The

WebAssembly

REVOLUTION

has begun

Jay Phelps | @_jayphelps

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

EpicZenGarden

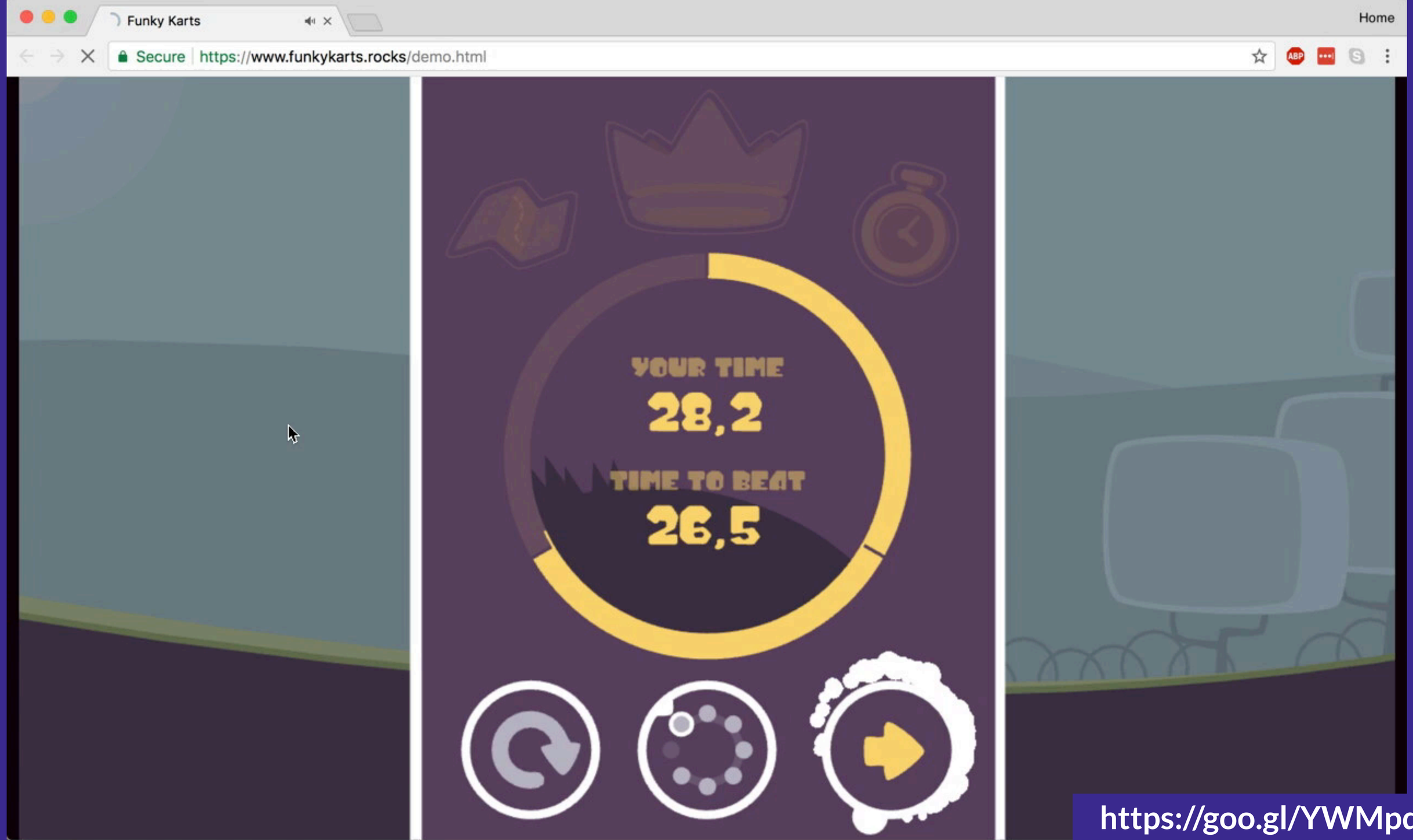
Search or enter address

Search

Clear cache (205 MB)

FullScreen

https://goo.gl/yvV92X



https://goo.gl/YWMpdp

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);
```

https://goo.gl/XWBeme

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
```

