

Learning MobileFirst hybrid client-side API

Overview

To complete this tutorial, you must have previous experience with web development technologies such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript and DOM events & manipulations. To learn these technologies, visit <http://www.w3schools.com/> (<http://www.w3schools.com/>).

Although not required, a basic knowledge of jQuery and object-oriented JavaScript libraries is an advantage.

MobileFirst application components

Application resources

The following files are essential resources in a MobileFirst application:

- **index.html**: Main HTML file
- **main.js**: Main JavaScript file
- **messages.js**: Messages file for storing application strings, primarily used for translation
- **initOptions.js**: Used for defining application initialization options (http://www-01.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/SSHS8R_6.3.0/com.ibm.worklight.apiref.doc/html/refjavascript-client/html/WL.Client.html%23init)
- **wljq.js**: An encapsulated version of jQuery
- **worklight.js**: The MobileFirst client API uses the WL namespace. This namespace provides bridging to native mobile platform APIs and other elements

The WL namespace

The WL namespace is used to invoke MobileFirst APIs: `WL.Client`, `WL.App`, `WL.SimpleDialog`, ...

The WL namespace exposes the API objects, methods, and constants (usually enums).

The WL namespace is available in the application by having `worklight.js` automatically referenced in `index.html` when the application is generated in MobileFirst Studio.

WL.Client

With `WL.Client`, you can perform the following type of tasks.

Additional API methods are available in the IBM MobileFirst user documentation topic for `WL.Client` (http://www-01.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/SSHS8R_6.3.0/com.ibm.worklight.apiref.doc/html/refjavascript-client/html/WL.Client.html?cp=SSHS8R_6.3.0%2F9-0-0-1-7).

Initialize and reload the application:

- `WL.Client.init(onSuccess, onFailure, timeout, ...)`
- `WL.Client.reloadApp()`

Trigger login and logout:

- `WL.Client.login(realm, options)`
- `WL.Client.logout(realm, options)`

Obtain general app information:

- `WL.Client.getEnvironment()`
- `WL.Environment.ADOBE_AIR`
- ...

Retrieve and update data from corporate information systems:

- `WL.Client.invokeProcedure(invocationData, options)`

Store and retrieve user preferences across sessions:

- `WL.Client.setUserPref(key, value, options)`
- `WL.Client.setUserPrefs({key1:value1, ...}, options)`
- `WL.Client.getUserPref(key)`
- `WL.Client.deleteUserPref(key, options)`
- `WL.Client.hasUserPref(key)`

Specify environment-specific user interface behavior:

- `WL.App.openURL`
- `WL.App.getDeviceLanguage`
- `WL.App.getDeviceLocale`
- `WL.BusyIndicator`
- `WL.TabBar`
- `WL.SimpleDialog`
- `WL.OptionsMenu`
- ...

Store custom log lines for auditing and reporting purposes in special database tables:

- `WL.Client.logActivity(activityType)`

Write debug lines to a logger window (for example: Chrome's Dev Tools console):

- `WL.Logger.debug`

WL.Logger

`WL.Logger` helps you troubleshoot errors in environments without debugging tools.

`WL.Logger` outputs to an environment console, such as Xcode console, Adobe AIR, Android LogCat, Chrome Dev Tools and the like.



Sample application

Click to download

(<http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/products/en/MobileFirstPlatform/docs/v630/LearningMobileFirstHybridClientSideAPIProject.zip>)
the Studio project.