Resource request from hybrid client applications

Overview

MobileFirst applications can access resources using the `WLResourceRequest` REST API.
The REST API works with all adapters and external resources (../../authentication-security/using-mobilefirst-server-authenticate-external-resources/), and is supported in the following hybrid environments: iOS, Android, Windows Phone 8, and Windows 8.

If your application supports other hybrid environments such as BlackBerry, Mobile Web, or Desktop Browser, see the tutorial for IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation 6.3 (file:////home/travis/build/MFPSamples/DevCenter/_site/tutorials/en/foundation/6.3/server-side-development/invoking-adapter-procedures-hybrid-client-applications/).

This tutorial explains how to use the `WLResourceRequest` API with an HTTP adapter.

WLResourceRequest

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

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

The parameters for the constructor are:

- **request URL**: To access an adapter within the same project, the URL should be `/adapters/AdapterName/procedureName`.
  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

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

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

- In MobileFirst JavaScript adapters, which use ordered nameless parameters, pass an array of parameters with the name `params`.
- In Java adapters or external resources, use `setQueryParameter` for each parameter.

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

send(body)

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

The `send()` method triggers the request.
Using JavaScript promises, you can define `onSuccess` and `onFailure` functions.

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

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.

Results

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 invoked procedure, and additional information about the procedure invocation.

The object is returned to a 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=rs
s_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 procedure invocation 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 result

The rest of the invocation 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/InvokingAdapterProcedures) the MobileFirst project.

The sample uses the HTTP adapter created in the HTTP Adapter tutorial (../javascript-adapters/js-http-adapter).