Comp 324/424 - Client-side Web Design

Spring Semester 2020 - Week 10

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ES6 Generators & Promises - intro

- generators and promises are new to plain JavaScript
- introduced with ES6 (ES2015)
- Generators are a special type of function
- produce multiple values per request
- suspend execution between these requests
- generators are useful to help simplify convoluted loops
 - suspend and resume code execution, &c.
 - o helps write simple, elegant async code
- Promises are a new, built-in object
- help development of async code
- promise becomes a placeholder for a value not currently available
- but one that will be available later

ES6 Generators & Promises - async code and execution

- JS relies on a single-threaded execution model
- query a remote server using standard code execution
 - block the UI until a response is received and various operations completed
- we may modify our code to use callbacks
- invoked as a task completes
- should help resolve blocking the UI
- callbacks can quickly create a spaghetti mess of code, error handling, logic...
- Generators and Promises
- elegant solution to this mess and proliferation of code

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - intro

- a promise is similar to a placeholder for a value we currently do not have
- but we would like later...
- it's a guarantee of sorts
- eventually receive a result to an asynchronous request, computation, &c.
- a result will be returned
- either a value or an error
- we commonly use *promises* to fetch data from a server
 - fetch local and remote data
 - fetch data from APIs

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - example

```
// use built-in Promise constructor - pass callback function with two parameters (resolve & reject)
const testPromise = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
    resolve("test return");
    // reject("an error has occurred trying to resolve this promise...");
});

// use `then` method on promise - pass two callbacks for success and failure
testPromise.then(data => {
    // output value for promise success
    console.log("promise value = "+data);
}, err => {
    // output message for promise failure
    console.log("an error has been encountered...");
});
```

- use the built-in *Promise* constructor to create a new promise object
- then pass a function
 - a standard arrow function in the above example

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - executor

- function for a Promise is commonly known as an executor function
- includes two parameters, resolve and reject
- executor function is called immediately
- as the Promise object is being constructed
- resolve argument is called manually
- when we need the promise to resolve successfully
- second argument, reject, will be called if an error occurs
- uses the promise by calling the built-in then method
- available on the promise object
- then method accepts two callback functions
- success and failure
- success is called if the *promise* resolves successfully
- the failure callback is available if there is an error.

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - example

explicit use of resolve

```
/*
 * promise1.js
 * wrap Array in Promise using resolve()...
 */
let testArray = Promise.resolve(['one', 'two', 'three']);

testArray.then(value => {
  console.log(value[0]);
  // remove first item from array
  value.shift();
  // pass value to chained `then`
  return value;
})
  .then(value => console.log(value[0]));
```

Demo - Promise.resolve

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - callbacks & async

- async code is useful to prevent execution blocking
 - potential delays in the browser
 - e.g. as we execute long-running tasks
- issue is often solved using callbacks
- i.e. provide a callback that's invoked when the task is completed
- such long running tasks may result in errors
- issue with callbacks
 - e.g. we can't use built-in constructs such as try-catch statements

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - callbacks & async - example

```
try {
  getJSON("data.json", function() {
    // handle return results...
  });
} catch (e) {
    // handle errors...
}
```

- this won't work as expected due to the code executing the callback
- not usually executed in the same step of the event loop
- may not be in sync with the code running the long task
- errors will usually get lost as part of this long running task
- another issue with callbacks is nesting
- a third issue is trying to run parallel callbacks
- performing a number of parallel steps becomes inherently tricky and error prone

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - further details

- a promise starts in a pending state
- we know nothing about the return value
- promise is often known as an unresolved promise
- during execution
- if the promise's resolve function is called
- the promise will move into its fulfilled state
- the return value is now available
- if there is an error or reject method is explicitly called
- the promise will simply move into a rejected state
- return value is no longer available
- an error now becomes available
- either of these states
 - the promise can now no longer switch state
- i.e from rejected to fulfilled and vice-versa...

