Comp 388/422 - Software Development for Wireless and Mobile Devices

Fall Semester 2016 - Week 2

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Image - Apache Cordova



Source - Apache Cordova

Apache Cordova - what can it do?

- designed to offer a simple, powerful set of API calls
- calls to JavaScript functions
- functions map native OS code to plugins and code in Cordova
- enables access to core functionality for a device
- allows us to transfer, manipulate, control
- data and resources from the native OS and device
- moves it to the web view in our Cordova app
- allows us to provide same user experience as native app
- minus a few base caveats
- cross-platform support

Apache Cordova - platform support

support includes following mobile OSs

- Android
- iOS
- Windows 10 Universal platform
- Ubuntu Convergence
- BlackBerry I0
- ...

Apache Cordova - functionality and plugins

- allows us to create native mobile applications using a set of common web technologies
- including HTML, CSS, and JavaScript
- a set of JavaScript APIs
- provides access to natively built core plugins
- currently offers many core APIs
- includes some of the following native functionality,
- access the device's microphone for recording etc
- capture photos using the device's camera
- photo retrieval from the OSs gallery/photo album
- retrieve device information
 - locale
 - various sensors such as motion, location, connection information, compass...
- retrieve device data, contact information...
- process files from/to storage
- ...

Apache Cordova - documentation and APIs

official *Cordova* API documentation is currently available at the following URL,

- Apache Cordova API
- Apache Cordova GitHub
- Android API
- iOS API
- ... & many others

Apache Cordova - why choose it?

- potential to develop once, re-use with ease
- Cordova helps us solve some of the following mobile development issues
- different programming languages for different mobile OSs
 - different programming philosophies, conventions, best practices, guidelines...
- unique problems inherent to each given mobile OS
 - e.g. handling and routing SMS requests, data storage, privacy features...
- developing, testing, and maintaining applications across multiple mobile platforms

Apache Cordova - overview of APIs

Platform APIs (cordova- plugin)	Android	iOS	Windows Universal Platform
Accelerometer (device- motion)	Yes	Yes	Yes
BatteryStatus (battery-status)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Camera (camera)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Capture (media-capture)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Compass (device- orientation)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connection (network-information)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contacts (contacts)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Device (device)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Events	Yes	Yes	Yes
File (file)	Yes	Yes	Yes
File Transfer (file-transfer)	Yes	Yes	Yes (no support for onprogress or abort)
Geolocation (geolocation)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Globalisation (globalization)	Yes	Yes	Yes
InAppBrowser (inappbrowser)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Media (media)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Notification (dialogs)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Splashscreen (splashscreen)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Storage	Yes	Yes	Yes (localStorage & indexedDB)
Vibration (vibration)	Yes	Yes	Yes

Apache Cordova Documentation - Platform Support

Apache Cordova - API details

- many of these mobile native function APIs self explanatory
- a few examples,

capture

• record various media directly from the native device

connection

• provides information about the device's wifi and cellular connections

device

- provides useful information on a device's hardware and software
- native device model, the current platform and its version...

events

- particularly important, and useful, API
- e.g. deviceready, backbutton, batterystatus, volume events...
- file api to help process device files
- receive the device's location using GPS or network signals
- many more...
- Apache Cordova Documentation Platform Support

Cordova App - intro

- working with Cordova start building basic app from scratch
- helps introduce initial concepts underpinning Cordova app development
- look at some of the initial tools we'll be using
 - to create, run, and deploy our applications
- focusing on working with Cordova relative to Android and its native SDK
- setting up and configuring our Android development environment
- installing and configuring Apache Cordova, Node.js...
- getting familiar with the Cordova CLI (command line interface)
- develop and test some code

Cordova App - getting started

- initial focus will fall upon working with the CLI for Cordova
- Cordova CLI helps us create, develop, build, and test our first Cordova application
- Cordova CLI enables us to create our new project/s
- helps us build and target deployment on OSs such as Android, iOS, and Windows...

