JSF and Apache MyFaces in Action

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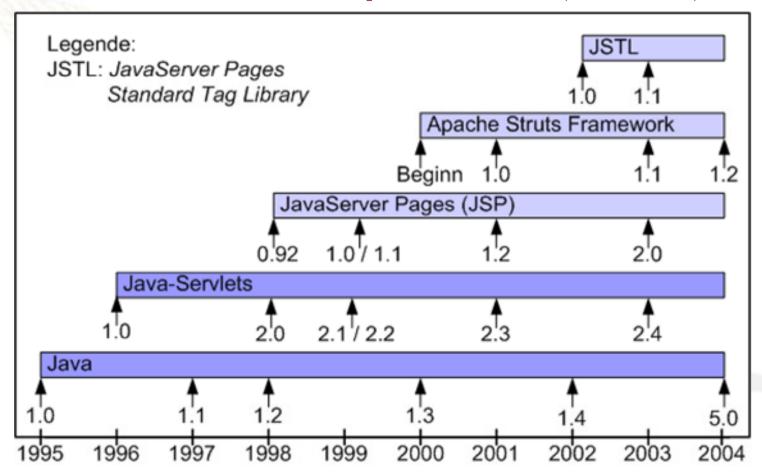
Agenda

- Introduction to JSF
- Introduction to Apache MyFaces
 - Building an Apache MyFaces Application
 - Get in touch with the JSF-Request-Lifecycle
 - Using and Writing Converters and Validators
- Some enhanced stuff (if time is there ©)

Web-Development (generally)

- Web-Apps become more and more important
- More and more complexity
 - Ajax, validation (server vs. client), ...
- Higher customer requirement over the years
 - Rich user experience (easy to use)
 - Ergonomics vs. functionality
- There is always the time ...

Web development (Java)



Servlets

Collection customers = db.getCustomers();
PrintWriter writer = response.getWriter();
writer.println("");
Iterator it = customers.iterator();
while(it.hasNext()) {
 writer.println(""); writer.println("");
 writer.println(((Customer)customers.next()).getCustomerNumber());
 writer.println(""); writer.println("
 he continue of the continue of th

JavaServer Pages

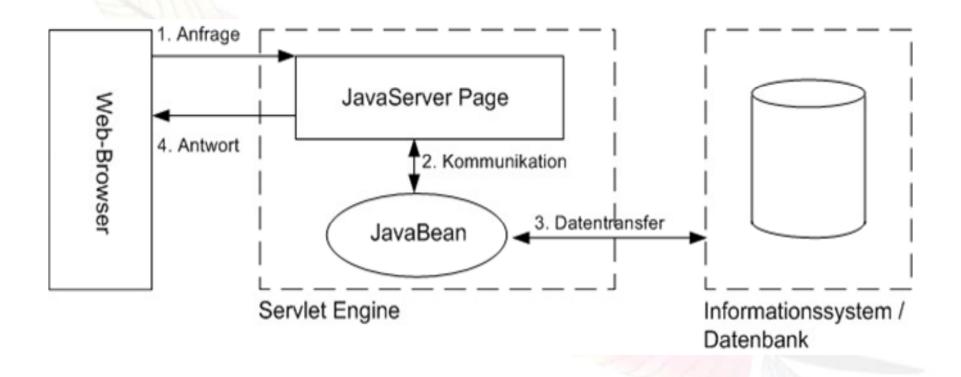
```
Collection customers = db.getCustomers();
Iterator it = customers.iterator();
%>

<% while(it.hasNext()) { %>

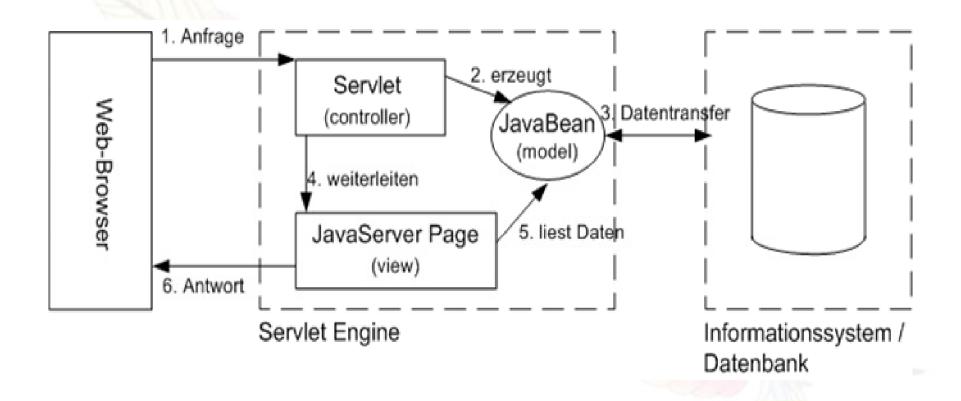
< <% = ((Customer)
customers.next()).getCustomerNumber()%> 
<//r>
</pr>
</pr>
</pr>
</pr>
</pr>

% } %>
```

Model 1



Model 2



Java-Web-Frameworks

- Lot's of Model-2 based frameworks out there (too many)
- Apache Struts
- WebWork (soon Struts' Action2 Framework)
- Stripes
- Cocoon
- and many many more ...
 - still some "homegrown"

Problems

- Java delivers not enough for webapps.
- It is hard to integrate several frameworks (sometimes not possible)
 - Every framework has its special idea to solve the problem
 - Examples:
 - Struts vs. Cocoon
 - Struts vs. Tapestry
 - Struts vs. Stripes
 - Struts vs. ... (what's your first choice?)

What's up ...?

- Standard is missing!
 - for a web framework
 - for an unified API to build Java Web Components
- SOLUTION:
 - JavaServer Faces!



