

10 THINGS

I LEARNED MAKING THE FASTEST JS
SERVER RUNTIME IN THE WORLD

Paulo Lopes

Principal Software Engineer





is javascript fast?



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How fast is node.js? - Quora

Q <https://www.quora.com/How-fast-is-node-js>

Node uses Chrome's V8 engine, which is a JIT compiler. This makes it fairly **fast**--not reliably as **fast** as a compiled language, but **fast**. Good JITs can under the right circumstances be very, very **fast**--PyPy (Python JIT) is actually as **fast** as C in some cases.

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is javascript fast?



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Why NodeJS is so fast? - Eugene Obrezkov



<https://blog.ghaiklor.com/why-nodejs-is-so-fast-a0ff67858f48>

As soon as you understand what's going on in **NodeJS** server when it processes the requests, you will realise why it is so **fast**. But before talking about **NodeJS**, let's look at how request handling is done in other languages. PHP is the best example because it's very popular and unoptimised. PHP drawbacks

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javascript - Why node.js is fast when it's single threaded ...

⚡ <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/30638549/why-node-js-is-fast-when-its-single-th...>

Despite being single threaded, how is **node.js** faster? I haven't run any tests to find statistics, but while digging in the **node.js** forums, I find everyone says it's faster and more lightweight. But no matter how light weight it is, how can a single threaded server be faster than multi thread ones?

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How fast is Javascript compared to Java? - Stack Overflow

👉 <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3723374/how-fast-is-javascript-compared-to-java>

Node.js shines when it comes to a huge amount of short connections, so javascript is a really great fit for that sort of thing. While **node.js** is absolutely drenched in awesome, being the new hotness really doesn't mean it is the best at everything, no matter what the hype says.

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StrongLoop - What Makes Node.js Faster Than Java?

⌚ <https://strongloop.com/strongblog/node-js-is-faster-than-java/>

While Java or Node or something else may win a benchmark, no server has the non-blocking ecosystem of **Node.js** today. Over 50k modules all written in the async style, ready to use. Countless code examples strewn about the web. Lessons and tutorials all using the async style.

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DO WE TRUST THE INTERNET?

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DO WE TRUST THE INTERNET?

I DON'T!

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engineering noun

*en·gi·neer·ing / \, en-jə- 'nir-iŋ *

the application of science and mathematics by which the properties of matter and the sources of energy in nature are made useful to people.

(Merriam-Webster)



is javascript fast?



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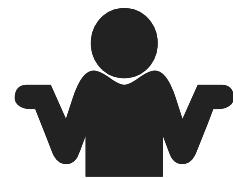
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#1:

DEFINE SERVER

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server noun

serv·er / \ 'sər-vər

a computer in a network that is used to provide services (such as access to files or shared peripherals or the routing of e-mail) to other computers in the network.

(Wikipedia)

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#2:

DEFINE FAST

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Site Reliability Engineering

is a discipline that incorporates aspects of software engineering and applies them to infrastructure and operations problems. The main goals are to create ultra-scalable and highly reliable software systems

<https://landing.google.com/sre/books/>

Site Reliability Engineering metrics

- Rate
- Errors
- Latency
- *Saturation*
- *Utilization*

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Site Reliability Engineering metrics

- Rate — *Request rate, in requests/sec*
- Errors
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Site Reliability Engineering metrics

- **Rate** — *Request rate, in requests/sec*
- **Errors** — *Error rate, in errors/sec*
- **Latency**
- *Saturation*
- *Utilization*

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Site Reliability Engineering metrics

- **Rate** — *Request rate, in requests/sec*
- **Errors** — *Error rate, in errors/sec*
- **Latency** — *Response time, including queue/wait time*
- *Saturation*
- *Utilization*

#3:

**UNDERSTAND THE
ENVIRONMENT/LIFECYCLE**

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Server Application

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Server Application

- long running process

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Server Application

- long running process
- deployed on cloud or bare metal

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Server Application

- long running process
- deployed on cloud or bare metal
- attached to a fast network

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Server Application

- long running process
- deployed on cloud or bare metal
- attached to a fast network
- "enough" CPU/Memory

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#5:

MEASURE / BENCHMARK

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BENCHMARKING IS HARD

- *Meaningful benchmarks are even harder*

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- Techempower Framework Benchmarks

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- TechEmpower Framework Benchmarks
 - Contributors: 512

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 - Contributors: 512
 - Pull Requests: 3824

