

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

Fall Semester 2018 - Week 2

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Cordova App - anatomy of a template - part 5

WWW directory

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

Cordova App - anatomy of a template - part 6

- index.html - default template for new project

```
<body>
  <div class="app">
    <h1>Apache Cordova</h1>
    <div id="deviceready" class="blink">
      <p class="event listening">Connecting to Device</p>
      <p class="event received">Device is Ready</p>
    </div>
  </div>
  <script type="text/javascript" src="cordova.js"></script>
  <script type="text/javascript" src="js/index.js"></script>
</body>
```

Cordova App - anatomy of a template - part 7

- 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

Cordova App - anatomy of a template - part 8

■ js/index.js

```
var app = {
  // Application Constructor
  initialize: function() {
    this.bindEvents();
  },
  // Bind Event Listeners
  //
  // Bind any events that are required on startup. Common events are:
  // 'load', 'deviceready', 'offline', and 'online'.
  bindEvents: function() {
    //document.addEventListener('deviceready', this.onDeviceReady, false);
    // update bind for ES6
    document.addEventListener('deviceready', (event) => this.onDeviceReady(event), false);
  },
  // deviceready Event Handler
  //
  // The scope of 'this' is the event. In order to call the 'receivedEvent'
  // 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('.listening');
    var receivedElement = parentElement.querySelector('.received');

    listeningElement.setAttribute('style', 'display:none;');
    receivedElement.setAttribute('style', 'display:block;');

    console.log('Received Event: ' + id);
  }
};

app.initialize();
```

Image - Cordova Splash Screen



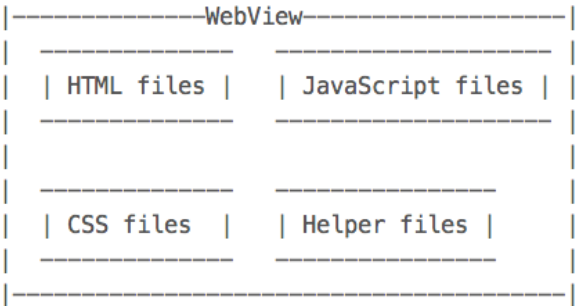
Apache Cordova Default Splashscreen

Apache Cordova - architecture - part I

- Cordova relies on web technologies at its core
 - *HTML5*
 - *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
```

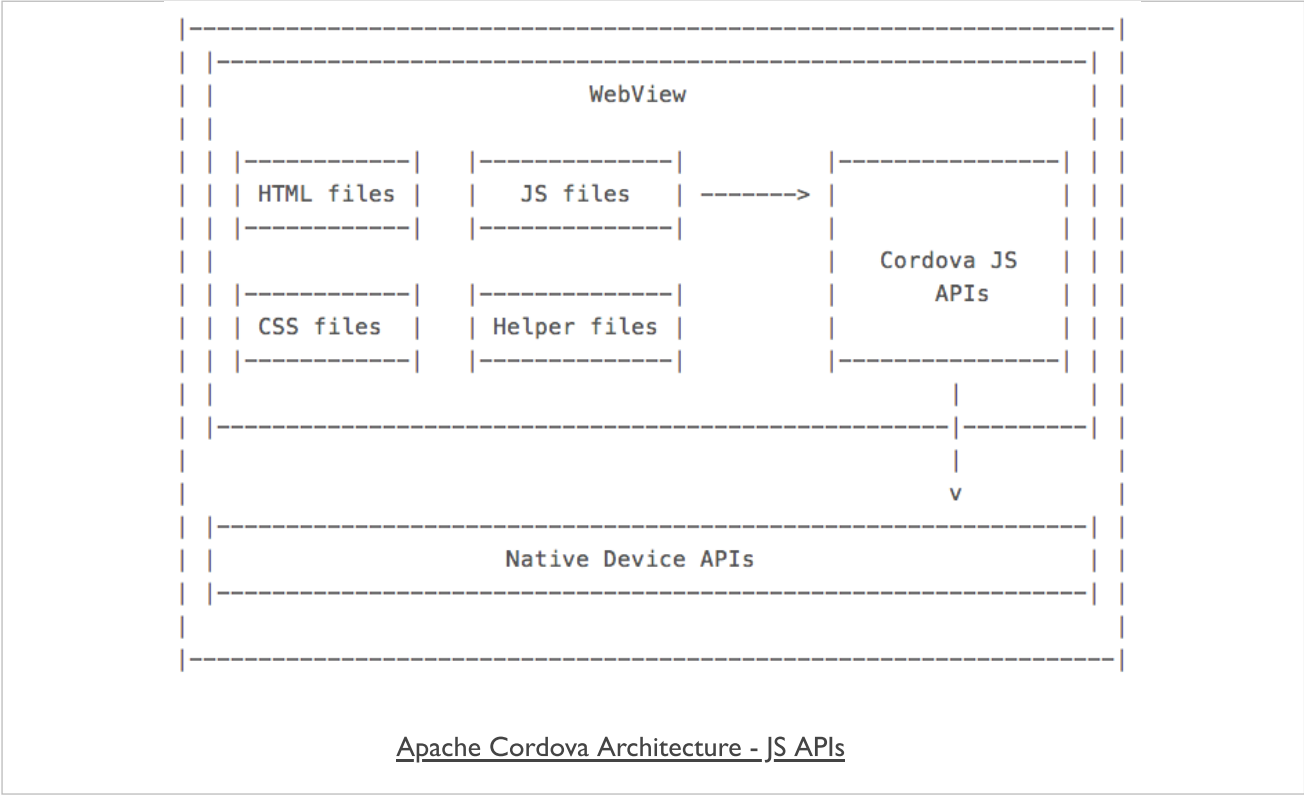
- iOS references the `UIWebView`
 - *part of the `UIKit` framework*
 - *n.b. from iOS 12 - `WKWebView` from `WebKit` API*
- Windows Phone refers to a `WebView` class called

```
Windows.UI.Xaml.Controls
```

Apache Cordova - native functionality - part I

- 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



Source - Apache Cordova

Apache Cordova - native functionality - part 2

- architecture is an elegant approach to solving cross-platform 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

Apache Cordova - example call - part I

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);  
}
```

