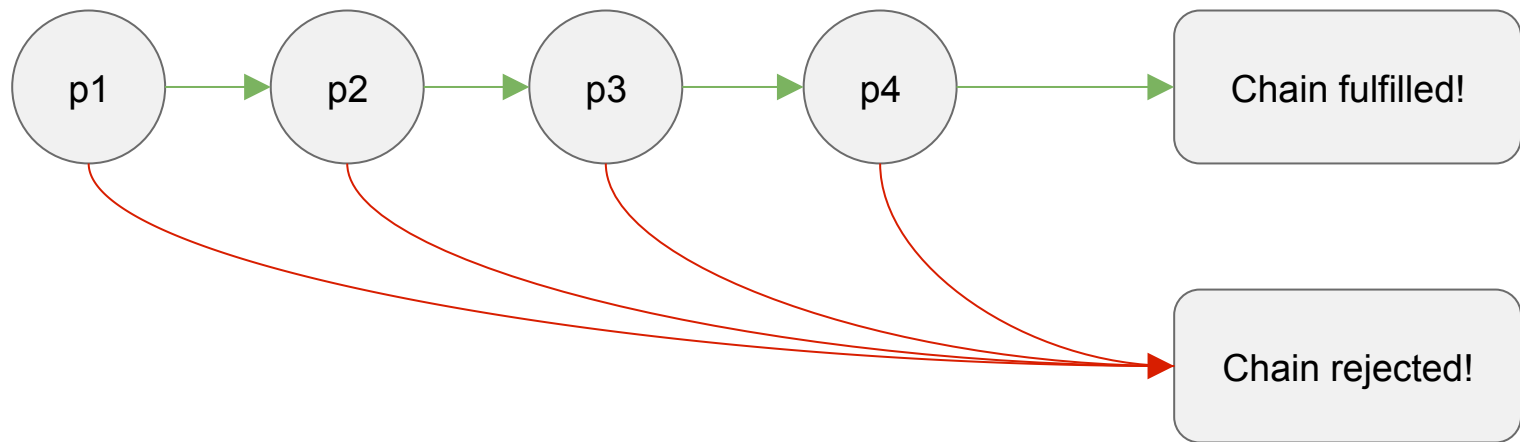
# Promises



A promise can **ONLY** ever be in one of these states. Note that once a promise has settled (fulfilled or rejected), it cannot move back to the pending state, or move between fulfilled and rejected.

# Promise Chaining

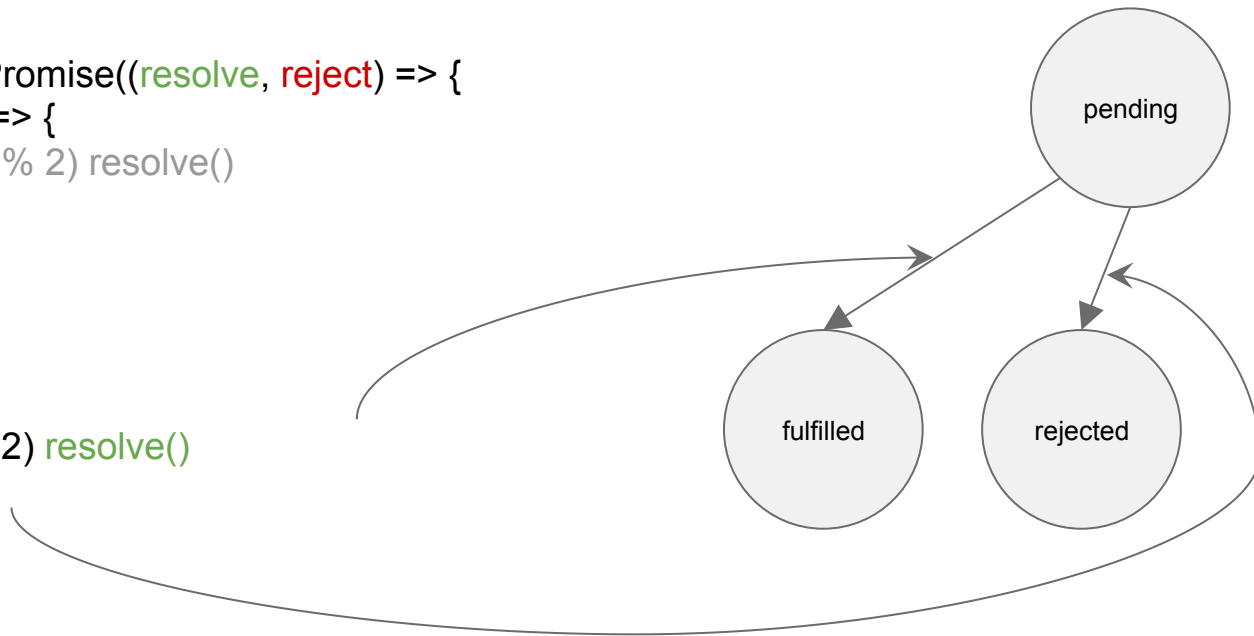
*fulfill* →  
*reject* →



# Promise Syntax: Creation and Resolution

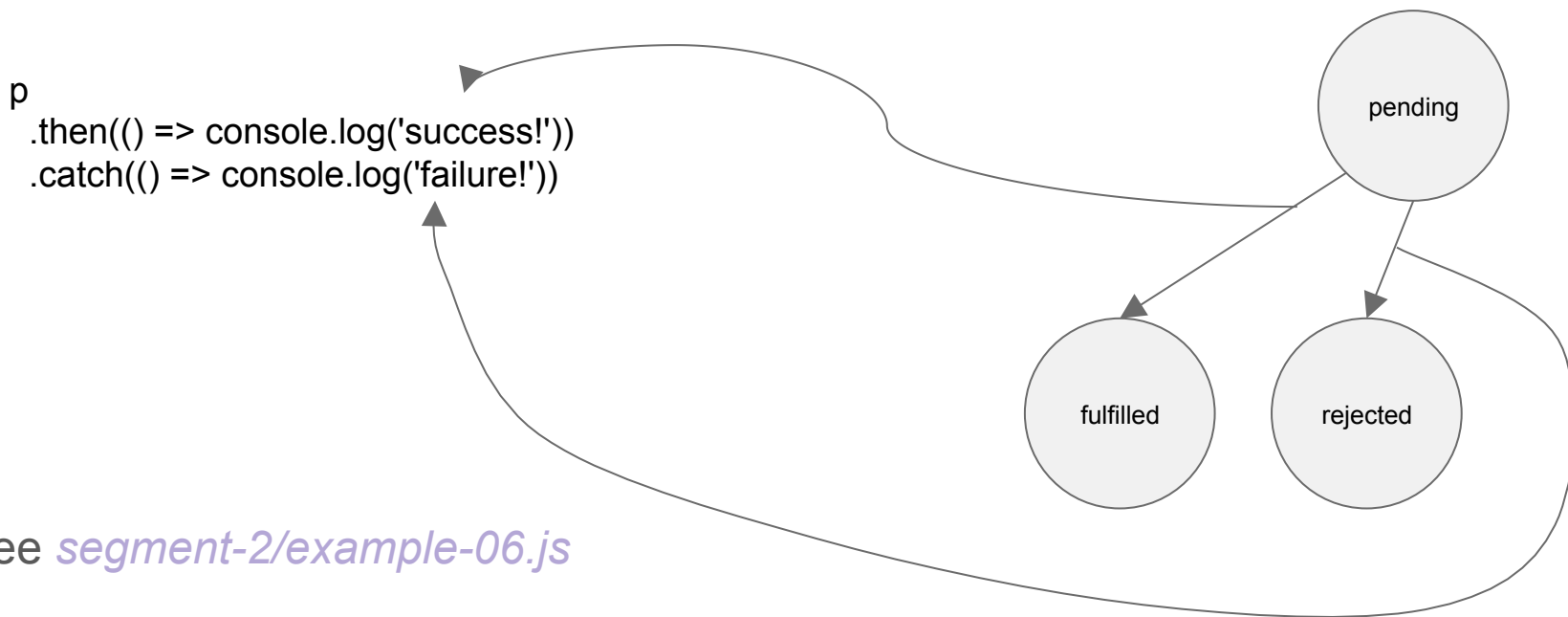
```
const p = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {  
  setTimeout(() => {  
    if(Date.now() % 2) resolve()  
    else reject()  
  }, 500)  
})
```