JSF in a nutshel

- JSF is a ...
 - ... Java-Technology for Web-Apps
 - ... component-based framework
 - ... event-driven framework
 - ... RAD
 - ... industrial standard

Technology for Web-apps

- JSF supports:
 - the Web designer in creating simple templates for his application
 - the Java developer in writing backend code, which is simply independent from the Web server
 - Tool-vendors through its standardized platform

Technology for Web-apps

- JSF supports:
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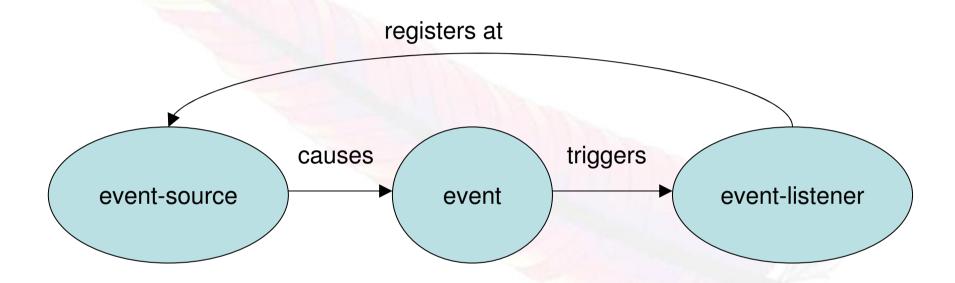
component driven framework

- JSF has building components
- define these components inside a JSP file, for instance
- the ,rendering' transforms these components to markup like HTML 4.0.1

event driven framework

- Events in JSF:
 - components generate events
 - enforces a method call ("action" and "event" handler)
 - the state of the web app changes due to that caused event

event driven framework



Rapid Application Development

- 4 layers:
 - basic component architecture
 - set of standard components
 - application infrastructure
 - the RAD tool itself
- ⇒ JSF standardizes the first three points and allows the creation of RAD tools



Why JavaServer Faces?

- industrial standard (backed by JCP)
 - JSR 127 (JSF 1.0 and JSF 1.1) 2004
 - JSR 252 (JSF 1.2) 2006 (Java EE 5.0)
 - JSF 1.2 better interaction with JSP 2.1 and bugfixes
 - JSF 2.0 (architecture, AJAX, more UI components, ...)

 Question is ... when ... 2006, 2007?
- Java EE 5.0
- BIG support
 - IDEs (Sun, Eclipse, Oracle, ...)
 - 3rd party UI-components (Oracle, Apache MyFaces)

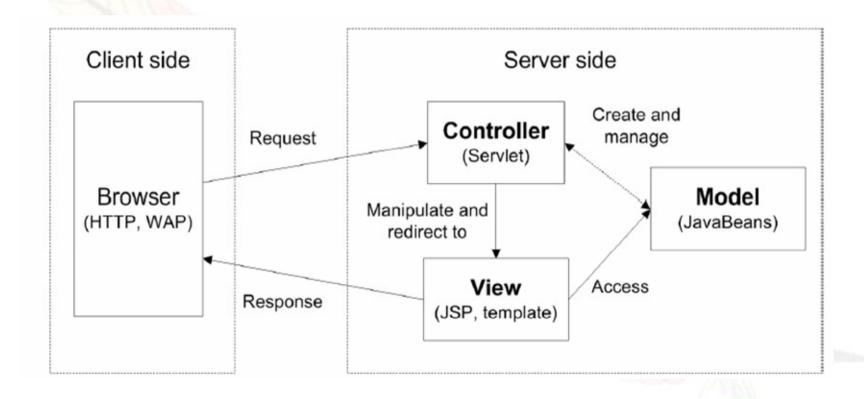


Implementation: Apache MyFaces

- First free open source implementation ©
- Founders:
 - Manfred Geiler (OEKB)
 - Thomas Spiegl (irian.at Austria)
- Biggest JSF user community



JSF - MVC Framework (1)



JSF - MVC Framework (2)

- Model: objects and properties of application (business tier bindings)
- View: Renderers take care of the view. That might be HTML (or XUL, or WML)
- Controller: FacesServlet / JSF infrastructure defines the flow of the application

Reusability

- JSF allows the resuse of ...
 - ... components
 - Reuse of widgets, once created
 - ... views
 - possible to to build a layout based on subviews
 - ... your design
 - components support the design
 - Creation of a "Corporate Design"
 - **>** → Reuse for your next project

Integration (1)

- JSF is flexible; extensible and can be adopted
 - Fit's into several standards
 - Based upon JSPs and Servlets
 - Frameworks ontop of JSF...
 - Seam, Facelets, Shale, ...
- Part of a big spec. Java Enterprise Edition 5.0
 - Java EE 5 enforces app servers to ship a JSF implementation.
 - Today it is already shipped by JBoss and SUN

Integration (2)

- Integration with web portals (JSR 168) possible
 - Page contains several subapplications (portlets)
 - JSR-168 bridges (RI, MyFaces, Apache Portals)
- Supported by other web frameworks
 - Struts classic (Struts 1.2 and Struts 1.3)
 - Struts Integration Library (Craig McClanahan)
 - SAF2 (Struts Actions2 Framework)
 - special FacesInterceptors
 - Blog entry by Don Brown available
 - Cocoon has JSF support

Tools

- run time:
 - every servlet container
 - Every Java EE 5.0 compliant Application Server has JSF "out of the box".
- design time:
 - Sun One Studio Creator
 - Eclipse and MyEclipse, Exadel Studio
 - Oracle JDeveloper

Development process

- with proper tools:
 - Drag&Drop:
 - Drag your components from a pallet to the page
 - wire the components to "backing beans"
 - create a persistence layer

References

Companies using Apache MyFaces

http://wiki.apache.org/myfaces/Companies_Using_MyFaces

- Austria (for instance):
 - OeKB: Roncalli, ADAS, QMS, Gruppenkalender, Zeiterfassung
 - Prisma Kreditversicherungen: Prismanet,
 PrismaCIS
 - IRIAN GesmbH: http://www.irian.at

Example

• Wake up again ...



JSF - Hello World (JSP file)

```
<%@ taglib uri="http://java.sun.com/jsf/html" prefix="h" %>
<%@ taglib uri="http://java.sun.com/jsf/core" prefix="f" %>
<f:loadBundle basename="demo.bundle.Messages" var="Message"/>
<HTMI.>
    <HEAD> <title>Input Name Page</title> </HEAD>
    <body bgcolor="white">
<f:view>
<h1><h:outputText value="#{Message.inputname_header}"/></h1>
<h:messages style="color: red"/>
    <h:form id="helloForm">
    <h:outputText value="#{Message.prompt}"/>
   <h:inputText id="userName" value="#{GetNameBean.userName}" required="true">
   <f:validateLength minimum="2" maximum="20"/>
    </h:inputText>
   <h:commandButton id="submit" action="#{GetNameBean.sayHelloAction}"
         value="Say Hello" />
    </h:form>
</f:view>
   </body>
</HTML>
```

JSF and JSP

- JSF Spec describes the support of JSP
 - Alternatives possible (Facelets)
- JSP-Support via Taglibs
 - Core (the frameworks core)
 - like validation, conversion
 - HTML (renders "simple" markup (HTML 4.0.1)
 - , <input/>, ...