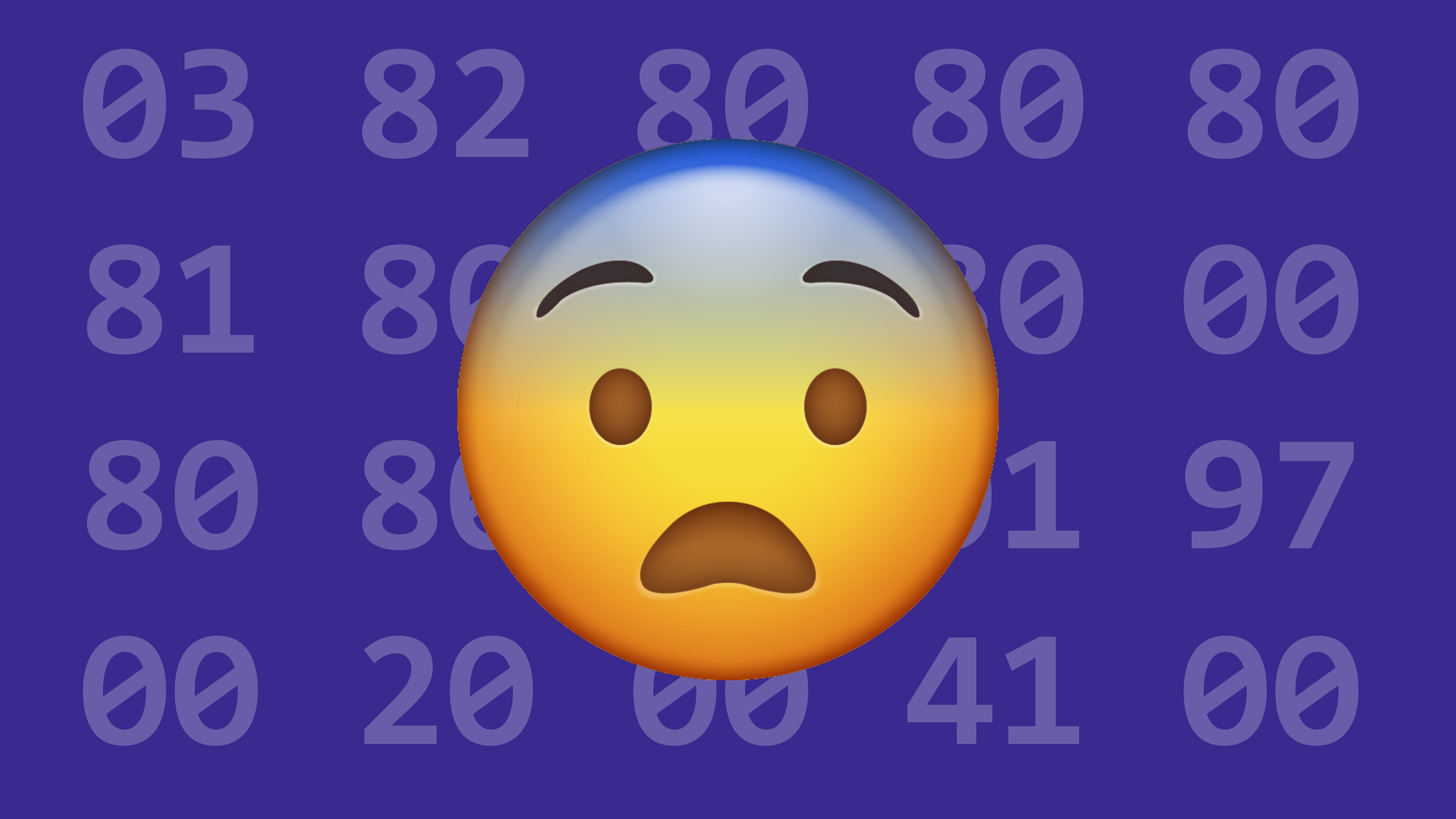
```
00 61 73 6D 01 00 00 00 01
86 80 80 80 00 01 60 01 7F
01 7F 03 82 80 80 80 00 01
00 06 81 80 80 80 00 00 0A
9D 80 80 80 00 01 97 80 80
80 00 00 20 00 41 00 46 04
40 41 01 0F 0B 20 00 41 01
6B 10 00 20 00 6C 0B
```

