

ClojureScript

interfaces to React


Michiel Borkent

[@borkdude](https://twitter.com/borkdude)

Øredev, November 6th 2014



Michiel Borkent ([@borkdude](https://twitter.com/borkdude))

- Clojure(Script) developer at  **FINALIST**
open IT oplossingen
- Clojure since 2009
- Former lecturer, taught Clojure

Full Clojure stack example @ Finalist

Commercial app.

Fairly complex UI

- Menu: 2 "pages"

Page 1:

Dashboard. Create new or select existing entity to work on.

Then:

- Wizard 1
 - Step 1..5
 - Each step has a component
- Wizard 1 - Step2
 - Wizard 2
 - Step 1'
 - Step 2'

Bestellingen

81%

Product

Kenmerken

Gebied

Ranking

Bestellen

Categorie

Aardoom

Product

Test

Aantal

200

Vorige

Volgende

Terug naar dashboard

Full Clojure stack examples @ Finalist

Step 2 of inner wizard:

- Three dependent dropdowns + backing ajax calls
- Crud table of added items + option to remove
- When done: create something based on all of this on server and reload entire "model" based on what server says

Because of React + Om we didn't have to think about updating DOM performantly or keeping "model" up to date.

Bestellingen

Step 2.

Omschrijving Bla Dataset

Na het toevoegen van één of meerdere variabelen kan de regel worden opgeslagen.

Categorie

Subcategorie

Variabele

Voeg toe

Hoofdcategorie	Subcategorie	Beschrijving
Automotive		
		gezin jongste kind

Vorige

Volgende

Opslaan

Agenda

- What is React?
- Om
- Reagent

What is React?

React

- Developed by Facebook
- Helps building reusable and composable UI components
- Unidirectional Data Flow
- Less need for re-rendering logic
- Leverages virtual DOM for performance
- Can render on server to make apps crawlable

```
/** @jsx React.DOM */
```

```
var Counter = React.createClass({  
  getInitialState: function() {  
    return {counter: this.props.initialCount};  
  },  
  inc: function() {  
    this.setState({counter: this.state.counter + 1});  
  },  
  render: function() {  
    return <div>  
      {this.state.counter}  
      <button onClick={this.inc}>x</button>  
    </div>;  
  }  
});
```

```
React.renderComponent(<Counter initialCount={10}/>, document.body);
```

10



ClojureScript interfaces

Prior knowledge

```
(def my-atom (atom 0))  
@my-atom ;; 0  
(reset! my-atom 1)  
(reset! my-atom (inc @my-atom)) ;; bad idiom  
(swap! my-atom (fn [old-value]  
                  (inc old-value)))  
(swap! my-atom inc) ;; same  
@my-atom ;; 4
```

Before React: manual DOM edits

```
(add-watch greeting-form :form-change-key
  (fn [k r o n]
    (dispatch/fire :form-change {:old o :new n})))

(dispatch/react-to #{:form-change}
  (fn [_ m]
    (doseq [s (form-fields-status m)]
      (render-form-field s))
    (render-button [(-> m :old :status)
                    (-> m :new :status)] )))
```

source: <http://clojurescriptone.com/documentation.html>

ClojureScript interfaces

Om - David Nolen

★ Star 2,917



initial commit

swannodette authored on Dec 3, 2013



cfb4639



Reagent (was: Cloact) - Dan Holmsand

★ Star 651



Initial version

holmsand authored on Dec 16, 2013



12566ce



Quiescent - Luke vanderHart

★ Star 262



Initial commit

levand authored on Feb 4



35db9a0



React + ClojureScript

Both Om and Reagent leverage:

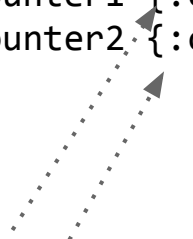
- immutability for faster comparison in `shouldComponentUpdate`
- Fewer redraws by batching updates with `requestAnimationFrame`

Om

- Opinionated library by David Nolen
- One atom for app state
- Props: narrowed scope of app state (cursor)

```
(def app-state (atom {:counter1 {:count 10}
                      :counter2 {:count 11}}))

(defn main [app owner]
  (om/component
    (dom/div nil
      (om/build counter (:counter1 app))
      (om/build counter (:counter2 app))))))
```



