Coding & Cocktails Session 14: Intro to Single Page Applications (SPAs)



Overview

Basics of how to create a Single Page Application with Angular 2.





Hints

Look for these formatting hints throughout the worksheet.

Code to Reference

We're either explaining what that specific code does, or we're referencing code that exists in your file [and you'll be using this code as a guideline for where to add the next codel.

New Code to Add

This is new code to add to your file. Look for **references** on where this code should be placed.



Quick Check Point

A link will be provided so you can compare your file to what it should look like at this point.

src/directory/file.ts • File paths and names

All the files we'll be modifying tonight are in a folder named src, that is in a *trivia* folder. File paths throughout the worksheet will appear as src/filename or src/foldername/filename.

Command for your CLI [Command Line] Tool

This text should be typed into your command line tool. Git Bash (Windows) or iTerm2 (Mac)



Attention Windows Users

This will point out any behavior on Windows that may be different than on a Mac.

Project

Single page applications provide a more native app-like experience to users. They can also be a lot of fun to develop. There are a lot of frameworks available to make this process easier, but choosing one and learning how to use it can be overwhelming. Angular 2 is very opinionated, which means you have less architecture decisions to

make than some of the other frameworks. This also means there will be more consistency among Angular 2 projects, so if you've worked on one, you can easily jump into a different team's project.

In this session, we will become familiar with how to use Angular 2 to create a single page trivia app.

Open Slack!



At home or setting-up before the session starts? Open Slack. Mentors are available to help & we post important updates to the whole group!

https://kcwit.slack.com

Check your work



Compare your work to the final... Project Files:

http://bit.ly/spa-project & App: http://bit.ly/spa-cnc

Part 0A: Set-up | Verify NodeJS & npm is installed & Install Angular CLI

In order to use Angular CLI later in this lesson, you have to install it via npm, which requires NodeJS. (We won't be writing a NodeJS application, but the two are essentially installed together.)

1. Open your terminal / command line

Helpful tip:



The "terminal" and "command line" (aka CLI, command line interface) are the same thing.

- On Windows, we use **Git Bash**
- On Mac, we use iTerm2

Some of these commands will run slower on Windows computers. To make these processes run faster, it is recommended to run **Git Bash** as an *Administrator*. See here [http://bit.ly/angular-cli-windows] for tips on how to do that.

- 2. In Git Bash (windows) or iTerm2 (macs), type: node --version && npm --version
- 3. If you get version numbers, then NodeJS and NPM are already installed. Proceed to Step 4.

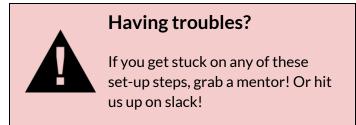
Command not found



If your system doesn't recognize the node command, it's probably not installed. You can get it from http://nodejs.org

- 4. In Git Bash (windows) or iTerm2 (macs), type: npm install -g angular-cli
 This may take a minute or two to complete. Perfect excuse to grab yourself a snack!
- 5. To confirm Angular CLI was installed, while still in your Command Line tool, type: ng version If you get version numbers, you can move on to the next setup step!

A You may also see a warning saying "Could not start watchman; ..." This is ok and can be ignored but the version numbers for angular-cli and node should be displayed below that.



Part OB: Setup | Add TypeScript Package to Sublime Editor

Using TypeScript with Angular2, provides us a lot of shortcuts. However, to make sure the correct words highlight for us in Sublime (remember the pretty colors you've seen in HTML & CSS files?), and that we get some of the autosuggest features of TypeScript, we have to install the TypeScript package for Sublime.

- 1. Open Sublime Text Editor and hold down these 3 keys to open the Command Palette: Mac: `cmd + shift + p` | Windows: `ctrl + shift + p`
- 2. In the Command Palette input field, type: install
- 3. Find and select: Package Control: Install Package





No Package Control?

