

Towards a Unified Blink and JavaScript Heap

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BlinkOn 9, Sunnyvale, Apr 2018

Memory management across Blink and V8

now and in *future*



Bindings

V8 & Blink

- JavaScript ↔ DOM

V8

Blink

```
<script>  
  document;  
  document.a;  
  document.addEventListener(...);  
</script>
```

V8 & Blink

- JavaScript \Leftrightarrow DOM
- Objects come in halves

V8

document



for JS, e.g.
properties, elements

Blink

blink::HTMLDocument

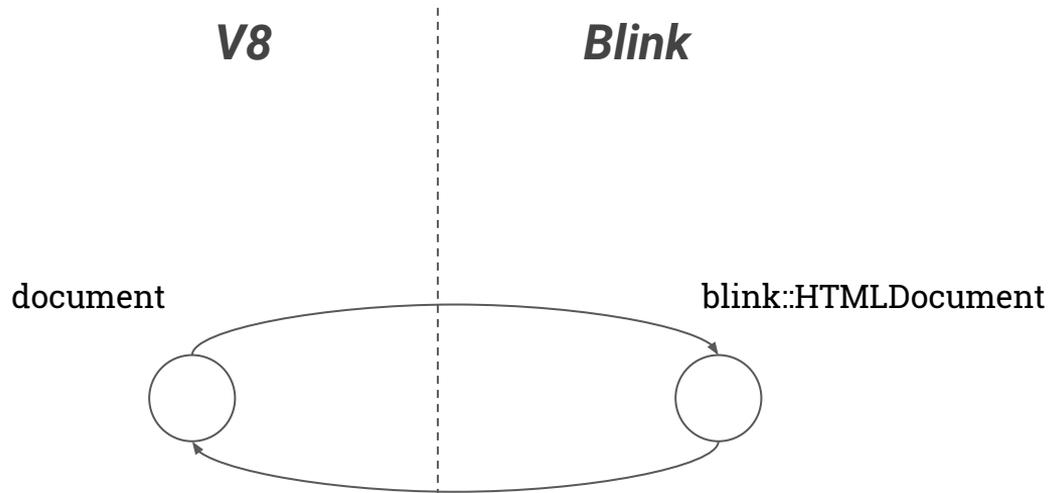


for DOM, e.g.
addEventListener

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V8 & Blink

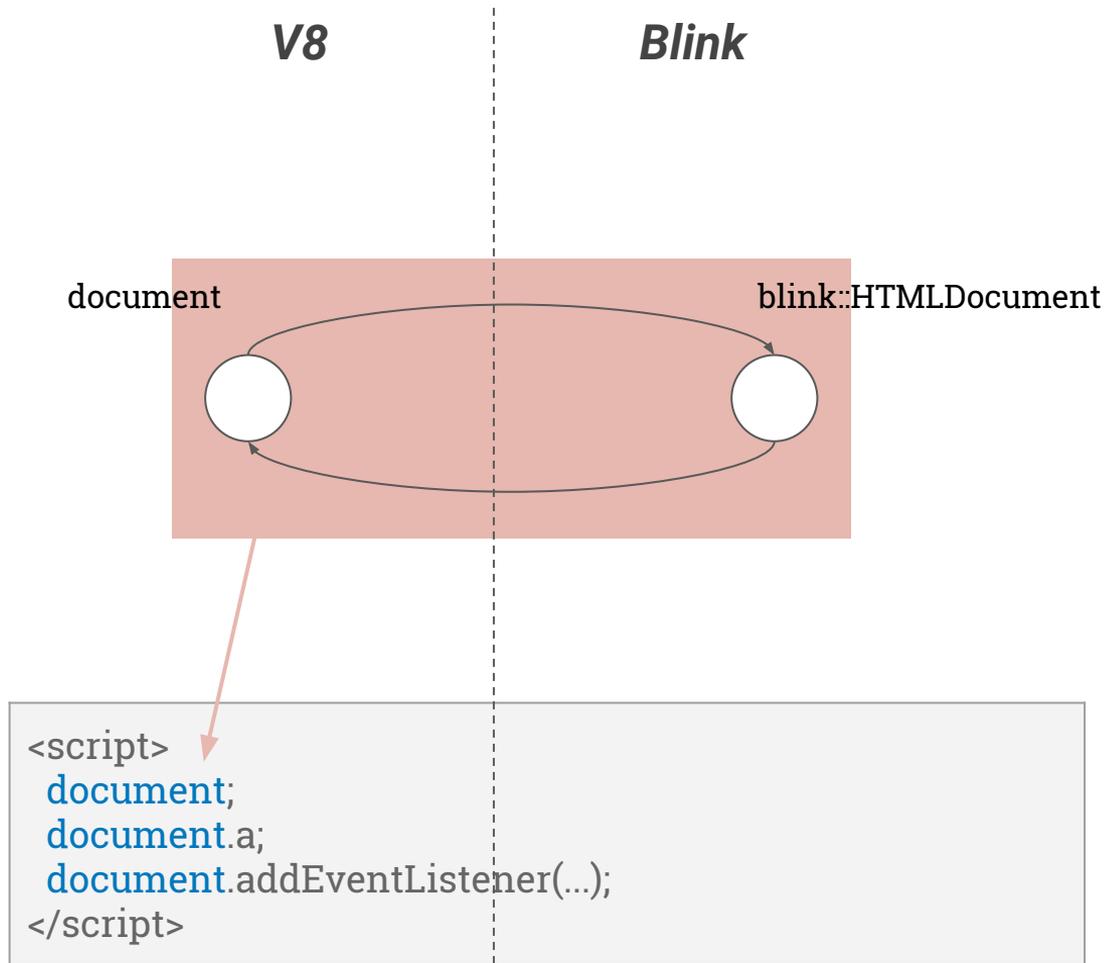
- JavaScript \leftrightarrow DOM
- Objects come in halves
- Reference each other



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V8 & Blink

- JavaScript \leftrightarrow DOM
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Example

Example

“Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler”

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<head><script>
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    let newDiv =
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</script></head>
<body>
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V8

Blink



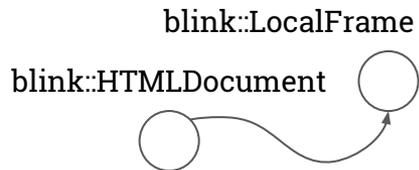
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V8

Blink



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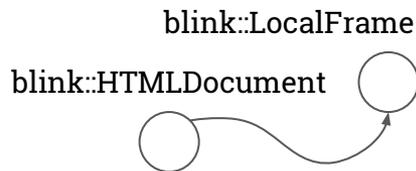
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V8

Code (createDiv)



Blink



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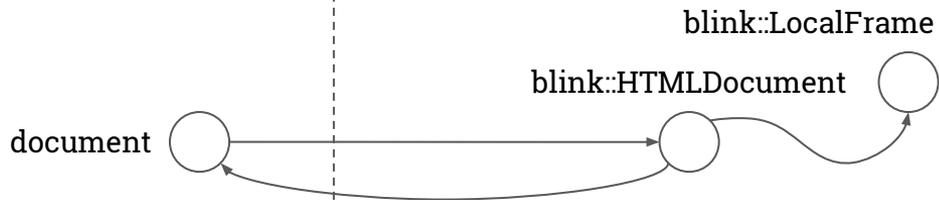
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Code (createDiv)



