<The Flagship App>

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*Status: early draft*

The Flagship App (or TFA) is an application that is going to be the part of the core deliverables for Angular 2. It is going to be owned and built by the core Angular team in order to showcase Angular 2 and use it as an open source playground for experimenting with api design, performance optimizations and integration of Angular with 3rd party libraries and services.

# Goals

The main goal of building TFA is to make Angular 2 awesome. TFA will lead to this in several ways:

* Continually expose the Angular team to the real world problems that can only be understood by owning the whole app that we also use every day.
* Serve as a playground for experiments.
* Serve as a testbed for performance optimizations.
* Serve as a reference app for Google & the outside world

An auxiliary goal is to make the Angular team more efficient by making our everyday tasks, processes and workflows better.

# Non-goals

In order to focus on the right "it", we should be upfront about things TFA should not try to achieve. These include:

* build a new Google product
* build features just for the sake of building something
* spend more than 5% of the TFA development time on the backend

# Technical Goals

* mobile first, but also work on desktop
* offline first
* well tested and documented
* modular (become a source of reusable components)

# What should we build?

Given how much time we spend on GitHub and how much friction there is between our needs and what GitHub offers, a GitHub client is our first candidate on the list. But we should certainly consider other options as well.

## Why GitHub client?

1. there is a real need for it (the whole team would use it daily and be more productive)
2. most of the backend apis are there already and are being maintained by GitHub
3. relatively well understood problem area with a lot of space to innovate (we built the GitHub PR helper extension already)
4. great candidate for a mobile app (e.g. triaging and some code reviews could be done on a tablet or phone)
5. great candidate for showcase app (most of the external developers are at least somewhat familiar with GitHub)

Additionally history tells us that every time we build something to makes ourselves productive, it gets adopted by others (Karma, CI Server, SauceLabs integration, Batarang, GitHub PR extension, CLA automation, automated deployment and google sync).

We have ideas on how to expand the GitHub client to include more features that go beyond GitHub, but those should wait until the essentials work well.

# Timeline

* Dec 2013 - approve the app and sketch out the minimum viable product (MVP)
* Jan 2014 - at least partially build MVP with Angular 1.x so that we have a base line
* Jan (late) - first builds in day-to-day use
* Feb (early) - agree on the scope of MVP and approve the plan
* Mar (late) - MVP using most of the core Angular 2 stack, still in heavy development, but already useful for day-to-day tasks