Au cœur d’une pipeline: démystifions Vite et ses plugins

Asynconf · June 27, 2026

- Webpack
- Vite
- Rspack
- Snowpack
- SWC

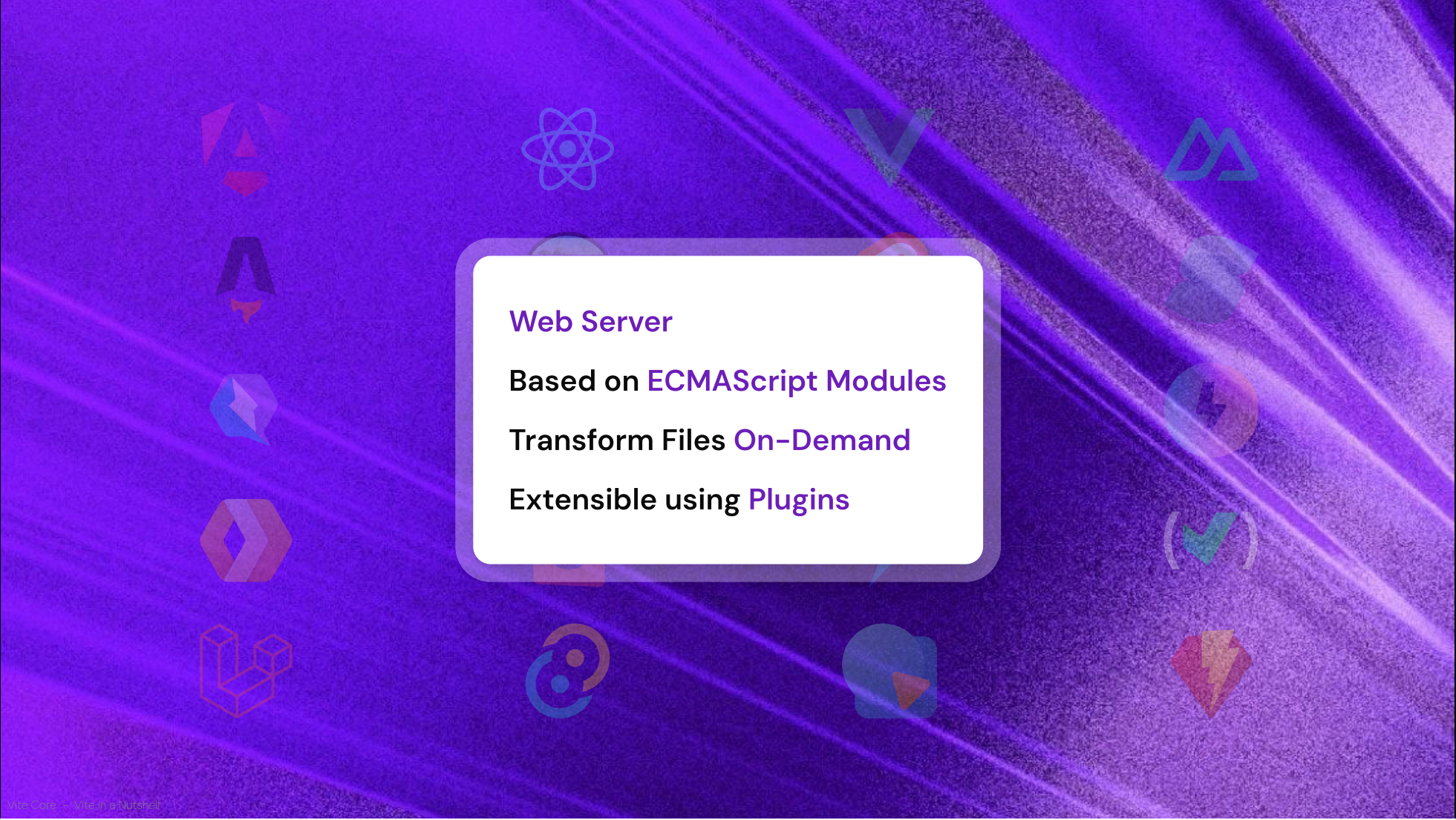


compiler → executable

bundler → bundle



Type your message...


