

Introduction to TypeScript

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What is TypeScript?

What is TypeScript?

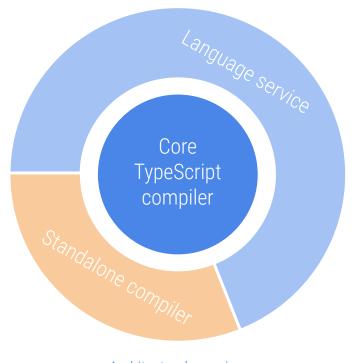




- An Open Source programming language that compiles to JavaScript
- Co-created by Anders Hejlsberg at Microsoft
- The first public release was on October 2012 (v0.8)
- A superset of JavaScript, adding optional static types

What is TypeScript?





Architectural overview

Core TypeScript compiler

Compiles TypeScript into JavaScript (transpilation)

Language service

Used by editors: completions, help tips, code formatting...

Standalone compiler

tsc program

A superset of JavaScript





A JavaScript program is a valid TypeScript program*.

```
Rename file extension from .js to .ts

function myApp(name) {
   console.log(`Hello, ${name}!`)
}

myApp('Bob') // logs "Hello, Bob!" in the console

myApp(42) // logs "Hello, 42!" in the console

myApp(42) // logs "Hello, 42!" in the console
```

Valid TypeScript program!

^{*} As long as "strict" rules are not enabled in the tsconfig.json configuration file. More on that later.

A superset of JavaScript





TypeScript adds (optional) static types on top of JavaScript.

```
main.ts

function myApp(name: string): void {
  console.log(`Hello, ${name}!`)
}

myApp('Bob') // logs "Hello, Bob!" in the console

myApp(42) // TS compiler error
// Argument of type 'number' is not assignable to parameter of type 'string'.(2345)
```

A superset of JavaScript





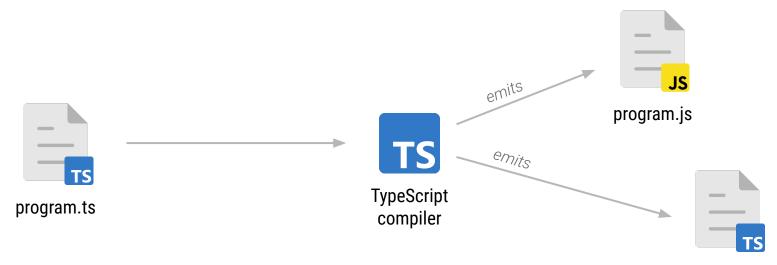
It supports the latest stable features of EcmaScript specification, e.g. arrow functions, optional chaining operator, rest and spread syntax...

```
const data = [1, 2, 3]
const doubledData = data.map(n \Rightarrow n \star 2)
const moreData = [ ... data, 4, 5]
const [head, tail] = moreData
const user = {
 name: 'Bob',
  address: {
    street: 'P Sherman 42, Wallaby way',
    city: 'Sydney',
    country: 'Australia'
const city = user.address?.city ?? 'Unknown city'
```

Overview







While writing program.ts in an editor, the **Language service** provides code completions, help tips and code formatting.

The **TypeScript compiler** compiles program.ts by:

- Parsing the source code
- Type checking it
- Emitting output files

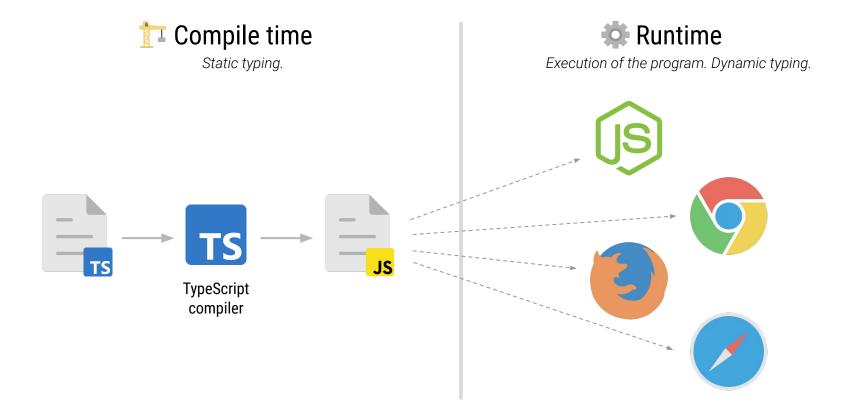
program.d.ts

Declaration file

Overview









```
interface User {
 name: string
interface Pet {
 name: string
function greetUser(user: User): void {
 console.log(`Hello, ${user.name}!`)
const user: User = { name: 'Bob' }
const pet: Pet = { name: 'Rio' }
```

