

18. GraphQL with Node.js

GraphQL is a **query language for APIs** and a runtime to execute those queries. Unlike REST (multiple endpoints), GraphQL exposes a **single endpoint** where clients request only the data they need.

1. Why GraphQL over REST?

- **REST Issues:** Over-fetching (extra data) & under-fetching (multiple requests).
 - **GraphQL Advantage:**
 - Ask for exactly what you need.
 - One endpoint `/graphql`.
 - Strongly typed schema.
 - Better for frontend apps (React, Vue, etc.).
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2. Core Concepts

1. **Schema** → Defines data types & relationships.

```
type User {  
  id: ID!  
  name: String!  
  email: String!  
}
```

2. **Queries** → Read data.

```
query {  
  users {  
    id  
    name  
  }  
}
```

3. **Mutations** → Modify data.

```
mutation {  
  addUser(name: "John", email: "john@test.com") {  
    id  
  }  
}
```

```
    name
  }
}
```

4. **Resolvers** → Functions that handle queries/mutations.

```
const resolvers = {
  Query: {
    users: () => db.getUsers()
  },
  Mutation: {
    addUser: (_, { name, email }) => db.addUser(name, email)
  }
};
```

3. GraphQL in Node.js with Apollo Server

🔗 **Setup Example:**

```
npm install apollo-server graphql
```

```
const { ApolloServer, gql } = require("apollo-server");

// Schema
const typeDefs = gql`
  type User {
    id: ID!
    name: String!
    email: String!
  }

  type Query {
    users: [User]
  }

  type Mutation {
    addUser(name: String!, email: String!): User
  }
`;

// Mock Data
let users = [{ id: 1, name: "Alice", email: "alice@test.com" }];

// Resolvers
const resolvers = {
```

```

Query: {
  users: () => users,
},
Mutation: {
  addUser: (_, { name, email }) => {
    const user = { id: users.length + 1, name, email };
    users.push(user);
    return user;
  },
},
};

// Start Server
const server = new ApolloServer({ typeDefs, resolvers });
server.listen().then(({ url }) => console.log(`Server ready at ${url}`));

```

4. GraphQL with Express

```
npm install express express-graphql graphql
```

```

const express = require("express");
const { graphqlHTTP } = require("express-graphql");
const { buildSchema } = require("graphql");

// Schema
const schema = buildSchema(`
  type Query {
    hello: String
  }
`);

// Resolver
const root = { hello: () => "Hello GraphQL!" };

// App
const app = express();
app.use("/graphql", graphqlHTTP({ schema, rootValue: root, graphiql: true }));
app.listen(4000, () => console.log("GraphQL running on
http://localhost:4000/graphql"));

```

5. Advanced Concepts

- **Fragments** → Reusable query parts.
- **Subscriptions** → Real-time updates via WebSockets.

- **Batching & Caching** → Tools like DataLoader.
 - **Federation** → Combine multiple GraphQL services.
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6. Interview Tips

- **Q:** GraphQL vs REST?
A: REST has multiple endpoints & can over-fetch/under-fetch. GraphQL has one endpoint, client specifies exact data, strongly typed schema.
 - **Q:** How do subscriptions work in GraphQL?
A: They use WebSockets (e.g., Apollo Subscriptions) for real-time updates like chat or notifications.
 - **Q:** Challenges of GraphQL?
A: Complexity in caching, over-complicated queries by clients, N+1 problem (solved via DataLoader).
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☒ Next up is **19. Serverless with Node.js**.

Do you want me to cover **AWS Lambda, Azure Functions, Google Cloud Functions** with Node.js examples?