Developing Facebook Application

A basic introduction

Who we are

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What is Facebook

• More than 400 million active users on Facebook

• People spend over 500 billion minutes per month on Facebook

• over 160 million objects(pages, groups and events) that people interact

• More than 70 translations

• 30% of Facebook users are from United States

Ref : http://www.facebook.com/press/info.php?statistics

Why Facebook App.

- Bring Existing App to FB World
- Campaigning on FB
- Building a Brand

Top Facebook Apps

Name	Developer
1. FarmVille	Zynga
2. Static FBML	Facebook
3. Facebook for iPhone	Facebook
4. Birthday Cards	RockYou!
5. Texas HoldEm Poker	Zynga
6. Café World	Zynga
7. Causes	Causes
8. Mafia Wars	Zynga
9. PetVille	Zynga
10. Mobile	Facebook

What happens when you access Facebook App

Regular Website architecture

quaji.com

1. Web page request
http://www.quaji.com

2. HTML response

User

Website

What happens when you access Facebook App

Facebook application architecture

facebook.com

quaji.com

1. Application request
http://apps.facebook.com/myapp

2. App content request
http://back.quaji.com

3. App HTML response

4. Facebook HTML response

User

Facebook Platform

App server

Image Credit : http://www.zilby.com/images/arch.png
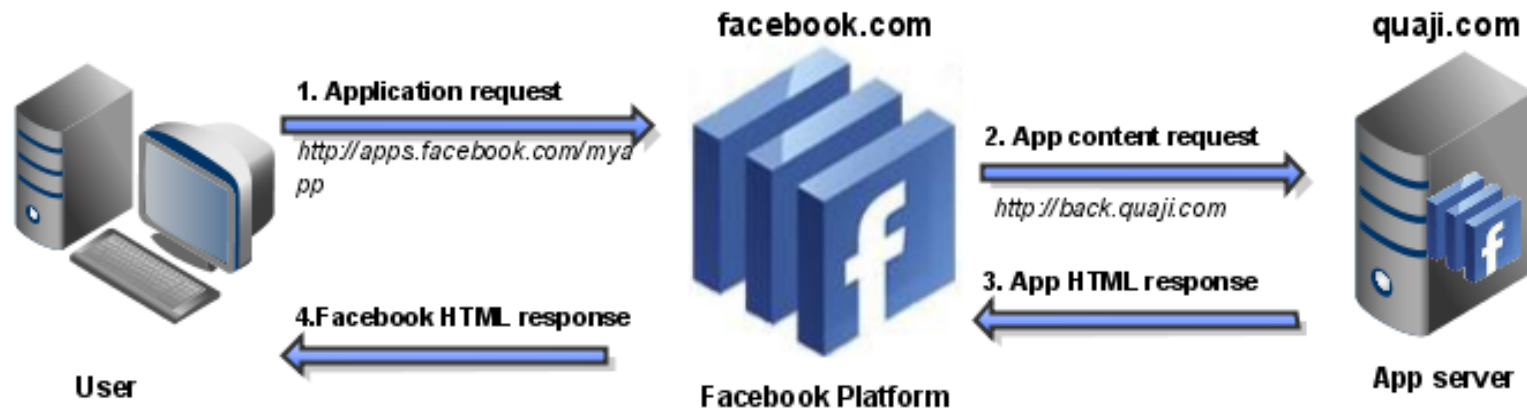
Facebook Platform

• FBML / XFBML -Tag based markup language derived from HTML / XML, with some extra Power to play with FB

• FQL - Facebook query language - Ideal for querying extra data from Facebook Internal data tables.

•FBJS - Facebook version of Javascript minimizing threats of Cross scripting attacks. Supports Most of DOM - Based manipulation Methods

Facebook API

Facebook API calls are grouped into various action categories, each focuses on different aspect of platform.

Let us look at some basic ones :

facebook.auth - basic authentication checks for facebook users

facebook.feed - Post to facebook news feed

facebook.friends - query fb for various checks on a user's friends

facebook.notification - send messages to users

facebook.profile - set FBML in user's profile

facebook.events - way to access FB events

facebook.groups - access information for facebook groups

facebook.photos - interact with facebook photos

Client Libraries

PHP

- Easy to use

- Officially Supported

- Wide options for Hosting

Also Libraries are Available for Python, Ruby, .NET, Java & C++

FBML

• Facebook markup language derived from HTML / XML.