Cordova App - Android - SDK setup

- setup and configure Cordova development environment
- reference point is the Cordova Documentation section on
 Platform Guides
 - Cordova Platform Guides
- start work with the Android SDK
 - download, install, and setup IDK
 - Java JDK 8
- Android SDK options include Android Stand-Alone SDK
 Tools or the recent Android Studio 2. I
- use Android Studio to help build custom Android plugins for Cordova...
- Android Stand-Alone SDK Tools sufficient to build and deploy an Android app
 - command-line and Studio will both provide necessary SDK, build tools...

Cordova App - Android - setup and configure Java JDK and Android SDK

- downloaded and moved Android SDK need to configure settings, packages...
- to use the Cordova CLI tools we need to check our system's PATH settings
- tell our system where to find the Android SDK tools
- Unix based OSs need to update the PATH setting of bash profile

```
~/.bash_profile
```

- update these PATH settings using the following commands
- OS X

```
export ANDROID_HOME=/<installation location>/android-sdk-macosx
export PATH=${PATH}:$ANDROID HOME/platform-tools:$ANDROID HOME/tools
```

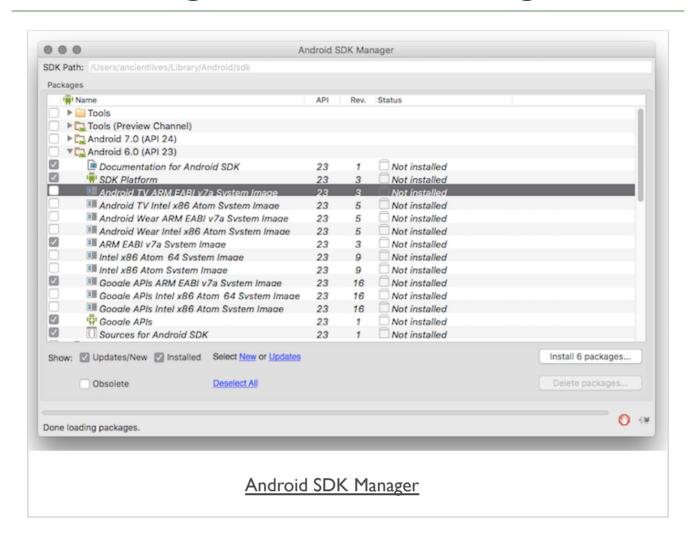
Windows

```
set ANDROID_HOME=C:\<installation location>\android-sdk-windows
set PATH=%PATH%;%ANDROID_HOME%\tools;%ANDROID_HOME%\platform-tools
```

