Introduction to Node.js

Overview, Modules, Web Server, Request and Response

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#js-back-end

Table of Contents

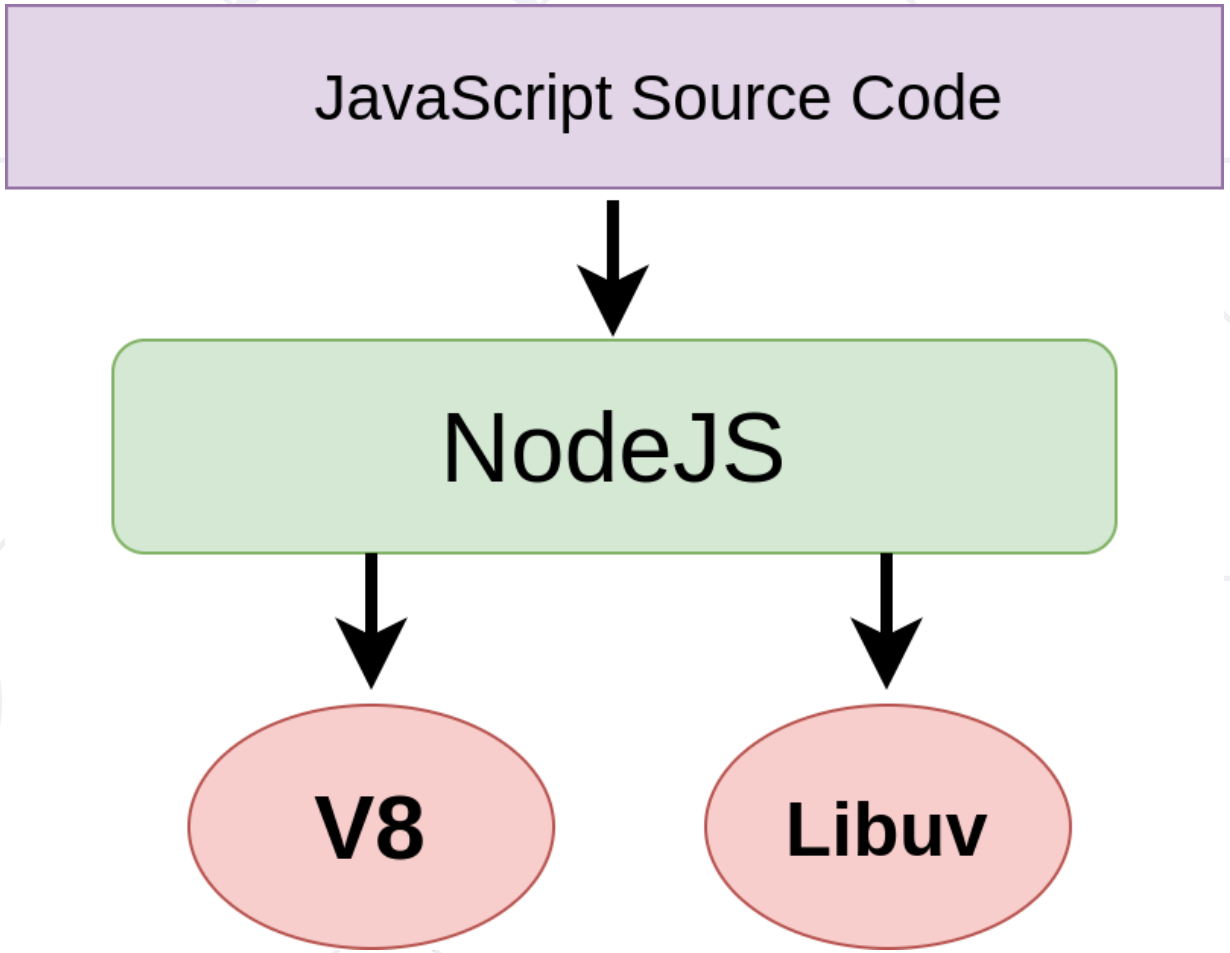
Introduction to Node.js

Node.js Overview

- A runtime environment for JS that runs on the server
- Advantages
  - **One language** for server and client
  - **Asynchronous** and **Event** Driven
  - Very **fast**
  - Efficient **package manager**

