Comp 422 - Software Development for Wireless and Mobile Devices

Fall Semester 2016 - Week 5

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Contents

- DEV week update
- initial tests and tools
- a few additional testing options
- API plugin examples
 - geolocation
 - file read, write...
- data considerations
- local storage
- extra notes
 - Design mockups and prototypes

DEV week overview...

- begin development of a mobile application using Apache Cordova
 - not a responsive website viewed on a mobile device
- can be platform agnostic (cross-platform) or specific targeted OS
 - eg: Android, iOS...using Cordova APIs
 - consider choice, and explain why?
- outline concept, research conducted to date
- consider applicable design patterns
- are you using any sensors etc?
 - how, why?
- prototyping
 - demo current prototypes
 - any working tests or models etc

DEV week presentation and demo...

- brief presentation or demonstration of current project work
- ~ 5 to 10 minutes per group
- analysis of work conducted so far
 - eg: during semester & DEV week
- presentation, demonstration, or video overview...
 - outline mobile app
 - show prototypes and designs
 - explain what works & does not work
 - ...

Scheduled for Friday 14th October 2016 @ 2.45pm

Cordova app - test with local tools

- default testing options with Cordova CLI include
 - emulate and run
- other options available as well
- Apache Ripple install using NPM

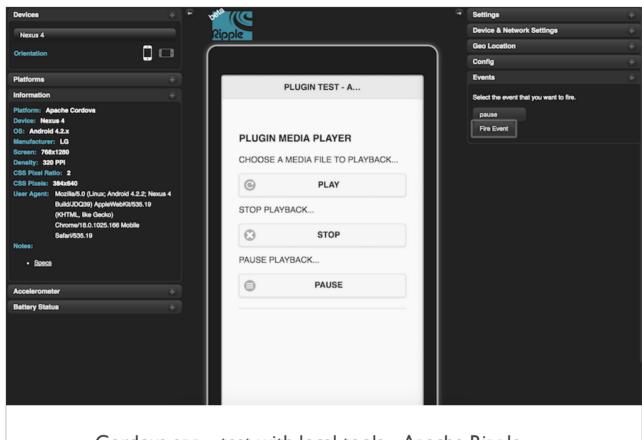
npm install -g ripple-emulator

 then, cd to working directory of Cordova app and run the following command

ripple emulate

- not the most up to date emulator, but useful for quick UI and interaction testing
- Genymotion target at Android development, testing, and provision
 - professional development and testing options available
 - further details at https://www.genymotion.com

Image - Cordova app - test with local tools - Apache Ripple



Cordova app - test with local tools - Apache Ripple

Cordova app - test with local tools - serve

- Cordova also provides the option to serve a current app
- serve as self-hosted site for testing

cordova serve

- start a local static file server at http://localhost:8000
 - then navigate to a given platform's directory
 - and the associated project UI and build
 - useful for UI testing and quick development

Image - Cordova app - test with local server - serve

Package Metadata

name	Plugin Test 0.2
packageName	com.example.plugintest
version	0.0.2

Platforms

- ios
- osx
- android
- ubuntu
- amazon-fireos
- wp8
- blackberry10
- www
- firefoxos
- windows
- webos
- browser

Plugins

- · cordova-plugin-compat
- · cordova-plugin-device
- · cordova-plugin-file
- · cordova-plugin-media
- · cordova-plugin-whitelist

Cordova app - test with local server - serve

Cordova app - test with local tools - Chrome browser and device

- test and develop Android applications with devices on Chrome browser
- after running our app on a connected device, e.g.

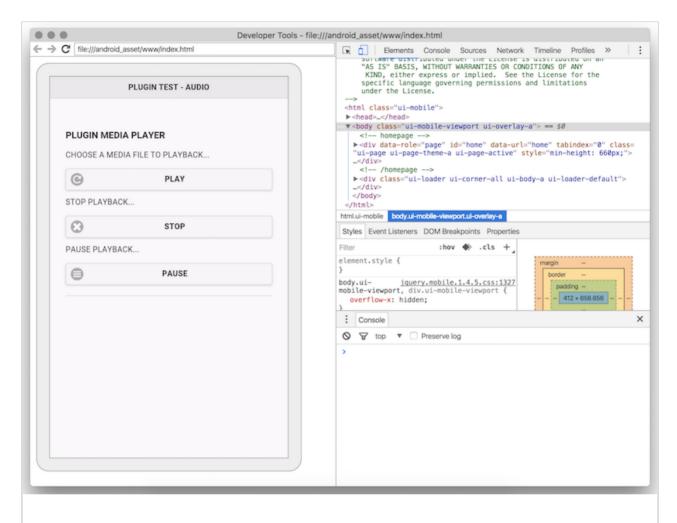
cordova run android

inspect the app using Chrome's developer tools at the following URL,

chrome://inspect/#devices

- then select the option to inspect a connected device
- shows window with the standard Chrome developer tools and options
 - inspect the DOM, JS console, styles, and so on...
 - use inspect option to control, navigate, and interact with our running app

Image - Cordova app - test with local server - Chrome



Cordova app - test with local server - Chrome

Cordova app - test with Browser platform

- Cordova recently added a Browser platform option
- use to create a quasi-test environment for our apps
- install browser support as a standard platform

cordova platform add browser

load our app into the browser using the following command,

cordova run browser

- platform will be useful for testing UI design and development
- many of the plugins are supported as well
 - e.g. camera

n.b. other options better for testing development of custom or OS level Android or iOS features...

