

Uniting the Web's Fastest Moving Web Development Community



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Node.js, often referred to simply as Node, is an open source, cross-platform runtime for developing front end, server side, desktop, mobile and IoT web applications. Formed in 2015, the Node.js Foundation is managed by The Linux Foundation, which provides a governance structure for the project and includes IBM, Intel, Joyent, Microsoft, Paypal and Red Hat and numerous other users and solution providers as members.

www.nodejs.org

HIGHLIGHTS

- Active users of Node.js has grown to 4 million users per month
- Development activity has gone from 107 commits a month to more than 386 by the team of more than 70 committers
- Releases have gone from five to six in a year to 5 to 6 each month

About Node.js

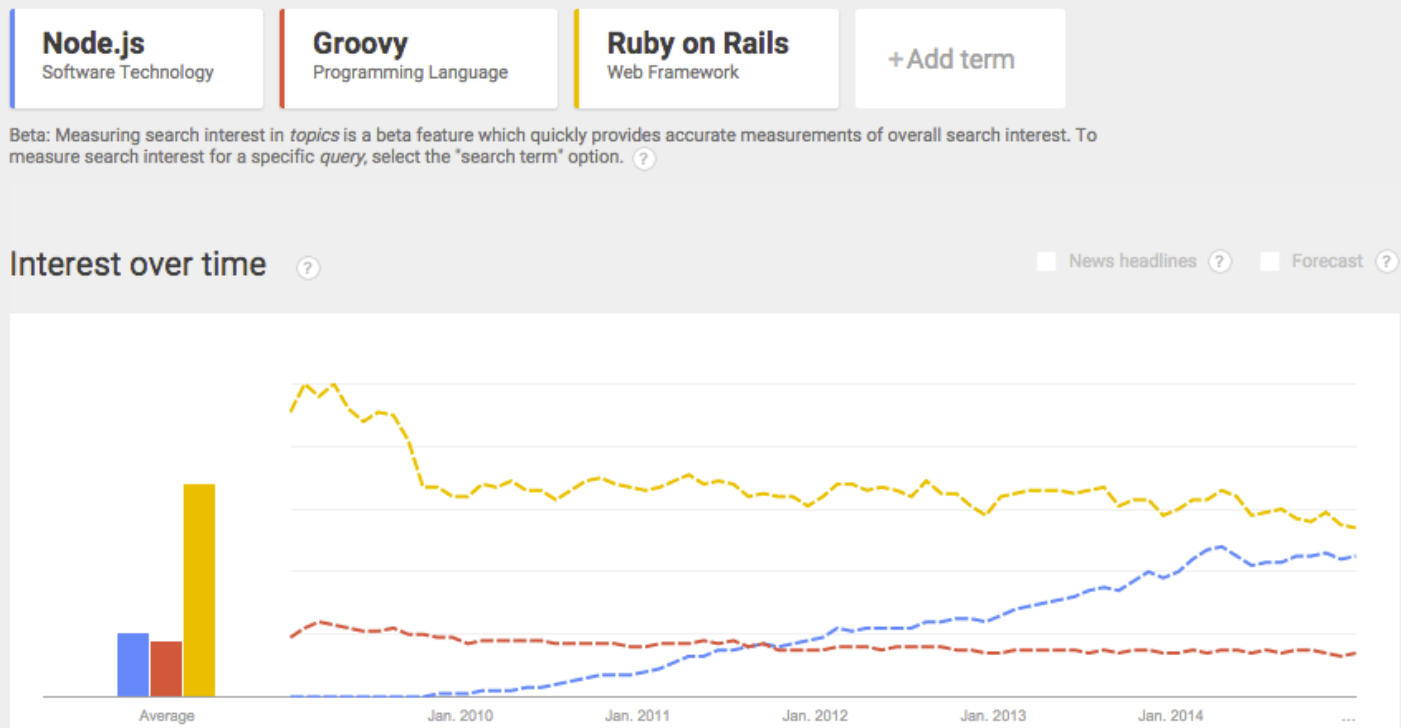
Node.js works well in modern web-connected applications that need to gather data from different sources, consolidate that data and push it to many clients in real-time. This makes it an excellent technology to bridge existing systems as it provides an easily deployable migration layer that either proxies data to existing systems or collects and reformats data for different uses. Since its inception in 2009, Node.js has been one of the fastest growing open source infrastructure projects of all time.

The Challenge

Through April of 2016 Node.js had grown to more than 5 million lines of code and thousands of add-on modules with well over 1 million downloads per year. It has been used successfully in production, high-volume network server deployments at Google, Yahoo, Groupon, Uber, Netflix, Fidelity and Walmart and tens of thousands of organizations worldwide.