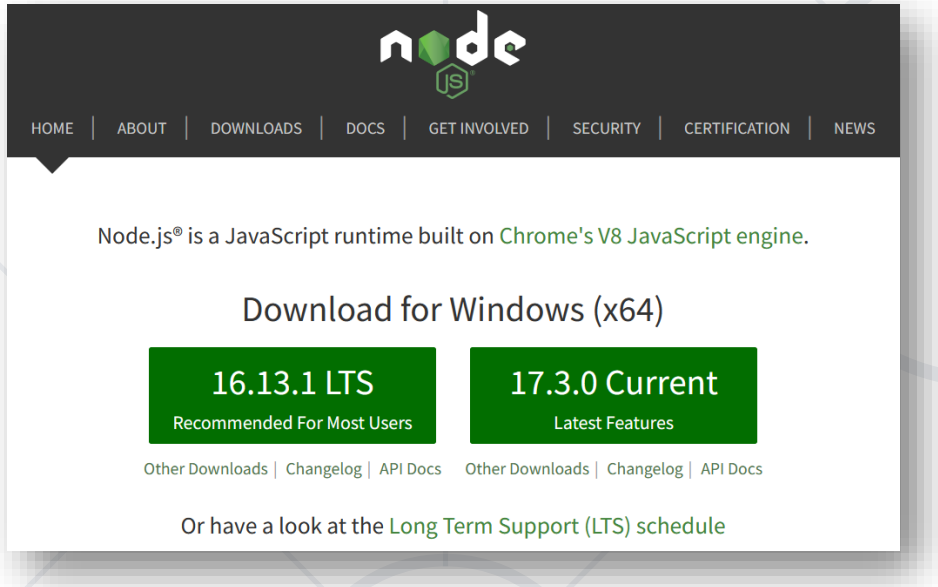
Node Internals

Internal Structure of Node.js



Installation

- Go to *http://nodejs.org* and install the latest version



- To check the currently installed version of the node, type in the **command prompt** / **terminal**:

```
node -v
```

Environment Setup

- From the **terminal**

```
node      // Starts REPL
let a = 5
let b = 3
a + b     // 8
```

- Interpret code from a **file**
  - Save the script to **index.js**
  - Execute from the terminal:

```
node index.js
```

NPM Packages

- Node.js **projects** are usually set up as **NPM packages**
  - From the **terminal**, inside the **target directory**

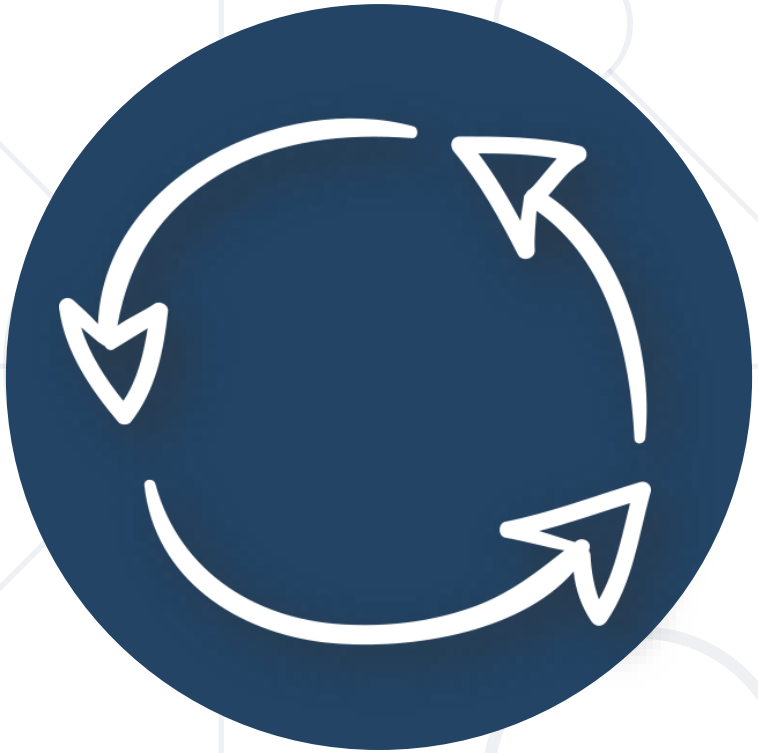
```
npm init
```

  - Answer **questions** to initialize the project
  - A **package.json** file will be created with initial configuration
  - To bypass all questions (take default values):

```
npm init -y
```

