

Quick Browserify

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Getting Started with Browserify

What is Browserify

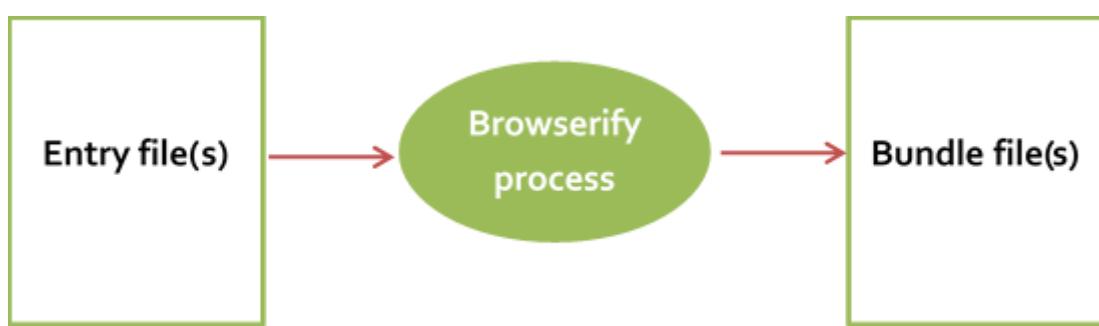
The **require()** method is so popular and used by **NodeJS** developer to **load modules**. **Browserify** provides the feature of using **require()** method for the **client side** JavaScript and bundling up of all dependencies together. In other words, Browserify provides a **way** to use the **NPM modules** published for NodeJS server side programming, in the **client/browser environment**.

Browserify brings a new area of application development where code base can be shared to both server-client and termed as **Isomorphic JavaScript**. In this chapter, we will learn to install Browserify and checkout the usage by a simple example where we will try to browserify a NPM module.

The home page for Browserify module is as follows: -
<http://browserify.org>

Browserify components

The following diagram shows the main components of browserify process to generate browser specific code: -



The details of the previous diagram are as follows: -

- **Entry file(s):** The entry files represent a single file or list of file name which needs to be browserify to generate bundle files.

- **Bundle file(s):** The bundle files represent the browserify version of entry files that can be used directly by browsers.

Installing Browserify

We need to have **NPM -Node package manager** installed in prior to installation of Browserify. If NPM is not installed in your machine go and download the NPM form NodeJS home page. To **install** Browserify use the following command in the terminal :-

```
npm install -g browserify
```

The following **screenshot** shows the **terminal** with Browserify **installation** in progress.

```
Terminal
+ J:\BrowserifyDemo>npm install -g browserify
× C:\Users\Sandeep\AppData\Roaming\npm\browserify -> C:\Users\Sandeep\AppData\Roaming\npm\node_modules\browserify\bin\cmd.js
browserify@9.0.8 C:\Users\Sandeep\AppData\Roaming\npm\node_modules\browserify
├── https-browserify@0.0.0
├── tty-browserify@0.0.0
├── builtins@0.0.7
├── constants-browserify@0.0.1
└── process@0.10.1
```

Creating a basic bundle using browserify

To demonstrate a sample use of **Browserify** we have installed a node module called operator which provides basic mathematical operations like addition, subtraction etc. The following screenshot shows the installation operator npm module in a terminal.

```
Terminal
+ Microsoft Windows [Version 6.3.9600]
× (c) 2013 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

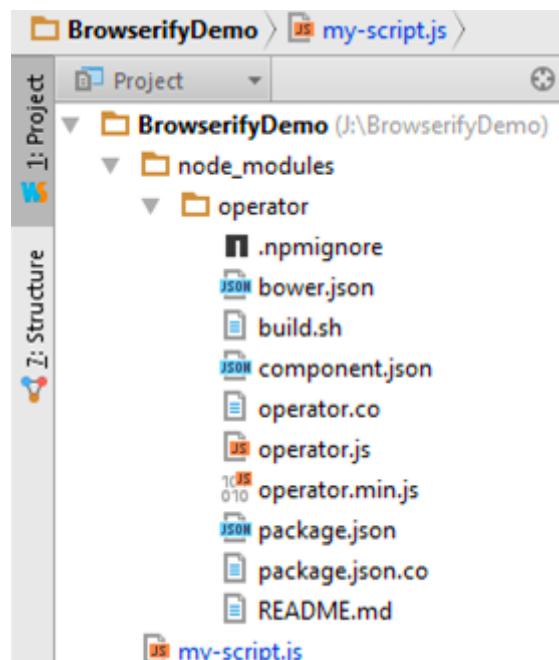
J:\BrowserifyDemo>npm install operator
operator@0.1.3 node_modules\operator

J:\BrowserifyDemo>
```

