

*The*

WebAssembly

REVOLUTION

*has begun*

**WebAssembly** will change the way  
we think of "**web apps**"



# Jay Phelps

Senior Software Engineer | **NETFLIX**

 @\_jayphelps

So...**what is WebAssembly?** aka **wasm**



# Efficient, low-level bytecode for the Web

**Efficient, low-level bytecode** for the Web

Fast to **load** and **execute**

Efficient, low-level bytecode for the Web

0x6a

01101010

Intended as a **compilation target**

```
int factorial(int n) {  
    if (n == 0) {  
        return 1;  
    } else {  
        return n * factorial(n - 1);  
    }  
}
```

```
int factorial(int n) {  
    if (n == 0) {  
        return 1;  
    } else {  
        return n * factorial(n - 1);  
    }  
}
```



```
00 61 73 6D 01 00 00 00 01  
86 80 80 80 00 01 60 01 7F  
01 7F 03 82 80 80 80 00 01  
00 06 81 80 80 80 00 00 0A  
9D 80 80 80 00 01 97 80 80  
80 00 00 20 00 41 00 46 04  
40 41 01 0F 0B 20 00 41 01  
6B 10 00 20 00 6C 0B
```



**Safe** and **portable**  
just like JavaScript is

Is it going to **kill JavaScript**?

# Nope!\*

says browser vendors

\*well...**maybe**...some day...a long time from now  
(my own opinion)

Will we compile **JavaScript** to **WebAssembly**?

JavaScript is an *extremely* dynamic language



Brandon Dail

@aweary



🌟 you can push into Array.prototype and totally mess up empty arrays

```
> Array.prototype.push("lol")
```

```
< 1
```

```
> var empty = [];
```

```
< undefined
```

```
> empty[0]
```

```
< "lol"
```

8:55 PM - 9 Nov 2017

924 Retweets 1,890 Likes



Jay Phelps | @\_jayphelps

Compiling *JavaScript to WebAssembly* would run **slower**

What about a something JavaScript-like?



**AssemblyScript, TurboScript, ThinScript, etc**

```
class Coordinates {
  x: i64;
  y: i64;
  z: i64;

  constructor(x: i64, y: i64, z: i64) {
    this.x = x;
    this.y = y;
    this.z = z;
  }
}

export function example() {
  let position = new Coordinates(10, 20, 30);
  // later
  delete position;
}
```

**WebAssembly is still missing things**  
for broad adoption

**v1 MVP is best suited for** languages like  
**C/C++ and Rust**

# But other languages soon!

Things like **Java**, **OCaml**, and **even brand new ones**



```
type schoolPerson = Teacher | Director | Student(string);
```

```
let greeting = (stranger) =>  
  switch stranger {  
  | Teacher => "Hey professor!"  
  | Director => "Hello director."  
  | Student("Richard") => "Still here Ricky?"  
  | Student(anyOtherName) => "Hey, " ++ anyOtherName ++ "."  
  };
```

When should I target WebAssembly **right now**?

