

Templating

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Outline

- Client-side templating
- Underscore.js templates
- Handlebars templates
- Pre-compiling templates

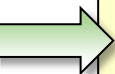
Client-side Templating

- Dynamically build markup from a template and some data
- All but the simplest UI elements will require templating
- Templating happens in the view's render method

Underscore templates


- Backbone requires underscore, underscore can render templates
- There are three valid types of code blocks:
- `<% ... %>`
 - Execute arbitrary code
- `<%= ... %>`
 - Evaluate an expression and render the result inline
- `<%- ... %>`
 - Evaluate an expression and render the html escaped result inline

Underscore templates (cont.)



```
var V = Backbone.View.extend({  
  render: function () {  
    var data = { lat: -27, lon: 153 };  
    this.$el.html(  
      _.template('<%= lat %> <%= lon %>', data ));  
    return this;  
  }  
});
```

Underscore templates (cont.)



```
<script id="latlon-template" type="text/html">
  <p>Latitude: <%= lat %></p>
  <p>Longitude: <%= lon %></p>
  <% _([1,2,3]).each(function (number) { %>
    <p>
      <%= number %>
    </p>
  <% }); %>
</script>
```

Script Tag Templates

- Templates can be stored inside script tags with a non-JavaScript 'type' attribute

```
<script id="latlon-template" type="text/html">  
  <p>Latitude: <%= lat %></p>  
  <p>Longitude: <%= lon %></p>  
</script>
```

- Accessed on demand with jQuery

```
var template = $('#latlon-template').html();
```

Handlebars

- Templating engine based on mustache
- Philosophically opposed to code in templates
- Code blocks are delimited by `{{ .. }}`

```
<p>Latitude: {{lat}}</p>  
<p>Longitude: {{lon}}</p>  
{{#each numbers}}  
  <p>  
    {{this}}  
  </p>  
{{/each}}
```

substitution

looping

Handlebars (cont.)

- Rendering is a two stage process
 - Compile
 - Execute

Compile

```
var source = '<p>Latitude: {{lat}}</p>';  
var compiled = Handlebars.compile(source);
```

Execute

```
var rendered = compiled({lat: -27});  
// rendered === <p>Latitude: -27</p>
```

Pre-compiling Templates

- **Compiling a template == converting to a function**

Underscore compilation

```
var source = '<p>Latitude: <%= lat %></p>';  
var compiled = _.template(source);
```

- **Pre-compile templates for performance**
- **Script compilation as a build step**

Pre-compiling Templates (cont.)

- Handlebars includes support for pre-compiling file-based templates

Handlebars pre-compilation (console)

```
handlebars <input> -f <output>
```

Summary

- **Templating is a core dependency for client-side applications**
- **Underscore.js includes templating and is required by Backbone.js**
- **Handlebars supports semantic templates**
 - Has a powerful pre-compilation tool