



Node4J

Running **Node.js** in a Java World

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Java and JavaScript

- ❖ Java a successful server side language
- ❖ JavaScript is a client side language
- ❖ **SWT** brought performant Java UIs to the desktop
- ❖ **Node.js** brought JavaScript to the server
- ❖ Java and JavaScript are two of the most popular programming languages



Polyglot Systems

- ❖ Single language systems are rarely an option
 - ❖ **Legacy** code
 - ❖ New frameworks and technologies
 - ❖ Evolving enterprises
- ❖ JEE will be here for another 20, 30, 50 (?) years

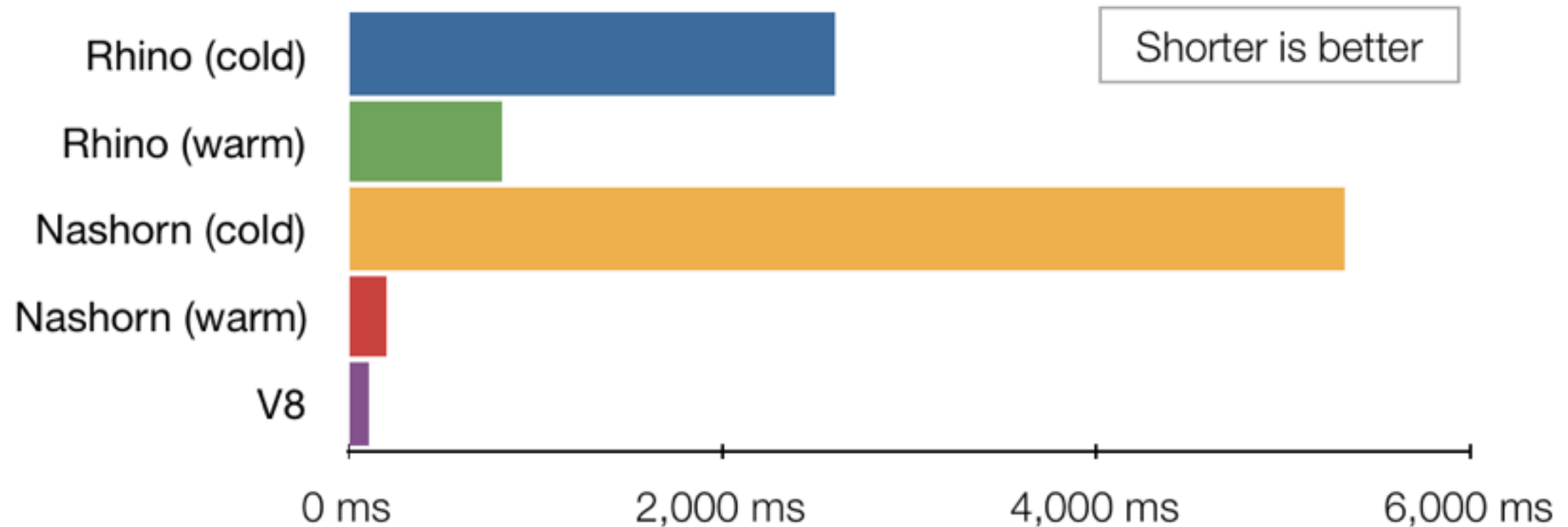


Bridging Java and JavaScript

- ❖ Three common Java technologies enable JS embedding
- ❖ **Rhino**
 - ❖ Available since JDK 6
- ❖ **Nashorn**
 - ❖ Replacing Rhino since JDK 8
 - ❖ More performant
- ❖ V8 as a **separate process**, String based messages



Performance



- ❖ 30 Runs of the **Esprima** parser and tokenizer
- ❖ Nashorn compiles to **bytecode**
- ❖ V8 compiles to **native assembly**
- ❖ Best choice for raw JavaScript execution





J2V8



J2V8

- ❖ A set of **bindings** that bring V8 to Java
- ❖ Inspired by SWT
 - ❖ Create a thin **JNI layer**
 - ❖ Expose (some) **V8 API** in Java
 - ❖ Complicated logic lives in Java



