Web API



SoftUni Team Technical Trainers







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Have a Question?





#csharp-web



JSON (1)



- JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) is an open-standard file format
 - Uses human-readable text to transmit data objects
 - Data objects consist of attribute-value pairs or array data types
 - Basically any serializable value
 - Easy for humans to read and write
 - Easy for machines to parse and generate
- JSON is derived from JavaScript
 - However, it is language-independent
 - Now many languages provide code to generate and parse JSON

```
{
    "firstName": "Peter",
    "courses": ["C#", "JS", "ASP.NET"]
    "age": 23,
    "hasDriverLicense": true,
    "date": "2012-04-23T18:25:43.511Z",
    // ...
}
```

JSON (2)



- JSON is a very common data format used in web communication
 - Mainly in browser-server or server-server communication
 - The official internet media type (MIME) for JSON is

application/json

- JSON files use the extension . json
- JSON is commonly used as a replacement for XML in AJAX systems
 - JSON is shorter and easier to comprehend
 - JSON is quicker to read and write, and is more intuitive
 - JSON doesn't support schemas and namespaces



XML (1)



- XML defines a set of rules for encoding documents
 - Stands for Extensible Markup Language
 - Similar to JSON



- In terms of hierarchy (values within values)
- XML is a textual data format
 - Strong support for different human languages via Unicode
 - The design focuses strongly on actual documents



XML (2)



- XML has many applications
 - There are 2 MIME types for XML
 - XML files use the extension .xml
- XML has many applications
 - Widely-used in SOA (e.g. WCF)
 - Used for configuring .NET apps
 - Used in Microsoft Office formats

```
application/xml and text/xml
```

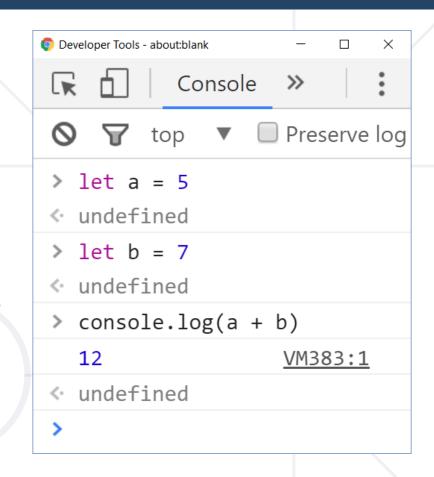
XHTML was intended to be strict HTML format



Welcome to JavaScript (1)



- JavaScript (JS) is a scripting language
 - Executes commands (script)
 - Can work in interactive mode
 - No compilation, just execute commands
- Alongside HTML & CSS, JavaScript is one of the 3 core technologies of the World Wide Web

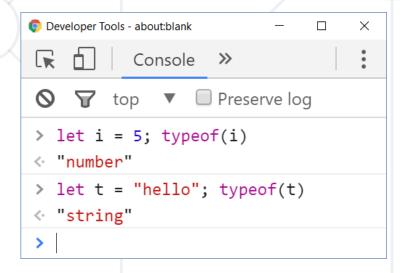


- JavaScript enables dynamics and interactivity in web pages
 - Has DOM and browser API (notifications, geolocation, ...) access

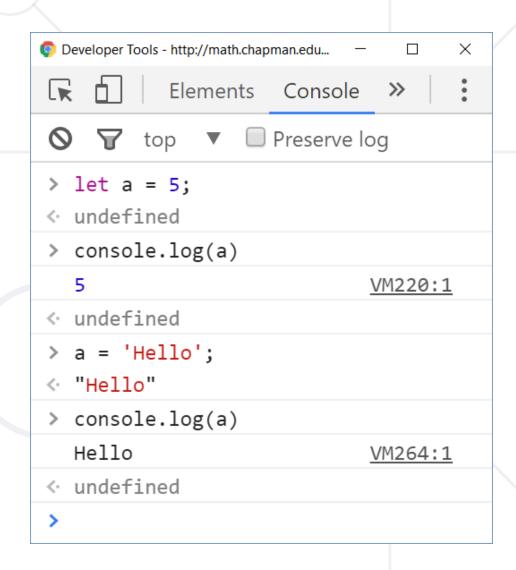
Welcome to JavaScript (2)



- JavaScript (JS) is untyped language
 - Untyped (dynamically typed) == variables have no types (but...)
 - Data (values) still have a type



