CSE 331
Software Design & Implementation

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HTTP Servers

HTTP SERVERS

Server Frameworks

- How do we write a modular HTTP server?
  - need to split up the code into multiple classes

- Usual technique is to route requests using the **path**
  - use path to choose class that handles the request
  - used in Java, C++, Python, JavaScript, …
  - pass data to class using:
    - query string
    - POST body
    - (part of) path

Spark Java

- Simple library for writing HTTP servers in Java
  - not to be confused with “Apache Spark” — very different!
- Give Spark paths and corresponding classes
  - latter are called “routes” in this library
  - server will read the request path and invoke appropriate class
    - info about the request passed in request object
    - response can be written to response object or returned
- Library handles the event loop

Spark Java

```
Spark.get("/path", new MyRoute());
```

- `GET` request with this path are sent to this object

- Second argument must implement `Route` interface
  - single required method `handle(Request, Response)`
  - that means it can also be implemented with a Lambda

```
Spark.get("/ready", (request, response) -> {
  return "Nah, I'm busy";
});
```

Example: Hello Server

`HelloServer.java`

Example: To-Do Server

- Stores a To-Do list
- Clients can retrieve the current list
- Clients can update the list
  - check off an item
  - add a new item

Example: To-Do Server

`ToDoServer.java`

Spark Java

- Many more features
  - simple things are simple
  - complex things are possible
- Simple version is single threaded
  - makes life much easier
  - medium scale would use threads
  - high scale would not use them (see lecture 16)
- Documentation at http://sparkjava.com/documentation

HTTP CLIENTS

Client / Server communication

- Original JavaScript API: `XmlHttpRequest`
- Create object call `open` to configure
  - pass in GET / POST, path, and async = true
- Listen for response event
  - `onload` invoked when done
    - `responseText` contains the response body string
- Call `send` to start the request
  - for a POST, pass in the request body
  - for GET, pass `null`

Example: To-Do Client

`TodoApp.tsx`

Client / Server communication

- Original JavaScript API: `XmlHttpRequest`

- Newer APIs discussed in section
  - fetch API returns a Promise object
    - widely used in JS programming these days
    - works well for *sequential* reqs: start task 1, wait for result, start task 2, wait for result, start task 3, wait for result
    - works well for *parallel* reqs: start tasks 1–3, wait for all
  - async / await JS keywords automatically create promises
    - write sequential code in one block
    - compiler will split into separate pieces

Client / Server communication

- By default, client can only talk to the server from which the code was loaded
  - same machine and same port
  - "same origin" policy

- For development, we often want to split do this
  - `npm` runs a separate server that recompiles client code
  - can allow cross-domain requests in the Java server
    - example code does this
  - can set up recompiling server to forward these requests
  - (annoying but we're stuck with it)

Debugging

- Network tab in Chrome shows every request
  - full details of request
    - path, headers, etc.
  - full details of response
    - status code, response body, etc.
  - timing information