Image - Cordova app - test with browser platform



plugins - geolocation

- add and use Cordova's Geolocation plugin
- helps us provide information about current location of user's device
- plugin returns data on device's location
 - including latitude and longitude
- plugin can use the following to help determine location
 - GPS, network signals, phone network IDs...
- API has been developed around the W3C's Geolocation API Specification
- n.b. may not always be able to return a reliable location due to
 - location restrictions
 - lack of access to a network
 - a user may reject location tracking and awareness...
- need to be aware of potential privacy and security concerns
 - application's privacy policy important
 - how we collect and whether we store data or not
 - how and when we share such data with 3rd-party services
- consider offering user a simple opt-in/out option for location services
 - app needs fallback options to cover lack of location services

plugins - geolocation

now create our test application for the geolocation plugin

```
cordova create plugintestgeo com.example.plugintest3 PluginTestGeo
```

add our required platforms for support and development,

```
cordova platform add android --save
```

 update the www directory, modify initial settings in config.xml, and run initial test

```
//test in the Android emulator

cordova emulate android

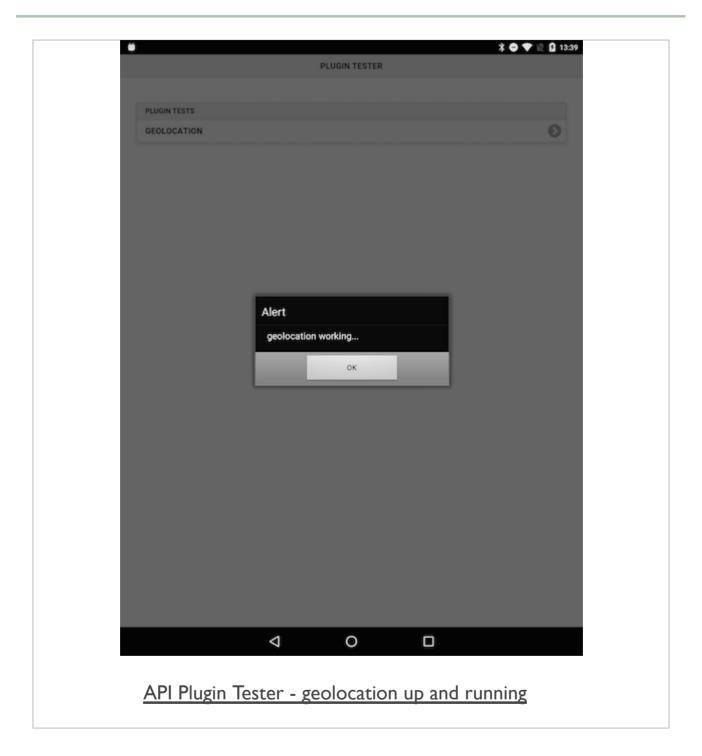
//test on a connected Android device

cordova run android
```

add geolocation plugin to our new project using the Cordova CLI

```
//cordova version 5.0+
cordova plugin add cordova-plugin-geolocation
//install directly via repo url
cordova plugin add https://github.com/apache/cordova-plugin-geolocation.git
```

Image - API Plugin Tester - Geolocation



plugins - geolocation - test plugin

- add option to check and return current location of the user's device
- add a button to allow the user to request their current location
 - then get the location's latitude and longitude
 - then output the location results to the user

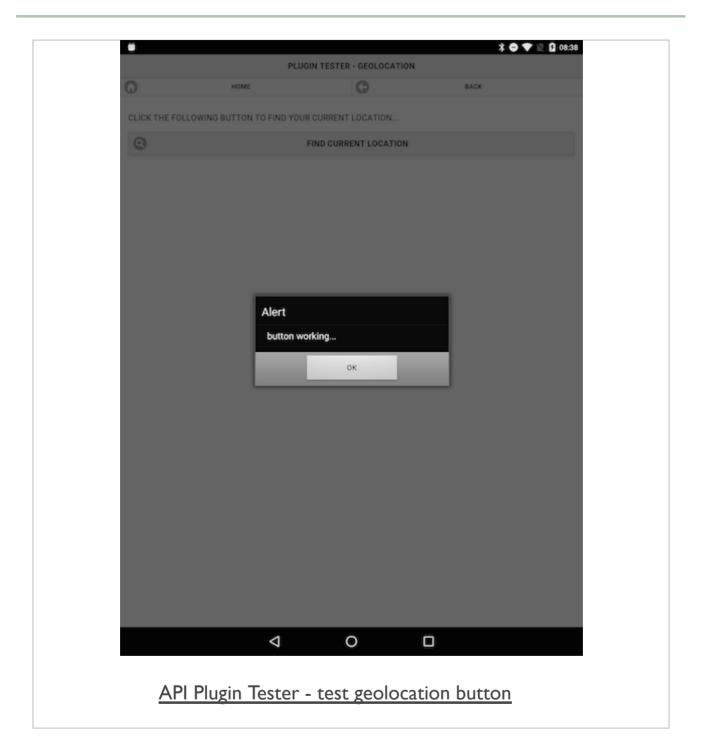
```
<div data-role="content">
  Click the following button to find your current location...
  <input type="button" id="getLocation" data-icon="search" value="Find Current Location" />
  </div>
```

then update the plugin.js file to handle the tap event for this button

```
//handle button press for geolocation
$("#getLocation").on("tap", function(e) {
   e.preventDefault();
     alert("button working...");
})
```