Apache Cordova - example call - part 2

- 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**

Apache Cordova - example call - part 3

```
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

Apache Cordova - example call - part 4

- 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...*

Apache Cordova - example call - part 5

- 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

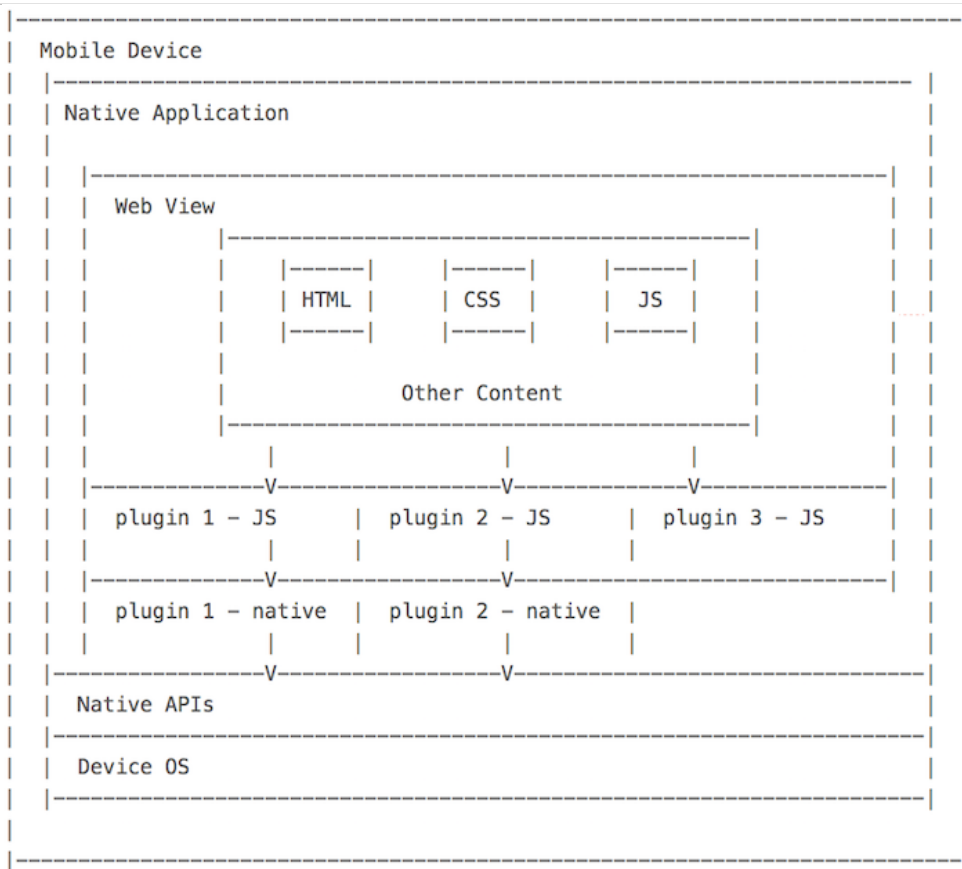
| command | example | description |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| cordova | cordova | general command - outputs overview with 5 categories of information and help |
| -v | cordova -v | check current installed version of cordova |
| requirements | cordova requirements | check requirements 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 android --save | specify target platforms, eg: Android, iOS... (NB: SDK support required on local machine) |
| platform ls | cordova platform ls | 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 &c. 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 |
| run --list | cordova run --list | check available emulators, e.g. Android AVDs |

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

Cordova Design - architecture - intro

- quickly recap the architecture and design behind a Cordova Native application
- Cordova effectively consists of the following components
 - *source code to allow us to build a native application container*
 - *specific to the mobile platforms we choose to add to our project, eg: Android, iOS...*
 - *a collection of various APIs, implemented by Cordova as plugins*
 - *web application running within the container*
 - *access to native device functionality, APIs, and applications*
 - *provides a useful set of tools that help us manage our projects*
 - *creating a project, project files...*
 - *manage required plugins*
 - *build native applications using the native SDK*
 - *testing of applications using emulators, simulators...*

Cordova Design - architecture - diagram



Cordova - Architecture

Cordova Design - architecture

JS & Web plugins

- outline architecture includes the option for JavaScript only plugins
- JS plugins in Cordova normally a bridge from our web container to the native APIs
 - *useful way to expose native device functionality to the web application*
- use and develop plugins purely in JS
 - *add an existing library to help with data visualisations, graphics...*
- create our own focused plugins
 - *abstraction of application features and logic, other specific requirements...*
- greater support for native functionality at the web application level
- HTML5 APIs

Cordova Design - architecture - web container - part I

- Cordova development
 - *uses many of the same underlying technologies as standard web application development*
 - *a few limitations relative to network access that we need to consider*
- hybrid mobile application with Cordova
 - *a web application needs to be written as a self-contained application*
 - *needs to be able to run within web container on native device*
 - *constantly fetching external resources not good practice*
 - *mix of local and remote resources preferable for most apps*
 - *external resources an issue if we lose a network connection*
- `index.html` file will normally be the only HTML file we use
 - *separate pages will be containers within this file*

Cordova Design - architecture - web container - part 2

- rethink our approach to building such mobile web stack applications
 - *help us leverage the inherent capabilities of Cordova*
- self-contained applications need to ensure
 - *any application files and data are initially available*
 - *allows the application to launch and load on the native device*
 - *without initial calls to a remote server*
 - *load the application and render the UI*
- application can then optionally fetch data
 - *remote server, API, search query, stream media...*
- consider stages of design for our app's container

Cordova Design - architecture - SDKs and OSs

- build our Cordova applications
 - *including default Cordova APIs or additional APIs*
 - *each app has to be packaged into a native application*
 - *allows app to run on the host native device*
- each native SDK has its own set of custom or proprietary tools
 - *building and packaging their specific native applications*
- build our Cordova applications for a native device
 - *web content portion of app is added to a project*
 - *applicable to the chosen mobile platforms,*
 - *e.g. Android, iOS, Windows 10 Universal Platform...*
 - *project is then built for each required platform*
 - *using Cordova CLI, for example*
 - *uses each of the applicable platform specific set of tools to help build*

Cordova App - CLI recap

build initial project

```
cd /Users/ancientlives/Development/cordova
cordova create basic com.example.basic Basic
cd basic
```

- creates new project ready for development

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

- adds support for native SDK, Android
- then builds the project ready for testing and use on native device

```
cordova emulate android
```

- outputs current project app for testing on Android emulator

```
cordova prepare android
```

- copies app code into platform ready for building
 - *then use native IDE for build &c...*

Cordova App - structure recap - app directory

- quick recap of app's structure
- new project includes the following default structure

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

- initially, our main focus will be the www directory

Cordova App - structure recap - www directory

```
| - www
|   | - css
|     | - index.css
|   | - img
|     | - logo.png
|   | - index.html
|   | - js
|     | - index.js
```

Cordova App - basics of development - part I

default index.html