*After ~ 500 ms:*  
if(Date.now() % 2) **resolve**()  
else **reject**()



See [segment-2/example-05.js](#)

# Promise Syntax: Detecting Resolution



See [segment-2/example-06.js](#)

# Promise Resolution is Asynchronous

```
p1  
  .then(() => console.log("Promise 1 fulfilled!"))
```

```
p2  
  .then(() => console.log("Promise 2 fulfilled!"))
```

Is there any guarantee about which message you will see first?

See [segment-2/example-07.js](#)



# Promise Resolution is Asynchronous

```
p1
  .then(() => {
    console.log("Promise 1 fulfilled!")
    p2
      .then(() => console.log("Promise 2 fulfilled!"))
  })
```

Now is there any guarantee about which message you will see first?

See [segment-2/example-08.js](#)

# Promise Syntax: Chaining

## Anatomy of a promise-returning function (PRF):

```
function prf() {  
  return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {  
    // do successful stuff and resolve() or  
    // reject() on failure  
  })  
}
```

## Chaining PRFs:

```
prf1()  
  .then(prf2)  
  .then(prf3)  
  .then(prf4)  
  .catch(err => console.error(err.message))
```

## Advantages:

- Easy to read!
- Compact!

## Disadvantages:

- Flow of data is obscured
- Less flexible
- prf1 is handled differently than prf2-4

# Promise-Returning Functions: Minor Improvement

Chaining PRFs with initial fulfillment:

```
Promise.resolve()  
  .then(prf1)  
  .then(prf2)  
  .then(prf3)  
  .then(prf4)  
  .catch(err => console.error(err.message))
```

Advantages:

- Easy to read!
- Compact!
- Symetrical (prf1 is handled just like prf2-4)

Disadvantages:

- Flow of data is obscured
- Less flexible

See [segment-2/example-13.js](#)

# Promise Pitfalls: Premature Invocation

```
Promise.resolve()  
  .then(prf1())  
  .then(prf2())  
  .then(() => console.log('all done!'))
```

What's wrong here?

See [segment-2/example-11.js](#)

# Promises & Error Handling: The Wrong Way

```
try {  
  Promise.resolve()  
    .then(prf1)  
    .then(prf2)  
} catch(err) {  
  console.log('Whoops!')  
}
```

This won't work as expected...why?

See [segment-2/example-16.js](#)

# Promises & Error Handling: The Right Way

```
Promise.resolve()  
  .then(prf1)  
  .then(prf2)  
  .catch(err => console.error(err.message))
```

# Sync and Async: Don't Mix & Match

```
function biasedFunction(n) {  
  if(n % 2 === 0) return console.log('have a happy day!')  
  return new Promise(resolve => {  
    setTimeout(() => {  
      console.log('you are very odd')  
    }, 2000)  
  })  
}
```

Bad idea...why?

See [segment-2/example-18.js](#)

# Sync and Async: Don't Mix & Match

```
function biasedFunction(n) {  
  if(n % 2 === 0) return new Promise(resolve => {  
    console.log('have a happy day!')  
  })  
  return new Promise(resolve => {  
    setTimeout(() => {  
      console.log('you are very odd')  
    }, 2000)  
  })  
}
```

**Consistent interface!**

See [segment-2/example-20.js](#)



# Summary 1

- Callbacks, events, and promises are all techniques for dealing with asynchronous code
- Callbacks are now relatively passe, but....
- Promises require callbacks...
- Events require callbacks...
- So callbacks are okay as long as we're using them with promises or events!

# Summary 2

## Good

```
prf1  
  .then(prf2)  
  .then(prf3)
```

## Better...

```
Promise.resolve()  
  .then(prf1)  
  .then(prf2)  
  .then(prf3)
```

## Best!

```
Promise.resolve()  
  .then(() => prf1())  
  .then(() => prf2())  
  .then(() => prf3())
```

(Uglier, but more flexible  
and less prone to  
developer error; more  
OOP-friendly.)

# Exercises

*exercise-01.js*: writing a function that uses a callback

*exercise-02.js*: writing a function that returns a promise

*exercise-03.js*: writing a function that returns a promise that is conditionally rejected

# Practical JavaScript

Ethan Brown

# Array Basics

Two ways to create arrays:

- `const arr = [1, 2, 3, /*...*/]` (array literal)
- `const arr = new Array(10)` (constructor...best used with `#fill(value)`)

Other basics:

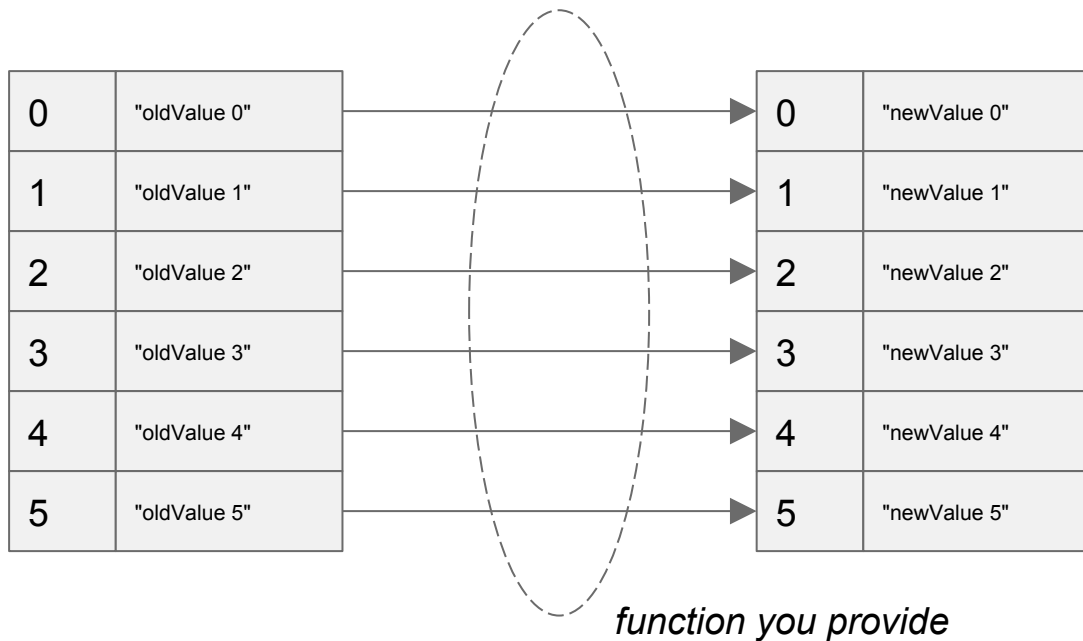
- Get/set array values with square brackets (`arr[3]` / `arr[3] = 'hello'`)
- Arrays in JS are nonhomogenous
- Assigning past the last element of the array increases the size of the array  
See [segment-3/example-01.js](#) and [segment-3/example-02.js](#)
- Uninitialized entries have value `undefined` *but behave differently; avoid!*