output test alert for handler

Image - API Plugin Tester - Geolocation



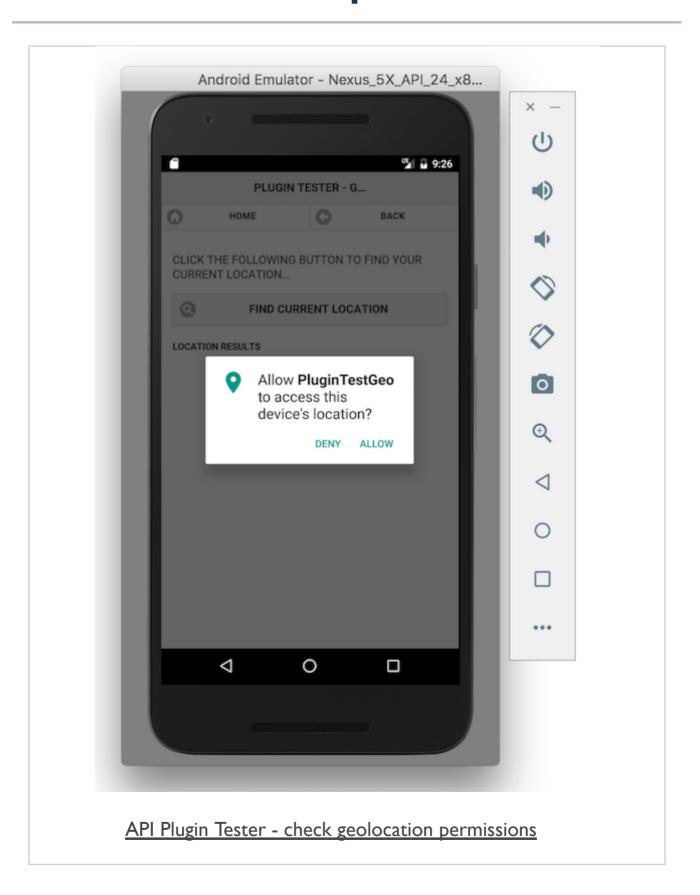
plugins - geolocation - test plugin

- add our logic for working with the navigator object and the geolocation plugin
- first function we need to add is getLocation()
 - use navigator object to get current position of user's device
- add our standard success and fail callbacks
 - initially add a timeout for poor signal or reception
 - enable high accuracy for this check
 - asking plugin to use most accurate source available, e.g. GPS
- getLocation() function is as follows,

```
function getLocation() {
  navigator.geolocation.getCurrentPosition(onSuccess,
     onFail, {
     timeout: 15000,
     enableHighAccuracy: true
  });
}
```

standard callbacks for onSuccess and onFail

Image - API Plugin Tester - Geolocation permissions



plugins - geolocation - test plugin

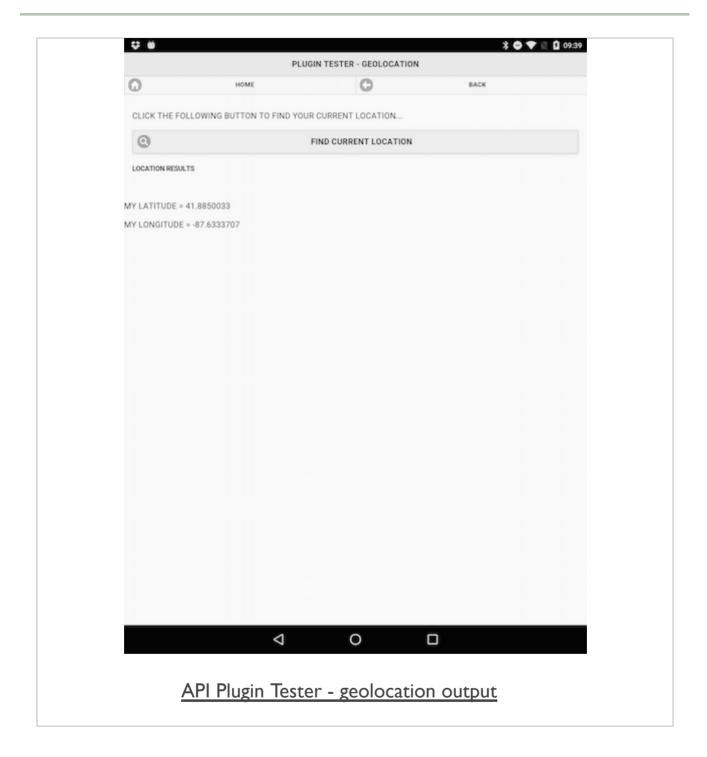
- successful return of location data
 - use the latitude and longitude coordinates within our application

```
function onSuccess(location) {
  var myLatitude = location.coords.latitude;
  var myLongitude = location.coords.longitude;
  //output result to #location div...
  $("#location").append("my latitude = "+myLatitude+"
}
```

- now store coordinates of user's location as latitude and longitude values
- various options for usage per application
 - render to page, use with maps, add metadata to photos, track navigation...
- also need to allow for the possibility of errors
 - set our onFail callback as follows

```
function onFail(error) {
   $("#location").append("location error code = "+error.code+" message = "+error.message);
}
```

Image - API Plugin Tester - Geolocation



plugins - geolocation - plugin options

- additional options and properties available to us in the callbacks
 - navigator object and properties for returned location object
- add options to navigator object for geolocation
 - maximumAge cached position as long as it is not older than the specified age
 - age is specified as a number in milliseconds, e.g. maximumAge: 3000
- returned location object properties
 - altitude location.coords.altitude
 - heading location.coords.heading
 - **speed** location.coords.speed
 - **timestamp** location.timestamp
- fine-tune results for our users

plugins - geolocation - monitor location

set plugin to monitor a device's location for changes

```
navigator.geolocation.watchPosition
```

- checking user's device for changes in their current location
 - then returns device's location if a change is detected

```
var watchID = navigator.geolocation.watchPosition(onSuccess, onFail,
{option...}
);
```

- error callback and options are both optional
- also use returned ID with a clearWatch() function to stop ongoing location check and monitoring

plugins - geolocation - manual toggle

- add a toggle option to allow a user to choose
 - auto or manual refresh of their location
- toggle set to on app will watch a user's position
- toggle set to off explicit location request required
- option to disable watchPosition() helps save battery life, reduces privacy issues...
- toggle switch initially set to default off position
 - location position requires explicit request
- toggle switch set to on
 - app calls watchPosition() method against global navigator.geolocation object

plugins - geolocation - manual toggle

add a toggle switch to our UI

```
<form>
    <label for="flip-select">watch location:</label>
    <select id="setWatch" name="flipWatch" data-role="flipswitch">
        <option>off</option>
        <option>on</option>
        </form>
```

then update our JS logic to handle a UI event on this widget

```
$("#setWatch").on("change", function(e) {
    e.preventDefault();
    $watchState = $(this).val();
    console.log("watch state is now set to "+$watchState);
});
```

