

#### Playing with Web Audio Modules: the Concept of Distributive Creation and Live Performance

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## Playing with Web Audio Modules: the Concept of Distributive Creation and Live Performance

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### Who am I? What is our group?

- Professor / researcher at Université Côte d'Azur (UCA), France
  - Member of the WIMMICS research group common to INRIA and I3S lab from CNRS
  - W3C Advisory Committee Representative for UCA
  - Member of the W3C WebAudio Working Group since 2014
  - o michel.buffa@univ-cotedazur.fr, @micbuffa
- Other members of the WAM group:
  - WAM original creators: Jari Kleimola
     And Oliver Larkin,
  - Developers, academic researchers, PhD Students: Shihong Ren, Owen Campbell, Tom Burns, Steven Yi, Stéphane Letz, Hugo Mallet...
  - Thanks to: Jordan Sintes, Guillaume Etevenard, GRAME friends...























## The Electronic Music landscape is organized with the host/plugin paradigm

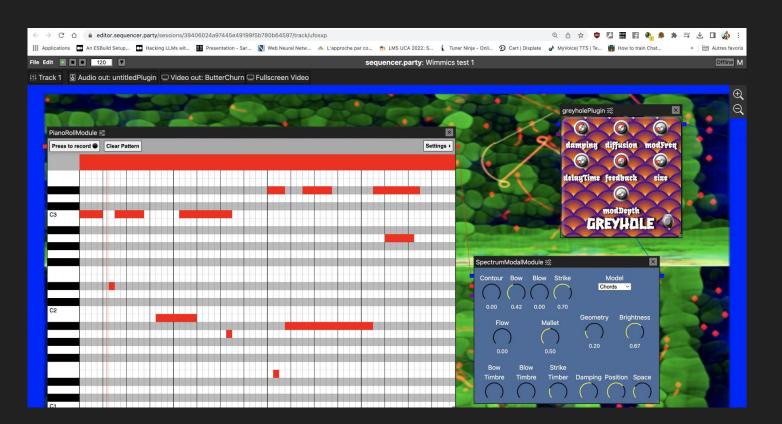
- Market ruled by commercial actors and non Web-based software
- Articulated around DAW <u>hosts</u> (Digital Audio Workstations): Cubase (Steinberg), Logic Pro, Ableton Live, etc.
- And <u>plugins</u>: DAWs are "hosts" for plugins (effects, instruments)
- Many closed, commercial standards
   VST, Apple Audio Units, AVID AAX, etc.
  - <u>Literally thousands of plugins have been</u> <u>developed in C/C++</u>, meta standard exists (JUCE, iPlug2...)



# Covid pandemia: make music together from home

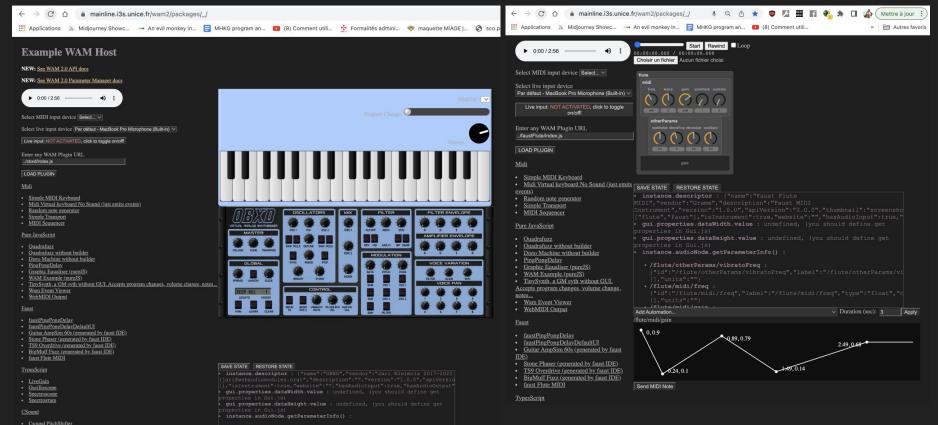
Web Audio Modules: a collaborative Web-based solution (and open source)

Real-time, collaborative, music creation across borders, stream on YT, twitch, etc. <a href="https://sequencer.party/">https://sequencer.party/</a>