Web Server
Based on ECMAScript Modules
Transform Files On-Demand
Extensible using Plugins

HTTP Logs

```
GET http://localhost:5173/
GET http://localhost:5173/src/main.ts?t=1772882882631
GET http://localhost:5173/src/style.css?t=1772882882631
GET http://localhost:5173/node_modules/.vite/deps/vue.js?v=ed2c93c8
GET http://localhost:5173/src/App.vue
```

Native ESM instead of bundling-first

Dev server performance

On-demand transformation

Simpler configuration

Ecosystem alignment

ECMAScript module N.

A JavaScript file that uses `import` and `export`. The standard module format in modern JavaScript.

e.g. `main.ts`, `App.vue` *once transformed for the browser.*

module identifier N.

The string used in an import to request a module from Vite.

e.g. `'vue'`, `'./App.vue'`, `'virtual:my-module'`.

hook N.

A function exposed by a plugin to intervene at a specific step in the pipeline.

e.g. `resolveId`, `load`, `transform`.

virtual module N.

A module that does not exist on disk, but is generated on the fly by a plugin.

e.g. an import like `'virtual:my-module'`.

HTML

Use HTML as an entry point with automatic script and asset handling.

JSX

Use JSX with built-in transformation and framework support.

CSS

Import CSS with support for HMR, modules, and preprocessors.

Static Assets

Import static assets such as images, fonts, and media.

JSON

Import JSON files directly as JavaScript modules.

Glob Import

Import multiple modules using a file pattern.

Dynamic Import

Load modules dynamically with native code splitting.

WebAssembly

Import and run WebAssembly modules from JavaScript.