What is going to happen?



```
interface User {
  name: string
interface Pet {
  name: string
function greetUser(user: User): void {
  console.log(`Hello, ${user.name}!`)
const user: User = { name: 'Bob' }
const pet: Pet = { name: 'Rio' }
greetUser(pet) 		── ???
```

What is going to happen?

No error!

TypeScript is based on **structural** typing (in contrast with **nominal** typing).

"If it looks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it's a duck".



```
interface User {
 name: string
interface Pet {
 name: string
 age: number new
function greetUser(user: User): void {
  console.log(`Hello, ${user.name}!`)
const user: User = { name: 'Bob' }
const pet: Pet = { name: 'Rio', age: 2 }
greetUser(pet) - ???
```

What is going to happen?





```
interface User {
 name: string
interface Pet {
 name: string
  age: number new
function greetUser(user: User): void {
  console.log(`Hello, ${user.name}!`)
const user: User = { name: 'Bob' }
const pet: Pet = { name: 'Rio', age: 2 }
greetUser(pet) - ???
```

What is going to happen?

Still no error!

The compiler only checks that at least the properties required are present and match the types required.

However, there are some cases where TypeScript would throw a compiler error, cf. excess property checks.





Why is TypeScript using structural typing instead of nominal typing like in Java or C#?

Type system was designed based on how JavaScript code is **typically** written:

- JavaScript widely uses anonymous objects (function expressions, object literals...)
 const f = () ⇒ 42
 const foo = { name: 'Bob' }
- It's more natural to **represent relationships found in JS libraries** using a structural type system instead of a nominal one.

Soundness





A **sound** type system implies that all type-checked programs are correct.

Simply put, if the compiler states that a variable has a particular type, then it definitely has that type at **runtime**.

TypeScript type system is **NOT sound**.

```
function messUpTheArray(arr: Array<string | number>): void {
    arr.push(3)
}

const strings: Array<string> = ['foo', 'bar']
messUpTheArray(strings)

const s: string = strings[2]

console.log(s.toLowerCase())
// Runtime JavaScript error:
// TypeError: s.toLowerCase is not a function
```





It helps us **avoid bugs and runtime errors** commonly encountered by JavaScript developers.

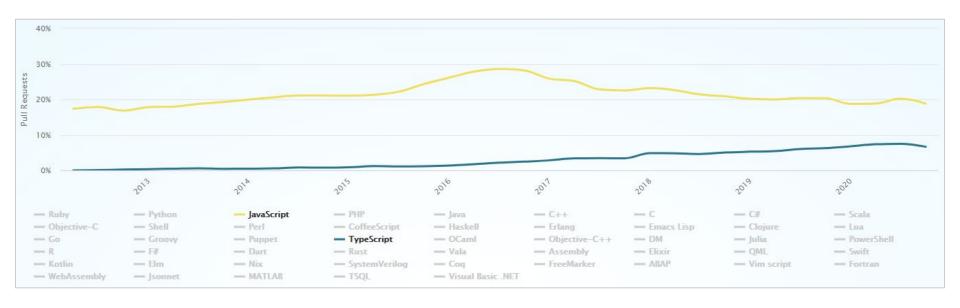
It is highly recommended to enable the **strict mode** for increased safety.







Its popularity is in constant growth since its first release.



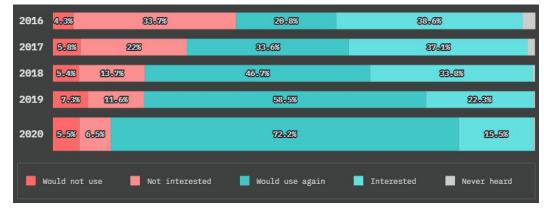
In 2020, TypeScript was 7th in Pull-Requests activity on GitHub.





