

<WA/>

2026

JavaScript packages: example with dates

“The” language of the Web

Enrico Masala

Antonio Servetti



Example: Day.js Package

DAY.JS <https://day.js.org/>

- Install (from command line)

```
# initialize the package manager files in the project  
# if not already done (choose a name and default for  
the rest, except for index.mjs)
```

```
npm init
```

```
# download from registry, add to project package list  
# make it available to the scripts in the project
```

```
npm install dayjs
```

package.json

```
{  
  "name": "my-project",  
  "version": "1.0.0",  
  "main": "index.mjs",  
  . . .  
  "dependencies": {  
    "dayjs": "^1.11.19"  
  }  
}
```

Folder Structure after running npm

```
my-project
├── node_modules
├── package.json
├── package-lock.json
└── index.mjs
```

- `my-project` is the project root
- `node_modules` is the folder where packages are installed. This is automatically managed/reconstructed by npm, do not touch!
- `package.json` contains (also) the list of packages needed by the project, with their minimum version
- `package-lock.json` contains the list of packages actually installed in the project, with more details (version, package hash)
- `index.mjs` is the code of the project
 - **Develop here!**
 - Insert the `import` statement here to use the package

Example: Day.js Package usage in Node.js

- In the Javascript file, after the package has been installed

index.mjs

```
// import (using name of my choice)
import dayjs from 'dayjs';

// use (depends on the specific package)
let now = dayjs();
console.log(now.format());
```

Day.js main goals

- Compatible with moment.js (most used date library until a few years ago)
 - But very small (2kB) compared to moment.js
- Works in nodejs and in the browser
- All objects are *immutable*
 - All API functions that modify a date, will always return a new object instance
- Localization support
- Plugin system for extending functionality

Basic operations with Day.js

Creating date objects – dayjs() constructor

```
let now = dayjs() // today
let date1 = dayjs('2019-12-27T16:00');
    // from ISO 8601 format
let date2 = dayjs('20191227');
    // from 8-digit format
let date3 = dayjs(new Date(2019, 11, 27));
    // from JS Date object
let date5 = dayjs.unix(1530471537);
    // from Unix timestamp
```

By default, Day.js parses in local time

<https://day.js.org/docs/en/parse/parse>

Displaying date objects – format()

```
console.log(now.format());
    2021-03-02T16:38:38+01:00

console.log(now.format('YYYY-MM [on the] DD'));
    2021-03 on the 02

console.log(now.toString());
    Tue, 02 Mar 2021 15:43:46 GMT
```

By default, Day.js displays in local time

Get/Set date/time components

```
// obj.unit() -> get
// obj.unit(new_val) -> set

let now2 = now.date(15);
let now2 = now.set('date', 15);
2021-03-15T16:50:26+01:00

let now3 = now.minute(45);
let now3 = now.set('minute', 45);
2021-03-02T16:45:26+01:00

let today_day = now.day();
let today_day = now.get('day');
2
```

Unit	Shorthand	Description
date	D	Date of Month
day	d	Day of Week (Sunday as 0, Saturday as 6)
month	M	Month (January as 0, December as 11)
year	y	Year
hour	h	Hour
minute	m	Minute
second	s	Second
millisecond	ms	Millisecond

<https://day.js.org/docs/en/get-set/get-set>

Date Manipulation and Comparison

```
let wow = dayjs('2019-01-25').add(1, 'day').subtract(1, 'year').year(2009).toString() ;  
// "Sun, 25 Jan 2009 23:00:00 GMT"
```

- Methods to "modify" a date (and return a modified one)
- .add / .subtract
- .startOf / .endOf
- d1.diff(d2, 'unit')
- Specify the unit to be added/subtracted/rounded
- Can be easily *chained*
- Day.js objects can be compared
- .isBefore / .isSame / .isAfter
- .isBetween
- .isLeapYear / .daysInMonth

Day.js Plugins

- To keep install size minimal, several functions are only available in *plugins*
- Plugins must be
 - Loaded
 - Registered into the libraries
 - (in this case, they come with dayjs package, no need to install them)
- Then, functions may be freely used

```
// load plugin (already installed)
import isLeapYear from
    'dayjs/plugin/isLeapYear.js';

// register plugin
dayjs.extend(isLeapYear);

// use function
console.log(now.isLeapYear()) ;
```

Advanced Day.js Topics

- Localization / Internationalization
 - Language-aware and locale-aware parsing and formatting
 - Various formatting patterns for different locales/languages
- Durations
 - Measuring time intervals (the difference between two time instants)
 - Interval arithmetic
- Time Zones
 - Conversion between time zones

License

- These slides are distributed under a Creative Commons license “**Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)**”
- **You are free to:**
 - **Share** — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
 - **Adapt** — remix, transform, and build upon the material
 - The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.
- **Under the following terms:**
 - **Attribution** — You must give [appropriate credit](#), provide a link to the license, and [indicate if changes were made](#). You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
 - **NonCommercial** — You may not use the material for [commercial purposes](#).
 - **ShareAlike** — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the [same license](#) as the original.
 - **No additional restrictions** — You may not apply legal terms or [technological measures](#) that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.
- <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