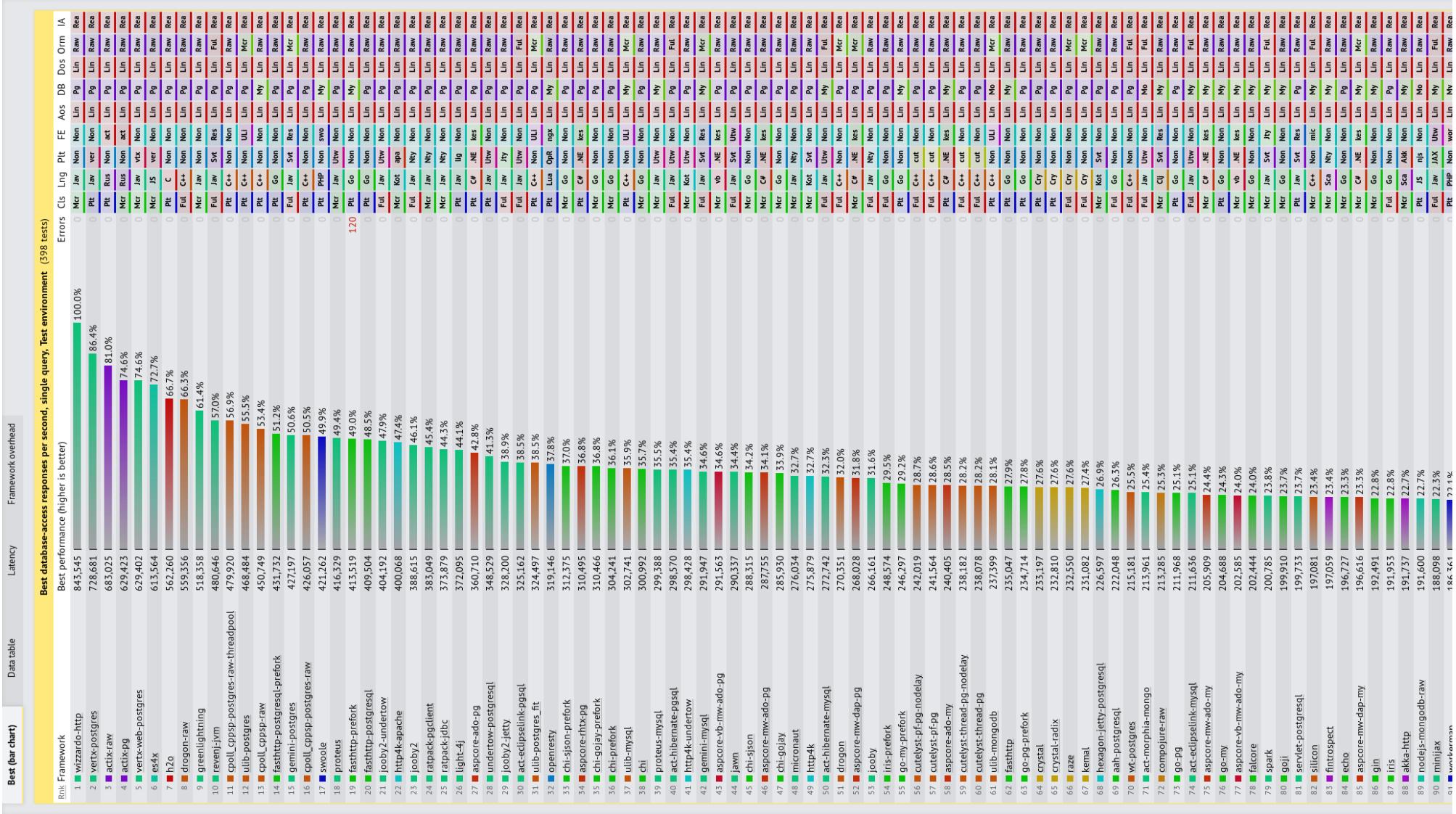
BENCHMARKING IS HARD

- *Meaningful benchmarks are even harder*
- TechEmpower Framework Benchmarks
 - Contributors: 512
 - Pull Requests: 3824
 - Commits: 10900