More Info: Link 1, Link 2, Link 3



Welcome to JavaScript (3)



- JavaScript was initially only implemented client-side in web browsers
 - JavaScript engines, nowadays, are embedded in many types of software
 - Server-Side JavaScript, Mobile applications, Desktop Applications, etc.
- JavaScript is one of the most popular technologies on the Web
 - If not the most popular, that is...
 - The rise of SPAs and JavaScript-heavy sites certainly prove that
- One of the most important techniques around JS is AJAX
 - Asynchronous JavaScript and XML
- TypeScript is a typed superset of JS that compiles to plain JS



Asynchronous JavaScript and XML

AJAX

AJAX (1)



- AJAX is not a programming language (despite its "individual" popularity)
- AJAX == set of web development techniques
 - Used to create asynchronous web applications
 - Using AJAX, you can send and retrieve data to and from a server asynchronously – in the background via HTTP requests
- AJAX is a developer's dream, because you can:
 - Read data from a web server after the page has loaded
 - Update a web page (or parts of it) without reloading the page
 - Send data to a web server in the background

AJAX (2)

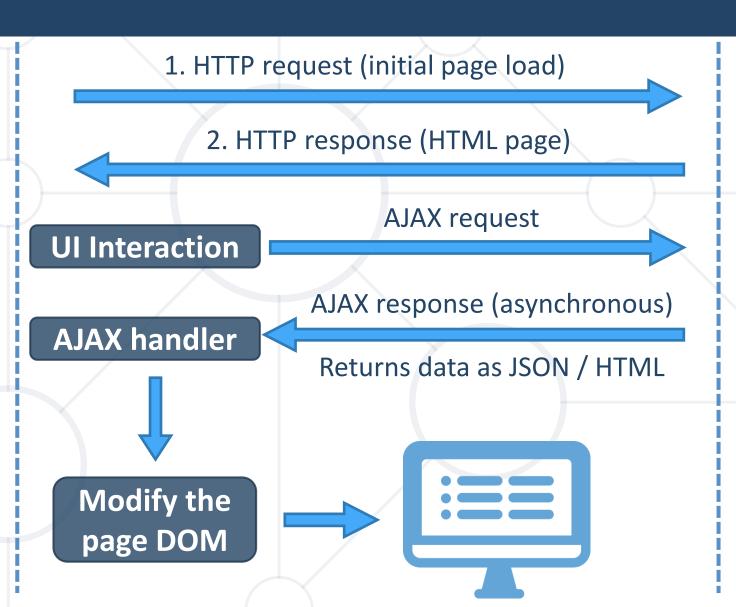


- AJAX works very simply, using a combination of
 - XMLHttpRequest
 - To request data from a server
 - JavaScript and DOM
 - To display and / or use data
- AJAX is a misleading name
 - AJAX apps might use XML to transport data
 - However it is equally common to transport data as JSON

AJAX: Workflow









Web Server

AJAX in Plain JavaScript (Vanilla JS)



An AJAX Request example:

```
function loadHtml()
    // Initializes a XMLHttpRequest object
    let xhttp = new XMLHttpRequest();
    xhttp.onreadystatechange = function() {
        // readyState holds the status of the XMLHttpRequest
       // (4) means Request finished and Response is ready
        // status holds the status code
        if (this.readyState == 4 && this.status == 200) {
            // Load the Response text into the body of the document
            document.body.innerHTML = this.responseText;
    }; // Defines a function, called when the readyState Is changed
    // Specify the request (method, url, async, etc...)
   xhttp.open("GET", "/api/Data", true);
    // Send the request to the server
   xhttp.send();
```

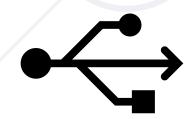
B

AJAX in SPA



- Single-Page apps are pretty common nowadays
 - Based on dynamic and asynchronous content changing
 - AJAX is pretty much used in almost every SPA
 - SPAs use AJAX to provide better and dynamic-data-filled apps
- AJAX is used to make a smooth changes on the page
 - This ensures a better UX design and dynamic UI









What is JQuery?