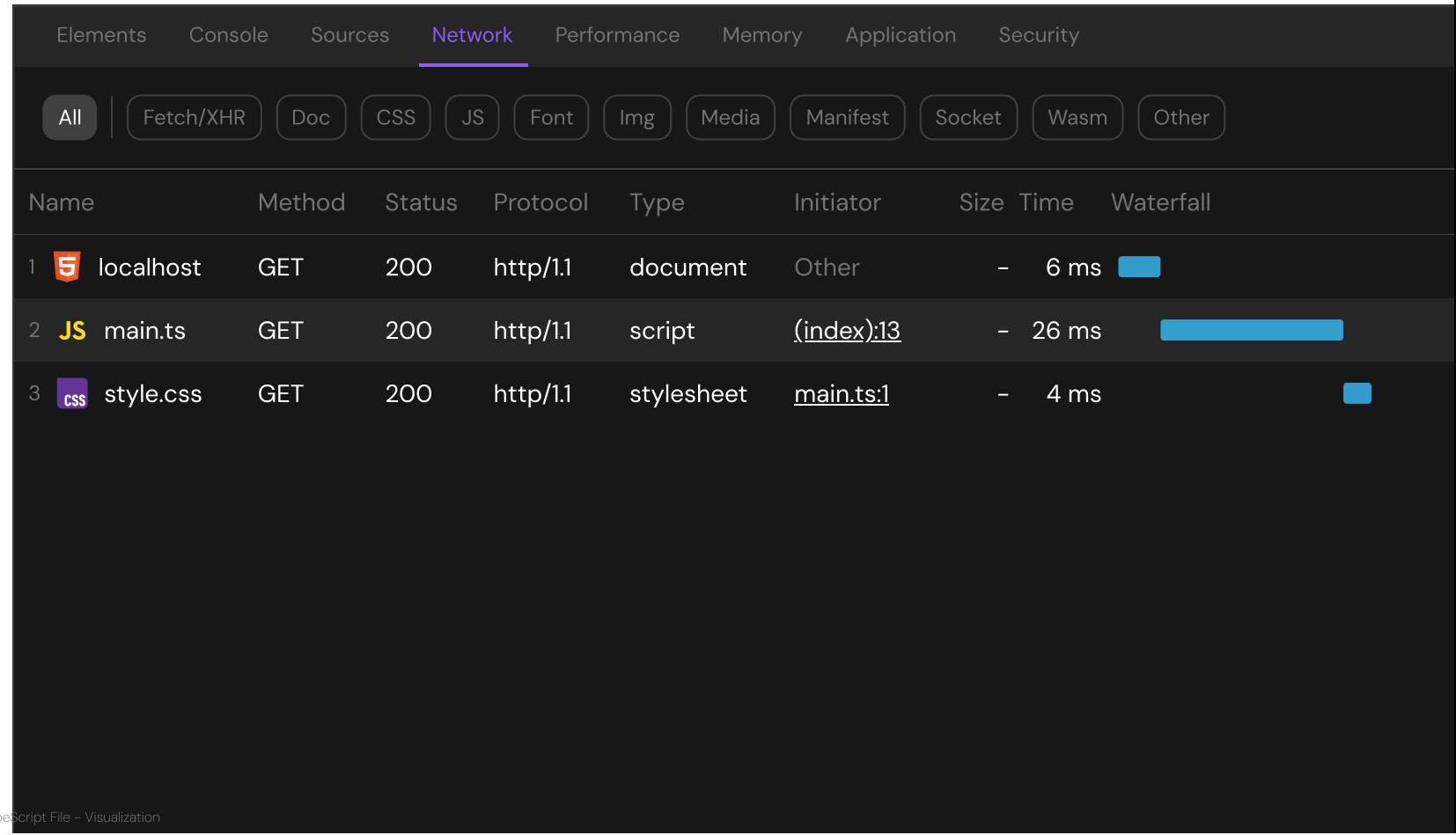
Web Workers

Run code in background threads using Web Workers.

Feature Plugins = Everything is a Plugin

```
import './style.css'
```




Elements
Console
Sources
Network
Performance
Memory
Application
Security
All
Fetch/XHR
Doc
CSS
JS
Font
Img
Media
Manifest
Socket
Wasm
Other
Name
Method
Status
Protocol
Type
Initiator
Size
Time
Waterfall
1 localhost GET 200 http/1.1 document Other - 6 ms
2 main.ts GET 200 http/1.1 script (index):13 - 26 ms
3 style.css GET 200 http/1.1 stylesheet main.ts:1 - 4 ms

Vite in 3 Points



1

A web server for development

It handles requests that can be transformed on demand

2

A bundler for production

It transforms our code for production

3

A plugin system

To extend its features and make it do whatever we want

```
export default function myPlugin() {
  return {
    name: 'my-plugin',
    resolveId() {},
    load() {},
    transform() {},
  }
}
```

```
export function myPlugin() {
  return {
    name: 'my-plugin',
    resolveId(id) { // /src/components/HelloWorld.vue
      if (id.endsWith('.vue')) {
        return id
      }
    },
  }
}
```

```
export function myPlugin() {
  return {
    name: 'my-plugin',
    async load() {
      return "export default 'Hello World'"
    }
  },
}
```

```
export function myPlugin() {
  return {
    name: 'my-plugin',
    transform(code, id) {
      if (id.endsWith('.vue')) {
        return transformSFC(code, filename)
      }
    }
  },
}
```

Multiple plugins?

