

Front end architecture discussion

transcript

Below is a transcript take from a Skype Chat discussing our approach to the front-end application architecture.

[07/02/2014 14:05:14] Kevin Corry: should we rename the templates to have 'view' on the end? ie dashboardView

[07/02/2014 14:05:33] Kevin Corry: so that the view class can just use the constructor name to pick up which template to use?

[07/02/2014 14:07:07] Brian Quinn: i can see how that would make it handier to infer the template from the view name

[07/02/2014 14:07:34] Brian Quinn: but it could read to confusion in the fact that you'd have dashboardView.hbs and dashboardView.js

[07/02/2014 14:07:44] Brian Quinn: or not

[07/02/2014 14:08:03] Brian Quinn: is it a good convention that each view has a corresponding template?

[07/02/2014 14:08:29] Kevin Corry: I think it might be, dashboard.hbs is near enough the same thing

[07/02/2014 14:09:19] Ryan Adams: is there a one to one mapping between a view and the template?

[07/02/2014 14:09:42] Ryan Adams: does CourseView.js handle lists of courses as well as showing a single course?

[07/02/2014 14:09:54] Ryan Adams: (forgive my ignorance of the framework)

[07/02/2014 14:10:27] Ryan Adams: i can imagine that we might have admin-dashboard.hbs and user-dashboard.hbs for example.

[07/02/2014 14:11:21] Brian Quinn: in that case Ryan, dashboard.hbs could support different roles in the template

[07/02/2014 14:11:50] Brian Quinn: with some kind of `{{if isAdmin }}`

[07/02/2014 14:11:51] Brian Quinn: or something

[07/02/2014 14:11:53] Ryan Adams: but maybe templates shouldn't have logic like that?

[07/02/2014 14:13:04] Kevin Corry: or you could instantiate it with

```
new DashboardView({template: 'admin-dashboard'});
```

or

```
new DashboardView({template: 'user-dashboard'});
```

depending on what you're rendering?

[07/02/2014 14:13:32] Kevin Corry: or have an AdminDashboardView class?

[07/02/2014 14:13:47] Daryl Hedley: do the logic way man - it's what hanldebars was built for

[07/02/2014 14:13:56] Daryl Hedley: plus jade templates do a similar thing

[07/02/2014 14:14:18] Daryl Hedley: I think putting view at the end allows you separate them out into proper modules

[07/02/2014 14:14:31] Daryl Hedley: (which I think the files should be placed)

[07/02/2014 14:14:36] Daryl Hedley: so you might have

[07/02/2014 14:14:53] Ryan Adams: i don't think you need "view" as the .hbs makes it clear what it is.

[07/02/2014 14:15:00] Daryl Hedley: dashboard/

js/

less/

tempaltes/

[07/02/2014 14:15:02] Daryl Hedley: etc

[07/02/2014 14:15:37] Ryan Adams: i think the module approach is sensible.

[07/02/2014 14:15:51] Kevin Corry: The guys had an idea of picking up the corresponding hbs based on the current class, that's where this was coming from

[07/02/2014 14:16:02] Ryan Adams: i think kevin's suggestion is good too, but perhaps there's a default option which maps to the name of the current class

[07/02/2014 14:16:27] Ryan Adams: so if you don't provide the "template" option in the constructor it falls back to classname

[07/02/2014 14:16:34] Daryl Hedley: what about having it like the extensions in the framework

[07/02/2014 14:16:49] Daryl Hedley: so you have the folder structure above and files like this

[07/02/2014 14:17:47] Daryl Hedley: dashboard/

js/

views/

dashboard.js

models/

dashboard.js

templates/

dashboard.hbs

[07/02/2014 14:17:55] Daryl Hedley: only thing with this is the console.logs

[07/02/2014 14:18:08] Daryl Hedley: if I have a

console or error and I want to debug it

[07/02/2014 14:18:18] Daryl Hedley: supposedly it's in dashboard.js

[07/02/2014 14:18:21] Daryl Hedley: which one?