V8

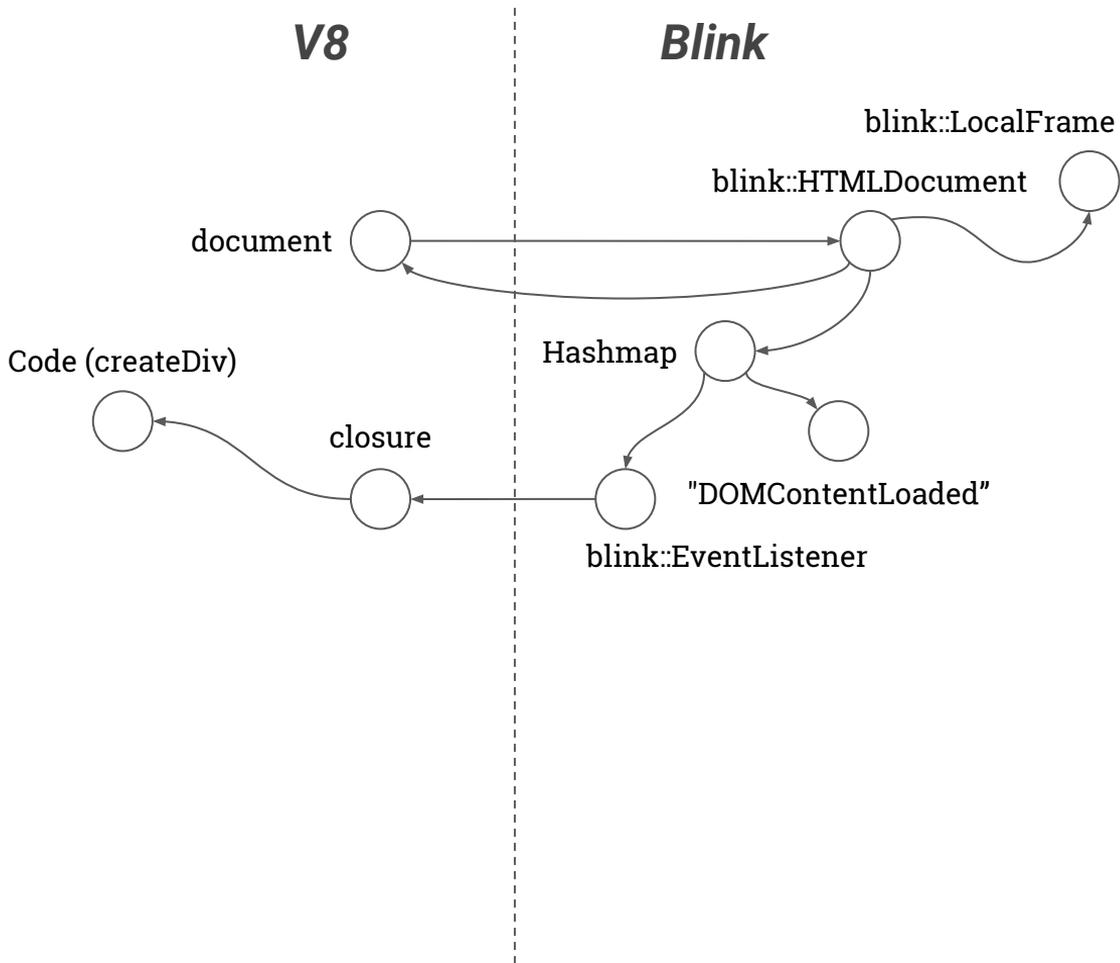
Blink



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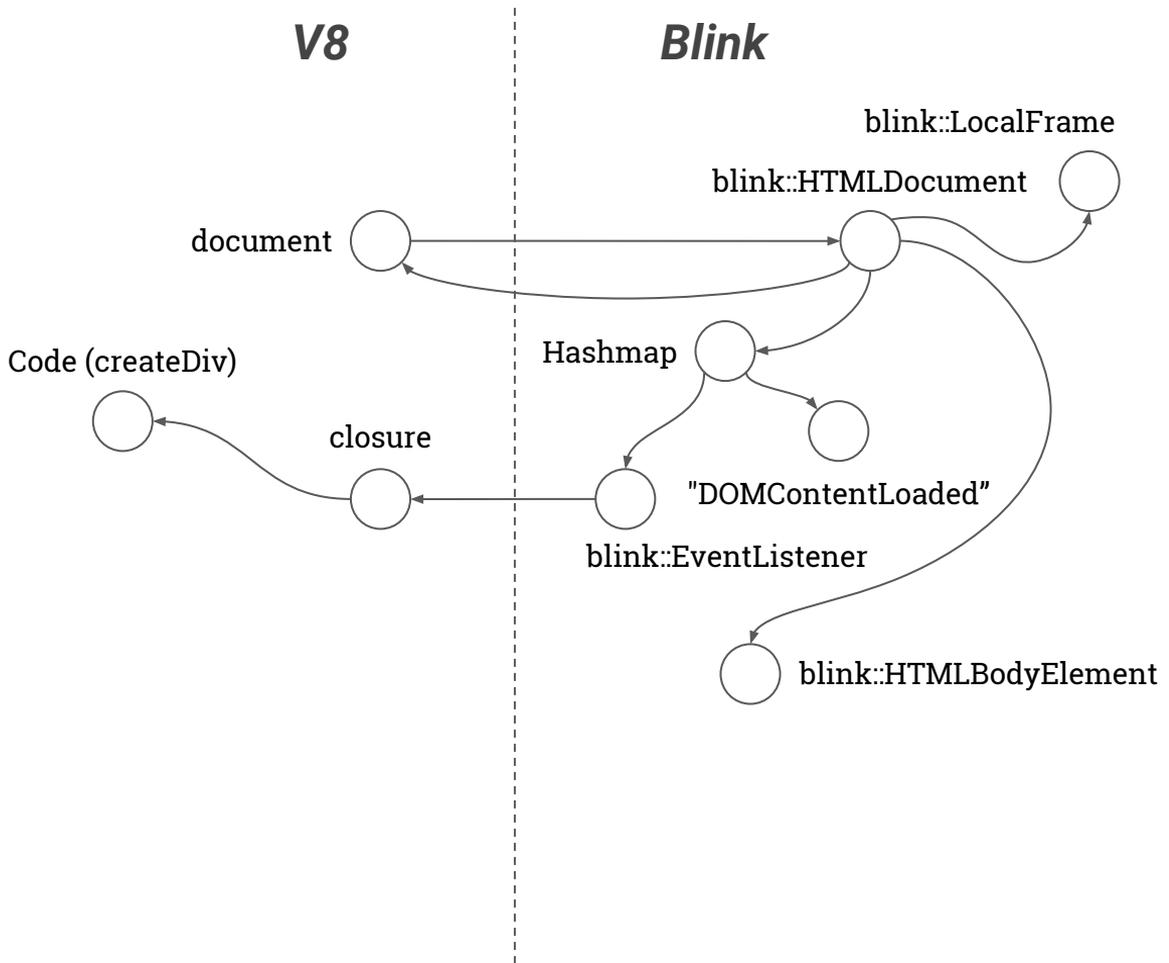
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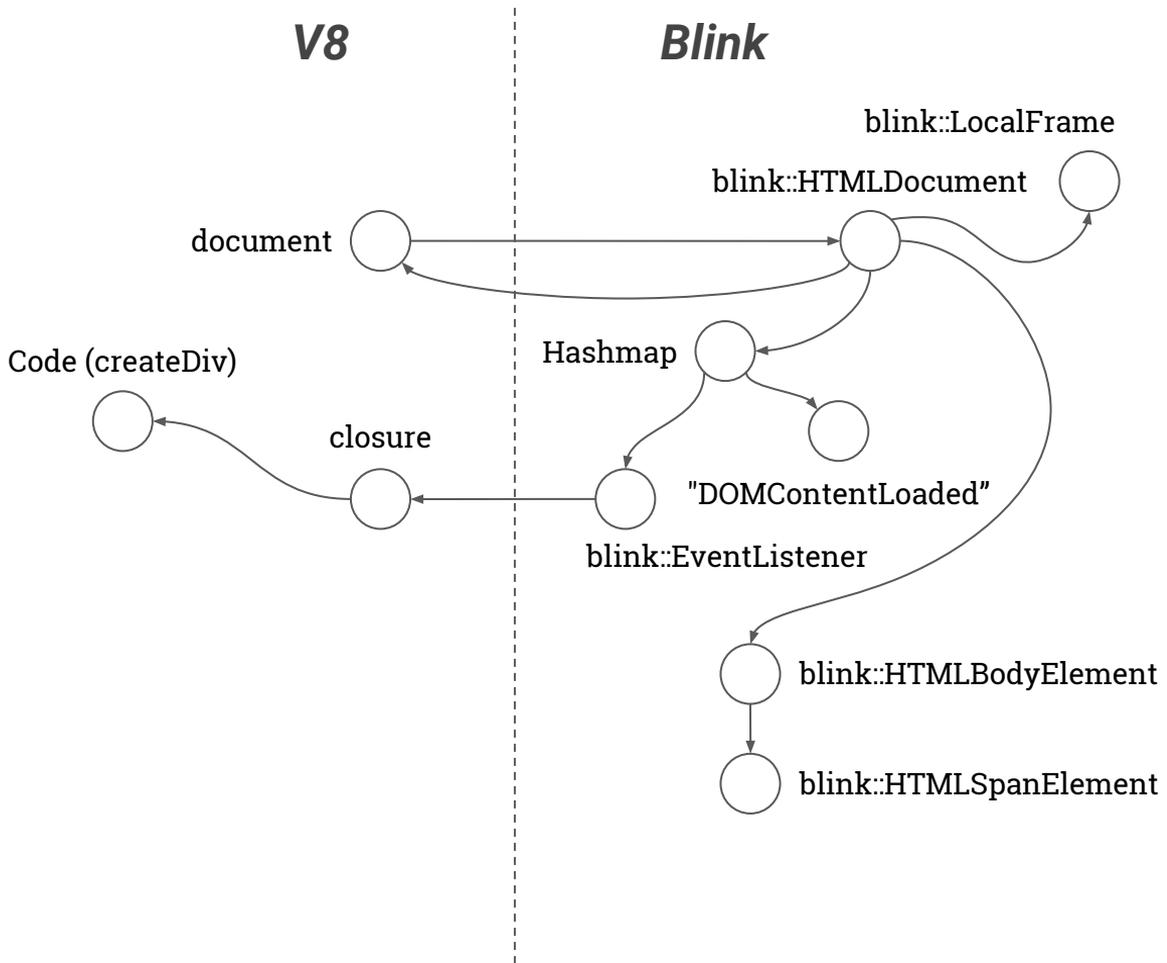
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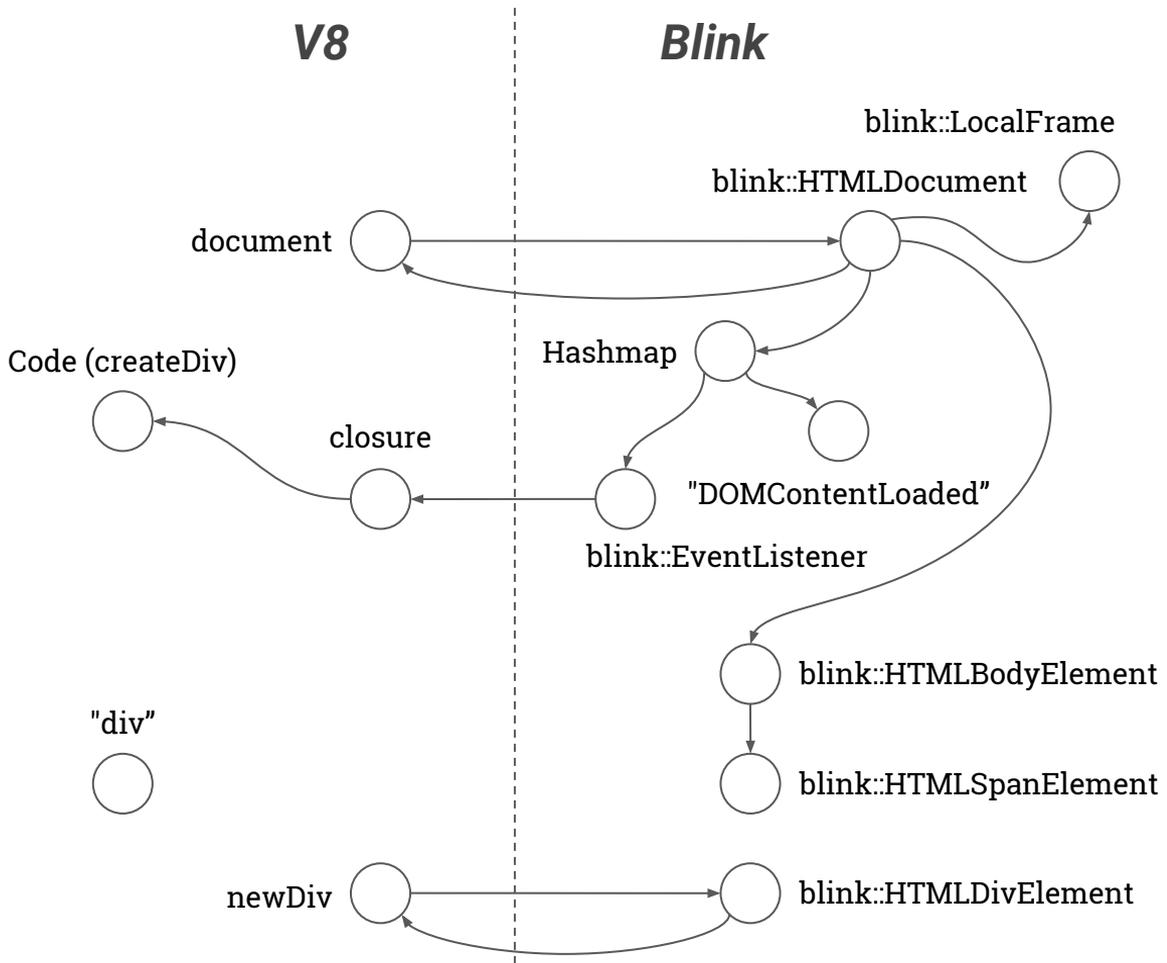
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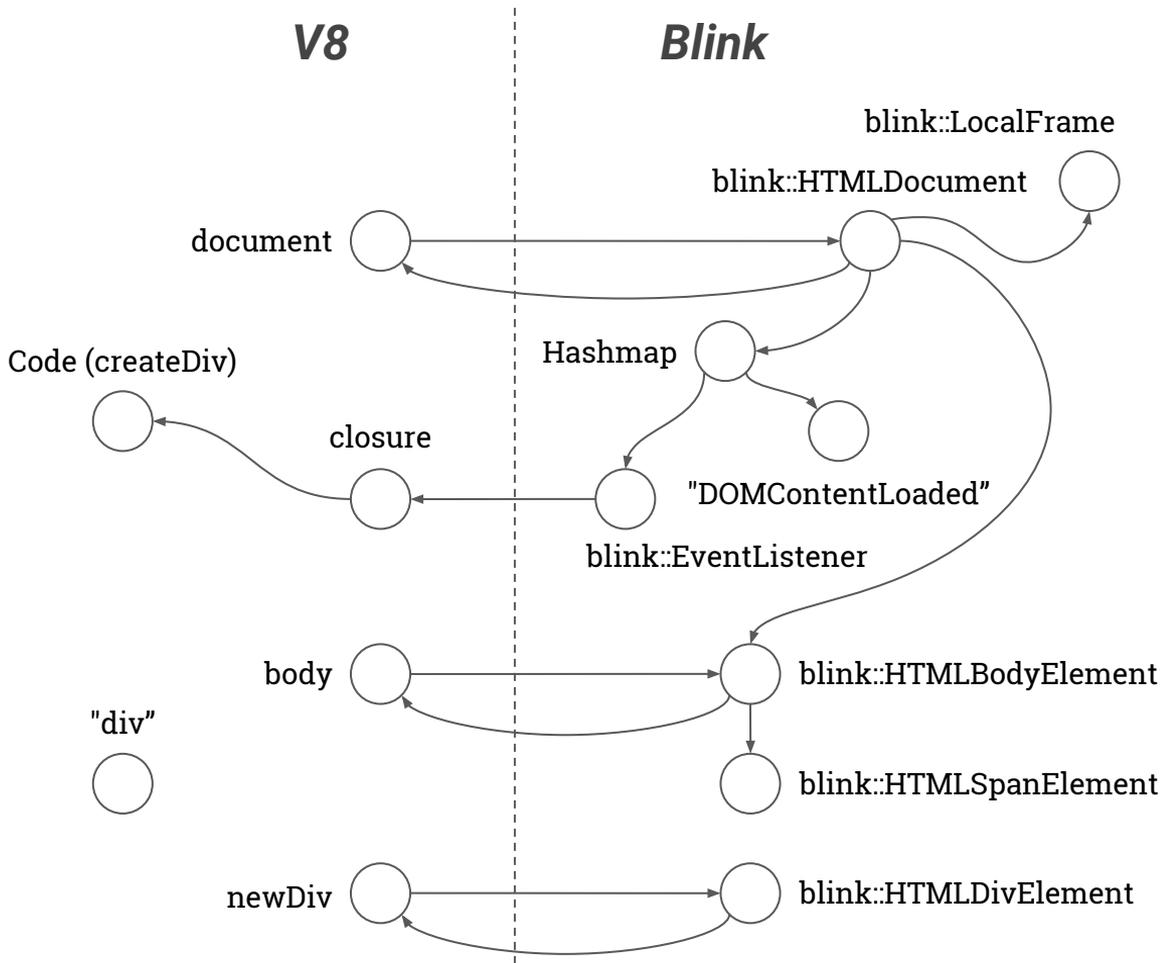
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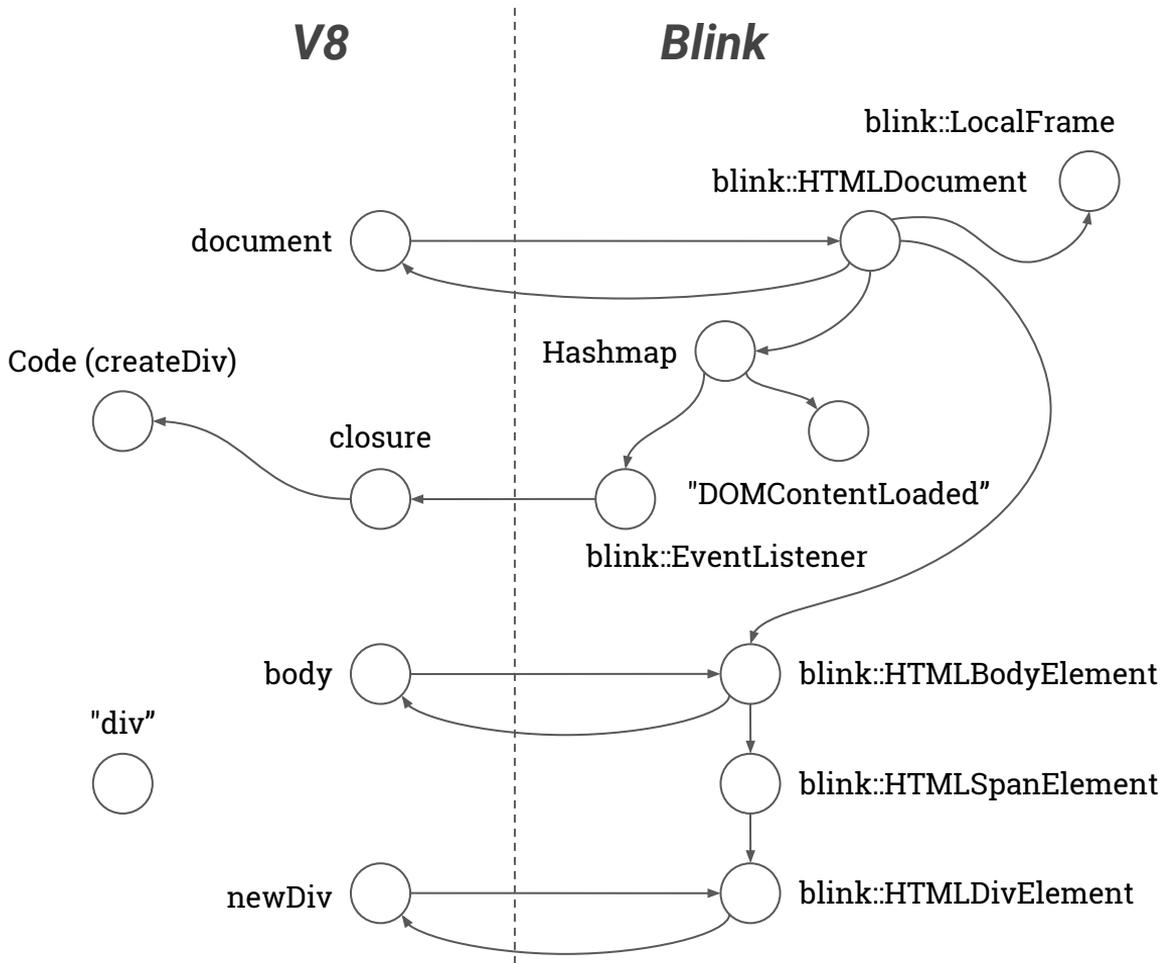
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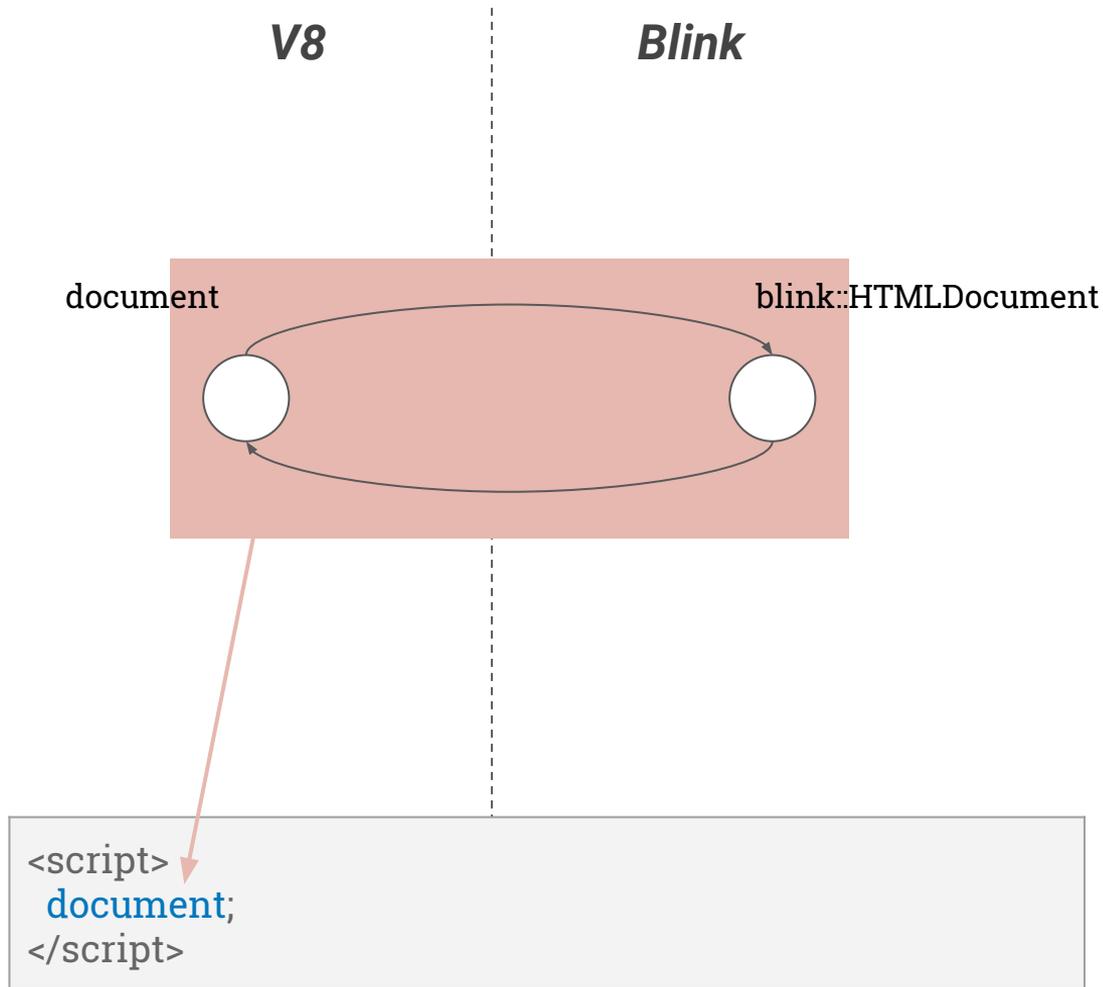