- add a check for the current value of the toggle switch
- add to a property \$watchState
- simply checking set value of option for the switch

plugins - geolocation - manual toggle

- as a user changes the state of the toggle switch to on
 - need to call watchPosition() method
 - start constant polling of geolocation object

```
$("#setWatch").on("change", function(e) {
    e.preventDefault();

//get state of toggle
    $watchState = $(this).val();

//output check of toggle state
    console.log("watch state is now set to "+$watchState);

//check state of toggle

if ($watchState === "on") {
    //call function to start watching...
    getWatchID();

    //output check of watchID
    console.log("watchID = "+watchID);
}

});
```

- add a new function getWatchID()
 - allows us to set a value for a watchID property
 - property set against onDeviceReady() function

```
function getWatchID() {
    watchID = navigator.geolocation.watchPosition(onSuccess,
    onFail, {
        enableHighAccuracy: true
    });
}
```

plugins - geolocation - manual toggle

- call getWatchID() using standard callback, onSuccess
 - get required location details
 - then set value for watchID property

```
$("#setWatch").on("change", function(e) {
    e.preventDefault();
    //get state of toggle
    $watchState = $(this).val();
    //output check of toggle state
    console.log("watch state is now set to "+$watchState);
    //check state of toggle
    if ($watchState === "on") {
        //call function to start watching...
        getWatchID();
        //output check of watchID
        console.log("watchID = "+watchID);
    } else {
        $("#geolocation").empty();
        //clear the location watching - stops location tracking...
        navigator.geolocation.clearWatch(watchID);
        //output check of watchID - check match against on watchID...
        console.log("clear watch..."+watchID);
  }
});
```

- update conditional statement
 - clear output of coordinates, then clear watching of user's current location

Image - API Plugin Tester - Geolocation toggle

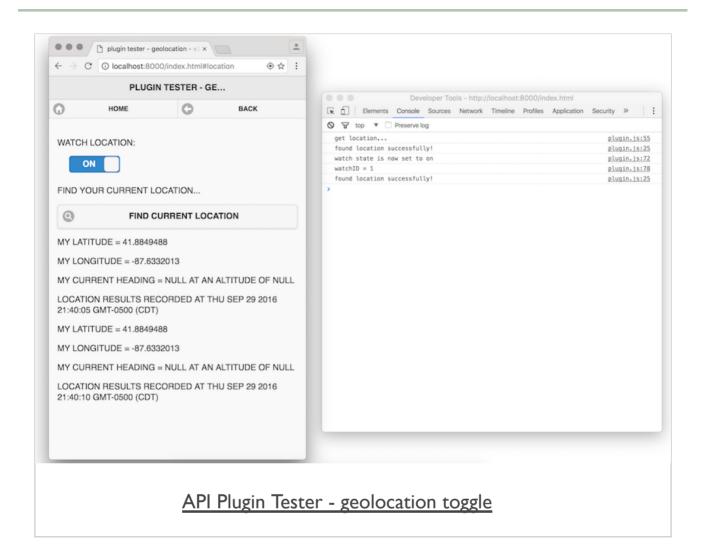
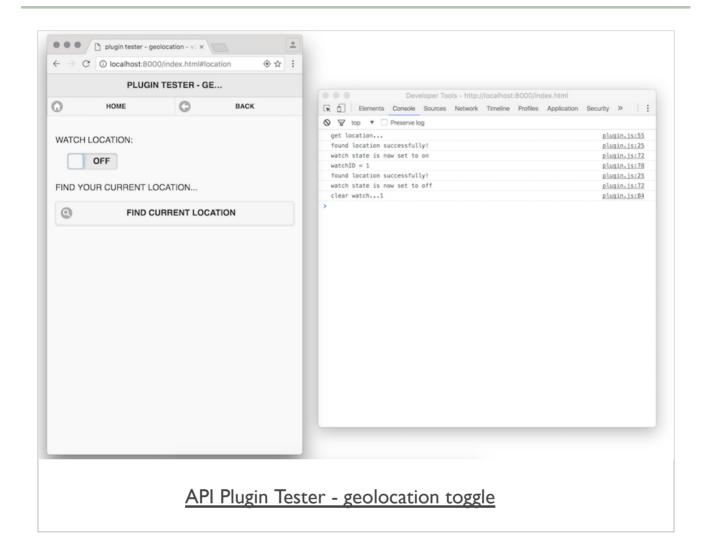


Image - API Plugin Tester - Geolocation toggle



Data considerations in mobile apps

- no one size fits all model for mobile
- can't just default to the server-side for reading and writing data
- our app may become useless if we rely heavily on remote data
 - lose our network connection
 - run out of monthly data allowance
 - or end up with throttled or restricted data on a poor network, e.g. 2G
- Facebook's introduction of 2G Tuesdays
 - remind employees, developers of 2G limitations and issues around the world
- also need to consider
 - data security, read and write privileges for certain data stores, authentication for remote sources...
- careful consideration of the options for reading and writing data
 - a crucial aspect of our app's planning and subsequent development

setup

create our initial plugin test shell application

cordova create plugintest4 com.example.plugintest4 plugintest4

- add any required plaforms, e.g. Android, iOS, Windows Phone...
 - we'll add iOS as well

cordova platform add android --save

- then update the default www directory
- modify the initial settings in our app's config.xml file
- then run an initial test to ensure the shell application loads correctly
 - run in the Android emulator or
 - run on a connected Android device

cordova emulate android

or

cordova run android

setup

also add support for iOS development

cordova platform add ios --save

- running a test application on iOS is not as simple as Android
- need to add support to Cordova for a local iOS simulator
 - add package for iOS simulator using npm
 - NB: may require admin or sudo permissions to install correctly