# Heavily **CPU-bound** number computations



Games

Physics Simulation

Encryption

Compression

Video Decoding

Audio Mixing

Language Detection

Games

Physics Simulation

Encryption

Compression

Video Decoding

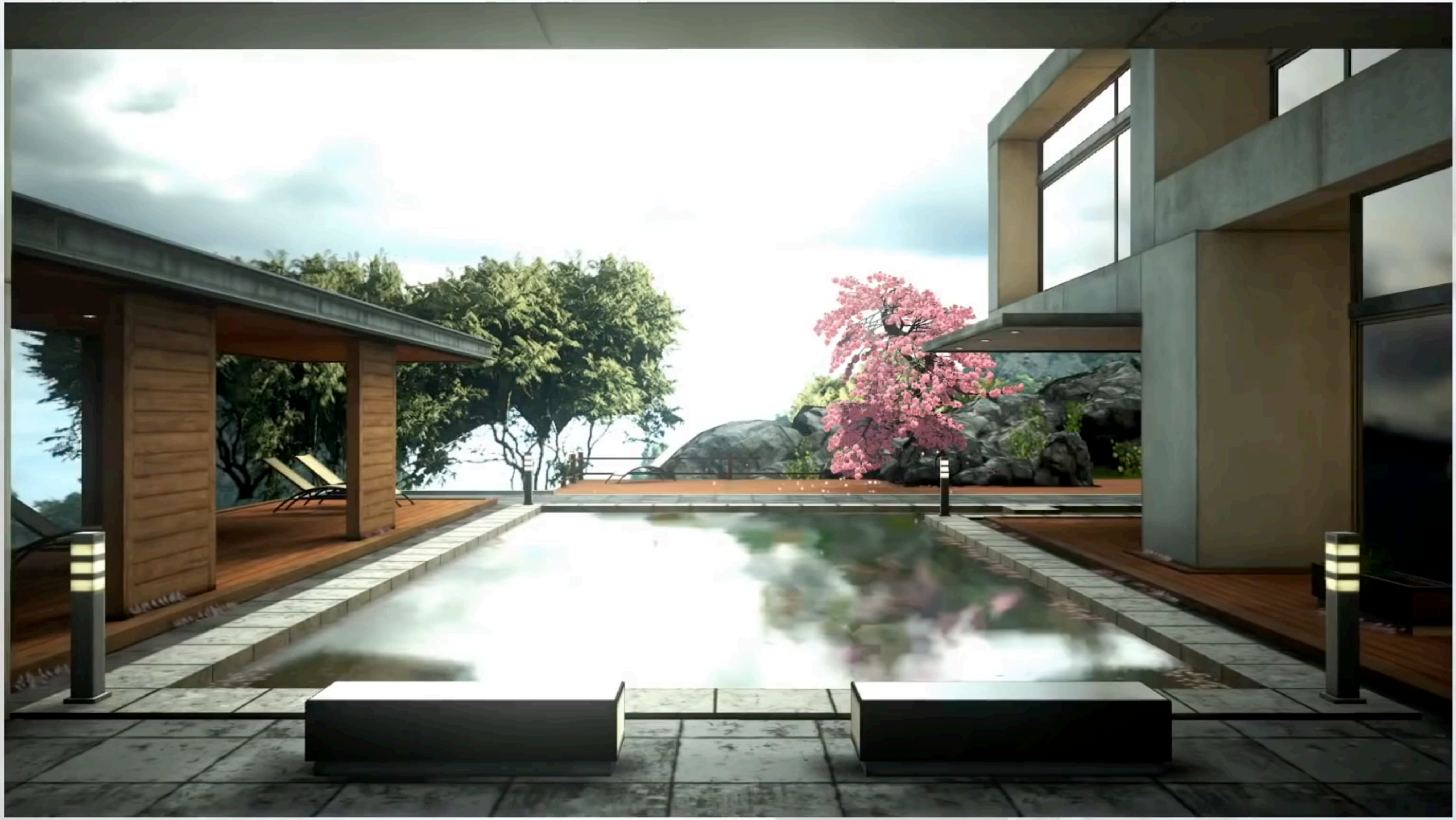
Audio Mixing

Language Detection



**UNREAL  
ENGINE**





Clear cache (205 MB)

FullScreen



**YOUR TIME**  
**28,2**

**TIME TO BEAT**  
**26,5**

# asm-dom

```
asmdom::VNode* vnode = (  
    <div>  
        <h1>Hello world!</h1>  
    </div>  
);  
  
auto rootNode = emscripten::val::global("document").call<emscripten::val>(  
    "getElementById",  
    std::string("root")  
);  
  
asmdom::patch(rootNode, vnode);
```

Other use cases just around the corner

You'll likely **consume compiled**  
WebAssembly **libraries** even sooner



**What was that binary stuff?**

```
int factorial(int n) {  
    if (n == 0) {  
        return 1;  
    } else {  
        return n * factorial(n - 1);  
    }  
}
```



```
00 61 73 6D 01 00 00 00 01  
86 80 80 80 00 01 60 01 7F  
01 7F 03 82 80 80 80 00 01  
00 06 81 80 80 80 00 00 0A  
9D 80 80 80 00 01 97 80 80  
80 00 00 20 00 41 00 46 04  
40 41 01 0F 0B 20 00 41 01  
6B 10 00 20 00 6C 0B
```

```
00 61 73 6D 01 00 00 00 01
86 80 80 80 00 01 60 01 7F
01 7F 03 82 80 80 80 00 01
00 06 81 80 80 80 00 00 0A
9D 80 80 80 00 01 97 80 80
80 00 00 20 00 41 00 46 04
40 41 01 0F 0B 20 00 41 01
6B 10 00 20 00 6C 0B
```

00	61	73	6D	01	00	00	00	01
86	80	80	80	00	01	60	01	7F
01	7F	03	82	80	80	80	00	01
00	06	81	80	80	80	00	00	0A
9D	80	80	80	00	01	97	80	80
80	00	00	20	00	41	00	46	04
40	41	01	0F	0B	20	00	41	01
6B	10	00	20	00	6C	0B		

00	61	73	6D	01	00	00	00	01
86	80	80	80	00	01	60	01	7F
01	7F	03	82	80	80	80	00	01
00	06	81	80	80	80	00	00	0A
9D	80	80	80	00	01	97	80	80
80	00	00	20	00	41	00	46	04
40	41	01	0F	0B	20	00	41	01
6B	10	00	20	00	6C	0B		

03 82 80 80 80

81 80 80 80 00

80 80 00 01 97

00 20 00 41 00

03

82

80

80

80

81

80

80

00

80

80

1

97

00

20

00

41

00



Binary can be *a little* intimidating



**Protip: don't worry about it**  
(unless of course, you want to)

**Textual representation** to the rescue!

```
(func $factorial (param $n i32) (result i32)
  get_local $n
  i32.const 0
  i32.eq
  if $if0
  i32.const 1
  return
  end $if0
  get_local $n
  i32.const 1
  i32.sub
  call $factorial
  get_local $n
  i32.mul
)
```

```
(func $factorial (param $n i32) (result i32)
  get_local $n
  i32.const 0
  i32.eq
  if $if0
  i32.const
  return
  end $if0
  get_local
  i32.const
  i32.sub
  call $factor
  get_local $n
  i32.mul
)
```



