

Where art thou,  
my error?

@alloy - *artsy.net*

<https://github.com/alloy/graphql-finland>

Still early days

GitHub, Inc.

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## [RFC] Add error path to response #230

Merged leebryon merged 12 commits into facebook:master from stubailo:error-path on May 12, 2017

Conversation 29 Commits 12 Checks 0 Files changed 1

stubailo commented on Oct 29, 2016 • edited

Contributor + ...

Reopening from #187 with a real branch.

This is helpful for clients to identify why there is a `null` in the response, because that could be due to an error or an actual `null` result.

7 6

leebryon merged commit d554d12 into facebook:master on May 12, 2017

View details

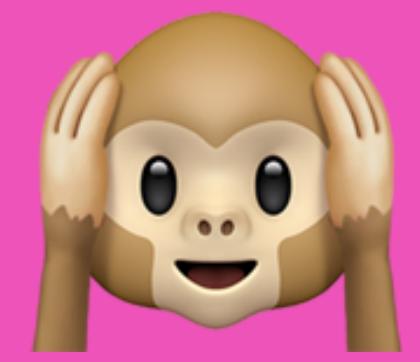
1 check passed

leebryon commented on May 12, 2017

Collaborator + ...

Super excited about adding this into the next spec release. We've been using it in graphql-js experimentally for a while and it's quite helpful

1



# Errors vs Errors

# GraphQL Errors

# GraphQL Errors

```
{  
  data: {  
    artwork: {  
      artist: {  
        name: "Vincent van Gogh",  
        leftEarSize: null  
      }  
    }  
  },  
  errors: [  
    {  
      message: "An unexpected error occurred",  
      path: ["artwork", "artist", "leftEarSize"]  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

# Exceptions

What's the  
problem?

# Partial data

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ARTWORKS AUCTIONS MORE

4

A Search by artist, gallery, etc.

Banksy

British, 100,382 followers

Following

Whether plastering cities with his trademark parachuting rat, painting imagined openings in the West Bank barrier in Israel, or stenciling "We're bored of fish" above a penguins' zoo enclosure, Banksy creates street art with an irreverent wit and an international reputation that precedes his anonymous identity. "TV ... [Read more](#)

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**Banksy**

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Component unrelated to artist page

Whether plastering cities with his trademark parachuting rat, painting imagined openings in the West Bank barrier in Israel, or stenciling "We're bored of fish" above a penguins' zoo enclosure, Banksy creates street art with an irreverent wit and an international reputation that precedes his anonymous identity. "TV ... [Read more](#)"

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Sold Sold Bidding closed

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ARTWORKS AUCTIONS MORE 4

Ways to Buy

Buy now  
 Bid  
 Inquire

Medium ▾

Prints  
 Painting  
 Sculpture  
 Work on Paper  
 Design  
 Installation  
 Drawing

Gallery ▾

Institution ▾

Time period ▾

Sort: Default ▾

  
\$89,500  
Banksy  
*CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON (SKY BL...*  
Gallery Art

  
\$55,000  
Banksy  
*Stop & Search, 2007*  
David Benrimon Fine Art

  
*Jack & Jill (Police Kids), 2005*  
David Benrimon Fine Art



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ARTWORKS AUCTIONS MORE 4

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\$55,000  
Banksy  
Stop & Search, 2007  
David Benrimon Fine Art

  
Jack & Jill (Police Kids), 2005  
David Benrimon Fine Art

  
£10 Bank of England TEN Pounds

Can you spot the missing artwork brick?  
This is fine 👍

Communicate  
error

ARTSY

Shipping > Payment > Review

Add shipping address  
 Arrange for pickup (free)

Full name  
Eloy Durán

Country  
United States

Postal code  
Add postal code  
This field is required

Address line 1  
401 Broadway

Address line 2 (optional)  
25th floor

City  
New York

State, province, or region  
NY

Phone number  
Required for shipping logistics  
0123456789

Continue

Dabeiyuzhou | 1st Geno...  
SundayTestArtworks No P...  
Invoicing Demo Partner  
New York, NY, US

Price \$400,000.00  
Shipping —  
Tax —  
Total \$400,000.00

Have a question? [Read our FAQ](#) or [ask a specialist](#).

# Possible solutions

GraphQL Errors  
and reject entire  
response

<https://u.nu/atrh>

<https://u.nu/pjv->

# GraphQL Errors with metadata

*<https://u.nu/r5-2>*

# GraphQL Errors with metadata

