Form Validation

NEXT: HANDLING FORM SUBMISSIONS

Validating forms is not a simple task on any platform. It's even more difficult when building websites because user experience is demanding these days, and we need to quench the thirst. People expect real-time immediate-updating super-informative forms.

If you have been coding for 5+ years, you might have seen the era when validation was done only on the server. Your form has to send a post request, the server validates the information, and if there is an error, it throws your payload back at you with the errors. This is poor because the user has to wait for the server trip only to be notified that information provided is invalid.

JavaScript validation on the client was around in that era, but it wasn't a norm until user experience started becoming more and more demanding. Unfortunately, it's not such an easy task to validate a form with JavaScript. For this reason, a lot of libraries and framework dependent libraries try to make this simple. In fact, a lot of them do a great job at that. Vue is not left out, and vee-validate is one of its validation libraries.

Let's install vee-validate in our Vue app:

```
BASH

npm install --save vee-validate
```

Then import and configure in the entry file:

```
JS

// ./src/main.js
import VeeValidate from 'vee-validate'

Vue.use(VeeValidate)
```

You can go ahead to use the vee-validate APIs and directives. For example, let's validate our form field:

```
HTML

<input type="text" placeholder="Name" v-model="model.name" v-validate="'required'" name="name" />
```

Now you can check if there are errors via the error property:

```
JS

export default {
  methods: {
    saveProduct() {
      // prints all the errors
      console.log(this.errors);
    }
  }
}
```

You can use the power of class or style binding to style invalid inputs differently:

```
HTML

<input type="text" placeholder="Name" v-model="model.name" v-validate="'required'" name="name" :cl
```

If `errors.name` exists, an error class will be added to the input. This is how this class is styled:

```
CSS

.form-control.error {
  border-color: #FF3333;
  box-shadow: inset 0 1px 1px rgba(0,0,0,.075), 0 0 8px rgba(255, 71, 71, 0.6);
}
```

Adding a red border and inset red box shadow to the element.

Red signs might not be enough. We need to let the user know what they did wrong. This can be achieved with an error message:

```
HTML

<span class="small text-danger" v-show="errors.has('name')">Name is required</span>
```

You can update the rest of the elements to validate them:

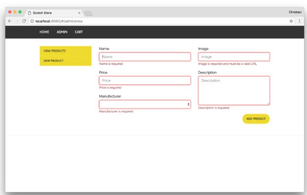
```
HTML

<template>
  <form @submit.prevent="saveProduct">
    <div class="col-lg-5 col-md-5 col-sm-12 col-xs-12">
      <div class="form-group">
        <label>Name</label>
        <input type="text" placeholder="Name" v-model="model.name" v-validate="'required'" name="n
        <span class="small text-danger" v-show="errors.has('name')">Name is required</span>
      </div>
      <div class="form-group">
        <label>Price</label>
        <input type="number" class="form-control" placeholder="Price" v-model="model.price" v-vali
        <span class="small text-danger" v-show="errors.has('price')">Price is required</span>
      </div>
      <div class="form-group">

        <label>Manufacturer</label>
        <select type="text" class="form-control" v-model="model.manufacturer" v-validate="'require
          <template v-for="manufacturer in manufacturers">
            <option :value="manufacturer._id" :selected="manufacturer._id == (model.manufacturer &
          </template>
        </select>
        <span class="small text-danger" v-show="errors.has('manufacturer')">Manufacturer is requis
      </div>
    </div>

    <div class="col-lg-4 col-md-4 col-sm-12 col-xs-12">
      <div class="form-group">
        <label>Image</label>
        <input type="text" lass="form-control" placeholder="Image" v-model="model.image" v-validat
        <span class="small text-danger" v-show="errors.has('image')">Image is required and must be
      </div>
      <div class="form-group">
        <label>Description</label>
        <textarea type="number" class="form-control" placeholder="Description" rows="5" v-model="m
        <span class="small text-danger" v-show="errors.has('description')">Description is required
      </div>
      <div class="form-group new-button">
        <button class="button">
          <i class="fa fa-pencil"></i>
          <span v-if="isEditing">Update Product</span>
          <span v-else>Add Product</span>
        </button>
      </div>
    </div>
  </form>
</template>
```

Errors will be shown when we have invalid fields as shown in the image below:



> NOTE Client side validation does not guarantee that what is sent to the server is valid. A user can send values to the server via other clients that you don't have control of like Postman. Be sure to validate on the server too. too.