



introduction to profiling Node.js applications

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<http://pmuellr.github.io/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro>

<http://pmuellr.github.io/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/slides.pdf>

<http://pmuellr.github.io/slides/> (all of Patrick's slides)

what kind of profiling?

- **performance** with V8's CPU profiler
- **memory** with V8's heap snapshots

profiling performance

what does V8's CPU profiler do?

- trigger profiler on / off
- when on, at regular intervals, V8 will capture current stack trace, with time stamp, and source file / line numbers
- when turned off, profiler will aggregate the information, and produce a JSON data structure for analysis tools

understanding CPU profiling

- intro: Google Developers: Speed Up JavaScript Execution
- provides times spent executing functions:
 - **self time** - time to run the function, **not** including any functions that it called
 - **total time** - time to run the function, including any functions that it called

time-line from Chrome Dev Tools

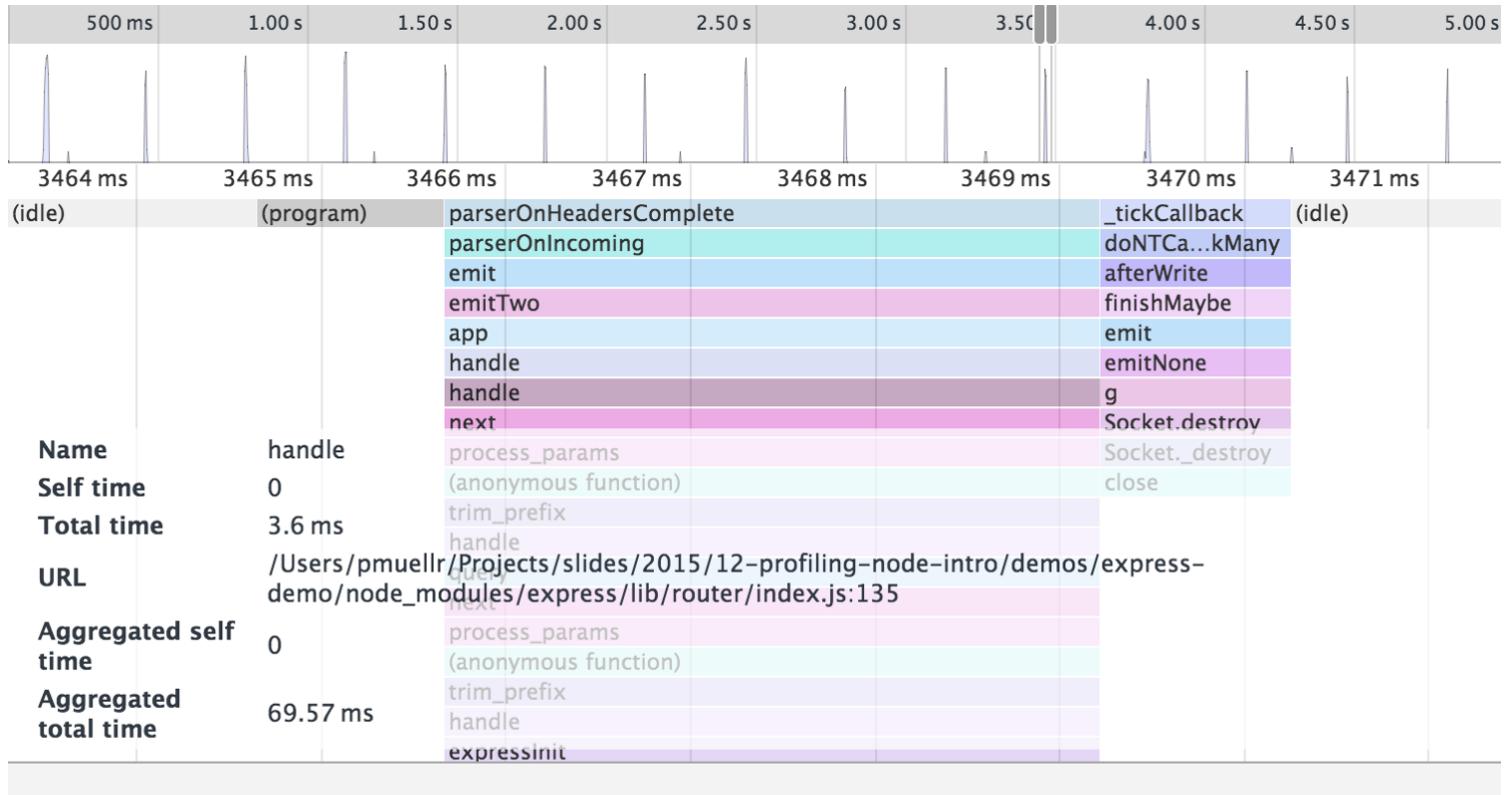
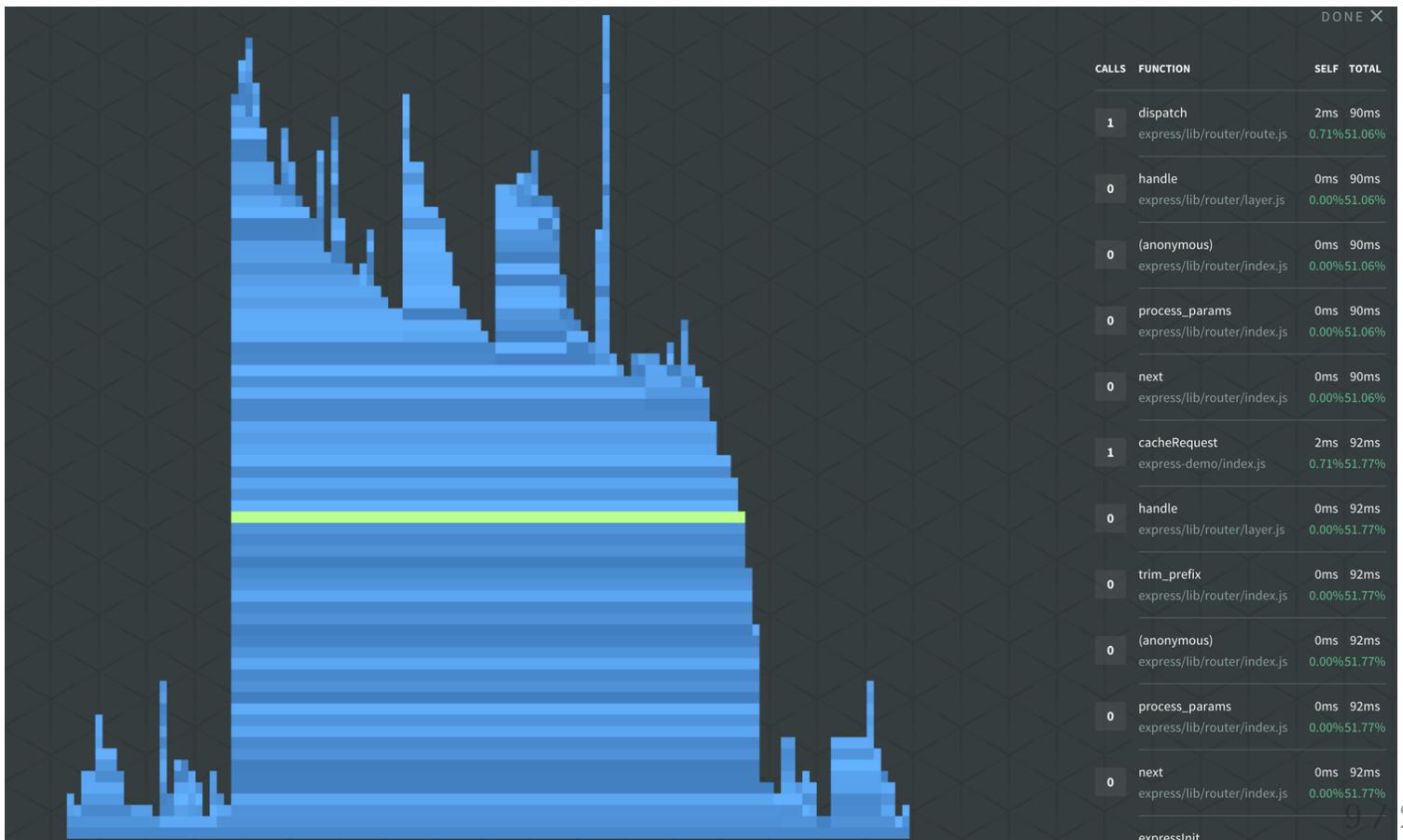