```
<html>
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Security-Policy" content="default-src 'self'
data: gap: https://ssl.gstatic.com 'unsafe-eval'; style-src 'self'
'unsafe-inline'; media-src *">
    <meta name="format-detection" content="telephone=no">
    <meta name="msapplication-tap-highlight" content="no">
    <meta name="viewport" content="user-scalable=no, initial-scale=1,
maximum-scale=1, minimum-scale=1, width=device-width">
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="css/index.css">
    <title>Hello World</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <div class="app">
      <h1>Apache Cordova</h1>
      <div id="deviceready" class="blink">
        <p class="event listening">Connecting to Device</p>
        <p class="event received">Device is Ready</p>
      </div>
    </div>
    <script type="text/javascript" src="cordova.js"></script>
    <script type="text/javascript" src="js/index.js"></script>
  </body>
</html>
```

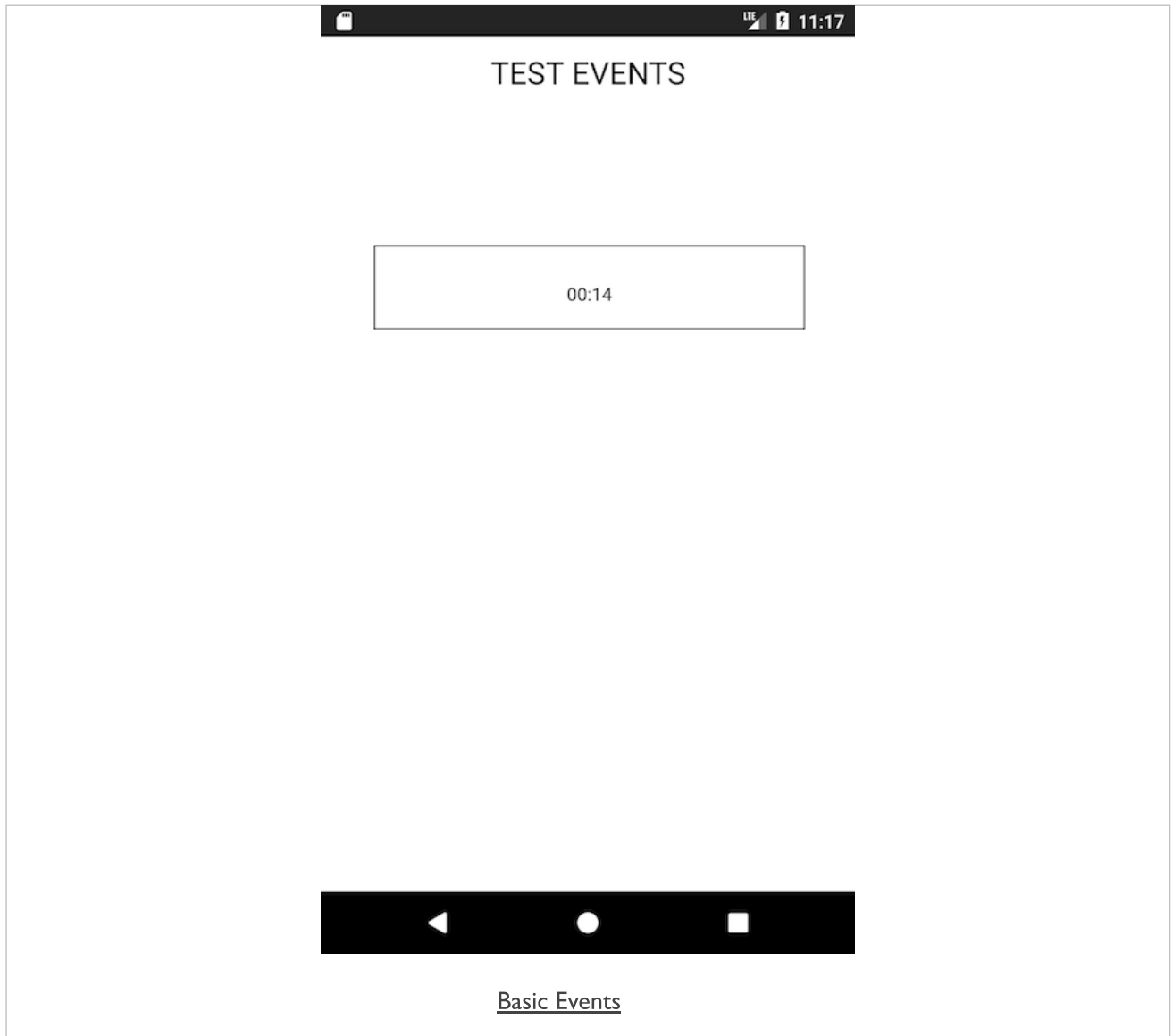
Cordova App - basics of development - part 2

test app index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Security-Policy" content="default-src 'self' data: gap: https://ssl.gstatic.co
    <meta name="format-detection" content="telephone=no">
    <meta name="msapplication-tap-highlight" content="no">
    <meta name="viewport" content="user-scalable=no, initial-scale=1, maximum-scale=1, minimum-scale=1, widt
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="css/index.css">
    <title>Basic Events</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <main>
      <header>
        <h3>Test Events</h3>
      </header>
      <section id="events">
        <!-- output current status relative to PAUSE event... -->
        <p id="pause"></p>
        <!-- output current status relative to RESUME event... -->
        <p id="resume"></p>
        <!-- output timer to check loading and app events -->
        <div id="timer">
          <label id="minutes">00</label>:<label id="seconds">00</label>
        </div>
      </section>
    </main>
    <!-- load JS files for app - cordova.js required -->
    <script type="text/javascript" src="cordova.js"></script>
    <!-- load app main file -->
    <script type="text/javascript" src="js/index.js"></script>
  </body>
</html>
```

- app structure using HTML5 semantic structure
- lack of styling will be an issue...

Image - Cordova App - Basic Events



Cordova App - basics of development - part 3

add Cordova specifics

- Cordova container for the application
 - *exposes native APIs to web application running in WebView*
- most APIs not available until applicable plugin added to the project
- container also needs to perform some preparation before the APIs can be used
- Cordova informs us when the container, and associated APIs, are ready for use
- fires a specific event, called the `deviceready` event
- application logic requiring use of Cordova APIs
 - *should be executed after receipt of `deviceready` notification*

Cordova App - basics of development - part 4

check deviceready event

```
/*
 * FN: loader for the main app
 * - check deviceready event
 * - bootstrap app loading & events
 */
function onLoad() {
  // Add the deviceready event
  document.addEventListener("deviceready", function(){

    // attach test events
    document.addEventListener("pause", onPause, false); // pause event
    document.addEventListener("resume", onResume, false); // resume event

    // start test timer
    testTimer();

  }, false);
}

// LOADER - load app & check for deviceready event...
onLoad();
```

- updated loader function for app...
- add test events for pause and resume
 - useful for Android...
- Cordova Docs - Events