WebAssembly is a **stack machine** language

stack machine: ***instructions on a stack***

$$1 + 2$$

mnemonic

i32.add



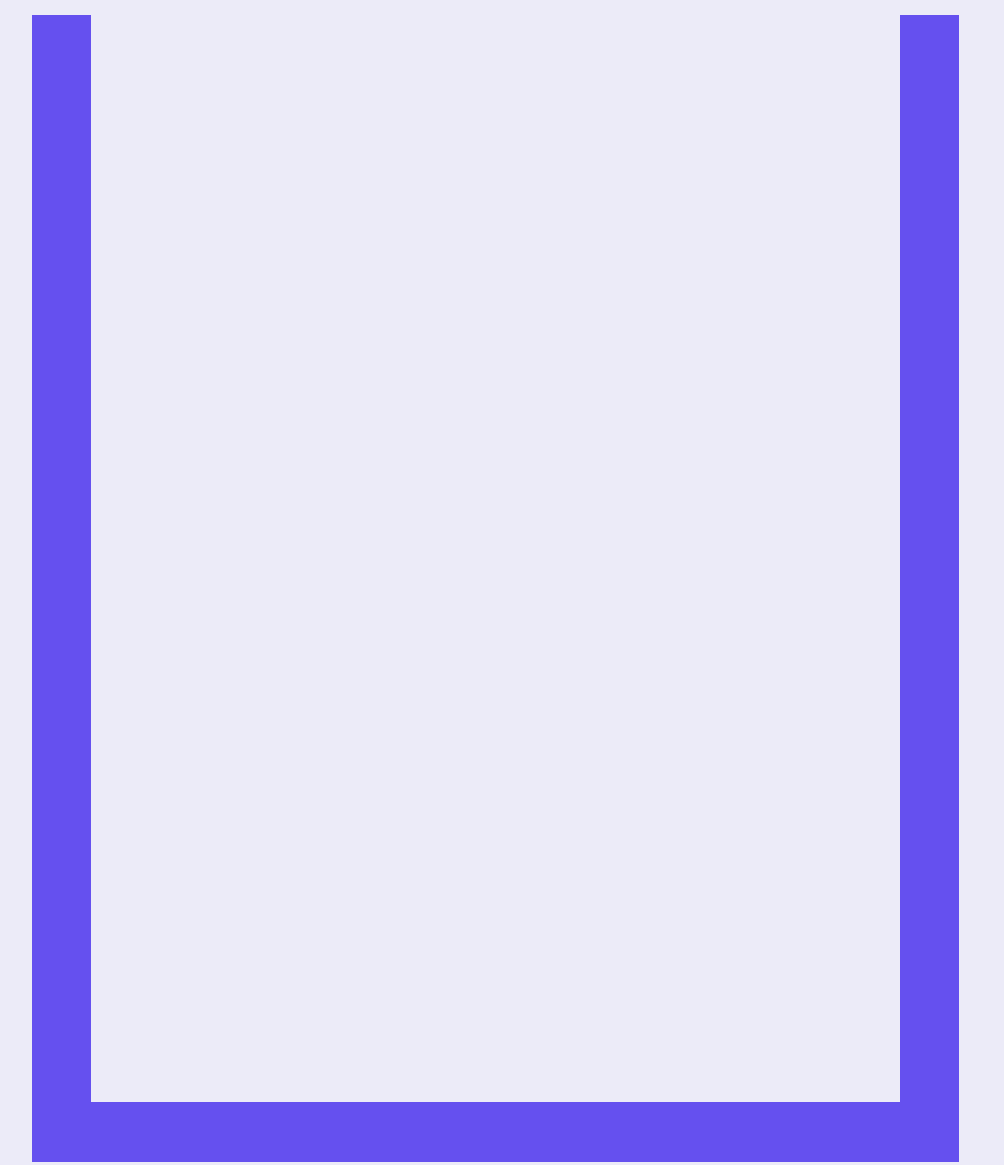
opcode

0x6a

01101010



```
i32.const 1  
i32.const 2  
i32.add
```

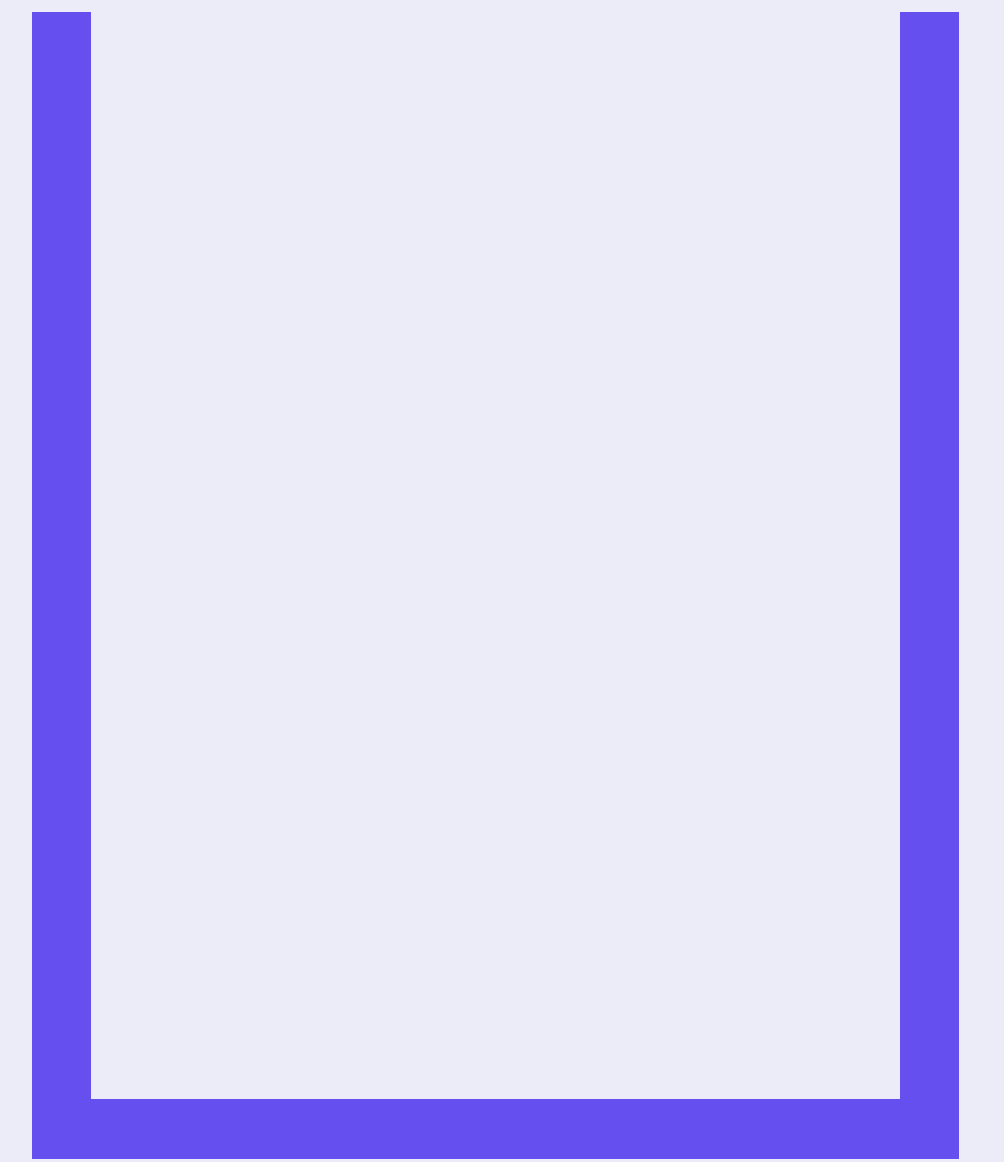


stack