JSF - Hello World (JavaBean)

```
public class GetNameBean {
   String userName;
   public String getUserName() {
      return userName; }
   public void setUserName(String name) {
      userName = name; }
   public String sayHelloAction() {
      return "sayhello"; }
}
```

JSF - XML Config (1)

JSF - XML Config (2)

Practice - Hello World

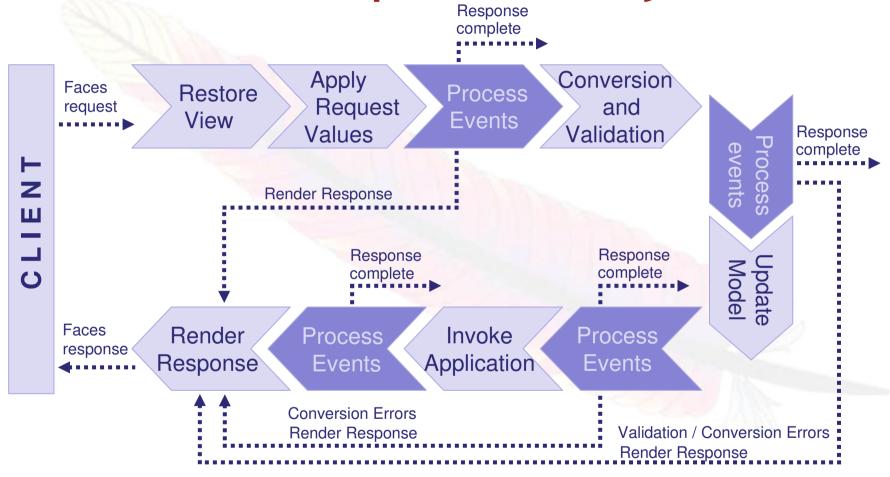
 Modify the Example to take firstName and sirName

If you need help, SCREAM!

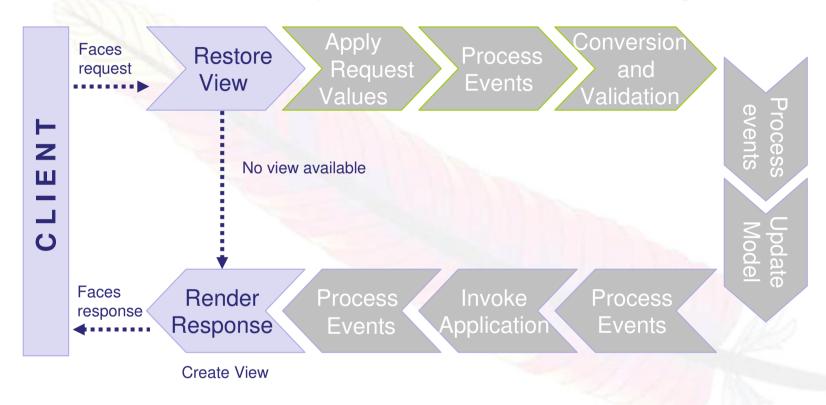
JSF Request Life-Cycle

What's under the hood of a JSF request?

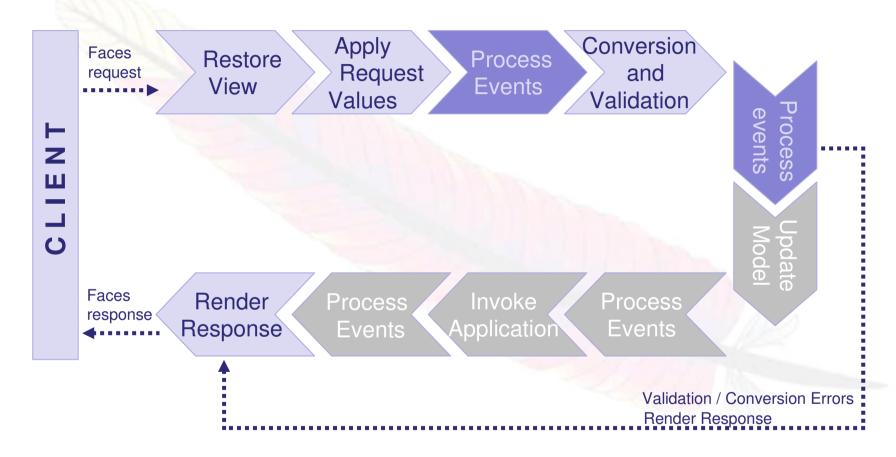
JSF Request Lifecyle



JSF Lifecycle - first request



JSF Lifecycle - Validation fails



Restore View - Phase 1

- building the component tree
- first request (non-postback):
 - go to ",Render Response"-Phase (Phase 6)
 - Use the template; create the tree during parsing the template
 - save the tree in the "state"
- Postback:
 - Create the tree from the "state"
 - Execute the lifecycle

Apply Request Values - Phase 2

- decoding:
 - processDecodes () called recursively on each component in the tree (Starting at UIViewRoot)
 - every component takes care of it's value (reading HTTP-parameters, Cookies, Headers, etc.)
 - Saves the submitted value using setSubmittedValue()

Process Validations - Phase 3

- Calls listener for the ValueChangeEvent
- conversion (!) and validation
 - processValidators(); called recursively, starts with UIViewRoot
 - getSubmittedValue(); like "21.11.2005"
 - converts to an object of class java.util.Date
 - enforce validation by calling the registered validators
 - save the correct value ("local-value") by calling setValue()
- Error occurs on conversion or validation:
 GO TO Render-Response-Phase

Update Model Values - Phase 4

- processUpdates(); (again starting on UIViewRoot)
- component value is converted and valid; so it should be pushed to the model
- using the corresponding backing bean
 - #{bean.property}
- Calling the setter
 - setProperty()

Invoke Application - Phase 5

- processApplication() (UIViewRoot...)
- event handling for:
 - action / actionListener
 - executed
- sequence:
 - first actionListener(s)
 - calling action method

Render Response - Phase 6

- Navigation: NavigationHandler determinates the next "view" (a JSP page for instance)
- ViewHandler takes over in case of JSP the (JSP)ViewHandler enforces a forward
- JSP page gets parsed by the JSP container.
 Performing a lookup for each component's
- Renderer. Calling several methods are called:
 - encodeBegin(); encodeChildren(); encodeEnd();
 - Starting at UIViewRoot

Changing the lifecycle (1)

- immediate property
- UICommand components:
 - action is called immediately. No validation or model update.
 - Use it for a cancel button
- Ulinput components:
 - components value will be validated and converted in Apply Request Values
 - a ValueChangeEvent is generated and it's listener is called after"Apply Request Values"
 - calling facesContext.renderResponse() inside a ValueChangeListener
 → go to "RenderResponse"
 - No conversion and validation of other (non immediate) components!