Take a deep breath.



Where is the problem?

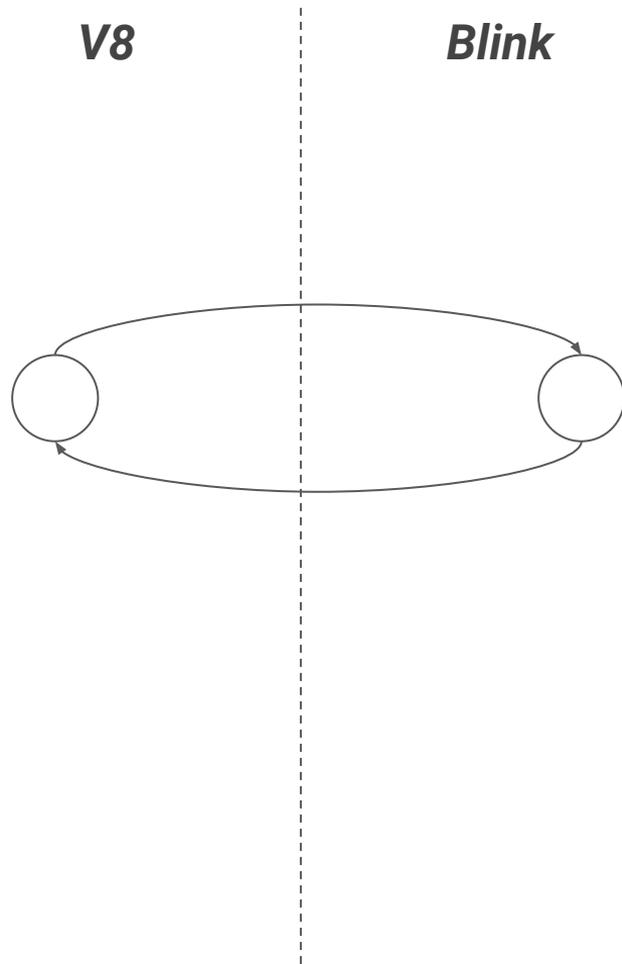
V8 & Blink



V8 & Blink

- Two components with separate managed heaps

*Conceptually, **cannot** be root references because that would form cycles*

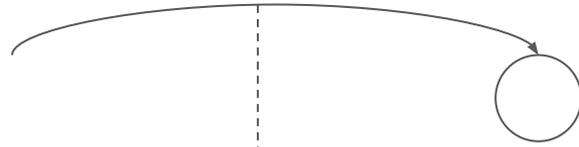


Blink's view

Treats incoming references as roots

V8

Blink

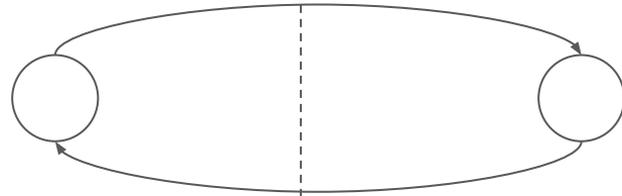


V8's view

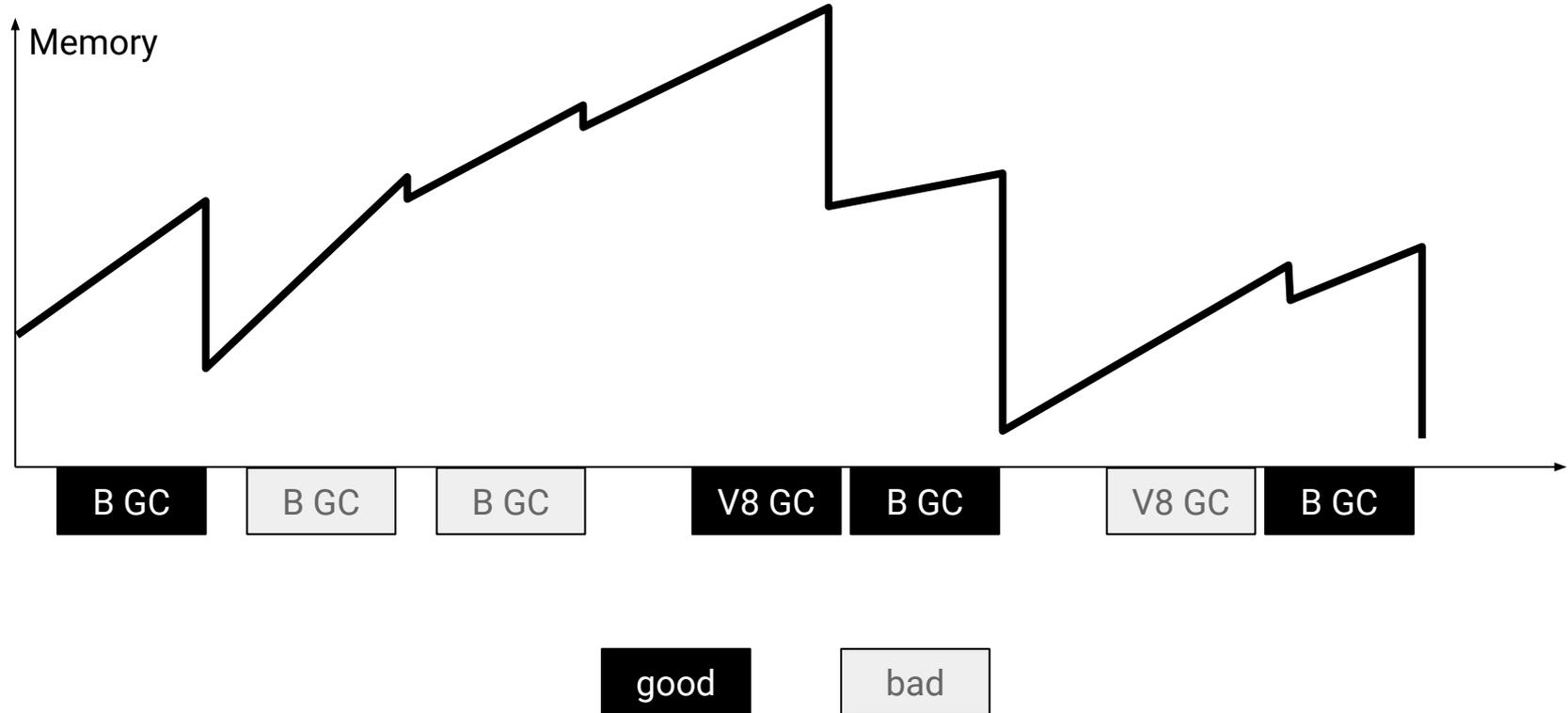
Trace *relevant* transitive closure
(wrapper tracing)