# Common Methods for Array Mutation

Immutability is the new hotness: I recommend learning to think immutable. But array mutation methods do still have their place:

Mutate	Non-mutating equivalent
<code>arr.push(1, 2, ,3)</code>	<code>arr2 = arr.concat(1, 2, 3)</code>
<code>arr.pop()</code>	<code>arr[arr.length - 1]</code>
<code>arr.unshift(1, 2, 3)</code>	<code>arr2 = [1, 2, 3].concat(arr)</code>
<code>arr.shift()</code>	<code>arr[0]</code>
<code>arr.splice(2, 0, 2.5)</code>	<code>arr2 = [...arr.slice(0, 2), 2.5, ...arr.slice(2)]</code>
<code>arr.splice(1, 2)</code>	<code>arr2 = [...arr.slice(0, 1), ...arr.slice(3)]</code>
<code>arr.splice(1, 1, 2.5)</code>	<code>arr2 = [...arr.slice(0, 1), 2.5, ...arr.slice(2)]</code>

# Array#map: Easy, Fun, Powerful



See [segment-3/example-04.js](#)

# Array#map: The Rules

- $n$  things in,  $n$  things out
- Everything gets mapped\*
- Empty arrays map fine
- Any value / type can map to any different value / type
- Okay, not *everything* gets mapped...*unassigned values* don't...avoid  
unassigned values!  
\*But this is easy to get around...if you don't want to map certain elements,  
just map them to themselves!

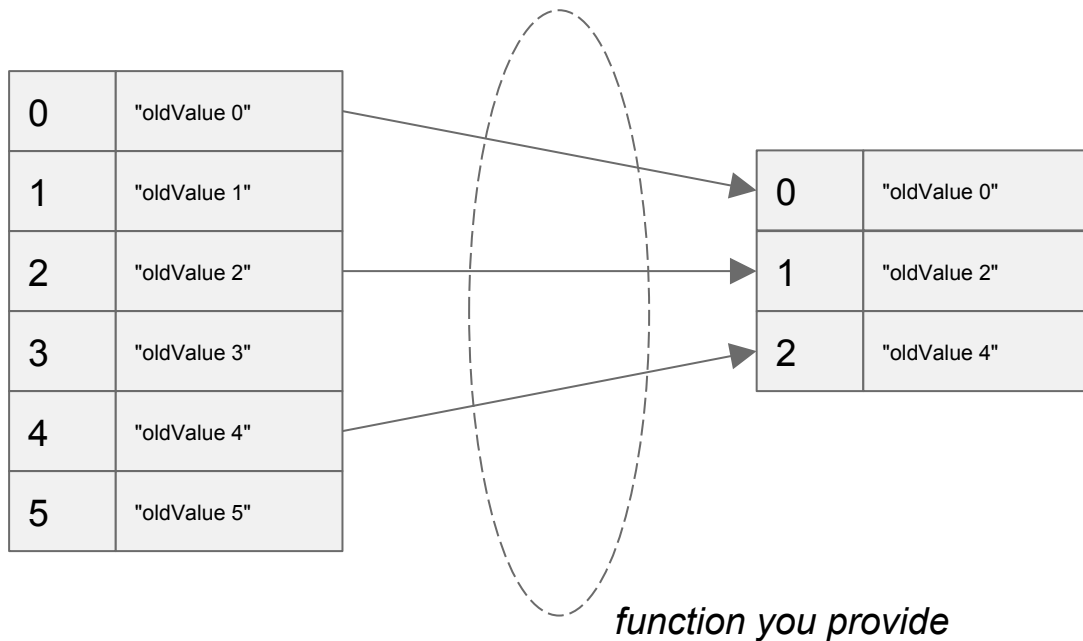


# Array#map: The Syntax

```
arr.map(x => value)           // most common  
arr.map((x, idx) => value)    // 2nd most common  
arr.map((x, idx, arrRef) => value) // almost never used
```

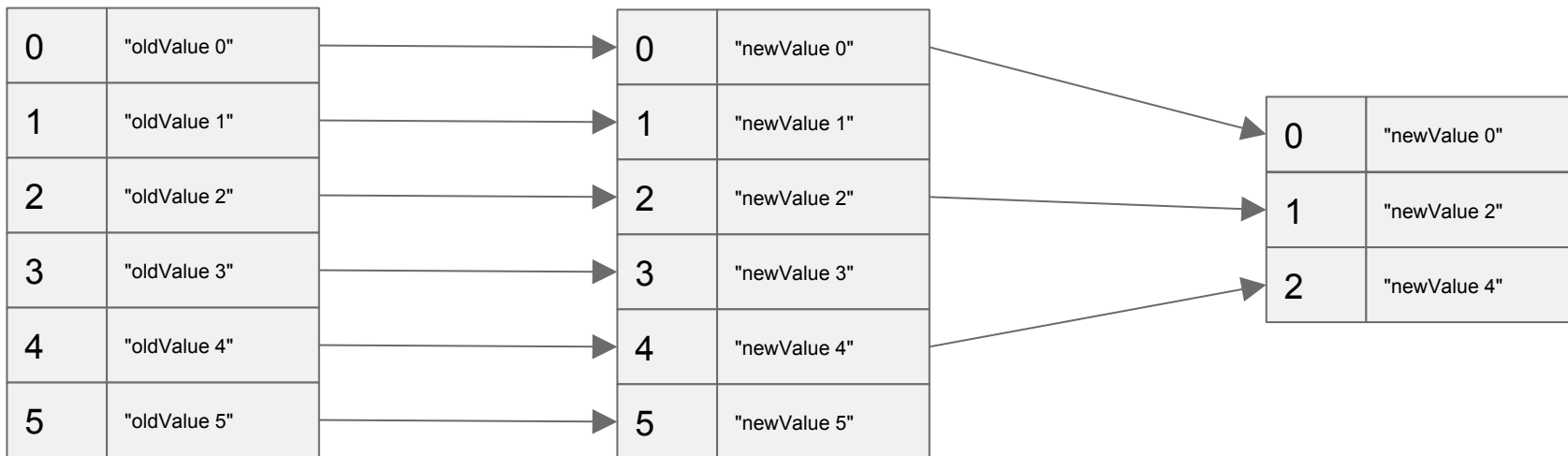
```
arr.map(x => value)    // DOESN'T need explicit return  
arr.map(x => {  
  return value          // DOES need explicit return  
})
```