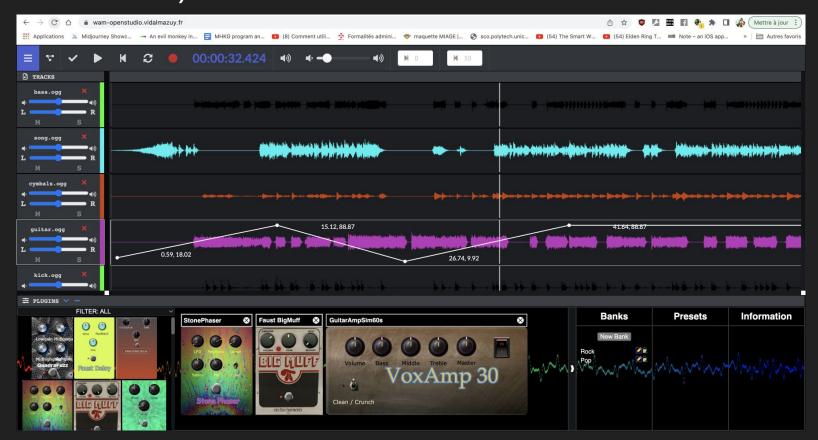
# Wams in hosts... here with a host from the WAM distrib <a href="https://mainline.i3s.unice.fr/wam2/packages/">https://mainline.i3s.unice.fr/wam2/packages/</a>/



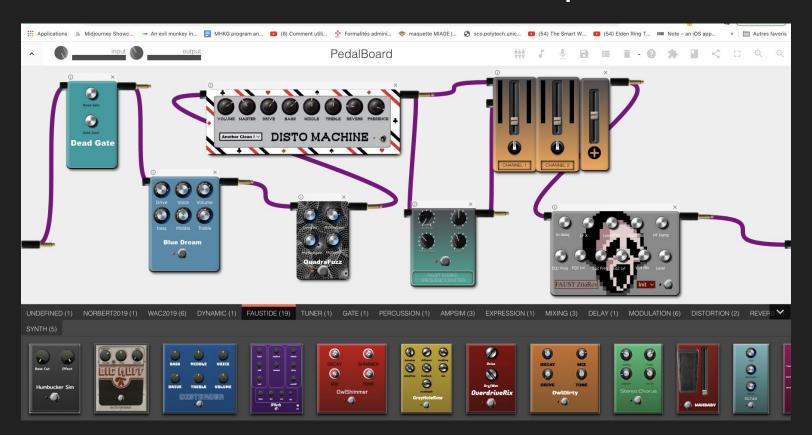
## Example: a WAM sampler based on freesound.org



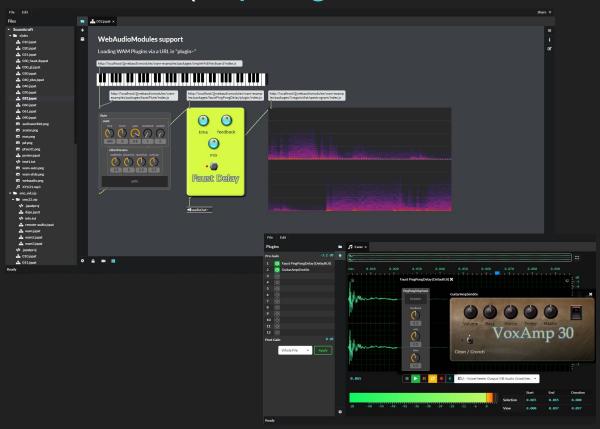
## WAMs in hosts... WIP open source DAW (100% WAM-based)



### WAMs in hosts... here the WASABI pedalboard



# WAMs in hosts... JSPatcher, aka Max MSP in the browser (<a href="https://github.com/Fr0stbyteR/jspatcher">https://github.com/Fr0stbyteR/jspatcher</a>)