Changing the lifecycle (2)

- Optional Validation Framework
 - for each request
 - optional switching validation on/off
 - "required"-attribute → own validator
 - many additional features
- Project: JSF-Comp at sourceforge.net

Changing the lifecycle (3)

- No usage of JSF validation facility
- Do it yourself inside the action method
- WARNING: converter is still needed
- Maybe: special converter, which doesn't generate a error message

Changing the lifecycle (4)

```
Go to "Render-Response" by calling:
public void renderResponse();
Stopping the JSF lifecycle by calling:
public void responseComplete();
```

PhaseListener - configuration

- JSF provides a special Listener for the lifecycle
- PhaseListener executed at the beginning and at the end of a phase.
- register in faces-config.xml:

```
<lifecycle>
     <phase-listener>
     org.apache.confs.eu.PhaseListener
     </phase-listener>
     </lifecycle>
```

PhaseListener - Sample

```
public class DebugPhaseListener
  implements PhaseListener
{
   public void beforePhase(PhaseEvent event){}
   public void afterPhase(PhaseEvent event){
      System.out.println("afterPhase");
   }
   public PhaseId getPhaseId(){
        return PhaseId.ANY_PHASE;
      // return PhaseId.INVOKE_APPLICATION;
   }
}
```

Exercise - Phaselistener

- Create your own PhaseListener clazz.
- Use it to debug your JSF web app.
- Register it to your faces-config.
- Play with the application and look what's going on!

HEIP? Ask!



terms ...

... from the JSF world



terms (1)

- Component
- Renderer
- Converter
- Validator
- Event / EventListener
- Message / FacesMessage

- Action Method
- Model Objects
- View
- Navigation System / NavigationHandler
- Backing Bean / Managed Bean
- Value Binding

Components

- interaction with the user
- server side (compared to Swing or SWT)
- support for IDEs b/c of JavaBean standard
- std. components: renderer independent
- know their state (StateHolder interface)
- stored in a tree structure (parent-client)
- unique id

Components

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Renderer

- called by the component
- renders a special markup (HTML or WML)
- all Renderers belong to a RenderKit
- Renderer takes care of:
 - Encoding and Decoding

digression: rendering

- Direct implementation model
 - Component -> encodeEnd -> HTML

- Delegated implementation model
 - Component -> encodeEnd-> Renderer >encodeEnd -> for instance HTML

Converters

- data type in HTTP, HTML is "String"
- JSF backing beans: all type are possible
- Due to this, converting mechanism needed
- used for i18n and l10n
- converter choice based on data type
- custom converters

connecting a converter

• as child element:

```
<h:outputText value="#{user.dateOfBirth}">
<f:convertDateTime type="both" dateStyle="full"/>
</h:outputText>
```

build-in custom converter:

```
<h:outputText value="#{user.dateOfBirth}"
converter="#{converterProvider.dateConverter}"/>
```

standard DateTimeConverter

for date / time values:

standard NumberConverter

<f:convertNumber
 type="number" /*currency, percentage*/
 currencyCode="EUR"
 currencySymbol="€"
 groupingUsed="true"
 locale="en_US" /* oder Locale */
 minFractionDigits="3"
 maxFractionDigits="3"
 minIntegerDigits="2"
 maxIntegerDigits="2"
 pattern="#.###,##"/>

Example - converters

- Using the standard converters
 - converting a date
 - your birthdate
 - convert the input and the output
 - converting a number
 - your salary ©
 - use the NumberConverter
 - Need help? Scream!!

custom converter (1)

- implements javax.faces.convert.Converter
- optional (has arguments to save)
 javax.faces.component.StateHolder
- implements the methods:
 - getAsString();
 - getAsObject();
- on error:
 - throw new ConverterException (FacesMessage msg)



custom converter (2)

- JSP-Tag possible (extends ConverterTag)
 - not needed for Facelets...
- JavaBean constructor that calls inside setConverterId()
- only setter for its properties
- OVERWrite createConverter()
- register in faces-config.xml / tag.tld
- register in tag.tld (only JSP)

Overwriting a converter

- all converter are describe in faces-config.xml
- replace a standard convert with your custom:

```
<converter>
    <converter-for-class>
    java.util.Date
    </converter-for-class>
    <converter-class>
    org.apache.confs.eu.MyDateTimeConverter
    </converter-class>
</converter-class>
```

Exercise - custom converter

- Write your first custom converter
- Implement it inside your backing bean
- Converting a TelephonNumber.java object
 - String countryCode
 - String areaCode
 - String number
- Help needed ? ©

validation

- Checks the converted value against a special rule
- standard: done on the server (client side is possible...)
- per component approach
- validation error generates a FacesMessage
 - diplayed with <h:message/> or <h:messages/>
- custom validators possible



connecting a validator

validation for mandatory values:

```
<h:inputText required="true"/>
```

validation agains a special scope (here a range):

standard validators

combining validators

- it's possible to combine validators
- sample:

Example - validator

- using the standards
 - declare a field you want as mandatory
 - required
 - check the length of your zip code
 - validateLength
- Ask if you need help!

custom validation (1)

- pretty easy to define a custom validator
- implement a method like
 public void validate (FacesContext, UIComponent,
 Object) throws ValidatorException
- wire the validation to the component:

```
<h:inputText
value="#{backingBean.wert}"
validator="#{backingBean.validate}"/>
```

custom validation (2)

custom validation(3)

- implement the interface javax.faces.validator.validator
- Optional (arguments?)
 javax.faces.component.StateHolder
 - overwrite method:
 - validate();
 - On error:
 - throw new ValidatorException (FacesMessage msg)

custom validation (4)

- JSP-Tag possible (extends ValidatorTag)
 - not needed when using Facelets
- JavaBean constructor
- setter for the properties
- OVERWRITE createValidator() and call setValidatorId()
- register in faces-config.xml
- register in tag.tld (no need when using Facelets)

Hands-on: custom validation

- create a simple custom validator inside of your backing bean
- check if the submitted value is a email address
 - We don't want you to use that RegExpr. stuff, so simple check if "@" is inside the submitted String.

Questions?