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 01 97
00 20 00 41 00

Binary can be *a little* intimidating

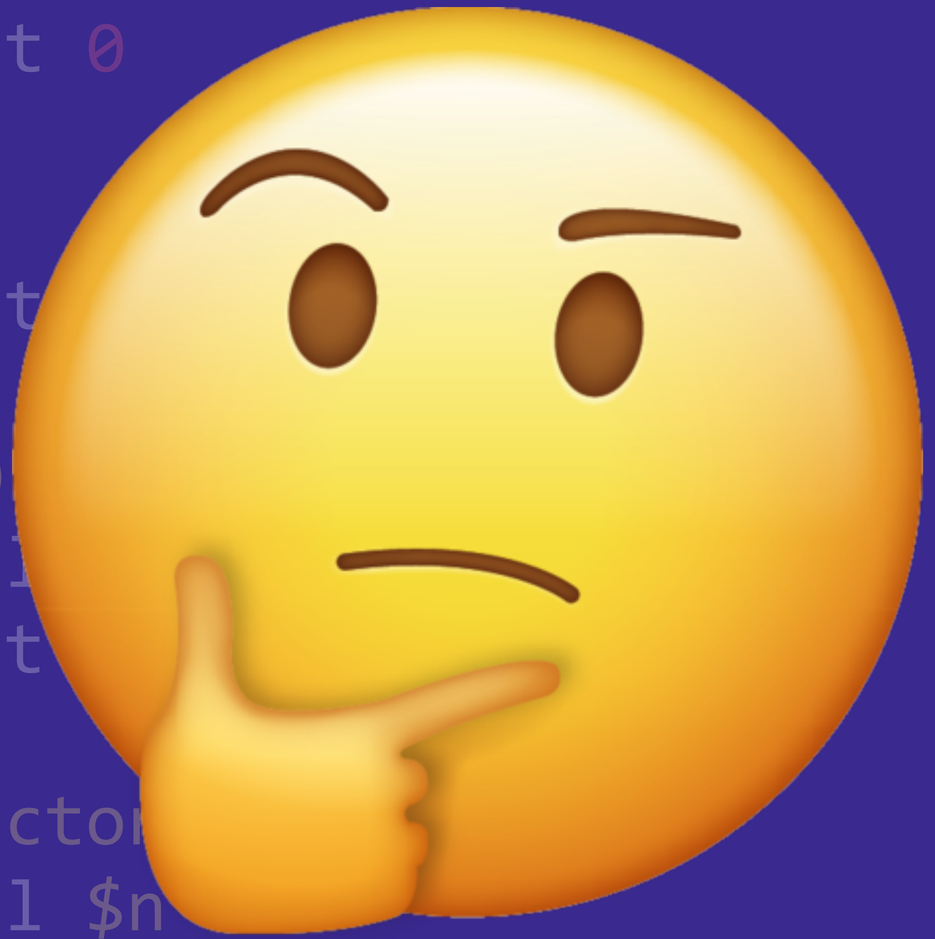
Protip: don't worry about it

(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

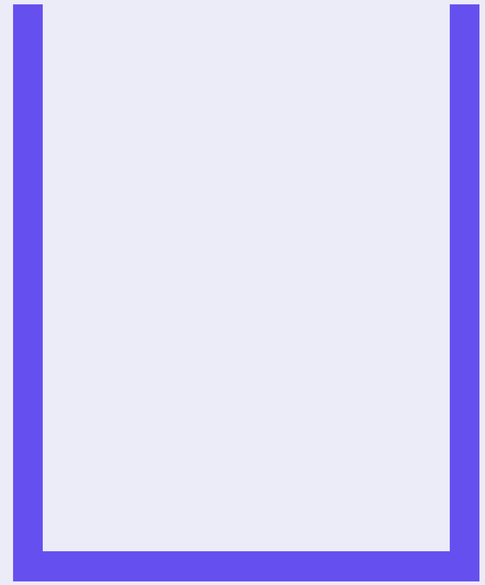
mnemonic

opcode

`i32.add`  `0x6a`

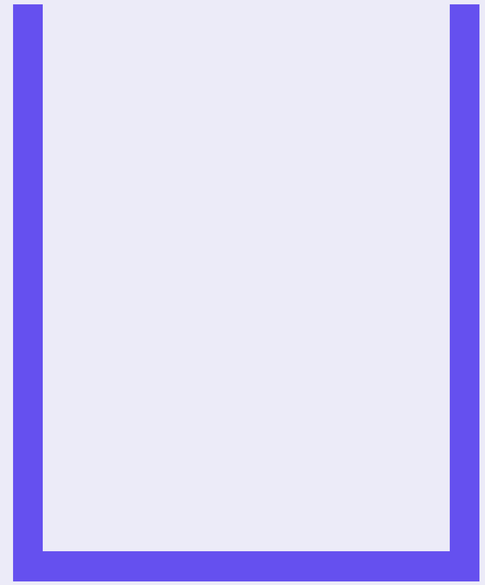
01101010

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