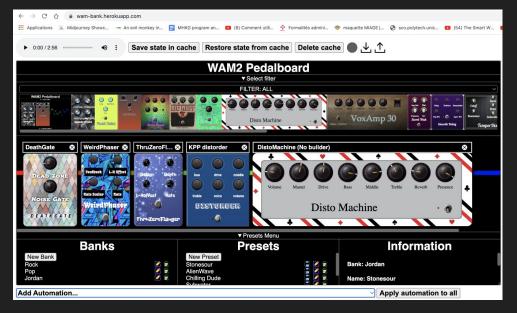




## WAMs in plugins that acts as hosts (i.e pedalboard)

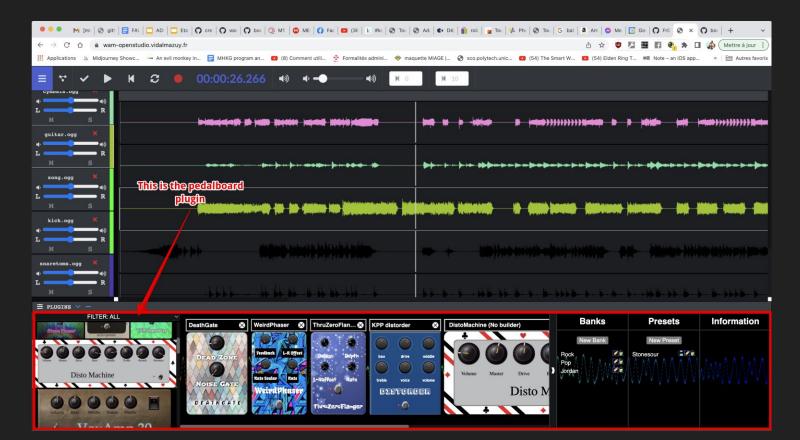
These ones are open source

(from <u>wam-examples</u> and <u>wam-community</u> github repositories)





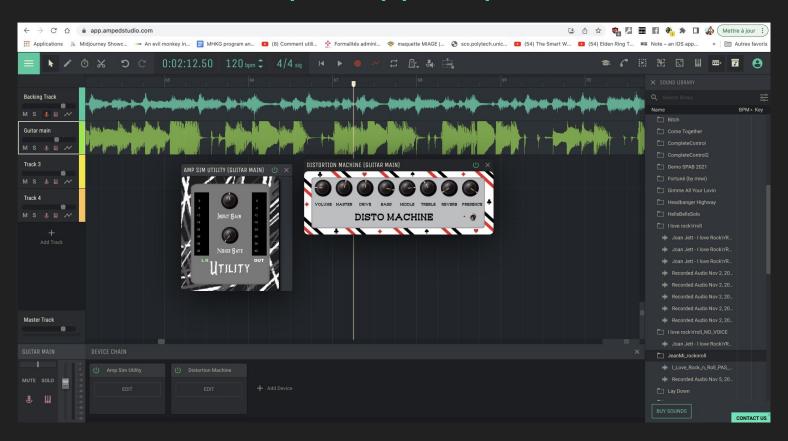
### ... and loaded in a DAW!



## A small projet from recording to mixing



### Wams in hosts... <a href="https://app.ampedstudio.com/">https://app.ampedstudio.com/</a>



## A few reminders before proceeding...

### Concepts de l'API WebAudio

#### **Opérations audio dans un Audio Context**

```
let ctx = new AudioContext();
```

osc1.connect(gain1).connect(ctx.destination);

#### **Conception modulaire:**

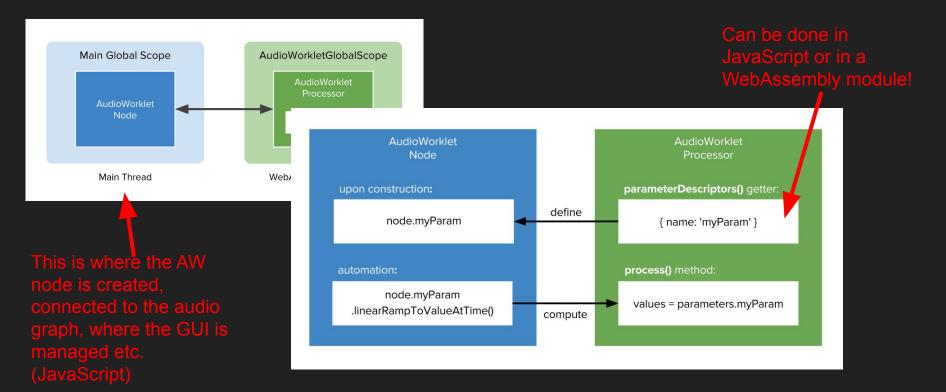
 Opérations audio : audio nodes ...qui forment un graphe audio

```
let osc1 = ctx.createOscillator();
osc1.frequency.value = 440;
let gain1 = ctx.createGain();
gain1.gain.value = 0.1;
```

```
Applications HTML5's Media Re... faust/examples at... JS Bin - Collaborati... The street of the stre
```

## The Web Audio API also supports custom DSP programming with the AudioWorklet

This is where custom DSP processing is done



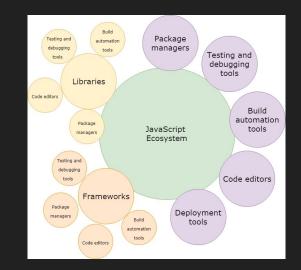
### Web Audio development

#### Web developers

 Use plain HTML/CSS/JavaScript but very often also bundlers/minifiers (webpack, parcel, rollup), npm modules, frameworks (react, vueJS), and also code with TypeScript, etc.

