Template-driven vs. Reactive Forms



Deborah Kurata
CONSULTANT | SPEAKER | AUTHOR | MVP | GDE
@deborahkurata | blogs.msmvps.com/deborahk/





Module Overview



Angular Form Building Blocks

- FormGroup
- FormControl

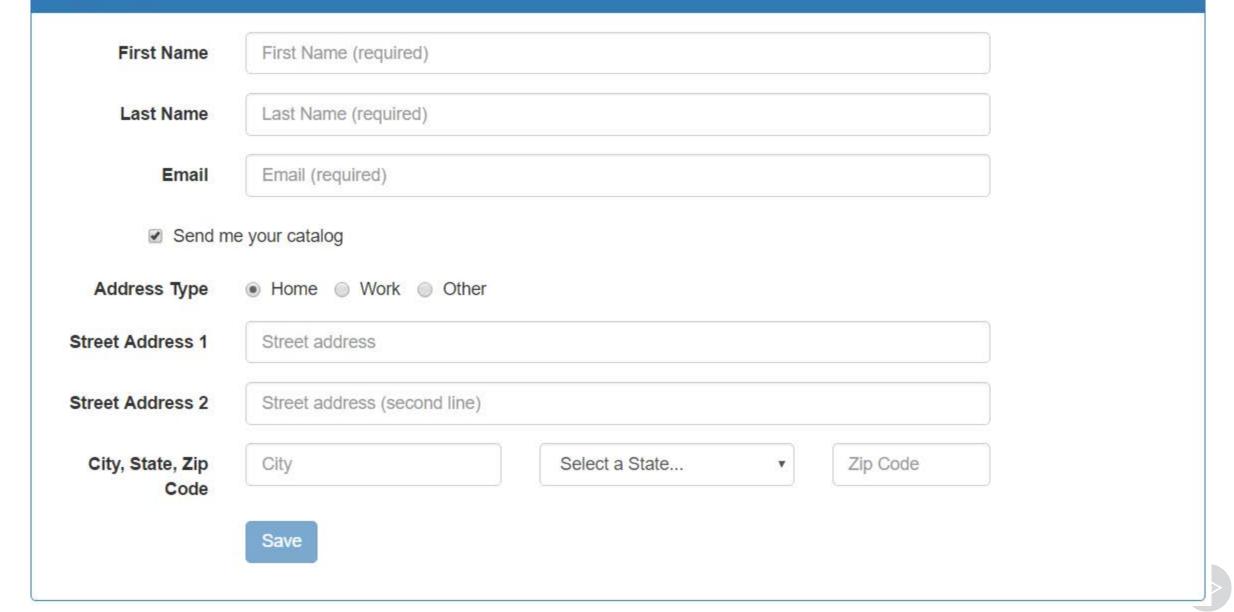
Template Syntax for Forms

Template-driven Forms

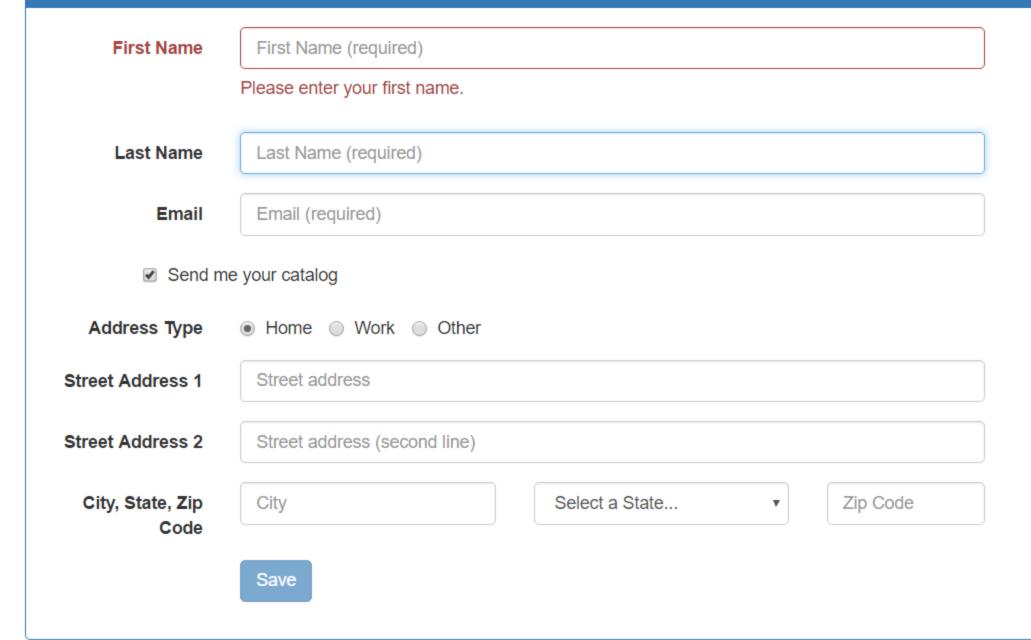
Complex Scenarios



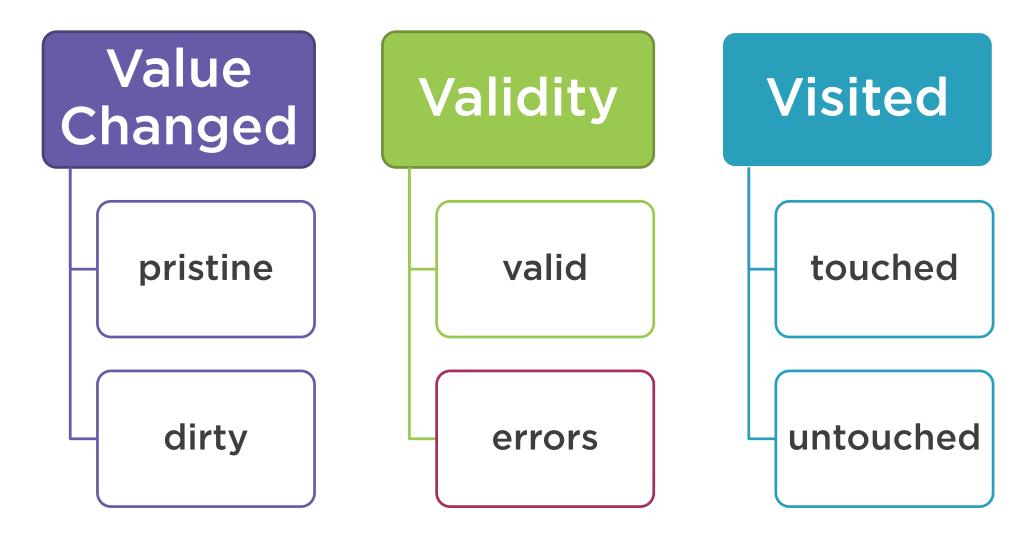
Sign Up!



Sign Up!



State



Form Building Blocks

FormControl



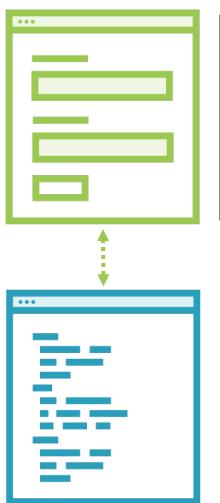
```
▼ controls: Object
 ▶ email: FormControl
 ▶ firstName: FormControl
 ▶ lastName: FormControl
 ▶ sendCatalog: FormControl
 ▶ proto : Object
 dirty: true
 disabled: false
 enabled: true
 errors: null
 invalid: false
 pending: false
 pristine: false
 root: (...)
 status: (...)
 statusChanges: (...)
 touched: true
 untouched: false
 valid: true
 validator: null
▼ value: Object
   email: "jack@torchwood.com"
   firstName: "Jack"
   lastName: "Harkness"
   sendCatalog: false
 ▶ proto : Object
 valueChanges: (...)
```