Events / EventListener

- fired due an event
- JSF defines four standard events:
 - FacesEvent (abstract)
 - ValueChangeEvent
 - ActionEvent
 - PhaseEvent
 - DataModelEvent (not a FacesEvent)

ValueChangeListener (1)

- Ulinput's "valueChangeListener" attribut
- Usage:

ValueChangeListener (2)

Using the JSP-Tag:

Example - ValueChangeEvent

- Let's check some submitted values
- use the valueChangeListener attribute
- Print old and new value by using System.out.println();

• HELP ?!?



ActionEvent

- UlCommand's "action" attribut
- usage:
 - hard coded String (like "success")
 - use JSF' MethodBinding"#{actionBean.newDetail}"
- backing bean needs:
 public String newDetail()

ActionListener

- UlCommand's "actionListener" attribut
- usage:
 - MethodBinding.
 "#{actionBean.newDetailListener}"
- the method:
 public void
 newDetailListener(ActionEvent e)

Example - Action Events

- add the "actionListener" attribute to your button/link component
- create the method and do some
 System.out.println();
- create the Method for the "action" attribute
- add some System.out.println(); to your action method too
- What's happening?

return value from action method

- return value:
 - used to define the next view
 - described in faces-config.xml as
- a "Navigation-Rules"
 - from-view-id
 - or global
 - action source (method and outcome)
 - to-view-id



Messages

- created when conversion/validation fails
- standard messages defined: javax.faces.Messages.properties

Messages

- standard messages don't fit to every use-case
 - validation message:
 - "{0}": Input required.
- overwrite them easily in your ResourceBundle
 - javax.faces.component.UIInput.REQUIRED_d etail = {0} please enter a value

Messages

- providing custom messages (due to login error)
- FacesContext.getCurrentInstance()
 .addMessage(clientId, FacesMessage)
 - clientId = component's id (or null for global)
 - new FacesMessage(FacesMessage.Severity summary, detail)
 - WARN, INFO, FATAL, ERROR



backing beans / managed beans

- POJO Plain Old Java Objects
- Java Beans
 - "public" constructor with no args
 - "private" properties
 - "getter"/"setter"
- declare them in faces-config.xml

backing beans / managed beans

- possible scopes
 - application (one instance per application)
 - session (one instance per session/user)
 - request (one instance per request)
 - none (bean created due to a reference)

ValueBinding / ValueExpression

- ValueBinding
 - Wire attribute to a backing bean
- usage

```
<h:outputText
value="#{user.surName}"/>
```

property "surName" from the bean "user"

JSF Standard Components

• components, components, components ...

standard components - Text

outputText

```
<h:outputText
value="#{user.userNameDescr}"/>
```

inputText

Kennwort:*

```
<h:inputText
value="#{user.userName}"/>

Benutzer:*
```



standard components - UICommand

commandLink

```
<h:commandLink
action="#{actionBean.test}"/>
```

commandButton

```
<h:commandButton
action="#{actionBean.test2}"/>
```



standard components - OutputLink

- HtmlCommandLink used for postbacks.
- Linking other websites:

```
<h:outputLink value="url" target="_blank"/>
```

- Caution!: state get's lost, since this is not a postback
- HTTP parameters:

```
<h:outputLink value="url">
     <f:param name="allowCache"
      value="true"/>
</h:outputLink>
```

standard components - UIForm

- JSF: every submit is a POST
 - → Caution: commandLink needs a form

standard components - UIPanel

- Doing Layout with JSF
- renders a HTML span element:
 - <h:panelGroup>...</h:panelGroup>
- renders a HTML table:
 - <h:panelGrid columns="2">...</h:panelGrid>
 - amount of components must be a multiple of "columns"
 - If not use empty <h:panelGroup/>

standard components - UIData

- best for presenting structured data (like java.util.List)
- horizontal: every column is defined by a uicolumn component
- vertical: each row represents one item of the structured data
- Facets (<f:facet/>) allow defining header and footer

standard components - UIData

• Example:

standard components - Image

usage:

```
<h:graphicImage id="Grafik" url="/images/Grafik.jpg"
alt="#{bundle.chooseLocale}" title="Grafikanzeige"
width="149" height="160"/>
```

 No component for an "ImageMaps" defined inside the JSF Spec.

standard components - Ulinput

- text input
 - <h:inputText/>
- password input
 - <h:inputSecret/>
- hidden field:
 - <h:inputHidden/>
- textareas
 - <h:inputTextarea/>

standard components - Label

Label for a component

```
<h:outputLabel for=,myId"
    value=,#{bean.labelText}"/>
<h:selectOneRadio id=,myId" value=,something"/>
```

Apache MyFaces: label text can be used in FacesMessage



standard components - Format

parameterised output:

Important for i18n and l10n

standard components - UISelectBoolean

- input field for boolean/Boolean values
- like:

```
<h:selectBooleanCheckbox
    title="yesOrNo"
    value="#{bean.yesOrNo}"/>
```

standard components - UISelectMany

- Choose more than one input value
- JSP tags:
 - <h:selectManyCheckbox>
 - <h:selectManyListbox/>
 - <h:selectManyMenu/>
- rendered as
 - list of checkboxes,
 - html listbox,
 - or as a menu (not that good one...)

standard components - UISelectOne

- Choose one value
- components:
 - <h:selectOneRadio>
 - <h:selectOneListbox/>
 - <h:selectOneMenu/>
- rendered:
 - list of radio fields,
 - listbox,
 - or as a combobox

standard components - UISelectItem(s)

- use them in <h:selectManyXXX/> or <h:selectOneXX/>
- like:

```
• <f:selectItem itemValue="""
itemLabel="""/>
```

```
• <f:selectItems
value="#{bean.itemsList}"/>
```

- Array, Collection mit SelectItem
- Map.put(String, SelectItem);

standard components - UISelectItem(s)

- combine the <f:selectItem(s) />
- use <f:selectItem/> for an empty entry
- pick the real choices from a java.util.List

```
• <h:selectOneMenu
id="betreuerWahl" value="#{bean.auswah}">

        <f:selectItem />
        <f:selectItems value="#{bean.list} />

        </h:selectOneMenu>
```

Creating JSF views

All JSP-Tags of JSF must be inside the root:

```
<f:view/>
(UIViewRoot).
```

• If you need <jsp:include/> or <c:import/> wrap them with:

```
<f:subview/> (UINamingContainer)
```

Needed for Tiles integration too!

