Comp 322/422 - Software Development for Wireless and Mobile Devices

Fall Semester 2017 - Week 6

Dr Nick Hayward

DEV Week Assessment

- demo and project report
 - due on Friday 20th October 2017 @ 2.45pm
- anonymous peer review
 - similar to user comments and feedback
 - chance to respond to feedback before final project

DEV Week Assessment

Course total = 30%

- cross-platform mobile app from scratch
 - can be basic demo of intended final app
- build using either
 - Apache Cordova and UI (jQuery Mobile, OnsenUI &c.)
 - React Native
- can be platform agnostic (cross-platform) or specific targeted OS, e.g.
 - cross-platform app that builds for Android and iOS
 - targeted build for Android or iOS
 - consider choice, and explain why?
- outline concept, research conducted to date
- consider applicable design patterns
- are you using any sensors &c. ?
 - how, why?
- prototyping
 - demo current prototypes
 - any working tests or models &c.
- anything else to help explain your mobile app...

DEV Week Demo

DEV week assessment will include the following:

- brief presentation or demonstration of current project work
 - due on Friday 20th October 2017
 - ~ 10 minutes per group
- presentation and demonstration...
 - outline mobile app
 - show prototypes and designs
 - explain what does & does not work
 - •

Design Patterns - Pub/Sub - intro

- variation of standard observer pattern is publication and subscription
 - commonly known as PubSub pattern
- popular usage in JavaScript
- PubSub pattern publishes a topic or event channel
- publication acts as a mediator or event system between
 - subscriber objects wishing to receive notifications
 - and publisher object announcing an event
- easy to define specific events with event system
- events may then pass custom arguments to a subscriber
- trying to avoid potential dependencies between objects
 - subscriber objects and the publisher object

Design Patterns - Pub/Sub - abstraction

- inherent to this pattern is the simple abstraction of responsibility
- publishers are unaware of nature or type of subscribers for messages
- subscribers are unaware of the specifics for a given publisher
- subscribers simply identify their interest in a given topic or event
 - then receive notifications of updates for a given subscribed channel
- primary difference with observer pattern
- PubSub abstracts the role of the subscriber
- subscriber simply needs to handle data broadcasts by a publisher
- creating an abstracted event system between objects
- abstraction of concerns between publisher and subscriber

Image - Publish/Subscribe Pattern

Design Patterns - Pub/Sub - benefits

- observer and PubSub patterns help developers
 - better understanding of relationships within an app's logic and structure
- need to identify aspects of our app that contain direct relationships
- many direct relationships may be replaced with patterns
 - subjects and observers
 - publishers and observers
- tightly coupled code can quickly create issues
 - maintenance, scale, modification, clarity of code and logic...
 - semmingly minor changes may often create a cascade or waterfall effect in code
- a known side effect of tightly couple code
 - frequent need to mock usage &c. in testing
 - time consuming and error prone as app scales...
- PubSub helps create smaller, loosely coupled blocks
 - helps improve management of an app
 - promotes code reuse

Design Patterns - Pub/Sub - basic example - part I - event system

```
// constructor for pubsub object
function PubSub () {
this.pubsub = {};
// publish - expects topic/event & data to send
PubSub.prototype.publish = function (topic, data) {
  // check topic exists
 if (!this.pubsub[topic]){
   console.log(`publish - no topic...`);
   return false;
 // loop through pubsub for specified topic - call subscriber functions...
 this.pubsub[topic].forEach(function(subscriber) {
      subscriber(data || {});
   });
};
// subscribe - expects topic/event & function to call for publish notification
PubSub.prototype.subscribe = function (topic, fn) {
  // check topic exists
 if (!this.pubsub[topic]) {
   // create topic
   this.pubsub[topic] = [];
   console.log(`pubsub topic initialised...`);
 }
 else {
   // log output for existing topic match
   console.log(`topic already initialised...`);
  // push subscriber function to specified topic
 this.pubsub[topic].push(fn);
};
```

Design Patterns - Pub/Sub - basic example - part 2 - usage

```
// basic log output
var logger = data => { console.log( `logged: ${data}` ); };

// test function for subscriber
var domUpdater = function (data) {
    document.getElementById('output').innerHTML = data;
}

// instantiate object for PubSub
const pubSub = new PubSub();

// subscriber tests
pubSub.subscribe( 'test_topic', logger );
pubSub.subscribe( 'test_topic2', domUpdater );
pubSub.subscribe( 'test_topic', logger );
// publisher tests
pubSub.publish('test_topic', 'hello subscribers of test topic...');
pubSub.publish('test_topic2', 'update notification for test topic2...');
```

Demo - Pub/Sub

Server-side considerations - data storage

Firebase - mobile platform - what is it?

- other data store and management options now available to us as developers
- depending upon app requirements consider
 - Firebase
 - Rethink DB
- as a data store, Firebase offers a hosted NoSQL database
 - data store is JSON-based
 - · offering quick, easy development from webview to data store
- syncs an app's data across multiple connected devices in milliseconds
 - available for offline usage as well
- provides an API for accessing these JSON data stores
- real-time for all connected users
- Firebase as a hosted option more than just data stores and real-time API access
- Firebase has grown a lot over the last year
 - many new features announced at Google I/O conference in May 2016
 - analytics, cloud-based messaging, app authentication
 - file storage, test options for Android
 - notifications, adverts...

Server-side considerations - data storage

RethinkDB - realtime JSON - what is it?