J2V8 Goals

- ❖ Efficient JavaScript on **Android**
- ❖ Make **JavaScript** shine in an enterprise **Java** World
- ❖ **Standard** Java APIs
- ❖ **Efficient** Java / JavaScript bindings



J2V8 — History

- ❖ 1.0 Released in November 2014
- ❖ 2.0 Released in February 2015
- ❖ First presented at EclipseCon 2015
- ❖ 3.0 Released at EnterJS — Summer 2015



J2V8 Design

- ❖ Each V8 Object can be referenced using a **Handle**
- ❖ Each Object is stored in a **V8 Persistent Object Store**
- ❖ Objects must be **explicitly freed**
- ❖ **Primitives** where possible (no wrappers)
- ❖ Single **Thread** per isolate



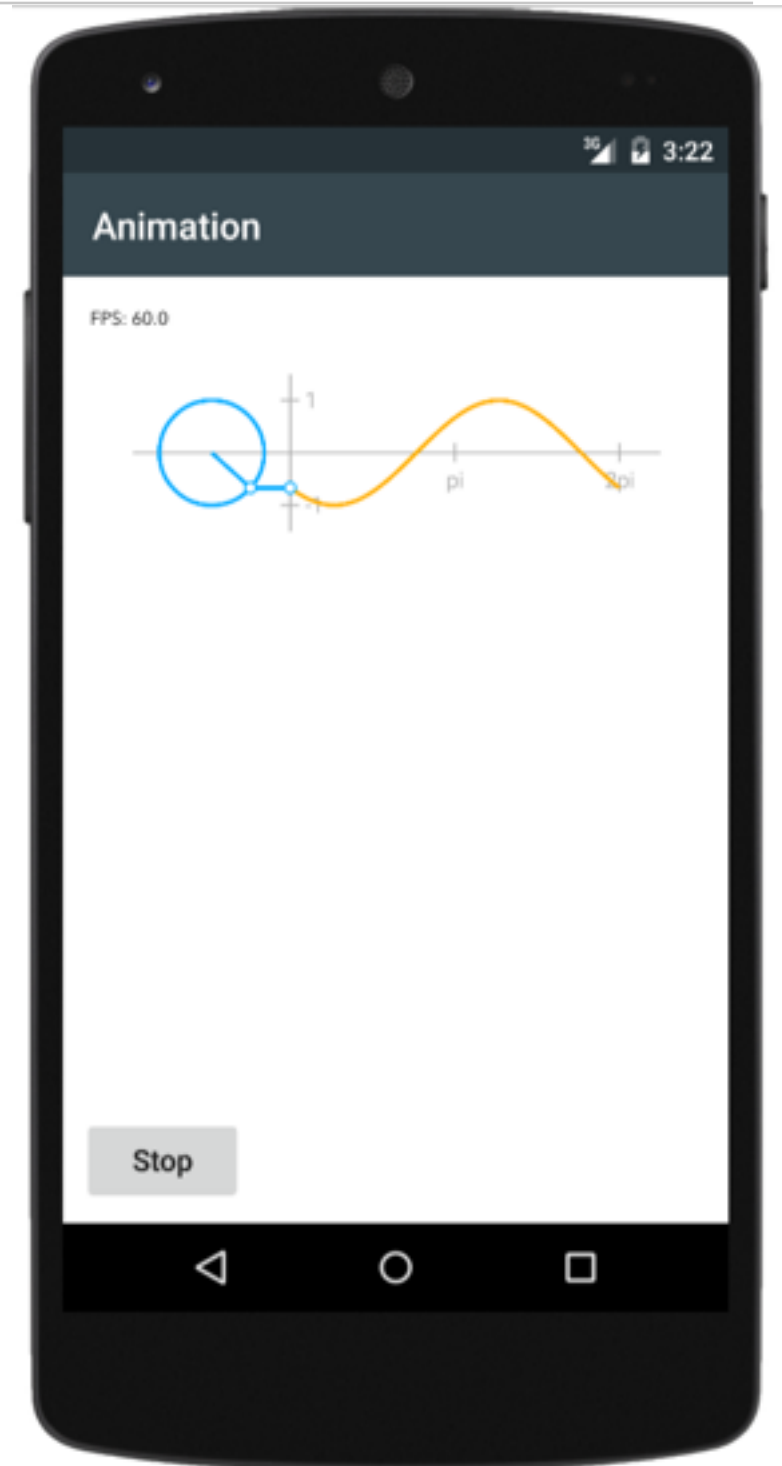
Two-way binding

- ❖ **JS functions** and **scripts** can be invoked from Java
- ❖ **Java methods** can be called from JavaScript
- ❖ Data can be passed back and forth using **V8Objects**