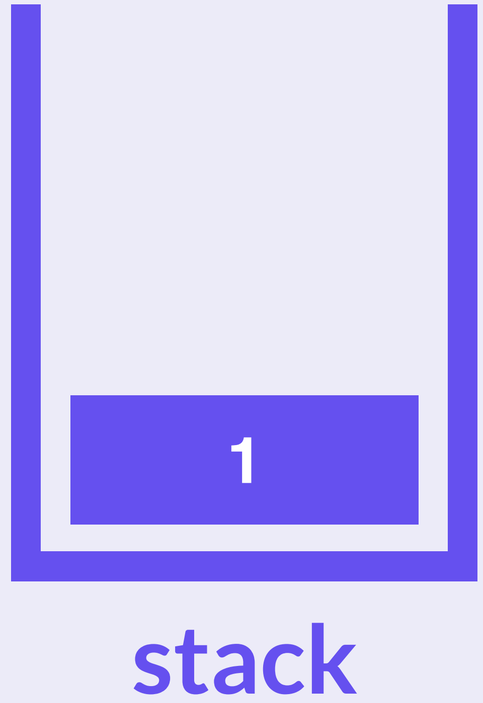
stack

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

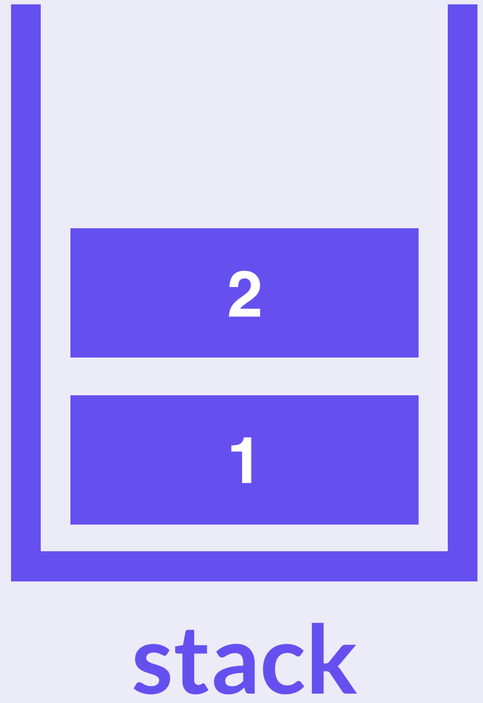


stack

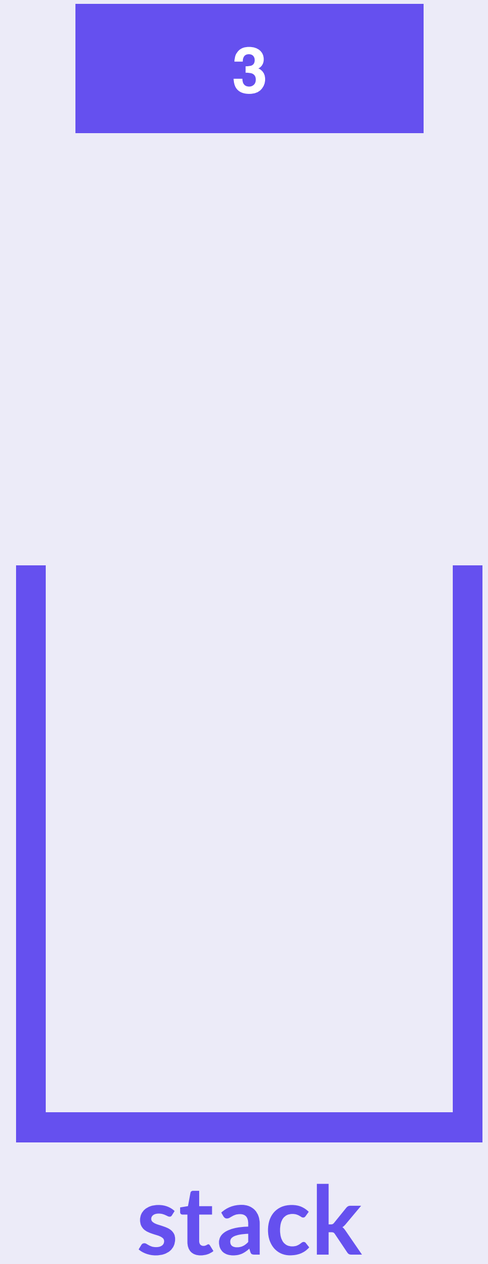
```
i32.const 1
i32.const 2
i32.add
```



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



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



```
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)
  )
)
```