Cordova App - basics of development - part 5

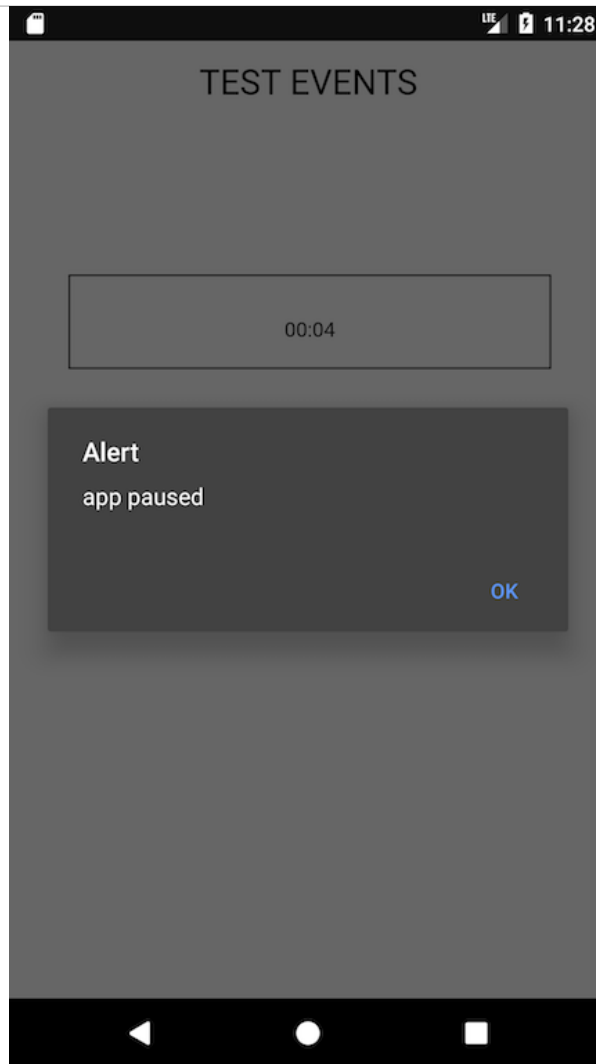
respond to events - pause

■ pause

```
// FN: call in response to Pause event
function onPause() {
  // get current Unix timestamp
  const currentTime = Date.now();
  // get status element in DOM
  const pause = document.getElementById('pause');
  // create text node to update DOM
  const text = document.createTextNode(`app has been paused...${currentTime}`);
  // append text to status element
  pause.appendChild(text);
  // show alert in native UI
  alert('app paused');
}
```

Image - Cordova App - Basic Events

Pause



Basic Events - Pause

Cordova App - basics of development - part 6

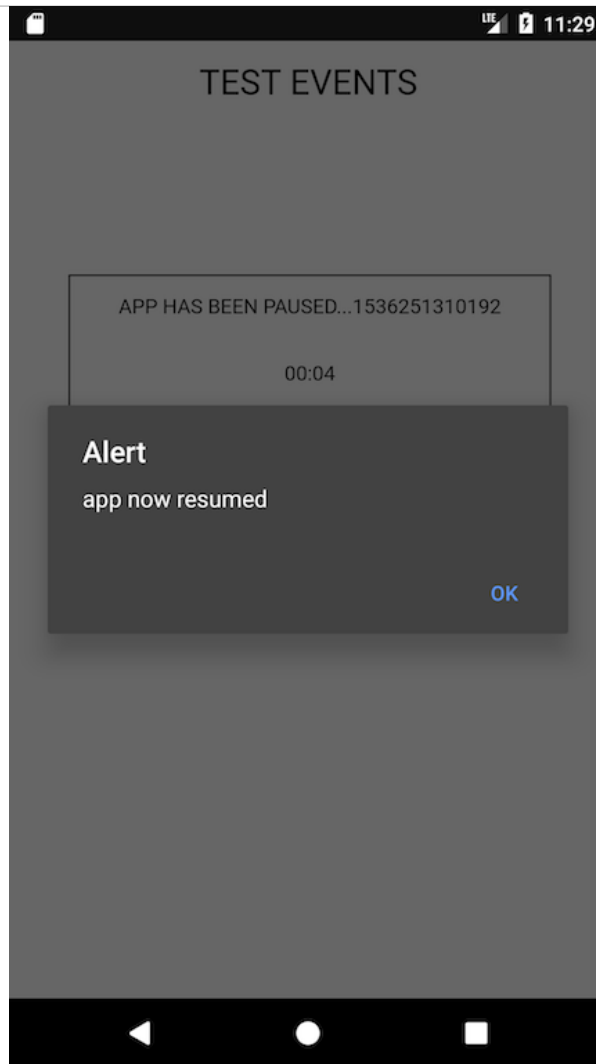
respond to events - resume

■ resume

```
// FN: call in response to Resume event
function onResume() {
    // get status element in DOM
    const resume = document.getElementById('resume');
    // create text for output
    const text = document.createTextNode("app has been resumed...");
    // append text to status element
    resume.appendChild(text);
    // show alert in native UI
    alert('app now resumed');
}
```

