Discussion 3.1 JavaScript Module Bundlers

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1/16/2023

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Text

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According to our book, JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, module bundlers pre dated the import() export() functions and programmers relied on code bundlers that “start at the main entry point (or entry points) of the program and follows the tree of import directives to find all the modules that the program depends on.” (Flanagan, 2020) After which will combine all the other individual files into one bundle of code, then rewrites both the import and export to make the code operable. It is now a single file that will now be supported on web browsers that aren’t able to support modules and that’s why you would need them. However, modules are almost always now supported by browsers. Bundlers also help when releasing code, like managing the code or loading files in correct order. (Flanagan, 2020)But avoid using too much code or large bundles because this may slow the web page functionality down even though there are bundles that may help manage this.

But how do you choose a bundler? It really depends on what your program does or even how large it is. According to our book there are bundlers out there that help manage programs that have multiple entry points. They can even help you import or export files. They also can give you a source map. (Dulanga, 2021) Some examples of a bundler are Webpack, Rollup.js, Parcel and Microbundle. Webpack is considered the most popular bundler, it helps with caching to build projects within seconds. (Dulanga, 2021) It also does “Hot module replacement” which is a term for allowing the modification of a project while its running. It will also keep track of the dependencies for you. (Dulanga, 2021)

Reference:

Flanagan, D. (2020). *JavaScript: The Definitive Guide: Master the World’s Most-Used Programming Language* (7th ed.). O’Reilly Media.

Dulanga, C. (2021, December 30). *Top 5 JavaScript Module Bundlers for 2021 - Enlear Academy*. Medium. Retrieved January 16, 2023, from https://enlear.academy/top-5-javascript-module-bundlers-for-2021-e6fe17657fb