Hypermedia Clients

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Highlights

- What is Hypermedia?
- What is a Hypermedia Client?
- What does it look like?



What is Hypermedia?



Roy T. Fielding

- "Architectural Styles and the Design of Network-based Software Architectures", 2000
- Identified REST architectural style
- "Hypermedia is defined by the presence of application control information embedded within, or as a layer above, the presentation of information. Distributed hypermedia allows the presentation and control information to be stored at remote locations."





Roy T. Fielding

Hypermedia is control information





Analyzing Media Types

```
<html>
 <head>
   <title>H-Factor Sample</title>
 </head>
 <body>
   <img src="..." class="logo" />
   >
     <a href="..." class="home">Home</a>
   <form action="..." class="search">
     <input name="search" value="" />
     <input type="submit" />
   </form>
 </body>
</html>
```



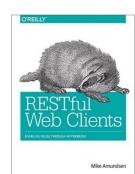
Analyzing Media Types

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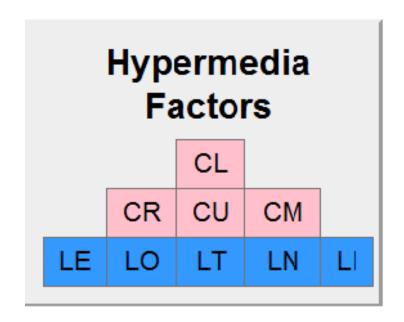


Analyzing Media Types

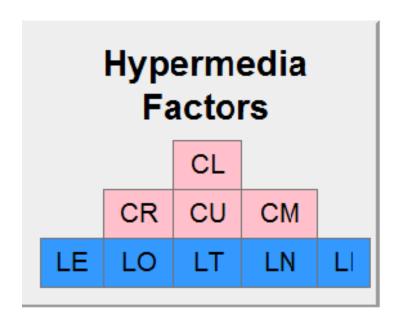
```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>H-Factor Sample</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <LE src="..." class="logo" />
    >
      <LO href="..." class="home">Home</LO>
    <LT action="..." class="search">
     <input name="search" value="" />
     <input type="submit" />
    </LT>
  </body>
</html>
```



- There are five LINK Factors (LO, LE, LT, LI, LN)
- There are four CONTROL Factors (CR, CU, CM, CL)



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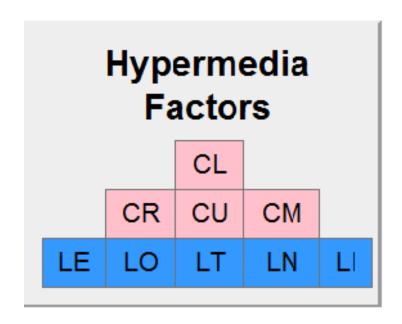


```
<a href="http://www.example.org/search" title="view search page">Search</a>
```

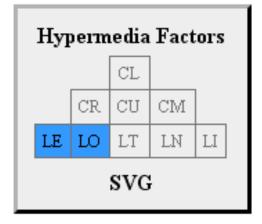
```
<img src="http://www.example.org/images/logo" title="company logo" />
```

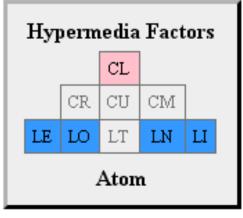


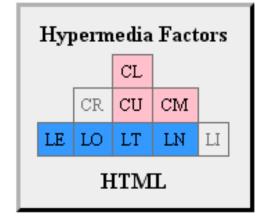
- There are five LINK Factors (LO, LE, LT, LI, LN)
- There are four CONTROL Factors (CR, CU, CM, CL)



- A pre-defined collection of H-Factors is called a "Media Type"
- Each media type has it's own "H-Factor" signature.









Roy T. Fielding

Hypermedia is control information





What is a Hypermedia Client?



What is a Hypermedia Client?

A client that is able to determine possible protocol-level choices at runtime using only the links and forms in the message itself as a quide.

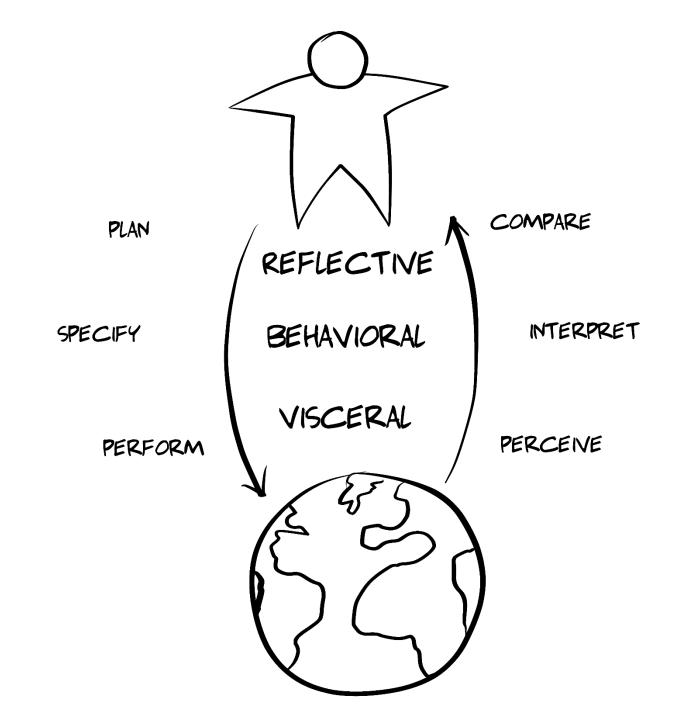


Some things to keep in mind...

