Ed inCONTACT

installation & user guide

ABOUT

inCONTACT was developed for inVISION's coding challenge using Adobe ColdFusion 9, jQuery 1.7.1, and jQueryUI 1.8.18 as its primary frameworks. When I started this challenge I was initially planning on using backbone.js to structure the application, however after some research into inVISION's application I decided to structure the application along the same lines, borrowing the inVISION controller as the base constructor for my app and extending that with my own inCONTACT controller class.

I started developing the app using my favorite workflow of test-first, however I quickly realized if I was to make the Wednesday goal that I needed to abandon it and use a more traditional style. I sprinkled a few MXUnit tests in but I only got as far as setting up my Jasmine environment on the JavaScript side. If I were to add on to this app, I would start by completing the JavaScript and MXUnit tests. I cannot count the number of times a comprehensive test suite has caught a potentially tricky bug early enough to make it a non-issue.

As an added insight into my development process I've included the wireframe and a photo of my whiteboard during development in the "planning" folder of the application. I've also recorded a short video of my development that I've uploaded to vimeo that can be found at: https://vimeo.com/38941790.

INSTALLATION

Copy the inCONTACT folder to the webserver's document root folder, browse to http://servername/inCONTACT/index.cfm. inCONTACT requires ColdFusion 9.0.1 to run properly. I have tested the install on ACF 9.0.1 on OSX running in stand-alone mode and on ACF 9.0.1 on Windows running Apache 2.4.

USING

The initial load of the application will read a JSON file from the file system and output the results to the browser. The app allows users to view more details about a contact by clicking on the "Details" link, edit a contact by clicking on the "Edit" link, remove a contact by clicking on the "Delete" link, create a new contact by clicking on the "New Contact" link, and filter the list by typing into the "Enter Search Text" area.

I tested the application in modern browsers, and in Internet Explorer 8 as well. All functionality is there in IE8, however the visual experience is somewhat downgraded as I used CSS3 properties

IF I HAD A FEW EXTRA DAYS...

Those words have been spoken a million times by just about every developer, and I'm no different. I'd like to do a few more refactoring's to the code base, there are a few iterations that are repeated that I'd like to pull out into their own methods, there are also a few method's I'd like to rename and refine the scope of. In the controller I use call and apply in a place or two when calling a controller method which may be confusing to another developer. Id also like to add a messaging system to let the user know when things go right, and more importantly, when things go wrong. I also think I could cache a few more jQuery objects, most notably the individual contact div's under the contact list.