RethinkDB describes itself as,

open source, scalable JSON database built from the ground up for the realtime web

- RethinnkDB can be setup on a server, as a cloud service...
 - offers flexibility, customisation, performance benefits to different teams and apps
- paradigm shift is how an app can consume data with RethinkDB
- mobile app can now consume a continuous stream of data
 - pushed real-time from a RethinkDB data store
 - create real-time, scalable apps
- use this type of real-time model for various types of apps, e.g.
 - gaming apps, including multi-player polling and communication
 - live updates for auctions, sales, and other marketplaces...
- RethinkDB inherently different from real-time sync APIs
 - closer to a standard database in its underlying structure, options, and general functionality
 - developer can use queries such as table joins, geospatial queries, subqueries...
- build mobile apps to scale to open thousands of concurrent feeds on a single instance
- leverage clusters to enable hundreds of thousands of concurrent feeds

Server-side considerations - data storage

working with mobile cross-platform designs

- how can we use Redis, MongoDB, and other data store technologies with Cordova?
- considerations for a multi-platform structure
 - data
 - models
 - views
- authentication
 - user login
 - accounts
 - data

Data considerations in mobile apps

- worked our way through Cordova's File plugin
 - tested local read and write for files
- test JS requests with JSON
 - local and remote files
 - remote services and APIs
- work natively with JS objects
 - webview
 - controller
 - local or remote data store or service

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - intro

- generators and promises are new to plain JavaScript
 - introduced with ES6 (ES2015)
- **Generators** are a special type of function
 - produce multiple values per request
 - suspend execution between these requests
- generators are useful to help simplify convoluted loops
- suspend and resume code execution, &c.
 - helps write simple, elegant async code
- Promises are a new, built-in object
 - help development of async code
- promise becomes a placeholder for a value not currently available
 - but one that will be available later

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - async code and execution

- JS relies on a single-threaded execution model
- query a remote server using standard code execution
 - block the UI until a response is received and various operations completed
- we may modify our code to use callbacks
 - invoked as a task completes
 - should help resolve blocking the UI
- callbacks can quickly create a spaghetti mess of code, error handling, logic...
- Generators and Promises
- elegant solution to this mess and proliferation of code

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generators

- a generator function generates a sequence of values
 - commonly not all at once but on a request basis
- generator is explicitly asked for a new value
 - returns either a value or a response of no more values
- after producing a requested value
 - a generator will then suspend instead of ending its execution
 - generator will then resume when a new value is requested

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - example

```
//generator function
function* nameGenerator() {
  yield "emma";
  yield "daisy";
  yield "rosemary";
}
```

- define a generator function by appending an asterisk after the keyword
 - function* ()
- use the yield keyword within the body of the generator
 - to request and retrieve individual values
- then consume these generated values using a standard loop
 - or perhaps the new for-of loop

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - iterator object

- if we make a call to the body of the generator
 - an iterator object will be created
- we may now communicate with and control the generator using the iterator object

```
//generator function
function* NameGenerator() {
   yield "emma";
}
// create an iterator object
const nameIterator = NameGenerator();
```

iterator object, nameIterator, exposes various methods including the next method

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - iterator object - next()

use next to control the iterator, and request its next value

```
// get a new value from the generator with the 'next' method
const name1 = nameIterator.next();
```

- next method executes the generator's code to the next yield expression
- it then returns an object with the value of the yield expression
 - and a property done set to false if a value is still available
- done boolean will switch to true if no value for next requested yield
- done is set to true
- the iterator for the generator has now finished

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - iterate over iterator object

- iterate over the iterator object
 - return each value per available yield expression
 - e.g. use the for-of loop

```
// iterate over iterator object
for(let iteratorItem of NameGenerator()) {
   if (iteratorItem !== null) {
      console.log("iterator item = "+iteratorItem+index);
   }
}
```

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generators - call generator within a generator

• we may also call a generator from within another generator

```
//generator function
function* NameGenerator() {
    yield "emma";
    yield "rose";
    yield "celine";
    yield* UsernameGenerator();
    yield "yvaine";
}
function* UsernameGenerator() {
    yield "frisby67";
    yield "trilby72";
}
```

we may then use the initial generator, NameGenerator, as normal

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generator - recursive traversal of DOM

- document object model, or DOM, is tree-like structure of HTML nodes
- every node, except the root, has exactly one parent
 - and the potential for zero or more child nodes
- we may now use generators to help iterate over the DOM tree

```
// generator function - traverse the DOM
function* DomTraverseGenerator(htmlElem) {
   yield htmlElem;
   htmlElem = htmlElem.firstElementChild;
   // transfer iteration control to another instance of the
   // current generator - enables sub iteration...
   while (htmlElem) {
      yield* DomTraverseGenerator(htmlElem);
      htmlElem = htmlElem.nextElementSibling;
   }
}
```

- benefit to this generator-based approach for DOM traversal
 - callbacks are not required
- able to consume the generated sequence of nodes with a simple loop
 - and without using callbacks
- able to use generators to separate our code
 - code that is producing values e.g. HTML nodes
 - code consuming the sequence of generated values

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generator - exchange data with a generator

- also send data to a generator
- enables bi-directional communication
- a pattern might include
 - request data
 - then process the data
 - then return an updated value when necessary to a generator

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generator - exchange data with a generator - example

```
// generator function - send data to generator - receive standard argument
function* MessageGenerator(data) {
    // yield a value - generator returns an intermediator calculation
    const message = yield(data);
    yield("Greetings, "+ message);
}

const messageIterator = MessageGenerator("Hello World");
const message1 = messageIterator.next();
console.log("message = "+message1.value);

const message2 = messageIterator.next("Hello again");
console.log("message = "+message2.value);
```

- first call with the next() method requests a new value from the generator
 - returns initial passed argument
 - generator is then suspended
- second call using next() will resume the generator, again requesting a new value
- second call also sends a new argument into the generator using the next()
 method
- newly passed argument value becomes the complete value for this yield
- replacing the previous value Hello World
- we can achieve the required bi-directional communication with a generator
- use yield to return data from a generator
- then use iterator's next() method to pass data back to the generator