Form Model

- Retains form state
- Retains form value
- Retains child controls
 - FormControls
 - Nested FormGroups



Template-driven Forms



```
▼ controls: Object
  ▶ email: FormControl
  ▶ firstName: FormControl
  ▶ lastName: FormControl
  ▶ sendCatalog: FormControl
  ▶ __proto__: Object
  dirty: true
  disabled: false
  enabled: true
  errors: null
  invalid: false
  pending: false
  pristine: false
```

Template

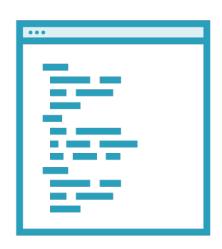
- Form element
- Input element(s)
- Data binding
- Validation rules (attributes)
- Validation error messages
- Form model automatically generated

Component Class

- Properties for data binding (data model)
- Methods for form operations, such as submit



Reactive Forms Component Class



```
▶ firstName: FormControl
▶ lastName: FormControl
▶ sendCatalog: FormControl
▶ proto : Object
dirty: true
disabled: false
enabled: true
errors: null
invalid: false
pending: false
pristine: false
```

▼ controls: Object ▶ email: FormControl

- Form model
- Validation rules
- Validation error messages
- Properties for managing data (data model)
- Methods for form operations, such as submit

Template

- Form element
- Input element(s)
- Binding to form model



Template-driven (FormsModule)

- ngForm
- ngModel
- ngModelGroup

Template-driven (FormsModule)

- ngForm
- ngModel
- ngModelGroup



Template-driven (FormsModule)

- ngForm
- ngModel
- ngModelGroup



FormGroup

Template-driven (FormsModule)

- ngForm
- ngModel
- ngModelGroup

```
FormControl
<input id="firstNameId" type="text"</pre>
    [(ngModel)]="customer.firstName"
    name="firstName"
    </form>
```



Template-driven (FormsModule)

- ngForm
- ngModel
- ngModelGroup

Reactive (ReactiveFormsModule)

- formGroup
- formControl
- formControlName
- formGroupName
- formArrayName



HTML Form

customer.component.html

```
<form>
  <fieldset>
    <div>
      <label for="firstNameId">First Name</label>
      <input id="firstNameId" type="text"</pre>
             placeholder="First Name (required)"
             required
             minlength="3" />
    </div>
    <button type="submit">Save</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

Template-driven Form

customer.component.html

```
<form (ngSubmit)="save()">
 <fieldset>
   <div [ngClass]="{'has-error': firstNameVar.touched && !firstNameVar.valid }">
      <label for="firstNameId">First Name</label>
      <input id="firstNameId" type="text"</pre>
             placeholder="First Name (required)"
             required
             minlength="3"
             [(ngModel)]="customer.firstName"
             name="firstName"
             #firstNameVar="ngModel" />
      <span *ngIf="firstNameVar.touched && firstNameVar.errors">
        Please enter your first name.
      </span>
   </div>
    <button type="submit">Save</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

Reactive Form

customer.component.html

```
<form (ngSubmit)="save()" [formGroup]="signupForm">
  <fieldset>
    <div [ngClass]="{'has-error': formError.firstName }">
      <label for="firstNameId">First Name</label>
      <input id="firstNameId" type="text"</pre>
             placeholder="First Name (required)"
             formControlName="firstName" />
      <span *ngIf="formError.firstName">
        {{formError.firstName}}
      </span>
    </div>
    <button type="submit">Save</button>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

Demo



Template-driven Form



Complex Scenarios

Dynamically add input elements

Watch what the user types

Wait validation until typing stops

Different validation for different situations

Immutable data structures



Angular Forms

Template-driven

Generated form model

HTML validation

Two-way data binding

Reactive

Manually created form model
Validation in the class
No two-way data binding



Summary



Angular Form Building Blocks

- FormGroup
- FormControl

Template Syntax for Forms

Template-driven Forms

Complex Scenarios