Hypermedia clients are based on the "Action Lifecycle"



Donald Norman's Action Lifecycle



Hypermedia clients

Typically hypermedia clients have almost no long-term memory.

Hypermedia clients' memories last for a single request/response cycle.

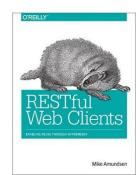


Clients MAY save a past response, parse it, store it, and recall it later.



Faithful Hypermedia Clients (FHCs)

- FHCs simply pass along whatever the server returns; usually to a human.
- FHCs MAY make some decisions on how to display the returned representation
- FHCs only need a starting URL and a (human) driver.



Guide for implementing an FHC

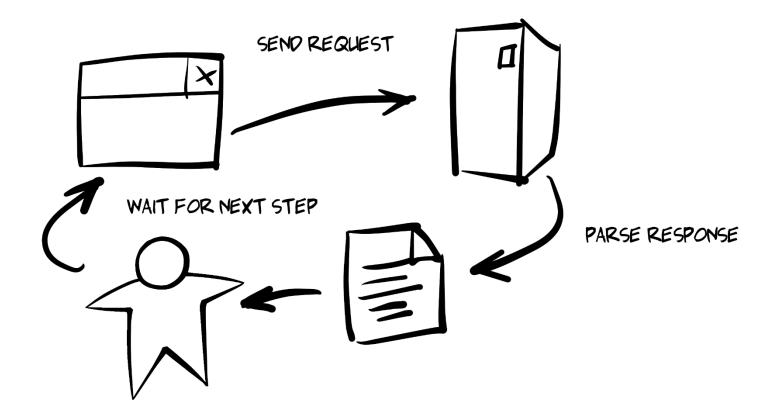
- Process the **structure** semantics in order to render view
- Process the **protocol** semantics in order to support available transitions
- Process the domain semantics in order to inform human of choices & results.

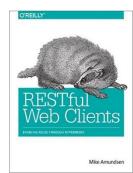


What Does it Look Like?



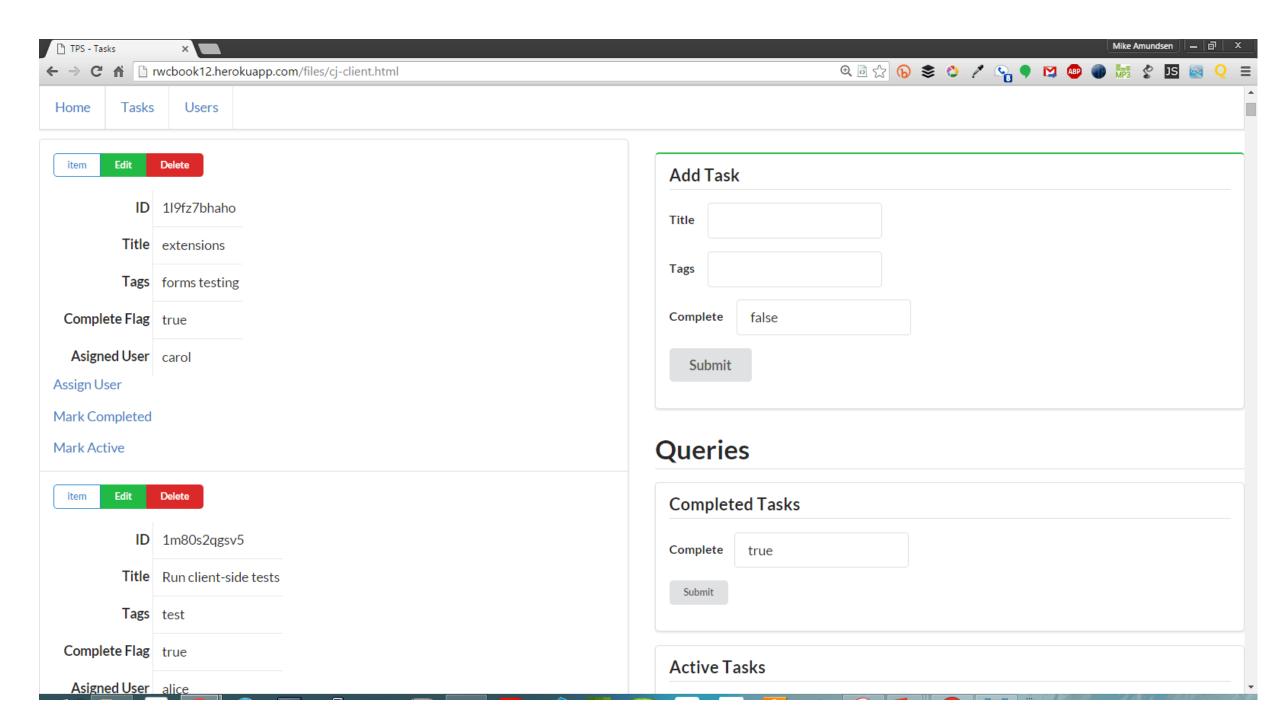
Primary Loop





RPW in Code

```
// init library and start
    function init(url) {
31
      if(!url || url==='') {
32
         alert('*** ERROR:\n\nMUST pass starting URL
33
34
      else {
35
         g.url = url;
36
         req(g.url, "get");
37
38
39
40
    // primary loop
41
    function parseCj() {
42
      dump();
43
      title();
44
      content();
45
      links();
46
      items();
47
      queries();
48
      template();
49
      error();
50
      cjClearEdit();
52
53
```



Summary

- Hypermedia is control information in the message
- Hypermedia Clients are aware of and use the control information
- Hypermedia Clients implement the RPW Loop (Request, Parse, Wait)
- We'll build a hypermedia client today.



Hypermedia Clients

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