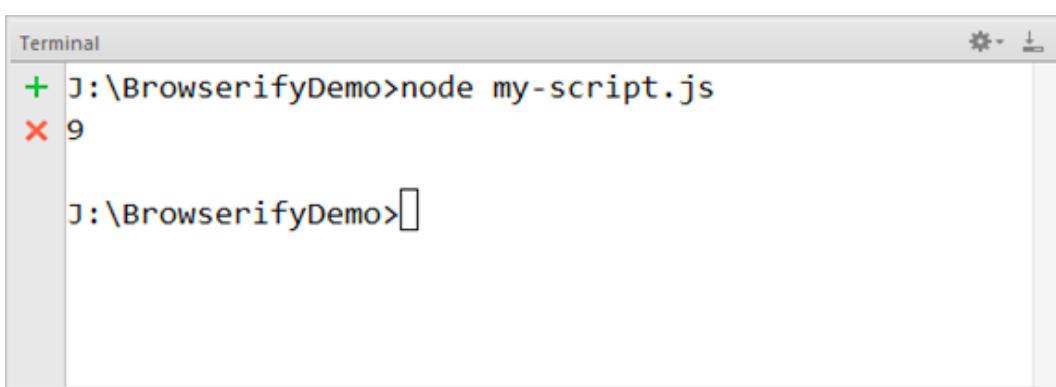
We have created **my-script.js** which uses the operator module to find out the **addition** of two number **5** and **4** and **logs** the result in the **console**. The following code shows the content of **my-script.js**.

```
var operator = require('operator'),  
    result = operator.add(5,4);  
console.log(result);
```

For the reference the following screenshot shows the updated file structure for this demo.



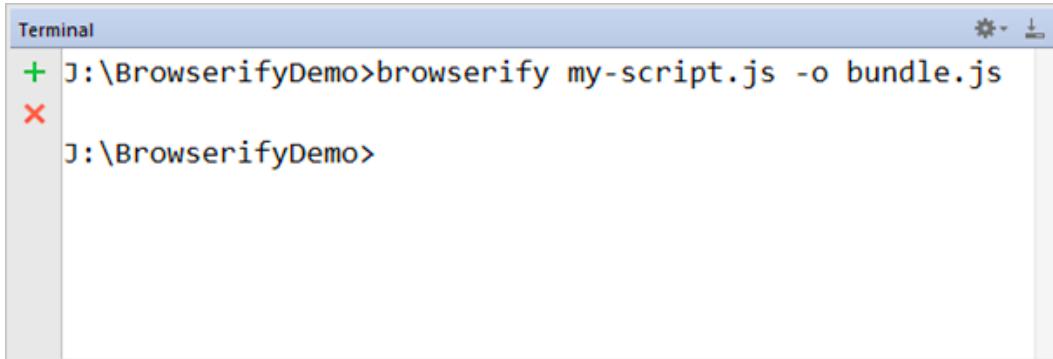
Now we can run the **my-script.js** file using **node** command. The following screenshot shows **execution** of **node** command on **my-script.js** file.



The previous screenshot shows the **my-script.js** runs perfectly in NodeJS environment. Now it is time for the magical Browserify. To generate a code bundle file, use the following command: -

```
browserify my-script.js -o bundle.js
```

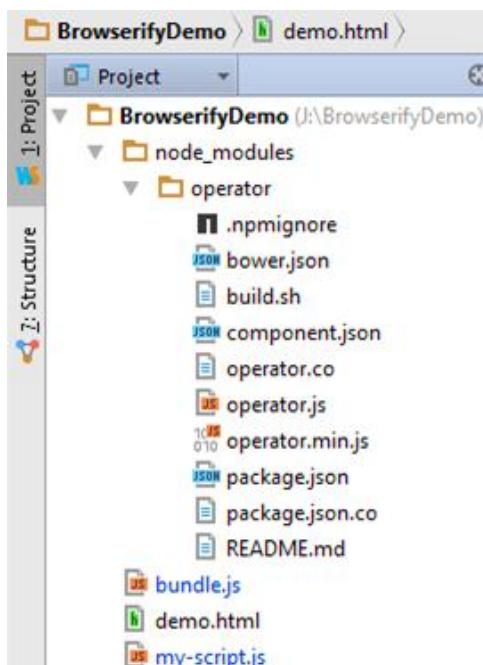
The following screenshot shows the terminal with Browserify command generating **bundle.js** from **my-script.js** which can be used by the client/browser environment.



```
Terminal
+ J:\BrowserifyDemo>browserify my-script.js -o bundle.js
X J:\BrowserifyDemo>
```

*The **-o** option is used with browserify command to refer the file name of generated bundled file.*

Now we can create a **demo.html** file and include the generated **bundle.js** file in a **script** element. The **updated** file structure is as follows.

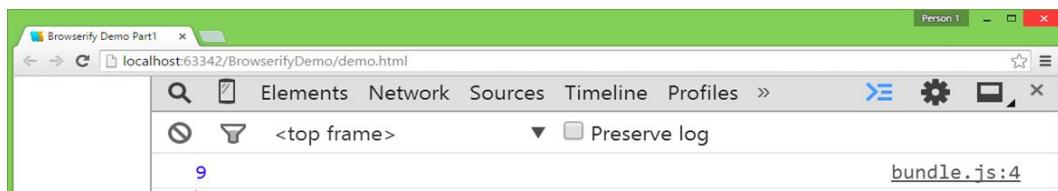


The following code shows the content of **demo.html** file which includes the generated **bundle.js** file.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head lang="en">
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <title>Browserify Demo</title>
```

```
</head>
<body>
  <h1></h1>
  <script src="bundle.js"></script>
</body>
</html>
```

The following **screenshot** shows the **output** of the **demo.html** in the **browser** environment. We can clearly see the log message in **chrome developer console** which results **9** from **addition** of **5** and **4**.



Summary

In this chapter we have learned the basics of Browserify to bundle the code that can work in the browser environment. In the coming chapter we will start to explore the new features provided by Browserify.

The chapter1 code can be downloaded from the following URL: -
<https://github.com/saan1984/BrowserifyDemo>

One Last Thing...

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All the best,

Sandeep Kumar Patel.