Om

- Communication between components via
 - setting init-state / state (parent -> child)
 - callbacks (child -> parent)
 - app-state
 - `core.async`
- Explicit hooks into React lifecycle via ClojureScript protocols
- Follows React semantics closely (e.g. local state changes cause re-rendering)

```
(def app-state (atom {:counter 10}))
```

```
(defn app-state-counter [app owner]
```

```
  (reify
```

```
    om/IRender
```

```
    (render [_]
```

```
      (dom/div nil
```

```
        (:counter app)
```

```
        (dom/button
```

```
          #js {:onClick
```

```
            #(om/transact! app :counter inc)}
```

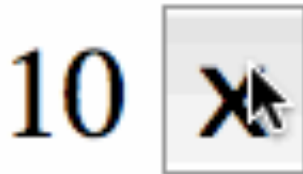
```
            "x"))))))
```

```
(om/root
```

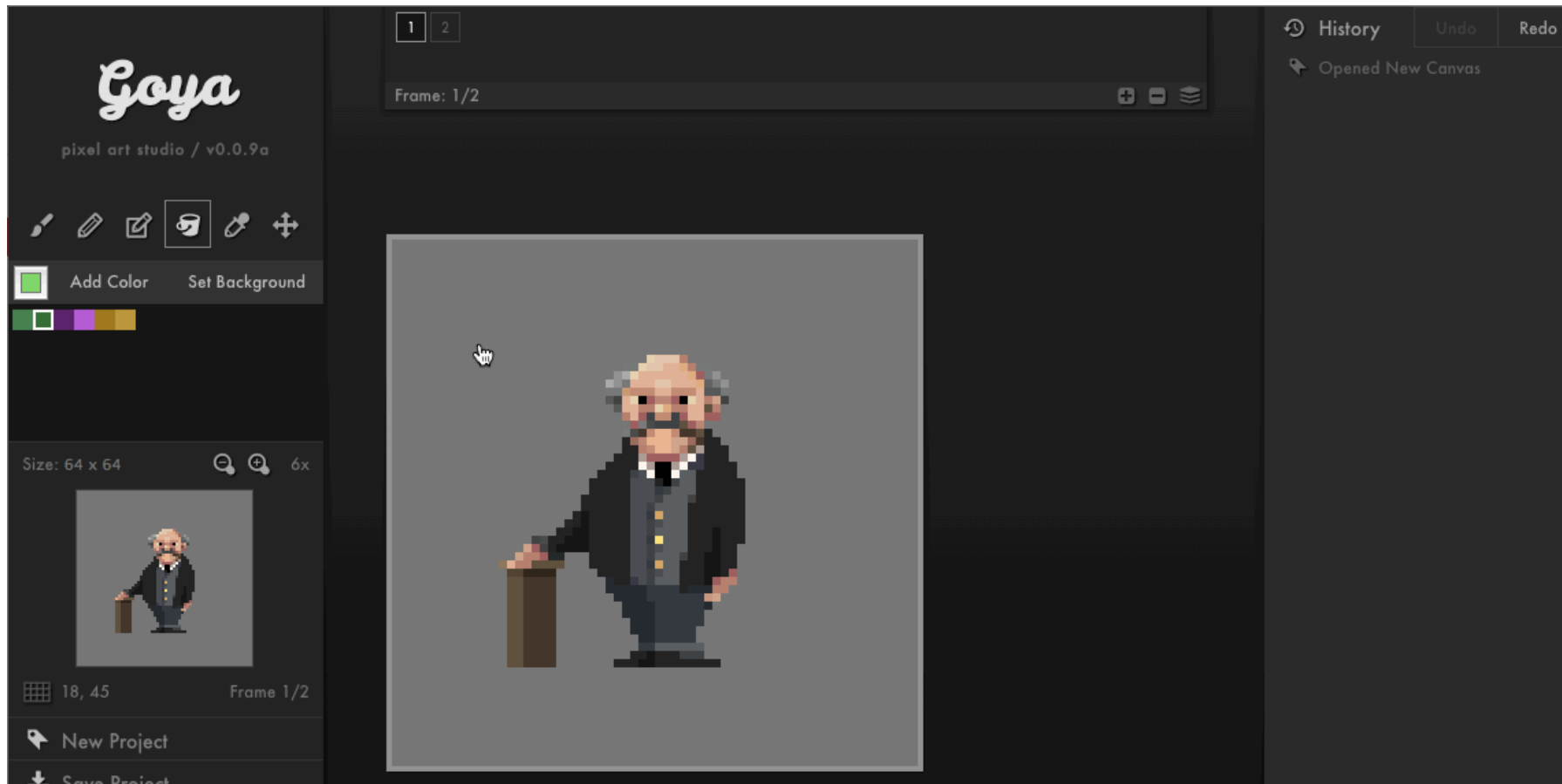
```
  app-state-counter
```

```
  app-state
```

```
  {:target (. js/document (getElementById "app"))})
```