request

resolveId `resolveId (id)`

VuePlugin

CustomPlugin

load `load (id)`

VuePlugin

CustomPlugin

transform `transform (code, id)`

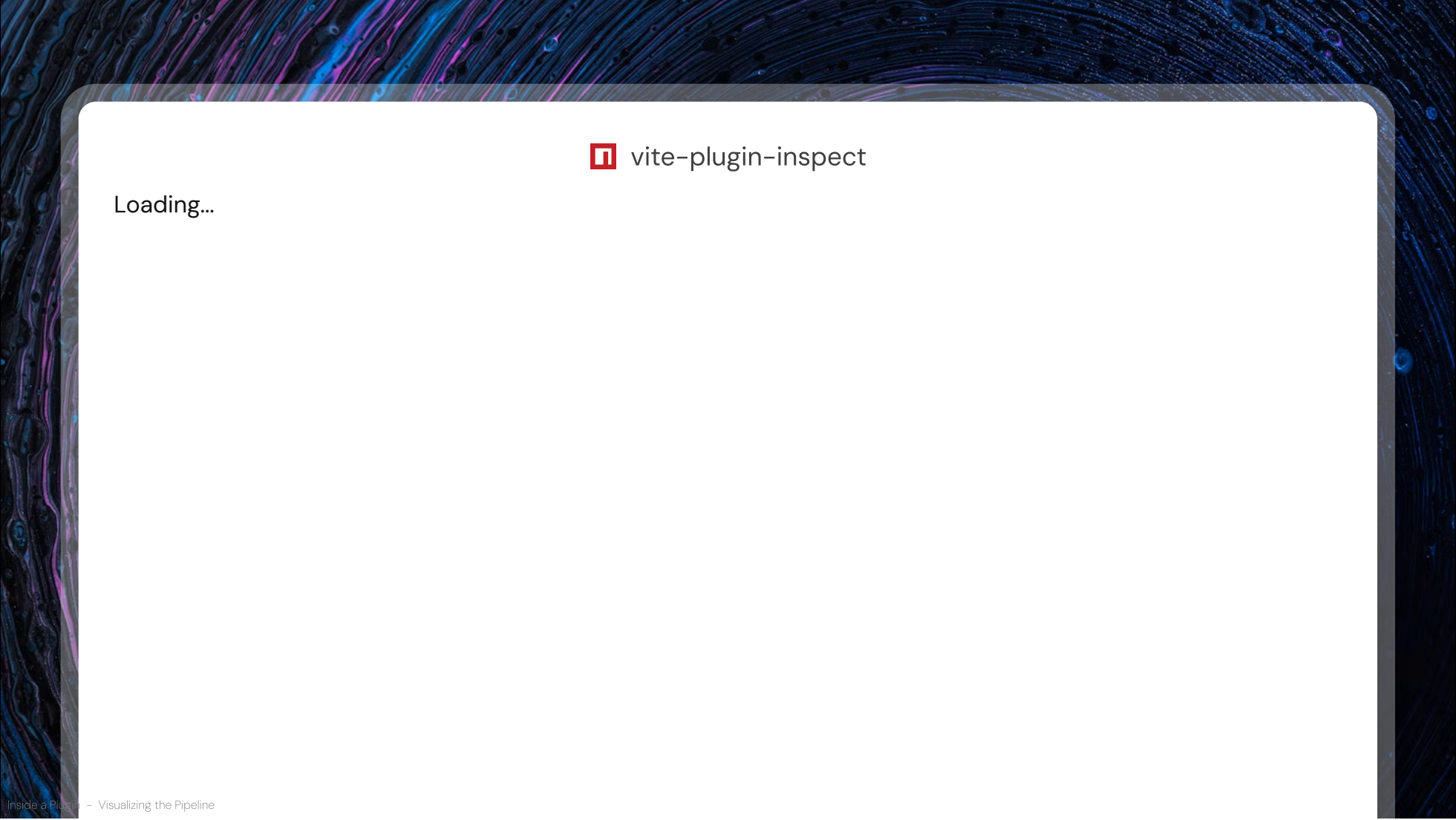
VuePlugin

CustomPlugin

response

input

output


vite-plugin-inspect
Loading...

So what does that look like?