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - generator - detailed structure

Generators work in a detailed manner as follows,

suspended start

• none of the generator code is executed when it first starts

executing

- execution either starts at the beginning or resumes where it was last suspended
- state is created when the iterator's next() method is called
- code must exist in generator for execution

suspended yield

- whilst executing, a generator may reach yield
- it will then create a new object carrying the return value
- it will yield this object
- then suspends execution at the point of the yield...

completed

- a return statement or lack of code to execute
- this will cause the generator to move to a complete state

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - intro

- a promise is similar to a placeholder for a value we currently do not have
 - but we would like later
- it's a guarantee of sorts
 - eventually receive a result to an asynchronous request, computation, &c.
- a result will be returned
 - either a value or an error
- we commonly use *promises* to fetch data from a server
 - fetch local and remote data
 - fetch data from APIs

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - example

```
// use built-in Promise constructor - pass callback function with two parameters (resolve & reject)
const testPromise = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
    resolve("test return");
    // reject("an error has occurred trying to resolve this promise...");
});

// use `then` method on promise - pass two callbacks for success and failure
testPromise.then(data => {
    // output value for promise success
    console.log("promise value = "+data);
}, err => {
    // output message for promise failure
    console.log("an error has been encountered...");
});
```

- use the built-in Promise constructor to create a new promise object
- then pass a function
 - a standard arrow function in the above example

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - executor

- function for a Promise is commonly known as an executor function
 - includes two parameters, resolve and reject
- executor function is called immediately
 - as the Promise object is being constructed
- resolve argument is called manually
 - when we need the promise to resolve successfully
- second argument, reject, will be called if an error occurs
- uses the promise by calling the built-in then method
 - available on the promise object
- then method accepts two callback functions
 - success and failure
- success is called if the promise resolves successfully
- the failure callback is available if there is an error

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - callbacks & async

- async code is useful to prevent execution blocking
 - potential delays in the browser
 - e.g. as we execute long-running tasks
- issue is often solved using callbacks
 - i.e. provide a callback that's invoked when the task is completed
- such long running tasks may result in errors
- issue with callbacks
 - e.g. we can't use built-in constructs such as try-catch statements

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - callbacks & async - example

```
try {
  getJSON("data.json", function() {
    // handle return results...
  });
} catch (e) {
  // handle errors...
}
```

- this won't work as expected due to the code executing the callback
 - not usually executed in the same step of the event loop
 - may not be in sync with the code running the long task
- errors will usually get lost as part of this long running task
- another issue with callbacks is nesting
- a third issue is trying to run parallel callbacks
- performing a number of parallel steps becomes inherently tricky and error prone

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - further details

a promise starts in a pending state

- we know nothing about the return value
- promise is often known as an unresolved promise

during execution

- if the promise's resolve function is called
- the promise will move into its fulfilled state
- the return value is now available

• if there is an error or reject method is explicitly called

- the promise will simply move into a rejected state
- return value is no longer available
- an error now becomes available

either of these states

- the promise can now no longer switch state
- i.e from rejected to fulfilled and vice-versa...

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - concept example

an example of working with a promise may be as follows

- code starts (execution is ready)
- promise is now executed and starts to run
- promise object is created
- promise continues until it resolves
 - successful return, artificial timeout &c.
- code for the current promise is now at an end
- promise is now resolved
 - value is available in the promise
- then work with resolved promise and value
 - call then method on promise and returned value...
 - this callback is scheduled for successful resolve of the promise
 - this callback will always be asynchronous regardless of state of promise...

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - explicitly reject

- two standard ways to reject a promise
- e.g. explicit rejection of promise

```
const promise = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
    reject("explicit rejection of promise");
});
```

- once the promise has been rejected
- an error callback will always be invoked
- e.g. through the calling of the then method

```
promise.then(
   () => fail("won't be called..."),
   error => pass("promise was explicitly rejected...");
);
```

- also chain a catch method to the then method
- as an alternative to the error callback. e.g.

```
promise.then(
   () => fail("won't be called..."))
   .catch(error => pass("promise was explicitly rejected..."));
```

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - real-world promise - getJSON

```
// create a custom get json function
function getJSON(url) {
 // create and return a new promise
 return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
   // create the required XMLHttpRequest object
   const request = new XMLHttpRequest();
   // initialise this new request - open
   request.open("GET", url);
    // register onload handler - called if server responds
   request.onload = function() {
     try {
        // make sure response is OK - server needs to return status 200 code...
       if (this.status === 200) {
          // try to parse json string - if success, resolve promise successfully with value
         resolve(JSON.parse(this.response));
         // different status code, exception parsing JSON &c. - reject the promise...
         reject(this.status + " " + this.statusText);
     } catch(e) {
       reject(e.message);
     }
   };
    // if error with server communication - reject the promise...
   request.onerror = function() {
     reject(this.status + " " + this.statusText);
   };
    // send the constructed request to get the JSON
   request.send();
 });
```

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - real-world promise - usage

```
// call getJSON with required URL, then method for resolve object, and catch for error
getJSON("test.json").then(response => {
    // check return value from promise...
    response !== null ? "response obtained" : "no response";
}).catch((err) => {
    // Handle any error that occurred in any of the previous promises in the chain.
    console.log('error found = ', err); // not much to show due to return of jsonp from flickr...
});
```

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - chain

- calling then on the returned promise creates a new promise
- if this promise is now resolved successfully
 - we can then register an additional callback
- we may now chain as many then methods as necessary
- create a sequence of promises
 - each resolved &c. one after another
- instead of creating deeply nested callbacks
 - simply chain such methods to our initial resolved promise
- to catch an error we may chain a final catch call
- to catch an error for the overall chain
- use the catch method for the overall chain

```
getJSON().then()
.then()
.then()
.catch((err) => {
    // Handle any error that occurred in any of the previous promises in the chain.
    console.log('error found = ', err); // not much to show due to return of jsonp from flickr...
});
```