- jQuery is a cross-browser JavaScript library
 - Dramatically simplifies DOM manipulation



Free, popular, open-source software: https://jquery.com

```
<script src="https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.4.1.min.js"></script>
```

Load **jQuery** from its official CDN

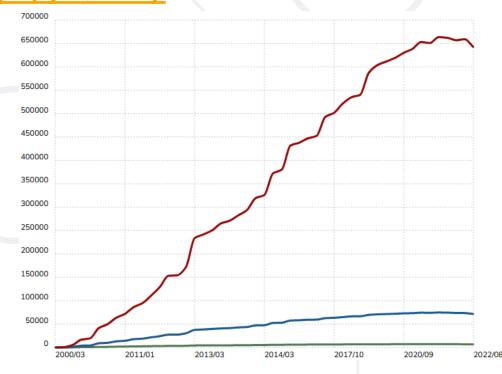
```
$('li').css('background', '#DDD');
```

Change the CSS for all tags

Why jQuery?



- Extremely popular
 - 83 000 000 sites use jQuery (68.8% of top 1 million sites)
 - http://trends.builtwith.com/javascript/jQuery
- Easy to learn
- Large community
- Cross-browser support
- Official web site: http://jquery.com



Selection with jQuery



- jQuery's selectors return a collection of matched items
 - Works with CSS3 selectors with few jQuery-specific
 - Even if there is only one item

```
$('div') // Gets all elements with the provided tag
$('.menu-item') // Gets all elements with the provided class
$('#navigation') // Gets the element with the provided id
$('ul.menu li') // Gets all elements corresponding to the query selector
```

- http://learn.jquery.com/using-jquery-core/selecting-elements/
- Selected elements can be processed as a group

```
$('div').css('background', 'blue'); // Make all DIVs blue
```

Adding Elements with jQuery



- Select the parent element, then use:
 - append() / prepend()
 - appendTo() / prependTo()

```
<div id="wrapper">
    <div>Hello, student!</div>
    <div>Goodbye, student!</div>
</div>
```

```
<h1>Greetings</h1>
▼<div id="wrapper">
 ▼<div>
    "Hello, student!"
    It's party time :)
   </div>
 ▼<div>
    "Goodbye, student!"
    It's party time :)
   </div>
 </div>
```

```
$('#wrapper div').append("It's party time :)");
```

```
$('<h1>Greetings</h1>').prependTo('body');
```

Creating / Removing Elements



```
let div = $('<div>');
div.text('I am a new div.');
div.css('background', 'blue');
div.css('color', 'white');
$(document.body).append(div);
```

```
let paragraph = $('Some text');
paragraph.appendTo(div);
```

```
$('div').remove();
```

JQuery Events: Attach / Remove



Attaching events on certain elements

```
$('a.button').on('click', buttonClicked);
function buttonClicked() {
    $('.selected').removeClass('selected');
    $(this).addClass('selected');
    // "this" is the event source (the hyperlink clicked)
}
```

Removing event handler from certain elements

```
$('a.button').off('click', buttonClicked);
```



jQuery AJAX

Simplified AJAX Calls with jQuery

jQuery vs Native XMLHttpRequest – GET



• jQuery dramatically simplifies how developers make AJAX calls

```
$.ajax({
    method: 'GET',
    url: 'myservice/username',
    data: { id: '42' }
})
.done(function success(data) {
    alert('User\'s name is ' + data);
})
.fail(function fail(data, status) {
    alert('Request failed. Returned status
    of ' + status);
});
```

```
var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();
xhr.open('GET', 'myservice/username?id=42');
xhr.onload = function() {
    if (xhr.status === 200) {
        alert('User\'s name is ' +
xhr.responseText);
    else {
        alert('Request failed. Returned
status of ' + xhr.status);
};
xhr.send();
```

jQuery AJAX (1)



- jQuery simplifies how developers make AJAX calls
- Low-Level Interface
 - jQuery.ajax()
 - Perform an asynchronous HTTP (Ajax) request
 - jQuery.ajaxPrefilter()
 - Handle custom AJAX options or modify existing options before each request is sent and before they are processed by \$.ajax()
 - jQuery.ajaxSetup()
 - Set default values for future Ajax requests. Its use is not recommended
 - jQuery.ajaxTransport()
 - Creates an object that handles the actual transmission of AJAX data

jQuery AJAX (2)



- Shorthand Methods
 - jQuery.get()
 - Load data from the server using a HTTP GET request
 - jQuery.getJSON()
 - Load JSON-encoded data from the server using a GET HTTP request
 - jQuery.getScript()
 - Load a JavaScript file from the server using a GET HTTP request, then execute it
 - jQuery.post()
 - Load data from the server using a HTTP POST request
 - .load()
 - Load data from the server and place the returned HTML into the matched element



Web Services

Communication between Systems and Components

What is API?