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - concept example

an example of working with a promise may be as follows

- code starts (execution is ready)
- promise is now executed and starts to run
- promise object is created
- promise continues until it resolves
- successful return, artificial timeout &c.
- code for the current promise is now at an end
- promise is now resolved
- value is available in the promise
- then work with resolved promise and value
- call then method on promise and returned value...
- this callback is scheduled for successful resolve of the promise
- this callback will always be asynchronous regardless of state of promise...

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - callbacks & async - example

promise from scratch

```
* promisefromscratch-delay.is
* create a Promise object from scratch...use delay to check usage
* promise may only be called once per execution due to delay and timeout...
*/
// check promise usage relative to timer...either timeout will cause the Promise to call and
function resolveWithDelay(delay) {
  return new Promise(function(resolve, reject) {
   // log Promise creation...
    console.log('promise created...waiting');
       // resolve promise if delay value is less than 3000
    setTimeout(function() {
     resolve(`promise resolved in ${delay} ms`);
   }, delay);
        // resolve promise if delay is greater than 3000
    setTimeout(function() {
     resolve(`promise resolved in 3000ms`);
    }, 3000);
 })
}
// fulfilled with delay of 2000 ms
resolveWithDelay(2000).then(function(value) {
 console.log(value);
});
// fulfilled with default timeout of 3000 ms
// resolveWithDelay(6000).then(function(value) {
// console.log(value);
// });
```

Demo - Promise from scratch

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - explicitly reject

- two standard ways to reject a promise
- e.g. explicit rejection of promise

```
const promise = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
    reject("explicit rejection of promise");
});
```

- once the promise has been rejected
- an error callback will always be invoked
- e.g. through the calling of the then method

```
promise.then(
  () => fail("won't be called..."),
  error => pass("promise was explicitly rejected...");
);
```

- also chain a catch method to the then method
- as an alternative to the error callback. e.g.

```
promise.then(
  () => fail("won't be called..."))
   .catch(error => pass("promise was explicitly rejected..."));
```

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - example

promise error handling

```
/*
 * promise-basic-error1.js
 * basic example usage of promise error handling and order...

*/

Promise
    .resolve(1)
    .then(x => {
        if (x === 2) {
            console.log('val resolved as', x);
        } else {
            throw new Error('test failed...')
        }
    })
    .catch(err => console.error(err));
```

Demo - Promise error handling with catch

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - real-world promise - getJSON

```
// create a custom get json function
function getJSON(url) {
 // create and return a new promise
 return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
   // create the required XMLHttpRequest object
    const request = new XMLHttpRequest();
   // initialise this new request - open
    request.open("GET", url);
   // register onload handler - called if server responds
    request.onload = function() {
     try {
       // make sure response is OK - server needs to return status 200 code...
        if (this.status === 200) {
         // try to parse json string - if success, resolve promise successfully with value
          resolve(JSON.parse(this.response));
        } else {
         // different status code, exception parsing JSON &c. - reject the promise...
          reject(this.status + " " + this.statusText);
        }
     } catch(e) {
        reject(e.message);
     }
    };
   // if error with server communication - reject the promise...
    request.onerror = function() {
     reject(this.status + " " + this.statusText);
    };
   // send the constructed request to get the JSON
    request.send();
 });
```

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - real-world promise - usage

```
// call getJSON with required URL, then method for resolve object, and catch for error
getJSON("test.json").then(response => {
    // check return value from promise...
    response !== null ? "response obtained" : "no response";
}).catch((err) => {
    // Handle any error that occurred in any of the previous promises in the chain.
    console.log('error found = ', err); // not much to show due to return of jsonp from
        flickr...
});
```

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - chain

- calling then on the returned promise creates a new promise
- if this promise is now resolved successfully
- we can then register an additional callback
- we may now chain as many then methods as necessary
- create a sequence of promises
- each resolved &c. one after another
- instead of creating deeply nested callbacks
- simply chain such methods to our initial resolved promise
- to catch an error we may chain a final catch call
- to catch an error for the overall chain
- use the catch method for the overall chain

```
getJSON().then()
.then()
.then()
.catch((err) => {
    // Handle any error that occurred in any of the previous promises in the chain.
    console.log('error found = ', err); // not much to show due to return of jsonp from
        flickr...
});
```

- if a failure occurs in any of the previous promises
 - the catch method will be called