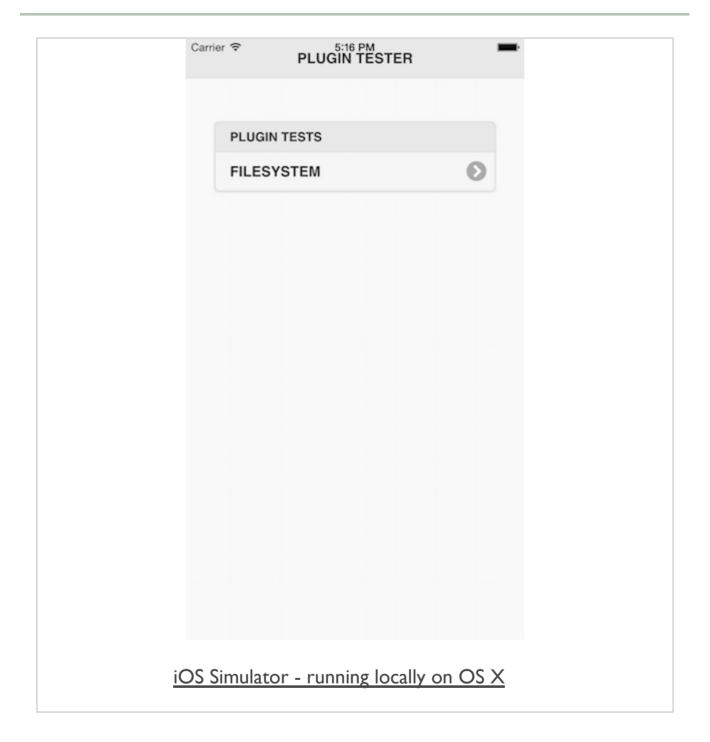
npm install -g ios-sim

then run our Cordova app from the working directory

cordova run ios

- Cordova will try to load the application using this local simulator
 - without defaulting to Xcode
- quickly test our iOS application with this simulator

Image - iOS Local Simulator



iOS simulator - options

- iOS simulator gives us many useful options
 - helpful ways to test our local Cordova based iOS applications
- emulate many different devices
 - from the iPhone 6 Plus to the iPad Air
- mimic many of these device's hardware features
 - such as rotate, shake, different keyboards...
 - also output to a simulated Apple Watch device, 38mm & 42mm
- various debugging options available within this simulator
 - including ability to mimic locations for GPS enabled applications
- quickly take a screenshot of the current application screen within the simulator

plugins - add filesystem

- add and use the file plugin
- plugin has been designed to permit read and write access to files
 - files are stored on the local device for Cordova applications
- **file** plugin is initially based on open specifications
 - includes the **HTML5 File API**, W3's **FileWriter** specification...
- add the file plugin to our test application using the standard CLI command

cordova plugin add cordova-plugin-file

- command will install plugin for all currently installed platforms
 - includes Android and iOS for our test application

Image - API Plugin Tester - file



plugins - test filesystem

- using this plugin we can read local files from within the filesystem
- we could read a file from within our Cordova application
 - e.g. located in the following directory

```
...
|- www
|- docs
|- txt
|- madeira.txt
```

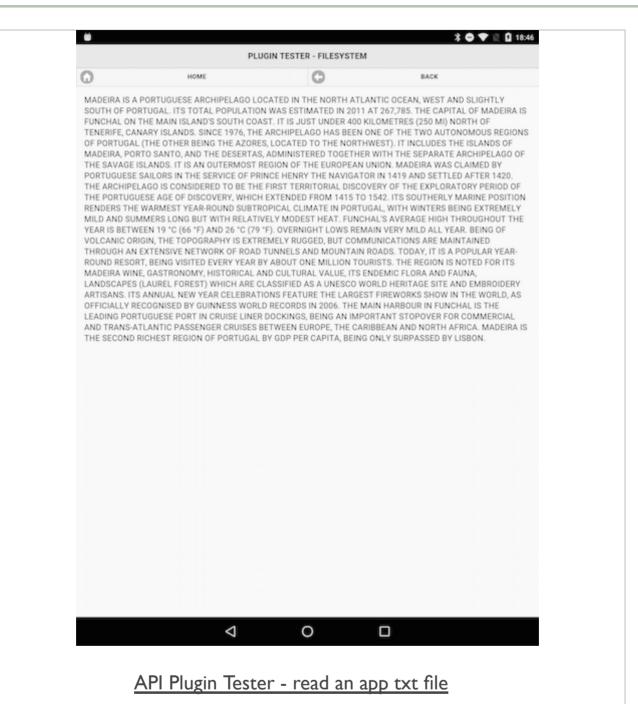
- we can use the available global cordova.file object
- to be able to use the URL for our text document in the file-system directory
 - convert it to a DirectoryEntry using

```
window.resolveLocalFileSystemURL()
```

- in our standard onDeviceReady() function
 - use this global object to resolve the URL of our file
 - then pass to specified callbacks for success and fail

```
window.resolveLocalFileSystemURL(cordova.file.applicationDirectory +
"www/docs/txt/madeira.txt", onSuccess, onFail);
```

Image - API Plugin Tester - file



plugins - test filesystem onSuccess

- render this text after retrieving from the requested file
 - update our onSuccess() function to output the file's content

```
function onSuccess(data) {
   data.file(function(file) {
     var readFile = new FileReader();
     readFile.onloadend = function(e) {
        //use jQuery selector to add returned file data
        $("#file-output").html(this.result);
    }
   readFile.readAsText(file);
});
```

- call the file() method on our returned file data
 - effectively gives us a hook/handle into the file
 - we can now work with the returned file data
- then call the FileReader() method from the FileAPI
 - and process the returned text
- output to our specified HTML element
 - using a standard jQuery selector with the html() method

plugins - test filesystem onFail()

- complement to the onSuccess() function
- now add our function onFail() for the fail callback
- test it with the returned error code

```
function onFail(error) {
  console.log("FileSystem Error"+error.code);
  $("#file-output").html("file plugin error - "+error.code);
}
```

- uses the passed error object
 - returns a code for rendering in the specified jQuery selector
- obviously does not make a lot of sense to our user