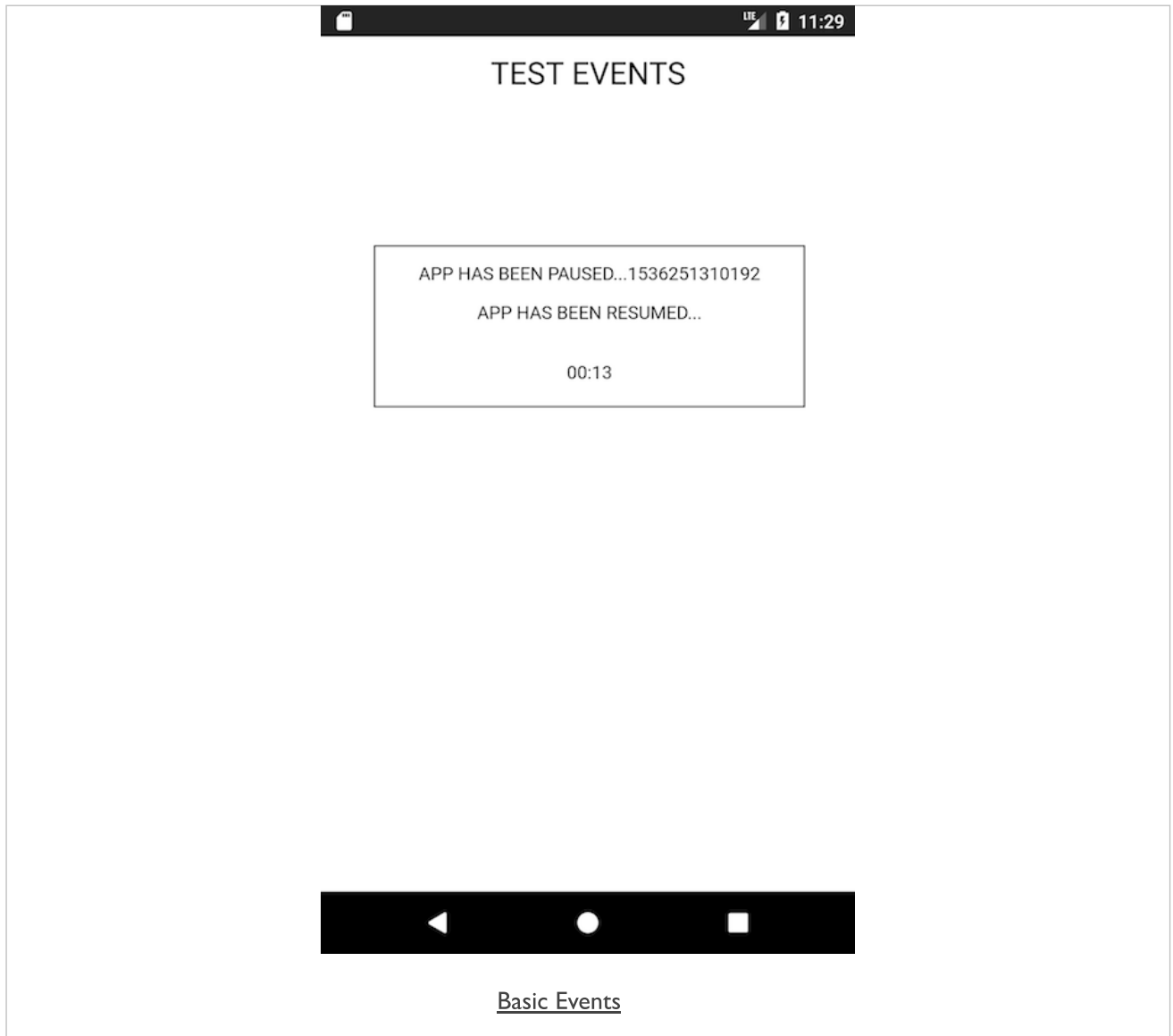
Image - Cordova App - Basic Events

Resume



Basic Events - Resume

Image - Cordova App - Basic Events



Cordova app - working with plugins - getting started

- start looking at some of the plugins available for Cordova
 - *media playback &c.*
- test our initial design and structure
 - *add some existing plugins*
 - *see how they fit together to create a coherent, basic application*
- create our new project

```
cordova create pluginTest1 com.example.pluginTest pluginTest1
```

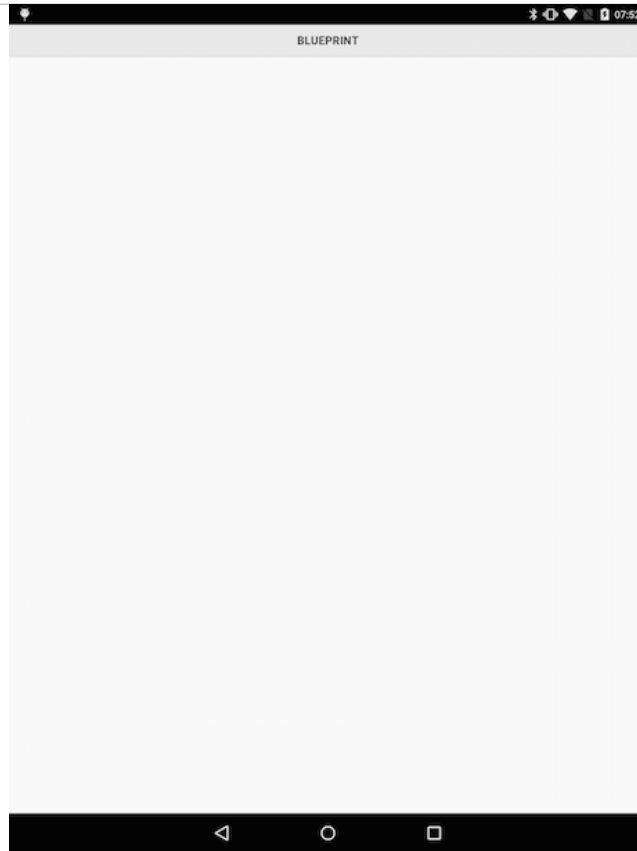
- add support for Android platform

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

- add support for other platforms, as required, such as iOS, Windows...
- transfer our default www directory
- start updating some of the settings in the `config.xml` file for the application
 - *metadata for author, description, name...*
- quickly run and test this base for our new application

```
//run in the Android emulator  
cordova emulate android  
//run on a connected Android device  
cordova run android
```

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test I - getting started



Cordova - Plugin Test - getting started

Cordova app - working with plugins - add plugins

- add our required plugins to the test application
 - *add plugins for **device**, **file**, and **media***
- **device** plugin added to check and read information about current device
 - *in effect our Android phone or tablet*
- **file** plugin is required to access the device's underlying filesystem
- **media** helps us record and playback media files
- add these plugins to our project with the following Cordova commands

```
//add device plugin - Git and NPM options
cordova plugin add https://git-wip-us.apache.org/repos/asf/cordova-plugin-device.git
cordova plugin add cordova-plugin-device
//add file plugin - Git and NPM options
cordova plugin add https://git-wip-us.apache.org/repos/asf/cordova-plugin-file.git
cordova plugin add cordova-plugin-file
//add media plugin - Git and NPM options
cordova plugin add https://git-wip-us.apache.org/repos/asf/cordova-plugin-media.git
cordova plugin add cordova-plugin-media
```

- ensure new plugins are applied to our current project
 - *run the following Cordova command*

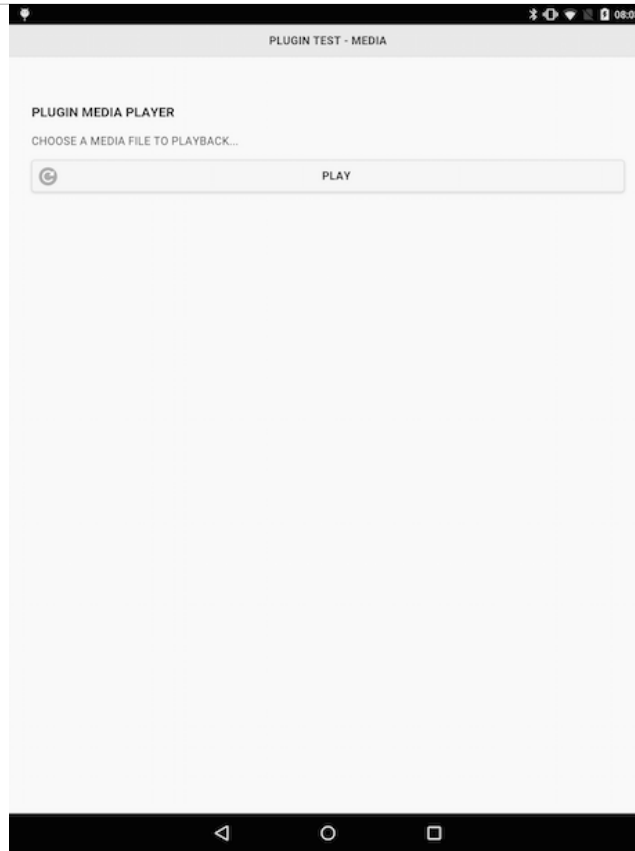
```
cordova build
```

n.b. NPM plugin install is now recommended for latest Cordova apps

Cordova app - working with plugins - update index.html

- update our `index.html` page to create the basic layout
 - *allow us to load and use media files*
- use a single page application structure
 - *include our content categories for `header`, `main` &c.*
- add specific nodes for app structure
 - *signifies that we have a contiguous group of form, input elements &c.*
- use this grouping to add our **play** button
 - *load our sample file using the installed plugins*
 - *perhaps add an icon for the playback option*