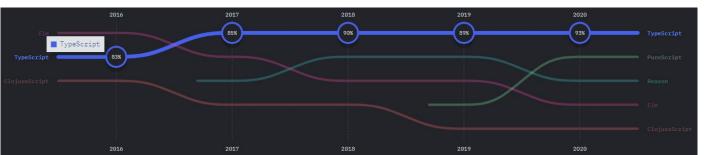
Its popularity is in constant growth since its first release.

Experience with TypeScript over time



State of JS 2020 survey

Satisfaction over time







Overall, it increases developers productivity.

For internal* code, a lot of unit tests can be avoided thanks to the **type system**.

There is no need for runtime checks and unit tests.

```
function doSomething(user) {
  if (typeof user #= 'null' &6 typeof user #= 'undefined') {
    if (typeof user.name == 'string') {
        ...
  } else {
        throw new Error('User must have a name that is a string')
    }
  } else {
        throw new Error('User must be defined')
  }
}
```

There is no need for runtime checks and unit tests, the compiler catches the error cases!

^{*} Code written by the developer, that is not coming from external dependencies such as libraries, DOM, APIs...

Language features





Boolean

```
let messageIsSent: boolean = true
let userIsNotified: boolean = false
```

The Boolean type (in contrast with boolean used here) should never be used as a type. Same goes for String, Number, BigInt, Symbol and Object.





Number and BigInt

```
const decimal: number = 42
const hex: number = 0×2A
const binary: number = 0b101010
const octal: number = 0o52

// BigInt was added in v3.2
const big: bigint = 100n
```





String

```
const name: string = 'Bob'
```





Array

```
const numbers: number[] = [1, 2, 3]
const strings: Array<string> = ['foo', 'bar']

const numbersAndStrings: (number | string)[] = [... numbers, ... strings]

const altNumbersAndStrings: Array<number | string> = [... numbers, ... strings]

i union type
```





Tuple

```
const user: [string, number] = ['Bob', 25]

// Labeled tuples were introduced in v4.0
const altUser: [name: string, age: number] = ['Bob', 25]

console.log(user[0].toLowerCase()) // no error, logs "bob"
console.log(user[1].toFixed(2)) // no error, logs "25.00"

user[2] = 'some value' // TS compiler error
// Tuple type '[string, number]' of length '2' has no element at index '2'.
```

An array with a fixed number of elements.





Enum

```
• • •
enum Color {
const color: Color = Color.Blue // 2
enum StrColor {
  Red = 'red',
 Green = 'green',
  Blue = 'blue'
const altColor: StrColor = StrColor.Blue // 'blue'
```

Useful to assign human-readable labels to "raw" values such as numbers and strings.





Unknown

```
interface User {
 name: string
function isUser(data: unknown): data is User {
 return typeof data ≡ 'object' &
   data.hasOwnProperty('name') &&
   typeof data.name ≡ 'string'
const data: unknown = {}
  (isUser(data)) {
  console.log(data.name)
} else {
  console.log('unknown data received')
```

This is a type predicate. It is used to inform the compiler that "parameter data has the type User if the function returns true, otherwise it keeps the unknown type".





Any

```
const looselyTyped: any = {}
const d = looselyTyped.a.b.c.d // type of `d` is `any`
```

Avoid at all cost!

Prefer using **unknown** when you are unsure about the type of a value.





Void

```
function greetUser(name: string): void {
  console.log(`Hello, ${name}!`)
}
```

Use **void** as the return type of a function that doesn't return any value.



Null and Undefined

```
i union type
const element: HTMLElment | null = document.getElementById('foo')
if (element ≠ null) {
  element.style.setProperty('display', 'block')
const numbers: number[] = [1, 2, 3]
const n: number | undefined = numbers[pickNumberBetween(0, 5)]
```

Strict mode (more specifically, the *strictNullChecks* flag) must be enabled so **null** and **undefined** are not assignable to any type.

Enabling this flag is highly **recommended** to avoid many common mistakes.



Never

```
function alwaysFails(): never {
  throw new Error('fail')
}

function infiniteLoop(): never {
  while (true) {}
}

const notAssignable: never = 42 // TS compiler error
  // Type 'number' is not assignable to type 'never'.(2322)
```

Nothing is assignable to **never**.

The **never** type really shines when writing <u>conditional types</u>.





ntersection type

It represents non-primitive types, i.e. anything that is not boolean, number, bigint, string, symbol, null or undefined.