start Android SDK manager using the following command

android

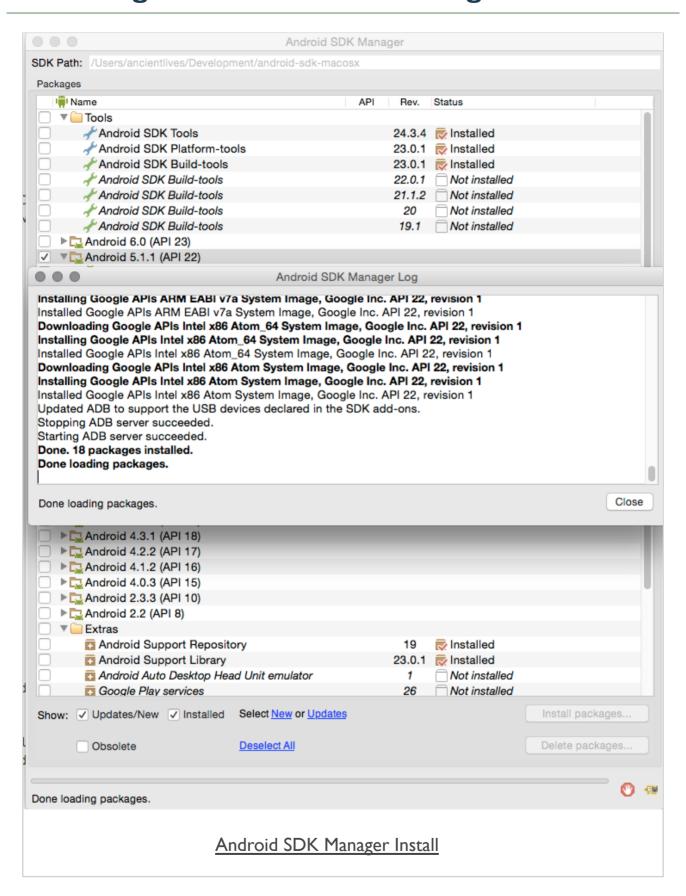
Image - Android SDK Manager



Cordova App - Android - SDK extras

- initially, we need to add the following extra SDK packages for Cordova,
 - Android 6.0 (API 23) platform SDK
 - Android SDK Build-tools (latest version)
 - Android Support Repository (listed in the Extras section)
- downloading and installing many different APIs for Android images
 - e.g. Android Wear, Android TV, standard Android...
 - customise as required for app...
- SDK manager will ask us to accept an Android SDK license
- you'll see a log window for the install process
 - updates us relative to package installs, any potential issues...
- may take a few minutes or so to complete

Image - Android SDK Manager Install

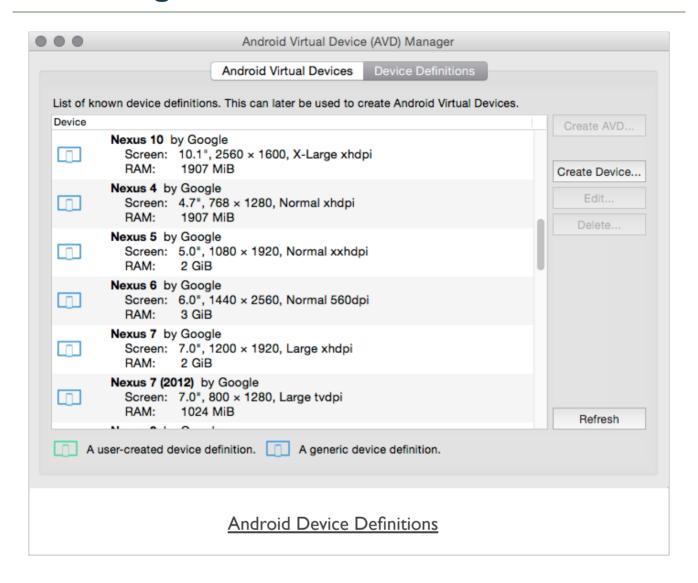


Cordova App - Android - Emulator - part I

- close Android package manager to ensure that portion of setup is complete
- configure an emulator for testing and development of our applications
- couple of ways to setup and maintain AVD
 - AVD manager from Stand-alone SDK
 - within Android Studio 2.1
- Android SDK does not provide an existing instance of an emulator
- need to create a new one using the AVD management tool
- open these tools from the command line using the command,

android avd

Image - Android Device Definitions



Cordova App - Android - Emulator - part 2

- many different device definitions
 - e.g. Nexus devices (5, 6...), generic definitions...
- select your preferred Device Definition from the available list
 - e.g. Nexus 5, 5X...
- then Create AVD
- modify a few settings to help device creation, e.g. for Nexus 5
 - optionally customise the **AVD Name**
 - set the target to Android 6.0 API Level 23
 - set the CPU/ABI to ARM (armeabi-v7a)
 - set skin to Skin with dynamic hardware controls