If you can't find Package Control, you may have to install it in Sublime. Here's a handy tutorial on how to install it: http://bit.ly/pkg-ctrl

- 4. The Package Manager pops open another input field. In this one type: **TypeScript**
- 5. Find & select the **TypeScript** package that matches this description:

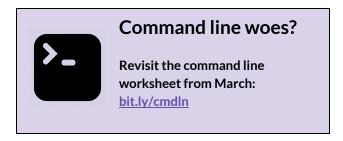
TypeScript
IO wrapper around TypeScript language services, allowing for easy consumpti... ... install v0.1.16; typescriptlang.org

6. Setup is done! Give high fives to those around you.

Part 1: Starting our Single Page App

Let's start with creating our app's foundation. Open Git Bash (Windows) or iTerm2 (Mac) and rock & roll.

Navigate to your CodingAndCocktails folder: cd <your home directory>/CodingAndCocktails



- 2. Use Angular CLI to scaffold the project for us. Type: ng new trivia
- 3. Change the directory to the new one Angular CLI created for us. Type: cd trivia

4. Let's run our new app. Type: ng serve

This command will:

- a. Compile our TypeScript files into JavaScript
- b. Start a local server on our computer so we can view our project prior to making it live on the internet
- c. Watch our project files for changes so that when one of them changes it will automatically reload in the broswer for us and avoid the step of us having to push the refresh button to see every update we make.
- Windows will take more time for the **ng serve** process and for the automatic reload in the browser (upon file changes), unless you are *running as admin*. If you don't recall doing this earlier, see tips here [http://bit.ly/angular-cli-windows] to make it run faster.
- 5. In Chrome, visit the URL http://localhost:4200 to see your working (basic) app.

Helpful tips:

• The output of **ng serve** will provide the URL you can use in Chrome to see your app.

```
** NG Live Development Server is running on http://localhost:4200. **
```

- On Windows, **ng serve** will not provide the URL. When your CLI screen looks like this [http://bit.ly/windows-serve], visit http://localhost:4200 in Chrome.
- **A** Open a new tab (Mac) or window (Windows) in your CLI, to be ready for the next CLI commands. You'll want to leave **ng serve** running in your CLI tool, to see live updates as we progress through the project.
- 6. Open your *trivia* folder in SublimeText. Let's make some updates to the app to see the live reload we get from **ng serve**! Remember the **ng serve** command watches for changes to our project files and automatically refreshes the browser for us so we don't have to. This is called "live reload."
- 7. Open the src/app/app.component.ts file in SublimeText.
- 8. Edit the **title** variable to whatever text you want (like: have a cocktail!)

Note: This **title** will end up being the title of your trivia app.

Printed worksheets see: http://bit.ly/spa-1a

```
app.component.ts  x

import { Component } from '@angular/core';

@Component({
    selector: 'app-root',
    templateUrl: './app.component.html',
    styleUrls: ['./app.component.css']

})

export class AppComponent {
    title = 'app works!';
}

10
}
```

9. Save your file & go back to the tab in Chrome that has your app running. You should see your updated text! Printed worksheets see: http://bit.ly/spa-title



app works!



Part 2: Creating a component

Our app works, but it's not very exciting. Let's add some components!

1. Start in your CLI tool and generate a component named *quiz* with *Angular CLI*. Type: ng g component quiz

Helpful tip:

- This creates a *src/app/quiz* directory with 4 files in it: *html*, *css*, *typescript* & *spec spec* files are to write tests (to make sure your code works). We won't be using these tonight, so you can ignore this file.
- 2. Let's add some styles to our app, so it won't look bland as we develop it.
 - Windows users you'll need to click the "raw" button to copy code from github to avoid copying the line numbers with the code



- a. Copy the CSS styles here [http://bit.ly/spa-css-a] & paste into your *src/styles.css* file. These are global styles that apply to the whole app.
- b. Copy the CSS styles here [http://bit.ly/spa-css-b] & paste into your src/app/app.component.css file. These styles apply only to the markup in app.component.html.
- c. Copy the CSS styles here [http://bit.ly/spa-css-c] & paste into src/app/quiz/quiz.component.css. These styles apply only to the markup in quiz.component.html.

What is this HTML & CSS stuff?

In an effort to keep the project focused on SPA's, we're providing the HTML & CSS code for you to copy/paste.



New to HTML/CSS? Take a minute to read what you pasted. Try to predict what you might see in the finished product. If you have questions about any of it, or HTML/CSS in general, grab a mentor!

