



Shaping Up with Angular JS

Level 4: Creating a Directive with an Associated Controller



Decluttering our Code

We're going to have multiple pages that want to reuse this HTML snippet.

How do we eliminate this duplication?



Using ng-include for Templates

ng-include is expecting a variable with the name of the file to include. To pass the name directly as a string, use single quotes ('...')

```
{{product.name}}
<em class="pull-right">${{product.price}}</em>
product-title.html
```

Flatlander Crafted Gems

- an Angular store -

Pentagonal Gem

\$5.95



Description

Specifications

Reviews

Description

Origin of the Pentagonal Gem is unknown, hence its low value. It has a very high shine and 12 sides,

Web Server





Response with Webpage & Assets

Fetches ng-included file

HTML Returned

HTML JavaScript





Browser loads up Angular app.

HTML





Creating our First Custom Directive

Using ng-include...

<h3 ng-include="'product-title.html'"></h3>

index.html

Custom Directive

<product-title></product-title>

index.html

Our old code and our custom Directive will do the same thing... with some additional code.

Why write a Directive?



Why Directives?

Directives allow you to write HTML that expresses the behavior of your application.

```
<aside class="col-sm-3">
  <book-cover></book-cover>
  <h4><book-rating></book-rating></h4>
</aside>
<div class="col-sm-9">
  <h3><book-title></book-title></h3>
  <book-authors></book-authors>
  <book-review-text></book-review-text>
  <book-genres></book-genres>
</div>
```

Can you tell what this does?



Writing Custom Directives

Template-expanding Directives are the simplest:

- define a custom tag or attribute that is expanded or replaced
- can include Controller logic, if needed

Directives can also be used for:

- Expressing complex UI
- Calling events and registering event handlers
- Reusing common components



How to Build Custom Directives

```
app.directive('productTitle', function(){
   return {
        A configuration object defining how your directive will work
      };
});
```

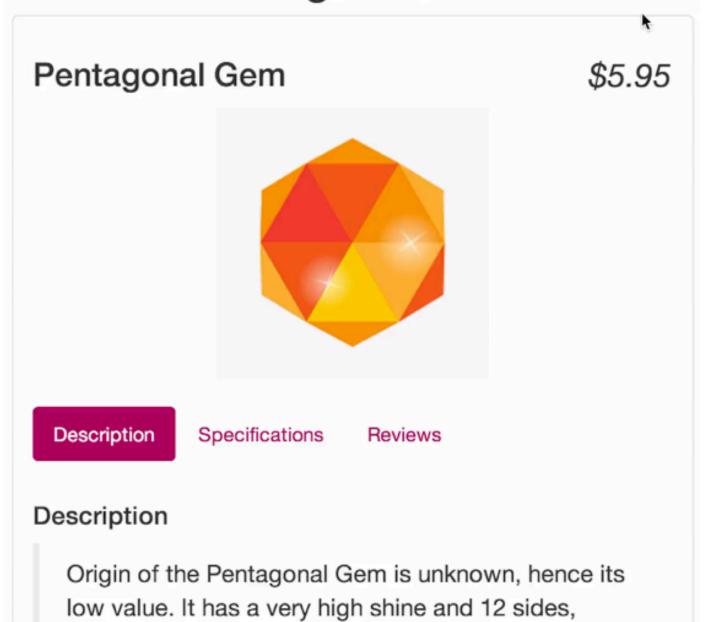


How to Build Custom Directives

```
oduct-title>
                                                    index.html
dash in HTML translates to ... camelCase in JavaScript
app.directive('productTitle', function(){
   return {
                                                    generates
   templateUrl: 'product-title.html' <- - | Url of a template
 };
});
<h3>
 {{product.name}}
 <em class="pull-right">$250.00</em>
</h3>
                                                    index.htm
```

Flatlander Crafted Gems

an Angular store -





Attribute vs Element Directives

Element Directive

oduct-title>

index.html

Notice we're not using a self-closing tag...

oduct-title/>

...some browsers don't like self-closing tags.

Attribute Directive

<h3 product-title></h3>

index.html

Use Element Directives for UI widgets and Attribute Directives for mixin behaviors... like a tooltip.



Defining an Attribute Directive

```
<h3 product-title></h3>
                                                     index.html
app.directive('productTitle', function(){
   return {
   templateUrl: 'product-title.html'
 };
});
<h3>
 {{product.name}}
 <em class="pull-right">$250.00</em>
</h3>
                                                     index.html
```

Though normally attributes would be for mixin behaviors ...



Directives allow you to write better HTML

When you think of a dynamic web application, do you think you'll be able to understand the functionality just by looking at the HTML?

No, right?

When you're writing an Angular JS application, you should be able to understand the behavior and intent from just the HTML.

And you're likely using custom directives to write expressive HTML.



Shaping Up with Angular JS

Creating Our Own Directives



Reviewing our Directive

Template-Expanding Directives

```
<h3>
  {{product.name}}
  <em class="pull-right">${{product.price}}</em>
 </h3>
                                index.html
An Attribute Directive
 <h3 product-title></h3>
An Element Directive
 <h3>  <h3>   <h3>
```



What if we need a Controller?



First, extract the template...

```
<section>
 . . . 
<div class="panel" ng-show="panels.isSelected(1)"> . . . </div>
<div class="panel" ng-show="panels.isSelected(2)"> . . . </div>
<div class="panel" ng-show="panels.isSelected(3)"> . . . </div>
<div class="panel" ng-show="panels.isSelected(3)"> . . . </div>
</section>
```



Now write the Directive ...

```
app.directive('productPanels', function(){
   return {
    restrict: 'E',
    templateUrl: 'product-panels.html'
   };
});
app.directive('productPanels', function(){
return {
    restrict: 'E',
    templateUrl: 'product-panels.html'
   };
```



What about the Controller?

```
app.directive('productPanels', function(){
   return {
    restrict: 'E',
    templateUrl: 'product-panels.html'
   };
});
app.controller('PanelController', function(){
    . . . .
});
app.js
```

First we need to move the functionality inside the directive



Moving the Controller Inside



Need to Specify the Alias

```
app.directive('productPanels', function(){
   return {
    restrict: 'E',
    templateUrl: 'product-panels.html',
    controller:function(){
        ...
    },
    controllerAs: 'panels'
};
   Now it works, using panels as our Controller Alias.
   app.js
```

Flatlander Crafted Gems

- an Angular store -

Pentagonal Gem

\$5.95





Specifications

Reviews

Description

Origin of the Pentagonal Gem is unknown, hence its low value. It has a very high shine and 12 sides, In.plnkr.co/eGBp8lg9Y72Gm2vl/



Challenges