V8

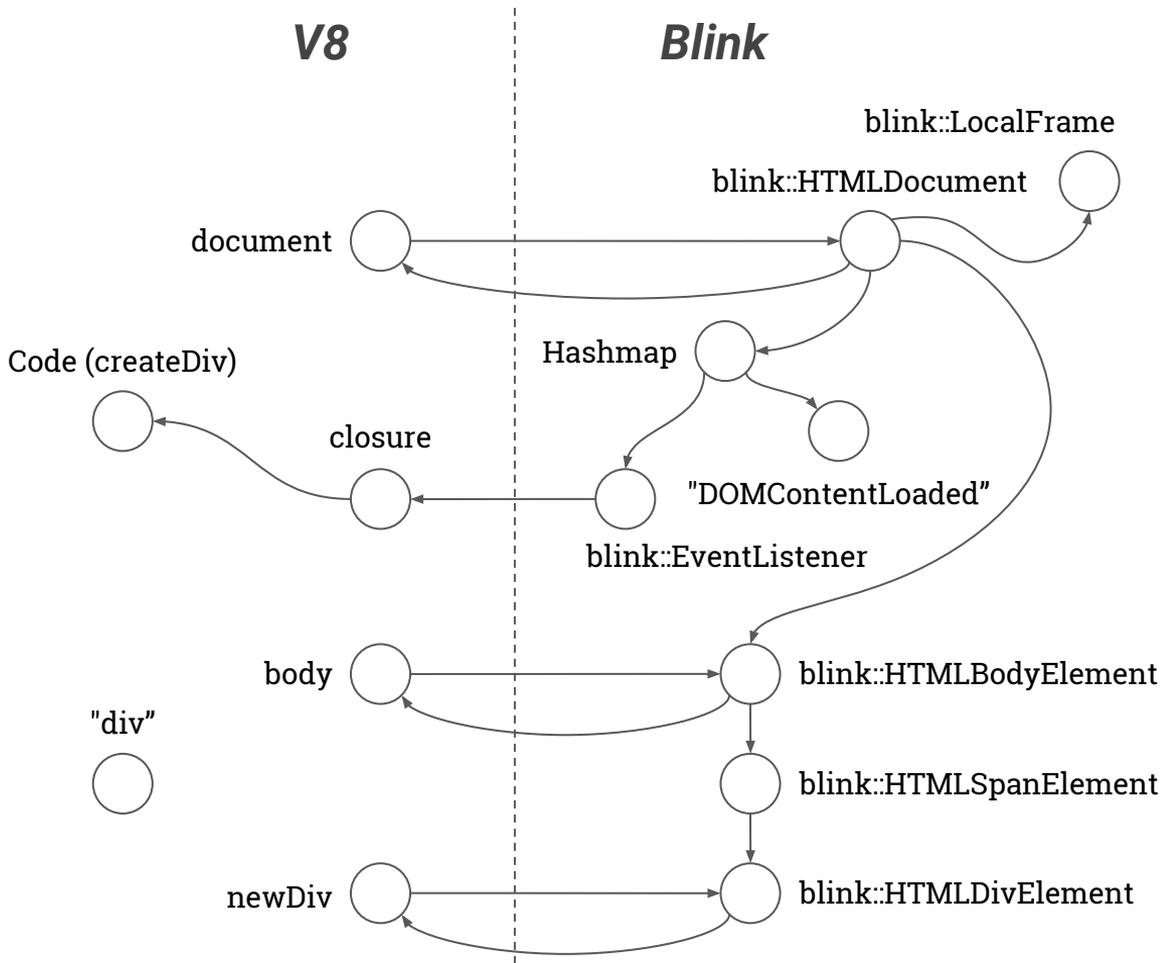
Blink



Scheduling problem



Alternative world

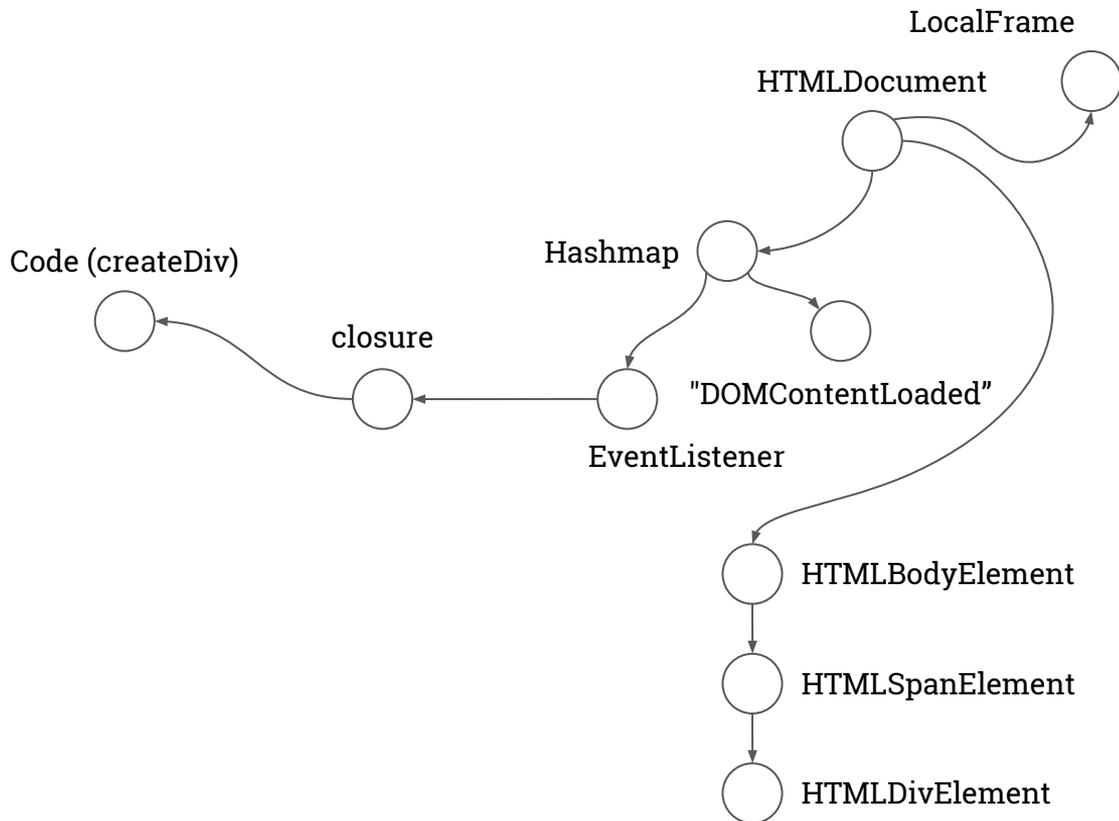


Alternative world

Only have a single managed heap for all renderer memory

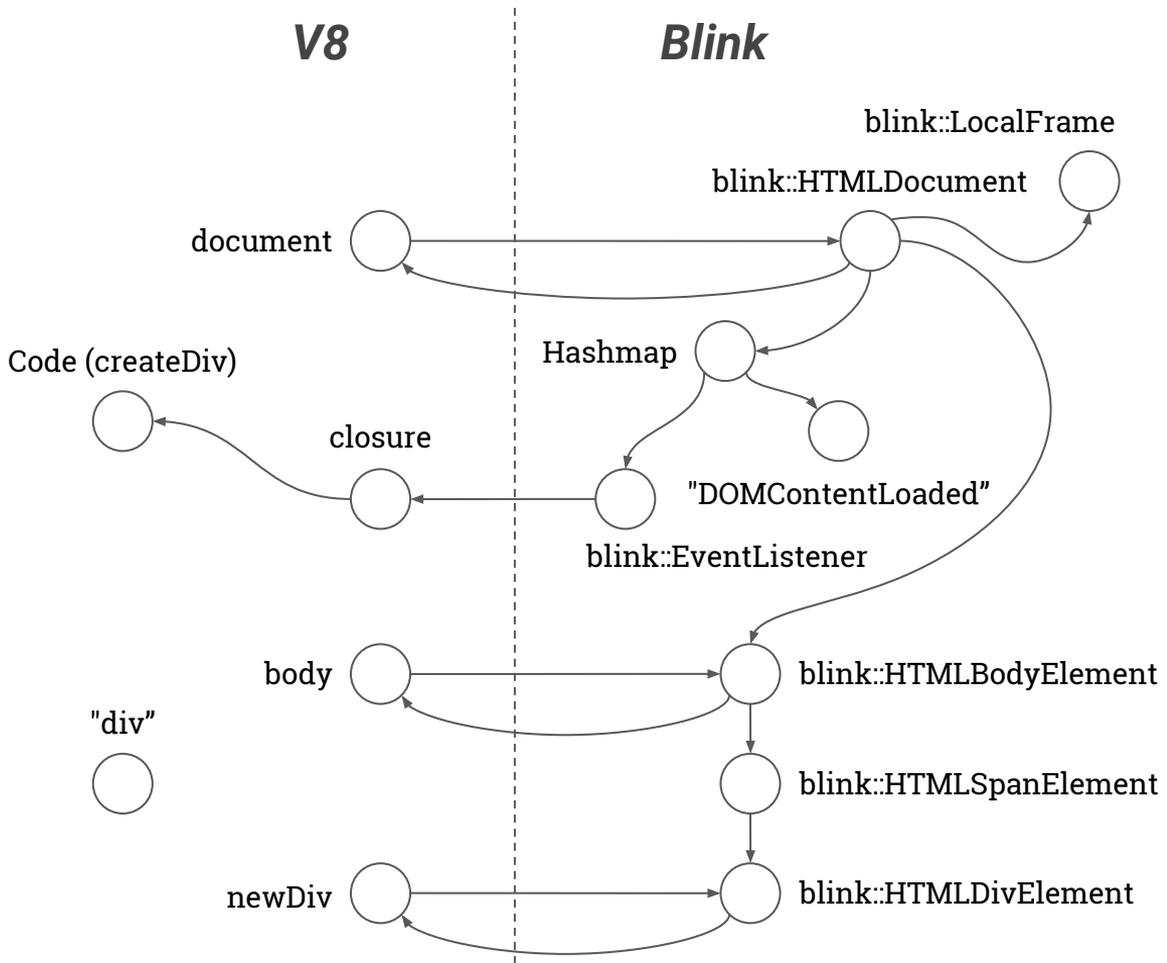
(Blink in JS)

Renderer heap

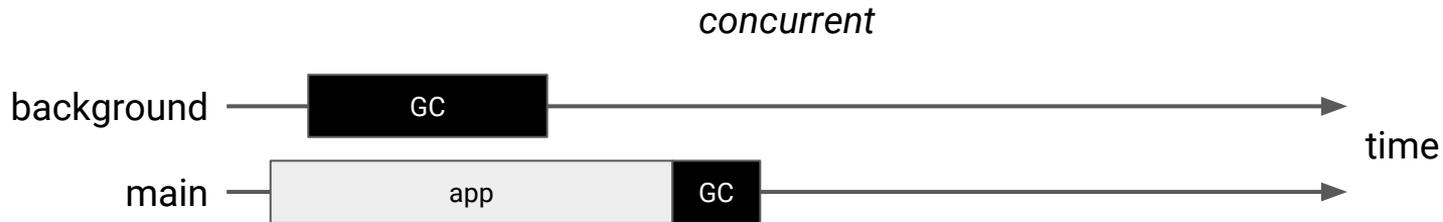
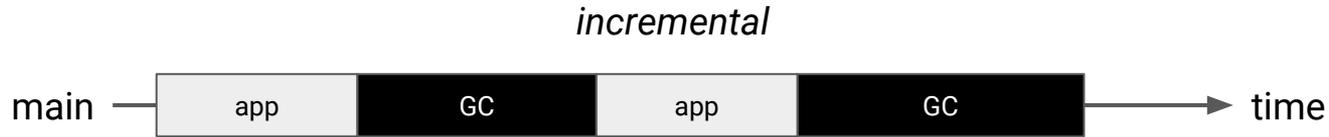


Unified heap

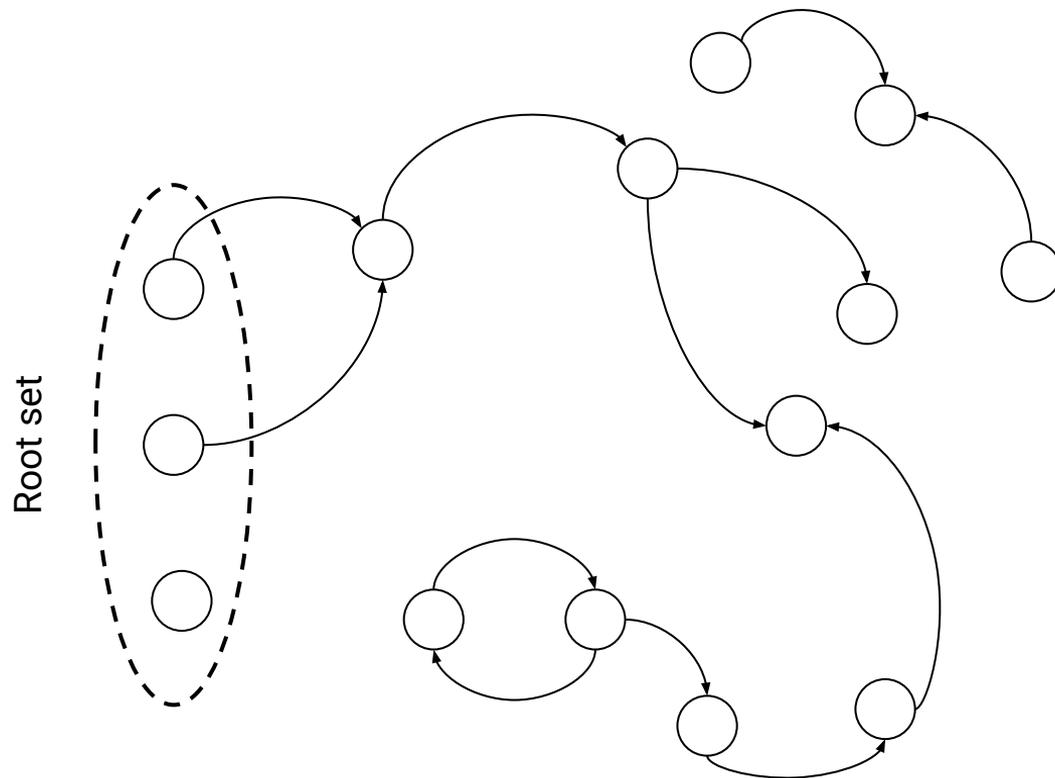
- Compromise
- Keep separate heap implementations
 - Blink: Oilpan
 - V8: Orinoco
- Allow **full** garbage collections across those component boundaries
- Deprecate wrapper tracing