MessageBundles

• i18n:

```
<f:loadBundle
basename="org.apache.conf.eu.messages"
var="messages"/>
```

- Usage
 - messages.properties: test1=hallo
 - YOUr.jsp: <h:outputText value="#{messages['test1']}"/>
- Caution:
 - values get only set when parsing the JSP (since this is a JSP tag, not a component)
 - problems with Facelets

JSF 1.1 workarounds - verbatim

- the "JSF and JSP" combination has problems, when using plain HTML inside your page
- embedded HTML output is rendered directly; JSF goes to a buffer...
- work around:
 - wrap all plain HTML inside a
 - <f:verbatim>...</f:verbatim>
 - simply adds a HtmlOutputText component
 - fixed in JSF 1.2 spec



Unified Expression Language

Value- and Method-Expressions



Unified EL

- JSP EL
- JSF EL
- → JSF 1.2 Unified EL
- JSF EL Syntax refers to JSP EL
- but: JSF EL expressions are evaluated deferred, JSP - EL immediate

Samples for the UL (1)

```
value="#{user.username},"
value="#{person.address.street}"
rendered="#{user.username != null},"
value="#{bill.sum * 13.7603}"
style="#{grid.displayed ?
    'display:inline;' : 'display:none;'}"
value="Hallo Benutzer #{user.username}"
```

Samples for the UL (2)

action="#{user.storeUser}"
actionListener="#{dtBean.delete Row}"
value="#{mapBean['index']}"
value="#{mapBean[user.username]}"
value="#{listBean[5]}"

Configuration

JSF configured in a proper way



configuration (1)

- required: copy JSF/MyFaces jar-files to WEB-INF/lib
- register FacesServlet inside web.xml
- edit your faces-config.xml file for further JSF configurations like
 - backing beans
 - components ...

faces-config.xml - managed beans

managed beans:

• Scope: application, session, request, none

faces-config.xml - navigation rules

faces-config.xml - enhanced

- JSF is customisable
- inside <application/> element
- providing of custom ActionListener,
 ViewHandler, NavigationHandler,
 ELResolver, StateManager possible
- setting of l10n
- this is a central point!

web.xml - what is needed?

FacesServlet:

```
<servlet>
  <servlet-name>Faces Servlet</servlet-name>
  <servlet-class>
       <!--MyFaces:
       org.apache.myfaces.webapp.MyFacesServlet-->
       javax.faces.webapp.FacesServlet
  </servlet-class>
  <load-on-startup>1</load-on-startup>
</servlet>
<servlet-mapping>
  <servlet-name>Faces Servlet
  <url-pattern>
      /faces/*
       <!-- *.faces -->
</url-pattern>
</servlet-mapping>
```

web.xml - JSF config

web.xml - state saving

Apache MyFaces

First Free Open Source JSF Implementation



JSF Implementations

- Sun (RI)
- IBM
- Apache MyFaces
- Simplica (based on Apache MyFaces)
 - additionally, there are several 3rd party UI components that should run with any implementation.

Apache MyFaces

- Founded in 2002 by Manfred Geiler and Thomas Spiegl, CEO of IRIAN.at
 - sourceforge and LGPL based
- In July 2004: move to Apache Software Foundation (Incubator)
- Since February 2005 TLP (myfaces.apache.org)
- 25 developers
- currently 1.1.1

MyFaces provides:

- Implementation of JSF-API
 - javax.faces.** Classes
- Implementation of JSF Spec
 - org.apache.myfaces.** Classes
- Custom Components
 - Scrollable Table, Validator, Tree components ...
- Custom extensions
 - Built-in Tiles-Support, RenderKit for WML/WAP
- Support for Portlet Spec (JSR 168)
 - MyFaces apps runs in Pluto, JBoss Portal and some others.

JAR files of Apache MyFaces

- myfaces-impl.jar
- myfaces-jsf-api.jar
- tomahawk.jar
- sandbox.jar
- myfaces-all.jar (all in one jar file except sandbox)

MyFaces compatibility (tested)

- Java 1.4 and Java5
- Tomcat (4.1.x, 5.0.x and 5.5.x)
- JBoss (3.2.x and 4.0.x)
- JRun4
- Bea Weblogic 8.1
- Jonas 3.3.6 w/ Tomcat
- Resin 2.1.x
- Jetty 4.2
- Websphere 5.1.2
- OC4J



MyFaces Internals I

- ExtensionsFilter
 - used during upload (parses Multipart requests)
 - adds resources (images, js,...) that are needed by components (easier to reuse components)
 - good performance

MyFaces Internals II

- special Servlet Context parameter
 - ALLOW_JAVASCRIPT
 - DETECT_JAVASCRIPT
 - AUTO_SCROLL
 - PRETTY_HTML
- dummy form for commandLinks

MyFaces in Action

several custom components

custom validator components

custom extensions



Custom calendar component

Renders as a form:

```
<x:inputCalendar ...
value="#{travel.arrival}" />
```

Renders as a popup:

```
<x:inputCalendar
...
renderAsPopup="true"
value="#{travel.depature}" />
```

Sample

Custom Upload Component

- Upload is not part of JSF spec (currently)
- uses Servlet Filter (MyFaces' Extension Filter)
- special interface (org.apache.myfaces.custom.fileupload.UploadedFile)

```
<h:form enctype="multipart/form-data">
    <x:inputFileUpload
     value="#{backing.file}"
     required="true"/>
     ...
</h:form>
```

Sample

Tree Component (Tree2)

- MyFaces provides two tree components
- define your data inside a backing bean
 - TreeNode (Interface)
 - TreeNodeBase (Implementation class)
- define your layout in a JSF page via facets
- Navigation via CommandLink component
- client and server toggle

Tree Component Java code

```
private TreeNode tree;

tree = new
   TreeNodeBase("folder", "navi", true);

tree.getChildren().add(
new TreeNodeBase("doc", "entry", false)
)
```

Tree Component JSP

Tabbed Pane

- Tab control as known from classic GUIs
- Contains two custom JSF tags
 - <x:panelTabbedPane/>
 - <x:panelTab/>
- reuses standard UI components
 - for instance <h:inputText/>
- click on a tab ends up in a request, but tab saves the state of the nested input fields