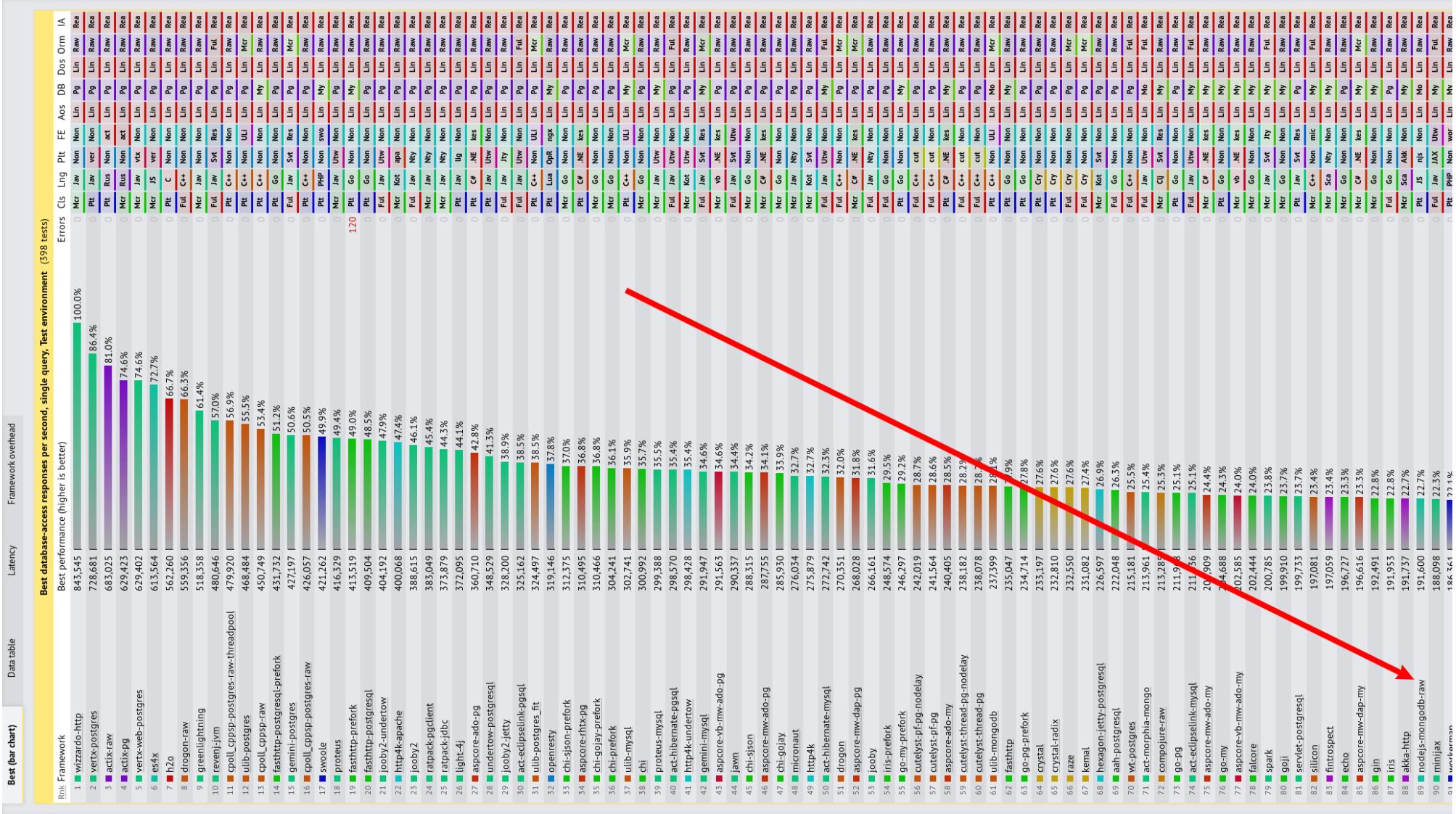
BENCHMARKING IS HARD

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<https://github.com/TechEmpower/FrameworkBenchmarks/>



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#6:

LOOK UNDER THE HOOD

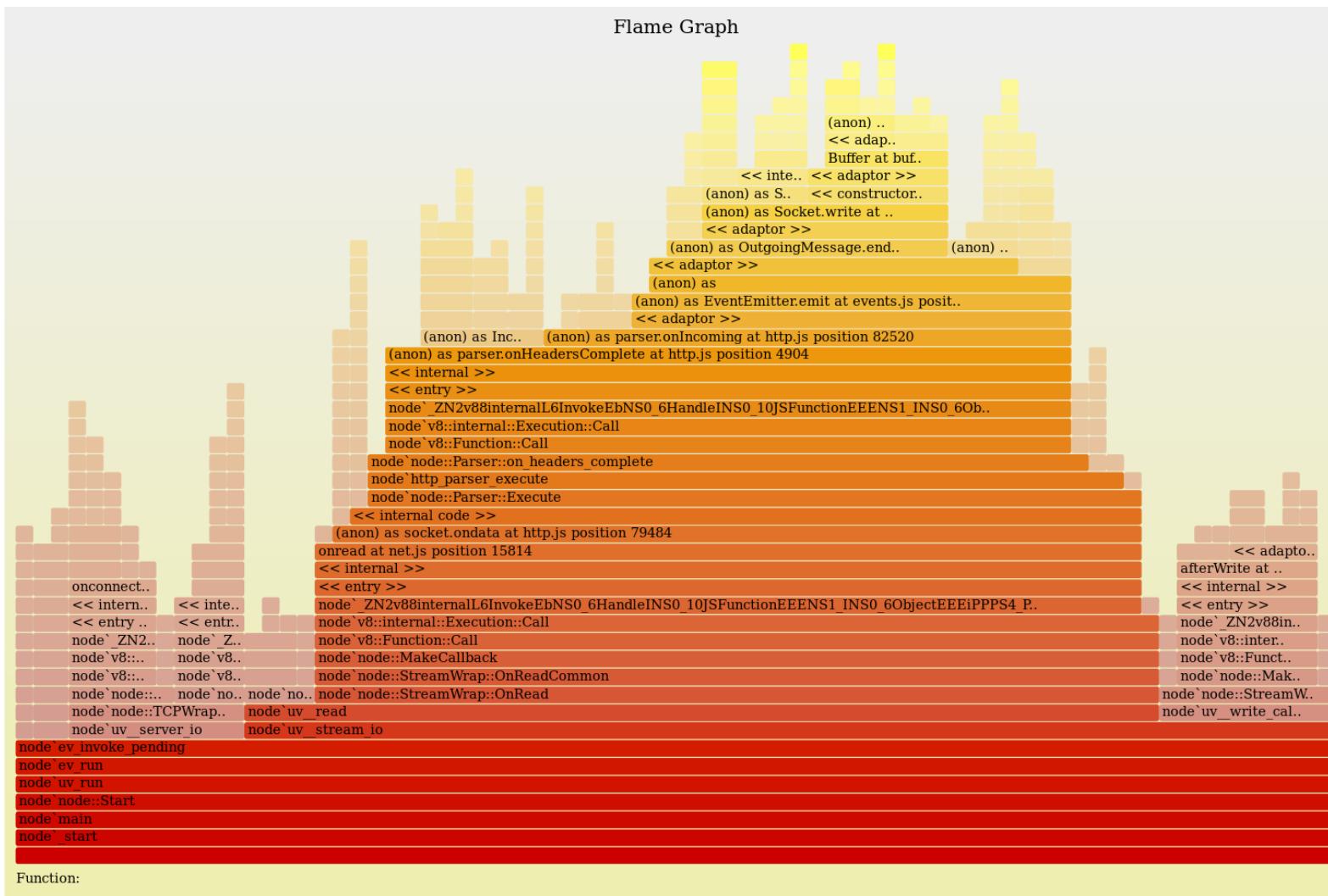
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```
const cluster = require('cluster'),
  numCPUs = require('os').cpus().length,
  express = require('express');