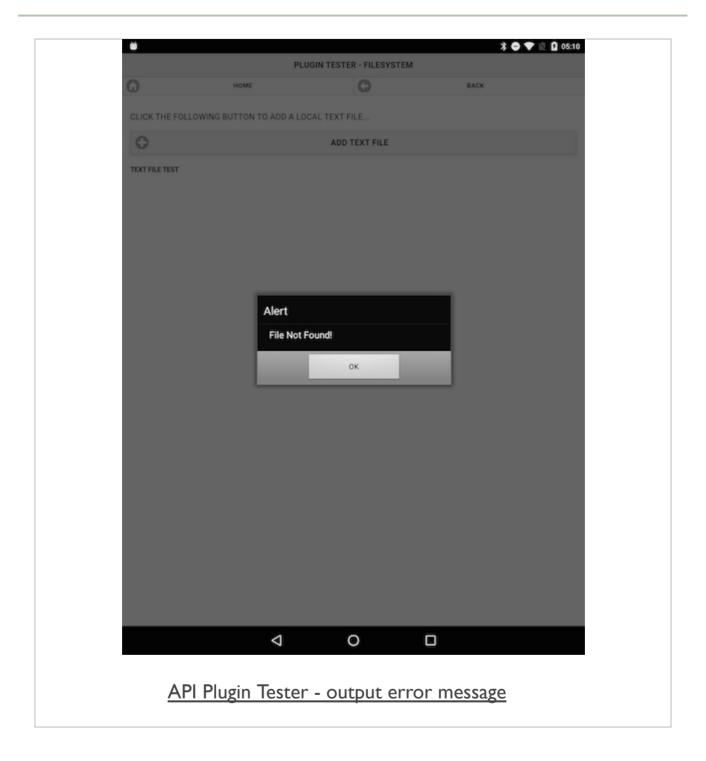
plugins - test filesystem onFail()

- we can use a conditional statement to check for certain returned error codes
 - then output a meaningful error message to the user in the application

```
function onFail(error) {
    switch(error.code) {
        case 1:
        alert('File Not Found!');
        break;
        //add other options to cover additional error codes...
        default:
        alert('An error occurred reading this file.');
    };
}
```

- now output more graceful error messages and feedback to the user
- Web APIs FileError

Image - API Plugin Tester - file



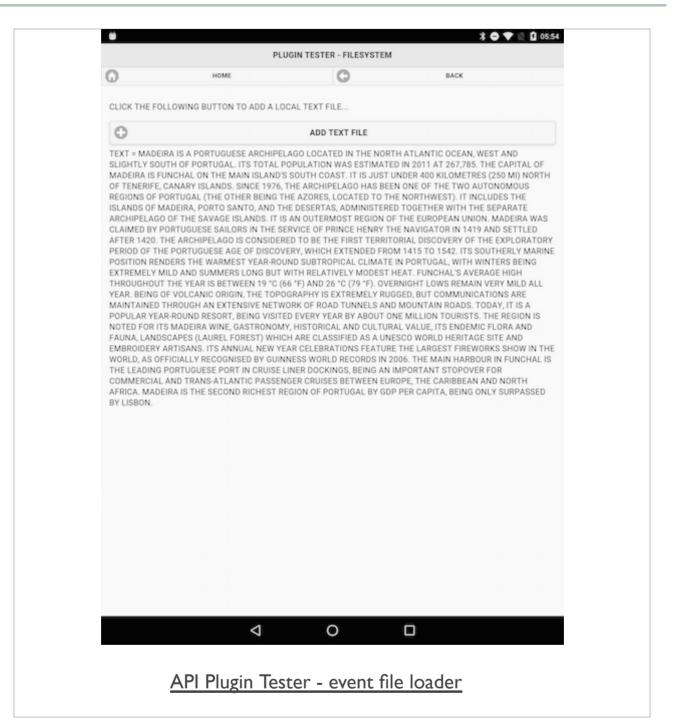
plugins - test filesystem with event

- easily link file loading to a given event, such as a user tap event
- instead of loading the file by default with the onDeviceReady()
 function
 - get the contents of our file when needed by the user
- link this to a button event, a separate page init event...

```
//handle button press for file load
$("#getFile").on("tap", function(e) {
   e.preventDefault();
   getTxtFile();
});
```

then call our local file as before within its own function, getTxtFile()

Image - API Plugin Tester - file



plugins - test filesystem with file write

- now read files from the local device's native storage thanks to Cordova's
 File plugin
- file plugin also offers an option to write to files in the same local filesystem
- quickly create a test app for writing to files
- create your project
- cd to app's working directory
- add required platforms
- add our required Cordova API plugin for working with the file system
- run usual initial tests for app loading, deviceready event...

plugins - test filesystem with file write

- now start to add writing to a file to our test app
- start, as we did with file reading, by getting a hook/handle to a file
- we can then write to a file within the assigned app's data directory
 - specific app directory has read and write access
 - allows us to create files as needed for our app
 - then read and write within the confines of the native app
- use window.resolveLocalFileSystemURL to allow us to work with this data directory

```
var fileDir = cordova.file.dataDirectory;
window.resolveLocalFileSystemURL(fileDir, function(dir) {
   // do something useful...
});
```

in application specific directory get our required file for writing

Image - API Plugin Tester - file



plugins - test filesystem with file write

- create a new file if it doesn't exist on app loading
- use directory object with getFile() method etc...
 - set flag to create a new file

```
window.resolveLocalFileSystemURL(fileDir, function(dir) {
    dir.getFile("madeira.txt", {create:true}, function(file) {
    //do something useful
});
});
```