- if a failure occurs in any of the previous promises
- the catch method will be called

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - wait for multiple promises

- promises also make it easy to wait for multiple, independent asynchronous tasks
- with Promise.all, we may wait for a number of promises

```
// wait for a number of promises - all
Promise.all([
    // call getJSON with required URL, `then` method for resolve object, and `catch` for error
getJSON("notes.json"),
getJSON("metadata.json")]).then(response => {
     // check return value from promise...response[0] = notes.json, response[1] = metadata.json &c.
     if (response[0] !== null) {
          console.log("response obtained");
          console.log("notes = ", JSON.stringify(response[0]));
          console.log("metadata = ", JSON.stringify(response[1]));
     }
}).catch((err) => {
     // Handle any error that occurred in any of the previous promises in the chain.
          console.log('error found = ', err); // not much to show due to return of jsonp from flickr...
});
```

- order of execution for tasks doesn't matter for Promise.all
- by using the Promise.all method
 - we are simply stating that we want to wait...
- Promise.all accepts an array of promises
- then creates a new promise
- promise will resolve successfully when all passed promises resolve
- it will reject if a single one of the passed promises fails
- return promise is an array of succeed values as responses
- i.e. one succeed value for each passed in promise

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - racing promises

- we may also setup competing promises
 - with an effective prize to the first promise to resolve or reject
 - might be useful for querying multiple APIs, databases, &c.

- method accepts an array of promises
 - returns a completely new resolved or rejected promise
 - returns for the first resolved or rejected promise

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - promises - combine generators and promises

an example usage for generators and promises,

- async function takes a generator, calls it, and creates the required iterator
- use iterator to resume generator execution as needed
- declare a handle function handles one return value from generator
- one iteration of iterator
- if generator result is a promise & resolves successfully use iterator's next method
- promise value sent back to generator
- generator resumes execution
- if error, promise gets rejected
- error thrown to generator using iterator's throw method
- continue generator execution until it returns done
- generator executes up to each yield getJSON()
 - promise created for each getJSON() call
 - value is fetched async generator is paused whilst fetching value...
 - control flow is returned to current invocation point in handle function whilst paused

handle function

- yielded value to handle function is a promise
- able to use then and catch methods with promise object
- registers success and error callback
- execution is able to continue

Cordova app - ES6 Generators & Promises - lots of examples

e.g.

- generator
 - basic
 - basic-iterator
 - basic-iterator-over
 - basic-loop
 - basic-dom
 - basic-send-data
 - basic-send-data-2
- promises
 - basic
 - basic-cors-flickr
 - basic-xhr-local
 - basic-promise-all
 - basic-promise-race
- generator & promise async
 - basic

read local JSON file - jQuery deferred pattern

- jQuery provides a useful solution to the escalation of code for asynchronous development
- known as the \$.Deferred object
 - effectively acts as a central despatch and scheduler for our events
- with the **deferred** object created
 - parts of the code indicate they need to know when an event completes
 - whilst other parts of the code signal an event's status
- deferred coordinates different activities
 - enables us to separate how we trigger and manage events
 - from having to deal with their consequences

read local JSON file - using deferred objects

- now update our AJAX request with **deferred** objects
- separate the asynchronous request
 - into the initiation of the event, the AJAX request
 - from having to deal with its consequences, essentially processing the response
- separation in logic
 - no longer need a success function acting as a callback parameter to the request itself
- now rely on .getJSON() call returning a deferred object
- function returns a restricted form of this **deferred** object
 - known as a promise

```
deferredRequest = $.getJSON (
   "file.json",
   {format: "json"}
);
```

read local JSON file - using deferred objects

 indicate our interest in knowing when the AJAX request is complete and ready for use

```
deferredRequest.done(function(response) {
   //do something useful...
});
```

- key part of this logic is the done() function
- specifying a new function to execute
 - each and every time the event is successful and returns complete
 - our AJAX request in this example
- deferred object is able to handle the abstraction within the logic
- if the event is already complete by the time we register the callback via the done() function
 - our **deferred** object will execute that callback immediately
- if the event is not complete
 - it will simply wait until the request is complete

read local JSON file - error handling deferred objects

- also signify interest in knowing if the AJAX request fails
- instead of simply calling done(), we can use the fail() function
- still works with JSONP
 - the request itself could fail and be the reason for the error or failure

```
deferredRequest.fail(function() {
   //report and handle the error...
});
```

read local JSON file - working with deferred objects

resolve()

- use this method with the deferred object to change its state, effectively to complete
- as we resolve a deferred object
- any doneCallbacks added with then() or done() methods will be called
- these callbacks will then be executed in the order added to the object
- arguments supplied to resolve() method will be passed to these callbacks

promise()

useful for limiting or restricting what can be done to the deferred object

```
function returnPromise() {
  return $.Deferred().promise();
}
```

- method returns an object with a similar interface to a standard deferred object
 - only has methods to allow us to attach callbacks
 - does not have the methods required to resolve or reject deferred object
- restricting the usage and manipulation of the deferred object
- eg: offer an API or other request the option to subscribe to the deferred object
- **NB:** they won't be able to resolve or reject it as standard

read local JSON file - working with deferred objects

- still use the done() and fail() methods as normal
- use additional methods with these callbacks including the then() method
- use this method to return a new promise
 - use to update the status and values of the deferred object
 - use this method to modify or update a deferred object as it is resolved, rejected, or still in use
- can also combine promises with the when () method
 - method allows us to accept many promises, then return a sort of master deferred
- updated deferred object will now be resolved when all of the promises are resolved
 - it will likewise be rejected if any of these promises fail
- use standard done() method to work with results from all of the promises
- eg: could use this pattern to combine results from multiple JSON files
- multiple layers within an API
- staggered calls to paged results in a API...