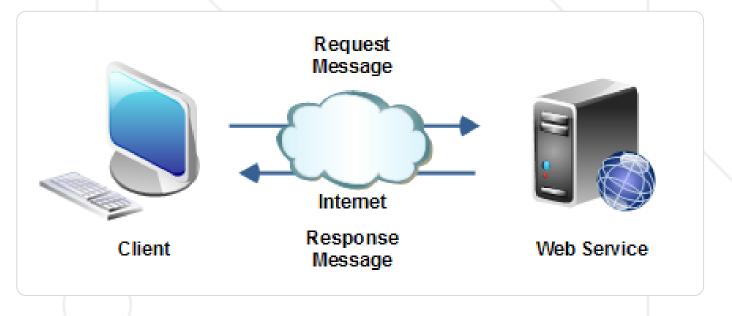
- API == Application Programming Interface
 - Designed for communication between system components
 - Set of functions and specifications that software programs and components follow to talk to each other
 - Examples
 - JDBC Java API for apps to talk with database servers
 - Windows API Windows apps talk with Windows OS
 - Web Audio API play audio in the Web browser with JS



What is Web Service?



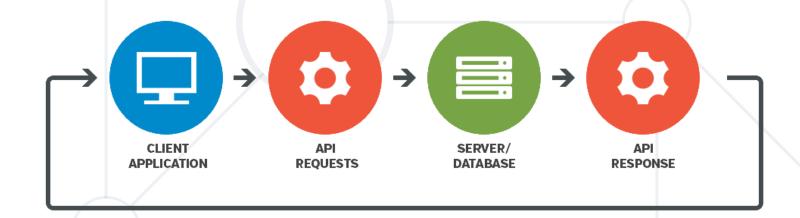
- Web services implement communication between software systems or components over the network
 - Using standard protocols, such as HTTP, JSON and XML
 - Exchanging messages, holding data and operations
- All web services are
 APIs, but not all APIs
 are web services



Web Services and APIs



- Web services expose back-end APIs over the network
 - May use different protocols and data formats: HTTP, REST,
 GraphQL, gRPC, SOAP, JSON-RPC, JSON, BSON, XML, YML, ...
- Web services are hosted on a Web server (HTTP server)
 - Provide a set of functions, invokable from the Web (Web API)
- RESTful APIs is the most popular Web service standard





Web API / Server-Side API

Server-Side Application Programming Interface

Web API / Server-Side API

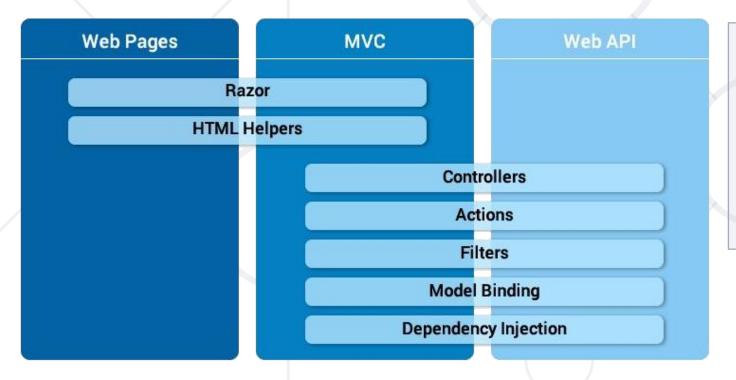


- Web API == application programming interface, exposed in Internet
 - Used by Web browsers (SPA), mobile applications, games, desktop applications, Web server, etc.
- Server-side Web APIs consist of publicly exposed endpoints
 - The endpoints correspond to a defined request-response message system
 - Communication is typically expressed in JSON or XML format
 - Communication is typically performed over an Internet protocol
 - Most commonly, HTTP through a HTTP-based web server

ASP.NET Core Web API



- Creating a Web API with ASP.NET Core is pretty straightforward
 - You build controllers and they have actions
 - In this case though, the actions are in the role of endpoints



```
[Route("api/[controller]")
[ApiController]
public class ProductsController
    : ControllerBase
{
    ...
}
```



- Web API controllers should
 - Inherit the ControllerBase class
 - Be annotated with [ApiController] and [Route] attribute

```
[Route("api/[controller]")]
[ApiController]
public class ProductController : ControllerBase
{
    private readonly IProductService productService;

    public ProductController(IProductService productService)
    {
        this.productService = productService;
    }
}
```