# Array#filter: Easy, Boring, Useful!



See [segment-3/example-10.js](#)

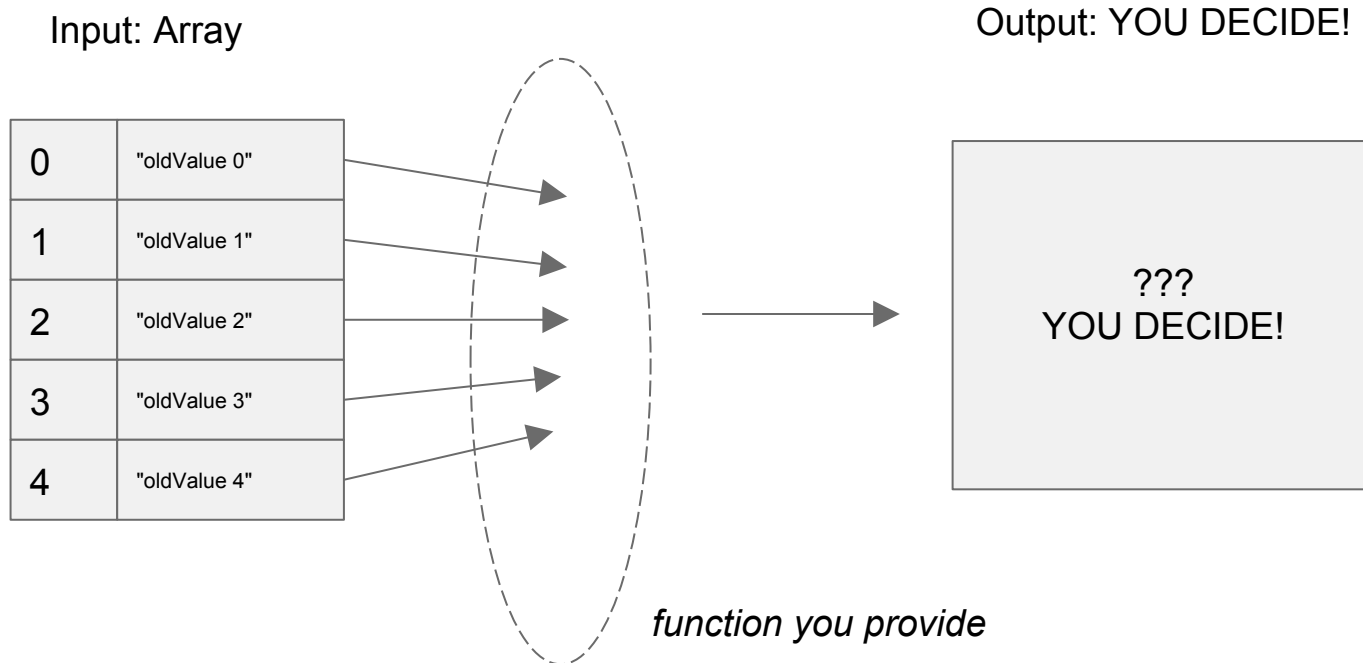
# Array#map and Array#filter: Hand, Meet Glove



# Array#reduce: The God Method

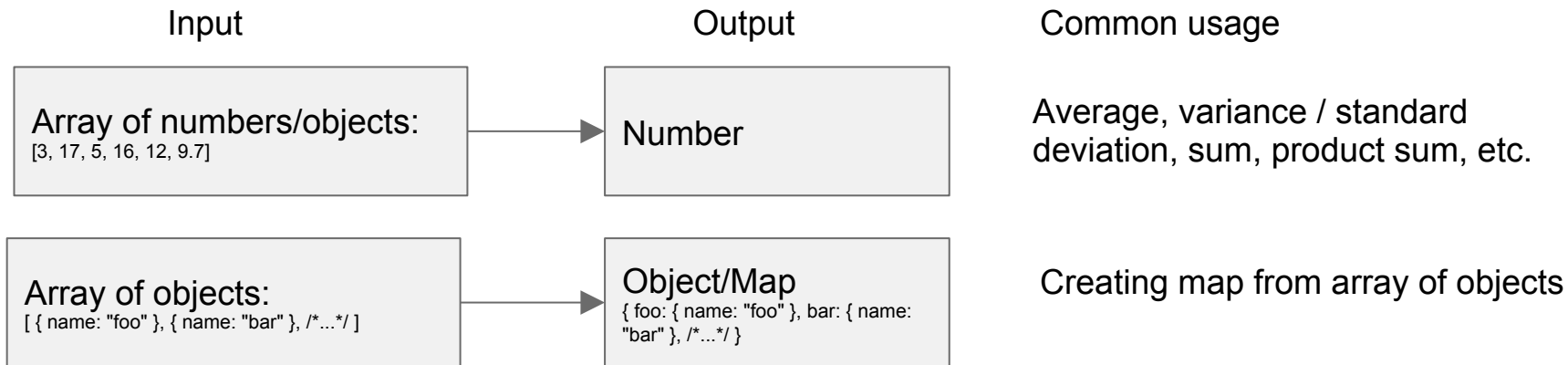
- Intimidating at first
- SUPER POWERFUL
- Can do everything that map AND filter can do and then some
- Name is somewhat misleading: think "transform" in your head
- No point in using if you can accomplish same thing with map/filter

# Array#reduce: Hard to Draw



See [segment-3/example-14.js](#)

# Array#reduce: Common Examples



# Array#reduce: Syntax

```
arr.reduce((a, x, i) => {  
  // a is the "accumulator"  
  // x is the current element in the array  
  // i is its index  
  return a    // don't forget to return a!  
}, initialValue)
```

# Array#reduce: What's Actually Happening?

Array Contents

0	"item 0"
1	"item 1"
2	"item 2"
3	"item 3"
4	"item 4"

Arguments Passed to Array#reduce Function

**0**: (initialValue, "item 0", 0)

**1**: (*return value from 0*, "item 1", 1)

**2**: (*return value from 1*, "item 2", 2)

**3**: (*return value from 2*, "item 4", 3)

**4**: (*return value from 3*, "item 4", 4)

Final return value: *return value from 4*



# Array#reduce: "sum" example

```
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4].reduce((a, x) => a + x, 0)
```

Array Contents

0	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4

Arguments Passed to Array#reduce Function

**0**: (initialValue, 0, 0) -> 0

**1**: (return value from **0**, 1, 1) -> 1

**2**: (return value from **1**, 2, 2) -> 3

**3**: (return value from **2**, 3, 3) -> 6

**4**: (return value from **3**, 4, 4) -> 10

Final return value: return value from **4**: 10

# Map: why do we need it?

Object in JavaScript are maps, with some limitations:

- Only strings and symbols can be used as keys

- Counting number of properties in an object is difficult

- Prototypal inheritance can result in unexpected properties

See [segment-3/example-15.js](#)

# Map: pros and cons

## Pros:

- Keys can be anything (objects, for example)
- Properties are easy to count
- Easy to construct from array of pairs

## Cons:

- More "wordy" than objects

# Set: Let's Get Mathematical

Sets: very much like arrays, but duplicates are ignored:

```
const s = new Set()  
s.add("red")  
s.add("blue")  
s.add("green")  
console.log(s) // Set { "red", "blue", "green" }  
set.add("blue") // no error!  
console.log(s) // Set { "red", "blue", "green" }
```