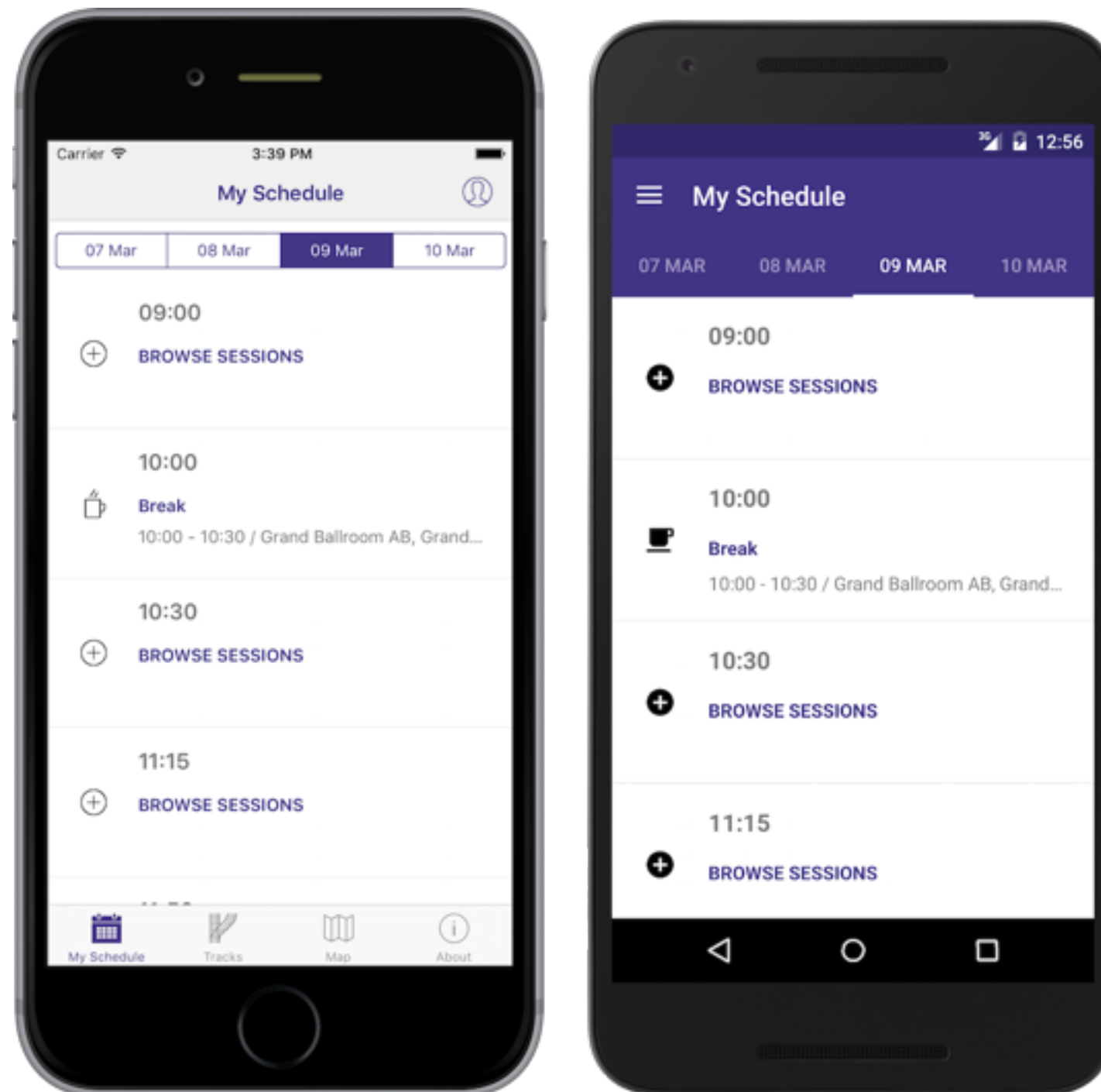


J2V8 In Action — Tabris.js

- ❖ Mobile framework
- ❖ Apps written in **JavaScript**
- ❖ Native **iOS** and **Android** Apps
- ❖ Bindings to **native** UI components



Shameless Plug



Example

```
public String someJavaMethod(final String firstName, final String lastName) {  
    return firstName + ", " + lastName;  
}  
  
public void start() {  
    V8 v8 = V8.createV8Runtime();  
    v8.registerJavaMethod(this,  
        "someJavaMethod",  
        "someJavaMethod",  
        new Class[] { String.class, String.class });  
  
    v8.executeScript("var result = someJavaMethod('Ian', 'Bull');");  
  
    String result = v8.getString("result");  
    System.out.println(result);  
}
```



J2V8 —What's New

- ❖ Typed Arrays
- ❖ Threads & Workers
- ❖ ES 6
- ❖ ChromeDev Tools
- ❖ NodeJS Support



Typed Arrays

- ❖ Native support for JS **Typed Arrays**
- ❖ **Access** the values **efficiently** from Java

```
V8Array result = (V8Array) v8.executeScript(""
    + "var buf = new ArrayBuffer(100);"
    + "var ints = new Int32Array(buf); "
    + "for(var i = 0; i < 25; i++) {"
    + "  ints[i] = i;"
    + "}; "
    + "ints");

int[] ints = result.getIntegers(0, 25);
```



Threads

- ❖ Every thread can have it's own *Isolate* (Isolated V8 Instance)
- ❖ V8Thread is a Java Thread with an associated Isolate
- ❖ Provide an easy way to execute JavaScript

```
Thread t = new V8Thread(new V8Runnable() {  
    public void run(V8 v8) {  
        int result = v8.executeIntegerScript("1+2");  
    }  
});  
t.start();
```



Executors

- ❖ Long running V8Thread with a **message queue** and event loop
- ❖ Threads can communicate via **message passing**
- ❖ Useful for implementing Web Workers / Service Workers



ES 6

- ❖ Snapshot builds of J2V8 support **V8 4.10** & **ES 6**
 - ❖ Arrows
 - ❖ Classes
 - ❖ Let / Const
 - ❖ Iterators + For..Of
 - ❖ Generators
 - ❖ ...