The Model and the Service can be anything. The techniques surrounding the controller are what is essential as they define the API



- The [ApiController] annotation provides several convenient features
 - Automatic HTTP 400 responses (for model state errors)
 - Binding source parameter inference
 - Multipart / Form-data request inference
 - Attribute routing requirement
 - Problem details responses for error status codes

```
{
    type: "https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7231#section-6.5.4",
    title: "Not Found",
    status: 404,
    traceId: "0HLHLV31KRN83:00000001"
}
```



- Automatic HTTP 400 Responses
 - Model validation errors automatically trigger an HTTP 400 response

```
if (!ModelState.IsValid)
{
    return BadRequest(ModelState);
}
This is no longer
necessary
```

- Binding source parameter inference (Binding Source Attributes)
 - The attributes define the location of the parameter's value

```
[FromBody] [FromQuery]

[FromForm] [FromRoute]

[FromHeader] [FromServices]
```

```
[HttpPost]
public IActionResult Create(
    Product product, // [FromBody] is inferred
    string name) // [FromQuery] is inferred
{
}
```



- Multipart / Form-data request inference
 - Achieved by putting [FromForm] attribute on action parameters
 - multipart/form-data request content type is inferred
- Attribute routing requirement
 - Attribute routing becomes a requirement

```
[Route("api/[controller]")
[ApiController]
public class ProductsController : ControllerBase
```



- Problem details responses for error status codes
 - Since ASP.NET Core 2.2, MVC transforms error results
 - Errors are transformed into ProblemDetails
- ProblemDetails is
 - A type based on a HTTP Api Specification for error presentation
 - A standardized format for machine-readable error details

```
if (product == null)
{
    return NotFound();
}

type: "https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7231#section-6.5.4",
    title: "Not Found",
    status: 404,
    traceId: "0HLHLV31KRN83:00000001"
}
```



- These features are built-in and active by default
 - But the default behavior can be overridden

```
builder.Services.AddControllersWithViews()
   .ConfigureApiBehaviorOptions(options =>
       // Suppress Multipart/form-data inference
       options.SuppressConsumesConstraintForFormFileParameters = true;
       // Suppress binding source attributes
       options.SuppressInferBindingSourcesForParameters = true;
       // Suppress automatic HTTP 400 errors
       options.SuppressModelStateInvalidFilter = true;
       // Suppress problem details responses
       options.SuppressMapClientErrors = true;
  });
```

ASP.NET Core Web API (Return Types)



- ASP.NET Core offers several options for API Endpoint return types
 - Specific Type
 - The simplest action type
 - IActionResult Type
 - Appropriate when multiple ActionResult types are possible in the corresponding action

```
[HttpGet]
public IEnumerable<Product> Get()
{
    return this.productService.GetAllProducts();
}
```

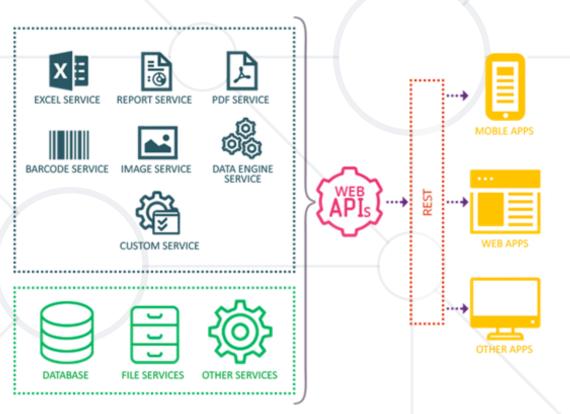
```
[HttpGet("{id}")]
[ProducesResponseType(200, Type = typeof(Product))]
[ProducesResponseType(404)]
public IActionResult GetById(int id)
{
   var product = this.productService.GetById(id);
   if (product == null) return NotFound();
   return Ok(product);
}
```

ASP.NET Core Web API (Return Types)