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test I - getting started



[Cordova - Plugin Test - index.html](#)

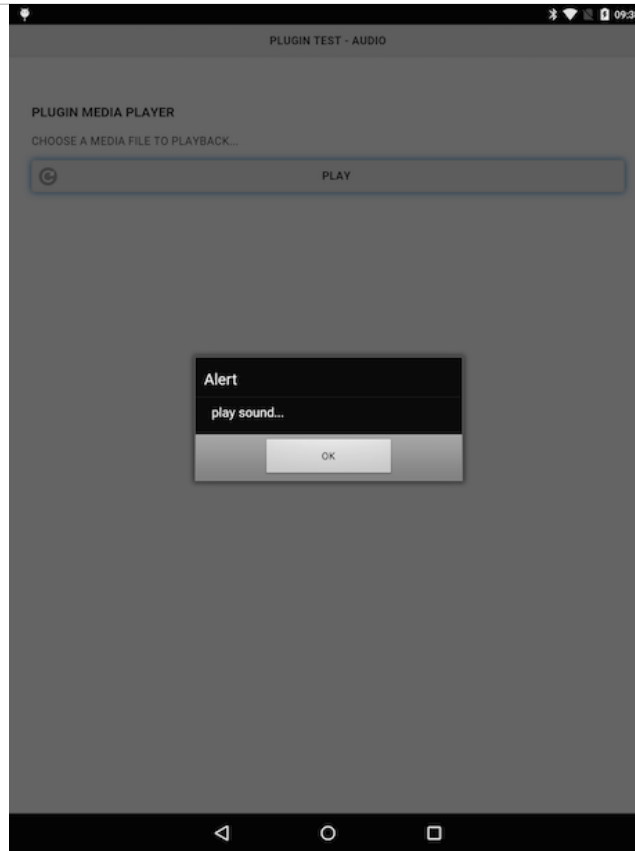
Cordova app - working with plugins - add some logic

- add some logic to our application
- updates to our JavaScript to allow us to handle events
- add handlers for listeners for each button we add to the application
 - *including the initial **play** button*
- add this code to our application's custom JavaScript file
 - *plugin.js*
- setup the application in response to Cordova's deviceready event
 - *event informs us that installed plugins are loaded and ready for use*
- add a function for the deviceready event
 - *allows us to bind our handler for the tap listener on the **play** button*

Cordova app - working with plugins - `onDeviceReady()`

- add any other required, initial functions later to this same start-up function
- wrap initial function in our main application loader
 - *checks device is ready, and then adds any required handlers*
- handlers required for audio, e.g.
 - *play*
 - *pause*
 - *stop*
 - *record*
 - ...

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test I - getting started



Cordova - Plugin Test - audio button

Cordova app - working with plugins - audio playback logic

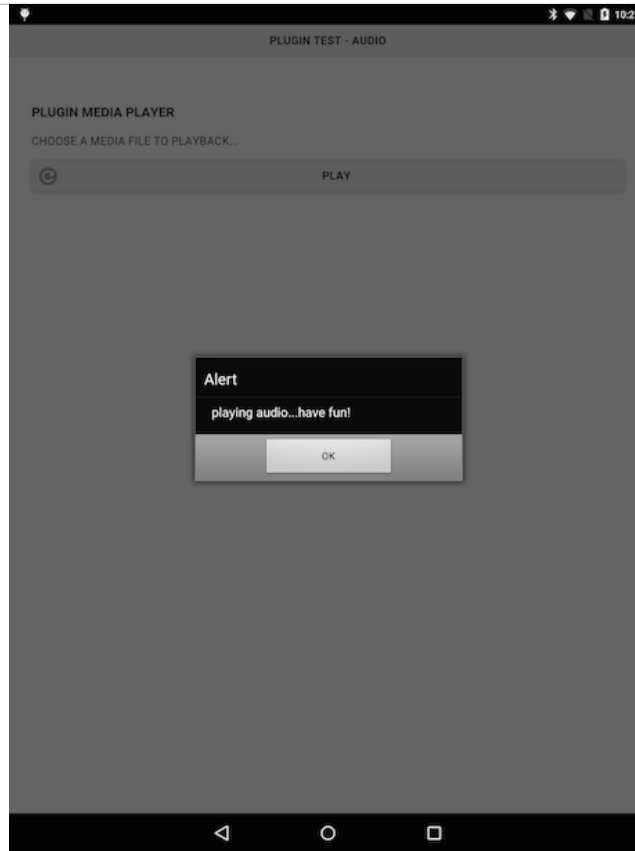
- now setup and tested the basic app logic
 - *added handlers for `deviceready` and clicking the audio playback button*
- update logic for the `#playAudio` button

```
//play audio file
function playAudio() {
  //initial url relative to WWW directory - then built for Android
  var $audioURL = buildURL("media/audio/egypt.mp3");
  var $audio = new Media($audioURL, null, errorReport);
  $audio.play();
  alert("playing audio...have fun!");
}
```

- add associated media loaders for the audio file
- add basic error checks in case the media file is missing, corrupt...

```
//build url for android
function buildURL(file) {
  if (device.platform.toLowerCase() === "android") {
    var $androidFile = "/android_asset/www/" + file;
    return $androidFile;
  }
}
//return any error message from media playback
function errorReport(error) {
  alert("Error with Audio - " + JSON.stringify(error));
}
```

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test I - getting started



Cordova - Plugin Test - audio playback

Cordova app - working with plugins - update media playback

- basic plugin test for media playback within an app
 - *user can play music in their app*
 - *user touch interaction with button*
 - *file loaded from local filesystem*
 - *device playback of selected audio file*
- leveraging native device functionality in app
 - *calling plugins for **device**, **file**, **media**...*
- basic app includes,
 - *user interaction in the UI*
 - *calls to the exposed JS API for the plugins*
 - *playback of audio by the native device*
- add further functionality
 - *stop, pause...*