#### Audio developers

- Use C++/Rust, DSLs like FAUST, Csound,
   CMajor, patchers like Max, etc.
- Use plugin standards: VSTs, AU, AAX, RTAS, JUCE, CLAP, iPlug2, etc.





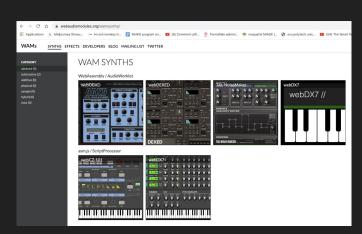
### How to combine all this?

## 2015: First WAM proposal by J.Kleimola and O.Larkin

- Attract native developers, help going from C++ plugins to AudioWorklet/ASM.js and later WebAssembly,
- http://webaudiomodules.org has impressive synths ported from VST/JUCE/iPlug2

#### 2018: Enlarge the proposal (Buffa and al.)

- Please web developers,
- Support DSLs like FAUST, other improvements...

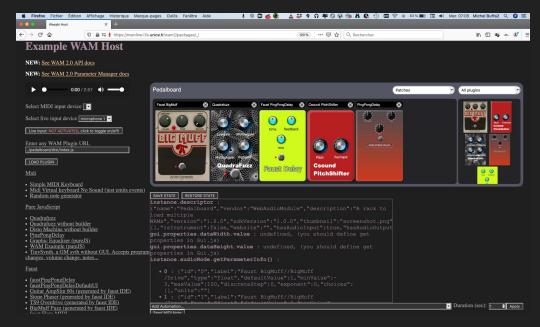




## WebAudioModules version 2 (aka WAM or WAM2)

#### 2021-2022: WebAudio Modules 2.0

- A WAM plugin can be loaded using a simple URI!
- A WAM plugin is a JavaScript module,
- A WAM can be made of a single
   AudioWorklet Node, or made of multiple
   nodes, it will behave like a single
   AudioNode.
- Plugin parameters are handled by the WamParamMgr,
- Focus on performance (ring buffer, audio thread isolation)
- Plain modern JS or build systems for JS / TS / frameworks
- Support for C/C++
- Support for DSL (Faust, CSound)
- Parameter Automation, MIDI support,
- host/plugin interaction as an API (+ rich SDK). The API can be entirely re-implemented for low-level plugins

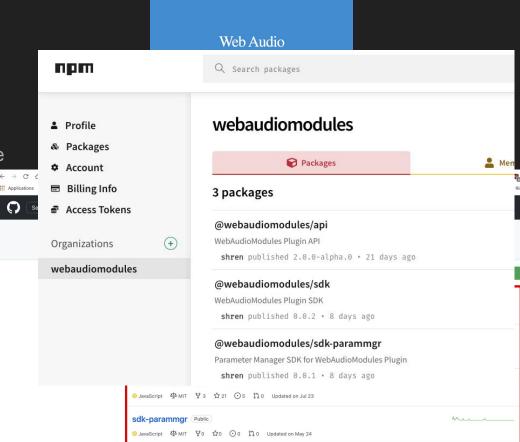


**How to start with WAMs!** 

Github repo, Home page of the project...

WebAudioModules (WAM) is an old standard (2015), and WAM2 is the updated version:

- webaudiomodules.org will remain the home of the project (not yet up to date!
   Soon with a section about WAM2!)
- The official github repo is the regular webaudiomodules one:
   <a href="https://github.com/webaudiomodules">https://github.com/webaudiomodules</a>.
- Everything is under MIT/MPL/Apache 2.0 open source licence...
- Also available as <u>npm modules</u>



WAMs

## API vs SDK

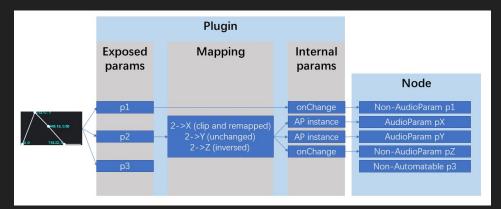
API (Standard)	SDK (Implementation/Tools)
<ul><li>Defines required methods</li><li>Abstract classes</li></ul>	<ul><li>Reference API implementations</li><li>Utility classes and example plugins</li></ul>

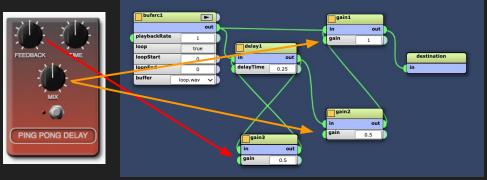
- Developers can choose to adapt their existing code to the API
- Others can use the SDK that implements the API (much easier), inherit classes etc.

