

How I created a desktop app in minutes

Florian Pichler

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Hi, I'm Florian

Professionally

- Creative Director at anfema GmbH
- We create digital experiences:
iOS / Android / Web / Backends
- Yes, we are hiring. Talk to me.

Personally

- Working with JavaScript for 10+ years
- MooTools → Vanilla → Ember
- Maintainer of Ember-Electron
- Twitter/Instagram @pichfl



ELECTRON

Electron

- Write cross-platform desktop applications using JavaScript, HTML and CSS
- Great community
- Many big supporters
- Created by GitHub for Atom

- Atom
- VS Code
- Slack
- WhatsApp
- Franz
- Zeplin
- Hyper



Yay

- It's just Chrome plus Node.
- Good documentation
- Extend your web application to the desktop world
 - File system access
 - Tray / Status bar apps
 - Global Hotkeys

Nay

- Bad code won't magically turn into good code:
 - Slow, large web apps will stay slow, large
 - Watch out for memory leaks
- It's Chrome. Plus Node.

Why we use it

- Mitigate corporate clients and their browsers.
- Provide their IT with a signed binary and you're good to use the new stuff in JS and CSS for internal projects. Yay!

ember[®]

Ember

- A JavaScript framework for creating ambitious web applications
- Batteries included
- See previous talk
- Great community and addon landscape



Ember Electron



Ember-Electron

- Wrap any Ember app in a desktop app
- Ember addon created by Felix Rieseberg (Slack, Ghost)
- I had some part in the 2.0 rewrite
- Now based on electron-forge which abstracts the complex task of building and packaging Electron apps
- `ember install ember-electron`

What we'll do

- Run a small Ember app
- Wrap it with Electron
- Add a menu
- Add shortcuts
- Enable IPC
- Package the binary

A cartoon character with a large, rounded orange body and wide, white eyes with black pupils. The character has a small, dark brown mouth and is wearing dark brown shoes. The background is a dark blue gradient with some faint, stylized shapes. The text "Hands on" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font across the center of the character's body.

Hands on

A close-up of Finn the Human from the animated series Adventure Time. He is a light blue, dog-like character with a large, round, pink face, large black eyes, and a small, open mouth showing his teeth. He is wearing a green shirt. The background is a dark, rocky cave with yellow, glowing, crystalline structures. In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for 'NEW EPISODES CN CARTOON NETWORK' and a URL '-ryan.tumblr.com'.

Thanks

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