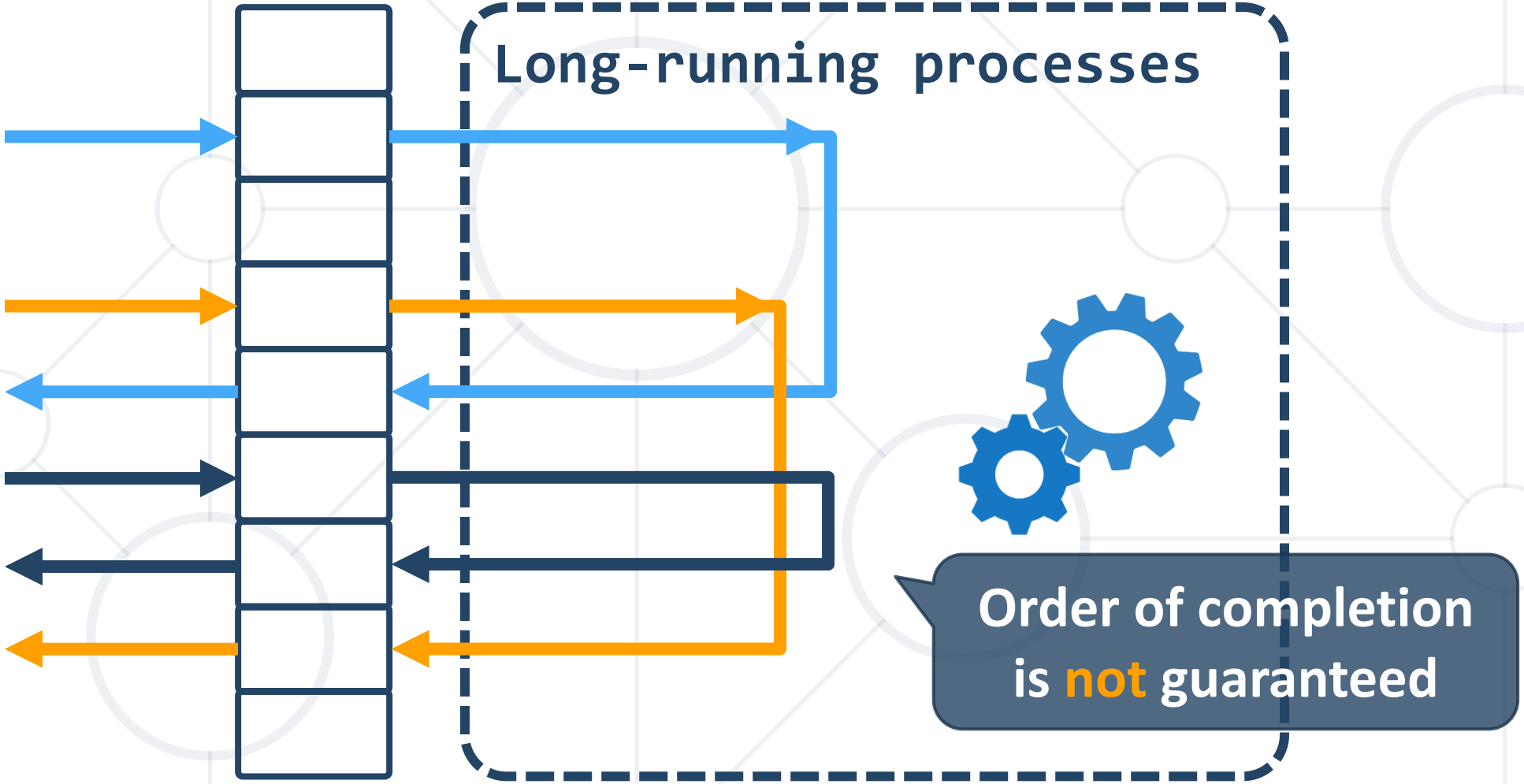
Configuration (Package.json)

```
{
  "name": "demo",
  "version": "1.0.0",
  "description": "Node.js demo project",
  "main": "index.js",
  "engines": {          // Sets versions of Node.js
    "node": ">= 6.0.0",           and other commands
    "npm": ">= 3.0.0" },
  "scripts": {          // Defines a set of node scripts
    "start": "node index.js" },
  "keywords": [],
  "author": "",
  "license": "ISC"
}
```



Event Loop

The Event Loop



Stack calls

```
function foo(x) {
    return x * x;
}
function bar(y) {
    return foo(y + 2);
}

bar(8);
```

Stack

Stack calls

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Stack

bar(8)

Stack calls

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bar(8);
```

Stack

foo(10)

bar(8)

Stack calls

```
function foo(x) {
    return x * x;
}
function bar(y) {
    return foo(y + 2);
}

bar(8);
```

Stack

return

bar(8)

Stack calls

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}

bar(8);
```

