Networking `Task`

A collaborative bill-sharing system is being developed using Javascript and Node.js. One of the system's features requires that the users can create expenses to other users in a group. Whenever a new bill is created, the receiver should be notified about the new fee. Likewise, the owner should be notified about the bill payment.

As the developer responsible for the design of this feature, you evaluate whether Server-Sent Events or WebSockets should be used to implement the notification system. As you assess the technologies, you also consider the browser's compatibility, simplicity, and performance as driven factors in the adoption of one of them.

Which technology should be adopted for the notification system?

Documents:
- Server-Sent Events API
- WebSockets API
- WebSockets vs. Server-Sent events/EventSource

WebSockets vs. Server-Sent events/EventSource `Artifact`

▲
668
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Both WebSockets and Server-Sent Events are capable of pushing data to browsers. To me they seem to be competing technologies. What is the difference between them? When would you choose one over the other?

`html5` `websocket` `server-sent-events`

7 Answers

active   oldest   **votes**

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Websockets and SSE (Server Sent Events) are both capable of pushing data to browsers, however they are not competing technologies.

Websockets connections can both send data to the browser and receive data from the browser. A good example of an application that could use websockets is a chat application.

SSE connections can only push data to the browser. Online stock quotes, or twitters updating timeline or feed are good examples of an application that could benefit from SSE.

In practice since everything that can be done with SSE can also be done with Websockets, Websockets is getting a lot more attention and love, and many more browsers support Websockets than SSE.

However, it can be overkill for some types of application, and the backend could be easier to implement with a protocol such as SSE.

Furthermore SSE can be polyfilled into older browsers that do not support it natively using just JavaScript. Some implementations of SSE polyfills can be found on the Modernizr github page.

participants who highlighted the information

| 10+ |
| 9 |
| 8 |
| 7 |
| 5-6 |
| 3-4 |
| 1-2 |