## The sdk-parammgr repository

Dedicated to plugins made of an audio graph:

- Exports a CompositeNode class, the plugin will be seen as a single node!
- Deals with parameter mapping and automation (figure).





3 <u>exposed</u> parameters

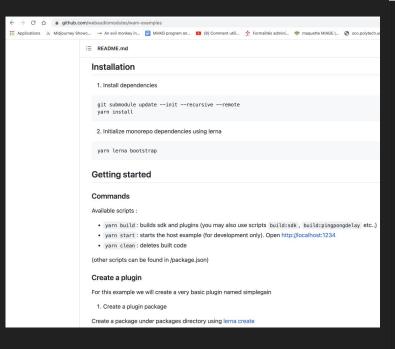
Dozens of internal parameters

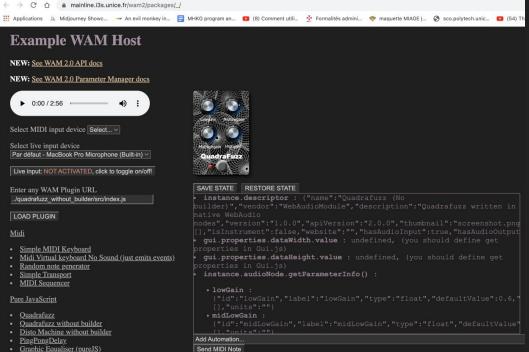
## The <u>wam-examples</u> repository

WAM Example (pureJS)

changes, volume change, notes...
 Wam Event Viewer
 WebMIDI Output

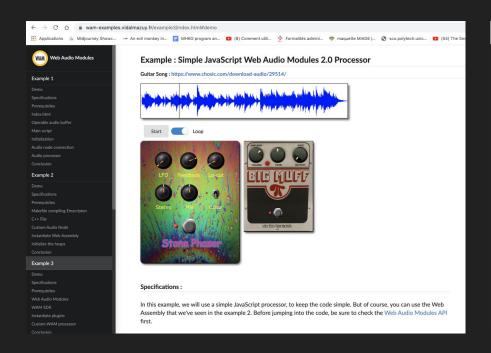
TinySynth, a GM syth without GUI. Accepts program

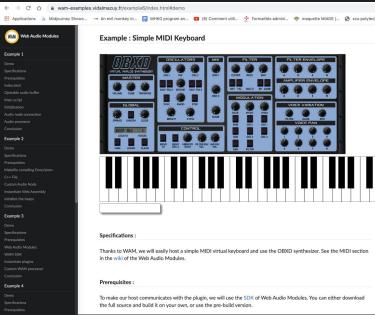




## WAM2 step by step tutorials

Several tutorials are available at <a href="https://wam-examples.vidalmazuy.fr/">https://wam-examples.vidalmazuy.fr/</a>

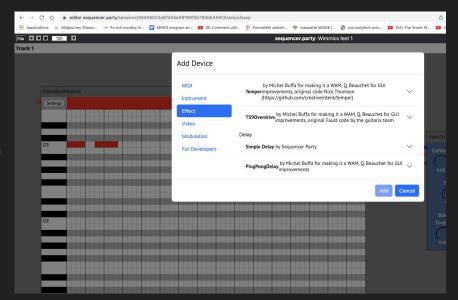




# Also, check the wam-community repository <a href="https://github.com/boourns/wam-community">https://github.com/boourns/wam-community</a>

Used by the community to publish and share "ready to use" plugins!

- Remember that a plugin is just a URI!
- Several dozens of plugins available,
   99% also available with source code to study (github.com/boourns/burns-audio-wam)
- Cover all classic effects, proposes some instruments and utilitary plugins.
- All plugins available in the <u>https://sequencer.party</u> host.



## Build a WebAssembly WAM in seconds with FAUST DSL



FAUST: a DSL for DSP programming, born in 2002 at GRAME-CNCM, France

Used in artistic productions, education and research, open source projects and commercial applications.