Stack

Stack calls

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```
function init(el){
    el.addEventListener(
        "click",
        handler
    );
}
```

Stack calls

Stack

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Stack calls

Stack

init

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Stack calls

Stack

addEventListener

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Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

addEventListener

init

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Stack

return

init

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Stack

return

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

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Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

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Message Queue

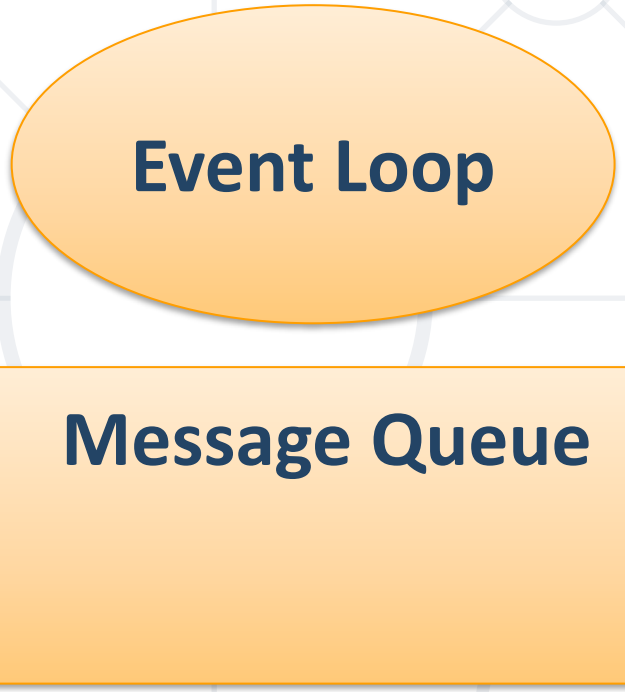
Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls


Stack
....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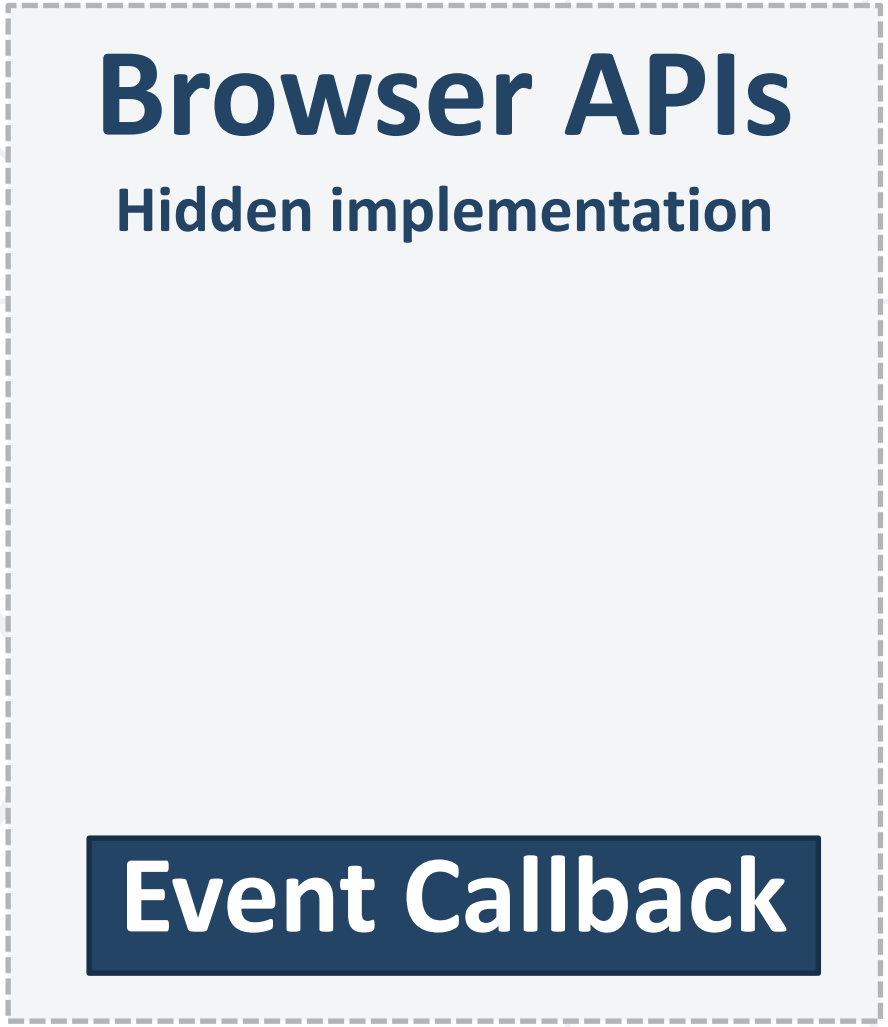
Message Queue


Browser APIs