It is recommended to use ActionResult<T> as a return type

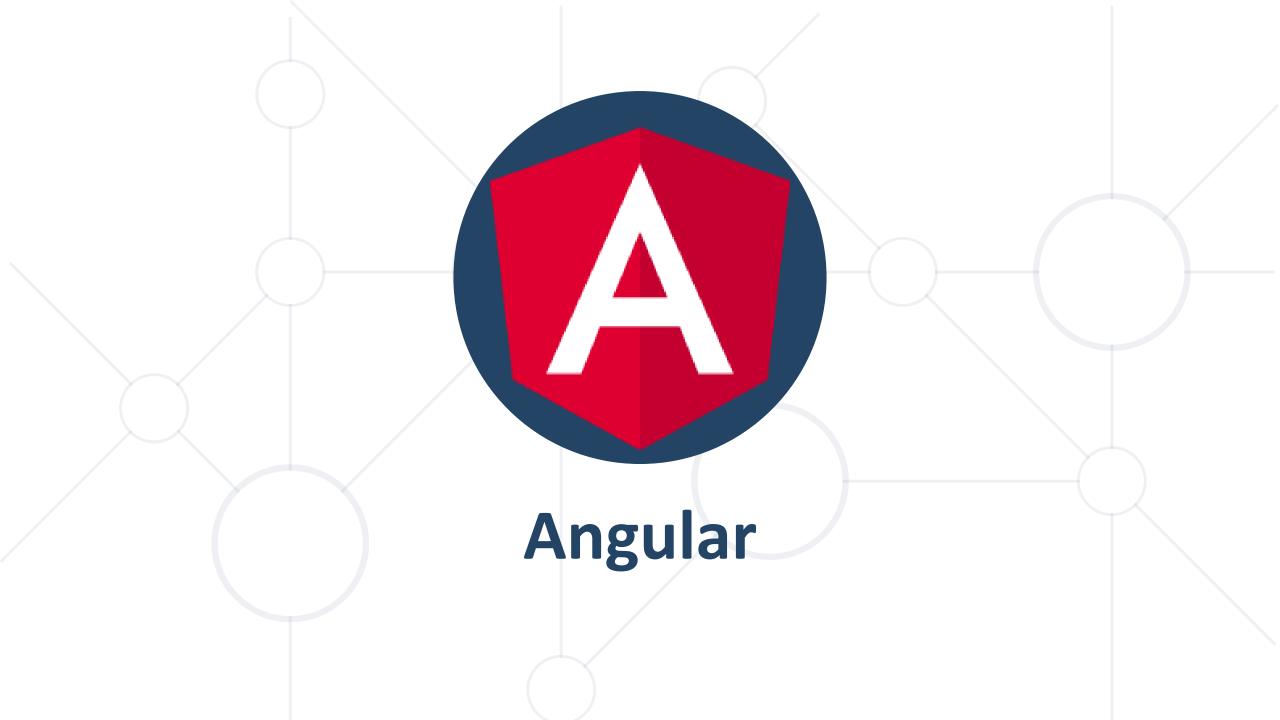
```
[HttpGet]
public ActionResult<IEnumerable<Product>> Get()
   return this.productService.GetAllProducts();
[HttpGet("{id}")]
[ProducesResponseType(200)]
[ProducesResponseType(404)]
public ActionResult<Product> GetById(int id)
   var product =
       this.productService.GetById(id);
   if (product == null) return NotFound();
    return product;
```





Web API Methods

Demo



What is Angular?



- Angular is a framework for building complex front-end apps
- Focused on end-to-end tooling and best practices
- Developed by the Angular team at Google

```
import { Component } from '@angular/core';
@Component({
   selector: 'my-app',
   template: `<h1>Hello {{name}}</h1>`
})
export class AppComponent { name = 'Angular'; }
```

Angular



- Angular is rewritten on Microsoft's TypeScript language
 - A typed superset of JavaScript that compiles to plain JS
 - Any Browser! Any Host! Any OS! Anywhere! Open Source!
- Angular does not have a concept of "scope" or controllers
 - Instead it uses a hierarchy of Components
 - This is its main difference from AngularJS (the first Angular)
 - Most modern Front-End frameworks tend to use this architecture

Angular Features



- Cross Platform
 - Single Page Applications (SPA)
 - Progressive Web Apps
 - Native Mobile Apps (Cordova, Ionic)
 - Desktop Apps (Electron)
- Great Tooling (CLI, IDEs, Templates)
- Huge Community
- Easy Testing, Animations, Accessibility
- Can work with any back-end (Web API, Node.js, etc.)



Summary



- JSON & XML == data formats used in web communication to transmit data objects
- JavaScript
- AJAX == set of dev techniques
- jQuery == cross-browser JS library
- Web Services implement communication between software systems or components over the network
- ASP.NET Core Web API
- Angular == framework for building complex front-en apps





Questions?



















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