i32.const 1

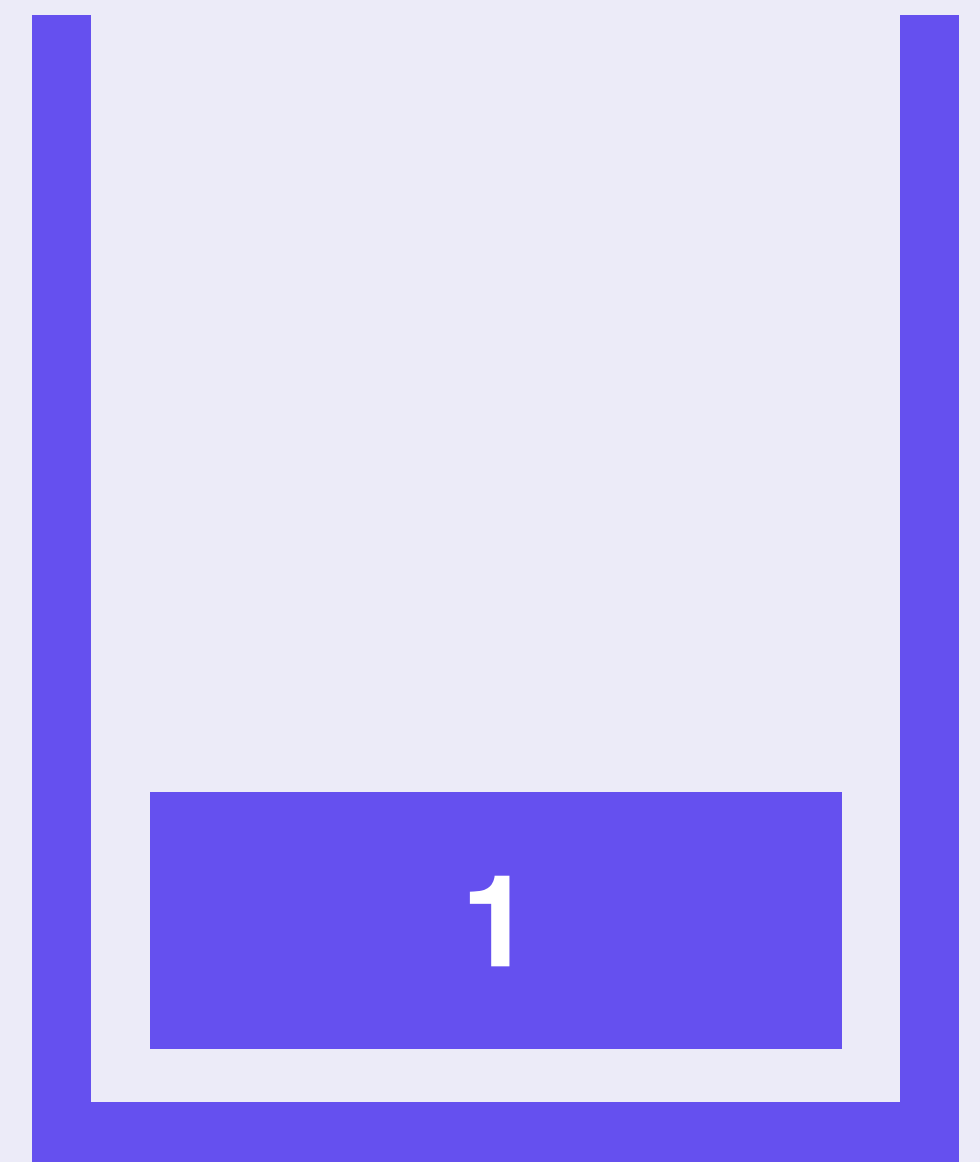
i32.const 2

i32.add



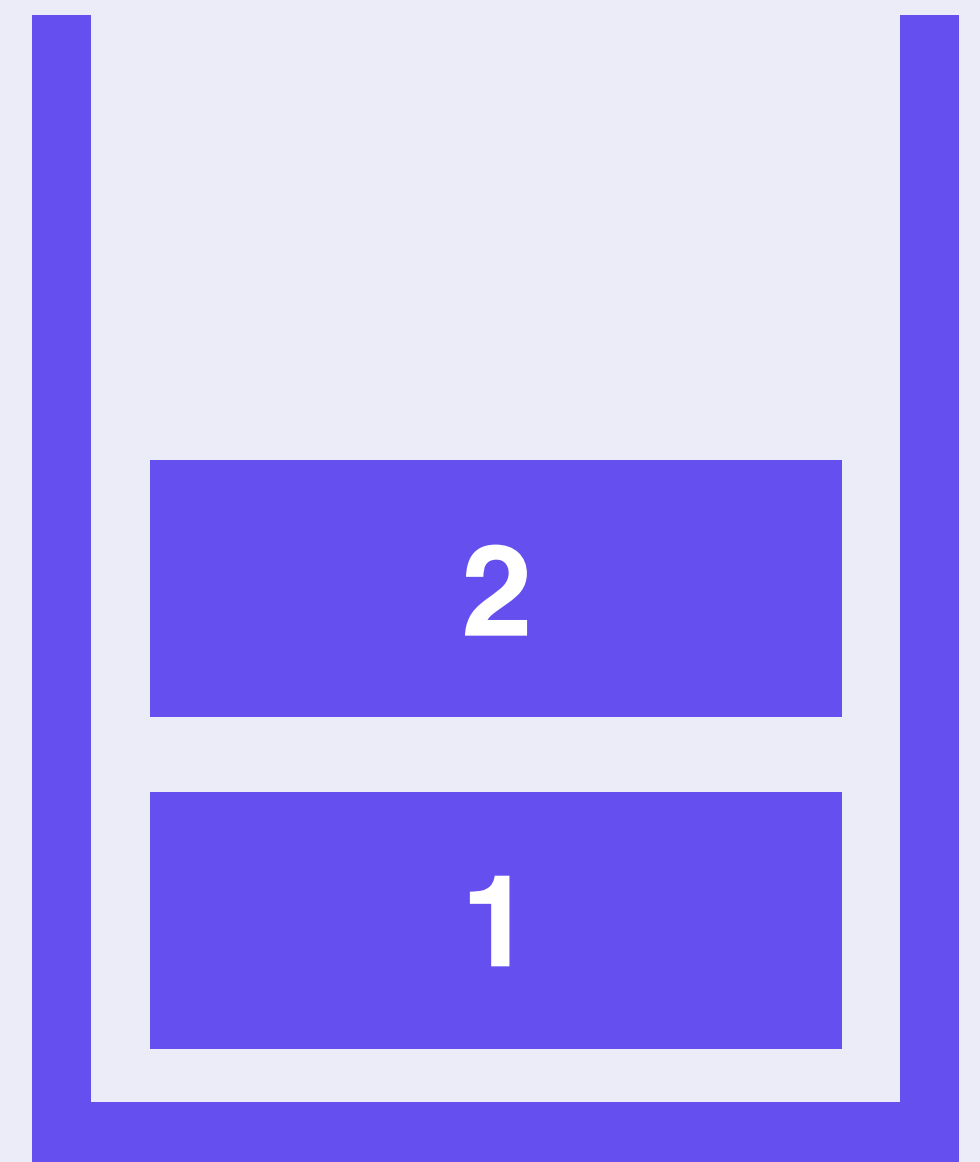
stack

```
i32.const 1  
i32.const 2  
i32.add
```



stack

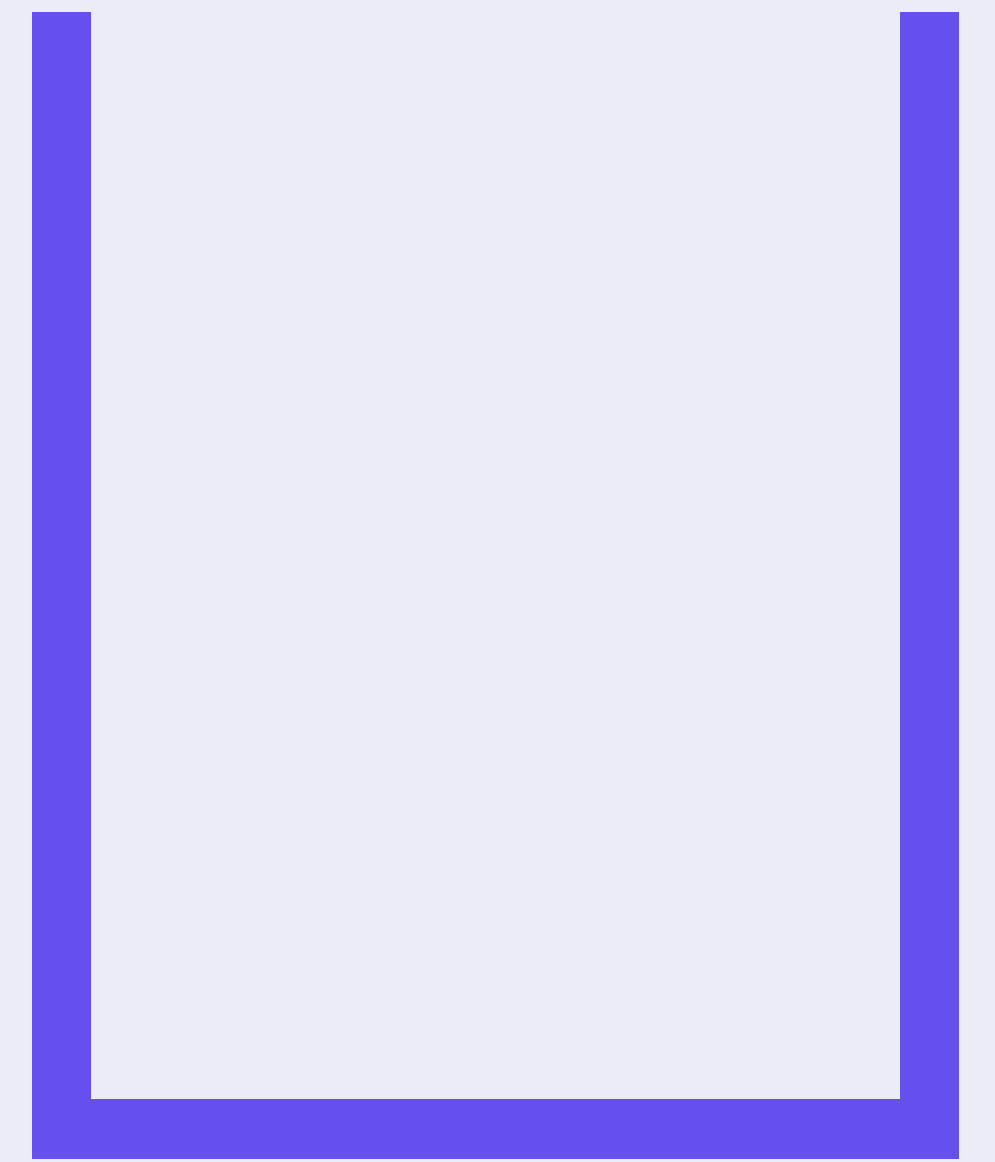
```
i32.const 1  
i32.const 2  
i32.add
```



stack

```
i32.const 1  
i32.const 2  
i32.add
```

3



stack

```
i32.const 1  
i32.const 2  
i32.add  
call $log
```

# Compilers usually apply optimizations

real-world output is **often less understandable** to humans

```
i32.const 1  
i32.const 2  
i32.add  
call $log
```



```
i32.const 3  
call $log
```