As an extremely popular open source project Node.js struggled with growing pains. The original development was funded by Joyent (acquired by Samsung) and after almost three years of breakneck development, the project had grown substantially and had hundreds of thousands of developers downstream who were becoming increasingly reliant on Node.

By 2014, it was apparent that Node.js was having a transformative effect on the industry.



Google Trend for Node.js compared to Groovy and Ruby on Rails¹

The stakes around Node.js were getting higher. Growing success as an open source project and a growing ecosystem of vendors created a tumultuous landscape. This resulted in many parallel and often conflicting development efforts and disagreements that slowed releases.

Despite the slow releases, Node.js adoption was growing quickly and enterprises were looking for more stability with Node.js, including plans for long term support. While independent developers were looking for faster release cycles. The current state of the project needed a different governmental structure.

The Approach

The Linux Foundation, a neutral-third party, stepped in to work with key stakeholders and provide guidance on open source foundation concepts, how to unify a roadmap and how to decide what operational support was needed. Due to its neutral position and extensive experience in

setting up collaborative projects, The Linux Foundation team quickly became trusted counsel in this process. In addition, The Linux Foundation was able to provide a roadmap for setting up a successful foundation including governance models, financial models and legal support.

At the same time, the flexibility in The Linux Foundation's collaborative approach allowed the Node stakeholders to create their own foundation around their unique component subsets and objectives for the community. The idea of a separate, independent foundation was really important to all of the players – it allowed everyone to feel that they owned it equally.

As the shape of a foundation began to coalesce there was a wealth of uncertainty among interested parties based on recent events. A leap of faith was required for many of them to become formally involved. Fortunately, most of the companies involved with Node.js were already working with The Linux Foundation through other successful open source projects, which lent confidence that Node could be successful in that context.

“We serve billions of requests for our customers’ websites every month with Node.js and are using it more and more throughout our business. Joining the Node.js Foundation is another example of our commitment and we want to share the skills, benefits and lessons we learned.”

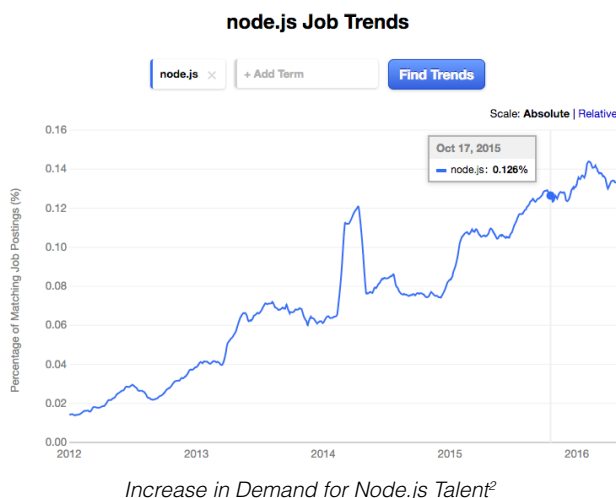
- Charlie Robbins, Director of Engineering, GoDaddy

The deciding factor in contributing the Node codebase was The Linux Foundation’s mature governance model, the support resources and an extensive track record with Linux, OpenDaylight, Cloud Foundry, OPNFV and so many others where competitors could find common ground made the move to The Linux Foundation’s foundation structure provided was helpful.

The Results

In August 2014, the Node.js Foundation was incorporated and began to function immediately as a project under The Linux Foundation to provide a working focus for the node.js communities of developers, sponsors and partners.

The desire for Node.js talent has grown quickly, as shown by the Indeed.com trend engine:



Since then, the Node project has demonstrated measurable success in multiple dimensions as of June 2016:

- Creation of an independent foundation that has productively balanced the needs and concerns of the several developer groups.
- 28 corporate members, whose businesses use and depend on Node, have participated in developing and funding the foundation and project activities.
- Development activity has gone from 107 commits a month to more than 386 by the team of more than 70 committers. Releases have gone from five to six in a year to 5 to 6 each month.
- 4 million users actively use Node.js every month.
- 95% of Fortune 500 companies and hundreds of the world’s most recognizable brands rely on Node.js to run their enterprise.³

The Node.js Foundation and the guidance and support provided by The Linux Foundation has helped the Node.js community see continued exponential adoption of the technology. With a strong community and flexible governance structure in place, we can expect to see Node.js continue to achieve milestones of success.

Sources:

¹ <http://apmblog.dynatrace.com/2015/04/09/node-js-is-hitting-the-big-time-in-enterprise-markets/>

² <http://www.indeed.com/jobtrends/q-node.js.html>

³ <https://nodesource.com/blog/the-enterprise-node-community/#theenterprisenodecommunity>

To learn more about Node.js Foundation, visit www.nodejs.org

To learn more about hosting your open source project at The Linux Foundation, please contact us at membership@linuxfoundation.org