- now start to update our test AJAX and JSON application
 - begin by simply abstracting our code a little

```
//get the notes JSON
function getNotes() {
    //return limited deferred promise object
    var $deferredNotesRequest = $.getJSON (
        "docs/json/madeira.json",
        {format: "json"}
    );
    return $deferredNotesRequest;
}

function buildNote(data) {
    //create each note's 
    var p = $("");
    //add note text
    p.html(data);
    //append to DOM
    $("#note-output").append(p);
}
```

read local JSON file - working with a promise

- requesting our JSON file using .getJSON()
 - we get a returned **promise** for the data
- with a **promise** we can only use the following
 - deferred object's method required to attach any additional handlers
 - or determine its state
- our promise can work with
 - then, done, fail, always...
- our **promise** can't work with
 - resolve, reject, notify...
- one of the benefits of using **promises** is the ability to load one JSON file
 - then wait for the results
 - then issue a follow-on request to another file
 - •

- add our .when() function to app
 - .when() function accepts a deferred object
 - in our case a limited promise
- then allows us to chain additional deferred functions
 - including required .done() function
- for returned data, use standard response object to get travelNotes
 - then iterate over the array for each property
 - for each iteration, we can simply call our buildNote function
 - builds and renders required notes to the app's DOM

```
$.when(getNotes()).done(function(response) {
    //get travelNotes
    var $travelNotes = response.travelNotes
    //process travelNotes array
    $.each($travelNotes, function(i, item) {
        if (item !== null) {
            var note = item.note;
            console.log(note);
            buildNote(note)
        }
    });
});
```

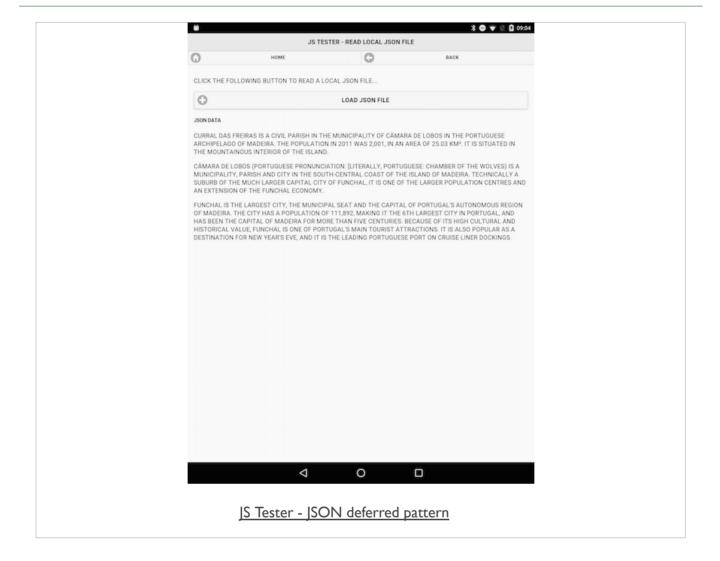
- use this .when() function in a new function, called .processNotes()
- call our deferred promise object from an event handler...

```
function processNotes(){
    $.when(getNotes()).done(function(response)) {
        //get travelNotes
        var $travelNotes = response.travelNotes
        //process travelNotes array
    $.each($travelNotes, function(i, item) {
        if (item !== null) {
            var note = item.note;
            console.log(note);
            buildNote(note)
        }
     });
     console.log("done..."+response.travelNotes[0].note);
    });
}
```

- as we navigate to our JSON page in the test app
 - call this function from an event handler...

```
//handle button press for file write
$("#loadJSON").on("tap", function(e) {
   e.preventDefault();
   processNotes();
});
```

Image - API Plugin Tester - file



intro

- developing custom plugins for Cordova, and by association your apps
 - a useful skill to learn and develop
- it is not always necessary to develop a custom plugin
 - to produce a successful project or application
 - dependent upon the requirements and constraints of the project itself
- use and development of Cordova plugins is not a recent addition
- with the advent of Cordova 3 plugins have started to change
 - introduction of Plugman and the Cordova CLI helped this change
- plugins are now more prevalent in their usage and scope
 - their overall implementation has become more standardised

structure and design - part I

- as we start developing our custom plugins
- makes sense to understand the structure and design of a plugin
- what makes a collection of files a plugin for use within our applications
- we can think of a plugin as a set of files
 - as a group extend or enhance the capabilities of a Cordova application
- already seen a number of examples of working with plugins
 - each one installed using the CLI
 - its functionality exposed by a JavaScript interface
- a plugin could interact with the host application without developer input
- majority of plugin designs provide access to the underlying API
 - provide additional functionality for an application

structure and design - part 2

- a plugin is, therefore, a collection of contiguous files
- packaged together to provide additional functionality and options for a given application
- a plugin includes a plugin.xml file
 - describes the plugin
 - informs the CLI of installation directories for the host application
 - where to copy and install the plugin's components
 - includes option to specify files per installation platform
- a plugin also needs at least one JavaScript source file
 - file is used within the plugin
 - helps define methods, objects, and properties required by the plugin
 - source file is used to help expose the plugins API

structure and design - part 3

- within our plugin structure
 - easily contain all of the required JS code in one file
 - divide logic and requirements into multiple files...
- structure depends on plugin complexity and dependencies
- eg: we could bundle other jQuery plugins, handlebars.js. maps functionality...
- beyond the requirement for a plugin.xml and plugin |S source file
 - plugin's structure can be developer specific
- for most plugins, we will add
 - native source code files for each supported mobile platform
 - may also include additional native libraries
 - any required content such as stylesheets, images, media...