Know HTML/CSS? Have at it! Customize the HTML/CSS to your liking.

3. Now that we have styles, let's add the HTML markup for our templates.

a. Copy the HTML here [http://bit.ly/spa-fonts] & paste into your *src/index.html* file, above the closing </head> tag.

```
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
  k rel="icon" type="image/x-icon" href="favicon.ico">
  k href="//fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Playfair+Display|Raleway" rel="stylesheet">
  </head>
```

This adds some Google Web Fonts, so we have some pretty fonts in our app.

b. Let's add our *quiz* component html to our *app* component.

Copy the HTML here [http://bit.ly/spa-html-a] & paste into *src/app/app.component.html*.

Helpful tip:

- <app-quiz></app-quiz> is the HTML selector for our quiz component. So this tag will be replaced (automagically) by the HTML in our src/app/quiz/quiz.component.html file.
- Where does <app-quiz> come from? In the Component metadata in our src/app/quiz/quiz.component.ts file, the selector is set to app-quiz.

```
@Component({
   selector: 'app-quiz',
   templateUrl: './quiz.component.html',
   styleUrls: ['./quiz.component.css']
})
```

c. Copy the HTML here [http://bit.ly/spa-html3c] & paste into src/app/quiz/quiz.component.html.

d. Head on over to Chrome to check out how your app looks.





Part 3A: Adding Data to Our Template

Our template is working and looks pretty, but it's hardcoded, or, in other words, the data is fixed and can only be edited manually. Let's add a couple questions and answers to our component, and make the template render our quiz questions dynamically. In *Part A*, we'll do some set-up work for data to use in our template. *Part B* will be to integrate the data with our component's template (HTML).

Later, we'll be using an API [Application Programming Interface], to allow us to interface with a set of questions and answers for our quiz. In order to make that transition go smoothly, we're going to set-up our data in the same format that will come from our API.

- 1. Open your *src/app/quiz/quiz.component.ts* file. In the **ngOnInit()** method, between the {}, paste the code from here [http://bit.ly/spa-qa].
 - Your file should look like the one here [http://bit.ly/spa-3_1].
- 2. Since we're using TypeScript, we need to set types for the data that we just copied and pasted. This is one file *Angular CLI* won't generate for us.
 - Create a new file in *src/app/quiz* & name it **quiz.model.ts**.
- 3. In quiz.model.ts, add the code found here [http://bit.ly/spa-model]. Feel free to manually type or copy/paste.

What does this code do?

- We're defining an **Answer** & a **Question** *model*, and we're **export**-ing them, so we can **import** them into the file where we want to use them.
- Our Answer model has 2 properties: correct & text.

```
cexport class Answer {
    correct: boolean;
    text: string;
}
Types:

correct is a boolean (true/false)

text is a string.
```

Our Question model has 2 properties: text & answers.

```
export class Question {
  text: string;
  answers: Answer[];
}

Types:
  text is a string
  answers is an array ([]) of our Answer Model.
```

- 4. Now we're going to import these into quiz.component.ts.
 - a. Open src/app/quiz/quiz.component.ts & below the import at the top, add: import {} from './quiz.model';

- b. Place your cursor in the middle of {}. And type **A**.

 Sublime should give you an autocomplete suggestion of **Answer**. [Hit *tab* or *enter/return* key for it to autocomplete **Answer** for you.]
- c. Add a comma after **Answer** & repeat process by typing **Q** [for *Question*]. Printed worksheets see: http://bit.ly/spa-ts

```
quiz.component.ts x

import { Component, OnInit } from '@angular/core';
import {} from './quiz.model';

@Component({
    selector: 'app-quiz',
    templateUrl: './quiz.component.html',
    styleUrls: ['./quiz.component.css']
})
```

5. In the quiz.component.ts file, within the **OnInit** method, add: **questions: Question[]**;

```
@Component({
    selector: 'app-quiz',
    templateUrl: './quiz.component.html',
    styleUrls: ['./quiz.component.css']
})
export class QuizComponent implements OnInit {
    questions: Question[];

    constructor() { }
    ngOnInit() {
```

This uses the imported **Question** Model to set the type for **questions**, (the data we set earlier in **ngOnInit**).