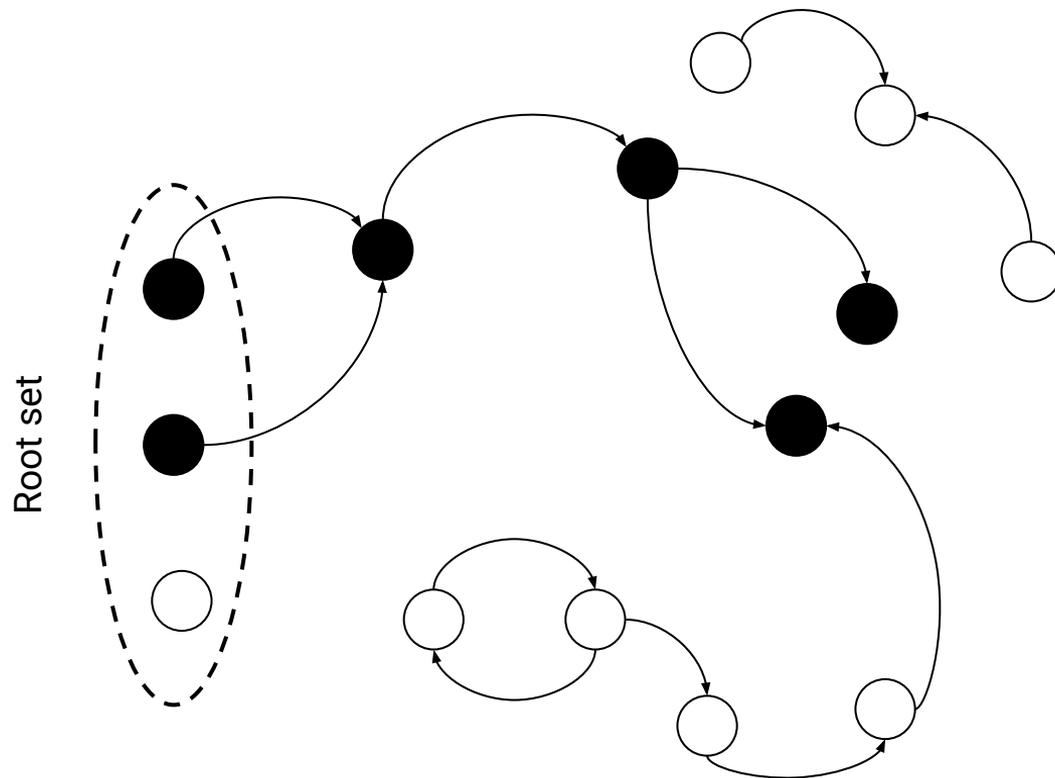
Interlude: Garbage Collection



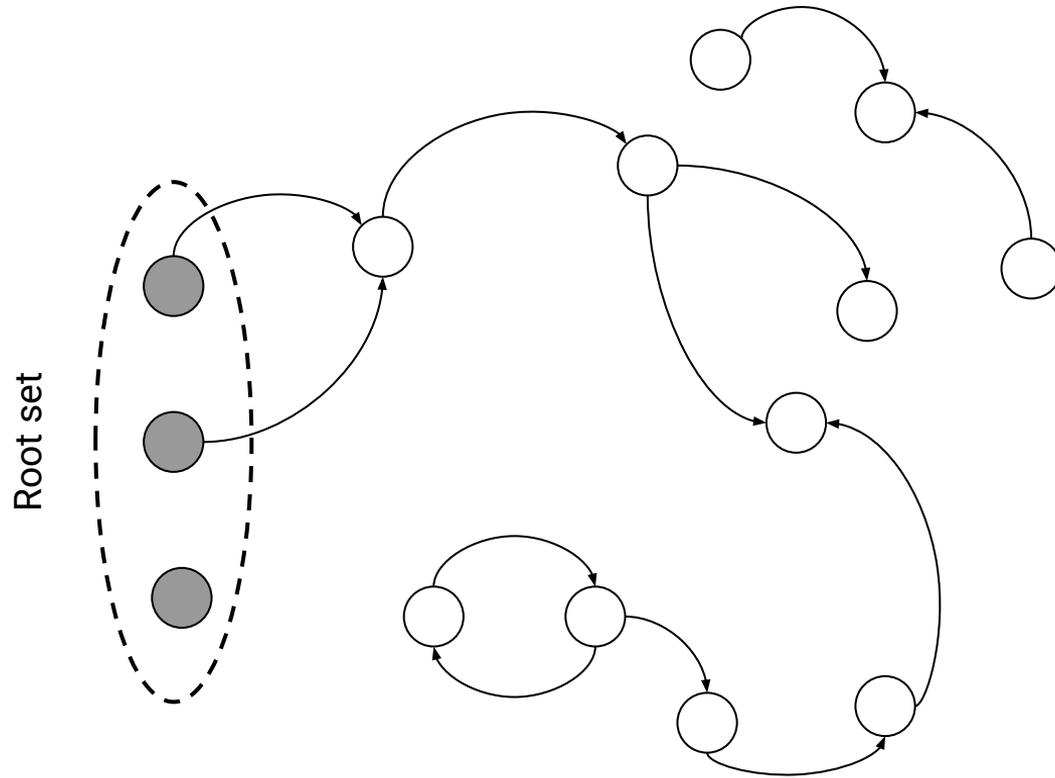
Interlude: Marking



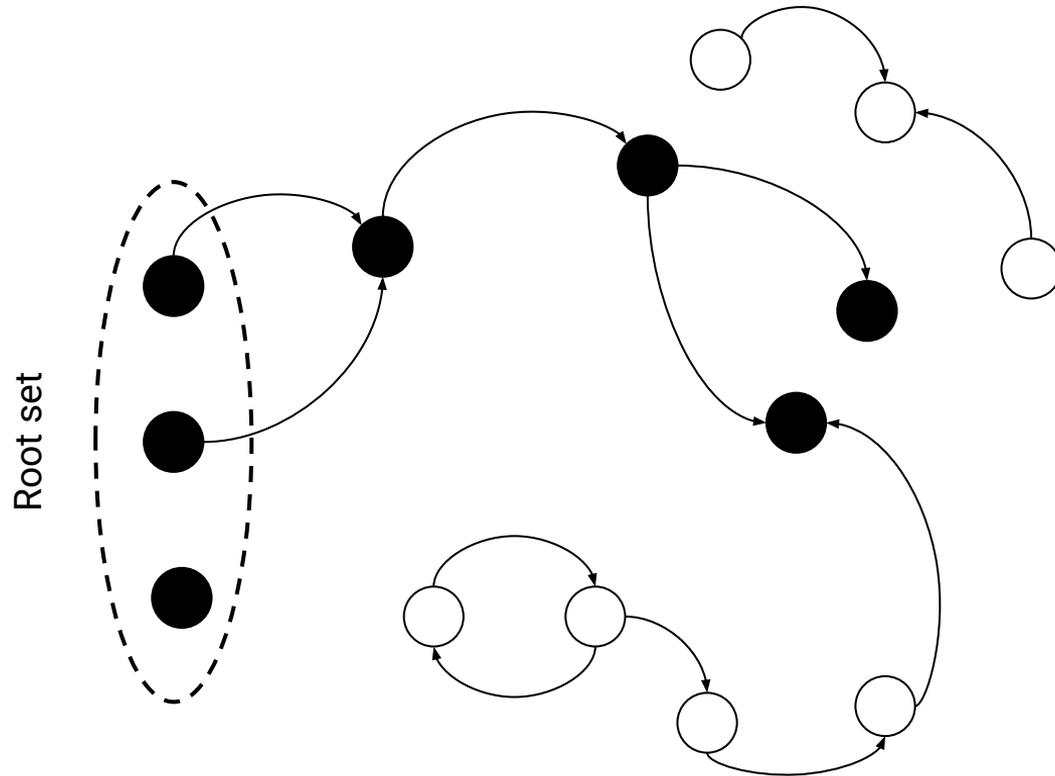
Interlude: (Atomic) Marking



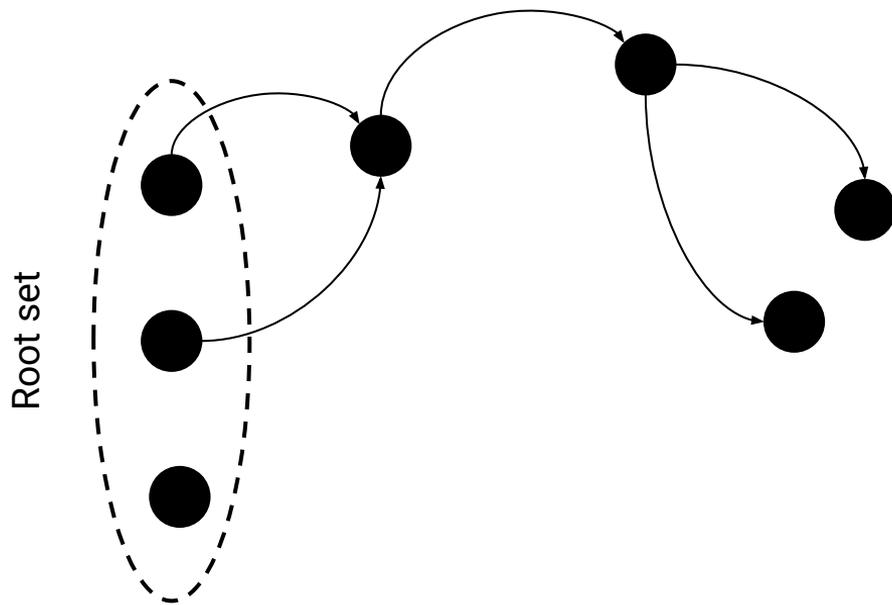
Interlude: Incremental Marking



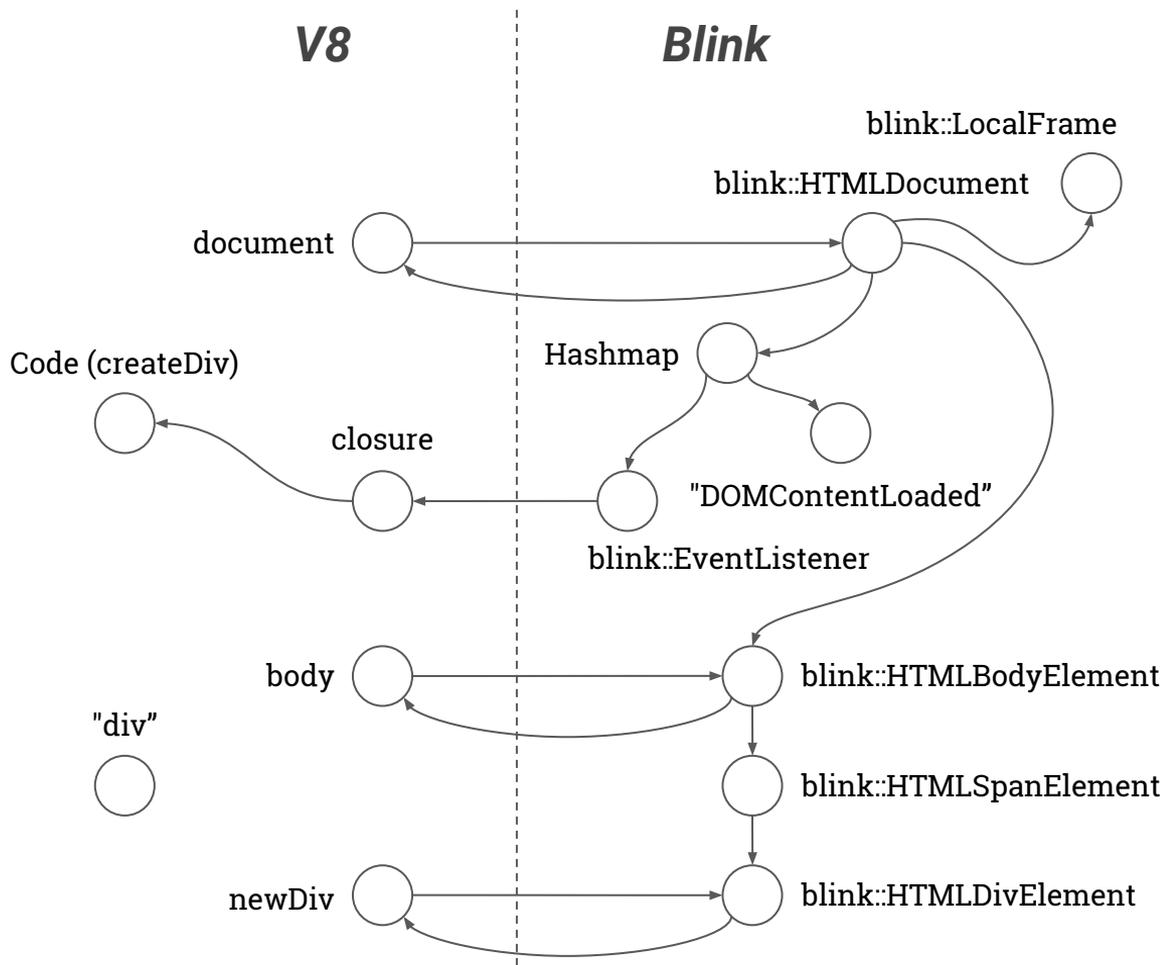
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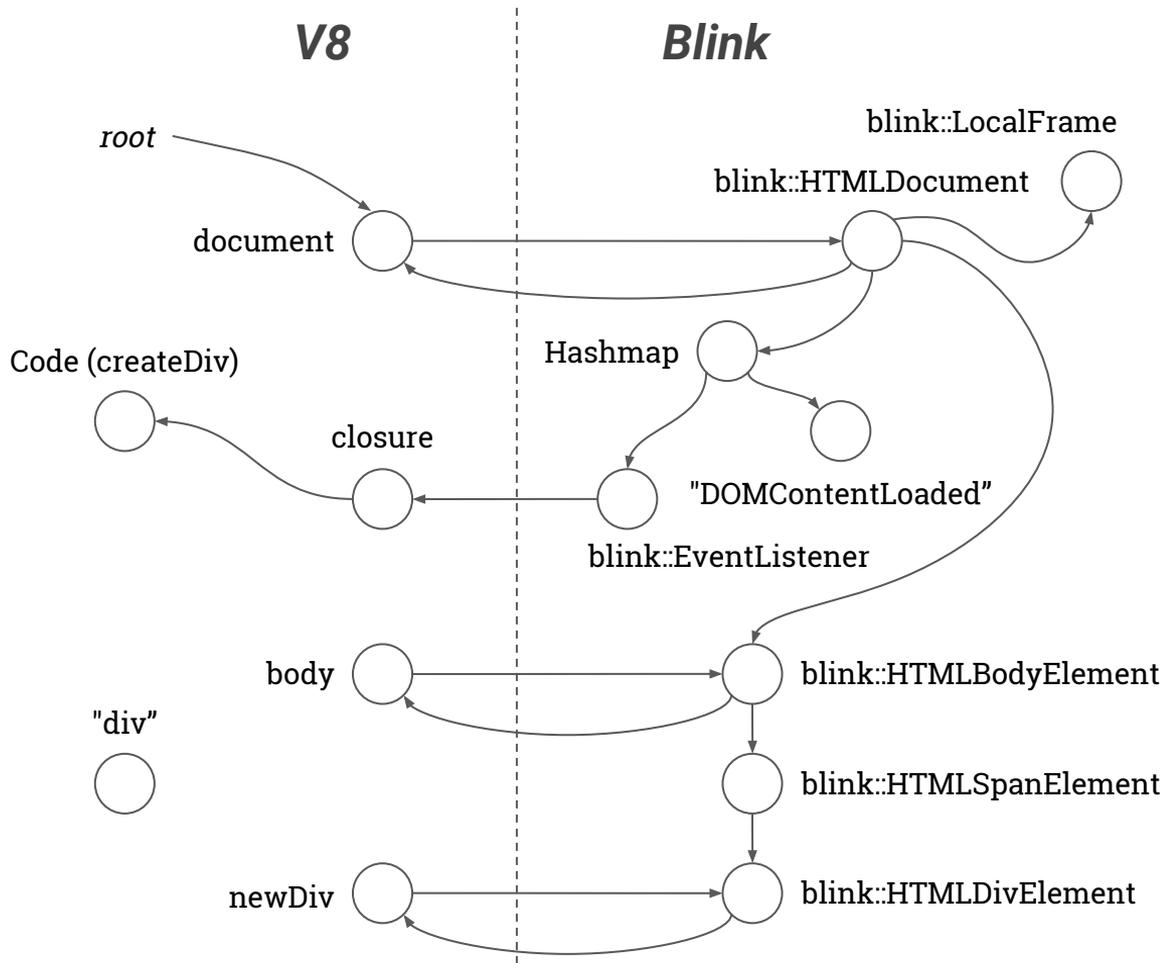
Interlude: Sweeping