Hidden implementation
Event Callback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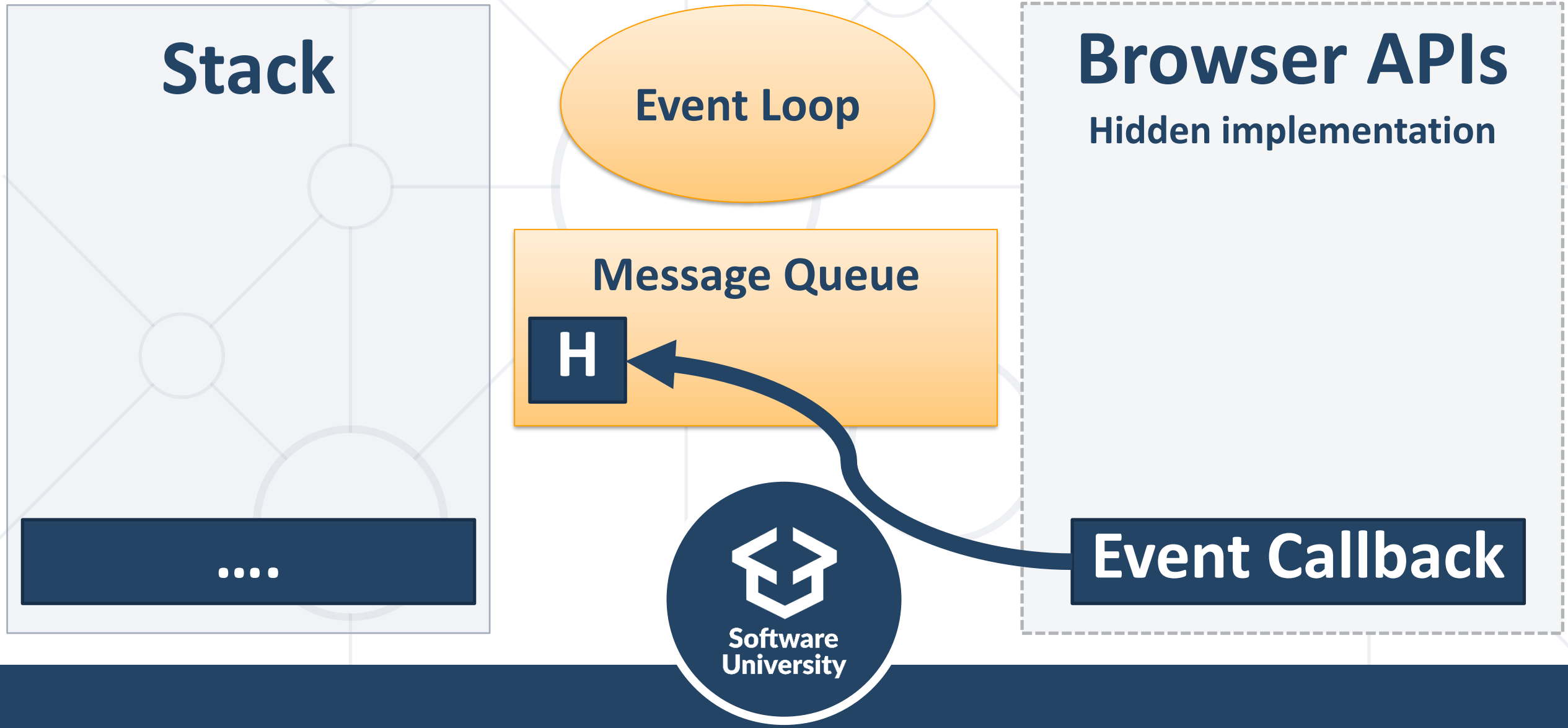
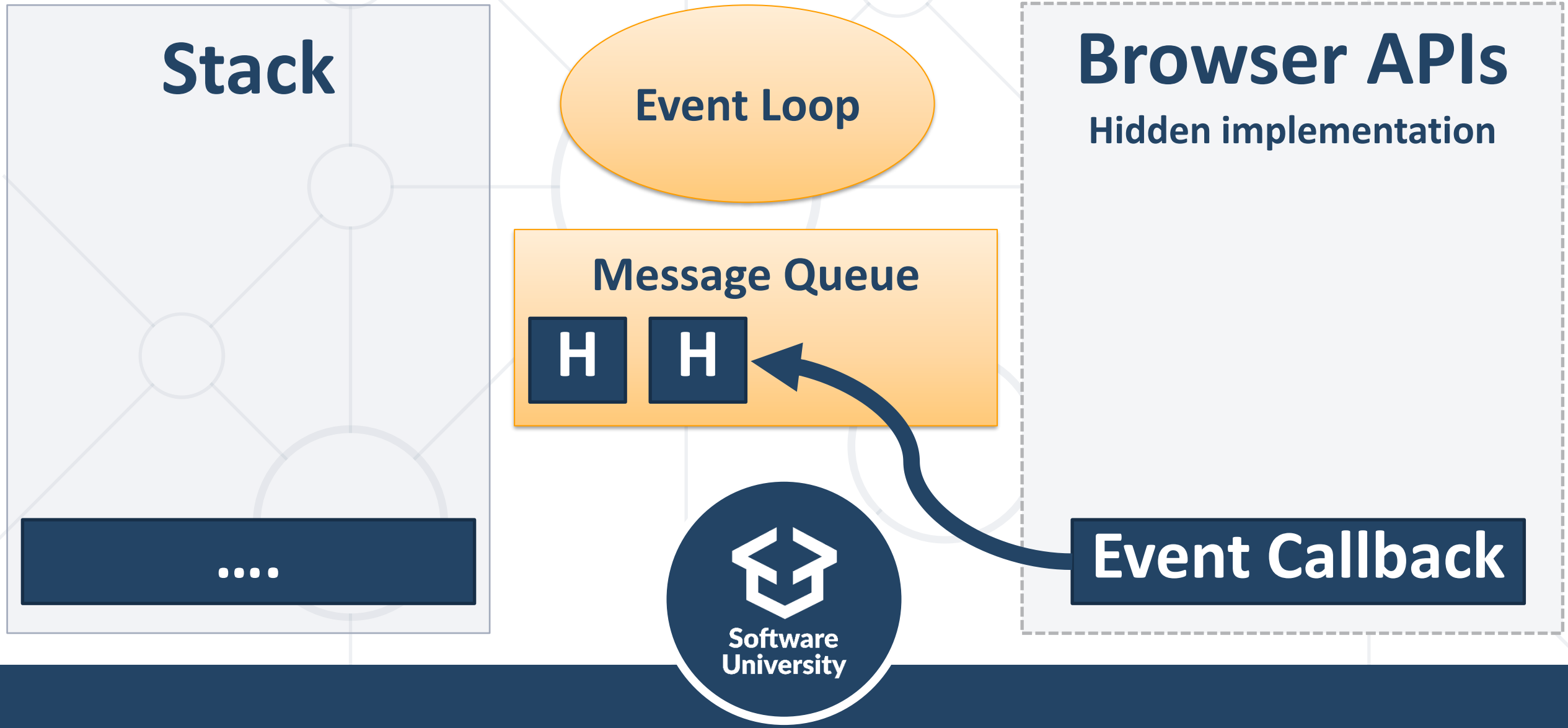
Stack calls


Stack
....
Event Loop
Message Queue
H
Software University
Browser APIs
Hidden implementation
Event Callback

Stack calls


Stack
....
Event Loop
Message Queue
H
H
Software University
Browser APIs
Hidden implementation
Event Callback

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

Event Loop

Message Queue

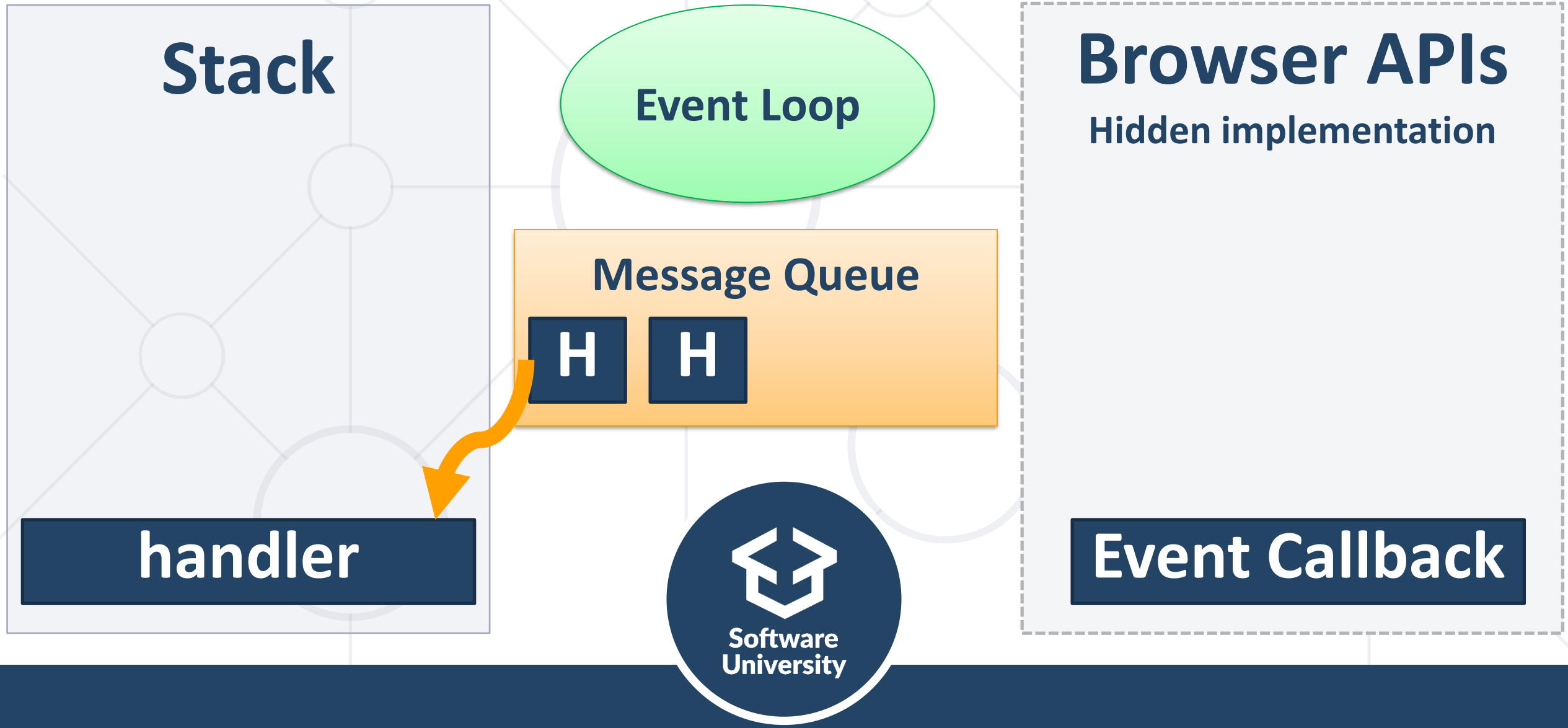
H H

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls


Stack
Event Loop
Browser APIs
Hidden implementation
Message Queue
H
H
handler
Event Callback
Software University

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

handler

Event Loop

Message Queue

H

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

return

Event Loop

Message Queue

H

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Event Loop

Message Queue

H

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

Event Loop

Message Queue

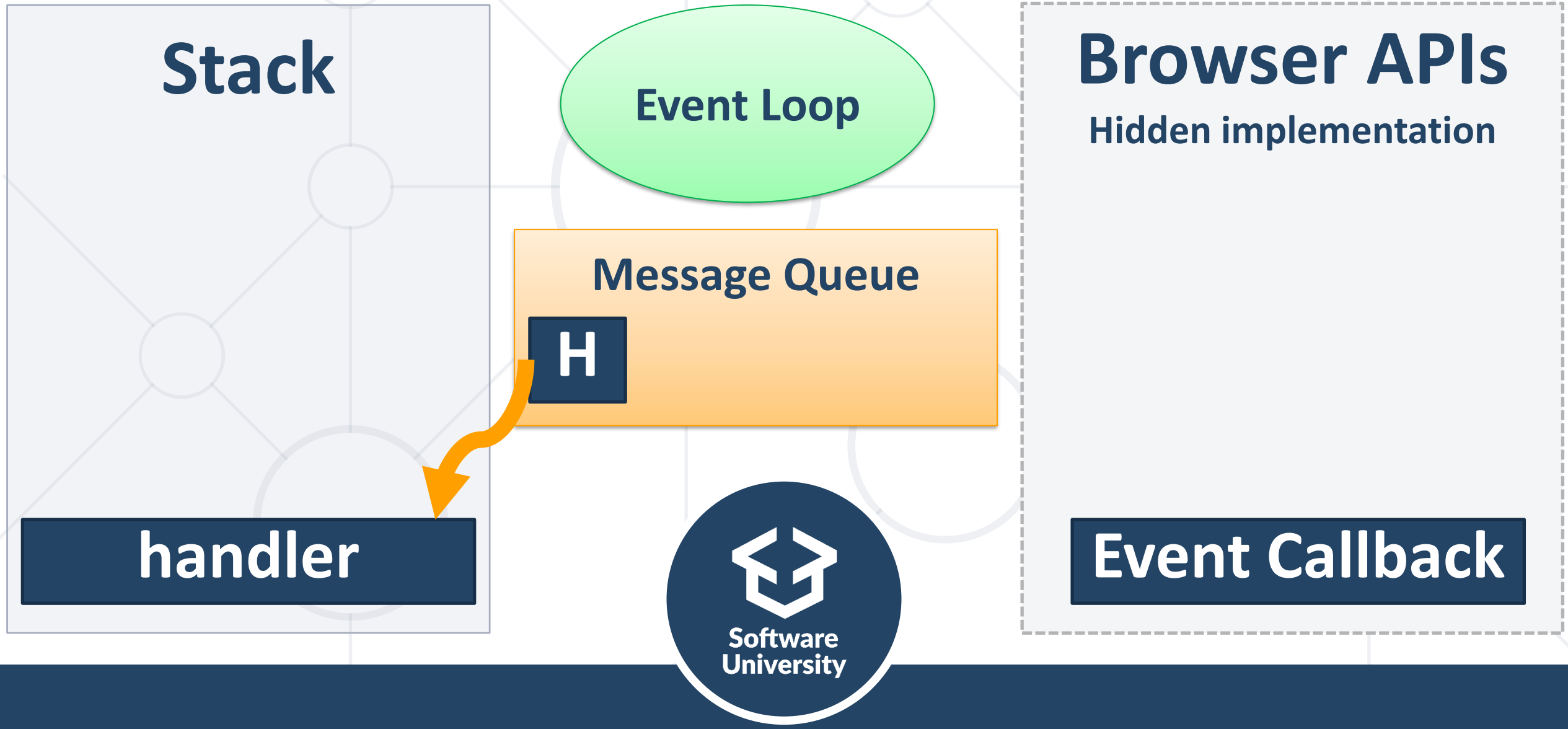
H

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls


Stack
Event Loop
Browser APIs
Hidden implementation
Message Queue
H
handler
Event Callback
Software University

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

handler

Event Loop

Message Queue

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

return

Event Loop

Message Queue

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Event Loop

Message Queue

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Stack calls

Software University

Stack

Event Loop

Message Queue

Browser APIs

Hidden implementation

Event Callback

Modules

Modules

- Allow larger **apps** to be **split** and **organized**
- Each module has its **own context**
  - It **cannot pollute** the **global scope**
- Node.js includes **three types** of modules
  - **Core** Modules
  - **Local** Modules
  - **Third-Party** Modules

Local Modules

- Created **locally** in the Node.js application
- Include **different functionalities** in **separate** folders
- Use **`module.exports`** to expose a **function**, **object** or **variable**