Cordova app - working with plugins - stop button

- consider how to **stop, pause** playback
 - e.g. *UI interaction, timer, event...*
- app logic is very similar
 - *respond to **stop** event*
 - *call method*
 - ...
- methods for **stop, pause**, &c. available in plugin API

```
media.pause  
media.stop  
media.release
```

Cordova app - working with plugins - stop button - part I

- start to update our existing app by adding a **stop** button to the UI
 - *allow our user to simply tap a button to stop playback*
- update initial JS logic for the app
 - *listen for tap event on **stop** button*
 - *then call the stop method on the **media** object*

Cordova app - working with plugins - stop button - part 2

- add the logic for our custom method to stop the audio
 - call as *stopAudio()*

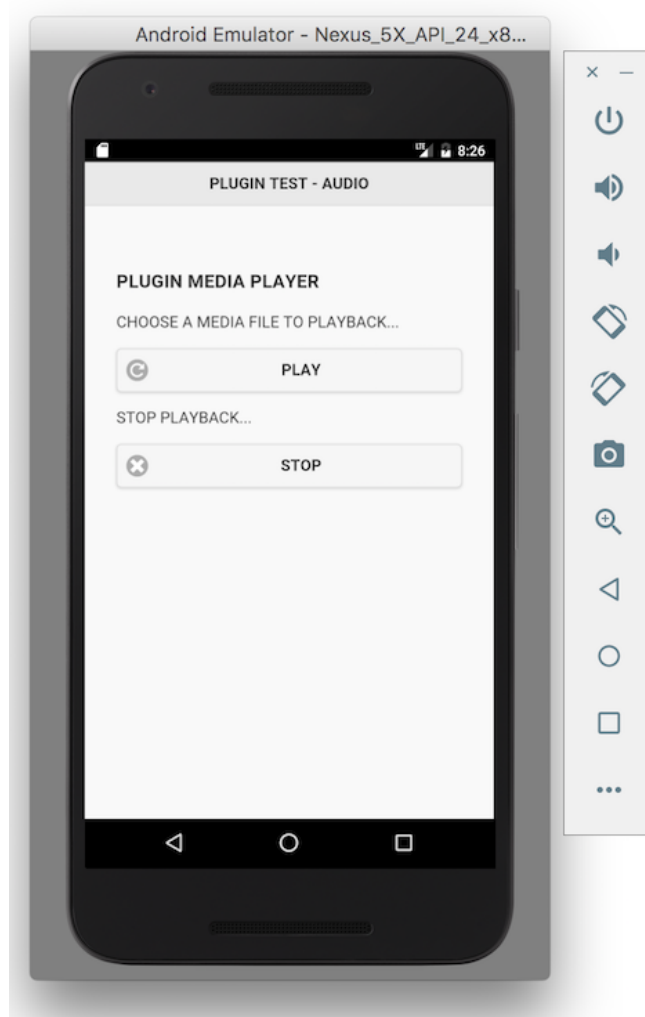
```
//stop audio file
function stopAudio() {
    //stop audio playback
    $audio.stop();
    //release audio - important for android resources...
    $audio.release();
    //just for testing
    alert("stop playing audio...& release!");
}
```

- logic still won't stop the audio playing
- issue is variable *\$audio*
 - currently restricted local scope to *playAudio()* method
- initially alter scope of property for *\$audio* itself
 - now set in initial *onDeviceReady()* method

```
function onDeviceReady() {
    //set initial properties
    var $audio;
    ...
}
```

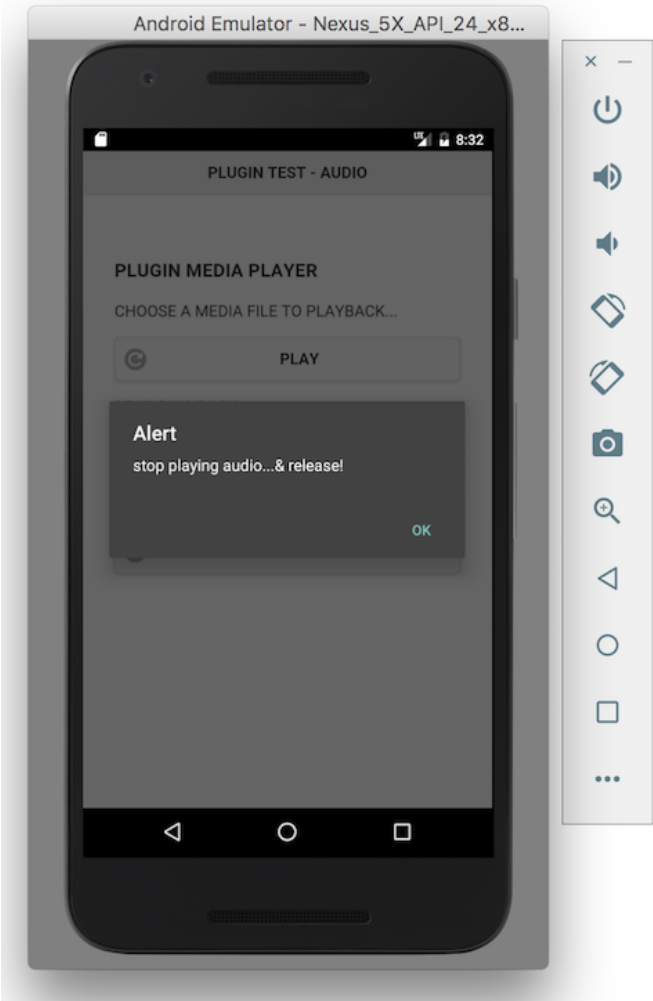
- logic will now stop audio playing
- call to *release()* method important for OS's audio resources
 - particularly important to release unwanted resources on Android...

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test - stop audio playback



Cordova - Plugin Test - stop audio playback

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test - stop audio playback 2