```
import { UserInputError } from 'apollo-server';

const resolvers = {
  Query: {
    events(root, { zipCode }) {
      if (!isValidZipCode(zipCode)) {
        throw new UserInputError(
          'Failed to get events due to validation errors',
          { validationErrors: {
            zipCode: 'This is not a valid zipcode'
          }}
        );
      }
      return getEventsByZipcode(zipCode);
    }
  }
}
```

# GraphQL Errors with metadata

**While convenient, the weakness of this approach is that the format of the validation error messages is not captured by your schema, making it brittle to changes. Unless you maintain tight control of both server and client, you should keep the error responses as simple as possible.**

**For mutations, it can be worthwhile defining these validation errors as first class citizens within your schema.**

# Extra (mutation) error fields

<https://u.nu/th7y>

# Extra (mutation) error fields

```
type UpdateArtworkMutationResponse {  
    success: Boolean!  
    message: String!  
    artwork: Artwork  
}
```

# Extra (mutation) error fields

<https://u.nu/th7y>

# Extra error field & type

<https://u.nu/-3pw>

# Extra error field & type

```
type GenericError {  
  message: String!  
}
```

```
type UpdateArtworkMutationResponse {  
  error: GenericError  
  artwork: Artwork  
}
```

# Extra error field & type

```
type PublishedArtworkNotification {  
    artwork: Artwork  
}
```

```
type PublishedArtworkNotificationsPayload {  
    error: GenericError  
    notifications: [PublishedArtworkNotification]  
}
```

```
type Query {  
    publishedArtworkNotificationsPayload:  
        PublishedArtworkNotificationsPayload!  
}
```

# Extra error field & type

<https://u.nu/-3pw>

*Side-note:* <https://u.nu/i0yg>

# Recap

- Use GraphQL
  - In context
  - All operations
  - Explicit status

Exceptions as  
first-class citizens

# Exceptions as first-class citizens

```
type Artwork {  
    title: String!  
}  
  
type HTTPError {  
    message: String!  
    statusCode: Int!  
}  
  
union ArtworkOrError = Artwork | HTTPError  
  
type Query {  
    artworkOrError(id: ID!): ArtworkOrError  
}  
  
query {  
    artworkOrError("mona-lisa") {  
        ... on Artwork {  
            title  
        }  
        ... on HTTPError {  
            statusCode  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Exceptions as first-class citizens

```
type Artist {  
    artworksOrErrors: [ArtworkOrError]  
}  
  
type Query {  
    artist(id: ID!): Artist  
}  
  
query {  
    artist("leonardo-da-vinci") {  
        artworksOrErrors {  
            ... on Artwork {  
                title  
            }  
            ... on HTTPError {  
                statusCode  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Exceptions as first-class citizens

```
type UpdateArtworkMutationResponse {  
    artworkOrError: ArtworkOrError  
}
```

# Exceptions as first-class citizens

```
query {  
  artworkOrError("mona-lisa") {  
    ... on Artwork {  
      title  
    }  
  }  
}
```

# How we use it

# Types

```
interface Error {
  message: String!
}

interface HTTPError {
  message: String!
  statusCode: Int!
}

type HTTPErrorType implements Error & HTTPError {
  message: String!
  statusCode: Int!
}

type Artwork {
  title: String!
}

union ArtworkOrError = Artwork | HTTPErrorType

type Query {
  artworkOrError(id: ID!): ArtworkOrError
}
```

# Types

```
interface Error {
  message: String!
}

interface HTTPError {
  message: String!
  statusCode: Int!
}

type HTTPErrorType implements Error & HTTPError {
  message: String!
  statusCode: Int!
}

type Artwork {
  title: String!
}

union ArtworkOrError = Artwork | HTTPErrorType

type Query {
  artworkOrError(id: ID!): ArtworkOrError
}
```

# Types

```
query {  
  artworkOrError("mona-lisa") {  
    ... on Artwork {  
      title  
    }  
    ... on HTTPError {  
      message  
      statusCode  
    }  
  }  
}
```

# Types

```
query {
  artworkOrError("mona-lisa") {
    ... on Artwork {
      title
    }
    ...GenericErrorComponent
    ...GenericHTTPErrorComponent
  }
}

fragment GenericErrorComponent on Error {
  message
}

fragment GenericErrorComponent on HTTPError {
  message
  statusCode
}
```

# Types

```
interface Error {
  message: String!
}

interface HTTPError {
  message: String!
  statusCode: Int!
}

type HTTPErrorType implements Error & HTTPError {
  message: String!
  statusCode: Int!
}

type Artwork {
  title: String!
}

union ArtworkOrError = Artwork | HTTPErrorType

type Query {
  artworkOrError(id: ID!): ArtworkOrError
}
```

# Types

*Side-note: <https://u.nu/c1ye>*

# Field naming

‘something’ or error

# Field naming