```
module.exports = myModule
```

- Loaded using the **`require()`** function

```
const myModule = require('./myModule.js');
```

Third-Party Modules

- Installed from Node Package Manager (**NPM**)
- Run from the terminal

```
npm install express --save-exact
```

- To use in your code

```
const express = require('express');
```

- To install globally (for use from the terminal)

```
npm install mocha -g
```

Core Modules

- Includes all **functionalities** of Node.js
- Load **automatically** when Node.js process starts
- Need to be **imported** in order to be used

```
const module = require('module');
```

- Commonly used modules are
  - **http** - used to create Node.js server
  - **url**, **querystring**, **path**, **fs**

URL Module

- Use the **URL** for handling and parsing URLs.
- It's **globally available** and can be accessed in Node.js without requiring a module.
- Provides utilities for URL **resolution**

```
const url = new URL('https://example.com/path?query=123')
```

- Returns an **object** with **info** about the **url**
- **Splits** web address into **readable** parts

URL Parts

- Host '**localhost:8080**'

```
let host = urlObj.host
```

- Path '**/home**'

```
let path = urlObj.pathname
```

- Search/query '**?year=2017&month=february**'

```
let search = urlObj.search
```

```
let search = url.searchParams.get('year')
```

```
let search = url.searchParams.get('month')
```

Query String Module

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- Provides utilities for **parsing** and **formatting** URL query strings

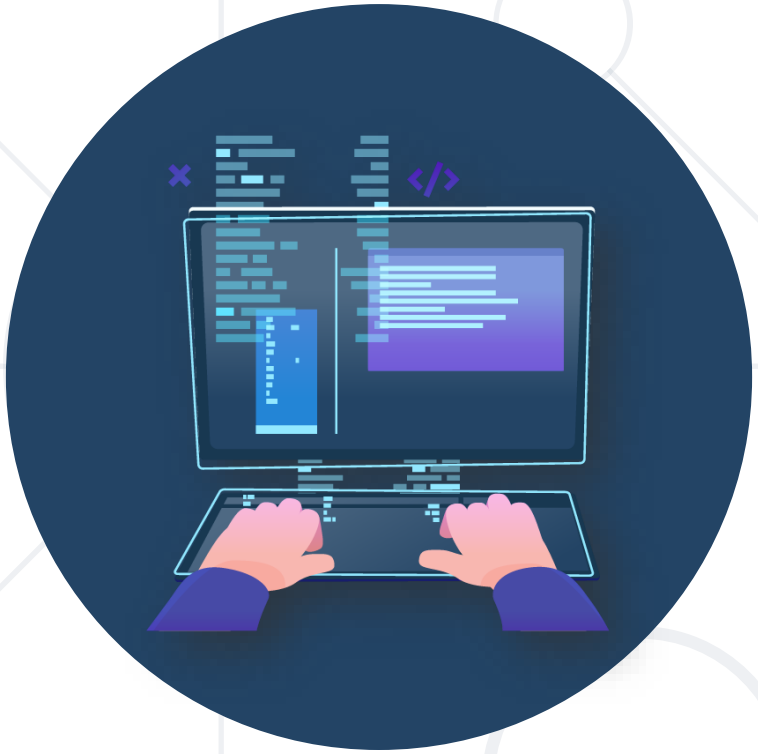
```
const queryString = require('querystring');
```

- Parses a query string into an object

