FLEX AND REST

the short story

GOOD EVENING

- Simeon Bateman

- simeon@simb.net

- http://blog.simb.net

WHY AM I HERE

- Flex is great at building cool GUI's

- Ruby is fun to code

- Rails makes REST "stupid simple"

- These tools make my web projects happy

TOPICS

- REST

- Flex RPC

REST

- Representational State Transfer

- One URI to rule them all

- REST is an implementation not a standard

    - like client-server is not a standard

- REST uses many standards

    - http - url - xml

REST IS

- Client Server - All communication is pull

- Stateless - All information must be passed each request

- Uniform Interface - accessed via simple GET and POST http requests

REST

- Uses distinctive URL's to describe data

  - http://myDemoDomain.com/users

  - http://myDemoDomain.com/users/1

REST METHODS

- Because everything is accessed via a unique URL

  - Use HTTP verbs to differentiate the action we want to perform

  - This is a fundamental concept in how the WWW was born

- Humans can't do this by themselves though

  - So we get to change the URL's to more human readable things

REST URL IN RAILS

- URL - http://www.myDemoDomain.com

- Resource - users

- URI - http://www.myDemoDomain.com/users

  - GET - List of users

  - POST - Create new user

  - PUT - Update a user

  - Delete - Destroy a user

DEMO

- Lets build a RESTful interface in Rails

FLEX

- Flex is a framework for building Flash platform applications

- Made up of 2 languages MXML and Actionscript 3

- Flex 3 SDK is open source!

- Uses RPC classes to facilitate communication with the outside world

FLEX RPC

- RPC - Remote Procedure Call

- 3 Classes built into Flex SDK

  - HTTPService

  - WebService

  - RemoteObject

HTTPSERVICE

- HTTPService allows us to make requests against any resource available via HTTP

- Represented in MXML using the mx:httpservice tag

  - Has a URL property that designates what resources will be requested

  - Has a send() method to initiate the actual request

HTTPSERVICE

- <mx:httpservice id="myHS" url="http://www.myDemoDomain.com/users.xml" />

- myHS.send()

- myHS.lastResult

- Can also use result and fault events to handle data returned from remote service

FLASH PROBLEMS

- The road is not smoothly paved

  - Non Standard HTTP verbs are blocked by the player

    - We can get around this in Rails with _method parameter

  - HTTP basic authorization headers are blocked in Flash Player 9.0.115

DEMO

- Lets see this put together