Part 3B: Adding Data to Our Template

Now that we have our data ready, let's wire it up to our component's *template*. Open *src/app/quiz/quiz.component.html* & let's get to it.

1. In <div class="quiz-wrapper">, at the top of the file, add an *nglf attribute:

*nglf="questions"

Printed worksheets see: http://bit.ly/spa-if1

```
quiz.component.html *

div class="quiz-wrapper">
```

*nglf is an Angular attribute directive that will only render our template IF this.questions is defined in our component.

2. In the markup for <div class="each-question">, add the following as an attribute:

*ngFor="let question of questions; let i = index;"

Printed worksheets see: http://bit.ly/spa-for1

Helpful tip:

To help make the code easier to read, I start each attribute on it's own line [see the gif above to see that in action].

What does this code do?

- This is an *ngFor directive, that will repeat the markup (including the div.each-question), for every question in our component's this.questions.)
- We're also setting a variable named i to index. This helps us keep track of what question is currently being rendered in the template, by giving us the index of that question.

 Question 1 is index 0. Question 2 is index 1. This will come into play later in the tutorial.
- Replace question here with {{question.text}}

```
<h3 class="question">{{question.text}}</h3>
```

This will use the *question's text* from our data to populate our template.

4. Let's loop through our *answers*. In the tag, add the following *ngFor attribute:

*ngFor="let answer of question.answers"

Printed worksheets see: http://bit.ly/spa-for2

Replace answer here with {{answer.text}}

- 6. We now have our template rendering questions and answers, but nothing happens when a user selects an answer. Let's add a *click* event so we can start tracking this.
 - a. In that same tag, add a (click) attribute:

(click)="onSelect(answer)"

What does this code do?

When a user clicks on the (answer), it executes a method in the Component's TypeScript file, named onSelect, and passes the answer data through to the method.

[We don't have the **onSelect** method defined in our *quiz.component.ts* file, so we'll do that next.]

b. Open src/app/quiz/quiz.component.ts.

Copy the code here [http://bit.ly/spa-select] & paste after the ngOnInit() {} method.

```
onSelect(answer: Answer){
  if(answer.correct) {
    console.log('answer correct');
  }
  else {
    console.log('answer wrong');
  }
}
```

What does this code do?

- We're declaring that the answer parameter is type Answer
- If the *answer* is *correct*, we log **answer correct** to the dev console. Otherwise, we log **answer wrong**.
- Your src/app/quiz/quiz.component.ts file should look like the one here [http://bit.ly/spa-6_b].

Part 4: Tally Correct Answers & Show Results

We now have questions and answers to create a quiz, but at the end of the quiz, the user won't know how many they answered correctly. Let's add a counter that keeps track of the correct answers throughout a quiz and displays the results at the end!

1. Copy the code here [http://bit.ly/spa-4_1] & paste into your src/app/quiz/quiz.component.html before the final </div> tag.

What does this code do?

- div.results: only shows if the quizIsOver
- div.result-message: tells the user how many correctAnswers they had out of the total # of questions
- div.score: calculates & displays percentage correct
- div.result-action: displays a fun message
- quizIsOver & correctAnswers are highlighted b/c we still need to define them in our quiz.component.ts file.
- 2. Open src/app/quiz/quiz.component.ts.
 - a. Below **questions**: **Question**[]; let's add 3 new variables and their types:

correctAnswers: number;

currentQuestionIndex: number;

quizIsOver: boolean:

```
export class QuizComponent implements OnInit {
  questions: Question[];
  correctAnswers: number;
  currentQuestionIndex: number;
  quizIsOver: boolean;
```

b. Then in ngOnInit, before this.questions, let's set default values for these 3 variables:

this.correctAnswers = 0;

this.currentQuestionIndex = 0;

this.quizIsOver = false;

```
15     constructor() { }
16
17     ngOnInit() {
18      this.correctAnswers = 0;
19     this.currentQuestionIndex = 0;
20     this.quizIsOver = false;
21     this.questions = [
```

Why these defaults?