Faust offers end-users a high-level alternative to C/C++ to develop audio applications for a large variety of platforms.

The role of the Faust compiler is to synthesize the most efficient implementations for the target language (C, C++, LLVM, **WebAssembly**, etc.).

Online doc / tutorial so that you can experiment yourself, create, build GUI, export WAM2 plugins directly from the <u>FAUST online IDE</u>.

## Conclusion / Perspectives

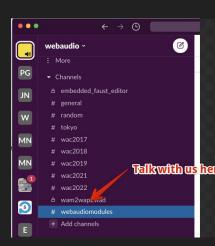
The WAM standard is stable now and comes with many examples.

**OUR MAIN CONCERN NOW: grow adoption, more users, more developers!** 

#### Things that will come soon:

- The wam-community repo is growing every week :-)
- The WAM SDK <u>has been extended to support 3D</u>
   <u>WebGL/GLSL/Video extensions</u>
- A WAM based DAW has been released and is open source
- More examples for developers: using WASM, in particular C++/WASM
- Remote plugin server with API

Join us on slack WebAudio channel / #webaudiomodules!



• Renwick, Robin. (2012). "SOURCENODE: A NETWORK SOURCED APPROACH TO NETWORK MUSIC PERFORMANCE (NMP).hdl:2027/spo.bbp2372.2012.057.

David Kim-Boyle (2009) Network Musics: Play, Engagement and the Democratization of Performance, Contemporary Music Review, 28:4-5, 363-375, DOI: 10.1080/07494460903422198 "the strategies employed in the work of these artists have helped redefine a new aesthetics of engagement in which play, spatial and temporal dislocation are amongst the genre's defining characteristics".

## digital creativity

Tanzi, D. (2005) - 'Musical objects and digital domains'. Proceedings of EMS-05 Conference. Montreal, Quebec, October 19-22, 2005

- the role of processes seems to assume more importance than their results
- the notions of non-linearity and erraticism have increasingly become part of creative processes
- digital creativity: digital objects can be modified by human-computer
  interaction more than ever, and that the formal connotations of a musical work
  may be re-tracked in an ever-changing way
- the interpretation of sonorous events has to deal with dynamism of inter-medial relationships
- relationships between musical subjectivity and the emotional indexes of sonorous space

- Schroeder, Franziska (2013). "Network[ed] Listening—Towards a De-centering of Beings". Contemporary Music Review. 32 (2–03): 215. doi:10.1080/07494467.2013.775807
  - fragile state of listening and de-centered kind of performative being
  - network[ed] listening posits listening as a corporeal and multi-dimensional experience that is continuously being re-shaped by technological, socio-political and cultural concerns.

## The question of "DEVICE" and digital creativity

¤ Simondon (1958, p. 175): coupling [man-machine] occurs when a single, complete function is fulfilled by both beings. Such a possibility exists whenever a technical function involves definite self-regulation [...] In the craft, this control by means of information gathering is frequent: man, being both the motor of the tool and the perceiving subject, regulates his action according to the instantaneous partial results. The tool is both a tool and an instrument [emphasis added], i.e. a means of action extending the organs and a channel for recurrent information.

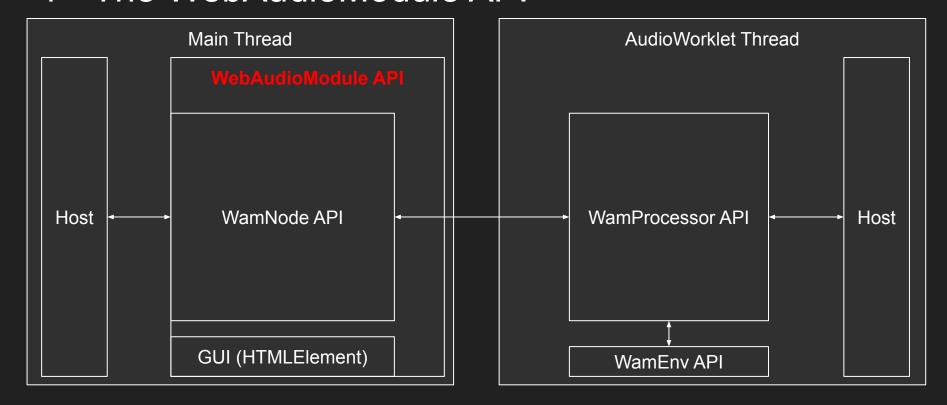
mes Moles (1972): the object is situated at the crossroads of an interaction when there is a conjunction between situation and act, so it is always included in a praxeological dimension.

