

Resource Request from Cordova Applications

Overview

MobileFirst applications can access resources using the `WLResourceRequest` REST API. The REST API works with all adapters and external resources, and is supported in the following Cordova platforms: iOS, Android, Windows 8 Universal and Windows 10 UWP.

This tutorial explains how to use the `WLResourceRequest` API with Java (../) and JavaScript HTTP adapters.

WLResourceRequest

The `WLResourceRequest` class handles resource requests to adapters or external resources.

```
var resourceRequest = new WLResourceRequest(  
    "/adapters/RSSReader/getFeedFiltered",  
    WLResourceRequest.GET  
);
```

The parameters for the constructor are:

- **request URL**:
 - For JavaScript adapters, the URL should be `/adapters/{AdapterName}/{procedureName}`
 - For Java adapters, the URL should be `/adapters/{AdapterName}/{path}`
 - To access resources outside of the project, use the full URL
- **HTTP method**: Most commonly `WLResourceRequest.GET` or `WLResourceRequest.POST`
- **timeout**: Optional, request timeout in milliseconds

setQueryParameter

By using the `setQueryParameter` method, you can include query (URL) parameters in the REST request.

- In JavaScript adapters, which use ordered nameless parameters, pass an array of parameters with the name `params`:

```
resourceRequest.setQueryParameter("params", "['param1', 'param2']");
```

- In Java adapters or external resources, use `setQueryParameter` for each parameter:

```
resourceRequest.setQueryParameter("param1", "value1");  
resourceRequest.setQueryParameter("param2", "value2");
```

send(body)

The `send()` method triggers the request. It takes an optional parameter to set a body to the HTTP request, which could be a JSON object or a simple string.

```
resourceRequest.send().then(  
    onSuccess,  
    onFailure  
)
```

Using JavaScript promises, you can define `onSuccess` and `onFailure` functions.

sendFormParameters(json)

To send URL-encoded form parameters, use the `sendFormParameters(json)` method instead. This method converts the JSON to a URL encoded string, sets the content-type to `application/x-www-form-urlencoded`, and sets it as the HTTP body.

For more information about `WLResourceRequest`, see the API reference in the user documentation.

The response

Both the `onSuccess` and `onFailure` callbacks receive a `response` object, which typically contains the following properties:

- **status**: The HTTP response status
- **responseJSON**: An object that contains the data that is returned by the called resource, and additional information about the resource call

The `response` object is returned to the corresponding success/failure handler.

```
{
  "errors": [],
  "info": [],
  "warnings": [],
  "isSuccessful": true,
  "responseHeaders": {
    "Cache-Control": "no-cache, must-revalidate, post-check=0, pre-check=0"
  },
  "responseTime": 491,
  "statusCode": 200,
  "statusReason": "OK",
  "totalTime": 592,
  "Items": [{
    "creator": "Jon Fingas",
    "link": "http://www.engadget.com/2014/11/10/harvard-used-cameras-to-check-attendance/?ncid=rss_truncated",
    "pubDate": "Mon, 10 Nov 2014 02:21:00 -0500",
    "title": "Harvard used cameras to track attendance without telling students"
  }, {
    "creator": "Jon Fingas",
    "link": "http://www.engadget.com/2014/11/10/bmw-ev-charging-street-lights/?ncid=rss_truncated",
    "pubDate": "Mon, 10 Nov 2014 00:10:00 -0500",
    "title": "BMW's new street lights will charge your electric car"
  }, {
    "creator": "Daniel Cooper",
    "link": "http://www.engadget.com/2014/11/09/hwyc-lumia-925/?ncid=rss_truncated",
    "pubDate": "Sun, 09 Nov 2014 22:43:00 -0500",
    "title": "How would you change Nokia's Lumia 925?"
  }
]}
}
```

- `errors`, `info`, and `warnings` are optional arrays of strings that contain messages.
- The `isSuccessful` property is set to `true` if the resource call succeeded (even if no data was retrieved), or to `false` otherwise.
- The response can contain other metadata such as `responseHeaders`, `responseTime`, `statusCode`, `statusReason`, and `totalTime`.

Handling the response

The rest of the resource call result depends on what was retrieved from the back-end system. In this example, the `Items` element is a JSON representation of the XML code that was received from the back end, after the rules in the XSL file were applied.

```
function loadFeedsSuccess(result){
  WL.Logger.debug("Feed retrieve success");
  if (result.responseJSON.Items.length > 0)
    displayFeeds(result.responseJSON.Items);
}
```

Sample application

Click to download (<https://github.com/MobileFirst-Platform-Developer-Center/ResourceRequestCordova>) the MobileFirst project.

RSS Reader

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