- pass file object to other functions for processing...
- create our write function to check and write to specified file within app's data directory

plugins - test filesystem with file write

now write some simple text to our file

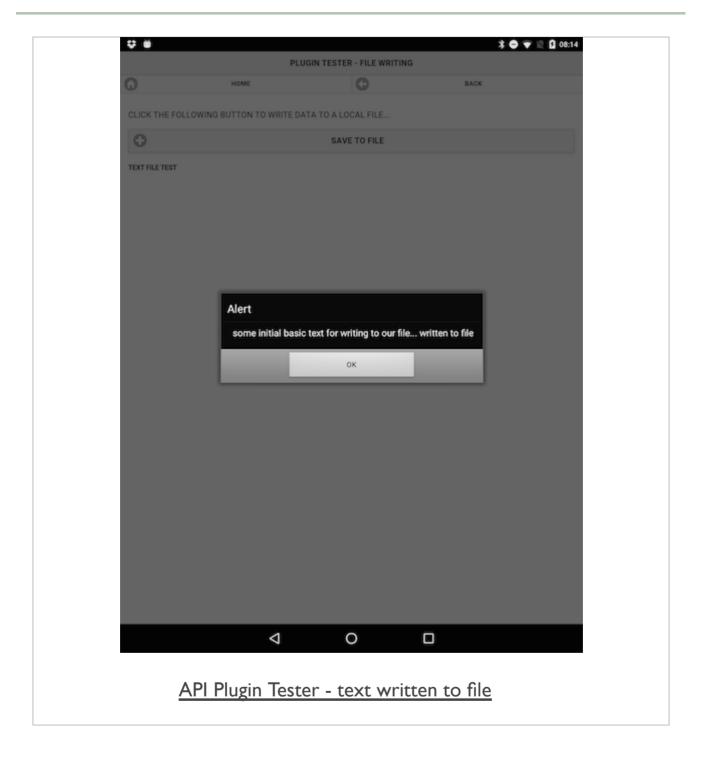
plugins - test filesystem with file write

- then call this writeTxt() as needed within our application
 - e.g. calling it from event handler for a button tap

```
//handle button press for file write
$("#saveFile").on("tap", function(e) {
    e.preventDefault();
    writeTxtFile("some initial basic text for writing to our file...");
});
```

- could easily get text to write from an input field, from metadata...
- then pass it to our writeTxtFile() function for writing

Image - API Plugin Tester - file



Data considerations in mobile apps

- worked our way through Cordova's File plugin
- tested local and remote requests with JSON
- many other options for data storage in mobile applications
- for example

I. LocalStorage

- based upon the Web Storage API specification
- access local data based upon simple key and value pairs
- similar concept to Redis

2. WebSQL

- offers a full database using tables, queried using SQL
- originally rejected by Mozilla and Microsoft's IE team
- still widely supported by Chrome and Safari on mobile
- MSOpenTech division just released a WebSQL plugin for Cordova
- WebSQL support

3. IndexedDB

- supposed winner in the WebDB (WebSQL) and Web Simple DB (IndexedDB) wars
- still struggles to gain widespread developer support
- key/value pairs can often be implemented using LocalStorage
- WebSQL, and Sqlite, still popular technologies

арр setup

create our initial plugin test shell application

cordova create datatest1 com.example.datatest1 DataTest1

- add any required plaforms, eg: Android, iOS, Windows...
 - we'll add iOS as well

cordova platform add android --save

- then update the default www directory
- modify the initial settings in our app's config.xml file
- then run an initial test to ensure the shell application loads correctly
 - run in the Android emulator or
 - run on a connected Android device

cordova emulate android

or

cordova run android

Image - Data Tester



app structure - update HTML

- update app's initial HTML
- home screen includes
 - basic app headings, app information, and form
 - form used for creating, saving, and loading a note

HTML form for notes includes

- "noteForm" our form for storing notes
- "noteName" input text field for title of the note
- "noteContent" input text field for body of note
- "saveNote" button to submit data (persist data in storage)
- "reloadNote" reload the saved note for testing persistence
- "saveResult" render message from storage request (eg: save successfully)

app structure - home screen HTML

Image - Data Tester



арр logic - save.js

- create new JavaScript file to store logic for saving to storage
- name this new JS file, save.js
- we can store this in our /assets/scripts/save.js directory

- add our usual pageinit event handler
 - use to register the event handlers for our buttons
- handlers for Save Note and Reload Note buttons
- need to validate the form to check for errors...
 - ensure it meets minimum requirements for saving notes to storage

арр logic - save.js form validation

- use jQuery's validation plugin to help with form validation
 - download the plugin's JS file
 - add it to our HTML after jQuery file
- use plugin to define required validation rules for each form field
- use the plugin's validate() method to help with this setup
- call the associated valid() method to check the passed form

```
$("#noteForm").validate({
  rules: {
    noteName: "required",
    noteContent: "required"
  },
  messages: {
    noteName: "Add title for note",
    noteContent: "Add your note"
  }
});
```

```
if (! $("#noteForm").valid()) {
   return;
}
```

арр logic - save.js

- to save the user created notes
- need to handle the tap event for the Save Note button
- initially check that our form is valid
- validate our form using the .valid() method
 - from the jQuery validation plugin
- if our form is valid, then the handler can continue
- input text values for both noteName and noteContent
 - now set as attributes in a JSON object
 - convert this object to a string using JSON.stringify()
- persist this stringified JSON object in the device's local storage
- use the app's main object
 - set a key and a value pair for notes in persistent storage