### Device and creativity

Agamben (2014): "I call a device (p.31) anything that has, in one way or another, the capacity to capture, orientate, determine, intercept, model, control and ensure the gestures, conducts, opinions and discourses of living beings."

- The device ranges from the school to the pen, from the asylum to the cell phone.
- Foucault has thus shown how, in a disciplinary society, devices aim, through a series of practices and discourses, knowledge and exercises, to create docile yet free bodies that assume their identity and freedom as subjects in the very process of their subjection.
- The device is therefore, above all, a machine that produces subjectivation. Digital Creativity is a constant negotiation between the engagement in a NMP process or WAM interaction, non linear music production, and the freedom of music agency and literacy, in which serendipity could have a central role.

## Interact with a host, <u>be it in main or audio thread</u> 1 - The WebAudioModule API

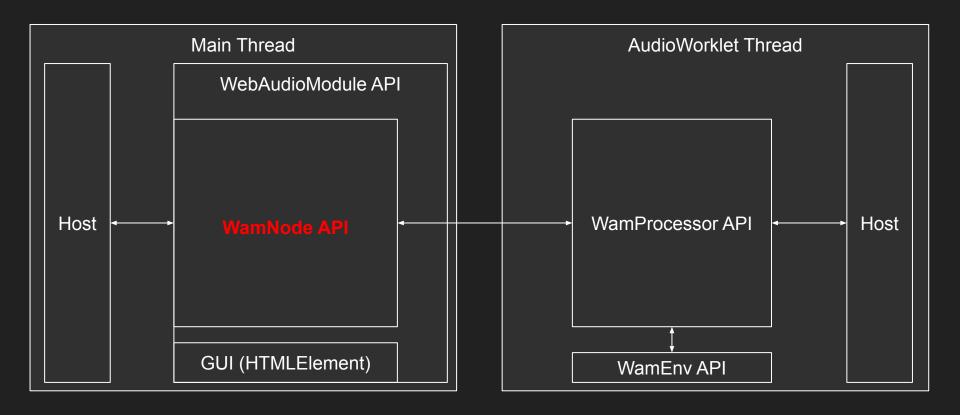


## A plugin = instance of a WAM = "a WAM" API - WebAudioModule

```
export interface WebAudioModule<Node extends WamNode = WamNode>
   /** should return `true` */
   readonly isWebAudioModule: boolean;
   /** The `AudioContext` where the plugin's node lives in */
   audioContext: BaseAudioContext;
    * The `AudioNode` that handles audio in the plugin
    * where the host can connect to/from
    audioNode: Node;
   /** This will return true after calling `initialize()`. */
   initialized: boolean;
   /** The identifier of the current WAM, composed of vender + name */
    readonly moduleId: string;
   /** The unique identifier of the current WAM instance. */
    readonly instanceId: string;
   /** The values from `descriptor.json` */
   readonly descriptor: WamDescriptor;
   /** The WAM's name */
   readonly name: string;
   /** The WAM Vendor's name */
   readonly vendor: string;
```

```
* This async method must be redefined to get `AudioNode` that
 * will connected to the host
 * It can be any object that extends `AudioNode` and implements `WamNode
createAudioNode(initialState?: any): Promise<WamNode>;
 * The host will call this method to initialize the WAM with an initial state.
 * In this method, WAM devs should call `createAudioNode()
 * and store its return `AudioNode` to `this.audioNode`.
 * then set `initialized` to `true` to ensure that
 * the `audioNode` property is available after initialized.
 * These two behaviors are implemented by default in the SDK.
 * The WAM devs can also fetch and preload the GUI Element in while initializing
initialize(state?: anv): Promise<WebAudioModule>;
/** Redefine this method to get the WAM's GUI as an HTML `Element`. */
createGui(): Promise<Element>;
/** Clean up an element previously returned by `createGui` */
destroyGui(gui: Element): void
```

