

Building WordPress sites with AngularJS and the RESTful plugin JSON API

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Introduction

Web Development is Changing...

- Modern web development
 - Less Server Platform (PHP, Java, .NET)
 - More Web Browser Platform (JavaScript)
- Modern web applications
 - Web server is a repository of user interface templates (HTML, CSS, JS resources) and it provides access to data
 - Binding of templates and data is handled through JavaScript frameworks on the web browser
 - Navigating from page to page is handled by Web Browser based JavaScript routing systems that do not involve reloading the entire page from the server
 - Web browsers use AJAX to send/receive data to/from RESTful services provided by the web server

Introduction

WordPress (and other Content Management Systems)

- When people think WordPress, they think blogging software
 - But really, WordPress is so much more... Truly, its a very powerful, extensible and capable Content Management System
- WordPress has been around for a long time, is well tested, well supported by a huge community of bloggers, developers, plugin & theme providers
- WordPress is a great tool but it was also developed in an earlier time when web applications were more server-driven and less browser-driven
- Out of the box
 - WordPress relies upon the server for all processing of the user interface
 - Real JavaScript functionality is limited

Introduction

Transforming WordPress

- WordPress does not have to be limited to older server-driven techniques
- To bring WordPress into the next generation of web apps
 - Create themes that leverage the power of JavaScript libraries such as KnockoutJS, EmberJS and AngularJS.
 - Employ plugins which provides RESTful services that provide access to core WordPress data
- The result
 - Blogs and websites which perform better with the latest development technologies

Introduction

Goals for Today...

- Inform you of the changing landscape of web development with WordPress (or really any other web development platform)
- Demonstrate one of the many technologies changing web development today, AngularJS within the context of WordCamp
- Persuade you to focus less on the server and embrace JavaScript (and its many frameworks) and the Web Browser (as a true platform not just a viewer) for sophisticated and powerful web applications

Let's Get Started...

What we will cover

- Starting with a clean copy of WordPress
 - Create a new theme
 - Add AngularJS to the theme
 - On the blog home page, replace the usual list of blog entries with an AngularJS powered list
 - Install the RESTful JSON API Plugin
 - Use AngularJS to display a specific blog entry