```
const qs = querystring
.parse('year=2017&month=february');
```

```
const year = qs.year;          // 2017
```

```
const month = qs.month;      // february
```



Node.js Web Server

Web Servers

- All **physical** servers have **hardware**
- The hardware is controlled by the **operating system**
- **Web servers** are **software** products that use the operating system to **handle web requests**
  - Web servers **serve** Web content
- The requests are **redirected to other software** products (ASP.NET, PHP, etc.), depending on the webserver **settings**

Node.js Web Server

- Creating a simple Node.js web server

```
const http = require('http');

http.createServer((req, res) => {
  res.write('Hi!');
  res.end();
}).listen(1337);

console.log('Node.js server running on port 1337');
```

Request & Response Wrappers

The Request Wrapper

- Used to **handle** incoming http requests
- Properties
  - **httpVersion** - '1.1' or '1.0'
  - **headers** - object for request headers
  - **method** - 'GET', 'POST', etc
  - **url** - the URL of the request

Request Wrapper Example

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```
const http = require('http');
const url = require('url');
const port = 1337;

http.createServer((req, res) => {
  let path = url.parse(req['url']).pathname;
  if (path === '/') {
     // TODO: Send 'Welcome to home page!'
  }
}).listen(port);
```

The Response Wrapper

- Used to **retrieve** a **response** to the **client**
- Functions
  - Create **response header**
  - Send the actual **content** to the **client**
  - **End** the response

Response Wrapper Example

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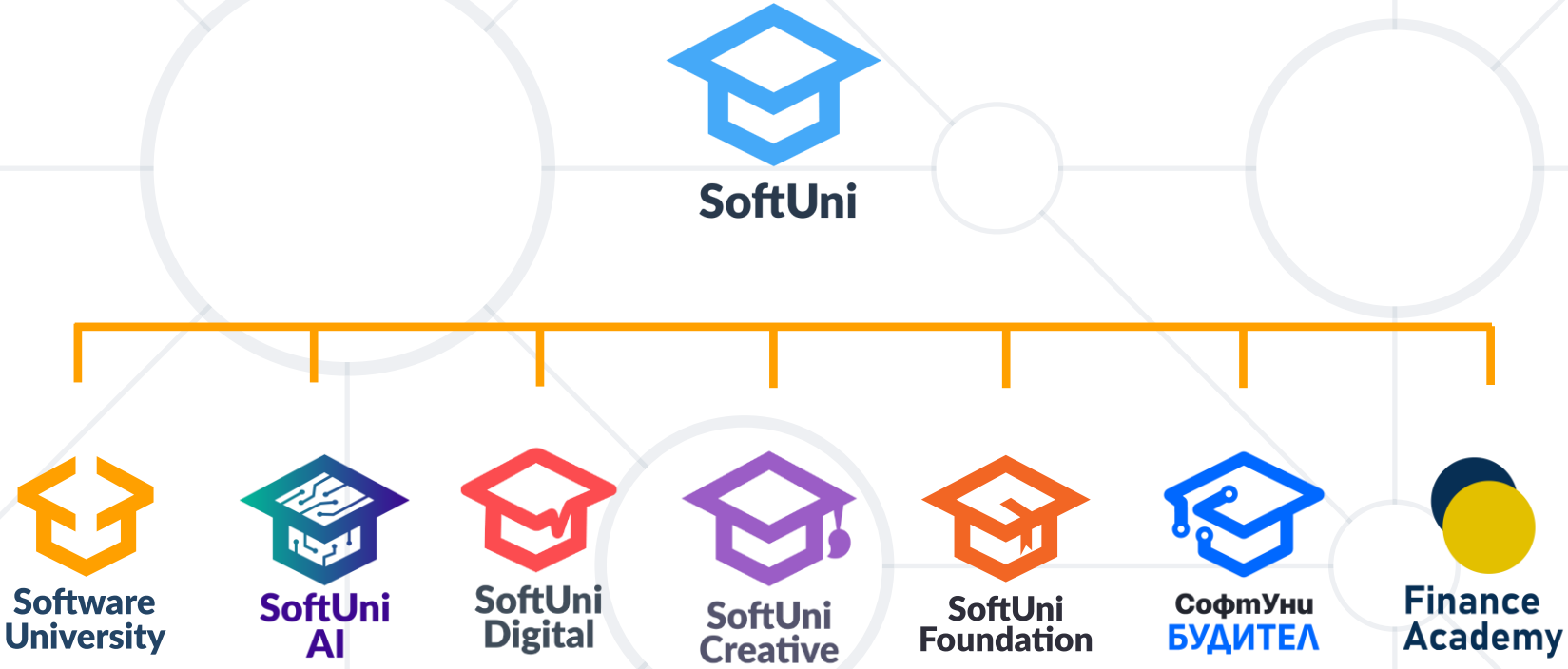
```
const http = require('http');
const port = 3000;

http.createServer((req, res) => {
  res.writeHead(200, { // Response Status Code
    'Content-Type': 'text/plain'
  });
  res.write('Hello from Node.js'); // UTF-8 Encoding
  res.end(); // Always End the Response
}).listen(port);
```

Summary

- Node.js is a fast and asynchronous efficient package manager
- Applications can be organized using module
- NPM allows quick access to external modules
- Web Servers transfer resources to the Client
- The Request / Response Wrappers

Questions?



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