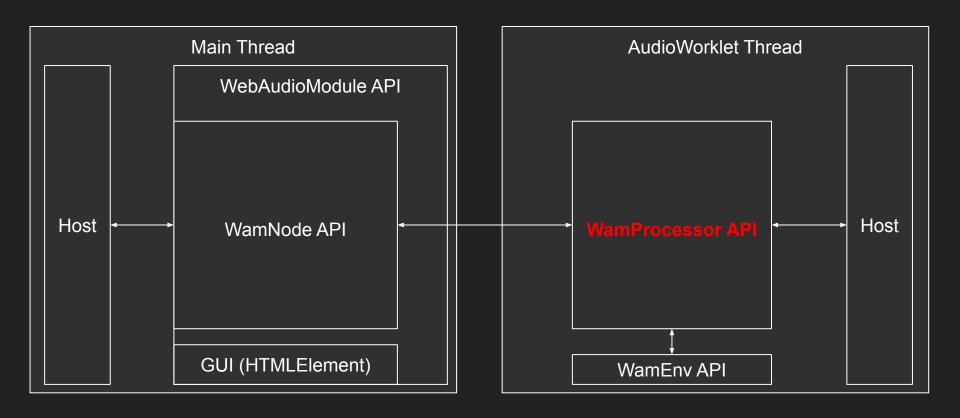
### 2 - The WamNode API



### A WAM contains a WamNode, here is the API

```
export interface WamNode extends AudioNode, Readonly < WamNode Options > {
   readonly module: WebAudioModule;
    /** Get parameter info for the specified parameter ids, or omit argument to get info for all parameters. */
   getParameterInfo(...parameterIdQuery: string[]): Promise<WamParameterInfoMap>;
    /** Get parameter values for the specified parameter ids, or omit argument to get values for all parameters. */
   qetParameterValues(normalized?: boolean, ...parameterIdQuery: string[]): Promise<WamParameterDataMap>;
    /** Set parameter values for the specified parameter ids. */
    setParameterValues(parameterValues: WamParameterDataMap): Promise<void>;
    /** Returns an object (such as JSON or a serialized blob) that can be used to restore the WAM's state. */
   getState(): Promise<any>;
   setState(state: anv): Promise<void>;
    /** Compensation delay hint in samples */
   getCompensationDelay(): Promise<number>;
    /** Register a callback function so it will be called when matching events are processed. */
    addEventListener<K extends keyof WamEventMap>(type: K, listener: (this: this, ev: CustomEventKamEventMap[K]>) => any, options?: boolean | AddEventListenerOptions): void;
    addEventListener(type: string, listener: (this: this, ev: CustomEvent) => any, options?: boolean | AddEventListenerOptions): void;
   addEventListener(type: string, listener: EventListenerOrEventListenerObject, options?: boolean | AddEventListenerOptions): void;
    /** Deregister a callback function so it will no longer be called when matching events are processed. */
    removeEventListener<K extends keyof WamEventMap>(type: K, listener: (this: this, ev: CustomEvent<WamEventMap[K]>) => any, options?: boolean | EventListenerOptions): void;
   removeEventListener(type: string, listener: (this: this, ev: CustomEvent) => any, options?: boolean | AddEventListenerOptions): void;
    removeEventListener(type: string, listener; EventListenerOrEventListenerObject, options?: boolean | EventListenerOptions): void;
    /** Schedule a WamEvent. Listeners will be triggered when the event is processed. */
   scheduleEvents(...event: WamEvent[]): void;
   /** Clear all pending WamEvents. */
   clearEvents(): void;
    /** Connect an event output stream to another WAM. If no output index is given, assume output 0. */
    connectEvents(to: WamNode, output?: number): void;
    /** Disconnect an event output stream from another WAM. If no arguments are given, all event streams will be disconnected. */
   disconnectEvents(to?: WamNode, output?: number): void;
    /** Stop processing and remove the node from the graph. */
   destroy(): void:
```

### 3 - The WamProcessor API



## WAMs also have an explicit/implicit WamProcessor API - WamProcessor

```
export interface WamProcessor extends AudioWorkletProcessor {
   readonly moduleId: string;
   readonly instanceId: string;
   /** Compensation delay hint in seconds. */
   getCompensationDelay(): number;
   /** Schedule a WamEvent. Listeners will be triggered when the event is processed. */
   scheduleEvents(...event: WamEvent[]): void;
   /** Schedule events for all the downstream WAMs */
   emitEvents(...events: WamEvent[]): void;
   /** Clear all pending WamEvents. */
   clearEvents(): void;
   /** Process a block of samples. Note that `parameters` argument is ignored. */
   Process(inputs: Float32Array[][],outputs: Float32Array[][],parameters: Record<string, Float32Array>): boolean;
   /** Stop processing and remove the node from the WAM event graph. */
   destroy(): void;
```

## WamEnv and WamGroup: manage plugin chains

Send events downstream to a list of chained plugins..., manage group (states) etc.