if (cluster.isMaster) {
  for (let i = 0; i < numCPUs; i++)
    cluster.fork();
} else {
  const app = module.exports = express();
  app.get('/plaintext', (req, res) =>
    res
      .header('Content-Type', 'text/plain')
      .send('Hello, World!'));
}
```

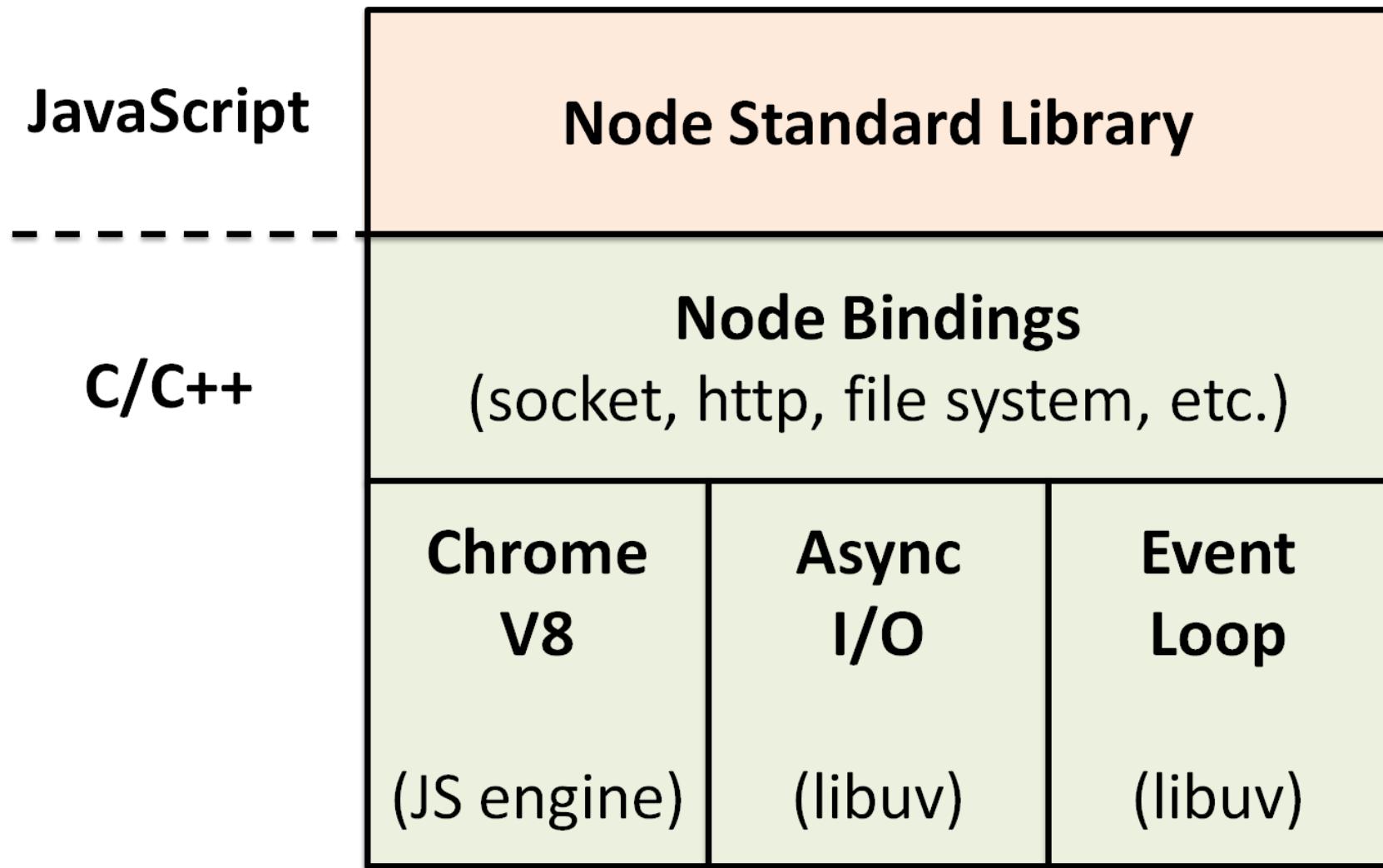
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ANALIZE



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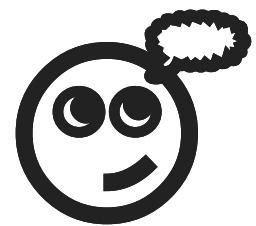
OBSERVE



YOU CAN ONLY OPTIMIZE



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#7:

JAVASCRIPT RUNTIMES

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V8 JavaScript engine

*Speed up real-world performance for modern JavaScript,
and enable developers to build a faster future web.*

MORE ENGINES

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MORE ENGINES

- ChakraCore

MORE ENGINES

- ChakraCore
- SpiderMonkey

MORE ENGINES

- ChakraCore
- SpiderMonkey
- ScriptCore

MORE ENGINES

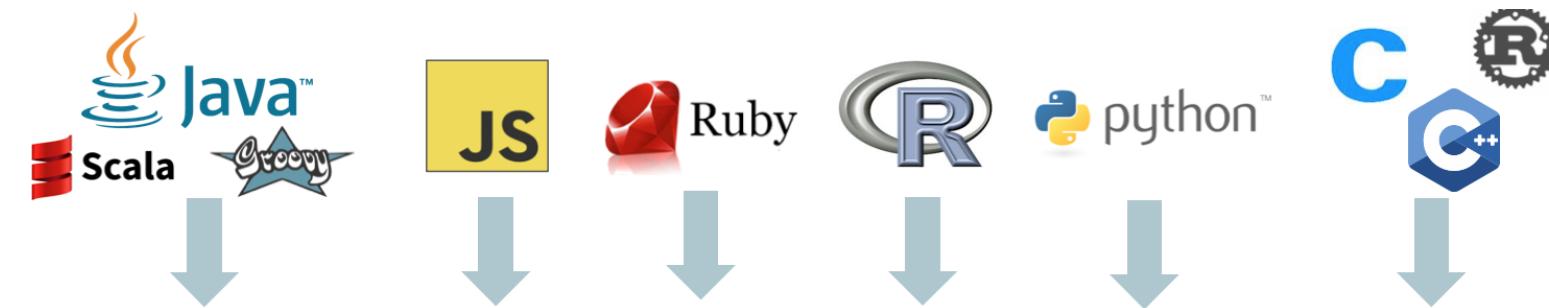
- ChakraCore
- SpiderMonkey
- ScriptCore
- **Graaljs**

#8:

TRY OTHER ENGINES

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Graal



Automatic transform of interpreters to compiler

GraalVM™

Engine integration native and managed