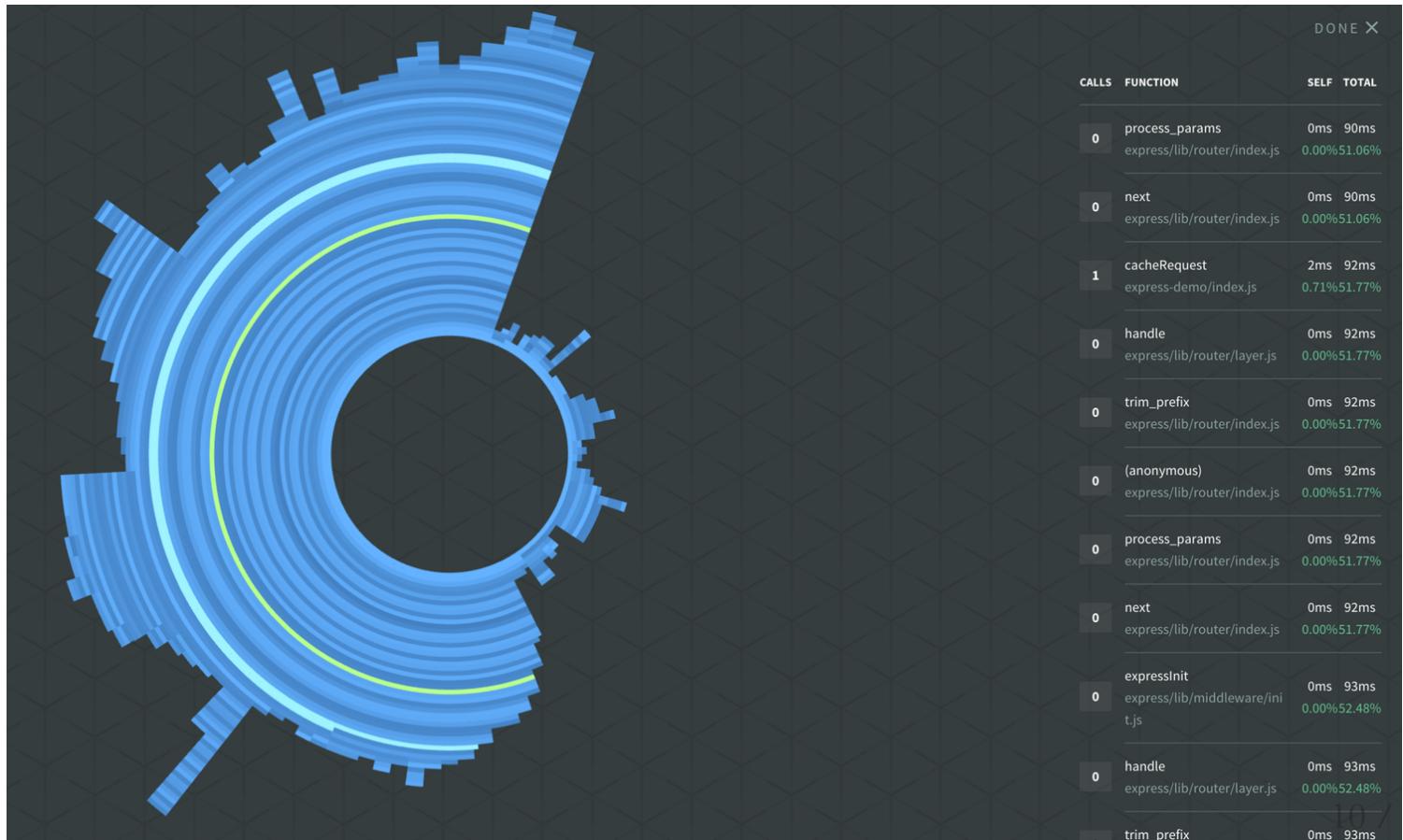
table from Chrome Dev Tools

Self ▼	Total	Function	
4831.8 ms	4831.8 ms	(idle)	(program):-1
16.3 ms	9.22 %	(program)	(program):-1
12.5 ms	7.09 %	(garbage collector)	(program):-1
10.0 ms	5.67 %	► c	/Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
7.5 ms	4.26 %	► Lexer.next	/Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
6.3 ms	3.55 %	► spawn	(program):-1
3.8 ms	2.13 %	► now	(program):-1
3.8 ms	2.13 %	► pp.eat	/Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► pp.parseExprSubsc...	/Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► pp.finishNode	/Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
2.5 ms	1.42 %	systemStats	nsolid.js:227
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► posix.dirname	path.js:528
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► parse	/Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► app	/Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
2.5 ms	1.42 %	8.8 ms	4.96 % http outgoing.js:513
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► OutgoingMessage.end	
2.5 ms	1.42 %	2.5 ms	1.42 % http server.js:159
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► ServerResponse.writeHead	
2.5 ms	1.42 %	3.8 ms	2.13 % http agent.js:109
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► Agent.addRequest	
2.5 ms	1.42 %	87.5 ms	49.65 % /Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► render	