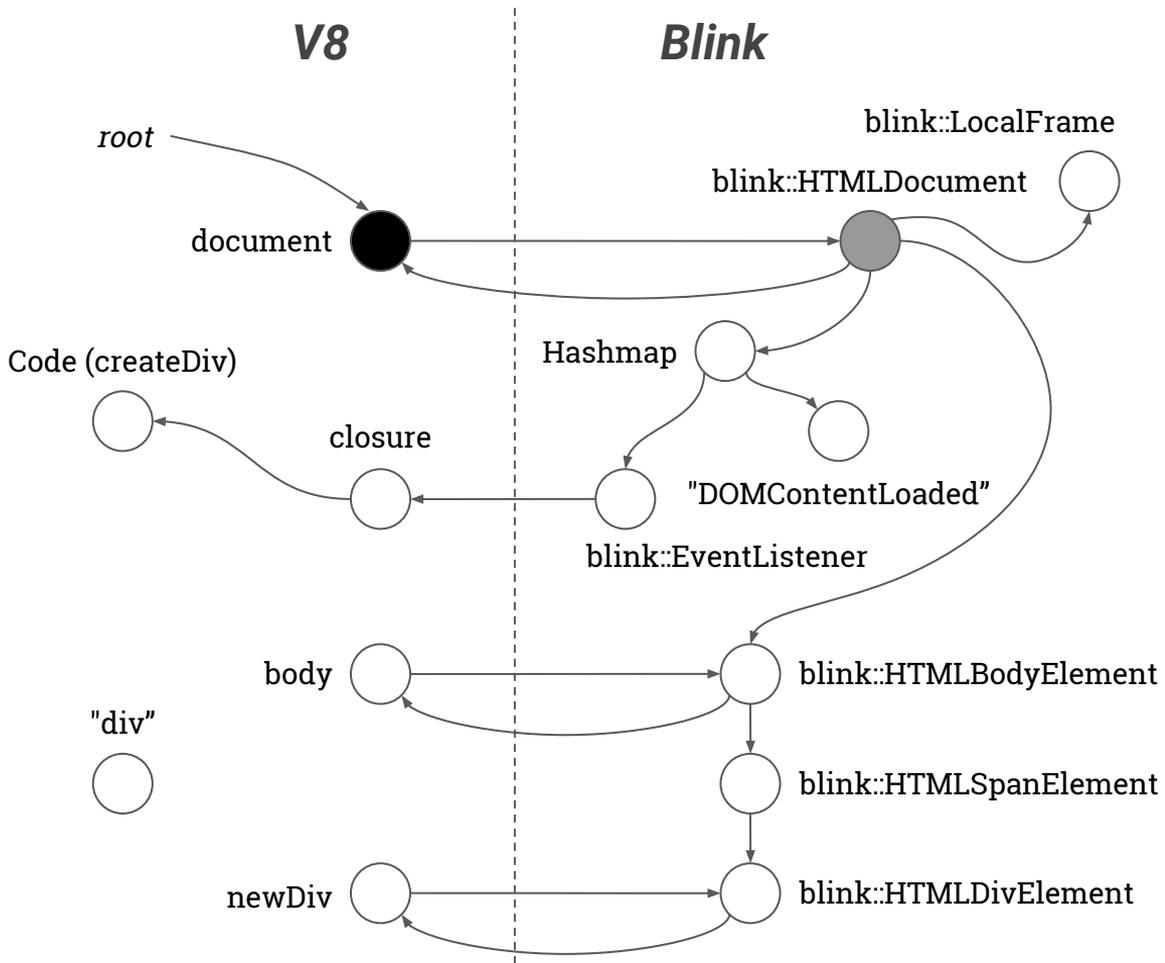
Unified heap



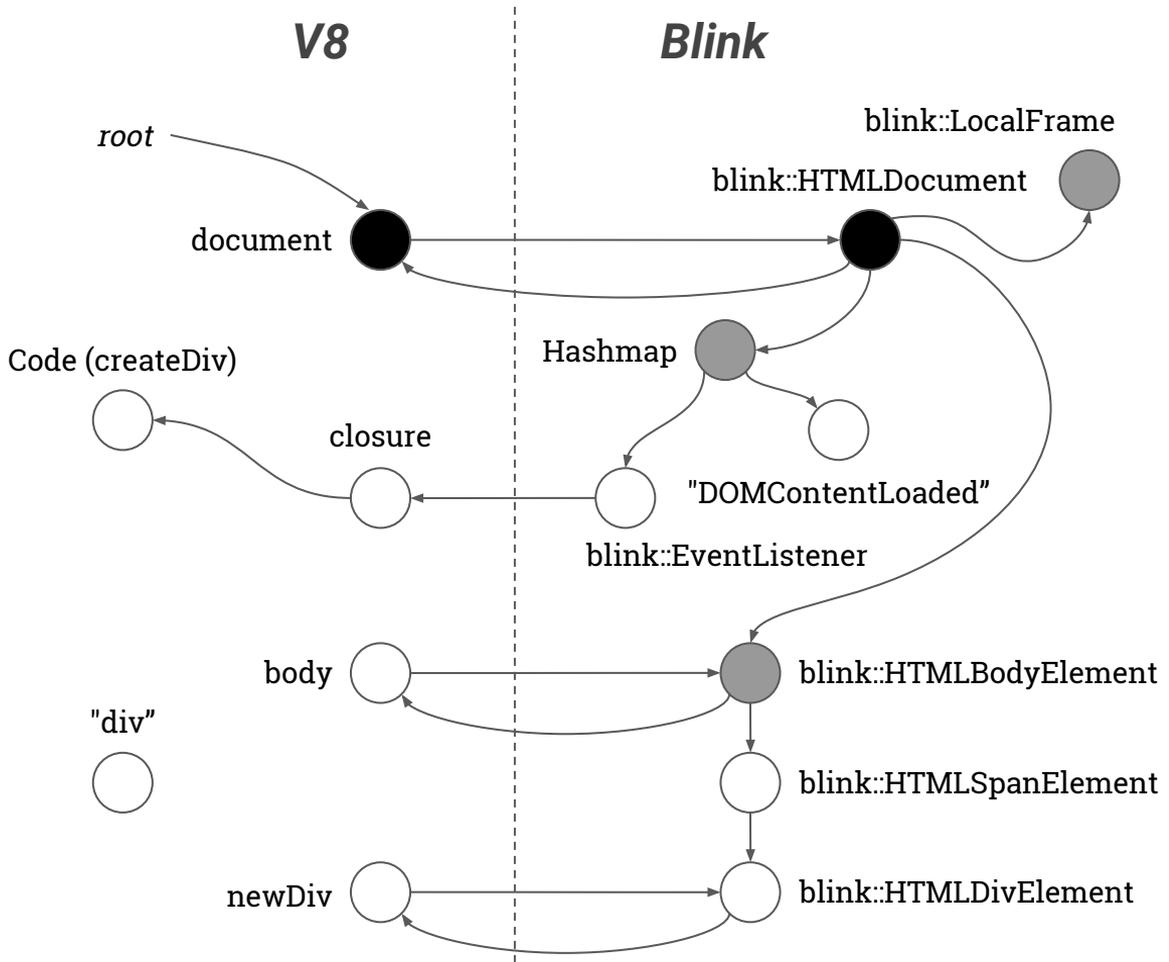
Unified heap



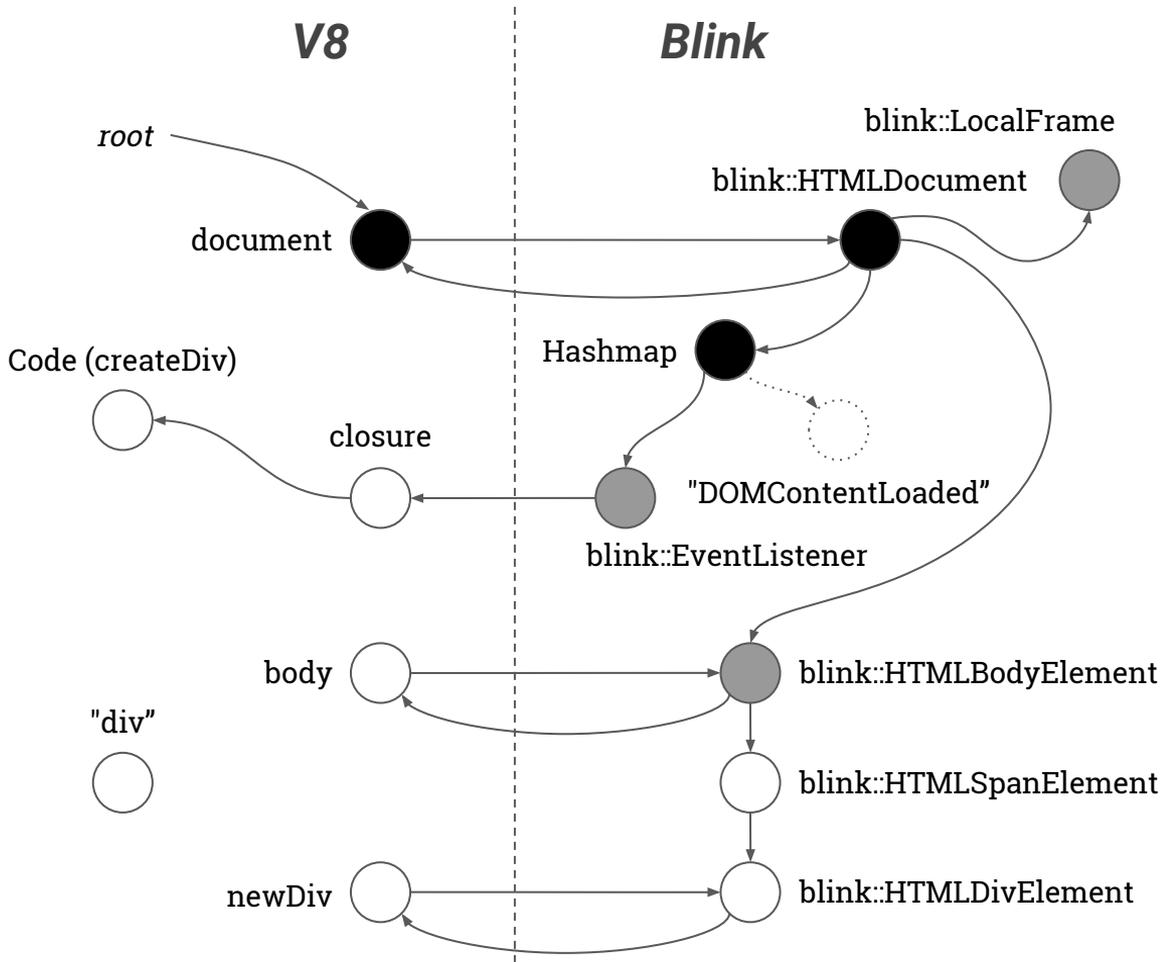
V8



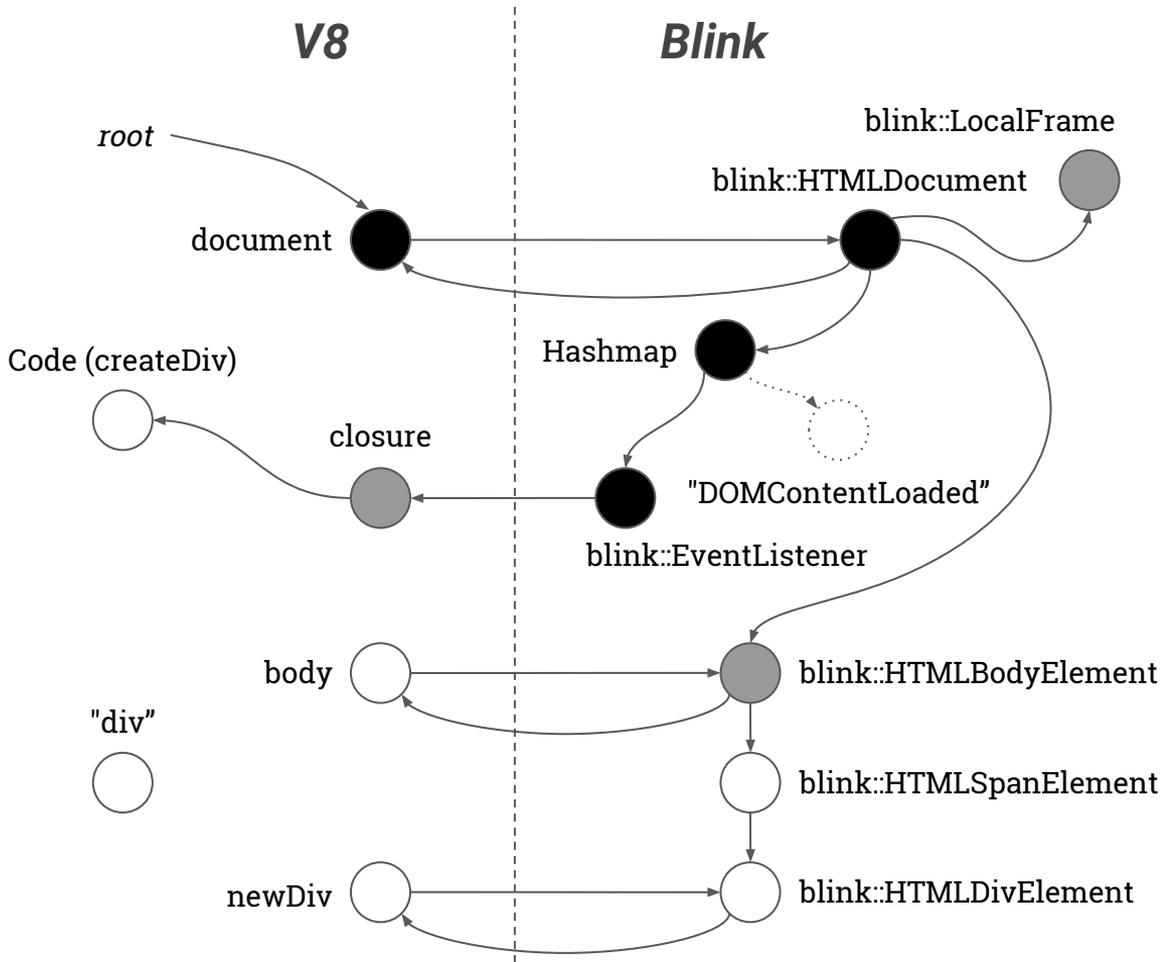
Blink