<https://graalvm.org>
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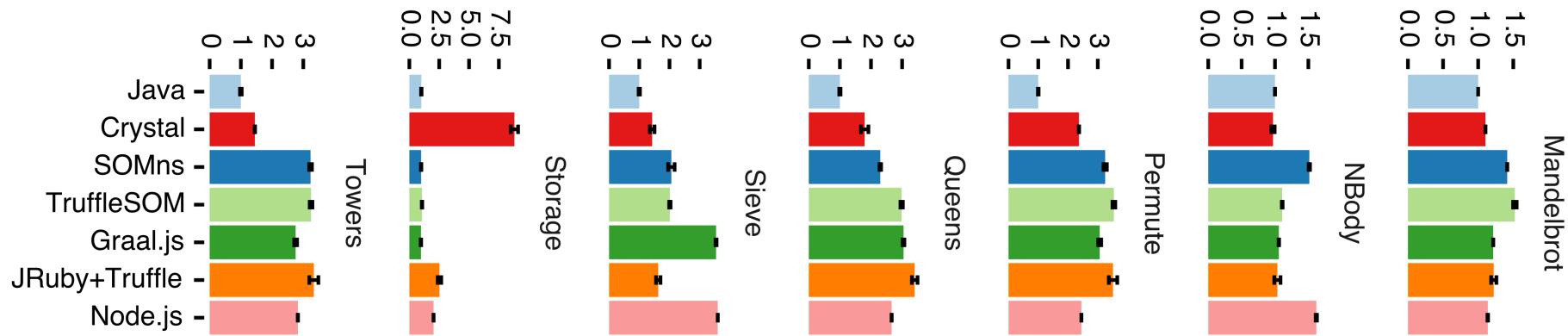
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GRAALJS

- *JavaScript with best possible performance*
- *Full latest ECMAScript specification*
- *Fast interoperability*
 - *Java, Scala, or Kotlin, ...*
 - *or GraalVM Ruby, Python, or R ...*

<https://github.com/graalvm/graaljs>

GRAAL vs **GRAAL.JS** vs **NODE.JS**



<https://stefan-marr.de/papers/dls-marr-et-al-cross-language-compiler-benchmarking-are-we-fast-yet/>

HYPOTHESIS



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ES4X

<https://reactiverse.io/es4x>

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ES4X

- ~~V8~~ ⇒ GraalJS (<https://graalvm.org>)

<https://reactiverse.io/es4x>

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- ~~V8~~ ⇒ GraalJS (<https://graalvm.org>)
- ~~libUV~~ ⇒ Eclipse Vert.x (<https://vertx.io>)

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- ~~V8 JIT~~ ⇒ GraalVM JVMCI (<https://graalvm.org>)
- ~~node bindings`~~ ⇒ .d.ts of Java APIs
- commonjs and ESM loader
- npm compatibility (no native modules for now)
- debug/profile using chrome-devtools

<https://reactiverse.io/es4x>

