

Intro to Clojure

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What's in this talk

- What is Clojure?
- Functional Programming
- Interactive Environment - REPL
- Live Demo

What is Clojure?

- Functional Programming
- Modern Lisp
- Hosted on the JVM (or JavaScript, or CLR)
- Emphasizes Immutability

Built for Concurrency

- Immutable by default
- Primitives with concurrency guarantees
- `core.async` - Communicating Sequential Processes
- No Locks!

Simple, Terse Syntax

- Rule 1: Code as written as lists with the operation followed by the arguments.
- Tempting to say there is no rule 2, but features do require syntax

REPL Driven Development

- Read Eval Print Loop
- Interact with a running system
- Experiment with immediate feedback to find what works

Collections and Sequence Abstractions

- Lists - Singly Linked Lists - Code is written as lists. Not used often for data
- Vectors - Sequential Data. Lookup by index
- Maps - Key/Value pairs
- Sets - Enforce uniqueness

Polymorphism

- Multimethods - dispatch based on the value of any arbitrary function
- Protocols - dispatch based on the type of the first argument

Interop

- Use Java libraries from Clojure
- Many Clojure libraries to wrap Java libraries and give them a Clojure feel
- Inherit and extend Java classes
- Implement Java Interfaces

ClojureScript

- Same language in the browser and on the server
- `core.async` enables asynchronous code without callbacks
- ClojureScript libraries that wrap React.js have quickly become a popular way to build user interfaces

Macros give library developers super powers

- `core.async` - Adding async functionality usually means a compiler change or a whole new language. In Clojure it is a library
- `core.logic` - logic programming language implemented in Clojure
- DSLs for SQL, web routing, HTML generation and parsing etc.

Demo

Online Books

- Clojure For the Brave and True
- Clojure From the Ground Up

Recommended Books

- Living Clojure - Carin Meier - O'Reilly - Tutorial and 7 week training plan
- Clojure Programming - Emerick, Carper, Grand - Lots of material clearly explained

Clojure Mindset

- The Joy of Clojure - Fogus and Houser
- Any talk by Rich Hickey
- ClojureTV channel on YouTube

Questions?

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