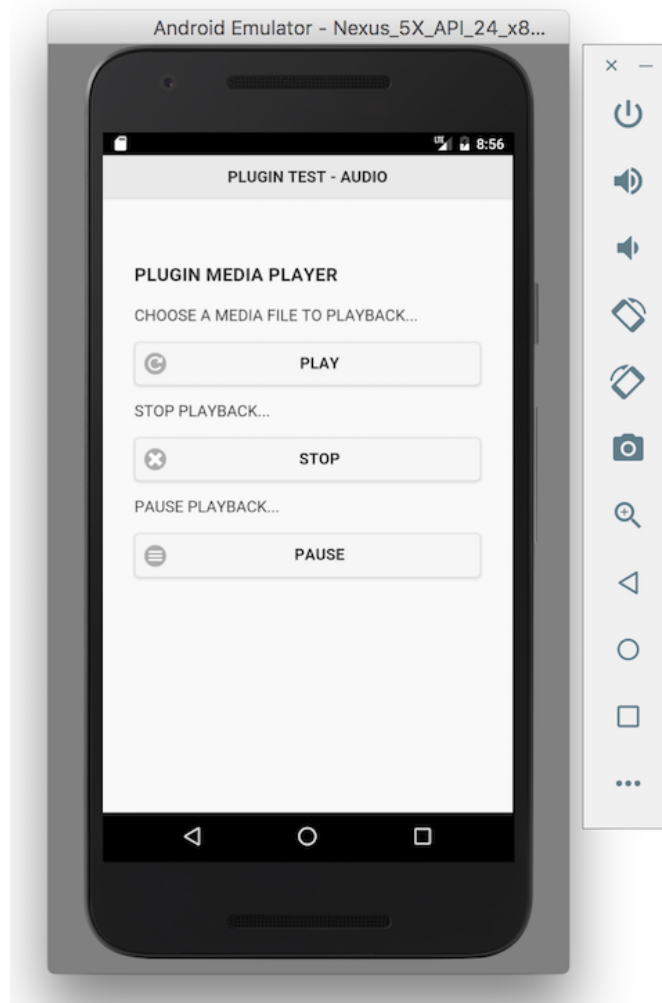
Cordova - Plugin Test - stop audio playback 2

Cordova app - working with plugins - pause button - part I

- follow similar pattern to add initial pause button to app's HTML
- then add our custom `pauseAudio()` method
 - *handles pausing of current media object*

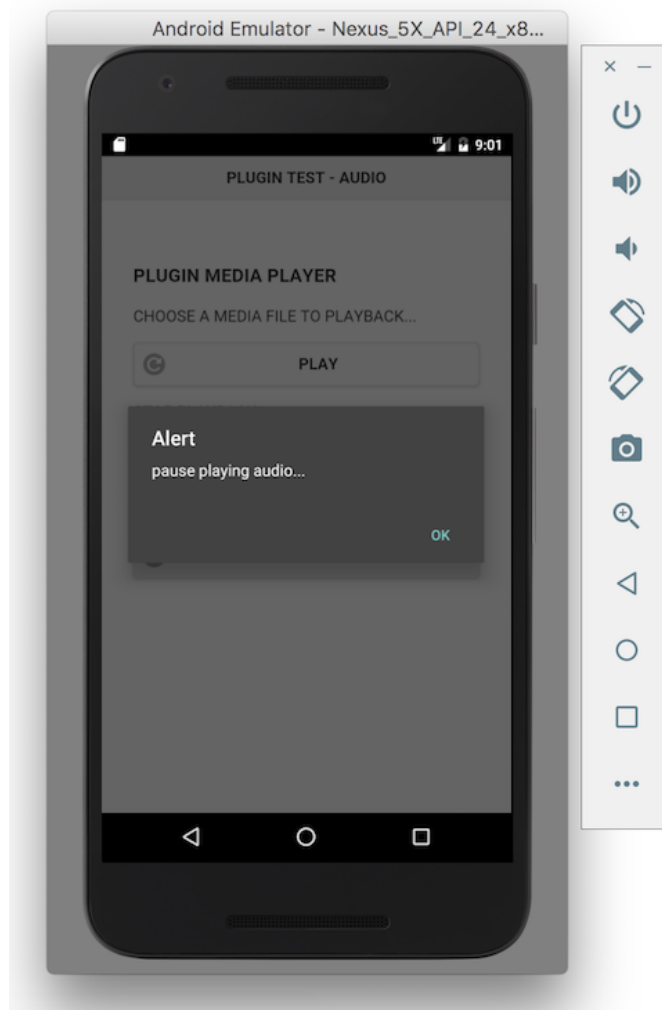
```
//pause audio file
function pauseAudio() {
    //pause audio playback
    $audio.pause();
}
```

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test - pause audio playback



Cordova - Plugin Test - pause audio playback

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test - pause audio playback 2

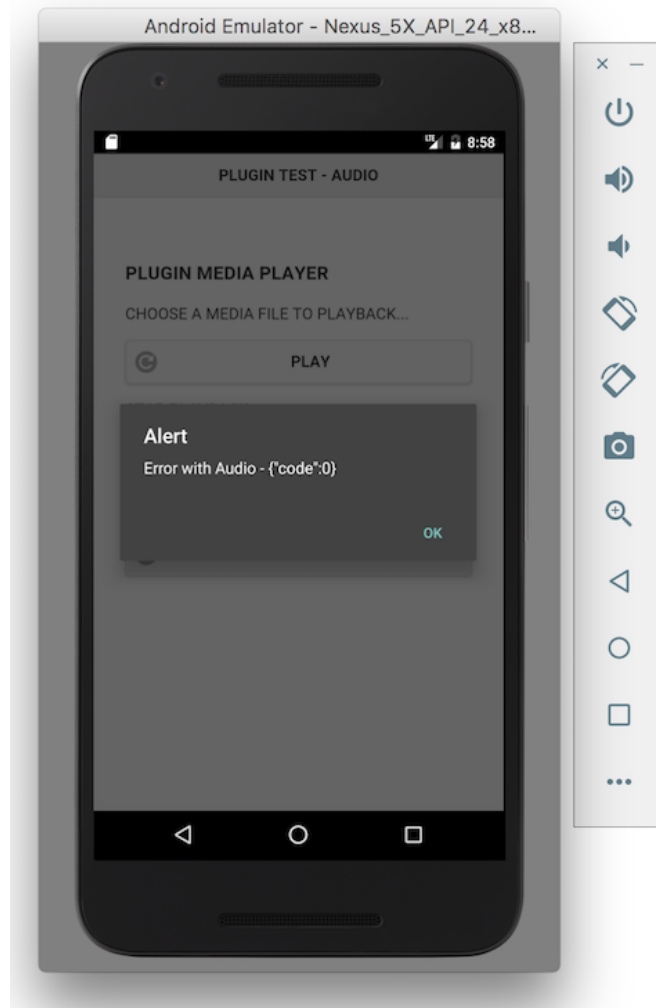


Cordova - Plugin Test - pause audio playback 2

Cordova app - working with plugins - pause button - part 2

- this logic works but it introduces issues and errors, e.g.
 - *start playback of audio and then pause*
 - *then touch play again*
 - *audio will restart from the start of the audio file*
 - *not ideal user experience...*
- an error will be thrown, e.g.
 - *press pause once, then twice...*
 - *error will be thrown for the call to the `pause ()` method*

Image - Cordova app - Plugin Test - pause audio playback 3



Cordova - Plugin Test - pause audio playback 3

References

- Carmody, Tim., *Fighting Words: Defining "Mobile" and "Computer"* Wired. 11.08.2010.
<http://www.wired.com/2010/11/fighting-words-defining-mobile-and-computer/>
- Cordova Doc
 - *deviceready*
 - *Events*
 - *File plugin*
 - *Media plugin*
- Google Developers - Progressive Web Apps