```
import { Router } from '@vertx/web';

const app = Router.router(vertx);

app.get("/plaintext").handler(ctx => {
  ctx.response()
    .putHeader("Content-Type", "text/plain")
    .end('Hello, World!');
});
```

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EXPECTATION:

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EXPECTATION:

- User code (JavaScript)

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- + Runtime (ES4X)

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EXPECTATION:

- User code (JavaScript)
- + Runtime (ES4X)
- + Interop JS ↔ Java

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- + JS Engine (GraalJS)
- + IO library (vert.x)

EXPECTATION:

- User code (JavaScript)
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- + JDK

EXPECTATION:

- User code (JavaScript)
- + Runtime (ES4X)
- + Interop JS ↔ Java
- + JS Engine (GraalJS)
- + IO library (vert.x)
- + JDK
- = **Full application optimization** 

#9:

TEST EXPERIMENT

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JSON serialization

Single query

Multiple queries

Fortunes

Data updates

Plaintext

Single query

Best database-access responses per second, single query, Test environment (415 tests)

Rnk	Framework	Best performance (higher is better)	Errors	Cls	Lng	Plt
1	wizzardo-http	860,019 100.0%	0	Mcr	Jav	Non
2	actix-core	844,491 98.2%	0	Plt	Rus	Non
3	actix-pg	816,879 95.0%	0	Mcr	Rus	Non
4	vertx-postgres	726,580 84.5%	0	Plt	Jav	ver
5	es4x	677,568 78.8%	0	Mcr	JS	ver
6	vertx-web-postgres	656,835 76.4%	0	Mcr	Jav	vtx
7	h2o	556,133 64.7%	0	Plt	C	Non
8	drogon-raw	541,425 63.0%	0	Ful	C++	Non
9	cpoll_cppsp-raw	504,957 58.7%	0	Plt	C++	Non
10	swoole	502,131 58.4%	0	Plt	PHP	Non
11	cpoll_cppsp-postgres-raw-threadpool	473,486 55.1%	0	Plt	C++	Non
12	greenlightning	467,266 54.3%	0	Mcr	Jav	Non
13	ulib-postgres	463,353 53.9%	0	Plt	C++	Non
14	revenj-jvm	459,905 53.5%	0	Ful	Jav	Svt