Image - Android Virtual Device

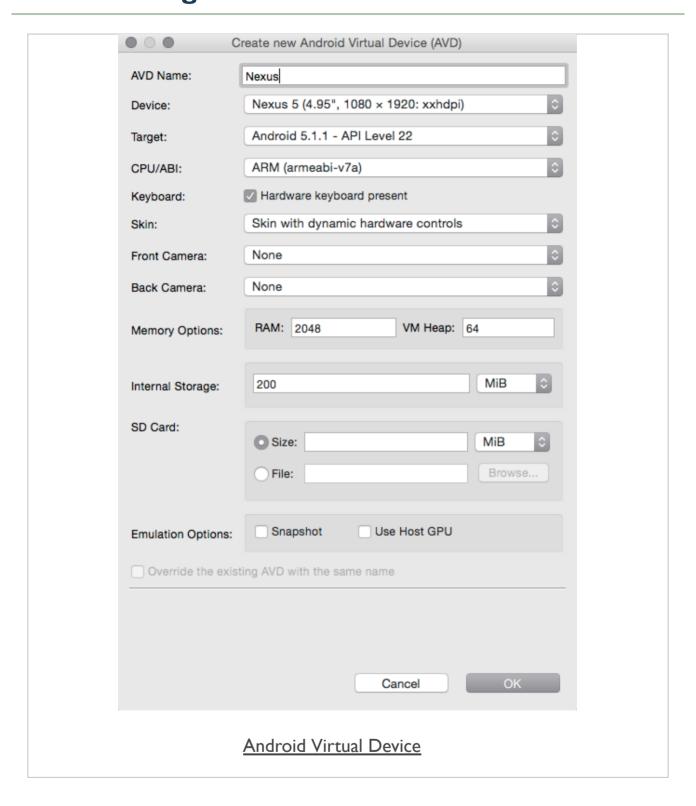
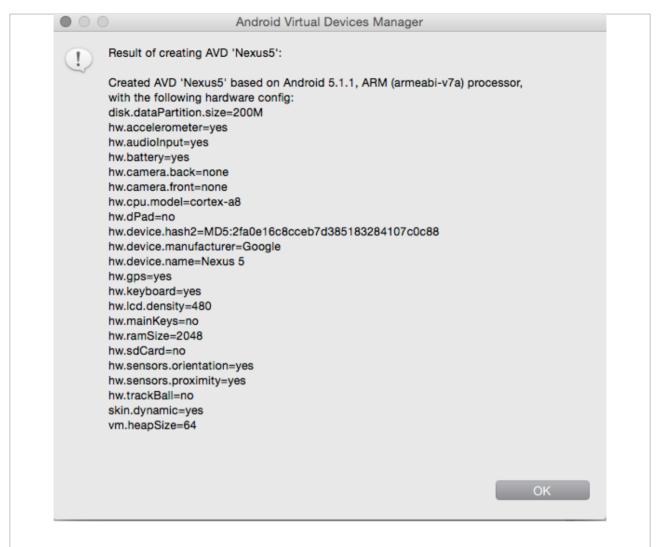


Image - Android Virtual Device - Success



Android Virtual Device - Success

Cordova App - Android - Emulator - Android Studio 2.1 AVD

- create AVD using Android Studio 2.1
 - select Tools > Android > AVD Manager
- select option Create Virtual Device
- select preferred device from **phone** category
 - e.g. Nexus 5X, 6P...
- select target System Image
 - API 23, Android 6.0 Marshmallow
- then verify config for AVD
- check devices available for Cordova (when installed)

```
cordova run --list
```

For example, this will output the following

```
Available android devices:
Available android virtual devices:
Nexus_5X_API_23
Nexus_6P_API_23
```