• To distinguish between HTML and FBML in app code, you need to prefix fb: to FBML tags

• More than 100 tags to play with.

<fb:name uid="1431430963" />   => you

<fb:name uid="1431430963" capitalize="true" />   => You

<fb:name uid="1431430963" possessive="true" />   => Your

<fb:name uid="1431430963" reflexive="true" />   => Yourself

<fb:name uid="1431430963" useyou="false" />   => Abhishek Deshpande

<fb:name uid="672981152" />   => Chetan Gole

<fb:name uid="672981152" firstnameonly="true" /> => Chetan

Add Bookmark

<fb:bookmark />

Add Bookmark

Shows Dialog

```
<fb:dialog id="simple-dialog">

<fb:dialog-title>simple Dialog</fb:dialog-title>

<fb:dialog-content> This is some garbage content to be displayed. </fb:dialog-content>

<fb:dialog-button type="button" value="Okay!" close_dialog="1" />

</fb:dialog>

<a href="" clicktoshowdialog="simple-dialog">show Dialog</a>
```
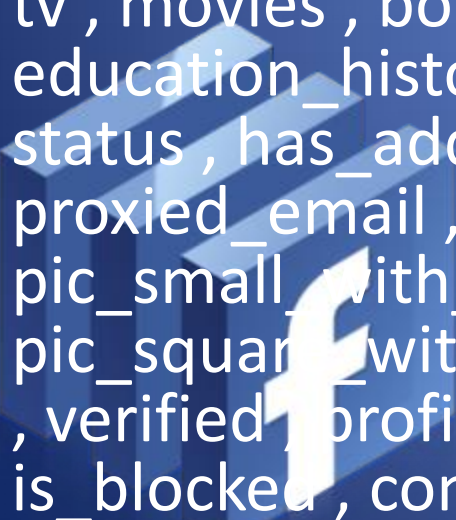
FQL

- Same syntax as ANSI-SQL

- No implementation for Limit, Group by, Order By Clauses

User Table

uid, first_name , middle_name, last_name, name , pic_small , pic_big, pic_square, pic, affiliations, profile_update_time ,timezone ,religion ,birthday ,birthday_date ,sex ,hometown_location , meeting_sex , meeting_for , relationship_status , significant_other_id , political , current_location , activities, interests ,is_app_user , music , tv , movies , books , quotes ,about_me, hs_info , education_history , work_history ,notes_count , wall_count , status , has_added_app , online_presence , locale , proxied_email , profile_url , email_hashes , pic_small_with_logo , pic_big_with_logo , pic_square_with_logo , pic_with_logo , allowed_restrictions , verified , profile_blurb , family , username , website , is_blocked , contact_email , email

```
$fql = "Select name, pic FROM user where
uid='100000860190302'";

$fql_result=$facebook->api_client->fql_query($fql);

print_r($fql_result);


Array (

        [name] => Pranay Patil

        [pic] =>
http://profile.ak.fbcdn.net/hprofile-ak-
sf2p/hs6??4.snc3/27399_100000860190302_8058_s.jpg
)
```

Functions (FQL)

- now()   Returns the current time.

- rand()   Generates a random number.

- strlen(string)   Returns the length of the string.

- concat(string, …)   Concatenates the given strings (can take any number of strings).

More Functions (FQL)

- substr(string, start, length) Gets a substring of the string.

- strpos(haystack, needle) Returns the position of needle in haystack, or -1 if it is not found.

- lower(string) Converts the string to lower case.

- upper(string)   Converts the string to upper case.

- strip_tags(field) Strips HTML markup and encoding from a specified FQL field.

FBJS

- <script> Tag is allowed

- Javascript/DOM "id" values are rewritten on-the-fly

 Display Dialog.

Developer resources

- Test Console http://developers.facebook.com/tools.php

- Developer Application http://www.facebook.com/developers/

- Developer Wiki http://wiki.developers.facebook.com

```
if (questions)
{
        for Q in questions:
                answer(Q)
} else
{
        print "Thank you!"
}
```