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - wait for multiple promises

- promises also make it easy to wait for multiple, independent asynchronous tasks
- with Promise.all, we may wait for a number of promises

- order of execution for tasks doesn't matter for Promise.all
- by using the Promise.all method
 - we are simply stating that we want to wait...
- Promise.all accepts an array of promises
 - then creates a new promise
 - promise will resolve successfully when all passed promises resolve
- it will reject if a single one of the passed promises fails
- return promise is an array of succeed values as responses
- i.e. one succeed value for each passed in promise

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - racing promises

- we may also setup competing promises
- with an effective prize to the first promise to resolve or reject
- might be useful for querying multiple APIs, databases, &c.

```
Promise.race(
   [
    // call getJSON with required URL, `then` method for resolve object, and `catch` for error
   getJSON("notes.json"),
   getJSON("metadata.json")]).then(response => {
    if (response !== null) {
        console.log(`response obtained - ${response} won...`);
    }
   }).catch((err) => {
        // Handle any error that occurred in any of the previous promises in the chain.
        console.log('error found = ', err); // not much to show due to return of jsonp from
        flickr...
   });
);
```

- method accepts an array of promises
- returns a completely new resolved or rejected promise
- returns for the first resolved or rejected promise

MDN - Fetch API

basic usage

```
/*
 * fetch-basic1.js
 * basic example usage of Fetch API...
 */

fetch('./assets/notes.json')
   .then(response => {
    return response.json();
   })
   .then(myJSON => {
    console.log(myJSON);
   });
```

Demo - Fetch API - basic usage

catching errors

```
/*
  * fetch-basic-error1.js
  * basic example usage of Fetch API...chain `catch` to `then` for error handling
  */

fetch('./assets/item.json')
  .then(response => {
     // reactions passed to `then` used to handle fulfillment of a promise
     return response.json();
  })
  .then(myJSON => {
     console.log(myJSON);
  })
  .catch(err => {
     // reactions passed to `catch` executed with a rejection reason...
     console.log(`error detected - ${err}`);
  });
}
```

Demo - Fetch API - catching errors

Fetch with Promise all

```
/*
 * fetch-promise-all.js
 * basic example usage of Promise.all...using Fetch API
 */

Promise
    .all([
     fetch('./assets/items.json'),
     fetch('./assets/notes.json')
])
    .then(responses =>
     Promise.all(responses.map(res => res.json()))
).then (json => {
     console.log(json);
});
```

■ Demo - Fetch API - Promise all

Fetch with Promise race

```
/*
 * fetch-promise-race.js
 * basic example usage of Promise.race...using Fetch API
 */

Promise
    .race([
     fetch('./assets/items.json'),
     fetch('./assets/notes.json')
])
    .then(responses => {
     return responses.json()
})
    .then(res => console.log(res));
```

Demo - Fetch API - Promise race

ES6 Generators & Promises - generators

- a generator function generates a sequence of values
- commonly not all at once but on a request basis
- generator is explicitly asked for a new value
- returns either a value or a response of no more values
- after producing a requested value
 - a generator will then suspend instead of ending its execution
 - generator will then resume when a new value is requested

ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - example

```
//generator function
function* nameGenerator() {
  yield "emma";
  yield "daisy";
  yield "rosemary";
}
```

- define a generator function by appending an asterisk after the keyword
- function* ()
- use the yield keyword within the body of the generator
- to request and retrieve individual values
- then consume these generated values using a standard loop
- or perhaps the new for-of loop

ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - iterator object

- if we make a call to the body of the generator
 - an iterator object will be created
- we may now communicate with and control the generator using the iterator object

```
//generator function
function* NameGenerator() {
  yield "emma";
}
// create an iterator object
const nameIterator = NameGenerator();
```

iterator object, nameIterator, exposes various methods including the next method

ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - iterator object - next()

use next to control the iterator, and request its next value

```
// get a new value from the generator with the 'next' method
const name1 = nameIterator.next();
```

- next method executes the generator's code to the next yield expression
- it then returns an object with the value of the yield expression
- and a property done set to false if a value is still available
- done boolean will switch to true if no value for next requested yield
- done is set to true
- the iterator for the generator has now finished

ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - iterate over iterator object

- iterate over the iterator object
 - return each value per available yield expression
 - e.g. use the for-of loop

```
// iterate over iterator object
for(let iteratorItem of NameGenerator()) {
  if (iteratorItem !== null) {
    console.log("iterator item = "+iteratorItem+index);
  }
}
```

ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - call generator within a generator

we may also call a generator from within another generator

```
//generator function
function* NameGenerator() {
  yield "emma";
  yield "rose";
  yield "celine";
  yield* UsernameGenerator();
  yield "yvaine";
}

function* UsernameGenerator() {
  yield "frisby67";
  yield "trilby72";
}
```

we may then use the initial generator, NameGenerator, as normal

ES6 Generators & Promises - generators

example - pass generator to function

```
function getRandomNote(gen) {
  console.log(`getRandomNote called...`);
 const g = gen();
 fetch('./assets/input/notes.json', {
    headers: new Headers({
      Accept: 'application/json'
    })
 })
  .then(res => res.json())
  .then(json => {
      return g.next(json);
 })
  .catch(err => g.throw(err))
}
getRandomNote(function* printRandomNote() {
 console.log(`generator function executes...`);
 const json = yield;
})
```

Demo - Generators - pass generator to function

ES6 Generators & Promises - generator - recursive traversal of DOM

- document object model, or DOM, is tree-like structure of HTML nodes
- every node, except the root, has exactly one parent
 - and the potential for zero or more child nodes
- we may now use generators to help iterate over the DOM tree

```
// generator function - traverse the DOM
function* DomTraverseGenerator(htmlElem) {
  yield htmlElem;
  htmlElem = htmlElem.firstElementChild;
  // transfer iteration control to another instance of the
  // current generator - enables sub iteration...
  while (htmlElem) {
    yield* DomTraverseGenerator(htmlElem);
    htmlElem = htmlElem.nextElementSibling;
  }
}
```

- benefit to this generator-based approach for DOM traversal
- callbacks are not required
- able to consume the generated sequence of nodes with a simple loop
- and without using callbacks
- able to use generators to separate our code
 - code that is producing values e.g. HTML nodes
 - code consuming the sequence of generated values

ES6 Generators & Promises - traversal with generators

- traversed using depth-first search
- algorithm tries to go deeper into tree structure
 - when it can't it moves to the next child in the list
- e.g. define a class to create a Node
- creates with value and arbitrary amount of child nodes

```
// Node class - holds a value and arbitrary amount of child nodes...
class Node {
  constructor(value, ...children) {
    this.value = value;
    this.children = children;
  }
}
```

Then, we create a basic node tree,

```
// define basic node tree - instantiate nodes from
const root = new Node(1,
    new Node(2),
    new Node(3,
        new Node(4,
        new Node(5,
            new Node(6)
        ),
        new Node(7)
    )
    ),
    new Node(8,
        new Node(9),
        new Node(10)
    )
)
```

 various implementations we might create for a traversal generator...

ES6 Generators & Promises - generator function

• e.g. depth first generator function for traversing the tree

```
// FN: depthFirst generator
function* depthFirst(node) {
   yield node.value;
   for (const child of node.children) {
      yield* depthFirst(child);
    }
}

// Log tree recursion
console.log([...depthFirst(root)]);
```

ES6 Generators & Promises - generator - exchange data with a generator

- also send data to a generator
- enables bi-directional communication
- a pattern might include
- request data
- then process the data
- then return an updated value when necessary to a generator

ES6 Generators & Promises - generator - exchange data with a generator - example

```
// generator function - send data to generator - receive standard argument
function* MessageGenerator(data) {
    // yield a value - generator returns an intermediator calculation
    const message = yield(data);
    yield("Greetings, "+ message);
}

const messageIterator = MessageGenerator("Hello World");
const message1 = messageIterator.next();
console.log("message = "+message1.value);

console.log("message = "+message2.value);
```