Image - Android Studio 2.1 AVD Manager

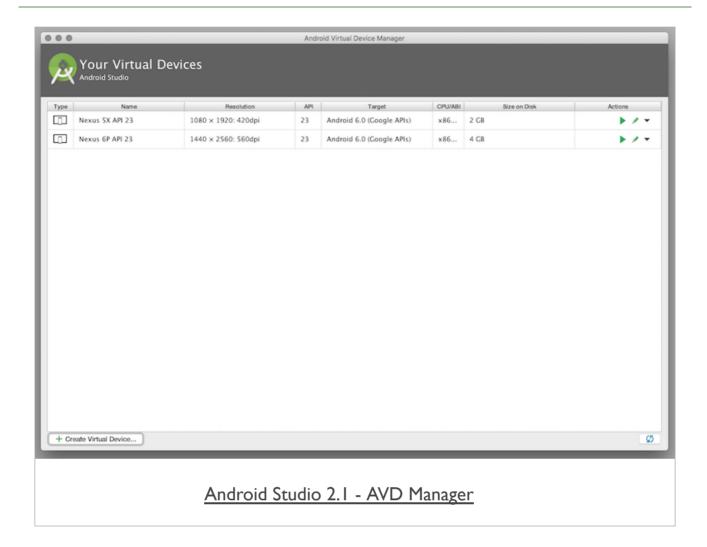
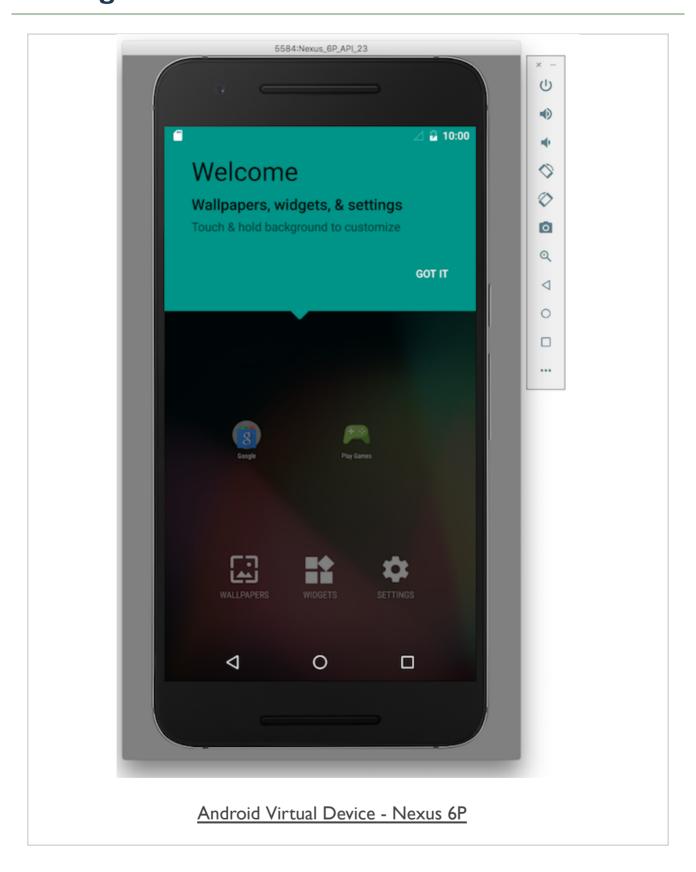


Image - Android Virtual Device - Nexus 6P



Cordova App - Node.js Setup

- installed, setup, and configured Android SDK, and associated virtual device
- we also need to install and setup the Cordova CLI
- a few additional tools required including
 - Node.js
 - Git
- Node.js provides access to Node's JavaScript library and NPM
 - NPM Node Package Manager
- Git is used by Cordova CLI to install various assets for new projects

Cordova App - CLI setup

- setup and configured Android SDK, initial Android Virtual Devices, Node.js, Git client...
- now ready to install and setup the Cordova CLI itself using NPM
- OS X

npm install -g cordova

Windows

C:\>npm install -g cordova

- -g flag tells NPM to set package, Cordova as global
- default NPM behaviour is to install the package in working directory
- if necessary, update system's PATH
- OS X (Unix)

/usr/local/share/npm

Windows

C:\Users\username\AppData\Roaming\npm

test Cordova install

cordova -v

Cordova App - iOS Cross-platform

- start by installing the latest version of Xcode
 - available from Mac App Store
 - follow install prompts
 - install additional components
- check Xcode command line tools are installed

```
xcode-select --install
```

- then update required packages for Cordova and iOS development
 - update ios-deploy if needed for the local system

```
npm install -g ios-deploy
```

update ios-sim if needed for the local system

```
npm install -g ios-sim
```

then follow Cordova patterns for creating a new app

Cordova App - development paths - intro

Since the advent of version 3.0 of Apache Cordova, it's been possible to develop apps using two distinct workflows and paths. These workflows include,