architecture - Android

- we can choose to support one or multiple platforms for an application
- consider a plugin for Android
 - we can follow a useful, set pattern for its development
- android plugin pattern
 - application's code makes a call to the specific JS library, API
 - plugin's JS then sends a request down the chain
 - request sent to specific Java code written for supported versions of Android
 - Java code communicates with the native device
 - upon success, any return is then handled
 - return passed up the plugin chain to the app's code for Cordova
- bi-directional flow from the Cordova app to the native device, and back again

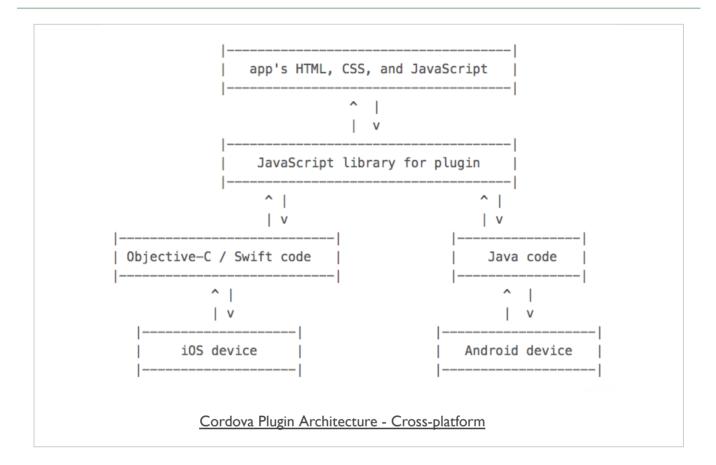
Image - Cordova Plugin Architecture - Android

app's HTML, CSS, and JavaScript
^ v
JavaScript library for plugin
^ v
Java code
^ v
Android device
Cordova Plugin Architecture - Android

architecture - cross-platform

- update our architecture to support multiple platforms within our plugin design
- maintain the same exposed app content
 - again using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript
- maintain the same JavaScript library, API for our plugin
- add some platform specific code and logic for iOS devices
 - add native Objective-C/Swift code and logic
- inherent benefit of this type of plugin architecture
 - the plugin's JavaScript library
- as we support further platforms
 - plugin's JavaScript library should not need to change per platform

Image - Cordova Plugin Architecture - Cross-platform



Plugman utility - part I

- for many plugin tasks in Cordova we can simply use the CLI tool
- we can also use the recent *Plugman* tool
 - useful for the platform-centric workflow
- Plugman tool helps us develop custom plugins
 - helps create simple, initial template for building plugins
 - add or remove a platform from a custom plugin
 - add users to the Cordova plugin registry
 - publish our custom plugin to the Cordova plugin registry
 - likewise, unpublish our custom plugin from the Cordova plugin registry
 - search for plugins in the Cordova plugin registry

Plugman utility - part 2

- need to install Plugman for use with Cordova
 - use NPM to install this tool

npm install -g plugman

- OS X may need sudo to install
- cd to working directory for our new custom plugin
- now create the initial template

```
plugman create --name cordova-plugin-test --plugin_id org.csteach.plugin.Test --plugin_version 0.0.
```

- with this command, we are setting the following parameters for our plugin
 - --name = the name of our new plugin
 - --plugin_id = sets an ID for the plugin
 - --plugin version = sets the version number for the plugin
- also add optional metadata, such as author or description, and path to the plugin...
- new plugin directory containing
- plugin.xml, www directory, src directory

Plugman utility - part 3

using plugman, we can also add any supported platforms to our custom plugin

```
// add android
plugman platform add --platform_name android
// add ios
plugman platform add --platform_name ios
```

- command needs to run from the working directory for the custom plugin
- template creates plugin directories

```
|- plugin.xml
|- src
|- android
|- Test.java
|- www
|- test.js
```

- three important files that will help us develop our custom plugin
 - plugin.xml file for general definition, settings...
 - Test. java contains the initial Android code for the plugin
 - test. js contains the plugin's initial |S API

Plugman utility - part 4

- now update plugin's definition, settings in plugin.xml file
 - helps us define the general structure of our plugin
- within the <plugin> element, we can identify our plugin's metadata
 - <name>, <description>, cence>, and <keywords
- need to clearly define and structure our JS module
 - corresponds to a JS file for our plugin
 - helps expose the plugin's underlying JS API
- <clobbers> element is a sub-element of <js-module>
 - inserts JS object for plugin's JS API into application's window
- update target attribute for <clobbers> adding required window value

<clobbers target="window.test" />

- now corresponds to object defined in www/test.js file
- exported into app's window object as window.test
- access underlying plugin API using this window.test object

Test plugin I - JS plugin - part I

- majority of Cordova plugins include native code
 - for platforms such as Android, iOS, Windows Phone...
 - not a formal requirement for plugins
- start by developing our custom plugin using JavaScript
 - eg: create a custom plugin to package a JavaScript library
 - or a combination of libraries
 - create a structured JS plugin for our application
- start by creating a simple JavaScript only plugin
 - helps demonstrate plugin development
 - general preparation and usage
- need to quickly update our plugin.xml file
 - correctly describe our new plugin

<description>output a daily random travel note</description>

- now start to modify our plugin's main JS file, www/test.js
- use this JS file to help describe the plugin's primary JS interface
 - developer can call within their Cordova application
 - helps them leverage the options for the installed plugin
- by default, when Plugman creates a template for our custom plugin
 - includes the following |S code for test.js file

```
var exec = require('cordova/exec');
exports.coolMethod = function(arg0, success, error) {
    exec(success, error, "test", "coolMethod", [arg0]);
};
```

