Session 5.1

Node Fundamentals - Event Loop



Topics

- Node Fundamentals II
 - Asynchronous Code, Libuv and Event Loop

Asynchronous Code, Libuv and Event Loop

The Event Loop

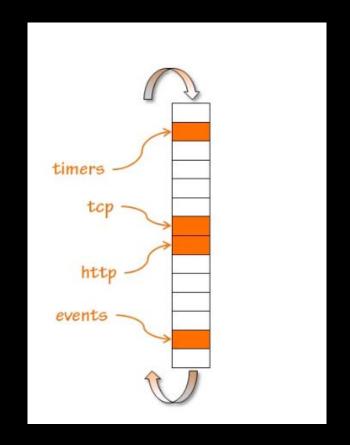
The event loop is what allows Node.js to perform non-blocking I/O operations.

Since most modern kernels are multi-threaded they can handle multiple operations in the background.

** In the Browser, the event loop is constantly listening to DOM events, such as key presses and mouse clicks.

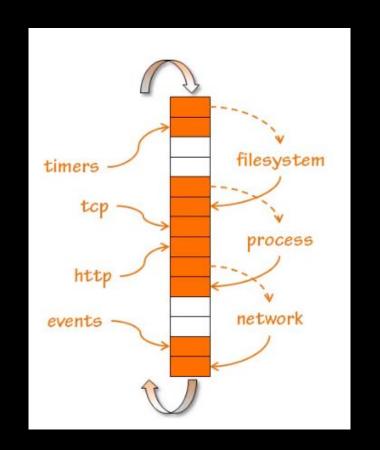
Nodes Event Loop

- Nodes Event Loop is constantly listening for events on the server side.
- These events can be <u>externally</u> generated such as http requests or tcp connections.
- They can be <u>internal events</u> generated by your application such as Timers



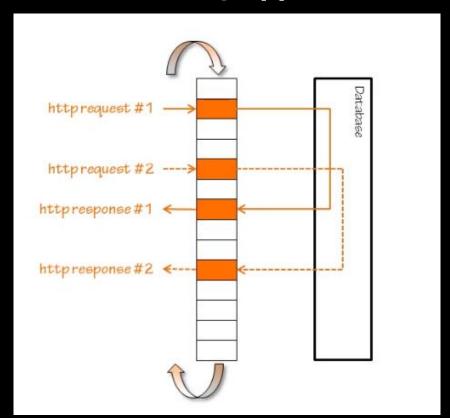
Nodes Event Loop

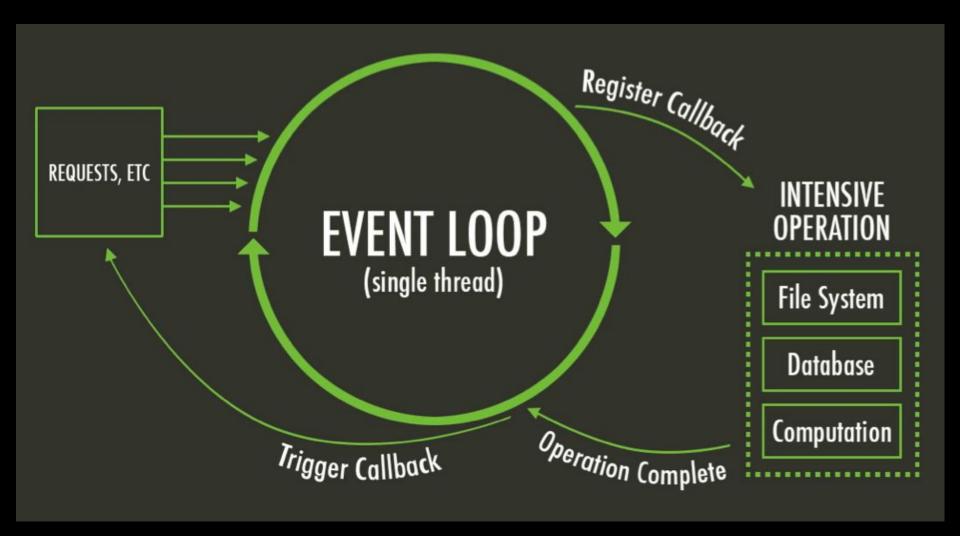
- Other events may triggered as a result of a response to external event.
- ie. Requesting Node to open file for reading will trigger event when completed.
- All these events will be handled asynchronously.



