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WEB 340 Node.js

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Discussion 3.1 – Modules

What are Node.js modules?

Node.js modules are pieces of code that can be used in other parts of a Node.js application. They help organize and structure the code and can be reused in different parts of the application.

How does one create a module (provide a code snippet)?

To create a module, you can use the `module.exports` object. For example, the following code creates a simple module that exports a single function:

```
module.exports = function() {  
  console.log('Hello, world!');  
};
```

You can also use `exports.functionName` instead of `module.exports` for the same function, which allows the function to be used in other parts of the application.

```
exports.myFunction = function () {  
  console.log('Hello, world!');  
};
```

How does one access the module from the index.js file (provide a code snippet)?

To access a module from the `index.js` file, you can use the `require()` function. This function imports the exports of the module into your current file.

```
var module = require('module_name');
```

Why are Node.js modules used?

Node.js modules are used to organize and structure code. They are also used to reduce code duplication and make it easier to maintain your code. Modules also allow for easy sharing and reusing of code across different parts of an application. Not to mention Node.js has many modules available for use on npm and other sources, which can save time writing code for common tasks.

How can you load and use Node.js modules in the CLI?

Node.js modules can be loaded and used in the CLI using the npm init command. The npm init command is used to create a new package.json file for a project, which is used to manage the dependencies of the project. Once the package.json file has been created, you can use the npm install command to install a Node.js module as a dependency for the project.

References

Node.js Modules. (2023). Tutorialsteacher.com. <https://www.tutorialsteacher.com/nodejs/nodejs-modules>

npm-init | npm Docs. (2023). Npmjs.com. <https://docs.npmjs.com/cli/v8/commands/npm-init/>