- Cross-platform CLI
- Platform-centric

Cordova App - development paths - crossplatform CLI workflow

- CLI allows us to develop cross-platform apps
- offers a broad, wide-ranging collection of mobile OSs
 - support for many native devices
- workflow focused upon the cordova utility
 - become known as the Cordova CLI
- CLI is considered a high-level tool
 - designed to abstract cross-platform development considerations
 - designed to abstract functionality of lower-level shell scripts

e.g.

cordova platform add android --save

Cordova App - development paths - platform-centric workflow

- platform-centric focuses development on one native platform
 - choose required native SDK Android, iOS...
- augment Cordova app with native components developed in the SDK
- workflow has been tailored for each platform
- relies on a set of lower level shell scripts
- features a custom plugin utility designed to help us apply plugins

Cordova App - development paths - careful choice

- start Cordova development using the cross-platform workflow
 - using CLI
- then option to migrate to the platform-centric workflow
 - useful for lower-level, specific OS targeted apps
- one way from CLI to platform-centric
 - CLI keeps a common set of cross-platform source code
 - uses this code to ensure broad support and compliance per build
 - overrides any platform-specific modifications and code
- lower-level specific apps should use platform-centric shell tools

Cordova App - creating a new project

 basic outline for creating a template for our project is as follows

```
cordova create basic com.example.basic 422Basic cd basic cordova platform add android --save cordova build
```

 then launch this new Cordova project application, e.g. in the emulator

cordova emulate android

Cordova App - anatomy of a template - part

cordova create basic com.example.basic 422Basic

- first parameter of this represents the path of our project
- creating a new directory in the current working directory called **basic**
- second and third parameters are initially optional
- helps to define at least the third parameter
 - the visible name of the project, 422Basic
- edit either of the last two parameters in the projects config.xml file
- at the root level of our newly created project

Cordova App - anatomy of a template - part

new project includes the following default structure

```
config.xml
hooks
  - README.md
platforms
  - android
  - platforms.json
plugins
  - android.json
  - cordova-plugin-whitelist
  - fetch.json
www
  - css
  - img
  - index.html
  - js
```

initially, our main focus will be the www directory

Cordova App - anatomy of a template - part

- the www directory will be the initial primary focus
- three primary child directories
 - CSS
 - img
 - is
- important index.html file at the root level
- three primary files, which include
 - index.css
 - index.js
 - logo.png
- config.xml file stores configuration settings for the application

- three important directories to help manipulate and configure our Cordova application
 - platforms
 - plugins
 - hooks
- platforms includes an application's currently supported native platforms
 - e.g. Android
- plugins includes all of the application's used plugins
- hooks contains a set of scripts used to customise commands in Cordova
 - customise scripts that execute before or after a Cordova command runs

WWW directory

- three primary files initially help us develop Cordova application
 - index.html
 - index.js
 - index.css

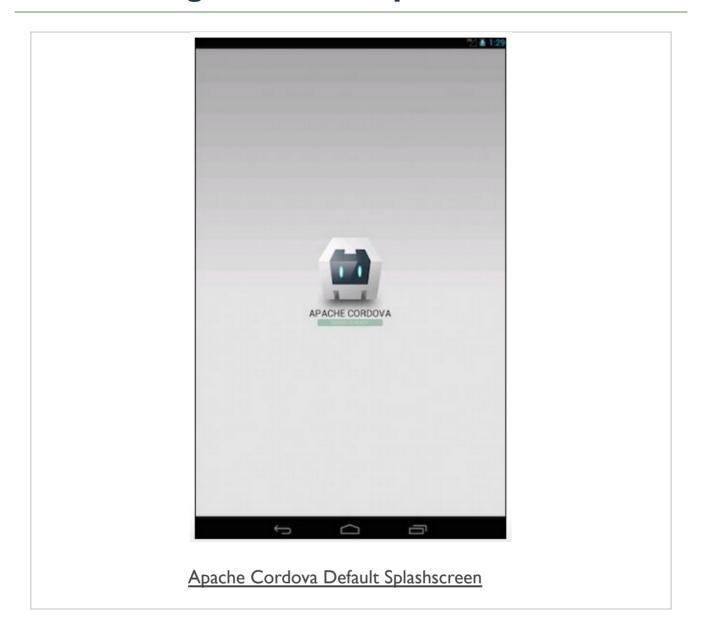
index.html - default template for new project

