TypeScript Fundamentals

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Agenda

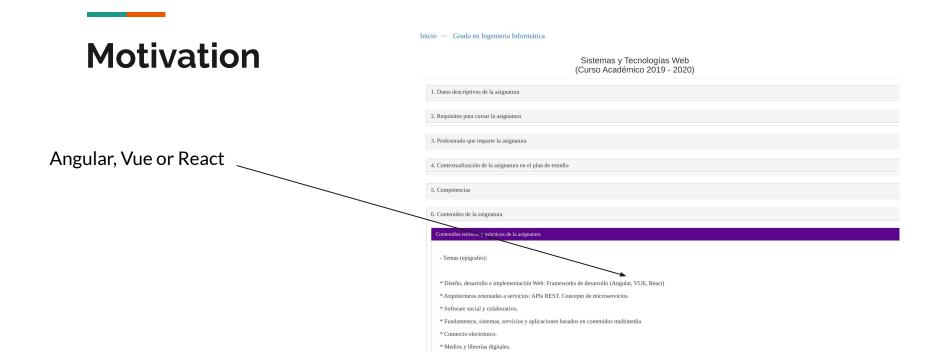
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Introduction

- TypeScript (TS) is a typed superset of JavaScript (JS) that compiles to plain JavaScript.
- Syntax based on ECMAScript 4 & ECMASCript 6 proposals.
- TS is first and foremost a superset of JS -> Any regular Javascript is valid TypeScript Code.
- ...and is developed by Microsoft.

Motivation

- Compile time error reporting
- Strong typing
- Type definitions (.d.ts files that provide easy integration for js projects)
- Encapsulation provided by classes
- Private, protected and public accessors



Installation

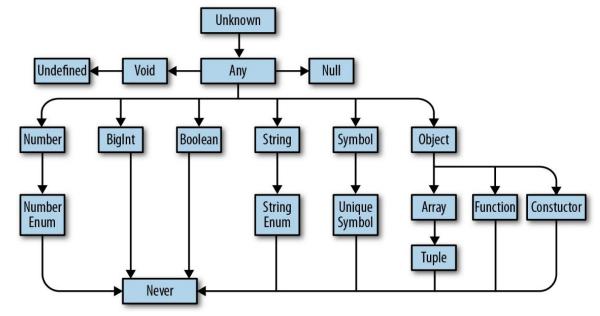
• Run: npm install -g typescript

• Make sure the installation was successful: tsc -version

Features

- Supported data types
- Functions
- Classes
- Interface
- Namespace
- Modules
- Decorators

Features: Supported data types



*O'Reilly **Programming with Typescript** - Boris Cherny

Features: Functions

- Functions are the fundamental building block of any application in JS.
- In JS you build up layers of abstraction, mimicking classes, information hiding, and modules.
- In TS, while there are classes, namespaces, and modules, functions still play the key role in describing how to do things.

Features: Interfaces

- Declared using **interface** keyword.
- There is no corresponding type in JS, therefore no JS code will result from compilation.
- Errors being shown when interface signature and implementation doesn't match.

Features: Classes

- Can implement interfaces
- Inheritance
- Instance methods/members
- Static methods/members
- Single constructor
- ES6 class syntax

Features: Namespaces vs. Modules

Namespaces

- Namespaces are a TypeScript-specific way to organize code.
- Namespaces are simply named JavaScript objects in the global namespace.
- Namespaces that can span multiple files.
- Use them when you don't want to use a module loader.

Modules

- Modules can contain both code and declarations.
- Modules also have a dependency on a module loader (CommonJS/Require)
- Each file that has a import or export statement is considered a module.
- The most common way to organise code.

Features: Decorators

- Decorators are available as an experimental feature of TypeScript.
- The experimentalDecorators compiler option should be enabled.
- Can be attached to a class declaration, method, accessor, property, or parameter.
- Decorators use the form @expression.
- **expression** must evaluate to a function that will be called **at runtime** with information about the decorated declaration.

Configuration file

- The presence of a **tsconfig.json** file in a directory indicates that the directory is the root of a TypeScript project.
- The **tsconfig.json** file specifies the root files and the compiler options required to compile the project.
- A project can be compiled:
 - By invoking tsc with no input files the compiler searches for the tsconfig.json (current dir and parent chain).
 - By running tsc with no input files and a --project (or just -p) and a path to a config file.
- A tsconfig.json file can be generated using tsc --init

https://www.typescriptlang.org/docs/handbook/tsconfig-json.html

Type definition files

- What about using plain JS libraries inside TS projects?
- The type definition files (*. d.TS) help you to overcome this problem.
- You don't have to define them yourself -> <u>https://microsoft.github.io/TypeSearch/</u>
- Installation: npm install --save-dev @types/lodash
- Usage: import * as _ from "lodash";

Bundlers

- Node.js
 - Configure TS to output commonjs modules.

• Webbrowser

- Requirejs (old) module: amd
- Systemjs (old) module: systemjs
- Webpack -module: es2015 or higher
- Rollup -module: es2015 or higher
- Browserify -module: commonjs
- Parcel: -module: esnext

Write you own application

- Conway's Game of Life
- <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conway%27s_Game_o</u>
 <u>f_Life</u>
- https://github.com/bogdanmanate/mvp-ts

Conclusion

- TS is not a completely new language, so you still have to know the JS quirks.
- Optional static typing (the key here is optional)
- Type Inference, which gives some of the benefits of types, without actually using them explicitly
- Access to ES6 and ES7 features, before they become supported by major browsers
- The ability to compile down to a version of JavaScript that runs on all browsers
- Great tooling support with IntelliSense