- first call with the next() method requests a new value from the generator
- returns initial passed argument
- generator is then suspended
- second call using next() will resume the generator, again requesting a new value
- second call also sends a new argument into the generator using the next() method
- newly passed argument value becomes the complete value for this yield
- replacing the previous value Hello World
- we can achieve the required bi-directional communication with a generator
- use yield to return data from a generator
- then use iterator's next() method to pass data back to the generator

ES6 Generators & Promises - generator - detailed structure

Generators work in a detailed manner as follows,

suspended start

• none of the generator code is executed when it first starts

executing

- execution either starts at the beginning or resumes where it was last suspended
- state is created when the iterator's next() method is called
- code must exist in generator for execution

suspended yield

- whilst executing, a generator may reach yield
- it will then create a new object carrying the return value
- it will yield this object
- then suspends execution at the point of the yield...

completed

- a return statement or lack of code to execute
- this will cause the generator to move to a complete state

ES6 Generators & Promises - generators & iterables

fibonacci number generator

- example generator for Fibonacci sequence
- generator will output an infinite sequence of numbers
- we may also call individual iterations of the sequence
 - e.g.

```
// generator function - value per iteration & done will not return true...
function* fibonacci() {
 // define start values for fibonacci sequence
 let previous = 0;
 let current = 1;
 // Loop will continue to iterate fibonacci sequence
 while(true) {
   // return current value in fibonacci sequence
   yield current;
   // compute next value for sequence...
   const next = current + previous;
   // update values for next iteration of loop in fibonacci sequence
   previous = current;
    current = next;
 }
}
// instantiate iterator object using fibonacci generator
const g = fibonacci();
// call iterator
console.log(g.next());
```

- to improve performance, and prevent memory and execution timeout
- add memoisation to script
- a type of local cache for the execution of the algorithm...

ES6 Generators & Promises - async I/O using generators

- use generators and generator helpers to create simple async input and output
- use with saving data &c.
- a consistent and abstracted usage design for a custom generator

```
// called with passed generator function
function saveItems(itemList) {
 const items = [];
 const g = itemList();
 return more(g.next());
 function more(item) {
    if (item.done) {
      return save(item.value);
    return details(item.value);
 function details(endpoint) {
   // check inputs are called & location...
    console.log(`details called - ${endpoint}`);
    return fetch(endpoint)
      .then(res => res.json())
      .then(item => {
        items.push(item);
        return more(g.next(item));
      })
  }
 function save(endpoint) {
   // check output is called & location...
    console.log(`save endpoint - ${endpoint}`);
   /*return fetch(endpoint, {
      method: 'POST',
      body: JSON.stringify({ items })
    .then(res => res.json());*/
saveItems(function* () {
 yield './assets/input/items.json';
 yield './assets/input/notes.json';
```

```
return './assets/output/journal.json';
})
```

ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - combine generators and promises

an example usage for generators and promises,

- async function takes a generator, calls it, and creates the required iterator
- use iterator to resume generator execution as needed
- declare a handle function handles one return value from generator
 - one iteration of iterator
- if generator result is a promise & resolves successfully use iterator's next method
 - promise value sent back to generator
 - o generator resumes execution
- if error, promise gets rejected
- $\circ~$ error thrown to generator using iterator's throw method
- continue generator execution until it returns done
- generator executes up to each yield getJSON()
- promise created for each getJSON() call
- value is fetched async generator is paused whilst fetching value...
- control flow is returned to current invocation point in handle function whilst paused
- handle function
- yielded value to handLe function is a promise
- able to use then and catch methods with promise object
- registers success and error callback
- execution is able to continue

ES6 Generators & Promises - lots of examples

e.g.