Most tooling supports an **Abstract Syntax Tree** (AST)

still compiled and evaluated as a stack machine

```
i32.const 1  
i32.const 2  
i32.add  
call $log
```

```
(call $log
  (i32.add
    (i32.const 1)
    (i32.const 2)
  )
)
```

# s-expressions

Yep, looks like Lisp

```
(call $log  
  (i32.add  
    (i32.const 1)  
    (i32.const 2)  
  )  
)
```

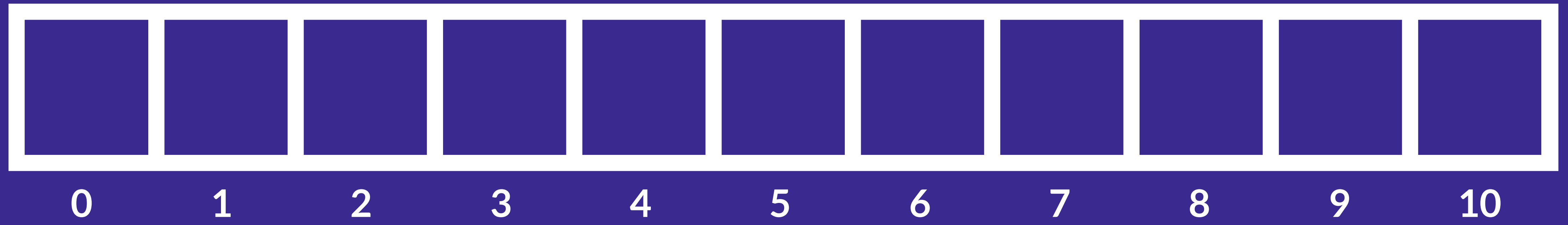
Source map support is coming

**What about memory on the heap?**

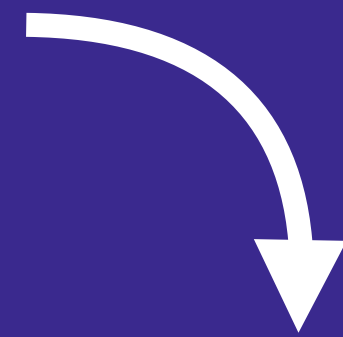
A **linear memory** is a contiguous, byte-addressable range of memory