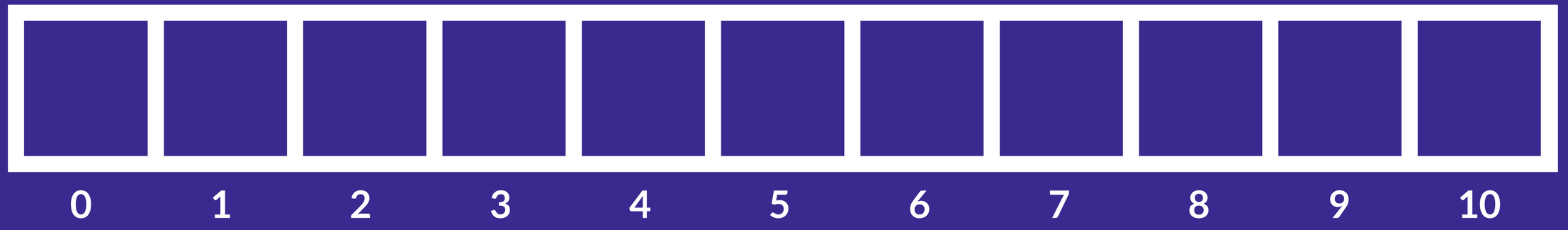
Source map support is coming

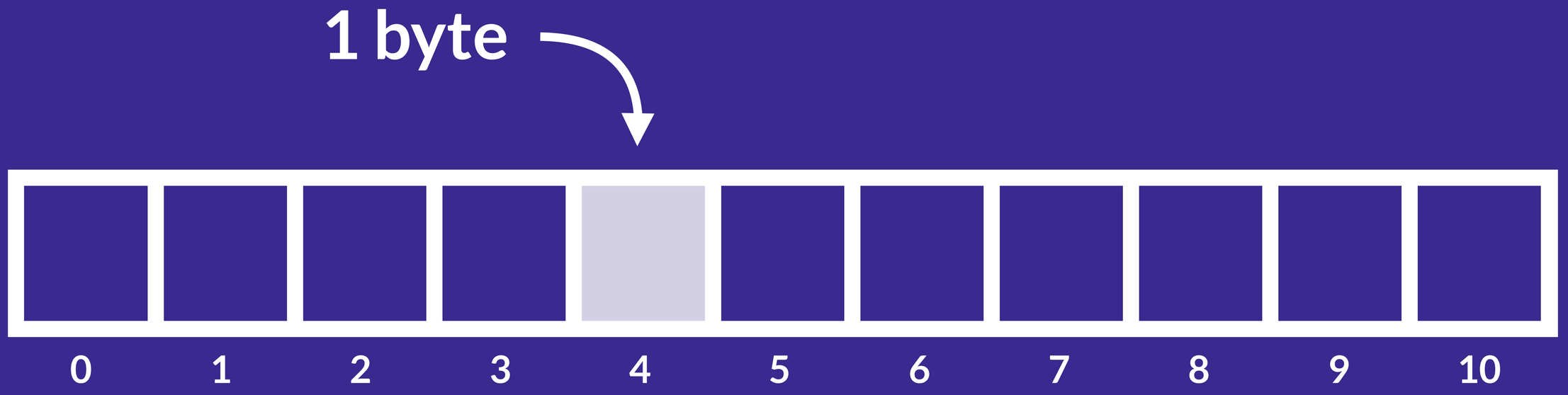
What about memory on the heap?

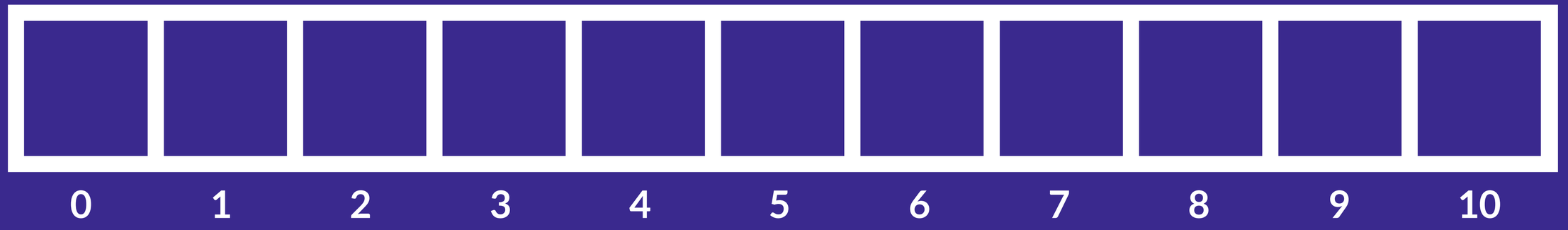
A **linear memory** is a contiguous, byte-addressable range of memory