[07/02/2014 14:19:14] Brian Quinn: i'm not sure about that structure

[07/02/2014 14:19:23] Ryan Adams: hmm, models have wider use than single extensions

[07/02/2014 14:19:43] Ryan Adams: a Course model is going to be used in Dashboard, Course, Publish, (making these extensions up)

[07/02/2014 14:20:53] Daryl Hedley: yeah but there should be one place you look for them - either in a models folder - which will get overwhelming and far too many files

[07/02/2014 14:20:59] Daryl Hedley: or in the individual module folders

[07/02/2014 14:21:49] Brian Quinn: i'm happy enough for them to be in a Models folder, but i think we should append the fact that it's a Model to the filename

[07/02/2014 14:22:18] Brian Quinn: for debugging, as you said

[07/02/2014 14:22:25] Daryl Hedley: can I bring up a previous experience of doing that and suggest why it's a bad idea of putting them all in one folder

[07/02/2014 14:22:33] Brian Quinn: plus it's already convention that the class name matches the .js

[07/02/2014 14:22:33] Dennis Heaney: for the automagic template name, just submitting the fiddle again for ryan: <http://jsfiddle.net/LghzE/4/>

[07/02/2014 14:22:57] Brian Quinn: i was referring to Daryl's proposed folder structure above

[07/02/2014 14:23:11] Dennis Heaney: i also think a filename should be specific: projectModel.js, projectView.js

[07/02/2014 14:23:36] Dennis Heaney: I also think it's ok to have projectView.hbs, since we may have templates for things that aren't views

[07/02/2014 14:24:07] Dennis Heaney: what those things might be, i don't know yet - maybe partials, if my assumption about partials are correct

[07/02/2014 14:24:11] Ryan Adams: I don't like the duplication in Models/ProjectModel.js - it smells bad to me.

[07/02/2014 14:24:11] Daryl Hedley sent a file to this group:

Screen Shot 2014-02-07 at 14.23.47.png

[07/02/2014 14:24:20] Daryl Hedley: we had this in the old adapt and it's a pain

[07/02/2014 14:24:49] Ryan Adams: why?

[07/02/2014 14:25:02] Ryan Adams: is it a failure by your development environment?

[07/02/2014 14:25:11] Dennis Heaney: ryan: the class inside projectModel.js is called ProjectModel, so i think it's fair

[07/02/2014 14:25:25] Daryl Hedley: what about this

[07/02/2014 14:25:29] Ryan Adams: doesn't mean I have to like it!!

[07/02/2014 14:25:33] Dennis Heaney: more descriptive is better

[07/02/2014 14:25:35] Dennis Heaney: lol

[07/02/2014 14:25:42] Daryl Hedley: dashboard/
js/
 dashboardView.js
 dashboardModel.js

[07/02/2014 14:26:05] Brian Quinn: i'm happy with that too

[07/02/2014 14:26:32] Ryan Adams: of course, dashboard/js/ is duplicative...

[07/02/2014 14:26:36] Dennis Heaney: js/
dashboard/
 dashboardView.js
 dashboardModel.js

[07/02/2014 14:26:37] Dennis Heaney: ?

[07/02/2014 14:26:38] Ryan Adams: Ryan Adams stops trolling

[07/02/2014 14:26:41] Dennis Heaney: lol

[07/02/2014 14:27:01] Dennis Heaney: Dennis Heaney is loving the mischievous ryan today

[07/02/2014 14:27:15] Ryan Adams: you've distracted me from my app projects...

[07/02/2014 14:27:22] Dennis Heaney: Dennis Heaney wonders if he's been drinking ...

[07/02/2014 14:27:44] Ryan Adams: just coffee and eating caramel squares...

[07/02/2014 14:27:52] Dennis Heaney: ah, sugar overload

[07/02/2014 14:28:10] Brian Quinn: i think either of the above two options is better than the current structure

[07/02/2014 14:28:25] Daryl Hedley: separate them out into modules

[07/02/2014 14:28:32] Daryl Hedley: you then know where to look faster

[07/02/2014 14:28:36] Daryl Hedley: ;-)

[07/02/2014 14:28:42] Brian Quinn: so

[07/02/2014 14:28:49] Brian Quinn: login is a module, dashboard is a module?