app logic - save.js - save button handler

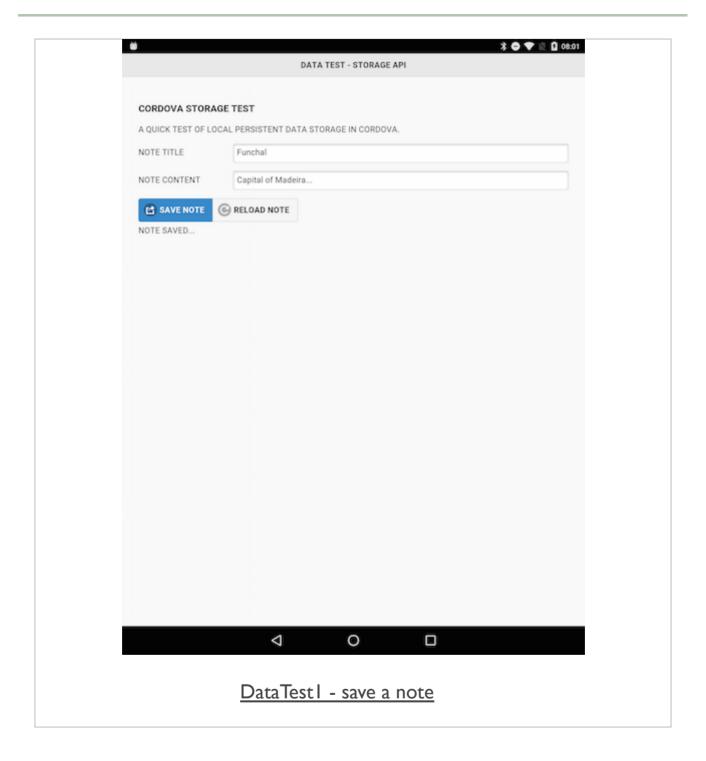
event handler for save button

```
// handler for save note button
$("#saveNote").on("tap", function(e) {
    e.preventDefault();
    //check form is valid
    if (! $("#noteForm").valid()) {
        return;
    }
    //store notes
    storageNotes.set(NOTE_KEY, JSON.stringify({
        noteName: $("#noteName").val(),
        noteContent: $("#noteContent").val()
    })
);
// inform user note saved
$("#saveResult").html("note saved...");
});
```

main app object

```
var storageNotes = NotesManager.getInstance();
```

Image - Data Tester



арр logic - save.js

- need to handle events for our reloadNote button
- retrieve our notes data
 - loaded by calling the reloadNoteData() function
- uses the main app object, storageNotes
 - gets the defined key for our notes
- use this key to retrieve stored stringified JSON object
- then use JSON.parse() to convert the stringified object to a plain JSON object
 - contains our note information
- use this note information
 - populate form fields
 - output our notes for rendering to the DOM

арр logic - save.js - reload button handler

event handler for reload button

```
// handler for reload note button
$("#reloadNote").on("tap", function(e) {
    e.preventDefault();
    reloadNoteData();
    $("#saveResult").html("note reloaded...");
});
```

reload note data

```
function reloadNoteData() {
  var noteInfo = JSON.parse(storageNotes.get(NOTE_KEY));
  loadFormFields(noteInfo);
  noteOutput(noteInfo);
}
```

load form fields data

```
function loadFormFields(data) {
   if (data) {
      $("#noteName").val(data.noteName);
      $("#noteContent").val(data.noteContent);
   }
}
```

арр logic - save.js

- pageinit event
 - eg: check and validate the rendered form for our notes
- to validate our form we specify
 - a set of options as a parameter to validate()
 - many different options available
 - eg: add a rules object, messages object...
- in the rules object
 - set both input fields as required
- then reload our note data
 - update the application accordingly

арр logic - save.js - pageshow event

```
$("#noteForm").validate({
    rules: {
        noteName: "required",
        noteContent: "required"
    },
    messages: {
        noteName: "Add title for note",
        noteContent: "Add your note"
    }
});
```

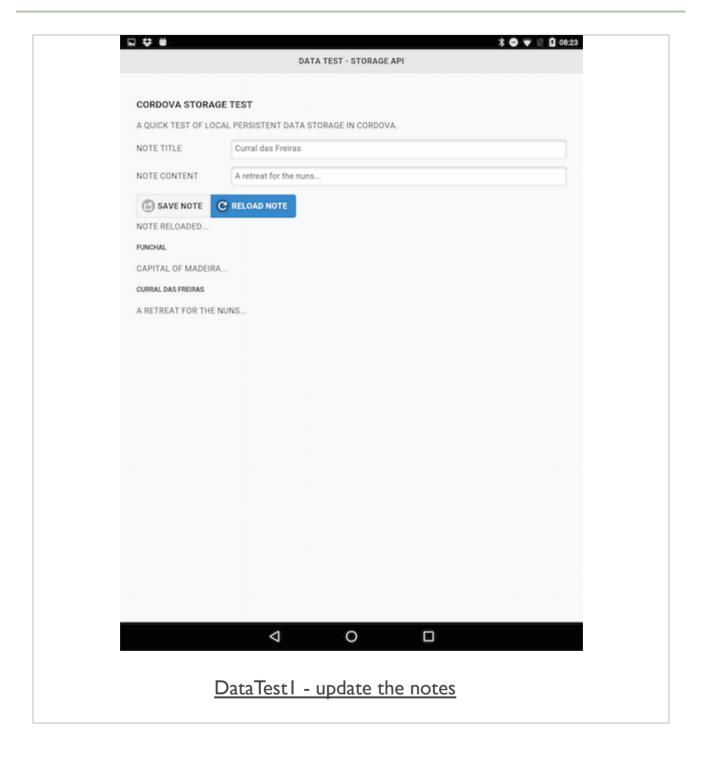
арр logic - storagenotes.js

- add another new JS file, storagenotes.js
 - store the logic for getting and setting of data with localStorage
- start by creating a singleton object for this instance
- creating this object to ensure that we only have one instance
- create this object by calling the getInstance() function
 - in effect, the guardian to the instance object for the application
- function also highlights a pattern known as Lazy Load
 - checks to see if an instance has already been created
- if not, create one and then store for future reference
- all subsequent calls will now received this stored reference
- this pattern is particularly useful for mobile development
- helps us save CPU and memory usage within an application
 - an object is only created when it is actually needed
- gives us a single object with getters and setters for the local storage

app logic - storagenotes.js

```
var NotesManager = (function () {
 var instance;
  function createNoteObject() {
     return {
       set: function (key, value) {
         window.localStorage.setItem(key, value);
       },
        get: function (key) {
         return window.localStorage.getItem(key);
        }
      };
  };
  return {
    getInstance: function () {
     if (!instance) {
        instance = createNoteObject();
     return instance;
  };
})();
```

Image - Data Tester



References

Cordova API

- plugin filesystem plugin
- plugin file transfer plugin
- plugin geolocation
- Storage
- GitHub
 - cordova-plugin-file
- HTML5
 - HTML5 File API
- MDN
 - Web APIs FileError
- W3C
 - Geolocation API Specification