Generally, you won't need to use **object**, you will most likely define interfaces or record types instead (e.g. **User**).

Object

```
i spread operator

function mergeObjects<A extends object, B extends object>(o1: A, o2: B): A & B {
   return { ...o1, ...o2 }
}

const result = mergeObjects({ name: 'Bob' }, { age: 25 })

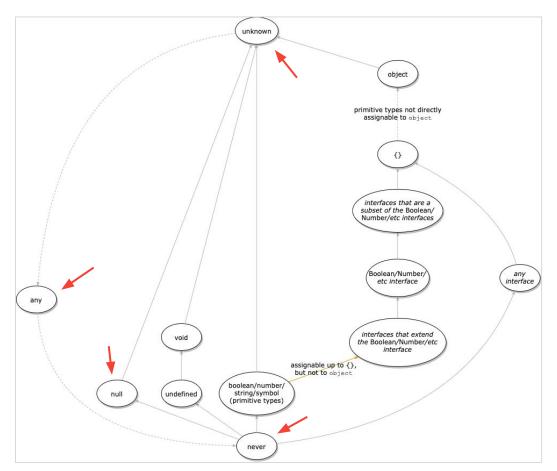
// Type of result is inferred as:
// { name: string } & { age: number }
```

We'll talk about generics, type inference and intersection types later on.

Types hierarchy







Anything is assignable to **unknown** ("top type"). **unknown** is only assignable to itself and **any**.

Nothing is assignable to **never** ("bottom type"). **never** is only assignable to itself and **any**.

Anything is assignable to **any**, and **any** is assignable to anything. Avoid this type as much as possible (prefer using **unknown**).

Nothing besides null, any and never is assignable to null ("unit type"). null is assignable to itself.

```
const a: unknown = 42
const b: unknown = a

declare const c: never
const d: never = c
```

```
const e: any = 'Bob'
const f: boolean = e

const g: null = null
const h: null = c
const i: null = g
```

Type inference





TypeScript is able to infer (i.e. "guess") the resulting type of an expression.

This allows the developer to see **how TypeScript understands** his code, and he *can* **omit** the types of some variables and return values as well.

TIP: in your editor (e.g. VS Code), you can use ctrl + mouse cursor (or cmd + mouse cursor on Mac) to see the inferred type of an expression.

Type inference





TypeScript is able to infer (i.e. "guess") the resulting type of an expression.

This allows the developer to see **how TypeScript understands** his code, and he *can* **omit** the types of some variables and return values as well.

```
const double = (n: number) ⇒ n * 2
const getNbCharacters = (s: string) ⇒ s.length
const isAboveThreshold = (value: number, threshold: number) ⇒ value ≥ threshold

const s = 'Hello, Bob!'
const res2 = isAboveThreshold(double(getNbCharacters(s)), 20)

// type of `res2` inferred as `boolean`

if (res2) {
   console.log('You may enter')
} else {
   console.log('Hold!')
}
```

TIP: in your editor (e.g. VS Code), you can use ctrl + mouse cursor (or cmd + mouse cursor on Mac) to see the inferred type of an expression.





TypeScript type checking focuses on the **shape** of a value (also called "duck typing" or "structural subtyping").

Interfaces can be used to **name** the types that describe the **shape** (or **structure**) of a set of values.

```
function greetUser(user: { name: string }): void {
  console.log(`Hello, ${user.name}!`)
}

const user: { name: string } = { name: 'Bob' }
  greetUser(user)
```

```
interface User {
  name: string
}

function greetUser(user: User): void {
  console.log(`Hello, ${user.name}!`)
}

const user: User = { name: 'Bob' }
greetUser(user)
```





Some properties of an interface can be optional.

```
• • •
interface AppConfig {
  name: string
  env?: string
  port?: number
  logLevel?: string
function startApp(config: AppConfig) {
  const env = config.env ?? 'development'
  const port = config.port ?? 8080
  const logLevel = config.logLevel ?? 'error'
  console.log(`Starting app ${name} on port ${port} in env ${env} with log level ${logLevel}`)
```





Some properties of an interface can be made "read only".

```
interface Point {
  readonly x: number
  readonly y: number
const p1: Point = { x: 1, y: 3 }
p1.x = 5
```