Accessed with instructions like

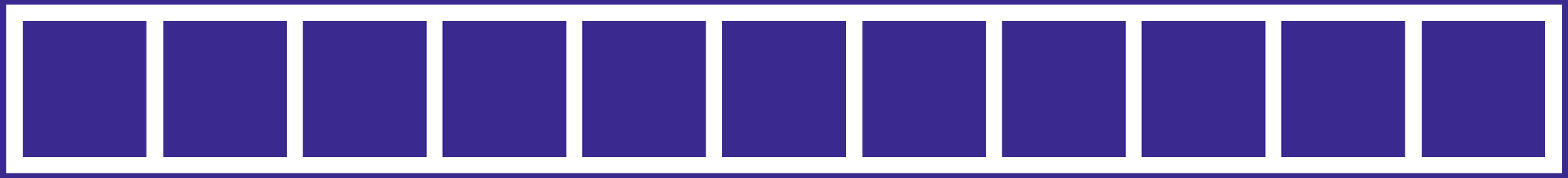
i32.load and **i32.store**

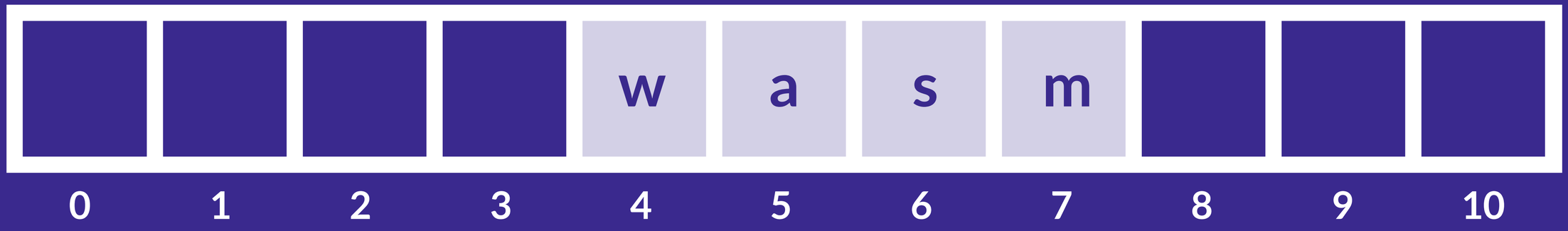

0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

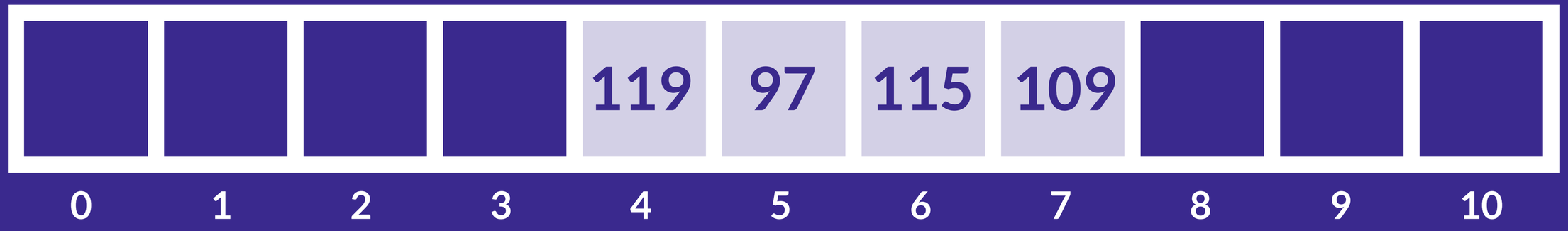

1 byte
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10


0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

w a s m

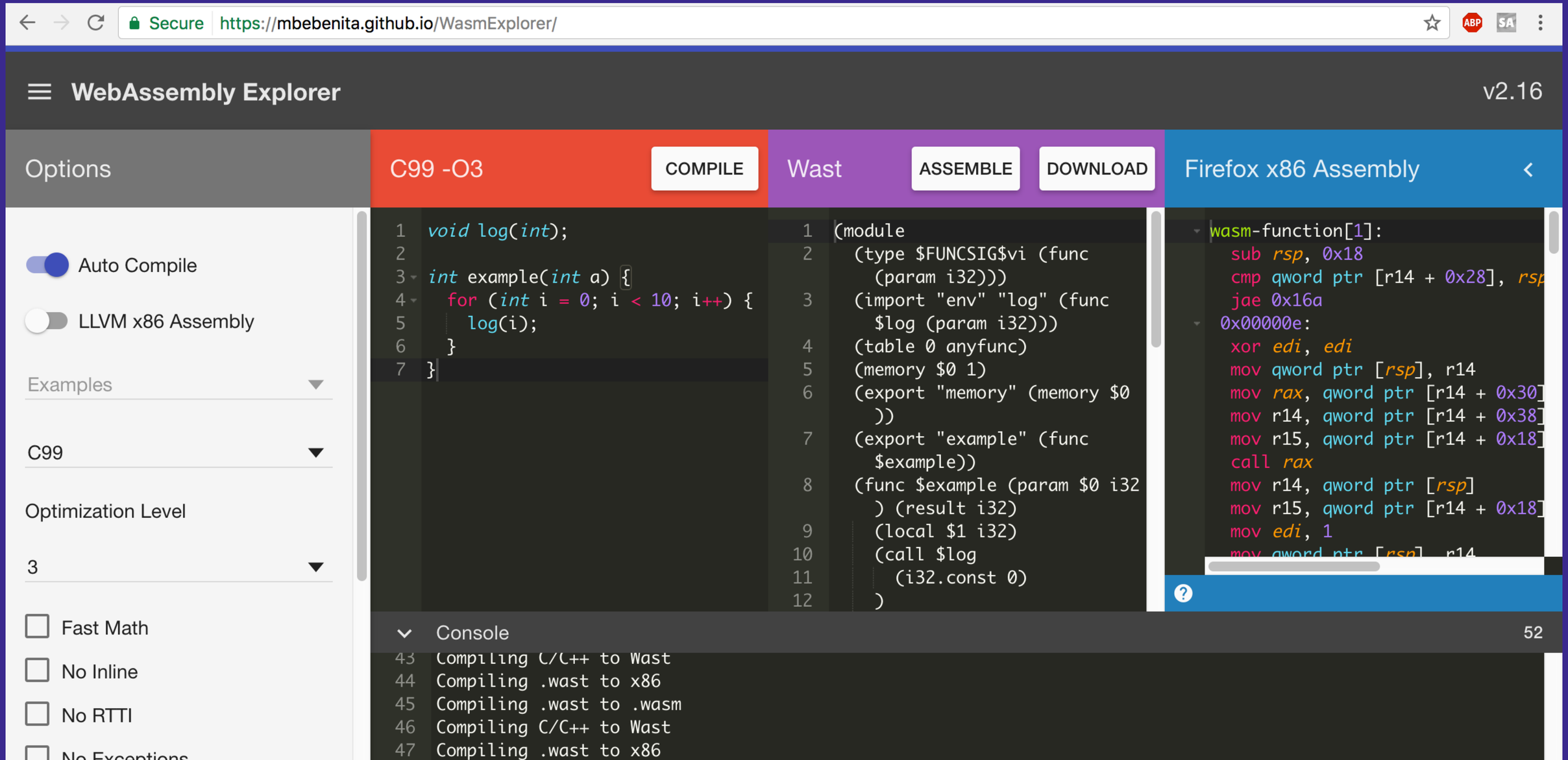



w
a
s
m