- default index.html page very straightforward
- <div class="app"> is the parent section, acts as the app's container
- contains a child div
 - unique ID deviceready
 - two key paragraphs triggered relative to state changes in the app
- app simply updates state relative to event being actioned and listened
- events are monitored and controlled using the app's initial JavaScript
- initialize() method calls bindEvents() method
 - adds an event listener to this deviceready div
- means when device is ready event listening paragraph will be hidden
- event received paragraph is now shown

js/index.js

```
var app = {
    // Application Constructor
    initialize: function() {
        this.bindEvents();
    },
    // Bind Event Listeners
    // Bind any events that are required on startup. Common events
    // 'load', 'deviceready', 'offline', and 'online'.
    bindEvents: function() {
        document.addEventListener('deviceready', this.onDeviceRead
    },
    // deviceready Event Handler
    //
    // The scope of 'this' is the event. In order to call the 'red
    // function, we must explicitly call 'app.receivedEvent(...);
    onDeviceReady: function() {
        app.receivedEvent('deviceready');
    },
    // Update DOM on a Received Event
    receivedEvent: function(id) {
        var parentElement = document.getElementById(id);
        var listeningElement = parentElement.querySelector('.liste
        var receivedElement = parentElement.querySelector('.receiv
        listeningElement.setAttribute('style', 'display:none;');
        receivedElement.setAttribute('style', 'display:block;');
        console.log('Received Event: ' + id);
    }
};
```

Image - Cordova Splash Screen



Apache Cordova - architecture - part I

- Cordova relies on web technologies at its core
- HTML
- CSS
- JavaScript (JS)
- core architecture for app development using Cordova
- supplement this core with additional helper files
- e.g. JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) resource files
- to enable access to a device's native functionality
- JS application objects (or functions) call Cordova APIs
- Cordova APIs for different native mobile OSs, e.g.
 - use Cordova Android for native Android functionality...
 - use Cordova iOS for native iOS...
- develop our own custom plugins as necessary

Image of Apache Cordova architecture

The following diagram summarises the core architecture for Cordova application development.



Source - Apache Cordova

Apache Cordova - architecture - part 2

- core architecture creates a single screen in the native app
- single screen contains a WebView
- uses all of the device's available screen space (real estate)
- native WebView used to enable loading app's HTML, CSS, JS...
- WebView is a native view in each mobile OS
- allows us to display HTML based content
- allows us to leverage power and functionality of a mobile browser
- working within a contained native app

Apache Cordova - webview - part I

- using this WebView in our app
- Cordova loads the app's default startup page
 - in essence its index.html page
- passes control of the app to the native WebView
- allows user to control the app as normal
- user can interact with app in native manner
- user gets a native app experience
- user interaction can include the vast majority of standard native interaction patterns and options
- user is not aware of difference between Cordova or native developed app

Apache Cordova - webview - part 2

- WebView has an implementation in all of the major mobile OSs
- Android has a class called

android.webkit.WebView

- iOs references the UIWebView
- part of the UIKit framework
- Window Phone refers to a WebView class called

Windows.UI.Xaml.Controls

Apache Cordova - native functionality - part

- provides access to many types of native functionality, including
 - sound and audio
 - recording
 - camera capture
 - photo access
 - geolocation
 - sensors...
- Cordova leverages JavaScript APIs to provide native functionality

Image - Apache Cordova Native Functionality

	WebVie			
		> 		
i i			Cordova JS	
	files			
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Apache Cordova Architecture - JS APIs				

Source - Apache Cordova

Apache Cordova - native functionality - part

- architecture is an elegant approach to solving crossplatform issues
- allows developers to leverage unified API interface
 - perform specific native functions
 - calls to native functionality transparent across platforms
 strength of using JavaScript APIs
- Cordova JavaScript APIs
 - call the required native OS API
 - e.g. Cordova's Android or iOS API
- plugins give Cordova its power and flexibility