- generator
- basic
- basic-iterator
- basic-iterator-over
- basic-loop
- basic-dom
- basic-send-data
- basic-send-data-2
- promises
- basic
- basic-cors-flickr
- basic-xhr-local
- basic-promise-all
- basic-promise-race
- generator & promise async
 - basic

ES2017 Async & Await

- in ES2017, JavaScript gained native syntax to describe asynchronous operations
- now use async/await to work with asynchronous operations
- Async functions allow developers to take a promise-based implementation
- then use synchronous-like patterns of a generator
- e.g. async implementation with sync usage patterns...
- await may only be used inside async functions
- denoted with the async keyword
- async function works in a similar manner to standard generators
- e.g. suspending execution in local context until a promise settles
- if awaited expression is not originally a promise object
- it will be cast to a promise in this context...

example usage with try/catch

```
async function read() {
   // use try/catch to handle errors in awaited promises within async function
   try {
     const model = await getRandomBook();
   } catch (err) {
     console.log(err);
   }
}
// call function as usual
read();
```

use return Promise object

```
async function read() {
  const model = await getRandomBook();
}
// call function as usual - work with return promise object...
read()
  .then()
```

Node.js and command line

- example usage with command line arguments
- custom Promise object
- async/await with try/catch block
- initial error handling

```
* basic-error.js
* - error handling for async...
function getArgs() {
 // Node Process command line arguments
 const args = process.argv;
 // custom Promise object with resolve and reject
 return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
      if (args[2] === 'test') {
       resolve(args);
      } else {
        reject('no args');
 });
async function main() {
 try {
   let data = await getArgs();
   return data;
 } catch(e) {
    throw new Error(`main failed...${e}`);
}
main()
.then(console.log)
.catch(console.log);
```

initial fetch

```
// FN: 'fetch' from JSON
function getNotes() {
   return fetch('./assets/files/notes.json', {
     headers: new Headers({
        Accept: 'application/json'
     })
   })
   .then(res => res.json());
}
```

example fetch usage

```
* basic-async1.js
* async called with sync-like try/catch block
* 'awaits' return from fetch to local JSON file
*/
// FN: 'fetch' from JSON
function getNotes() {
  return fetch('./assets/files/notes.json', {
    headers: new Headers({
      Accept: 'application/json'
    })
 })
  .then(res => res.json());
// FN: async/await
async function read() {
 try {
    const notes = await getNotes();
    console.log(`notes FETCH successful`);
 } catch (err) {
    console.log(err);
}
read();
```

Demo - Async & Await - Fetch example

ES2017 Async & Await - example 5 - part 1

sample iterable functions

```
* FNs: iterable computed data
* functions support all major ES6 data structures
* - arrays, typed arrays, maps, sets...
*/
// FN: iterable entries() - default iterator for data structure entries
function dataEntryIterator(data) {
 for (const pair of data.entries()) {
    console.log(pair);
 }
}
// FN: iterable keys() - default iterator for data structure keys
function dataKeysIterator(data) {
 for (const key of data.keys()) {
    console.log(key);
 }
}
// FN: iterable values() - default iterator for data structure values
function dataValuesIterator(data) {
 for (const value of data.values()) {
    console.log(value);
 }
}
```

ES2017 Async & Await - example 5 - part 2

async and await usage - a bit of fun...

```
// FN: async/await
async function read() {
 try {
   // await return from FETCH for notes.json file
    const data = await getNotes();
    const notes = data['notes'];
   // wrap return notes array in iterator
    const iter = notes[Symbol.iterator]();
   // test iterator with next for each result...
   console.log(iter.next());
    console.log(iter.next());
    console.log(iter.next());
    console.log(iter.next());
    console.log(`notes FETCH successful`);
    dataEntryIterator(notes);
    dataKeysIterator(notes);
    dataValuesIterator(notes);
 } catch (err) {
    console.log(err);
}
read();
```

Demo - Async & Await - example with iterables

Demos

- Fetch API
 - basic usage
 - catching errors
- Fetch API & Promise.all
- Fetch API & Promise.race
- Generators plain JS
- Basic
- Basic Iterator
- Basic Iterator Over
- Basic DOM Traversal
- Basic Send Data
- Basic Send Data 2
- Pass generator to function
- Promises plain JS
 - Basic
 - Basic CORS Flickr
- Basic Promise All
- Basic Race
- Basic XHR Local
- Promise error handling with catch
- Promise from scratch
- Promise.resolve

Resources

- jQuery
- jQuery
- jQuery API
- jQuery deferred
- jQuery .getJSON()
- jQuery JSONP
- jQuery promise
- MDN
- MDN JS
- MDN JS Const
- MDN JS Iterators and Generators
- MDN JS Objects