Accessed with instructions like  
**i32.load** and **i32.store**



1 byte



0

1

2

3

4

5

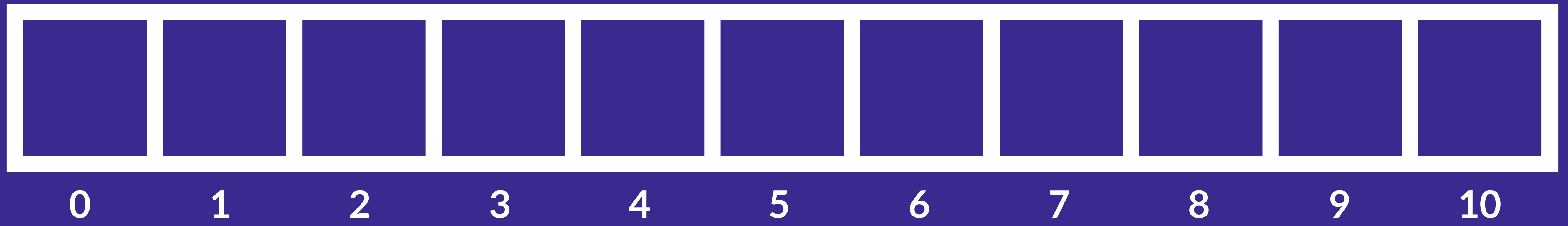
6

7

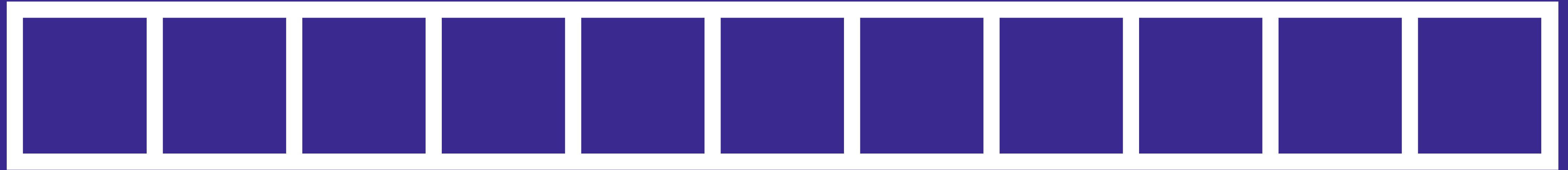
8

9

10



w a s m



0

1

2

3

4

5

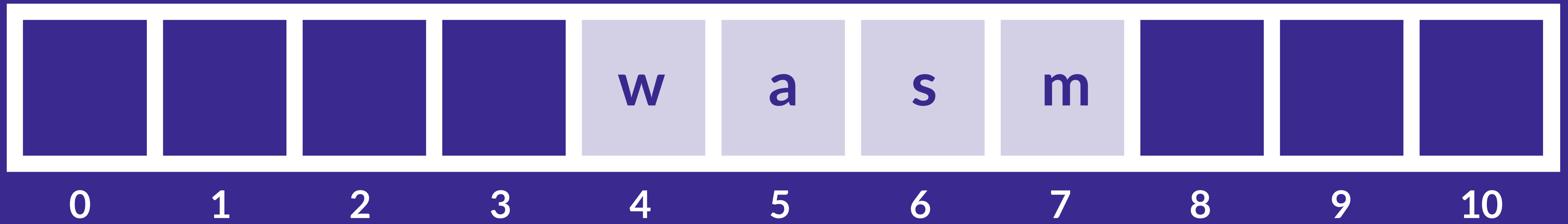
6

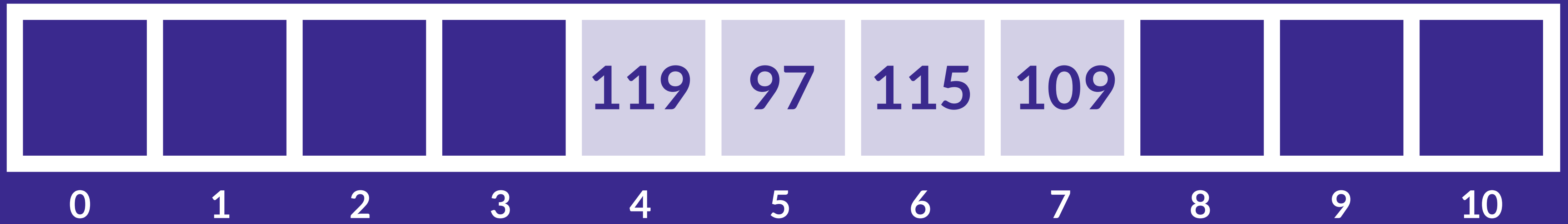
7

8

9

10





How do I **get started**?



# https://mbebenita.github.io/WasmExplorer/

Secure <https://mbebenita.github.io/WasmExplorer/> ☆ ABP SA

## WebAssembly Explorer v2.16

Options C99 -O3 COMPILER Wast ASSEMBLE DOWNLOAD Firefox x86 Assembly <

Auto Compile  
 LLVM x86 Assembly

Examples ▾

C99 ▾

Optimization Level  
3 ▾

Fast Math  
 No Inline  
 No RTTI  
 No Exceptions

```
1 void log(int);
2
3 int example(int a) {
4     for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
5         log(i);
6     }
7 }
```

```
1 (module
2     (type $FUNCSIG$vi (func
3         (param i32)))
4     (import "env" "log" (func
5         $log (param i32)))
6     (table 0 anyfunc)
7     (memory $0 1)
8     (export "memory" (memory $0
9         ))
10    (export "example" (func
11        $example))
12    (func $example (param $0 i32)
13        (result i32)
14        (local $1 i32)
15        (call $log
16            (i32.const 0)
17        ))
18 )
```

```
wasmb-function[1]:
  sub rsp, 0x18
  cmp qword ptr [r14 + 0x28], rsp
  jae 0x16a
0x00000e:
  xor edi, edi
  mov qword ptr [rsp], r14
  mov rax, qword ptr [r14 + 0x30]
  mov r14, qword ptr [r14 + 0x38]
  mov r15, qword ptr [r14 + 0x18]
  call rax
  mov r14, qword ptr [rsp]
  mov r15, qword ptr [r14 + 0x18]
  mov edi, 1
  mov qword ptr [rsp], r14
```

Console 52

```
43 Compiling C/C++ to Wast
44 Compiling .wast to x86
45 Compiling .wast to .wasm
46 Compiling C/C++ to Wast
47 Compiling .wast to x86
```

# <https://github.com/WebAssembly/wabt>

## WABT: The WebAssembly Binary Toolkit

---

WABT (we pronounce it "wabbit") is a suite of tools for WebAssembly, including:

- **wat2wasm**: translate from [WebAssembly text format](#) to the [WebAssembly binary format](#)
- **wasm2wat**: the inverse of wat2wasm, translate from the binary format back to the text format (also known as a .wat)
- **wasm-objdump**: print information about a wasm binary. Similiar to objdump.
- **wasm-interp**: decode and run a WebAssembly binary file using a stack-based interpreter
- **wat-desugar**: parse .wat text form as supported by the spec interpreter (s-expressions, flat syntax, or mixed) and print "canonical" flat format
- **wasm-link**: simple linker for merging multiple wasm files.



# <https://github.com/WebAssembly/binaryen>

## Binaryen

---

Binaryen is a compiler and toolchain infrastructure library for WebAssembly, written in C++. It aims to make [compiling to WebAssembly](#) easy, fast, and effective:

- Binaryen has a simple [C API](#) in a single header, as well as C++ bindings. It can also be [used from JavaScript](#). It accepts input in [WebAssembly-like form](#) but also accepts a general [control flow graph](#) for compilers that prefer that.
- **wasm-shell**: A shell that can load and interpret WebAssembly code. It can also run the spec test suite.
- **wasm-opt**: Loads WebAssembly and runs Binaryen IR passes on it.
- **asm2wasm**: An asm.js-to-WebAssembly compiler, using Emscripten's asm optimizer infrastructure. This is used by Emscripten in Binaryen mode when it uses Emscripten's fastcomp asm.js backend.
- **wasm2asm**: A WebAssembly-to-asm.js compiler (still experimental).
- **s2wasm**: A compiler from the `.s` format emitted by the new WebAssembly backend being developed in LLVM. This is used by Emscripten in Binaryen mode when it integrates with the new LLVM backend.
- **wasm-merge**: Combines wasm files into a single big wasm file (without sophisticated linking).