# Exercises

*exercise-01.js*: using `Array#map`

*exercise-02.js*: using `Array#map` together with `Array#filter`

*exercise-03.js*: using `Array#reduce`

# Practical JavaScript

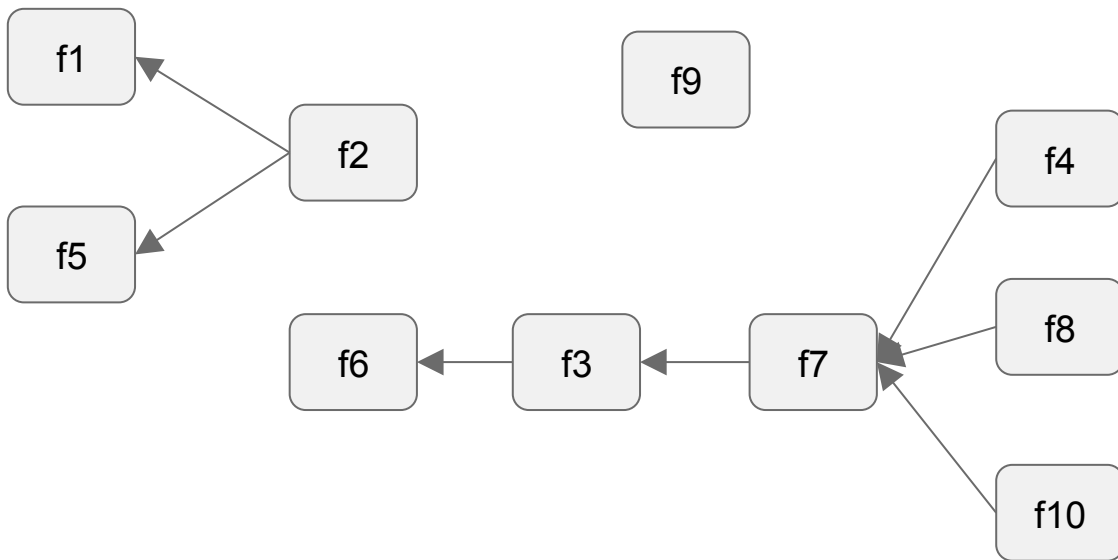
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# Parallel Promise Execution

- Why execute promises in parallel? *For efficiency / avoid wasted time.*
- Is it *really* parallel? *No, not really...but you can think of it that way.*
- You still have to think about dependencies!

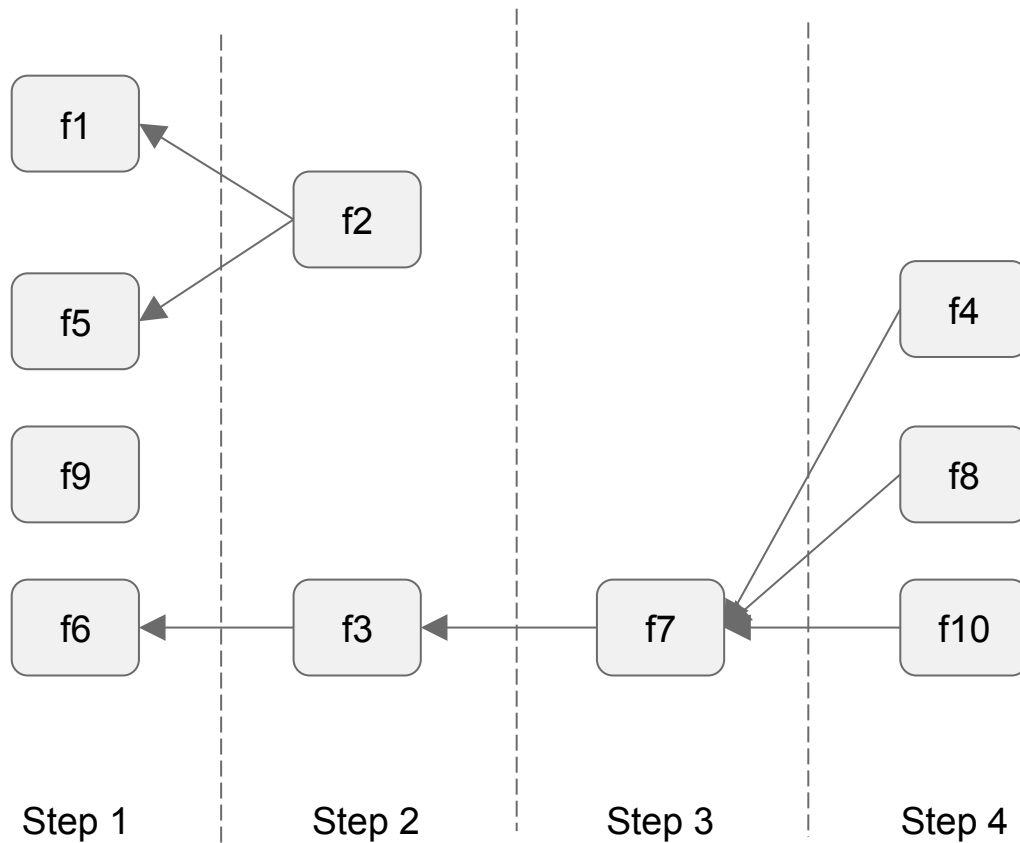
# Dependencies

Given function f1-f10, the functions may have dependencies:

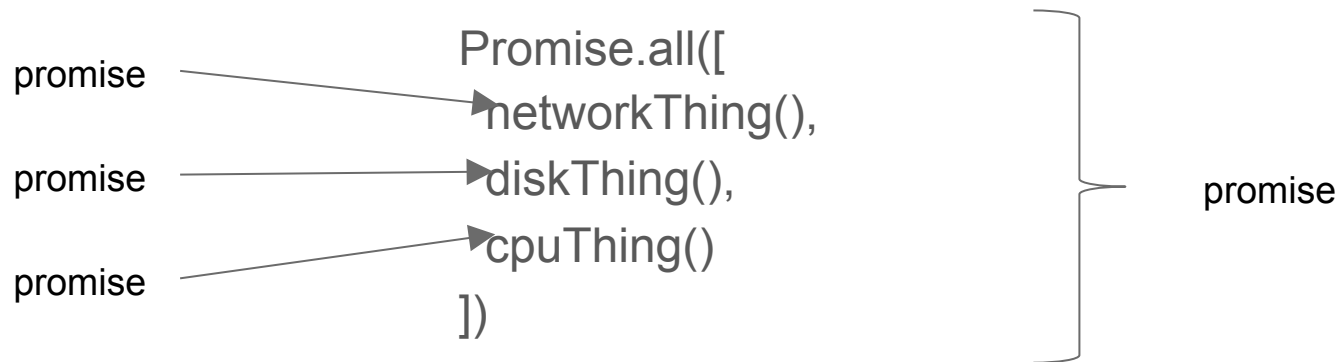




# Dependencies: What Can Run When?



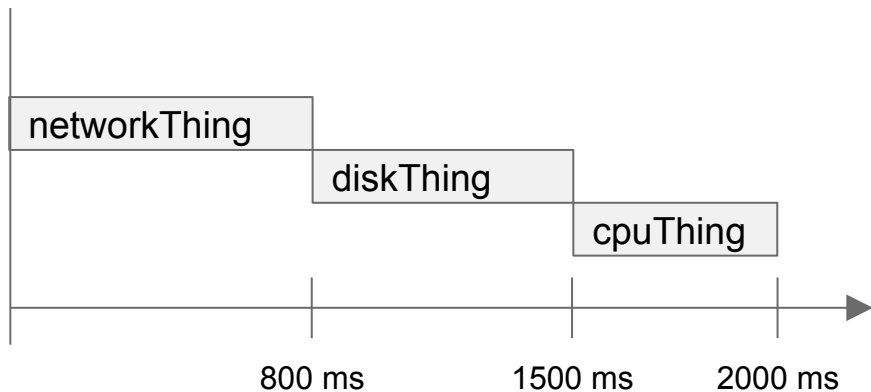
# Parallel Promises: Promise.all



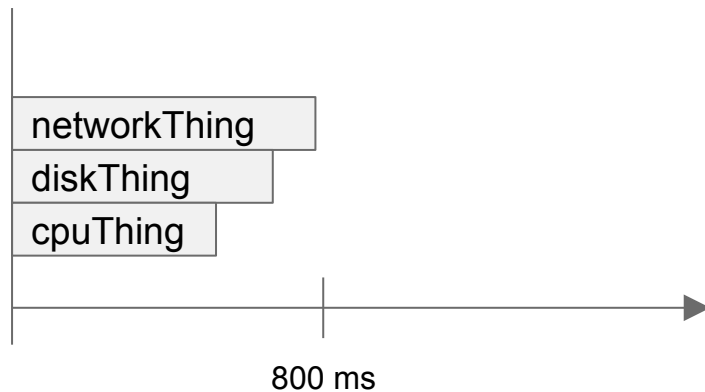
See [segment-4/example-02.js](#)

# Serial vs. Parallel

```
Promise.resolve()  
  .then(networkThing)  
  .then(diskThing)  
  .then(cpuThing)
```



```
Promise.all([  
  networkThing(),  
  diskThing(),  
  cpuThing()  
])
```



# Promise.all: What About Return Values?

```
Promise.all([
  networkThing(),
  diskThing(),
  cpuThing()
])
  .then([networkResult, diskResult, cpuResult] => {
    console.log(networkResult)
    console.log(diskResult)
    console.log(cpuResult)
  })
```

See [segment-4/example-04.js](#)

# Array#map and Promise.all: A Powerful Combo

returns array of promises...just what Promise.all needs!

```
Promise.all(cbFunctions.map(f =>  
  new Promise((resolve, reject) => {  
    f((err, data) => err ? reject(err) : resolve(data))  
  })  
))
```

converts callback-style function to promise-returning function

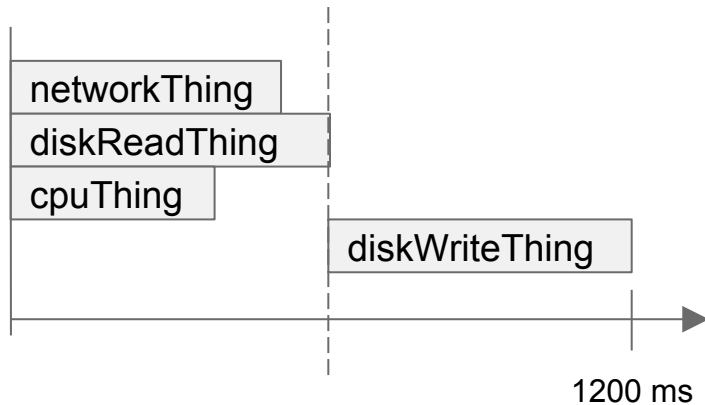
See [segment-4/example-05.js](#)

# What about dependencies?

first this, executed in parallel

```
Promise.all([networkThing(), diskReadThing(), cpuThing()])  
  .then(diskWriteThing)
```

then this!



# What about generic serial execution?

(Sometimes called *waterfall* execution)

```
function serial(promises) {  
  const result = promises.reduce((a, p, idx) => {  
    a.last = a.last.then(p).then(r => a.results[idx] = r)  
    return a  
  }, { last: Promise.resolve(), results: [] })  
  return result.last.then(() => result.results)  
}
```

See [segment-4/example-07.js](#)

# async/await: Async Performance, Sync Semantics

```
async function go() {  
  const results = await Promise.all([  
    networkThing(),  
    diskRead(),  
    cpuThing()  
  ])  
  await diskWrite(results.join('|'))  
}
```

go()

See [segment-4/example-08.js](#)



# async/await: Async Performance, Sync Semantics

```
async function go() {  
  try {  
    const results = await Promise.all([  
      networkThing(),  
      diskRead(),  
      cpuThing()  
    ])  
    await diskWrite(results.join('|'))  
  } catch(err) {  
    console.log(`handling error: ${err.message}`)  
  }  
}
```

See [segment-4/example-10.js](#)

# Exercises

*exercise-01.js*: take a promise, return a promise

*exercise-02.js*: take two promises, return a promise

*exercise-03.js*: take an array of promises, return a promise

# Practical JavaScript

Ethan Brown

# CommonJS & ESM

## CommonJS

- "Node-style" module specification
- Dynamic resolution
- `module.exports` to export/expose functionality
- require to import functionality
- Not going anywhere anytime soon (?)