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10


119
97
115
109
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

How do I **get started**?

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



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

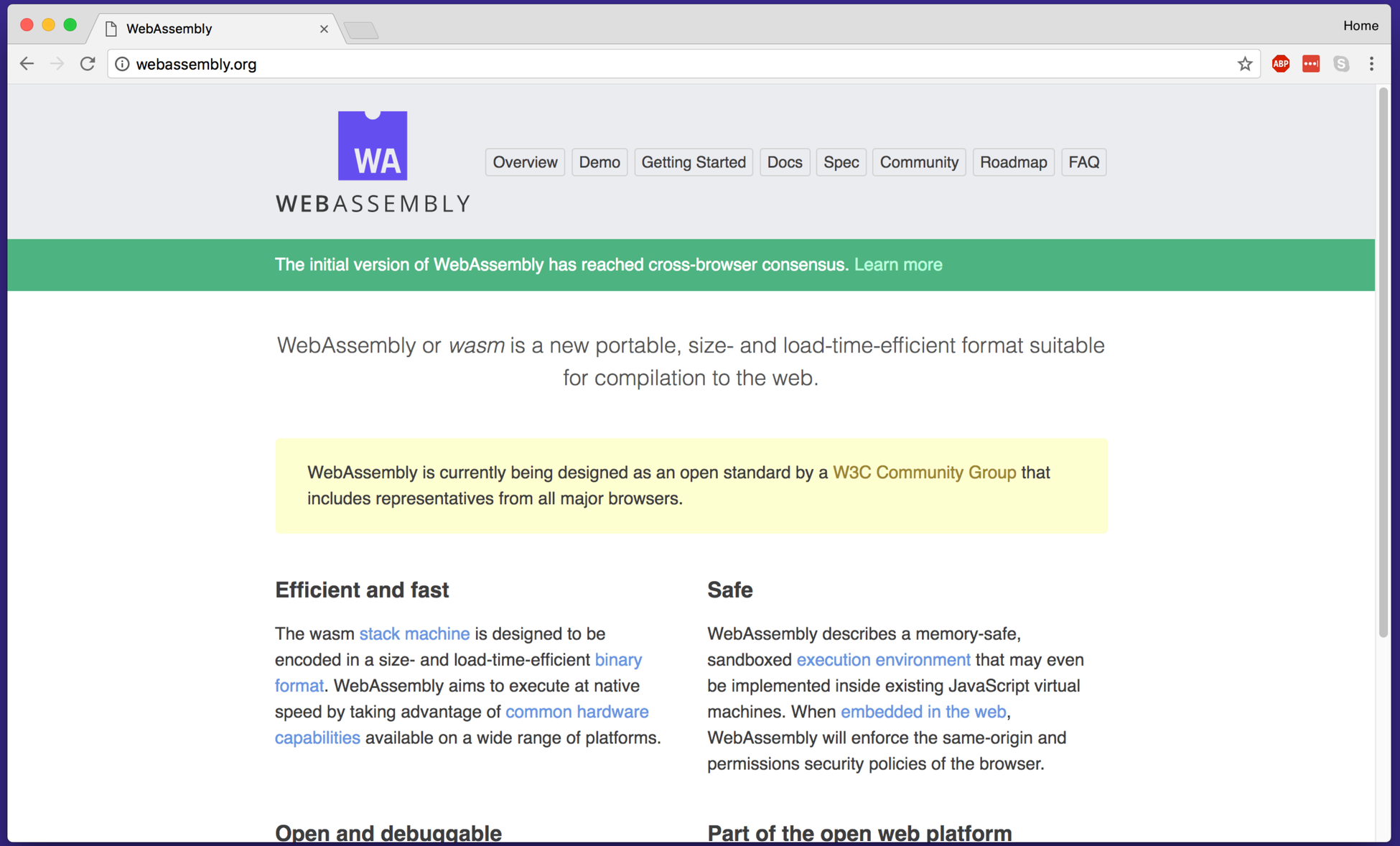
Binaryen is a compiler and toolchain infrastructure library for WebAssembly, written in C++. It aims to make compiling to WebAssembly **easy, fast, and effective**:

- 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



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

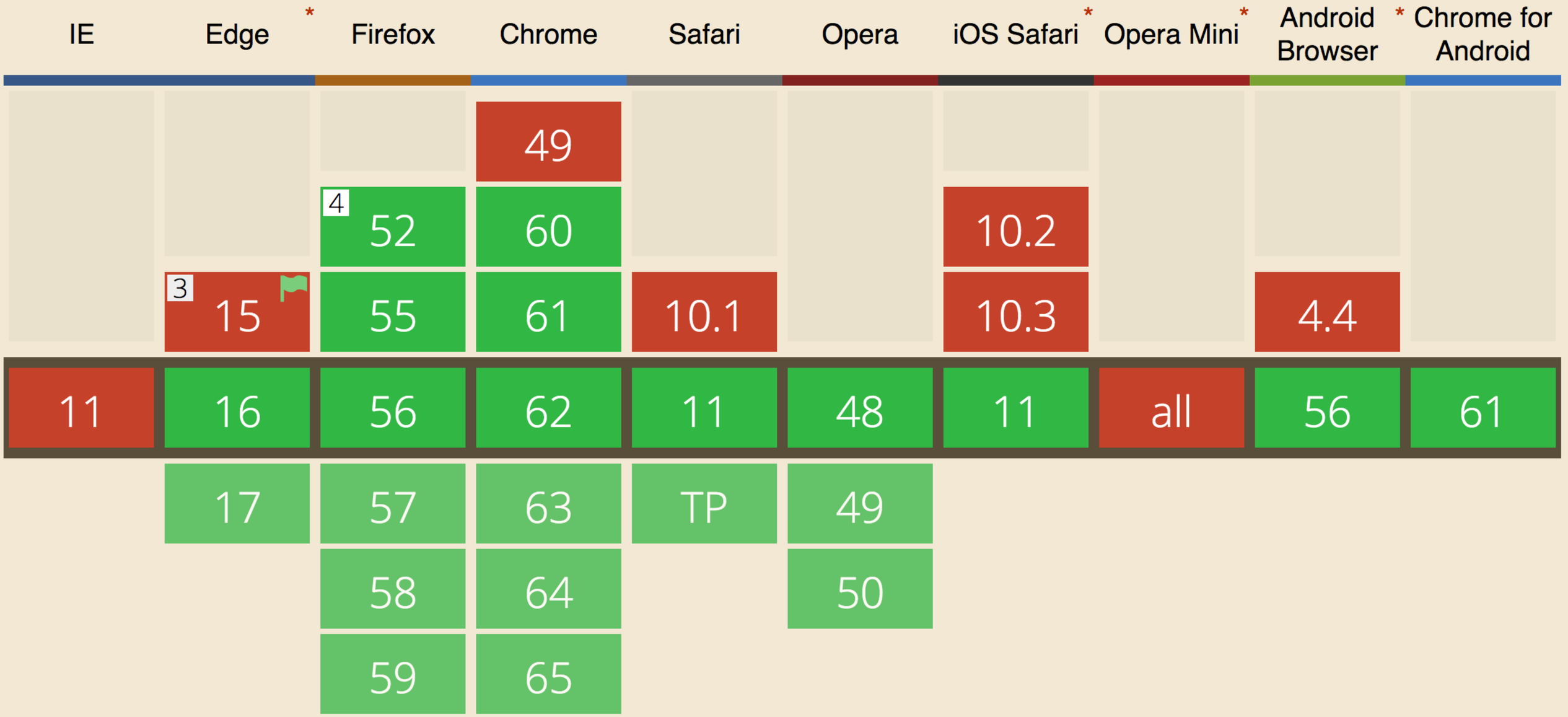
You have call into JavaScript, right now

Garbage collection

also necessary for better interop with JavaScript and WebIDL

Multi-threading

Browser support?


IE
Edge *
Firefox
Chrome
Safari
Opera
iOS Safari *
Opera Mini *
Android Browser
Chrome for Android *
49
4
52
60
10.2
3
15
55
61
10.1
10.3
4.4
11
16
56
62
11
48
11
all
56
61
17
57
63
TP
49
58
64
50
59
65

The revolution is **just beginning**


ethereum
BLOCKCHAIN APP PLATFORM

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

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


HD
HISTORY.COM

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)
    )
  )
)
```