```
query {  
  artwork("mona-lisa") {  
    title  
  }  
}
```

# Field naming

```
query {  
  artworkOrError("mona-lisa") {  
    ... on Artwork {  
      title  
    }  
    ... on HTTPError {  
      statusCode  
    }  
  }  
}
```

# Field naming

```
type Query {  
    artworks: [artwork]  
    artworksConnection: ArtworksConnection  
}
```

# Downside of union

```
type ArtworkPurchasableBox {  
    value: Boolean!  
}
```

```
union ArtworkPurchasableOrError = ArtworkPurchasableBox | HTTPError
```

```
type Artwork {  
    currentlyPurchasableOrError: ArtworkPurchasableOrError  
}
```

# Downside of union

*Side-note: <https://u.nu/c29p>*

# Example of query usage

```
import { OrderStatus_order } from "__generated__/OrderStatus_order.graphql"
import { createFragmentContainer, graphql } from "react-relay"

interface Props { order: OrderStatus_order }

const OrderStatus: React.SFC<Props> = ({ order: orderStatusOrError }) =>
  orderStatusOrError.__typename === "OrderStatus" ? (
    <div>
      {orderStatusOrError.deliveryDispatched
        ? "Your order has been dispatched."
        : "Your order has not been dispatched yet."}
    </div>
  ) : (
    <div className="error">
      {orderStatusOrError.code === "unpublished"
        ? "Please contact gallery services."
        : `An unexpected error occurred: ${orderStatusOrError.message}`}
    </div>
  )
)

export const OrderStatusContainer = createFragmentContainer(
  OrderStatus,
  graphql`  

    fragment OrderStatus_order on Order {
      orderStatusOrError {
        __typename
        ... on OrderStatus {
          deliveryDispatched
        }
        ... on OrderError {
          message
          code
        }
      }
    }
  `,
)
```

# Example of mutation usage

```
import { SubmitOrder_order } from "__generated__/SubmitOrder_order.graphql"
import { SubmitOrderMutation } from "__generated__/SubmitOrderMutation.graphql"
import { Router } from "found-relay"
import { commitMutation, createFragmentContainer, graphql, RelayProp } from "react-relay"

interface Props { order: SubmitOrder_order, relay: RelayProp, router: Router }

const SubmitOrder: React.SFC<Props> = props => (
  <button
    onClick={() => {
      commitMutation<SubmitOrderMutation>(props.relay.environment, {
        mutation: graphql`mutation SubmitOrderMutation($input: SubmitOrder!) {
          submitOrder(input: $input) {
            orderStatusOrError {
              __typename
              ... on OrderStatus {
                submitted
              }
              ... on OrderError {
                message
                code
              }
            }
          }
        }
      },
      variables: { input: { orderID: props.order.id } },
      onCompleted: ({ submitOrder: { orderStatusOrError } }, errors) => {
        if (orderStatusOrError.__typename === "OrderStatus") {
          props.router.push(
            `/orders/${props.order.id}/${orderStatusOrError.submitted ? "submitted" : "pending"}`
          )
        } else {
          alert(
            orderStatusOrError.code === "unpublished"
              ? "Please contact gallery services."
              : `An unexpected error occurred: ${orderStatusOrError.message}`
          )
        }
      }
    })
  />
)

export const SubmitOrderContainer = createFragmentContainer(...)
```

# Final thoughts



# Final thoughts



@alloy

# Final thoughts



# Final thoughts

...to 'REST' 😊

twitter.com

Home 99+ Notifications 1 Messages Search Twitter Tweet X

Eloy "DurÁin" Durán @alloy · Jul 17

Anyone know of any good posts on modelling user-errors as part of your GraphQL schema? We've started doing it using a union ([github.com/artsy/metaphys](https://github.com/artsy/metaphys) ...) just looking for some more perspectives from people with experience. cc @leeb

 **Adds union type for returning success and failure ...**

Marking this a WIP since I want to get some feedback before I write tests. This represents yet another version of error handling... informed heavily by this discussio... [github.com](https://github.com)

2 2 8

Lee Byron @leeb Following

Replying to @alloy

That diff makes a lot of sense to me. I've also seen user errors as a field on the mutation result, but I like that union makes it explicit that there was either success or failure and in the case of failure provides rich information that's in your app's domain.

11:16 PM - 19 Jul 2018

2 Likes

1 2

Lee Byron's profile includes:

- Lee Byron (@leeb)
- I make things @ReactiveRelay previously @Facebook. Immutable.js, Webpack, Nonsense.
- San Francisco, CA
- [leebryon.com](http://leebryon.com)
- Joined May 2018