You can make a data type immutable at compile time (not at runtime though) by using the readonly modifier on each of its properties. You can also use the Readonly<A> mapped type to make all the properties of a type read-only.

```
interface Point extends Readonly<{
   x: number
   y: number
}> {}
```





Interfaces can extend other interfaces, thus favoring reusable "components".

```
interface Shape {
  color: string
interface PenStroke {
 width: number
interface Square extends Shape, PenStroke {
  sideLength: number
interface Circle extends Shape {
  radius: number
```

```
interface Shape {
 color: string
interface PenStroke {
 size: number
interface Square extends Shape, PenStroke {
 size: number
```

Type aliases





Type aliases can also be used to **name** types that describe the **shape** (or **structure**) of a set of values.

Unlike interfaces, they can be used for **primitive** types, **unions** and **tuples**.

Aliasing a primitive is not terribly useful, though it can be used as a form of documentation.

```
// alias for a primitive type
type Name = string

// object, same as interfaces
type User = {
   name: string
}
```

```
// union
type NumberOrString = number | string

// tuple
type UserRowFromDb = [number, string]
// or, using labeled tuple from v4.0
// type UserRowFromDb = [id: number, name: string]
```

Type aliases





Almost all features of an **interface** are available in **type**. However, a type alias **cannot be reopened** to add new properties, unlike an interface which is always extendable.

```
type Point = { x: number }
// Duplicate identifier 'Point'.(2300)
type Point = { y: number }
const p1: Point = { x: 1, y: 3 }
```

```
interface Point { x: number }
interface Point { y: number }

// These 2 declarations become:
// interface Point { x: number, y: number }

const p1: Point = { x: 1, y: 3 }
```

This is called "declaration merging".

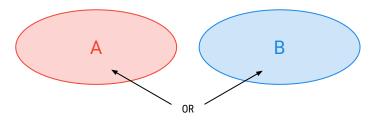
Creating types from basic types





Union type

Union types can be "named" with type aliases, but not with interfaces.



At a given time, a value is either of type A or of type B.

```
type A = string
type B = number

type UnionAB = A | B // string | number

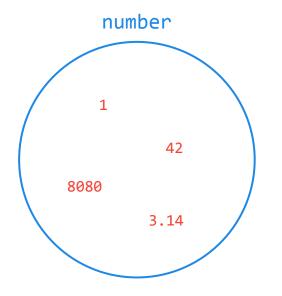
function app(data: UnionAB): void {
  if (typeof data == 'string') {
    console.log('Oh you gave me a string, so nice!')
} else {
    console.log('Hey that is a number, awesome!')
}
```

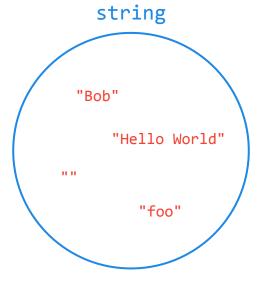
Literal types

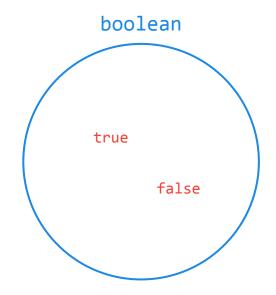




A literal is a concrete sub-type of a collective type.







Literal types





```
type Easing = 'ease-in' | 'ease-out' | 'ease-in-out'
function animateElement(dx: number, dy: number, easing: Easing): void {
    ...
}
animateElement(0, 0, 'ease-in')
animateElement(100, 200, 'esae-out')
// Argument of type '"esae-out"' is not assignable to parameter of type 'Easing'.
```

```
interface ValidationSuccess {
  valid: true
  data: unknown
}
interface ValidationFailure {
  valid: false
  reason: string
}
type ValidationResult = ValidationSuccess | ValidationFailure
```

Creating types from basic types





Discriminated union type

These types can be used to create **sum types** (functional programming concept).



Union type with a **single field using a literal type** that lets TypeScript narrow down the possible "current" type.