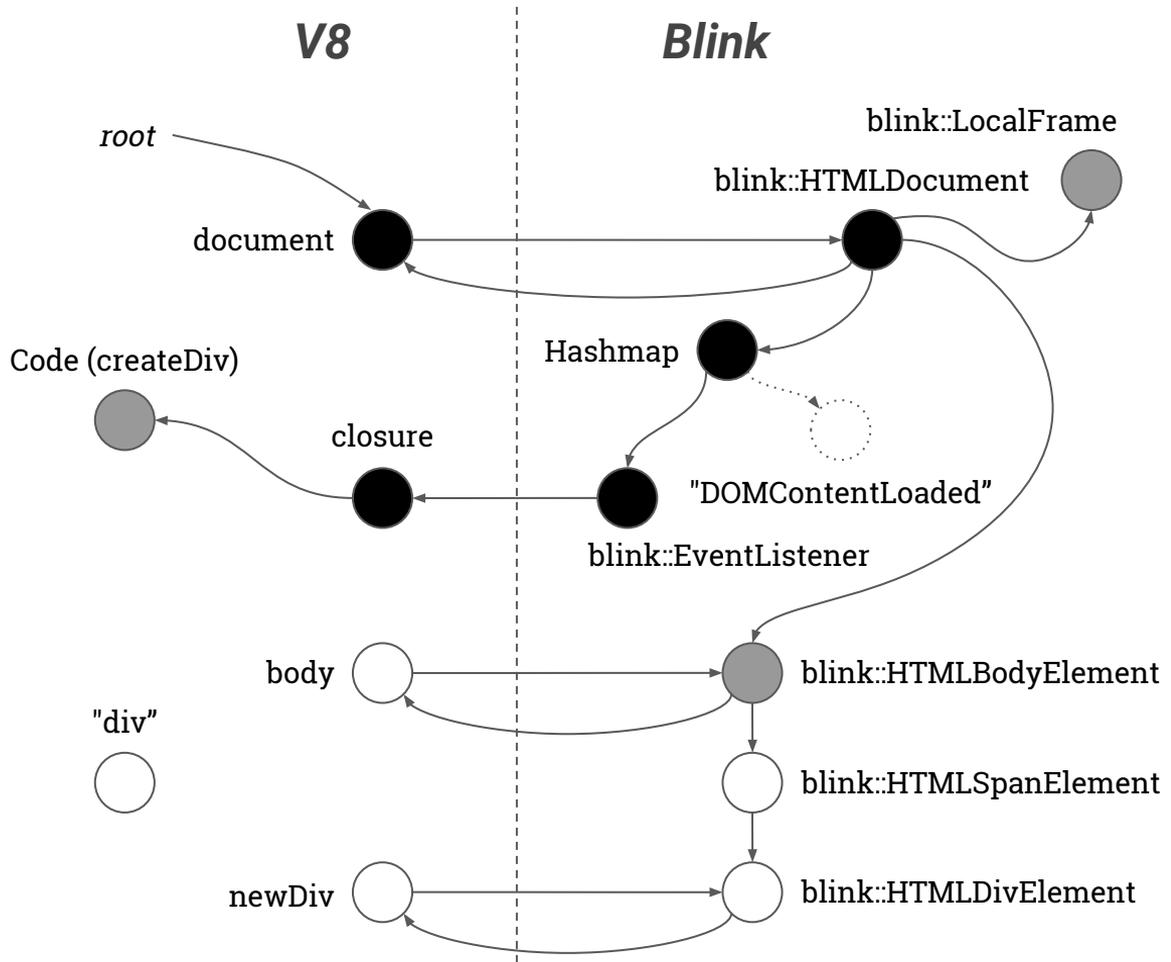
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Blink

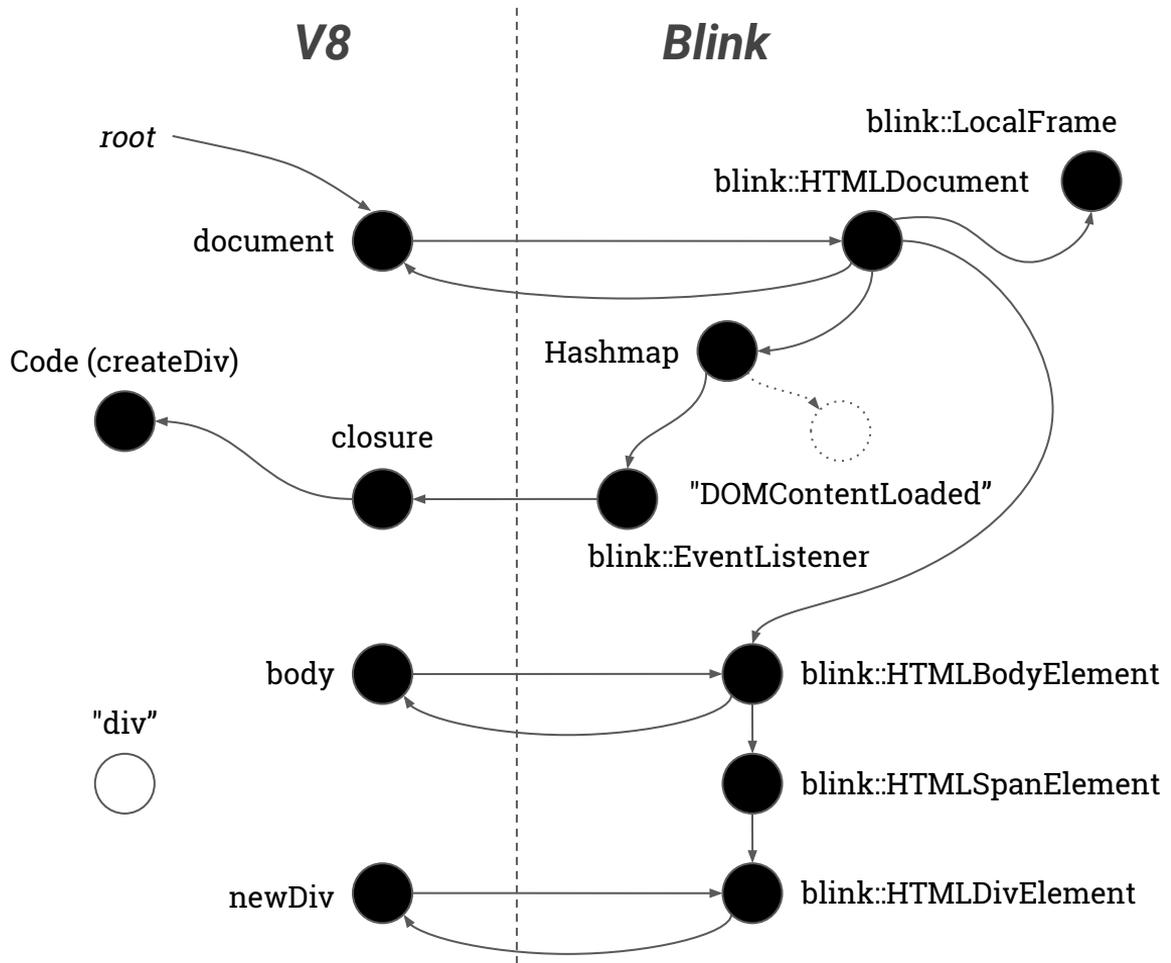


V8

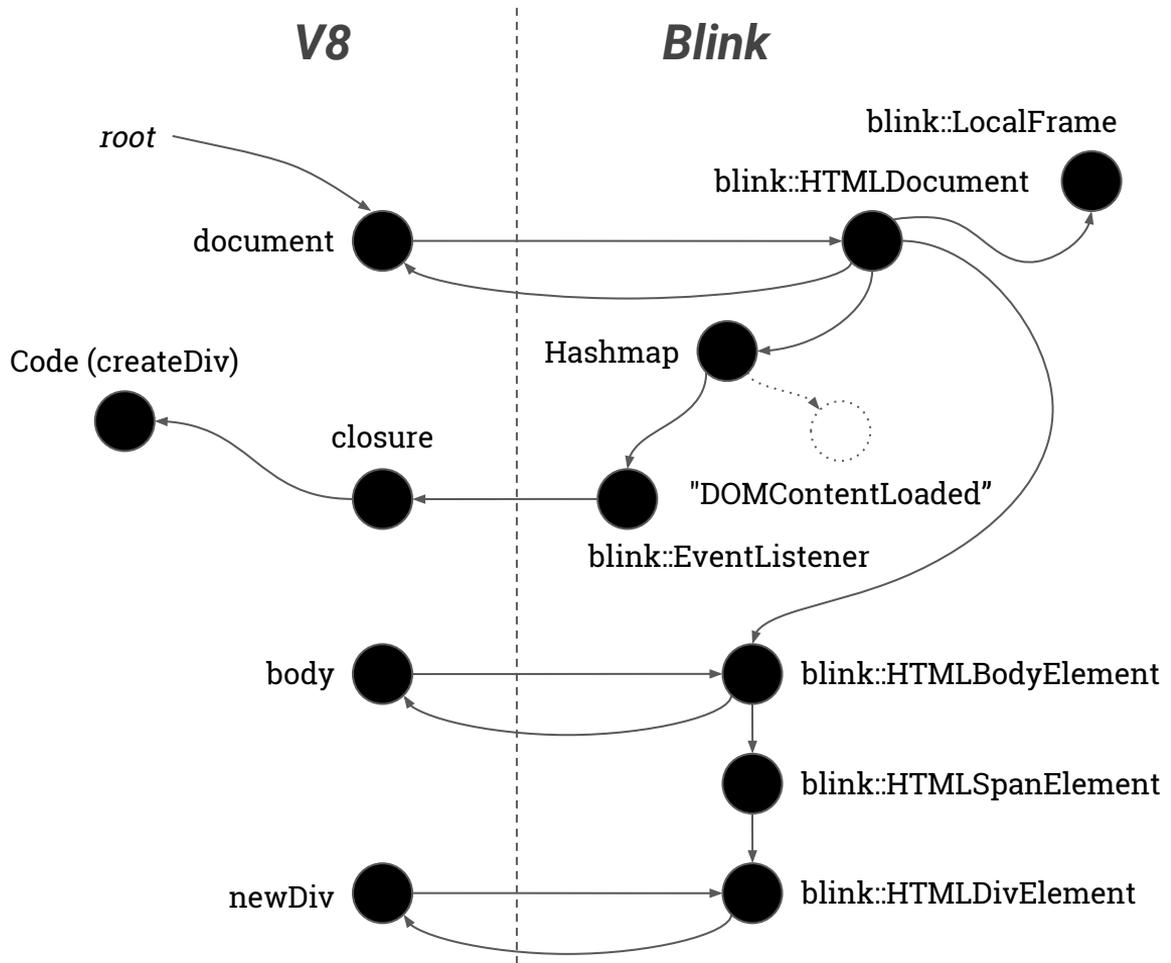


V8 & Blink

Concurrently...

