Barista Overview

Through numerous projects at RDA we find the same patterns over numerous custom SharePoint projects. We sat down and thought about we could create that would free developers from the time consuming tasks required when building custom SharePoint applications. Further, we thought about the pain points facing customers and ways to minimize them.

The result is the Barista platform.

**What Is Barista?**

Barista is a platform that allows line-of-business developers to create powerful server-side services to power the most challenging business applications. With Barista, you can leverage existing investments in SharePoint but accelerate custom projects by minimizing the level of effort required to deploy custom solutions. Developers can immediately get started developing applications without need for traditional processes that slow development effort and increase the opportunity for error.

**Focus on your application, not the infrastructure.**

Once deployed to a SharePoint environment, Barista frees developers from time-consuming application-level deployments, allowing them to focus on the task at hand, shorting the development cycle. By simplifying the developer experience, this allows more time spent on actually developing and tuning the application – increasing application quality. Barista scripts live within SharePoint document libraries, allowing them to be easily secured, versioned and published with existing SharePoint functionality.

**Apps made easy.**

Barista uses the same language that UI developers are familiar with and provides a development environment that works in the browser. This minimizes the skillset required for developing custom SharePoint applications, allowing for less technical developers to staff custom development projects that utilize SharePoint. From a developer perspective, Barista provides the ability to write and immediately see the outcome of code changes. With Barista, developers create server-side REST based APIs that respond to changes in real-time.

**Performant, Scalable and safe.**

Barista uses the same service application model that out-of-the-box SharePoint solutions, such as search, uses. This allows applications to be isolated from one another, as well as to scale as need arises. Barista scripts execute in a sandboxed environment, so farms will not be taken down by errant code that made it through testing.

**Upgradable.**

Upgrading custom development projects between versions of SharePoint has traditionally been a painful experience. Barista abstracts the underlying SharePoint object model such that whole application scripts can stay the same, Barista provides the required under-the-scenes changes required for the scripts to work in later versions of SharePoint.

**Ready for the Cloud.**

The Barista architecture is interoperable and independent of the SharePoint environment. Once you create Barista applications you can run them on premises or cloud hosted - providing you for maximum flexibility.

Future versions of Barista will wrap the SharePoint 2013 client object model, allowing for painless interaction with hosted SharePoint environments.

## Summary

* Accelerates custom SharePoint application development.
* Reduced need for individual development environments for developers.
* Isolated development environment – Multiple developers are able to develop in a single environment.
* Ability to be agile with test/deploy.
* Minimize farm-wide deployments for application-level code.
* Ease of installation and operation.
* Scalable and expandable.
* Reduces the level of technical specialty needed in building SharePoint solutions.
* Substantial cost savings in managing Farm Solutions in the enterprise. (Something about this being the same as the 2nd bullet point – how to find the value???)
* Cloud points and reduced confusion..
* Reduced costs Scripts are developed right in the browser – Visual Studio is not required for developing scripts.

## Additional Information

**Speed.**

Barista scripts are JIT compiled and run at .Net speed. Similar to aspx pages, service scripts are compiled to IL when they’re first accessed, allowing services to be nearly as fast as compiled code.

**Access Existing Data.**

Developers can free themselves from creating plumbing code. Barista currently offers a number of bundles that allow API developers the ability to interact with various object models and formats.

Through the Web bundle, accessing any generic available REST APIs on the web is an important capability. As external calls are executed server side, Cross-Domain Scripting models (JSONP/CORS/SharePoint Cross Domain Library) are not required to aggregate multiple data sources into one Barista Service.

**Extensibility**

Barista scripts are ECMA5 compliant – so any JS library available that does not interact with the DOM can be utilized from Barista. This includes libraries written for node.js such as Moment, Sugar, and others.

Additionally, Barista provides for an extensibility model that allows for additional .NET components to be wrapped and exposed to the Barista scripting engine.

Questions:

Where is the value – in or outside of sharepoint? Concensus is that the focus is on SharePoint.