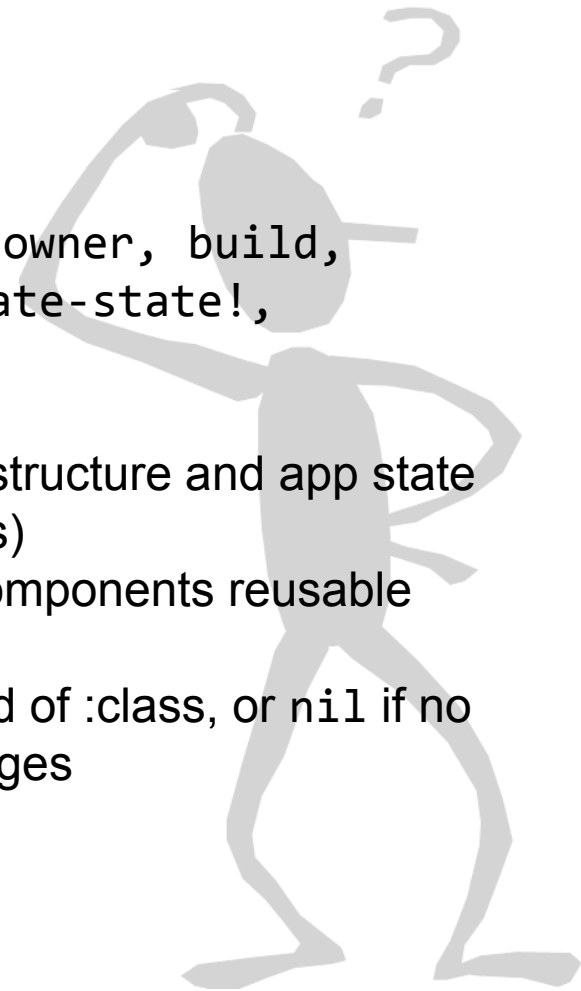


Goya pixel editor



Some catches

- Large vocabulary around cursors: `app(-state)`, `owner`, `build`, `cursors`, `ref-cursors`, `root`, `update!`, `update-state!`, `transact!`, `opts`
- Cursor behaves differently depending on lifecycle
- Strong correspondence between component tree structure and app state structure (`ref-cursors` are supposed to solve this)
- Heavy use of callbacks or `core.async` to make components reusable (should not rely on `app-state`)
- Omission of `#js` reader literal, `:className` instead of `:class`, or `nil` if no attributes used, fails silently or cryptic error messages



Reagent

Reagent

Uses RAtoms for state management

Components are 'just functions'TM that

- **must** return something renderable by React
- **can** deref RAtom(s)
- **can** accept props as args
- **may** return a closure, useful for setting up initial state

Reagent

- Components should be called like
[component args] instead of
(component args)
- Components are re-rendered when
 - props (args) change
 - referred RAtoms change
- Hook into React lifecycle via metadata on component functions

```
(def component
  (with-meta
    (fn [x]
      [:p "Hello " x ", it is " (:day @time-state)])
    {:component-will-mount #(println "called before mounting")
     :component-did-update #(js/alert "called after updating")} ))
```

RAtom

```
(def count-state (atom 10))
```

```
(defn counter []  
  [:div  
    @count-state  
    [:button {:on-click #(swap! count-state inc)}  
      "x"]])
```

```
(reagent/render-component [counter]  
  (js/document.getElementById "app"))
```

10



```
(defn local-counter [start-value]
  (let [count-state (atom start-value)]
    (fn []
      [:div
       @count-state
       [:button {:on-click #(swap! count-state inc)}
        "x"]]))))
```

local
RAtom

10



```
(reagent/render-component [local-counter 10]
  (js/document.getElementById "app"))
```

CRUD!