2.5 ms	1.42 %	2.5 ms	1.42 % buffer.js:609
2.5 ms	1.42 %	► slice	
2.5 ms	1.42 %	108.8 ms	61.70 % events.js:116
1.3 ms	0.71 %	► emit	
1.3 ms	0.71 %	91.3 ms	51.77 % /Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
1.3 ms	0.71 %	► cacheRequest	
1.3 ms	0.71 %	1.3 ms	0.71 % path.js:474
1.3 ms	0.71 %	► posix.join	
1.3 ms	0.71 %	1.3 ms	0.71 % /Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
1.3 ms	0.71 %	► pp.readString	
1.3 ms	0.71 %	7.5 ms	4.26 % /Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
1.3 ms	0.71 %	► base.NewExpressio...	
1.3 ms	0.71 %	1.3 ms	0.71 % /Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
1.3 ms	0.71 %	► _tokentype.types.b...	
1.3 ms	0.71 %	11.3 ms	6.38 % /Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
1.3 ms	0.71 %	► pp.parseExprList	
1.3 ms	0.71 %	5.0 ms	2.84 % /Users/pmuellr/Projects/slides/2015/12-profiling-node-intro/demos
1.3 ms	0.71 %	► pp.parseldent	

flame graph from N | Solid



sunburst from N | Solid



how can you get CPU profiles?

- npm v8-profiler (requires instrumenting your code)
- npm node-inspector
- StrongLoop arc
- NodeSource N|Solid

demo time!

expecting faster response time in app when
load testing with **ab - what's slowing down
this app?**

- source for the express-demo
- see the instructions in [demos/README.md](#)
- using N|Solid - [getting started info](#)

profiling memory

what are V8 heap snapshots?