If we want to get a picture from the camera, we call the following using Cordova

```
navigator.camera.getPicture(onSuccess, onFail, { quality: 75,
   destinationType: Camera.DestinationType.DATA_URL
});

function onSuccess(imageData) {
   var image = document.getElementById('Image');
   image.src = "data:image/jpeg;base64," + imageData;
}

function onFail(message) {
   alert('Error: ' + message);
}
```

- making a simple call to the method getPicture() of the camera object
- call is performed with 3 parameters

onSuccess

• callback allows us to tell the app what to do if the call and returned data is successful

onFail

- another callback tells the app how to handle an error or false return
- e.g. an error is thrown, callback will handle output of a suitable error message

quality

quality: 75, destinationType: Camera.DestinationType.DATA_URL

- slightly different as it contains a JS object with configuration parameters
- two parameters are for quality and destinationType
- quality can be from 0 to 100
- destinationType refers to the required format for the returned data value
 - can be set to one of 3 possible values
 - DATA_URL format of the returned image will be a Base64 encoded string
 - FILE URL returns the image file URL
 - NATIVE_URI refers to the images native URI

- if the return is a success we will get a Base64 encoded string
 - string of the image just captured using the native camera
- leveraging the power of the Apache Cordova camera plugin code, e.g. Android camera plugin
- power of the underlying Android class
 - wrapped in a layer that we can call from our JavaScript code
- plugin is written natively for Android
 - we access it using JS with Cordova
- plugins for other platforms follow the same pattern
 - e.g. iOS camera plugin...

- we issue a call from JS using Cordova to the native code in the plugin
- plugin processes this request
 - returns the appropriate value
 - either for a success or a failure
- in our example, if request to the camera is successful
 - Android plugin will return a string to the JS Cordova client, as requested
- use similar pattern for other mobile OSs
 - e.g. accessing a camera's functionality with iOS...
 - appropriate plugin required for necessary mobile OS
 - if not, we can write a custom plugin

Apache Cordova - cross-platform power

- implement capturing a photo from device's native camera on multiple mobile platforms
- Cordova plugin architecture removes
 - need to understand how the photo capture is implemented or handled natively
- Cordova plugin handles the native calls
- Cordova plugin handles processing for each native device

Cordova - CLI - Useful commands

A few initial useful CLI commands

command	example	description	
cordova	cordova	general command - outputs overview with 5 categories of information and help	
-V	cordova -v	check current installed version of cordova	
requirements	cordova requirements	check requirements for each installed platform	
create	cordova create basic com.example.basic 422Basic	creates new project with additional arguments for directory name, domain-style identifier, and the app's display title	
platform add	cordova platform add androidsave	specify target platforms, eg: Android, iOS (NB: SDK support required on local machine)	
platform Is	cordova platform	checks current platforms for cordova development on local machine and lists those available	
platform remove (platform rm)	cordova platform rm android	remove an existing platform	
build	cordova build	iteratively builds the project for the available platforms	
build ios	cordova build ios	limit scope of build to a specific platform (useful for testing a single platform)	
prepare	cordova prepare ios	prepare a project, and then open and build etc with native IDE (eg: XCode, Android Studio)	
compile	cordova compile ios	compile ios specific version of app	
emulate	cordova emulate android	rebuilds an app and then launches it in a specific platform's emulator	
run	cordova run android	run an app on a native device connected to the local machine	

cordova run --list

more commands will be added as we work with Cordova, NPM...

Course resources - Cordova install and setup

Latest course resources for install and setup of Cordova include,

- Cordova Install and Setup
- Android Platform Guide
- iOS Platform Guide

References

- Android Platform Guide
- Android Stand-alone SDK Tools (see foot of page)
- Android Studio 2.1
- Apache Cordova
- Apache Cordova Documentation & Guide
- Git
- Java JDK 8
- Node.js