[07/02/2014 14:29:06] Ryan Adams: i'd say login was a behaviour of a user module

[07/02/2014 14:29:08] Daryl Hedley: yeah

[07/02/2014 14:29:16] Dennis Heaney: bingo

[07/02/2014 14:29:23] Brian Quinn: there is a forgotten password component to it too

[07/02/2014 14:29:33] Ryan Adams: dashboard might be a user module action as well actually.

[07/02/2014 14:29:46] Robert Moore: so

/user

 editView.js

 loginView.js

[07/02/2014 14:29:48] Robert Moore: works well I'm coming round to it especially without the extra js folder

[07/02/2014 14:29:58] Brian Quinn: i like it, Rob

[07/02/2014 14:30:09] Brian Quinn: throw the login, forgot password and profile stuff in there

[07/02/2014 14:30:35] Ryan Adams: who's writing up this architecture by the way?

[07/02/2014 14:30:43] Robert Moore: lol didn't mean to edit ^

[07/02/2014 14:30:45] Daryl Hedley: I think that the way requireJS is set up suits this

[07/02/2014 14:31:05] Dennis Heaney: whoever pushes the commit that adds the structure should write the architecture doc

[07/02/2014 14:31:21] Daryl Hedley: haha

[07/02/2014 14:31:22] Dennis Heaney: eeny meeny miny moe

[07/02/2014 14:31:24] Daryl Hedley: I agree

[07/02/2014 14:31:38] Ryan Adams: i'd prefer a short description of the architecture before we start coding

(even if only a short paragraph or two)

[07/02/2014 14:31:58] Ryan Adams: i don't feel qualified enough to do it though.

[07/02/2014 14:32:18] Dennis Heaney: ah, but isn't the code it's own documentation /zen

[07/02/2014 14:32:26] Ryan Adams: yes.

[07/02/2014 14:32:30] Daryl Hedley: woah...that's deep man!

[07/02/2014 14:32:34] Ryan Adams: when did you last see that work well?

[07/02/2014 14:32:41] Dennis Heaney: in anything i write

[07/02/2014 14:32:48] Dennis Heaney: that i look at again within two weeks

[07/02/2014 14:32:56] Dennis Heaney: anything outside that timeframe: never

[07/02/2014 14:33:39] Ryan Adams: do we even have a high-level description of what we're planning to do here? (node.js backend, backbone driven front-end)

[07/02/2014 14:34:03] Dennis Heaney: we have some architecture docs from last november I think

[07/02/2014 14:34:08] Robert Moore: aww the sugar overload has worn off, serious Ryan is back :(

[07/02/2014 14:34:09] Dennis Heaney: in the documentation repo

[07/02/2014 14:34:20] Ryan Adams: i'm always serious...

[07/02/2014 14:34:25] Dennis Heaney: we should update it

[07/02/2014 14:34:54] Dennis Heaney: Dennis Heaney waits for someone to ask ryan "why so serious"

[07/02/2014 14:35:25] Dennis Heaney: sorry, since ryan started doing the /me stuff i can't stop

[07/02/2014 14:35:34] Dennis Heaney: Dennis Heaney stops

[07/02/2014 14:35:44] Ryan Adams: Ryan Adams wonders whether we should all talk in asides.

[07/02/2014 14:36:24] Dennis Heaney: nope, not rising to it, ryan

[07/02/2014 14:36:34] Ryan Adams: Ryan Adams is disappointed.

[07/02/2014 14:37:10] Dennis Heaney: truly, though, I think if someone makes a pull request for the change, we can have our review of it, and then write the docs for it

[07/02/2014 14:37:38] Dennis Heaney: we should be hitting the ground running on monday, and pre-requiring the doc might slow us down