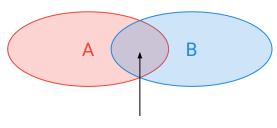
```
interface RequestLoadingState {
 state: 'loading'
interface RequestFailedState {
 state: 'failed'
 code: number
interface RequestSuccessState {
 state: 'success'
 data: unknown
type RequestState =
   RequestLoadingState
   RequestFailedState
   RequestSuccessState
```

```
function app(state: NetworkState): string {
  switch (state.state) {
    case 'loading':
        return 'Loading...'
    case 'failed':
        return `Error ${state.code}`
    case 'success':
        return `Successfully got data! ${state.data}`
  }
}
```

Creating types from basic types







At a given time, a value has both the type A and the type B.

Intersection type

These types can be used to create **product types** (functional programming concept).

```
type A = { name: string }
type B = { age: number }

type User = A & B
// { name: string } & { age: number }
// { name: string, age: number }
interface AltUser extends A, B {}
```

```
type A = string
type B = number

type ImpossibleIntersection = A & B
// never
```





Polymorphism

It's the provision of a **single interface** to work on **different types** of values.

There are 3 major classes of polymorphism:

- Ad hoc polymorphism
- Parametric polymorphism
- Subtype polymorphism





Parametric Polymorphism

A function or a data type can be written **generically** so that it can handle values identically, **no matter the differences between their types**.

We've already crossed the path of a data type that uses parametric polymorphism...

Array!





```
type List<A> = Array<A>
/*
type List<A> = A[]

type List<Element> = Array<Element>
*/
```

```
function mergeArrays<A>(a1: A[], a2: A[]): A[] {
  return [...a1, ...a2]
}

function handleApiResponse<A>(res: ApiResponse<A>): void {
  if (res.state == 'failed') {
    console.error(`API request failed with code ${res.errorCode}`)
  } else {
    console.log(`API request successfully retrieved data ${res.data}`)
  }
}
```

```
interface ApiSuccessResponse<A> {
  state: 'success'
  data: A
interface ApiFailedResponse {
  state: 'failed'
  errorCode: 400 | 401 | 403 | 500
type ApiResponse<A> =
    ApiSuccessResponse<A>
    ApiFailedResponse
declare function foo(): ApiResponse<string[]>
declare function bar(): ApiResponse<number[]>
```





```
const headNumber = (elements: number[]): number | undefined ⇒ elements[0]
const headString = (elements: string[]): string | undefined ⇒ elements[0]
const headBoolean = (elements: boolean[]): boolean | undefined ⇒ elements[0]

type Person = { name: string }
type Dog = { name: string }
type Cat = { name: string }

type DogOwner = Person & { pet: Dog }
type CatOwner = Person & { pet: Cat }
```

It helps avoid repetition.

```
const head = <A>(elements: A[]): A | undefined = elements[0]

type Person = { name: string }
type Dog = { name: string }
type Cat = { name: string }
type PetOwner<A> = Person & { pet: A }

type DogOwner = PetOwner<Cog>
type CatOwner = PetOwner<Cat>
```





You can think of a data type with parameter(s) as a "function in the types world".

```
interface Logger {
 log(message: string): void
function bar(logger: Logger) {
 logger.log('Hello, World!')
function foo(logger: Logger) {
 bar(logger)
function app() {
 const logger: Logger = {
   log: message ⇒ console.log(message)
 foo(logger)
```

```
type Bar<Logger> = Logger[]

type Foo<Logger> = Bar<Logger>

type App = Foo<string>
```

```
type Bar<A> = A[]

type Foo<A> = Bar<A>

type App = Foo<string>
```

How to use TypeScript

Installing TypeScript



Unless you are using <u>Deno</u>, you need to **install** TypeScript to use it in your project. The best way to do that is via npm:

npm init -y

This will create a package.json file at the root of the current directory.

npm install --save typescript

This will install TypeScript in the node_modules directory.

tsc --init

This will create a tsconfig.json file at the root of the current directory.

Project configuration



```
tsconfig.json
"compilerOptions": {
  "target": "es5",
  "lib": ["dom", "dom.iterable", "esnext"],
  "allowJs": true.
  "strict": true, ←----
                                  i strict mode
  "module": "esnext",
  "moduleResolution": "node",
  "noEmit": true.
  "jsx": "react"
"include": ["src"]
```

Example of a configuration file for a React project.

The presence of a **tsconfig.json** file in a directory indicates that the directory is the root of a TypeScript project.

This file specifies the root files and the **compiler options** required to compile the project.

(TSConfig options)



These files contain type definitions only (no runtime code).