Web Application example for non-blocking approach

- Application raises an http request, which triggers an event to read a query from database.
- Once Node receives event from database it is complete it sends back response.
- While waiting, Node is <u>not</u> blocked and free to handle additional requests.



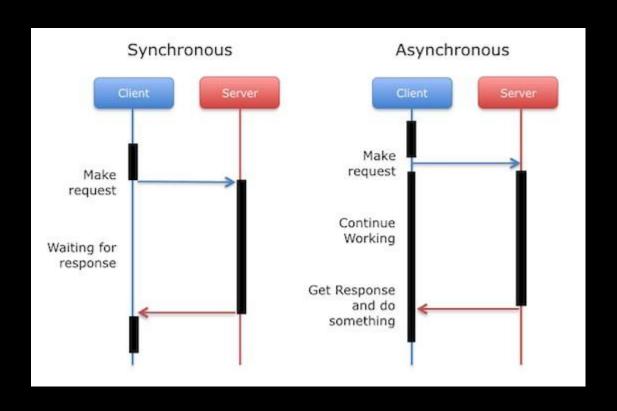


Async I/O

The following tasks should be done asynchronously using the event loop:

- I/O operations
- Heavy computation
- Anything requiring blocking

Asynchronous vs Synchronous programming



What is a callback?

- A callback is a function that is to be executed after another function has finished executing hence the name 'call back'
- An event is like a broadcast, while a callback is like a handshake.
- A component that raises an event knows nothing about its client, while a component that uses a callback knows a great deal.

Asynchronous vs Synchronous code

```
// Synchronous code
var conn = getDbConnection(connectionString);
var stmt = conn.createStatement();
var result = stmt.executeQuery(sqlQuery);
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Timers

- The timer module exposes a global API for scheduling function to be called at some point in the future.
- There is no need to use require('timers') because the timer functions are global.
- Node.js and Web Browser timer functions implement a similar API. However,
 Node.js uses the Event Loop to achieve it.

setImmediate(callback[,...args])

```
setImmediate(() => {
  console.log('immediate');
});
```

 Schedules the "immediate" execution of the callback after I/) events callbacks

setInterval(callback, delay[,...args])

```
setInterval((name) => {
   console.log(`Oh yeah, ${ name}`)
, 1000, "Macho man"})
```

 Schedules repeated execution of callback every delay millisecond.

setTimeout(callback,delay[,...args])

```
setTimeout(() => {
  console.log('timeout');
}, 0);
```

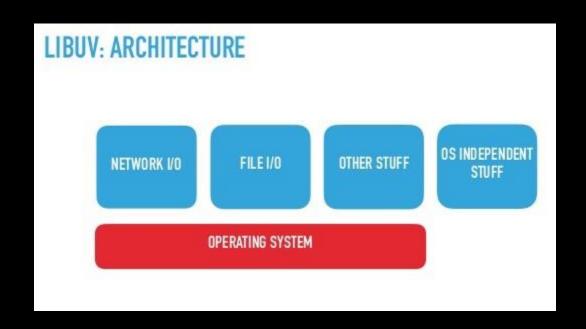
- Schedules execution of a one-time callback after delay of milliseconds.
- There is no guarantee that the callback will be triggered exactly after the specified time; instead, the callback will be called as close as possible to the time specified.

libuv - (Unicorn Velociraptor Library)



- A multi-platform C library that provides support for asynchronous I/O based on event loops.

libuv



NodeJS