15	fasthttp-prefork	458,756 53.3%	0	Plt	Go	Non
16	fasthttp-postgresql-prefork	447,720 52.1%	0	Plt	Go	Non

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JSON serialization

Single query

Multiple queries

Fortunes

Data updates

Plaintext

Multiple queries

20-queries (bar)

Data table

Latency

Framework overhead

Responses per second at 20 queries per request, Test environment (405 tests)

Rnk	Framework	Performance (higher is better)	Errors	Cls	Lng	Plt
1	actix-pg	46,303 100.0%	0	Mcr	Rus	Non
2	greenlightning	45,348 97.9%	0	Mcr	Jav	Non
3	actix-core	45,002 97.2%	0	Plt	Rus	Non
4	vertx-postgres	43,494 93.9%	0	Plt	Jav	ver
5	wizzardo-http	43,448 93.8%	0	Mcr	Jav	Non
6	es4x	42,974 92.8%	0	Mcr	JS	ver
7	ratpack-pgclient	42,972 92.8%	0	Mcr	Jav	Nty
8	vertx-web-postgres	41,576 89.8%	0	Mcr	Jav	vtx
9	micronaut	33,685 72.7%	0	Mcr	Jav	Nty
10	h2o	27,936 60.3%	0	Plt	C	Non
11	http4k-undertow	27,696 59.8%	0	Mcr	Kot	Utw
12	hexagon-jetty-postgresql	27,624 59.7%	0	Mcr	Kot	Svt
13	actix-diesel	27,594 59.6%	0	Mcr	Rus	Non
14	drogon-raw	27,581 59.6%	0	Ful	C++	Non

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#10: **HOW DOES IT COMPARE?**

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JSON serialization

Single query

Multiple queries

Fortunes

Data updates

Plaintext

JSON serialization

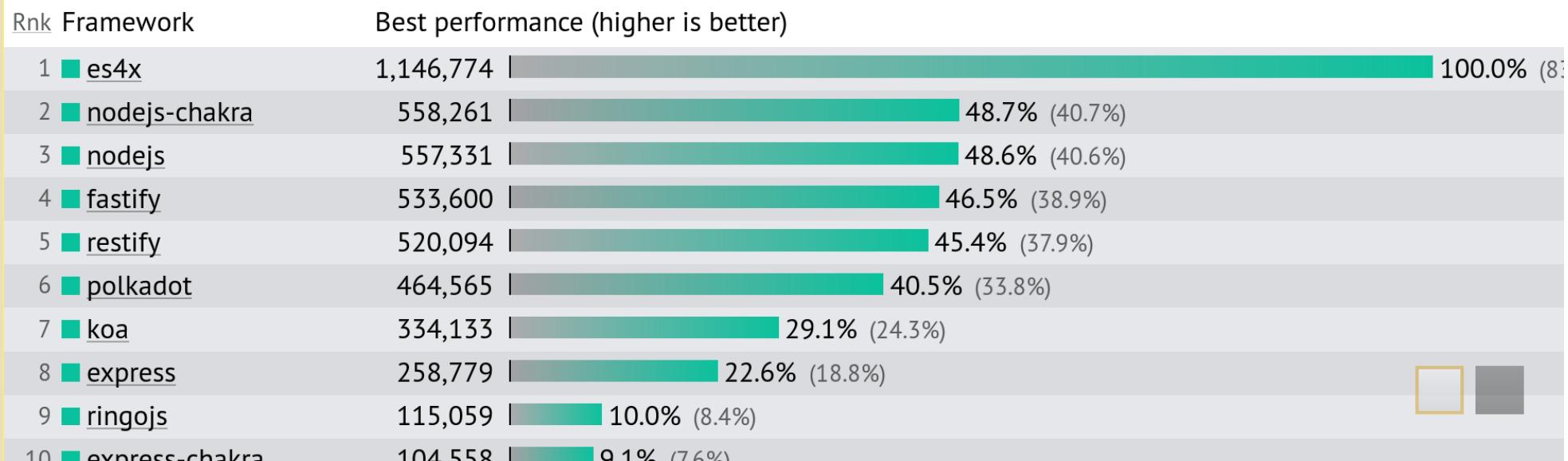
Best (bar chart)

Data table

Latency

Framework overhead

Best JSON responses per second, Test environment (14 tests)



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JSON serialization

Single query

Multiple queries

Fortunes

Data updates

Plaintext

Single query

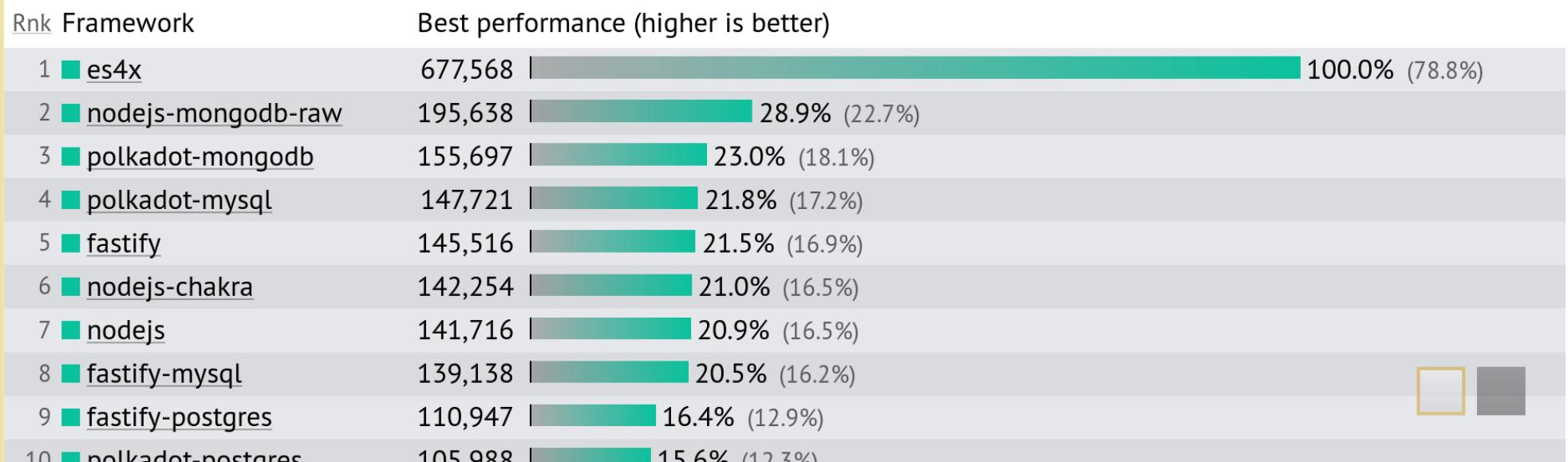
Best (bar chart)

Data table

Latency

Framework overhead

Best database-access responses per second, single query, Test environment (2023-05-10)



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JSON serialization