- correctAnswers & currentQuestionIndex: both start at 0 b/c the quiz hasn't started yet
- quizlsOver: false b/c the quiz can't be over if it hasn't started yet
- c. We need to increment our **correctAnswers** variable, every time an answer is correct. In the **onSelect** method, within the **if (answer.correct) {...}** add:

this.correctAnswers++;

```
if (answer.correct) {
    this.correctAnswers++;
    console.log('answer correct');
}
```

This will update the value of correctAnswers + 1, when the answer is correct.

d. We need to increment **currentQuestionIndex**, every time an answer is selected (*correct or not*). Below **onSelect**'s **else {...}** add:

this.currentQuestionIndex++:

```
onSelect(answer: Answer){
  if (answer.correct) {
    this.correctAnswers++;
    console.log('answer correct');
  }
  else {
    console.log('answer wrong');
  }
  this.currentQuestionIndex++;
}
```

e. Below this.currentQuestionIndex++; add:

```
if (this.currentQuestionIndex === this.questions.length) {
    this.quizIsOver = true;
}

this.currentQuestionIndex++;

if (this.currentQuestionIndex === this.questions.length) {
    this.quizIsOver = true;
}
```

When the **currentQuestionIndex** value is the same as the **questions.length** value, **quizIsOver** is set to true.

3. Right now, you see all the quiz questions at once. And even when the results display, the questions/answers are still visible. Let's add an *nglf, so we only see 1 question at a time.

a. Open src/app/quiz/quiz.component.html. In <div class="q-and-a">, add attribute:

```
*nglf="currentQuestionIndex === i"
```

Printed worksheets see: http://bit.ly/spa-if2

- 4. **BONUS**: Add a tracker to the top of the guiz that tells the user which question they're viewing.
 - a. In *src/app/quiz/quiz.component.html*, before *div.quiz* but after opening *div.quiz-wrapper* tag, paste the code from here [http://bit.ly/spa-track].

Challenge: Can you explain to your neighbor what this is doing?



Part 5: Creating a Service & Fetching Data

We have our component set-up to display trivia questions and answers, but we only have a couple hardcoded questions & answers. Let's use an API to populate our quiz questions and possible answers.

A service is just one piece of our larger application. Services are used to:

- share data or logic across multiple components of an application to avoid code duplication or
- to encapsulate external interactions (like with our API).
- 1. First, use Angular CLI to generate a service named quiz within the quiz directory. Open your CLI tool. Type: ng g service quiz/quiz

Helpful tip:

- This creates 2 files in your *src/app/quiz* directory: *quiz.service.ts* & *quiz.service.spec.ts* We won't be adding any tests tonight, so ignore the *spec* file.
- 2. Open *src/app/quiz/quiz.service.ts*. We need to **import** some methods from the *HTTP Module* & *RxJS* [Angular *CLI* installed both of these for us so we can simply import to use them]. Add these imports below the @angular/core import:

import { Http, Response } from '@angular/http'; import 'rxjs/add/operator/map';

3. In the parenthesis for constructor(), add:

private http: Http

```
6 export class QuizService {
7
8 constructor(private http: Http) { }
9
10 }
```

This creates an instance of the **Http** service that we imported and assigns it to **http**. It's private because we don't want to access it from outside the **QuizService** class.

4. Now, we're going to add our API request to //cocktail-trivia-api.herokuapp.com/api/sample. Copy the code from here [http://bit.ly/spa-http] & paste below constructor(private http: Http) {}

What does this code do?

- We create a method named **getQuestions**, that makes the **http** request to the URL that accesses our API.
- We use the map method we imported from RxJS to grab the JSON (Javascript Object Notation) formatted data from the response (which we set to res of type Response). The JSON response is our questions and answers.
- 5. Open *src/app/quiz/quiz.component.ts*.
 - a. We need to import the **QuizService**, so that we can use it. Add the following to the list of your other imports: **import** { **QuizService** } **from** './**quiz.service**';
 - In our Component metadata, we need to add QuizService as a provider.
 Add a comma & a new line after styleUrls: ['./quiz.component.css'] and add:

```
providers: [QuizService]
```

c. In the parenthesis for **constructor()**{} add:

private quizService: QuizService

```
11  export class QuizComponent implements OnInit {
12    questions: Question[];
13    correctAnswers: number;
14    currentQuestionIndex: number;
15    quizIsOver: boolean;
16
17    constructor(private quizService: QuizService) { }
18
19    ngOnInit() {
20    this.correctAnswers = 0;
```

