Refactoring AngularJS Controllers

Corinna Cohn (@corinna000) https://github.com/corinna000

Consultant with Fusion Alliance

1 minute

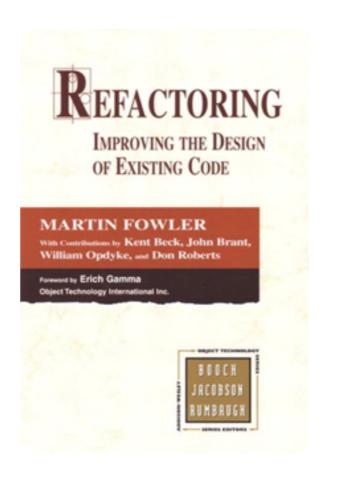
About Me (@corinna000)

- I used to write awful code.
- Now I write better code.
- Someday I will write good code.
 - (This is the holy grail)
 - (follow me on Twitter and/or GitHub)

1 minute

"Refactoring is a controlled technique for improving the design of an existing code base."

-Martin Fowler





Do your controllers look like this?

(this is not my kitchen)

- * 1 minute
- * Not opinionated
- * Dependency Injection is optional
- * Examples demonstrate putting code into global space



Let's make them look like this.

(yeah, our code will never look this good, but let's try)

- * 1 minute
- * Dependency Injection works great for unit testing
- * Karma Runner, Jasmine, Angular mocking library

SlamOff!

Poetry Exploration App

- Search poetry on SoundCloud by topic.
- Listen to 8 poems and SlamOff will guide you through discovering qualities about poetry you enjoy.

4 minutes

MainController Responsibilities

- Search for SoundCloud tracks
- 6. Setup the tracks for the tournament
- 2. Select the tracks to add to the bracket
- 7. Update the vote tally for the tracks

3. Play/Stop tracks

- 8. Save/Load the voting data (a vestigal feature)
- 4. Run the progress bar
- 9. Sort/Display the final results of the tournament
- 5. Describe the display logic for the bracket

3 minutes (15 minute mark!)

Why This Approach Is Painful

- Updating a track required changing similar HTML 10+ times.
- Logic for interacting with SoundCloud is not reusable.
- Complicated rules for tournament display are not testable or reusable.
- Plain JSON model does not contain "vote" property nor any logic for recording a vote.
- Too many lines of HTML in one file harms maintainability and collaboration (hello, merge conflicts!).

4 minutes

Angular Refactoring Patterns

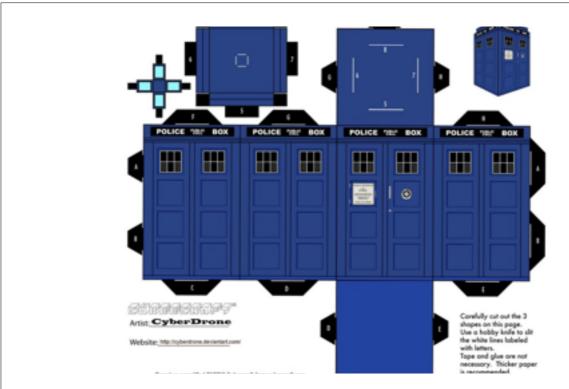
- Find repeated groups of HTML that have a clear interface and build a directive from them. (Extract Directive From View)
- Call services from directives instead of controllers wherever possible. (*Encapsulate Service With Directive*)
- Move complex display rules into separate services.
 (Separate Domain from Presentation)

patterns ctd...

- Convert JSON into rich models that are responsible for their own updates. (*Replace Data Value with Object*)
- Use `ng-include` to separate discreet views into their own templates. (*Move Templates*)



Unit testing is like owning a time machine



okay, they do require a little extra work

Refactoring process

- Discover the interfaces of the current implementation.
- Figure out how to separate a piece of the implementation.
- Write unit tests.
- Integrate our changes.

<so-voting-track>

- External interface: We need a **track** to play
- Internal interface: play(), stop()

```
<so-voting-track track="track[0]"></so-voting-track>
```

.factory('trackPlayer')

- Wraps the SoundCloud sound manager object.
- API: play(), stop(), getDuration(), getPosition()
- Used by: <so-track-player>,
 <track-player-progress>

```
var service = {
  play: play,
  stop: stop,
  getDuration: getDuration,
  getPosition: getPosition
}:
```

<track-player-progress>

 External interface: None! Uses `trackPlayer` service to determine information about the current track.

```
1
2 <track-player-progress></track-player-progress>
3
```

Skip if running low on time

.factory('trackSearch')

- Moves the SoundCloud track search into a reusable service.
- Sets up the defaults for searching in our application.
- Returns a Promise that resolves to a track list.

```
var service = {
   search: search
};
```

.factory('bracketManager')

- Initializes a new tournament round.
- Tracks the state of tournament progress.
- Provides a method to help the UI know what to display.
- Registers votes for tracks.

```
var service = {
  initialize: initialize,
  vote: vote,
  getWinner: getWinner,
  showCurrentRound: showCurrentRound
};
```

<div ng-include="'search.html">

- `main.html` still has too many responsibilities.
- If one feature needs to be updated, a file affecting three other features needs to be changed.
- Solution: move html into sub templates and use `ng-include` to add to view.