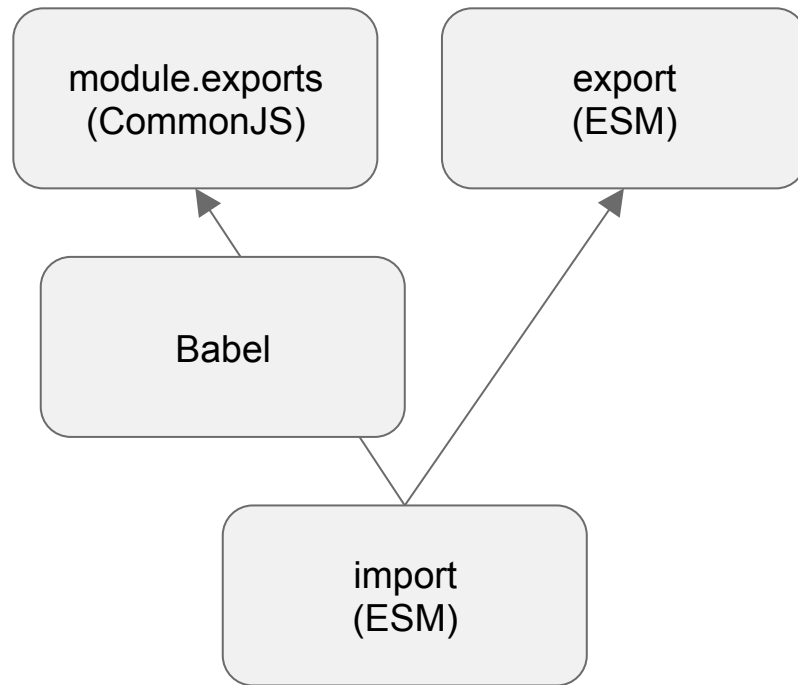
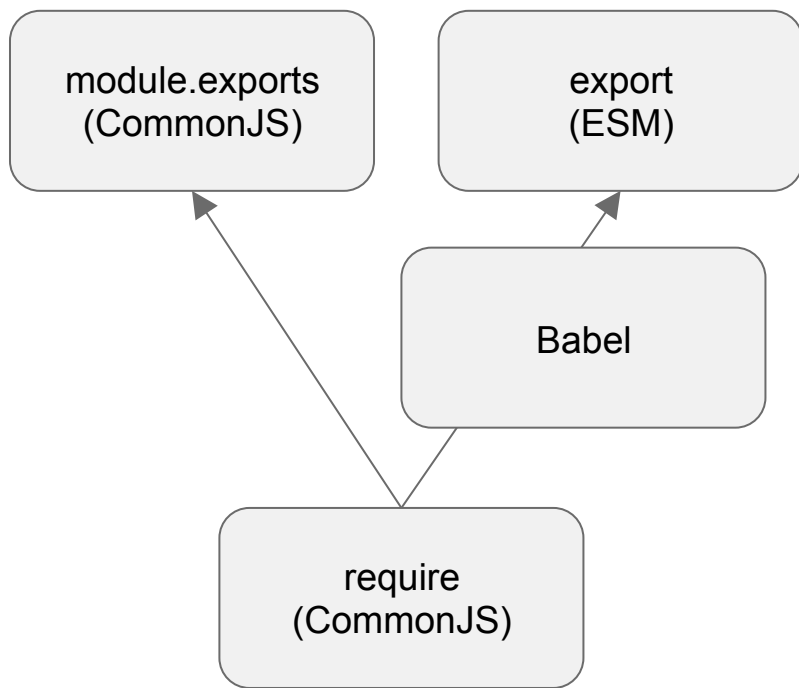
## ECMAScript Modules (ESM)

- "Official" module syntax proposed by TC-39
- Not as entrenched as CommonJS, but catching up fast
- More common in front-end use
- Static resolution
- The future

Which should I use? CommonJS or ESM?

BOTH, OF  
COURSE.

# CommonJS & ESM: How to use Both?



# CommonJS: Caching

module:

```
let counter = 0
```

```
module.exports = {  
  getCount() { return counter },  
  increment() { counter++ },  
}
```

client:

```
const counter1 = require('./module.js')  
const counter2 = require('./module.js')
```

```
counter1.increment()  
counter2.increment()
```

```
console.log('counter1: ',  
  counter1.getCount())  
console.log('counter2: ',  
  counter2.getCount())
```

See *segment-5/example-01*

# CommonJS: Exporting Functions (Common)

module:

```
module.exports = function() {  
  let counter = 0  
  return {  
    getCount() { return counter },  
    increment() { counter++ },  
  }  
}
```

client:

```
const counter1 = require('./module.js')  
const counter2 = require('./module.js')  
  
counter1.increment()  
counter2.increment()  
  
console.log('counter1: ',  
  counter1.getCount())  
console.log('counter2: ',  
  counter2.getCount())
```

See [segment-5/example-02](#)



# ESM: Caching

module:

```
let counter = 0
```

```
export default {  
  getCount() { return counter },  
  increment() { counter++ },  
}
```

client:

```
const counter1 = require('./module.js')  
const counter2 = require('./module.js')
```

```
counter1.increment()  
counter2.increment()
```

```
console.log('counter1: ',  
  counter1.getCount())  
console.log('counter2: ',  
  counter2.getCount())
```

See [segment-5/example-04](#).

# ESM: Namespacing

module:

```
export function hello() {  
  console.log('hello!')  
}  
  
export function goodbye() {  
  console.log('goodbye!')  
}
```

client:

```
import { hello, goodbye }  
  from './module.js'  
  
import { hello as hola, goodbye as adios }  
  from './module.js'  
  
hello()  
goodbye()  
  
hola()  
adios()
```

See *segment-5/example-04*

# npm: What is it?

- Package manager (but npm does not stand for "node package manager")
- Not just for JavaScript: can package anything
- Modules stored in `node_modules`; this is npm's domain
- Now supports org-scoped modules (hooray!)

# Rolling your own npm package

```
{
  "name": "virtual-golem",
  "description": "Who doesn't want a clay automaton who will do your bidding?",
  "author": "Ethan Brown <e@zepln.com>",
  "contributors": [
    "Ethan Brown <e@zepln.com>"
  ],
  "main": "dist/Golem.js",
  "version": "1.0.0",
  "keywords": [
    "golem",
    "example"
  ],
  /*...to be continued */
```

The name that will be used  
when you npm install


The file require / import  
looks in!

Use npm version command  
for version management /  
incrementing

# Rolling your own npm package

```
/*...continued */  
"license": "(MIT OR GPL-3.0)",  
"scripts": {  
  "test": "jest",  
  "dist": "babel src --out-dir dist --source-maps"  
},  
"dependencies": {  
  "babel-cli": "^6.24.1",  
  "babel-preset-env": "^1.5.1"  
},  
"devDependencies": {  
  "jest": "^20.0.4"  
}  
}
```

My favorite open source  
license combo!



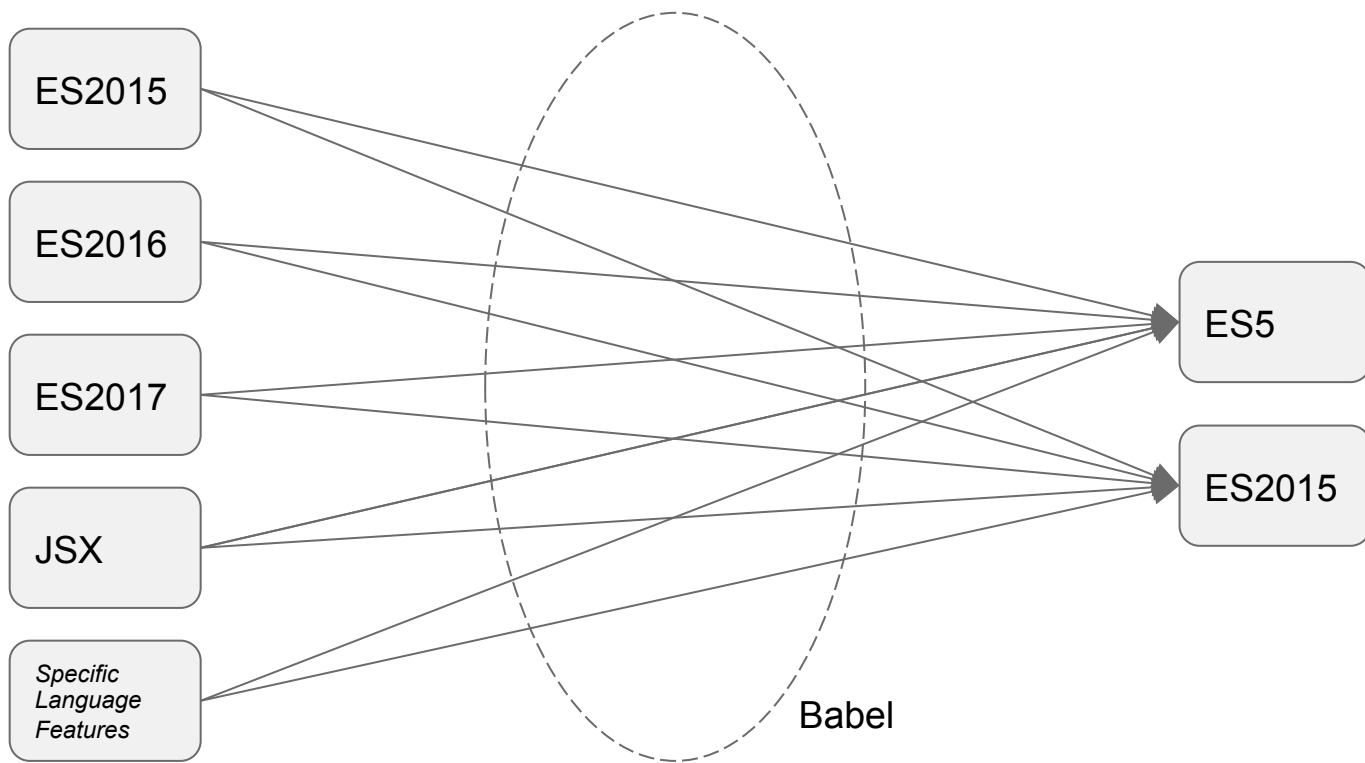
Recommended!