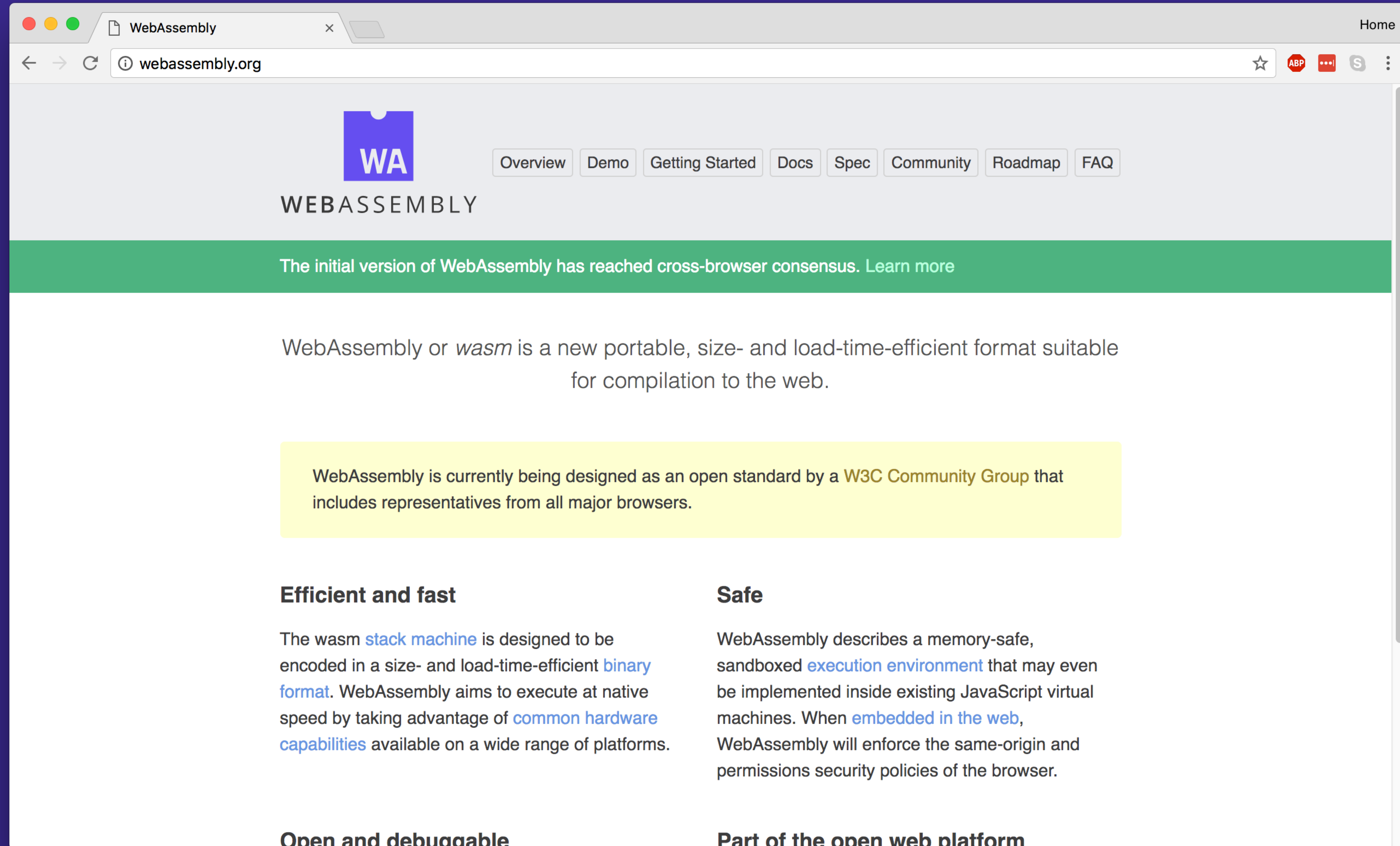


***emscripten***



```
$ emcc main.c -s WASM=1 -o app.html
```

# webassembly.org



The screenshot shows a browser window with the URL `webassembly.org`. The page features a navigation menu with links for Overview, Demo, Getting Started, Docs, Spec, Community, Roadmap, and FAQ. A green banner at the top of the main content area reads: "The initial version of WebAssembly has reached cross-browser consensus. [Learn more](#)". Below this, the text states: "WebAssembly or *wasm* is a new portable, size- and load-time-efficient format suitable for compilation to the web." A yellow callout box contains the text: "WebAssembly is currently being designed as an open standard by a [W3C Community Group](#) that includes representatives from all major browsers." The page is organized into two columns. The left column has a section titled "Efficient and fast" with the text: "The *wasm* [stack machine](#) is designed to be encoded in a size- and load-time-efficient [binary format](#). WebAssembly aims to execute at native speed by taking advantage of [common hardware capabilities](#) available on a wide range of platforms." Below this is the heading "Open and debuggable". The right column has a section titled "Safe" with the text: "WebAssembly describes a memory-safe, sandboxed [execution environment](#) that may even be implemented inside existing JavaScript virtual machines. When [embedded in the web](#), WebAssembly will enforce the same-origin and permissions security policies of the browser." Below this is the heading "Part of the open web platform".



# Webpack is adding support (!!!)

They received a \$125,000 grant from MOSS

Imagine a **cpp-loader** / **rust-loader**



What's missing?

# Direct access to Web APIs

You have call into JavaScript, right now

# Garbage collection

also necessary for better interop with JavaScript and WebIDL

# Multi-threading

# Browser support?



The revolution is **just beginning**





ethereum

BLOCKCHAIN APP PLATFORM



Efficient, low-level bytecode **for the Web**

Efficient, low-level bytecode ~~for the Web~~







# Questions?

 @\_jayphelps

# Thanks!

 @\_jayphelps





```
void log(char *);
```

```
void example() {  
    log("wasm");  
}
```



```
(module
  (import "env" "log" (func $log (param i32)))
  (memory $0 1)
  (data (i32.const 0) "wasm\00")
  (func $example
    (call $log
      (i32.const 0)
    )
  )
)
```

```
(module
  (import "env" "log" (func $log (param i32)))
  (memory $0 1)
  (data (i32.const 0) "wasm\00")
  (func $example
    (call $log
      (i32.const 0)
    )
  )
)
```

```
(module
  (import "env" "log" (func $log (param i32)))
  (memory $0 1)
  (data (i32.const 0) "wasm\00")
  (func $example
    (call $log
      (i32.const 0)
    )
  )
)
```