Supporting Workflow with FORMS

Mike Amundsen API Academy @mamund



Highlights

- Domain actions vs. Network actions
- Network actions through FORMs
- Cj Queries and Templates



Domain Actions vs. Network Actions



Domain Actions

- The domain is what your service is "about"
 - Accounting
 - Shopping
 - Task Management
- Every domain has it's own set of actions...
 - Search
 - Approve
 - Promote

BTW - POST is not a domain action!



Network Actions

- The network is what your service uses to commit domain actions
 - HTTP
 - WebSockets
 - FTP
- Every NETWORK has it's own set of actions...
 - GET
 - PATCH
 - PUT
 - DELETE
 - OPTIONS
 - POST



Implementing an API means matching domain actions to network actions



Network Actions through FORMs



FORMs Describe Network Actions

- Domain Identifier ("editTask")
- Network identifier (http://example.org/task/q1w2e3)
- Network action (PUT)
- Domain Arguments
 - ID
 - Title
 - Completed
- Network Format
 - application/x-www-form-urlencoded



Example FORM

```
form: {
  method: "post"
  href: "http://example.org/task/"
  encoding: "application/x-www-form-urlencoded"
  prompt: "Add task",
  rel: "create",
  data:
    {name: "title", value: "", prompt: "Title"},
    {name: "completed", value: "false", prompt: "Complete"}
```

Cj Queries and Templates



Cj Queries

- Query FORMS are for read-type domain actions
 - Search, Sort, List, Read, etc.
- Query FORMS are always network safe
 - HTTP GET

Cj Templates

- Template FORMS are for write-type domain actions
 - Add, Edit, Update, Append,
- Template FORMS are never network safe
 - HTTP POST or PUT

```
"template": {
   "prompt": "Add task",
   "rel": "create-form",
   "data": [
        {"name": "title", "value": "", "prompt": "Title"},
        {"name": "completed", "value": "false", "prompt": "Complete"}
   ]
}
```

Summary

- API Design identifies DOMAIN actions
- Protocols (HTTP) identify NETWORK actions
- Media Types (HTML, Cj, etc.) map domain->network actions
- Cj uses Queries and Templates for Actions



Supporting Workflow with FORMS

Mike Amundsen API Academy @mamund