# Practical JavaScript

Ethan Brown

# What is Babel?



# Why/When We Need Babel

- When we are targeting older browsers
- When we want to use the latest language features
- When we want to use JSX



# Using Babel: Presets & Plugins

- Plugins: specific transformations (example: "es2015-arrow-functions")
- Presets: "collections| of plugins; most often aligned with language releases (ES2015, ES2016, etc.)
- "env" preset: automatically determines best plugins based on what environments you want to target. Replaces "latest".

# Using Babel: The .babelrc File

- Determines which plugins/presets are being used
- Uses JSON5!
- Install Babel + presets first (example: "npm install -D babel-cli babel-presets-env")

.babelrc: short & sweet:

```
{ presets: ["env"] }
```

# Using Babel: babel-polyfill

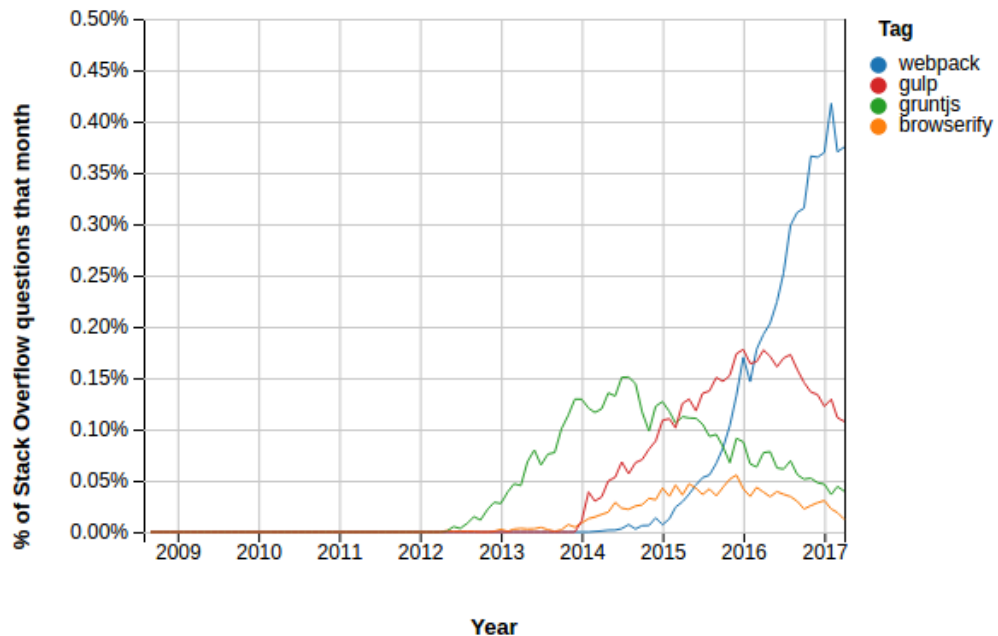
- Needed when using promises and targeting ES5 (among other things)
- Install: `npm install babel-polyfill`
- Add to the top of your JavaScript files: `require('babel-polyfill')`

# Why Webpack?

- Helps with dependency management
- Improves performance
- Fast becoming ubiquitous
- Highly configurable
- Offers unique approaches to handling non-JavaScript assets (CSS, images, etc.)
- De facto choice for React apps
- The usual front-end needs: minifying, reducing HTTP requests

# Webpack: Alternatives

- Browserify
- Grunt
- Gulp



Source: Stack Overflow Trends

# Using Webpack: webpack.config.js

- First, install webpack: `npm install -D webpack`
- To run webpack, add "build": "webpack" to "scripts" section of package.json and run "npm build"
- (Or, run `./node_modules/.bin/webpack`)

```
const path = require('path')

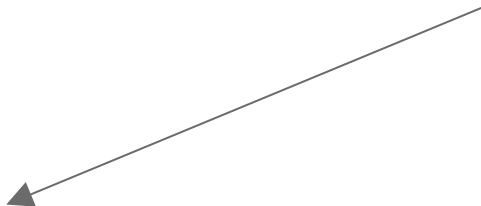
module.exports = {
  entry: './path/to/my/entry/file.js'
  output: {
    path: path.resolve(__dirname, 'dist'),
    filename: 'bundle.js',
  }
}
```

# Using Webpack: devtool, bundle hashes

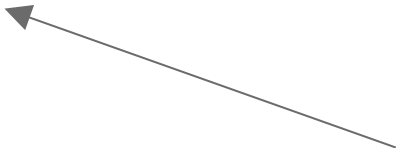
```
const path = require('path')

module.exports = {
  devtool: 'eval-source-map',
  entry: './path/to/my/entry/file.js'
  output: {
    path: path.resolve(__dirname, 'dist'),
    filename: 'bundle.[chunkhash].js',
  }
}
```

Important for debugging



Useful for cachebusting



# Webpack: module rules

- Install babel core/loader: `npm install -D babel-core babel-loader`

```
module.exports = {  
  //...  
  module: {  
    rules: [  
      {  
        test: /\.jsx?$/,  
        loader: 'babel-loader',  
      },  
    ],  
  },  
}
```

What type of files to process



What processor (loader) to use





# Using Webpack: SCSS/SASS/CSS

- Install sass-loader: `npm install -D sass-loader node-sass`

```
module.exports = {  
  //...  
  module: {  
    rules: [  
      {  
        test: /\.s?css$/,  
        use: ['style-loader', 'css-loader', 'sass-loader']  
      },  
    ],  
  },  
}
```



Loaders applied right to left

# Summary

- Babel: lets you use new language features (or dialects) while maintaining compatibility
- Webpack: high-performance, ubiquitous choice for web development
- Babel & Webpack work together
- Webpack reduces HTTP requests (improving performance) by generating (large) bundles...browser caching is key!
- You probably want at least two bundles: a bundle for your app and a bundle for vendor code