- part of the default JS code
 - created based upon the assumption we are creating a native plugin
 - eg: for Android, iOS platforms...
- loads the exec library
 - then defines an export for a |S method called coolMethod
- as we develop a native code based plugin for Cordova
 - need to provide this method for each target platform
- working with a JS-only plugin, simply export a function for our own plugin
- now update this JS file for our custom plugin

```
module.exports.dailyNote = function() {
  return "a daily travel note to inspire a holiday...";
}
```

- to be able to use this plugin
 - a Cordova application simply calls test.dailyNote()
 - the note string will be returned

- simply exposing one test method through the available custom plugin
- easily build this out
 - expose more by simply adding extra exports to the test.js file
- also add further JS files to the project
 - also export functions for plugin functionality
- need to update our plugin to work in an asynchronous manner
 - a more Cordova like request pattern for a plugin
- when the API is called
 - at least one callback function needs to be passed
 - then the function can be executed
 - then passed the resulting value

```
module.exports = {

    // get daily note
    dailyNote: function() {
        return "a daily travel note to inspire a holiday...";
    },

    // get daily note via the callback function
    dailyNoteCall: function (noteCall) {
        noteCall("a daily travel note to inspire a holiday...");
    }
};
```

- exposing a couple of options for requests to the plugin
- now call dailyNote()
 - get the return result immediately
- call dailyNoteCall()
- get the result passed to the callback function

Test plugin I - JS plugin - part 6

- now need to test this plugin, and make sure that it actually works as planned
- first thing we need to do is create a simple test application
 - follow the usual pattern for creating our app using the CLI
 - add our default template files
 - then start to add and test the plugin files

cordova create customplugintest1 com.example.customplugintest1 customplugintest1

also add our required platforms,

cordova platform add android

Test plugin I - JS plugin - part 7

• we can then add our new custom plugin

cordova plugin add ../custom-plugins/cordova-plugin-test

- currently installing this plugin from a relative local directory
- when we publish a plugin to the Cordova plugin registry
- install custom plugin using the familiar pattern for standard plugins
- we can now check the installed plugins for our custom plugin

cordova plugins

Drs-MacBook-Air-2:customplugintest1 ancientlives\$ cordova plugins cordova-plugin-whitelist 1.0.0 "Whitelist" org.csteach.plugin.Test 1.0.0 "Test" Drs-MacBook-Air-2:customplugintest1 ancientlives\$

Cordova Installed Plugins

Test plugin I - JS plugin - part 8

- now need to setup our home page,
- add some jQuery to handle events
- then call the exposed functions from our plugin
- start by adding some buttons to the home page

```
<button id="dayNote">Daily Note</button>
<button id="dayNoteSync">Daily Note Async</button>
```

- then update our app's plugin.js file
- include the logic for responding to button events
- then call plugin's exposed functions relative to requested button

```
//handle button tap for daily note - direct
$("#dayNote").on("tap", function(e) {
    e.preventDefault();
    console.log("request daily note...");
    var note = test.dailyNote();
    var noteOutput = "Today's fun note: "+note;
    console.log(noteOutput);
});
```

request daily note...

Today's fun note: a daily travel note to inspire a holiday...

Cordova Custom Plugin - Direct Request

Test plugin I - JS plugin - part 9

- request asynchronous version of daily note function from plugin's exposed API
- add an event handler to our plugin.js file
 - responds to the request for this type of daily note

```
//handle button press for daily note - async
$("#dayNoteSync").on("tap", function(e) {
   e.preventDefault();
   console.log("daily note async...");
   var noteSync = test.dailyNoteCall(noteCallback);
});
```

then add the callback function

```
function noteCallback(res) {
  console.log("starting daily note callback");
  var noteOutput = "Today's fun asynchronous note: "+ res;
  console.log(noteOutput);
}
```

daily note async	plugin.js:24
starting daily note callback	plugin.js:29
Today's fun asynchronous note: a daily travel async note to inspire a holiday	plugin.js:31
Cordova Custom Plugin - Async Request	

Test plugin 2 - Android plugin - part I

- now setup and tested our initial JS only plugin application
- JS only can be a particularly useful way to develop a custom plugin
- often necessary to create one using the native SDK for a chosen platform
 - eg: a custom Android plugin
- now create a second test application
 - then start building our test custom Android plugin

cordova create customplugintest2 com.example.customplugintest2 customplugintest2

add test template to application

- start to consider developing our custom Android plugin
- Android plugins are written in Java for the native SDK
- build a test plugin to help us understand process for working with native SDK
- test a few initial concepts for our plugin
 - processing user input,
 - returning some output to the user
 - some initial error handling

Test plugin 2 - Android plugin - part 3

- now consider setup of our application to help us develop a native Android plugin
- three parts to a plugin that need concern us as developers

```
|- plugin.xml
|- src
|- android
|- Test2.java
|- www
|- test2.js
```

then add our required platforms for development

```
// add android plugman platform add --platform_name android
```

• focus on the Android platform for the plugin

- start to build our native Android plugin
- begin by modifying the Test2.java file
- Cordova Android plugins require some default classes

```
import org.apache.cordova.CordovaPlugin;
import org.apache.cordova.CallbackContext;
```

- our Java code begins importing required classes for a standard plugin
- these include Cordova required classes
- required for general Android plugin development

- now start to build our plugin's class
- start by creating our class, which will extend CordovaPlugin

```
public class Test2 extends CordovaPlugin {
    ...do something useful...
}
```