Single query

Multiple queries

Fortunes

Data updates

Plaintext

Multiple queries

20-queries (bar)

Data table

Latency

Framework overhead

Responses per second at 20 queries per request, Test environment (29 tests)

Rnk	Framework	Performance (higher is better)
1	es4x	42,974 100.0% (92.8%)
2	hapi	17,458 40.6% (37.7%)
3	ringojs	14,373 33.4% (31.0%)
4	nodejs-mongodb-raw	12,417 28.9% (26.8%)
5	polkadot-mongodb	11,350 26.4% (24.5%)
6	fastify-mysql	10,046 23.4% (21.7%)
7	polkadot-mysql	9,125 21.2% (19.7%)
8	nodejs	9,045 21.0% (19.5%)
9	nodejs-chakra	9,030 21.0% (19.5%)
10	fastify-postgres	7,810 18.2% (16.0%)

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JSON serialization

Single query

Multiple queries

Fortunes

Data updates

Plaintext

Data updates

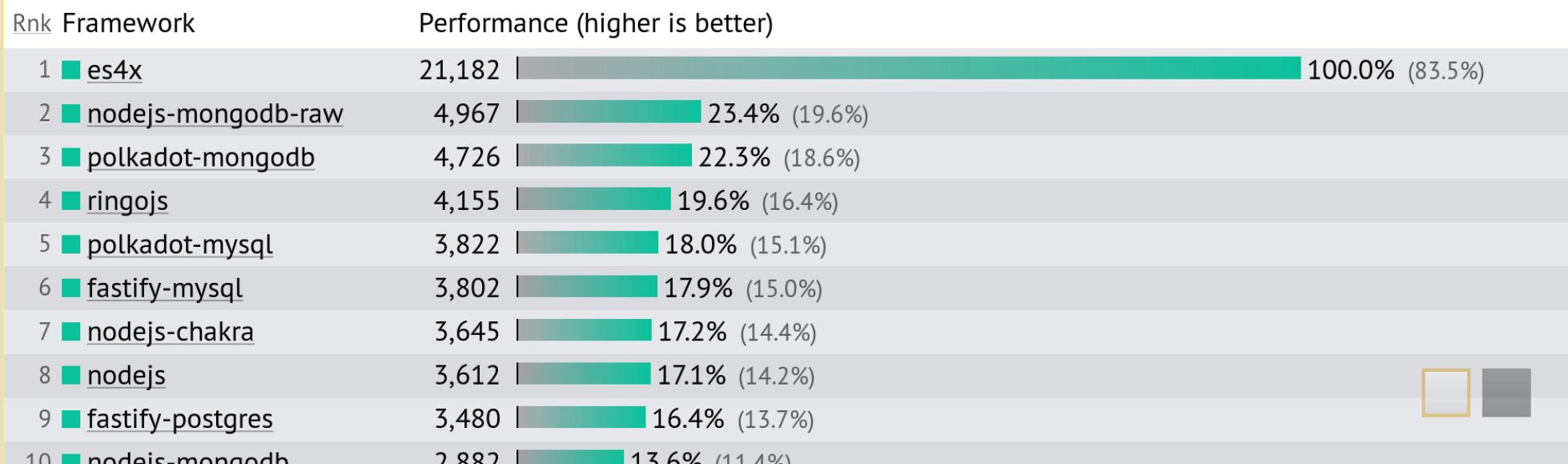
20-updates (bar)

Data table

Latency

Framework overhead

Responses per second at 20 updates per request, Test environment (29 tests)



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REQ/SEC

Node*	ES4X**	Test
558,261	1,146,774	JSON
195,638	677,568	Single Query
17,458	42,974	Multiple Query
4,967	21,182	Data Updates
881,321	2,268,524	Plaintext

Higher is better

CONCLUSION

- *There's nothing wrong with JavaScript.*

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- *There's nothing wrong with JavaScript.*
- Yes **JavaScript is fast**

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- *There's nothing wrong with JavaScript.*
- Yes **JavaScript is fast**
- You don't need to switch to Go/Rust/etc...

CONCLUSION

- *There's nothing wrong with JavaScript.*
- Yes **JavaScript** is **fast**
- You don't need to switch to Go/Rust/etc...
- *Dare to Experiment*

THANK YOU!

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-  pmlopes
- <https://reactiverse.io/es4x>
- <https://vertx.io>
- <https://graalvm.org>

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