Blockchain for Industrial Engineers: Decentralized Application Development

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Asynchronous Programming

Synchronous programming

- Normally, a given program's code runs straight along, with only one thing happening at once.
- If a function relies on the result of another function, it has to wait for the other function to finish and return.
 - And until that happens, the entire program is essentially stopped from the perspective of the user.
 - Also referred to as blocking.

Blocking code

```
function blocking() {
  for (let i = 0; i < 5e8; i++) {}
  console.log("Finish blocking calculation");
}

console.log("Start");
blocking();
console.log("Done");</pre>
```

Issue

- Synchronicity can lead to frustrating experience for a user.
- This is the basis of asynchronous programming.

Where do we find asynchronousity?

- It is up to the programming environment to provide you with APIs that allow you to run such tasks asynchronously.
- For all blockchain operations, most of the APIs are asynchronous.
 - (Unfortunately...)

Asynchronous javascript

setTimeout API

```
setTimeout(() => alert("I waited for 3 seconds."), 3000);
// Or
setTimeout(() => {
   alert("I waited for 3 seconds.");
}, 3000);
```

```
function notblocking() {
    setTimeout(() => {
       console.log("Finish non-blocking calculation");
    }, 3000);
}

console.log("Start");
notblocking();
console.log("Done");
```

Asynchronous programming with Promises

fetch

- The Fetch API is a modern interface that allows you to make HTTP requests to servers from web browsers.
- The fetch() method is available in the global scope that instructs the web browsers to send a request to a URL.
- Let's fetch information from Star Wars API

fetch

```
const result = fetch("https://swapi.dev/api/people/1");
console.log(result); // Promise { <state>: "pending" }
```

- The fetch() method returns a Promise.
- But what is a **Promise**?

Promise (def. 1)

- A Promise allows you to defer further actions until after a previous action has completed, or respond to its failure.
- This is useful for setting up a sequence of async operations to work correctly.

Promise (def. 2)

- A Promise is an object that represents an intermediate state of an operation in effect, a promise that a result of some kind will be returned at some point in the future.
- There is no guarantee of exactly when the operation will complete and the result will be returned but there is a guarantee that when the **result** is available, or the promise fails.
- You can then write the code that will be executed in order to do something else with a successful result, or to gracefully handle a failure case.

Promise (def. 3)

A Promise is in one of these states:

- pending: initial state, neither fulfilled nor rejected.
- fulfilled: meaning that the operation was completed successfully.
- rejected : meaning that the operation failed.

Exploring the states of a Promise

(Use firefox console)

```
const a = new Promise(() => {}); //Promise { <state>: "pending" }s

const b = Promise.resolve(); // Promise { <state>: "fulfilled", <value>: undefined }

const b = Promise.resolve("I waited."); // Promise { <state>: "fulfilled", <value>: "I waited." }

const c = Promise.reject(); // Promise { <state>: "rejected", <reason>: undefined }

const c = Promise.reject("Wrong"); // Promise { <state>: "rejected", <reason>: "Wrong" }
```

Creating a Promise

```
const myPromise = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
   setTimeout(() => {
      resolve("foo"); //or reject('foo')
   }, 5000);
});
```

• You can keep typing myPromise in the Firefox console to see the state changed.

Creating fake_fetch

• Use promise and setTimeout

```
function fake_fetch(tag, isSuccess = true, wait = 2000) {
  return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
    setTimeout(() => {
      if (isSuccess) {
        resolve(`Success: ${tag}`);
      } else {
        reject(`Error: ${tag}`);
      }
    }, wait);
  });
}
```

Using fake_fetch

```
console.log("Start");
fake_fetch("R1").then((tag) => {
  console.log(tag);
});
```

Chaining multiple fake_fetch

```
console.log("Start");
fake_fetch("R1")
   .then((tag) => {
      console.log(tag);
      return fake_fetch("R2");
   })
   .then((tag) => {
      console.log(tag);
   });
```

With error handling

```
console.log("Start");
fake_fetch("R1")
  .then((tag) => \{
    console.log(tag);
    return fake_fetch("R2", false);
 })
  .then((tag) => {
    console.log(tag);
  .catch((tag) => {
    console.log(tag);
  });
```

async and await

- An async function is a function declared with the async keyword, and the await keyword is permitted.
- The async and await keywords enable asynchronous, promise-based behavior to be written in a cleaner style, avoiding the need to explicitly configure promise chains.

```
async function call_fetch() {
  const tag1 = await fake_fetch("R1");
  console.log(tag1);
  const tag2 = await fake_fetch("R2");
  console.log(tag2);
}

console.log("Start");
  call_fetch();
```

With error handling

```
async function call_fetch() {
  try {
    const tag1 = await fake_fetch("R1");
    console.log(tag1);
    const tag2 = await fake_fetch("R2", false);
    console.log(tag2);
  } catch (err) {
    console.log(err);
console.log("Start");
call_fetch();
```