- JSON file describing every reachable JavaScript object in the application; taking a snapshot always starts with a garbage collection
- JSON files are ... large; figure 2x heap memory allocated by Node.js
- triggered via single native V8 call -
TakeHeapSnapshot()

understanding heap snapshots

- intro: Google Developers: Viewing Heap Snapshots
- object sizes/counts, grouped by constructor
 - **shallow size** - the size of memory held by an object itself
 - **retained size** - the size of memory that can be freed once an object is deleted

heapmap from Chrome Dev Tools

Constructor	Distance	Objects Count	Shallow Size	Retained Size
► ReadableState	6	8 266	2 %	1 851 584 4 %
► (concatenated string)	4	6 780	1 %	310 768 1 %
► WritableState	6	4 134	1 %	1 324 416 3 %
▼ TagRequest	10	4 133	1 %	99 376 0 %
► TagRequest @4987	11		24 0 %	24 0 %
► TagRequest @4989	10		24 0 %	208 0 %
► TagRequest @5053	11		24 0 %	24 0 %
► TagRequest @5101	11		24 0 %	24 0 %
► TagRequest @5149	11		24 0 %	24 0 %
► TagRequest @5197	11		24 0 %	24 0 %
► TagRequest @7635	11		24 0 %	24 0 %
► TagRequest @7683	11		24 0 %	24 0 %
► TagRequest @9239	11		24 0 %	24 0 %
Retainers				≡
Object	Distance	▲	Shallow Size	Retained Size
▼ __tag in IncomingMessage @4975	10		240 0 %	6 320 0 %
▼ [19] in Array @166833	9		32 0 %	25 882 456 58 %
► Requests in system / Context @71747	8		80 0 %	25 882 768 58 %
► context in <i>function pingServer()</i> @71753	7		72 0 %	1 584 0 %
► _repeat in Timeout @166413	6		144 0 %	1 728 0 %
► _idlePrev in Timer @1105	5		32 0 %	224 0 %
▼ [333] in @66753	4		56 0 %	208 0 %
► lists in system / Context @37847	3		224 0 %	960 0 %
► context in <i>function ()</i> @5879	2		72 0 %	72 0 %
► clearInterval in @583	1		48 0 %	4 968 0 %
► value in system / PropertyCell @37929	3		32 0 %	32 0 %
► clearInterval in @66411	4		56 0 %	56 0 %
► 22 in (map descriptors)[] @65155	6		272 0 %	272 0 %
► context in <i>function ()</i> @5865	2		72 0 %	72 0 %
► context in <i>function ()</i> @5845	2		72 0 %	72 0 %

what kind of output can you get?

- large JSON file - could be 100's of MB;
figure 2x allocated heap
- can "diff" snapshots to help identify leaks
- can drill into or out from references in
Chrome Dev Tools; references / referenced
by

how can you get heap snapshots?

- npm v8-profiler (requires instrumenting your code)
- npm node-inspector
- StrongLoop arc
- NodeSource N|Solid

demo time!

this app seems to be leaking memory - **what objects are leaking?**

- source for the express-demo
- see the instructions in [demos/README.md](#)
- using N|Solid - [getting started info](#)

profiling tips

profiling performance

- look for **width** in trace visualizations; height only shows stack trace which may not have any perf consequences
- "script" profiling a web server: start profile, run load tester, stop profile
- use node/v8 option **--no-use-inlining** to turn off function inlining; stack traces may make more sense (but no inlining!)

profiling memory

- easiest way to find a memory leak:
 - take a heap snapshot; run load tester; take another heap snapshot; diff in Chrome Dev Tools
- 'tag' objects you think might be leaking w/easy to find class:

```
req.__tag = new TagRequest()
```

fin

The background of the slide features a vibrant sunset over a city skyline. In the foreground, a bridge spans a body of water, with trees and a grassy area visible on the far bank. The sky is filled with warm orange, yellow, and pink hues.

profiling Node.js applications

node INTERACTIVE