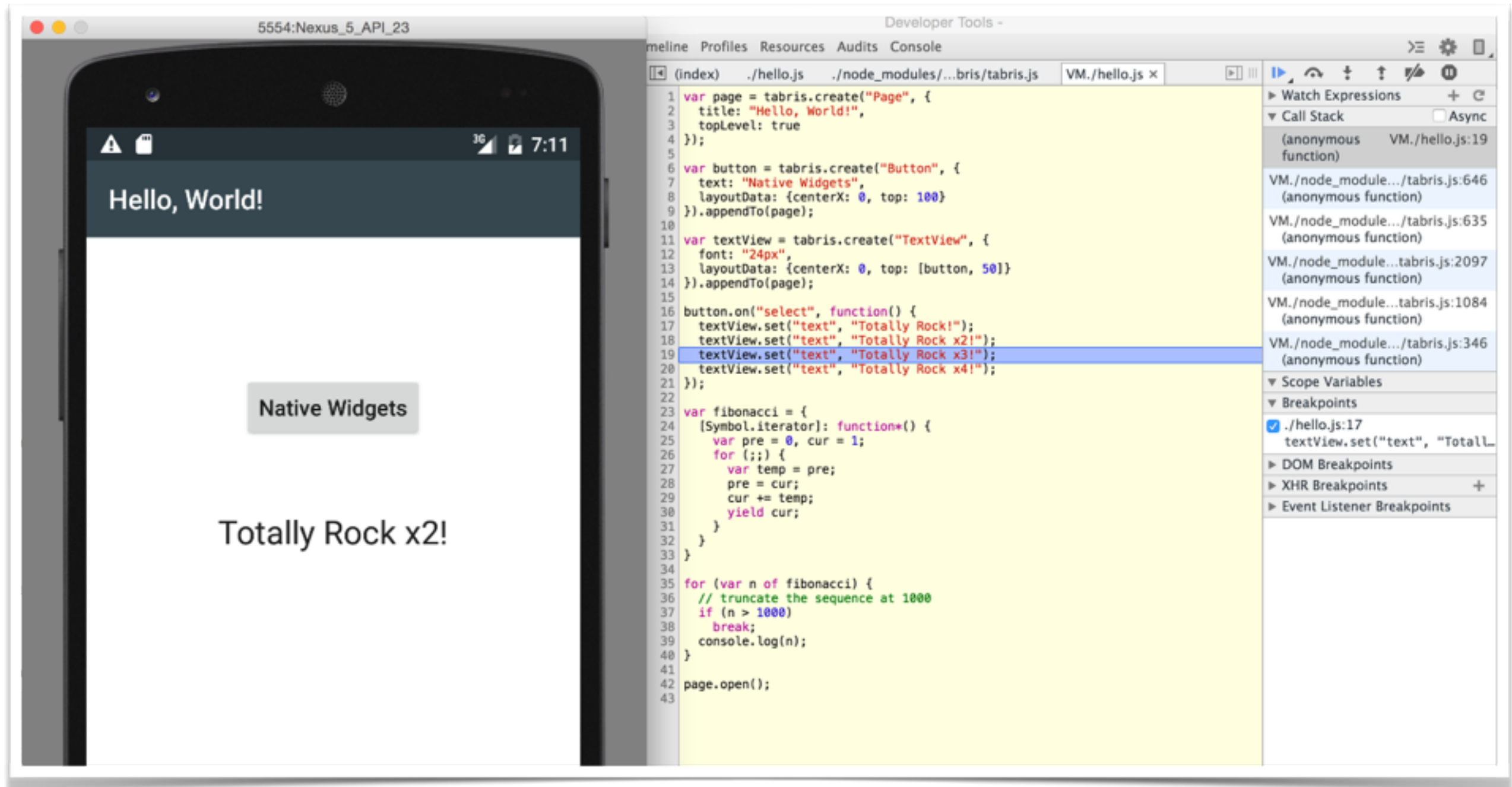


Debug Support

- ❖ V8 (and now J2V8) no longer supports the *Debug Agent*
- ❖ JavaScript based Debug API is available instead
- ❖ J2V8 exposes this API in Java
- ❖ Integrated with the **Stetho** tool & **Chrome Dev Tools**



Debug Support Demo



The image shows a screenshot of an Android emulator and the Chrome DevTools interface. The emulator on the left displays a simple application with a dark header bar containing the text "Hello, World!". Below the header, there is a large white area with a grey button labeled "Native Widgets". At the bottom of the white area, the text "Totally Rock x2!" is displayed. The DevTools interface on the right is open to the "Console" tab, showing the JavaScript code for the application. The code is as follows:

```
1 var page = tabris.create("Page", {
2   title: "Hello, World!",
3   topLevel: true
4 });
5
6 var button = tabris.create("Button", {
7   text: "Native Widgets",
8   layoutData: {centerX: 0, top: 100}
9 }).appendTo(page);
10
11 var textView = tabris.create("TextView", {
12   font: "24px",
13   layoutData: {centerX: 0, top: [button, 50]}
14 }).appendTo(page);
15
16 button.on("select", function() {
17   textView.set("text", "Totally Rock!");
18   textView.set("text", "Totally Rock x2!");
19   textView.set("text", "Totally Rock x3!");
20   textView.set("text", "Totally Rock x4!");
21 });
22
23 var fibonacci = {
24   [Symbol.iterator]: function*() {
25     var pre = 0, cur = 1;
26     for (;;) {
27       var temp = pre;
28       pre = cur;
29       cur += temp;
30       yield cur;
31     }
32   }
33 }
34
35 for (var n of fibonacci) {
36   // truncate the sequence at 1000
37   if (n > 1000)
38     break;
39   console.log(n);
40 }
41
42 page.open();
43
```