Name	Species		
Aardwolf	Proteles cristata	Edit	×
Atlantic salmon	Salmo salar	Edit	×
Curled octopus	Eledone cirrhosa	Edit	×
Dung beetle	Scarabaeus sacer	Edit	×
Gnu	Connochaetes gnou	Edit	×
Horny toad	Phrynosoma cornutum	Edit	×
Painted-snipe	Rostratulidae	Edit	×
Yellow-backed duiker	Cephalophus silvicultor	Edit	×
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Add	

RAtom with set containing
animal hash-maps

```
(def animals-state (atom #{}))

(go (let [response
          (<! (http/get "/animals"))
          data (:body response)]
      (reset! animals-state (set data))))
```

```
(...
{:id 2,
 :type :animal,
 :name "Yellow-backed duiker",
 :species "Cephalophus silvicultor"}
{:id 1,
 :type :animal,
 :name "Painted-snipe",
 :species "Rostratulidae"})
```

Render all animals from state

```
(defn animals []  
  [:div  
    [:table.table.table-striped  
      [:thead  
        [:tr  
          [:th "Name"] [:th "Species"] [:th ""] [:th ""]]]  
      [:tbody  
        (map (fn [a]  
          ^{:key (str "animal-row-" (:id a))}  
            [animal-row a])  
          (sort-by :name @animals-state))  
        [animal-form]]]]])
```

key needed for React to keep track of rows

a row component for each animal

form to create new animal

Name	Species		
Aardwolf	Proteles cristata	Edit	×
Atlantic salmon	Salmo salar	Edit	×
Curled octopus	Eledone cirrhosa	Edit	×
Dung beetle	Scarabaeus sacer	Edit	×
Gnu	Connochaetes gnou	Edit	×
Horny toad	Phrynosoma cornutum	Edit	×
Painted-snipe	Rostratulidae	Edit	×
Yellow-backed duiker	Cephalophus silvicultor	Edit	×
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Add	

```

(defn animal-row [a]
  (let [row-state (atom {:editing? false
                        :name      (:name a)
                        :species   (:species a)})]
    current-animal (fn []
                     (assoc a
                          :name (:name @row-state)
                          :species (:species @row-state))))
  (fn []
    [:tr
     [:td [editable-input row-state :name]]
     [:td [editable-input row-state :species]]
     [:td [:button.btn.btn-primary.pull-right
           {:disabled (not (input-valid? row-state))
            :onClick (fn []
                       (when (:editing? @row-state)
                         (update-animal! (current-animal)))
                       (swap! row-state update-in [:editing?] not)))}
          (if (:editing? @row-state) "Save" "Edit")]]
     [:td [:button.btn.pull-right.btn-danger
           {:onClick #(remove-animal! (current-animal))}
           "\u00D7"]]]]))

```

Yellow-backed duiker

Cephalophus silvicultor

Edit

×

Yellow-backed pony

Cephalophus silvicultor

Save

×

```
(defn field-input-handler
```

```
  "Returns a handler that updates value in atom map,  
  under key, with value from onChange event"
```

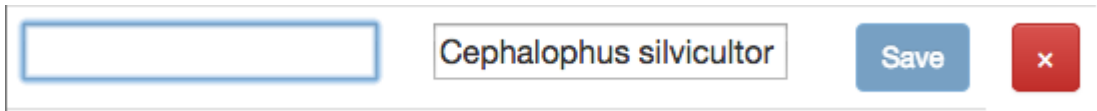
```
  [atom key]
```

```
  (fn [e]
```

```
    (swap! atom
```

```
      assoc key
```

```
      (.. e -target -value))))
```



A UI mockup showing a text input field, a text box containing "Cephalophus silvicultor", a blue "Save" button, and a red "x" button. A dotted arrow points from the "field-input-handler" function definition to the input field.

```
(defn input-valid? [atom]
```

```
  (and (seq (-> @atom :name))
```

```
        (seq (-> @atom :species)))))
```

```
(defn editable-input [atom key]
```

```
  (if (:editing? @atom)
```

```
    [:input {:type "text"
```

```
      :value (get @atom key)
```

```
      :onChange (field-input-handler atom key)}}]
```

```
    [:p (get @atom key)]))
```

```
(defn remove-animal! [a]
  (go (let [response
            (<! (http/delete (str "/animals/"
                                (:id a))))]
        (if (= (:status response)
                200)
            (swap! animals-state disj a))))))
```

if server says:
"OK!", delete
animal from
CRUD table

```
(defn update-animal! [a]
  (go (let [response
            (<! (http/put (str "/animals/" (:id a))
                          {:edn-params a}))
            updated-animal (:body response)]
        (swap! animals-state
          (fn [old-state]
            (conj
              (set (filter (fn [other]
                            (not= (:id other)
                                   (:id a)))
                            old-state))
              updated-animal))))))
```

replace updated
animal retrieved
from server

Live demo

If you want to try yourself. Code and slides at:

<https://github.com/borkdude/oredev2014>

My experience with Om and Reagent

- Both awesome
- Added value to React
- Om encourages snapshot-able apps but:
 - surprises
 - large vocabulary
- Reagent
 - easy to learn and use
 - readable