Now, we can access the **QuizService** methods via **this.quizService**.

d. Replace this.questions = [...]; with:

this.quizService.getQuestions()

.subscribe(questions => this.questions = questions);

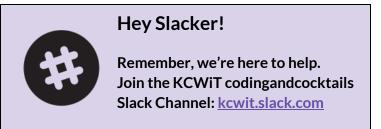
```
19    ngOnInit() {
20         this.correctAnswers = 0;
21         this.currentQuestionIndex = 0;
22         this.quizIsOver = false;
23         this.quizService.getQuestions()
24         .subscribe(questions => this.questions = questions);
25    }
26
27    onSelect(answer: Answer){
```

What does this code do?

- This *subscribes* to the **getQuestions** method we defined in **QuizService**, since HTTP requests can take a little or a long time to return us a response.
- When the HTTP request comes back, the **getQuestions** method returns the data to our subscriber & we set that data to our component's **this.questions**, so we can use it in our template.

Homework

The more you practice, the better you'll get. Reinforce what you've learned tonight with the following tutorial.





Part 1: Git - Deploy App to GitHub Pages

Angular CLI initialized a git repository for you in your source folder. Open your CLI tool & check git by running git status. Angular CLI provides us a command to deploy our app to GitHub Pages.

1. Add all your files to git. Type: git add.

```
[~/C/t/trivia [master] > git add .
```

2. Commit all your files. Type: git commit -m "Add your own message here"

```
~/C/t/trivia<sup>5</sup> [master] > git commit -m "trivia app"
```

3. Deploy your app to GitHub Pages.

Type: ng github-pages:deploy --message "Add your own message here"

```
~/C/t/trivia<sup>5</sup> [master] > ng github-pages:deploy --message "deploy to pages"
```

It may prompt you to generate a token on GitHub. Follow the instructions as provided in your CLI tool.

This is another command that will run faster if you run Git Bash as admin.

4. View your App from Chrome or from your phone!

When the deployment to GitHub Pages is completed, it will provide the URL for your app. Format of the URL should be something like https://username.github.io/trivia

Part 2: Add a router

It is recommended to watch this video [http://bit.ly/router-video] (sign-up for free account to view) or read this article [http://bit.ly/angular2-routing] to see how routers work in Angular 2 & how to configure them.

- 1. Create a new component named about.
- 2. Create a new file in *src/app* and name it **app.routes.ts**
- 3. In this new file, we need to import a couple things from the *Router* module.
 - Add: import { Routes, RouterModule } from '@angular/router';
- 4. Now we need to set our variable that will hold our routes. Add: **const routes: Routes = [];**This sets a *constant* variable named **routes** [of imported type **Routes**] to an empty array. We'll add our routes to this array.
- 5. In your array, add 2 routes:
 - a. "that loads our QuizComponent [this is the root or homepage path '/']
 - b. 'about' that loads our new AboutComponent [this will load for the path '/about']

Helpful Tip:

- The format for a route looks like this [replace the italicized words with your own]: { path: 'urlpath', component: MyComponent }
- When defining a route, don't include the '/' at the beginning
- 6. We need to **import** our 2 components, so add those 2 import statements to the top of the file.
- 7. Now we need to export our routes, so at the bottom of *app.routes.ts*, add this: export const QuizAppRoutes = RouterModule.forRoot(routes);
- 8. Open the *src/app/app.module.ts* file & add an **import**. Import **QuizAppRoutes** from *app.routes.ts* [hint: that needs minor modifications to make that the actual import statement.]
- We also need to add QuizAppRoutes in this file's @NgModule imports.
- 10. Last, but not least, we need to define where our router will display the relevant component. In src/app/app.component.html, replace <app-quiz></app-quiz> with <router-outlet></router-outlet>
- 11. Visit your app in Chrome to checkout your routes! http://localhost:4200/ http://localhost:4200/about