The DevTools interface also shows the "Call Stack" on the right, which lists the following frames:

- VM./hello.js:19 (anonymous function)
- VM./node_module.../tabris.js:646 (anonymous function)
- VM./node_module.../tabris.js:635 (anonymous function)
- VM./node_module.../tabris.js:2097 (anonymous function)
- VM./node_module.../tabris.js:1084 (anonymous function)
- VM./node_module.../tabris.js:346 (anonymous function)

The "Breakpoints" section on the right shows a breakpoint set at line 17 of ./hello.js, which corresponds to the line `textView.set("text", "Totally Rock!");` in the code.



Node.js

*Node.js® is a **JavaScript** runtime built on Chrome's V8 JavaScript engine. Node.js uses an **event-driven**, non-blocking I/O model that makes it lightweight and efficient.*

- ❖ JavaScript **Virtual Machine** (V8)
- ❖ **Modules**
 - ❖ Native
 - ❖ JavaScript
- ❖ Event Loop



Bridging to Node.js

- ❖ **Out of process** Node & REST Services
- ❖ **Vert.x**
- ❖ Node engine on Nashorn / Rhino?



Node4J

- ❖ Dynamically link **Node.js** to the **JVM**
- ❖ Access Node.js context via **JNI**
- ❖ Execute Node.js **modules** (require)
- ❖ **Callbacks** to Java
- ❖ Process Node.js **message queue**



Node4J Demo

```
public static void main(final String[] args) throws Exception {  
    final V8 v8 = V8.createV8Runtime("global");  
    v8.registerJavaMethod(...);  
  
    NodeJS node = V8.createNodeJS(v8);  
    V8Object exports = node.requireScript(nodeCode, "http");  
    exports.release();  
  
    boolean running = true;  
    while (running) {  
        running = node.pumpMessageLoop();  
    }  
}
```



Performance Considerations

- ❖ **Minimize** callbacks from JavaScript to Java
 - ❖ ~4000 Per Second on my MBP
- ❖ Use bulk array copy to move **primitives** from JS to Java
- ❖ **60fps** in our animation demo



Resources

- ❖ Getting started with J2V8
- ❖ Registering Java Callbacks with J2V8
- ❖ Implementing WebWorkers with J2V8
- ❖ Multithreaded JavaScript with J2V8
- ❖ Using J2V8 with Heroku
- ❖ All linked from our [GitHub](#) Page



Future Work

- ❖ Advanced **exception handling** between Java and JS
- ❖ Improved debug support
- ❖ **Typed array** access in Java
- ❖ **You tell me?**



Using J2V8

- ❖ J2V8 is available in **Maven Central**
- ❖ Currently **5 variants** are available:
 - com.eclipsesource.j2v8.j2v8_win32_x86:3.1.6
 - com.eclipsesource.j2v8.j2v8_macosx_x86_64:3.1.6
 - com.eclipsesource.j2v8.j2v8:3.1.6 (aar)
 - com.eclipsesource.j2v8.j2v8_android_armv7l:3.1.6
 - com.eclipsesource.j2v8.j2v8_android_x86:3.1.6
- ❖ j2v8:3.1.6 (aar) contains both **x86** and **armv7l**



4.0!



Thank-you

- ❖ Open Source **Java** bindings for **V8**
- ❖ **Node4J** extensions bring **Node.js** to Java
- ❖ Licensed under the **EPL**
- ❖ For J2V8 news, follow me on Twitter *@irbull*

<https://github.com/eclipsesource/j2v8>



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Best talk at EclipseCon (so far)

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