- then start to consider the internal logic for the plugin
- each Android based Cordova plugin requires an execute() method
- this method is run
- whenever our Cordova application requires interaction or communication with a plugin
- this is where all of our logic will be run

```
@Override
public boolean execute(String action, JSONArray args, CallbackContext callbackContext)
throws JSONException {
   if (action.equals("coolMethod")) {
      String message = args.getString(0);
      this.coolMethod(message, callbackContext);
      return true;
   }
   return false;
}
```

- for the execute method
 - passing an action string
 - tells plugin what is being requested
- plugin uses this requested action
 - checks which action is being used at a given time
 - eg: plugins will often have many different features
- code within execute() method needs to be able to check the required action
- now update our execute() method,

```
@Override
public boolean execute(String action, JSONArray args, CallbackContext callbackContext)
throws JSONException {
    if (ACTION_GET_NOTE.equals(action)) {
        JSONObject arg_object = args.getJSONObject(0);
        String note = arg_object.getString("note");
    }
    String result = "Your daily note: "+note;
    callbackContext.success(result);
    return true;
}
```

- with our updated execute() method
 - if the request action is getNote
 - our Java code grabs requested input from JSON data structure
- current test plugin has a single input value
- if we started to build out the plugin
 - eg: requiring additional inputs
 - we could grab them from the JSON as well
- we've also added some basic error handling
- able to leverage the default callbackContext object
 - provided by the standard Cordova plugin API
- able to simply return an error to the caller
 - if an invalid action is requested
- one of the good things about developing an Android plugin for Cordova
 - majority of plugins follow a similar pattern
 - main differences will be seen within the execute() method

```
package org.csteach.plugin;
import org.apache.cordova.CallbackContext;
import org.apache.cordova.CordovaPlugin;
import org.json.JSONArray;
import org.json.JSONException;
import org.json.JSONObject;
public class Test2 extends CordovaPlugin {
 public static final String ACTION_GET_NOTE = "dailyNote";
   @Override
   public boolean execute(String action, JSONArray args, CallbackContext callbackContext)
   throws JSONException {
        if (ACTION_GET_NOTE.equals(action)) {
            JSONObject arg_object = args.getJSONObject(0);
            String note = arg_object.getString("note");
        String result = "Your daily note: "+note;
        callbackContext.success(result);
        return true;
   callbackContext.error("Invalid action requested");
    return false;
```

Test plugin 2 - Android plugin - part 9

- need to update the JavaScript for our plugin
 - helps us expose the API for the plugin itself
- first thing we need to do is create a primary object for our plugin
- then use this to store the APIs needed to be able to request and use our plugin

```
var noteplugin = {
... do something useful...
}
module.exports = noteplugin;
```

current API will support one action, our getNote action

```
getNote:function(note, successCallback, errorCallback) {
    ...again, do something useful...
}
```

- communication between JavaScript and the native code in the Android plugin
- performed using the cordova.exec method
- method is not explicitly defined within our application or plugin
- when this code is run within the context of our Cordova application
 - the cordova object and the required exec () method become available
 - they are part of the default structure of a Cordova application and plugin
- now add our cordova.exec() method

```
cordov.exec(
...add something useful...
);
```

- now pass our exec () method two required argument
 - represents necessary code for success and failure
- basically telling Cordova how to react to a given user action
- then tell Cordova which plugin is required
 - and associated action to pass to the plugin
- also need to pass any input to the plugin
- updated exec() method is as follows

```
cordova.exec(
  successCallback,
  errorCallback,
  'Test2',
  'getNote',
  [{
    "note": note
  }]
);
```

Test plugin 2 - Android plugin - part 12

plugin's JavaScript code should now look as follows

- now need to test our plugin with our application
- update our home page to allow a user to interact with our new custom plugin
- add an input field for the user requested note
- add a button to submit the request itself

```
<input type="text" id="noteField" placeHolder="daily note">
<button id="testButton">Test2</button>
```

- exposed plugin API will be able to respond
 - use the input data from the user
 - then pass to the native Android plugin



Test plugin 2 - Android plugin - part 14

- update app's plugin.js to handle user input
 - then process for use with our custom plugin
- still need to wait for the deviceready event to return successfully
- then we can start to work with our user input and custom plugin
- our native Android plugin's API is similarly exposed using the window object

```
window.test2
```

we can then execute it from our application's JS

```
windows.test2.getNote
```

- then pass the requested note data to the API
- define how we're going to work with success and error handlers
 - render the returned value to the application's home page

```
window.test2.getNote(note,
  function(result) {
    console.log("result = "+result);
    $("#note-output").html(result);
},
  function(error) {
    console.log("error = "+error);
    $("#note-output").html("Note error: "+error);
}
```

```
function onDeviceReady() {
//handle button press for daily note - direct
$("#testButton").on("tap", function(e) {
  e.preventDefault();
 console.log("request daily note...");
 var note = $("#noteField").val();
  console.log("requested note = "+note);
  if (note === "") {
    return;
  window.test2.getNote(note,
   function(result) {
     console.log("result = "+result);
     $("#note-output").html(result);
    function(error) {
     console.log("error = "+error);
      $("#note-output").html("Note error: "+error);
    }
  );
});
```



Summary of custom plugin development

- an initial template for a custom plugin can be created using the *Plugman* tool
- create JS only custom plugins
- create native SDK plugins
 - eg: Android, iOS, Windows Phone...
- custom plugin consists of
 - plugin.xml
 - JavaSript API
 - native code
- create the plugin separate from the application
 - then add to an application for testing
 - remove to make changes, then add again...

Demos

Pub/Sub pattern

References

Cordova API

- config.xml
- Hooks
- Merges
- Network Information
- plugins
- plugin globalization
- plugin Splashscreen
- plugin statusbar
- Plugin Development Guide
- Plugin.xml

OnsenUI

- OnsenUI v2
- JavaScript Reference
- Theme Roller