Tabbed Pane JSP code

Sample



custom Table component

- MyFaces contains a custom table component
- extends UIData (standard component)
 - preserveDataModel
 - preserveRowState
 - sortColumn
 - sortAscending
 - preserveSort
 - renderedIfEmpty
 - rowIndexVar



scrollable Table component

```
<x:dataTable id="data" ...>
...
</x:dataScroller id="scroll_1" for="data" fastStep="10"
    pageCountVar="pageCount" pageIndexVar="pageIndex"
    styleClass="scroller" paginator="true" paginatorMaxPages="9"
    paginatorTableClass="paginator"
    paginatorActiveColumnStyle="font-weight:bold;">

<f:facet name="first" >
<h:graphicImage url="images/arrow-first.gif" border="1" />
</f:facet>
...
</x:dataScroller>
```

Sample

sortable Table component

- needs MyFaces <x:dataTable/> attributes:
 - sortColumn="#{sorter.sort}"
 - sortAscending="#{sorter.asc}"
 - preserveSort="true"
- uses MyFaces <x:dataTable/> BackingBean needs
 method (sort()) that contains a Comparator impl.
- call sort () before return the data model.
 - here: call inside of getWorkers();
- Sample



Using *Legacy* JavaScript

JSF Components using IDs:

```
<h:form id="foo">
<h:inputText id="bar" ... >
</h:form>
```

generates foo:bar

- document.getElementById();
- special forceld Attribute (JSF 1.2 contains a similar concept):

```
<h:form id="foo">
<x:inputText id="bar" forceId="true"...>
</h:form>
```

generates bar



Custom Validators

nest them inside Input Components

- ISBN (<x:validateISBN/>)
- CreditCard (<x:validateCreditCard/>)
- Regular Expression
 <x:validateRegExpr pattern="\d{5}"/>
- Equal

JSF - composing pages

- Standard provides a plain subview component
 - <jsp:include /> or <c:import />
- realizes the Composite View Pattern
- bound to file names (e.g. footer.jsp)
- good framework for composing pages
 - Tiles (used in Struts, Velocity or plain JSP)



MyFaces Tiles integration

- custom ViewHandler for Tiles
 - must be registed in faces-config.xml
 - needs tiles configuration location as ContextParameter (web.xml)
 - looks up *.tiles mappings in tiles definition file
 - page definitions are described in tiles.xml
 - known issues
 - none-tiles pages must be wrapped inside of tiles config

MyFaces/Tiles - definitions

```
<tiles-definitions>
<definition name="layout.example"</pre>
  path="/template/template.jsp" >
  <put name="header" value="/common/header.jsp" />
  <put name="menu" value="/common/navigation.jsp" />
</definition>
<definition name="/page1.tiles" extends="layout.example" >
  <put name="body" value="/page1.jsp" />
</definition>
<!-- workaround for non-tiles JSF pages-->
<definition name="non.tiles1" path="/non-tile.jsp"/>
</tiles-definitions>
```

MyFaces/Tiles - master template

MyFaces' WML RenderKit

- supports basic JSF components to render in WAP devices
- supports WML and not XHTML MP (WAP2.0)
- add WML RenderKit to faces-config.xml
- uses XDoclet to generate components, tag classes and tld file
- contribution from Jiri Zaloudek

WML RenderKit - code

MyFaces - Portlet support

- Built-in-support for JSR 168
- contribution by Stan Silvert (JBoss Group)
- what must a user do?
 - Make sure your JSF MyFaces application runs as a stand-alone servlet.
 - Remove any redirects from your faces-config.xml. Portlets can not handle these.
 - Create a Portlet WAR as per the instructions for your Portlet container. Make sure it contains everything that was included in step 1.
 - Update your portlet.xml

MyFaces - portlet.xml

```
<portletclass>
org.apache.myfaces.portlet.MyFacesGenericPortlet
</portlet-class>
<init-param>
 <name>default-view</name>
 <value>/some_view_id_from_faces-config</value>
</init-param>
<init-param>
 <name>default-view-selector
  <value>com.foo.MyViewSelector</value>
</init-param>
```

Long term visions for MyFaces

- Big TLP for JSF in general
 - Apache Faces
- MyFaces provides only API and impl
 - MyFaces should be a subproject of Apache Faces
 - more a dream, currently :-)
- JSF 1.2 compliant implementation
- WML RenderKit integration ...:-)

Writing Custom Components

If the standard doesn't solve your Problems ...



Preparations

- What is your super class?
 UIOutput, UIInput, UISelectOne,
 UISelectMany, UICommand, UIPanel
- classification: component family, component type and renderer type to be defined

Examples:

- org.apache.myfaces.HtmlInputText
 - component type: org.apache.myfaces.HtmlInputText
 - component family: javax.faces.Input
 - renderer type: org.apache.myfaces.Text
- javax.faces.component.html.HtmlInputText
 - component type: javax.faces.HtmlInputText
 - component family: javax.faces.Input
 - renderer type: javax.faces.Text

Examples

- org.apache.myfaces.custom.tabbedpane.HtmlPanelTabbedPane
 - component type: org.apache.myfaces.HtmlPanelTabbedPane
 - component family: javax.faces.Panel
 - Renderertyp: org.apache.myfaces.TabbedPane
- org.apache.myfaces.custom.navmenu.UINavigationMenuItem
 - Komponententyp: org.apache.myfaces.NavigationMenuItem
 - Komponentenfamilie: javax.faces.SelectItem
 - Renderertyp: null



classification by:

Tag-Library-Definition TLD

standard JSP taglib file:

```
<!-- commandButton -->
   <tag>
        <name>commandButton</name>
        <tag-class>
         org.apache.myfaces.taglib.html.ext.HtmlCommandButtonTag
       </tag-class>
        <br/>
<body-content>JSP</body-content>
        <description>
            Extended standard commandButton
        </description>
        <attribute>
            <name>action</name>
            <required>false</required>
            <rtexprvalue>false</rtexprvalue>
            <type>java.lang.String</type>
        </attribute>
    </tag>
```

A JSP-Tag class for JSF components

- setXXX() for each propety
- release() method:
 set every property back to "null"
- implement the setProperties(); method

A JSF/JSP-Tag class

```
protected void setProperties(UIComponent component)
  super.setProperties(component);
  setStringProperty(component,
      HTML.TABINDEX_ATTR, _tabindex);
  setStringProperty(component,
      HTML. TYPE ATTR, type);
  setActionProperty(component, action);
  setActionListenerProperty(component,
      actionListener);
  setBooleanProperty(component,
      JSFAttr.IMMEDIATE_ATTR, _immediate);
  setStringProperty(component, JSFAttr.IMAGE ATTR,
      _image);
```

component class

- JavaBean std. (getter/setter for property)
 - Caution! Take care of JSF's ValueBinding
- Overwrite restoreState() and saveState() to be able to save the component state
- if needed methods for EventListener (like JavaBean std.)