They are either:

- generated by compiling a TS project with the appropriate
 TS configuration,
- or written by people to add types to existing JS projects.





```
my-program.ts

function useState<State>(defaultState: State) {
  let state: State = defaultState
  return [
    state,
    (newState: State) ⇒ state = newState
  ] as const
}
```

```
tsconfig.json

{
    "compilerOptions": {
        "declaration": true
    }
}
```

Only type definitions, no runtime code.

```
my-program.d.ts

declare function useState<State>(
   defaultState: State
): readonly [State, (newState: State) ⇒ State]
```

```
"use strict"
function useState(defaultState) {
  let state = defaultState;
  return [
    state,
    (newState) ⇒ state = newState
]
}
```

Runtime code (JavaScript).





```
my-program.ts

function useState<State>(defaultState: State) {
  let state: State = defaultState
  return [
    state,
    (newState: State) ⇒ state = newState
  ] as const
}
```

```
tsconfig.json

{
    "compilerOptions": {
      "declaration": false
    }
}
```

```
my-program.js

"use strict"
function useState(defaultState) {
  let state = defaultState;
  return [
    state,
    (newState) ⇒ state = newState
]
}
```

Runtime code (JavaScript).



People can add types to JS libraries by contributing to the DefinitelyTyped GitHub project.

The **@types** organisation was added on the npm registry to get type definitions that are available in the DefinitelyTyped project.

More information is available in the <u>TypeScript handbook</u>.



Example: You have installed React, Jest and Lodash libraries, but the types are missing? You can add them by using:

npm install --save @types/react @types/jest @types/lodash

Sometimes, the types are already available in the original packages and you don't have to manually install them.





```
my-program.js

"use strict"
function useState(defaultState) {
  let state = defaultState;
  return [
    state,
    (newState) ⇒ state = newState
  ]
}
```



```
main.ts
import { useState } from 'path/to/my-program.js'
const res = useState(42) // type of `res` is inferred as `any`
```

```
tsconfig.json

{
    "compilerOptions": {
        "allowJs": true
    }
}
```

const res = useState(42)





```
my-program.js

"use strict"
function useState(defaultState) {
  let state = defaultState;
  return [
    state,
    (newState) ⇒ state = newState
]
}
```

```
my-program.d.ts

declare function useState<A>(state: A): [A, (s: A) \Rightarrow A]
```

```
main.ts
import { useState } from 'path/to/my-program.js'
```

```
tsconfig.json

{
    "compilerOptions": {
        "allowJs": true
    }
}
```

Using TSC





The **tsc** command is available after installing TypeScript. It can be used to compile a TypeScript project.

npx tsc

npx tsc --project path/to/tsconfig-directory

npx tsc --outDir build

Using Parcel





<u>Parcel</u> is a web application bundler that requires zero configuration to work. It competes with tools such as <u>Webpack</u> and <u>Rollup</u>.

npm install -g parcel-bundler

There is a <u>dedicated section</u> in the Parcel documentation to use it with TypeScript.

Using Create React App





<u>Create React App</u> is a toolchain (bundling, linting, formatting...) to bootstrap React apps.

npm install -g create-react-app

This will install CRA globally.

npx create-react-app my-app --template typescript

This will create a my-app directory, then bootstrap a React app using TypeScript inside of it.

React functional component example





```
• • •
                                     GreetUser.tsx
import React, { PropsWithChildren, useEffect, useState } from 'react'
interface Props {
  username: string
export const GreetUser = ({ username, children }: PropsWithChildren<Props>) ⇒ {
  const [loading, setLoading] = useState(true)
  useEffect(() \Rightarrow \{
    setTimeout(() ⇒ setLoading(false), 1000)
  }, [])
  return loading ? (
    <span>Loading ... </span>
    <div>
      <span>Hello, {username}!</span>
      {children}
    </div>
```

React functional component example





```
App.tsx
import React, { useState } from 'react'
import { GreetUSer } from './GreetUser'
export const App = () \Rightarrow {
  const [username, setUsername] = useState('Bob')
  return (
    <GreetUser username={username}>
      Child 1
      Child 2
   </GreetUser>
```

Useful resources





- TypeScript playground
- The TypeScript handbook
- A glossary of TypeScript
- Type or treat challenges
- type-challenges repository
- TypeScript exercises