Simple Transform Plugin

HTTP Logs

```
GET http://localhost:5173/
GET http://localhost:5173/src/main.ts?t=1773357600000
```

```
export default function simpleTransform() {
  return {
    name: "simple-transform",
    transform(code) {
      return code.replace("__BUILD_TIME__", new Date().toString())
    }
  }
}
```

External Markdown Loader

HTTP Logs

```
GET http://localhost:5173/
GET http://localhost:5173/src/main.ts?t=1773357600000
GET http://localhost:5173/src/daily-news.md?t=1773357600001
```

The Vite Plugin in 3 Points



1. **A Vite plugin is a function that returns an object**
   That object must at least have a name property

2. **There are 3 main hooks to act on modules**
   resolveId, load, and transform

3. **There are also hooks for Vite's lifecycle**
   config, configResolved, buildStart, buildEnd, and closeBundle




```
export default function myPlugin() {
  return {
    name: 'my-plugin',
    resolveId(id) {
      // Used to intercept the module identifier and return a new one
    },
    load(id) {
      // Used to return the content of a module given its identifier
    },
    transform(code, id) {
      // Used to transform the content of a module given its identifier
    }
  }
}
```

A Plugin for Virtualization

HTTP Logs

```
GET http://localhost:5173/
GET http://localhost:5173/src/main.ts?t=1772882882631
GET http://localhost:5173/@id/__x00__virtual:my-module
```

```
export default function myVirtualModulePlugin() {
  const virtualModuleId = 'virtual:my-module'
  const resolvedVirtualModuleId = '\0' + virtualModuleId

  return {
    name: 'my-virtual-module-plugin',
    resolveId(id) {
      if (id === virtualModuleId) {
        return resolvedVirtualModuleId
      }
    },
    load(id) {
      if (id === resolvedVirtualModuleId) {
        return `export const msg = "from virtual module"`
      }
    },
  }
}
```

```ts
import { createApp } from 'vue'
import { createRouter, createWebHistory } from 'vue-router'
import { routes } from 'vue-router/auto-routes'
import App from './App.vue'

const router = createRouter({
  history: createWebHistory(),
  routes,
})

createApp(App)
  .use(router)
  .mount('#app')
```

```ts
import fs from 'node:fs/promises'

export default function autoRoutes() {
  return {
    name: 'auto-routes',
    resolveId(id) {
      if (id === 'vue-router/auto-routes') {
        return '\0vue-router/auto-routes'
      }
    },
    load(id) {
      if (id === '\0vue-router/auto-routes') {
        const files = await fs.readdir('./src/pages')
        const routes = await generateRoutes(files)
        return `export const routes = ${JSON.stringify(routes)}`
      }
    },
  }
}
```

Virtualization in 3 Points



1. **Vite can respond to requests with virtual modules**
   Modules that do not exist on the disk but are generated on the fly by a plugin

2. **To create a virtual module, use the resolveId and load hooks**
   Take the ownership of an import with resolveId and return the code with load

3. **Used in many plugins and very powerful**
   It allows you to inject dynamic data, generate code on the fly, and much more




```
export default function myVirtualModulePlugin() {
  const virtualModuleId = 'virtual:my-module'
  const resolvedVirtualModuleId = `\0${virtualModuleId}`

  return {
    name: 'my-virtual-module-plugin',
    resolveId(id) {
      if (id === virtualModuleId) {
        return resolvedVirtualModuleId
      }
    },
    load(id) {
      if (id === resolvedVirtualModuleId) {
        // Do whatever you want
      }
    },
  }
}
```

Hot Module Replacement (HMR)

Update modules in the browser without a full page reload, preserving application state.

Middleware

Add additional routes to the Vite dev server to handle custom API requests or serve dynamic content.

Command Runner

Execute custom commands alongside the Vite dev server, with access to the Vite configuration and lifecycle.

Inter-process Communication

Allow different processes to communicate with each other to share data.