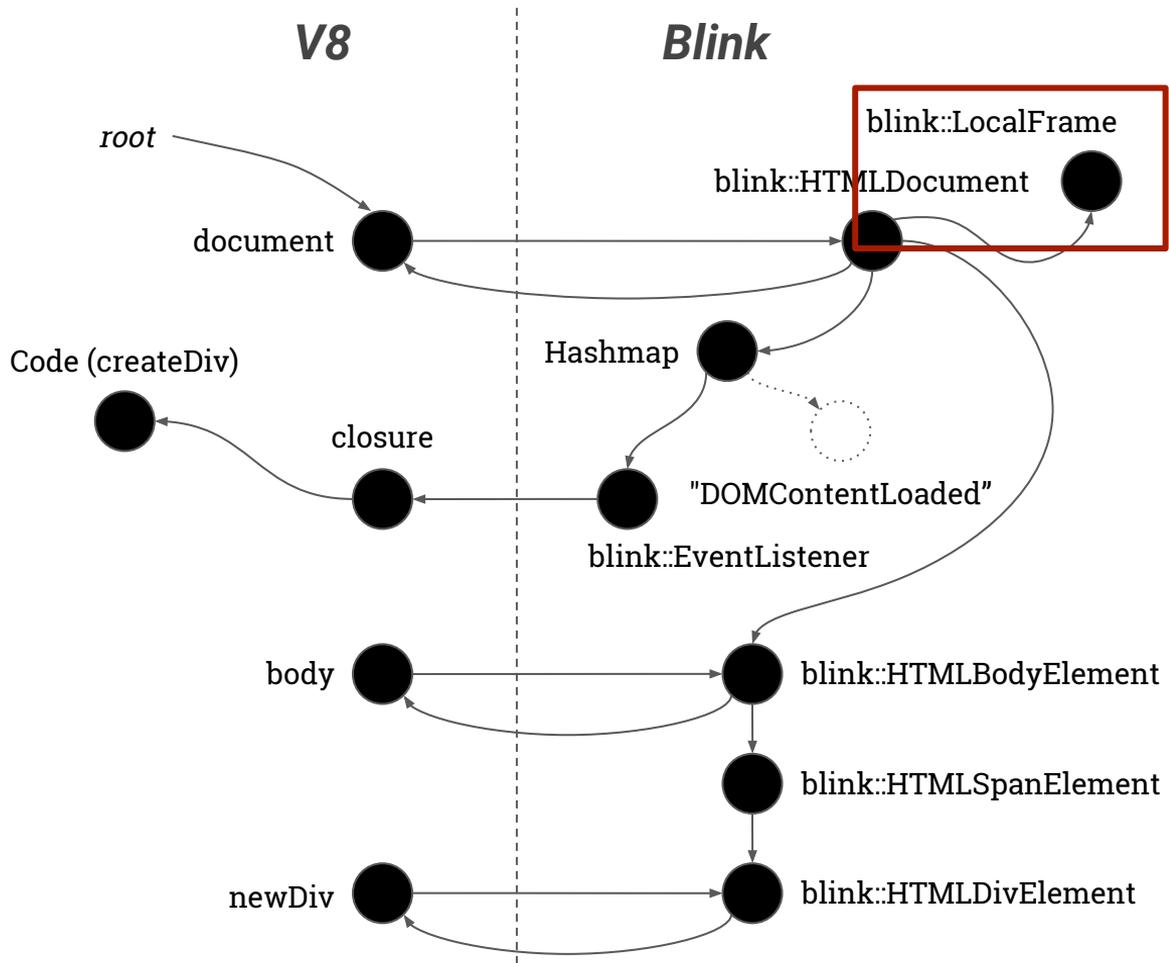


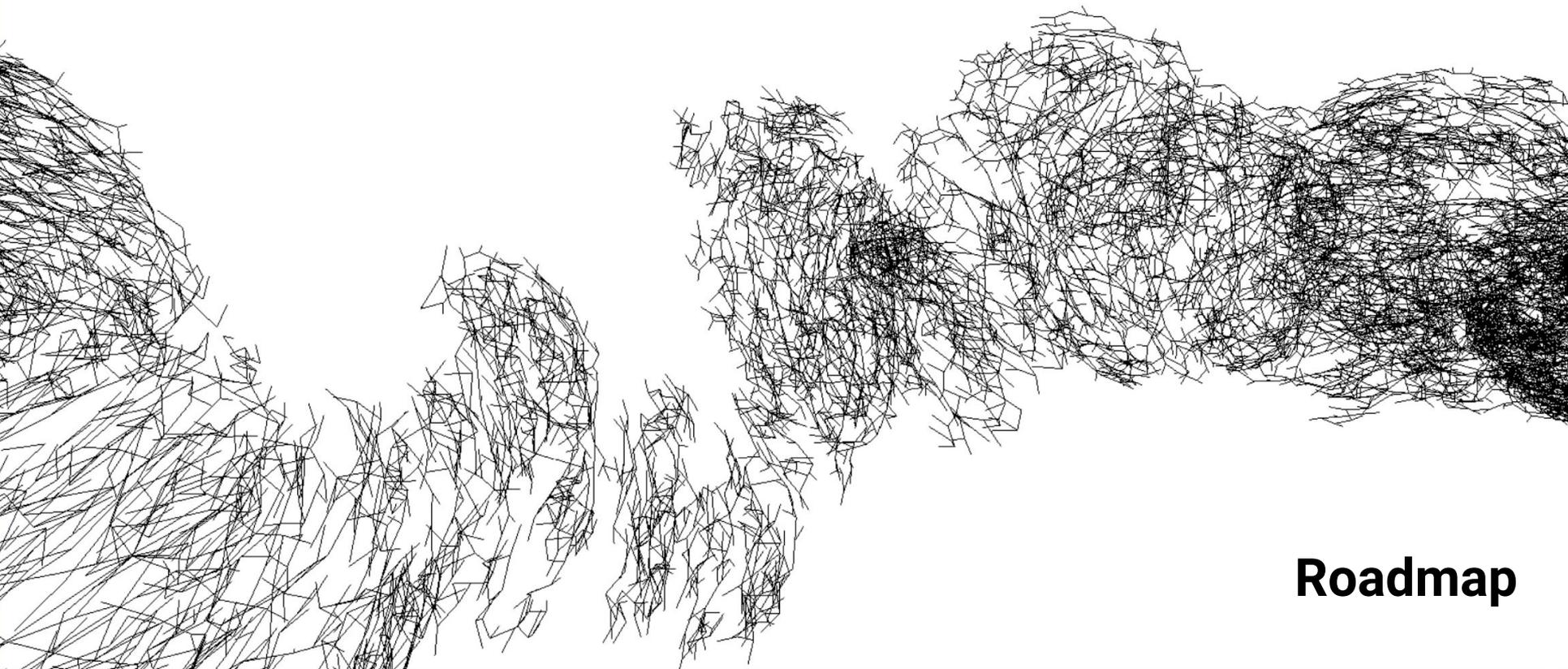
Unified heap



Wrapper tracing Δ

- Proper stack handling in all code paths
- Covers *all* paths on Oilpan's heap
- Allows sweeping both, V8 and Blink after marking





Roadmap

Unified Heap

Requirement: Low-latency on garbage collection operations

- **V8**
 - Concurrent marking ✓
 - Concurrent sweeping ✓
 - Parallel compaction ✓
- **Oilpan**
 - Non-incremental marking ✗
 - Incremental sweeping ±

Roadmap

Oilpan: Incremental Marking

(Oilpan: Concurrent Marking)

Unified Heap

Oilpan: Incremental Marking

- No changes in non-platform Blink code
- Implemented basic infrastructure
 - `gn arg: enable_blink_heap_incremental_marking`
- Unit test suite for
 - Write barriers
 - WTF collection integration
- Verification of mark bits
 - `gn arg: enable_blink_heap_verification`
 - Verifies after marking that there are no transitions from marked to unmarked objects
 - Landed on CI (fyi) for current Oilpan
- Currently working on performance tuning



bit.ly/oilpan-incremental-marking

Oilpan: Concurrent Marking

- (Ideally) no changes in non-platform Blink code
- Needed immediately if incremental marking performance regresses too much
- Based on incremental marking
 - Same barriers and consistency models
- Concurrent read-only access on object payload
 - Using existing `Member<T>` abstractions
- Complex object types (e.g. collections) are handled on the main thread



bit.ly/oilpan-concurrent-marking

Unified Heap

- Currently working on sanitization
- Intermediate step: Merge visitation
 - Visible in non-heap Blink code!

```
void ContainerNode::Trace(
    blink::Visitor* visitor) {
    visitor->Trace(first_child_);
    visitor->Trace(last_child_);
    Node::Trace(visitor);
}
void ContainerNode::TraceWrappers(const
    ScriptWrappableVisitor* visitor) const {
    visitor->TraceWrappers(first_child_);
    visitor->TraceWrappers(last_child_);
    Node::TraceWrappers(visitor);
}
```

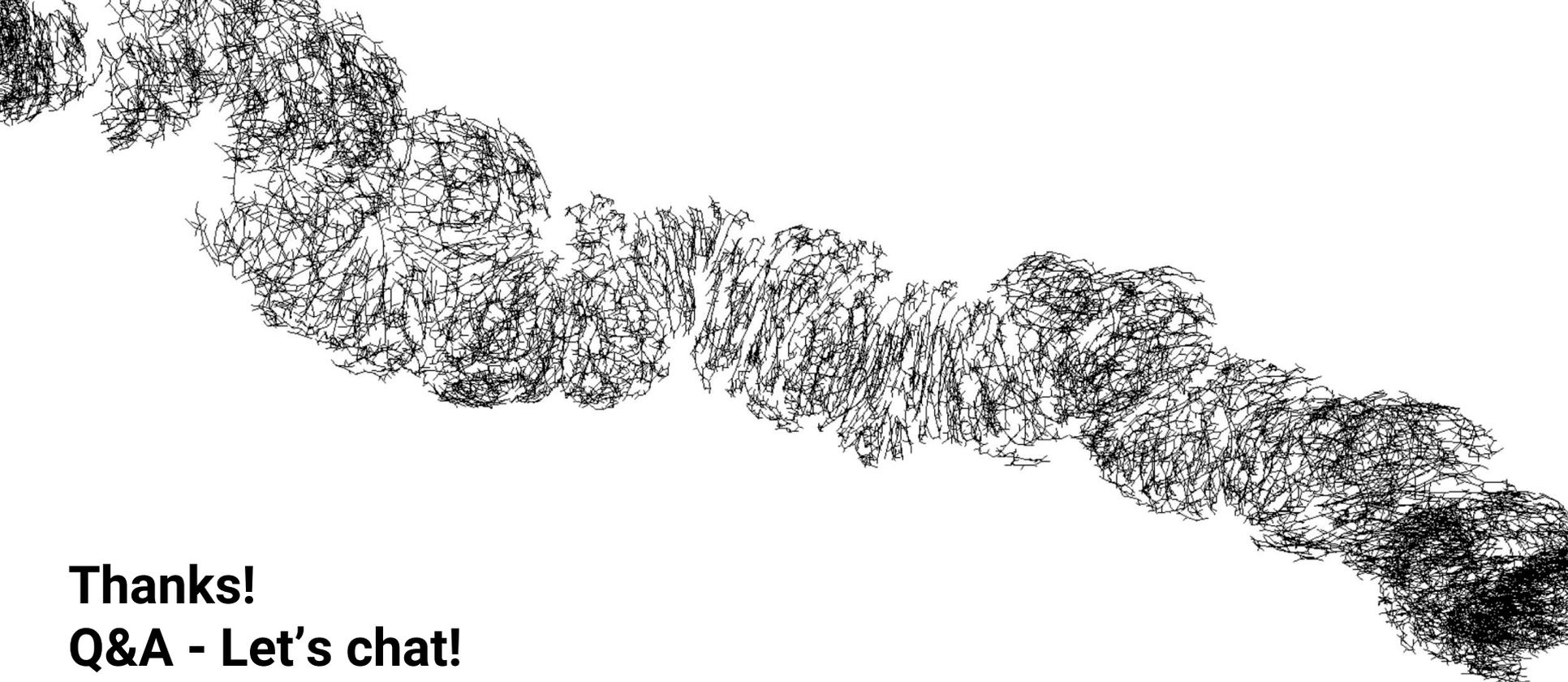
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    ScriptWrappableVisitor* visitor) const {
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    Node::TraceWrappers(visitor);
}
```

Takeaways

- Memory management across V8 and Blink is tricky
- Unified heap solves this problem in a principled way
- Full garbage collections cover V8 and Blink's heap
 - Both garbage collectors can start sweeping
- Steps on the way
 - Oilpan Incremental Marking
 - Oilpan Concurrent Marking



Thanks!
Q&A - Let's chat!

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