Windows Phone 8 - Implementing Cordova plug-ins

Overview

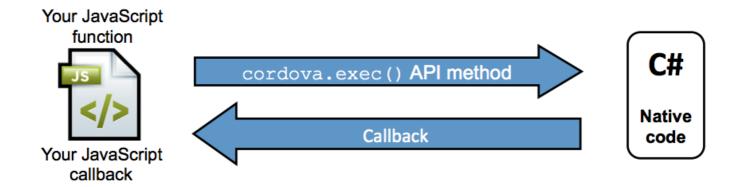
In some cases, developers of a MobileFirst application might have to use a specific third-party native library or a device function that is not yet available in Apache Cordova. With Apache Cordova, developers can create an Apache Cordova plug-in, which means that they create custom native code blocks, and call these code blocks in their applications by using JavaScript. In this tutorial, a simple Apache Cordova plug-in creation and integration for Windows Phone 8 will be demonstrated.

Note:

In Cordova-based applications, developers must check for the deviceready event before they use the Cordova API set. In a MobileFirst application, however, this check is done internally. Instead of implementing this check, implementation code can be placed in the wlCommonInit() function in common\js\main.js. The below code blocks are based on the sample application, provided at the bottom of this tutorial.

Plug-in creation overview:

- Declare the plug-in in the config.xml file
- Use the cordova.exec() API in the JavaScript code
- Create the plug-in class that will run natively in Windows Phone 8
- The plug-in performs the required action and calls a JavaScript callback method that is specified during the call to cordova.exec()



Declaring a plug-in

The plug-in needs to be declared in the project, so that Cordova can detect it. To declare the plug-in, add a reference to the config.xml file, located in the native folder of the Windows Phone 8 environment.

```
<feature name="sayHelloPlugin">
<param name="wp-package" value="sayHelloPlugin" />
</feature>
```

Implementing cordova.exec() in JavaScript

From the JavaScript code of the application, use cordova.exec() to call the Cordova plug-in:

```
function sayHello() {
  var name = $("#NameInput").val();
  cordova.exe(sayHelloSuccess, sayHelloFailure, "SayHelloPlugin", "sayHello", [name])
;
}
```

sayHelloSuccess - Success callback sayHelloFailure - Failure callback SayHelloPlugin - Plug-in name as declared in config.xml sayHello - Action name [name] - Parameters array The plug-in calls the success and failure callbacks.

```
function sayHelloSuccess(data){
   WL.SimpleDialog.show(
        "Response from plug-in", data,
   [{text: "OK", handler: function() {WL.Logger.debug("Ok button pressed");}}]
   );
}

function sayHelloFailure(data){
   WL.SimpleDialog.show(
   "Response from plug-in", data,
   [{text: "OK", handler: function() {WL.Logger.debug("Ok button pressed");}}]
   );
}
```

Implementing the C# code of a Cordova plug-in

After the plug-in is declared, and the JavaScript implementation is ready, the Cordova plug-in can be implemented. For this purpose, ensure that the project is built in Eclipse and opened in the Visual Studio IDE.

Step 1

- Create a new C# class
- Add the new class to your project namespace and add the required import statements.

```
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Text;
using System.Threading.Tasks;

using WPCordovaClassLib.Cordova;
using WPCordovaClassLib.Cordova.Commands;
using WPCordovaClassLib.Cordova.JSON;

namespace Cordova.Extension.Commands
{
public class SayHelloPlugin : BaseCommand
{
```

Step 2

Implement the SayHelloPlugin class and the sayHello method.

• The JavaScript wrapper calls the sayHello method and passes a single parameter. It returns a string back

to JavaScript.

```
public void sayHello(string options)
{
    string optVal = null;
    try {
        optVal = JsonHelper.Deserialize<string[]>(options)[0];
    }
    catch (Exception) {
        DispatchCommandResult(new PluginResult(PluginResult.Status.ERROR, "SayHelloPlugin signaled an error"));
    }
}
```

The DispatchCommandResult method returns the result to JavaScript, whether success or failure.

Sample application

Click to download

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