the getter / setter

```
public void setValue(Object value)
{
    _value = value;
}

public Object getValue()
{
    if (_value != null) return _value;
    ValueBinding vb = getValueBinding("value");
    return vb != null ?
        (Object) vb.getValue(getFacesContext()) : null;
}
```

StateHolder's saveState

StateHolder's restoreState

Renderer

```
public abstract class Renderer {
    public void decode(FacesContext context,
               UIComponent component{}
    public void encodeBegin(FacesContext context,
               UIComponent component)
        throws IOException {}
    public void encodeChildren (FacesContext context,
               UIComponent component)
        throws IOException {}
    public void encodeEnd(FacesContext context,
              UIComponent component)
        throws IOException {}
```

Renderer

Renderer - encodeEnd

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Alternatives

Instead of custom components ...



substitute the renderer

- a renderer implements
 - encoding (encodeXXX())
 - decoding (decode())
 - converting process
- You can substitute a renderer. Often this helps!

substitute the renderer

- this is done global
 - for each objects of a component
 - the new renderer will be used every time!
 - with the used RenderKit
 - a RenderKit contains all used renderers.
 - Only one RenderKit per JSF app
 - possible to change ...

substitute the renderer

faces-config.xml:

the renderer class

```
public class RequiredLabelRenderer extends HtmlLabelRenderer {
    protected void encodeBeforeEnd( FacesContext facesContext,
                                                                       ResponseWriter
    writer, UIComponent uiComponent) throws
                                                             IOException {
        String forAttr = getFor(uiComponent);
        if(forAttr!=null) {
            UIComponent forComponent =
                uiComponent.findComponent(forAttr);
            if(forComponent instanceof UIInput &&
                    ((UIInput) forComponent).isRequired()) {
                writer.startElement(HTML.SPAN_ELEM, null);
                writer.writeAttribute(HTML.ID ATTR,
                    uiComponent.getClientId(facesContext) +
                    "RequiredLabel", null);
                writer.writeAttribute(HTML.CLASS_ATTR,
                    "requiredLabel", null);
                writer.writeText("*", null);
                writer.endElement(HTML.SPAN_ELEM);
            }}}
```

provide a JSP-Tag

- without a new Tag every <h:outputLabel uses the new renderer
- maybe confusing to the users
- change the renderer type

```
public String getComponentType() {
  return ("javax.faces.HtmlOutputLabel");
}
public String getRendererType() {
  return ("de.jax.RequiredLabel");
}
```

substitute component class

- component contains properties
- encoding, decoding and conversion is also included into a component!
- validation customisable
- You can replace a component globally, means for all JSP-Tags (like the renderer).

substitute component class

faces-config.xml:

the component class

```
public class SpecialHtmlInputText extends
  HtmlInputText {
    public SpecialHtmlInputText()
    {
        super();

        setConverter(ConverterFactory.
            getSpecialConverter());
    }
}
```

component binding

- ValueBinding != component binding
- uses JSF EL:
 - "binding="#{bean.myComponent}"
- return of special / own components,
 which fit the desired type, is possible

component binding

• JSP:

backing bean:

```
UIComponent getOutputWithBreaks()
{
    return new OutputTextWithBreaks();
}
```

component binding

```
public static final class OutputTextWithBreaks extends HtmlOutputText
        public OutputTextWithBreaks()
            super();
        public void encodeEnd(FacesContext context) throws
                                                    IOException
            String text = RendererUtils.getStringValue(
                          context, this);
            text = HTMLEncoder.encode(text, true, true);
            //Erstellen aller Zeilenumbrüche
            text = text.replaceAll("\r", "<br/>");
            renderOutputText(context, this, text, false);
```

Tips & Tricks

That should be helpful ...



dynamic relies not on a JSP

adding components to the component tree:

```
public void addControls(ActionEvent actionEvent)
{
    Application application =
    FacesContext.getCurrentInstance().getApplication();
    List children = controlPanel.getChildren();
    children.clear();
    for (int count = 0; count < numControls; count++)
    {
        HtmlOutputText output = (HtmlOutputText)application.
        createComponent(HtmlOutputText.COMPONENT_TYPE);
        output.setValue(" " + count + " ");
        output.setStyle("color: blue");
        children.add(output);
    }
}</pre>
```

ActionListener for Navigation

inside the ActionListener:

- Needs:
 - global navigation-rule for the String outcome

Using HTML inside OutputText

- the tag:
 - <h:outputText value="#{bean.htmlText}"/>
- Problem: HTML will be "escaped"
- like:

 →

- work around:
 - <h:outputText
 value="#{bean.htmlText}" escape="false"/>

passing arguments with the EL

- EL expressions are powerful, but ...
 - ... don't take arguments
- work around:
 - backing bean implements Map interface
 - On a Map.get ("key") call, the method get's called and a argument is passed thround ("key")
 - usage: #{mapBean[,key`]}

Master Detail (1)

• Liste:
<h:dataTable var="bean" value=...>
...
<h:commandLink actionListener=,#{bean.editItem}" />
...
</h:dataTable>

- using commandLink for editing the details
- actionListener instead of action

Master Detail (2)

• backing bean:
 public void editItem(ActionEvent ev)
{
 UIData datatable =
 findParentHtmlDataTable(
 ev.getComponent());
 Item item = (Item)
 datatable.getRowData()
 //edit the item...

Master Detail (3)

helper method:

Master Detail (4)

- other possibilities:
 - <f:param ... /> (well, ok...)
 - Apache MyFaces: <t:updateActionListener />
- <t:updateActionListener />
 - When an action is called the "value" is set to a backing bean's property
 - <t:updateActionListener
 property="#{countryForm.id}"
 value="#{country.id}" />

showing/hiding components

- "rendered" attribute:
 - should a component be rendered?
 - JSP: <h:inputText rendered="#{bean.showMe}"/>
- replacement for "c:if" or ugly Java code (scriptlets)
- Warning:
 - rendered evaluated during each phase
 - also on a postback (no decoding for not rendered components)

Links

- MyFaces AJAX examples
 - http://www.irian.at/open_source.jsf
 (sandbox components)
- AJAX web resources
 - http://www.adaptivepath.com
 - http://www.ajaxinfo.com/
 - http://www.ajaxpatterns.org/Ajax_Frameworks
 - http://www.ajaxdeveloper.org

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 Greenwich
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