Macros

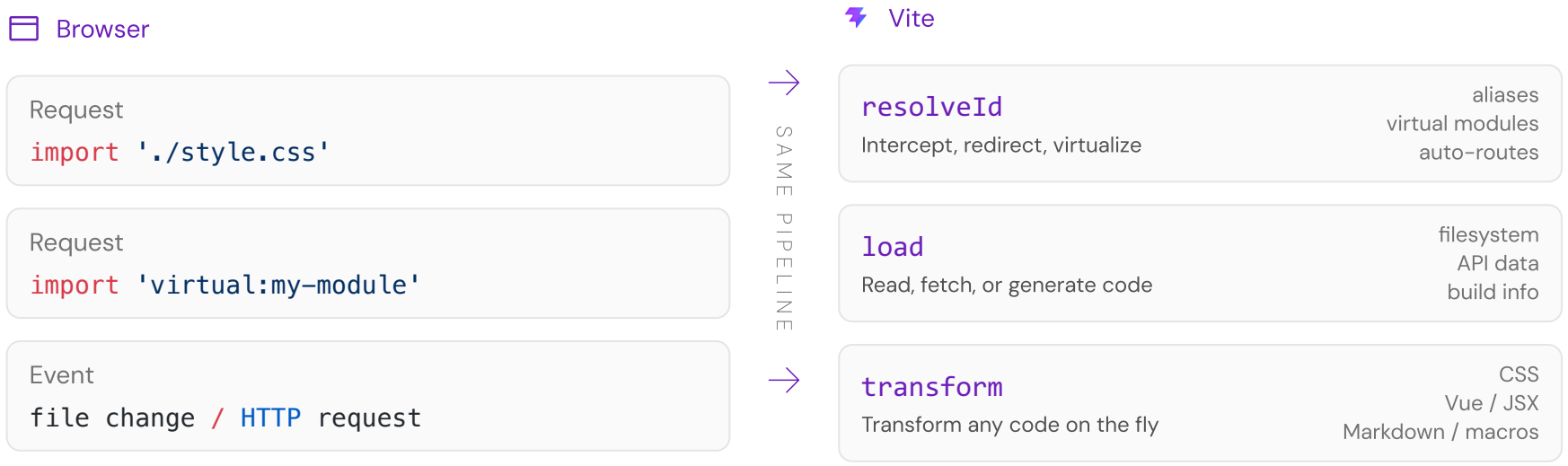
Transform source code at build time to enable new syntax or features that are not natively supported by JavaScript.

Server Framework

Extend Vite's dev server capabilities to build custom backends, APIs, or full-stack applications.

```
import sirv from 'sirv'

{
  name: 'vite-plugin-inspect',
  configureServer(server) {
    server.middlewares.use(`${base}/__inspect`, sirv(DIR_CLIENT, {
      single: true,
      dev: true,
    }))
  }
}
```



Plugins

CSS, JSX, Vue, images, Markdown...

Generated modules

Routes, icons, virtual data, build information...

Around the pipeline

HMR, middleware, commands, backend, lifecycle hooks...

What to Keep in Mind



1. **A pipeline between your files and the browser**
   Each request goes through Vite, which can transform modules on demand

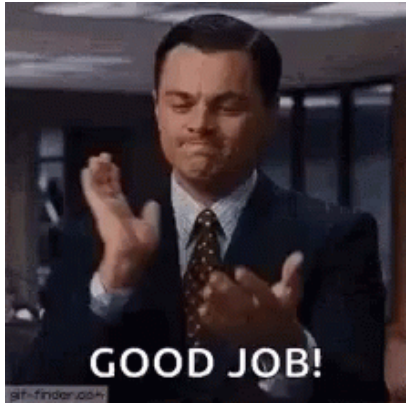
2. **Plugins can create modules that do not exist**
   Virtual modules, routes, icons, build info... everything can be generated on demand

3. **Everything can be extended by a plugin**
   Code transformation, HMR, middlewares, side effects, macros, backend...




```ts
export default defineConfig({
  plugins: [
    (() => {
      return {
        name: 'my-awesome-plugin',
        resolveId(id) {}, // if you want to create virtual modules
        load(id) {}, // if you want to create virtual modules
        transform(code, id) {}, // if you want to transform modules
        handleHotUpdate(ctx) {}, // if you want to handle HMR
        configureServer(server) {}, // if you want to do something to the dev server
        // ... and many more hooks for different capabilities
      }
    })()
  ]
})
```

In 45 minutes, you discovered what you need to build your Vite plugin.





C'était

Au cœur d'une pipeline : démystifions Vite et ses plugins

Pour **Asynconf** (June 27, 2026)

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⬇️ Votre feedback ⬇️



example.com