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Posted on [March 25, 2015](#) by [Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai](#)

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Q9. How do you communicate between controllers in AngularJS?

A9. There are scenarios where you want to communicate between controllers. For example, when the submit button is clicked on the parent controller, some values need to be passed to the child controller to show or hide a button in the child form. In AngularJS you can do this with **\$watch** and **\$broadcast** on the parent controller and **\$on** on the child controller.

\$watch(watchExpression, listener, objectEquality)

: Registers a listener callback to be executed whenever the watchExpression changes.

\$broadcast(name, args) : Dispatches an event name downwards to all child scopes (and their children) notifying the registered `ng.$rootScope.Scope#$on` listeners.

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Here is the sample code:

```

1     $scope.buttonClicked = 'N';
2
3     //invoked when $scope.buttonClicked value cha
4     $scope.$watch('buttonClicked', function(messa
5     //pass val = 'Y'
6     if (message != null) {
7         $scope.$broadcast('buttonClicked', {
8             "val" : message
9         });
10    $scope.buttonClicked = 'N';
11    }
12    });
13
14    //when submit button is clicked
15    $scope.onParentSubmitButtonClick = function() {
16        $scope.buttonClicked = 'Y';
17        if ($scope.clientId && $scope.valuatio
18            $scope.httpError = null;
19            $scope.getCalcStatuses();
20        } else {
21            $scope.httpError = "Client id or valuation d
22        }
23    };
24    };
25
26

```

Now, in the child controller, you want to pass the value “val” to indicate that “submit” button has been clicked.

“\$scope.\$broadcast” invokes \$scope.\$on on the child controllers.

```

1     $scope.$on('buttonClicked', function(event, ar
2     if (args.val == 'Y') {
3         $scope.filterText = null;
4     }
5
6     $timeout(function() {
7         $scope.isReleasable();
8         $scope.isSavable();
9         console.log('update with timeout fired
10        }, 2000);
11
12    $scope.isReleasable = function() {
13        if ($scope.calcViewStatuses != null) {
14            if ($scope.calcViewStatuses.ragStatus == 'GR
15                $scope.showReleaseButton = true;
16            } else {
17                $scope.showReleaseButton = false;
18            }
19        }
20    };
21
22
23    $scope.isSavable = function() {
24        if ($scope.calcViewStatuses != null) {

```

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```

25     if ($scope.calcViewStatuses.releaseStatus ==
26         $scope.showSaveButton = false;
27     } else {
28         $scope.showSaveButton = true;
29     }
30 }
31 };
32
33 });
34
35

```

If you want to do the reverse, i.e. communicate from child to parent, you use the `$scope.$emit`.

\$emit(name, args): Dispatches an event name upwards through the scope hierarchy notifying the registered `ng.$rootScope.Scope#$on` listeners.

Q10. What is a directive in AngularJS?

A10. Directives extends HTML. During DOM compilation directives are matched against the HTML and executed. This allows directives to register behaviour, or transform the DOM. `ng-app`, `ng-controller`, `ng-model`, etc are directives. The directives can be placed in element names, attributes, class names, as well as comments. Directives are defined with camel cased names such as `ngApp` and invoked by translating the camel case name into snake case with these special characters `:`, `-`, or `_`. For example `ng-app` as in `<html ng-app>`

Q11. When do you need to create your own directives? How will you go about creating a custom directive in AngularJS?

A11. There are instances where you want to use jQuery UI plugins. Recently, I had to use the **jQuery Resizable** plugin with angular to resize my TextArea in IE 8 as it is the standard browser used by our business and operational staff. Here are some code samples to get AngularJS and jQuery to work together. By default, the Angular JS is shipped with a lite version of jQuery, but not with the UI plugins.

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Step 1: You need to define **directives**. Directives are a way to teach HTML new tricks. During DOM compilation directives are matched against the HTML and executed. I am using RequireJS to manage dependencies. here is myTextAreaWithModel.js file

```
1 'use strict';
2
3 define([ 'jqueryui' ], function() {
4
5     function myTextAreaWithModel() {
6         return {
7             require: 'ngModel',
8             // Restrict it to be an attribute in this case
9             restrict : 'A',
10            // responsible for registering DOM listeners
11            // DOM
12            link : function($scope, $element, $attrs) {
13                jQuery(function() {
14                    jQuery("textarea.resizableAreaWithModel").r
15                });
16            }
17        };
18    }
19
20    return myTextAreaWithModel;
21 });
22
23
```

Step 2: A sample bootstrapping JS file that uses require js to manage dependencies. The key here is to see how jquery-ui is loaded. You can choose to ignore the rest.

```
1 'use strict';
2
3 /**
4  * Configure JS file paths and dependencies
5  */
```

```

6  var requireConf = {
7      baseUrl: '.', // This will be the path to
8      shim: {
9          'angular'           : { deps: ['jquery']
10         'jqueryui'          : { deps: ['jquery']
11         'bootstrap'         : { deps: ['jquery']
12         'portal/portalCtrl'  : { deps: ['angula
13     },
14     paths: {
15         jquery      : 'lib/jquery/jquery',
16         jqueryui    : 'lib/jquery/jquery-ui',
17         angular     : 'lib/angular/angular-module'
18         bootstrap   : 'lib/bootstrap/js/bootstrap'
19         text        : 'lib/require/plugins/text'
20     },
21     waitSeconds: 0, // Disable t
22     urlArgs: ((myapp.debug) ? '' : 'v=' + (((new
23 });
24
25 require.config(requireConf);
26
27 /**
28  * Load JS resources for the portal (but not for
29  */
30 require([
31     'jquery',
32     'angular',
33     'portal/portalCtrl',
34 ], function (jq, angular, portalCtrl) {
35     angular.element(document).ready(function() {
36         // Load the root controller for the page
37         angular.module('portalModule.controller'
38             .controller('portalCtrl', portalCtrl
39         // Load all angular style resources
40         angular.module('portalModule', [
41             'portalModule.controller',
42             'portalModule.directives',
43             'portalModule.services',
44             'portalModule.filter'
45         ]);
46         // Bootstrap angular, this needs to be a
47         angular.bootstrap(document, ['portalModu
48     });
49 });
50
51
52
53
54
55
56

```

Step 3: Bootstrapping the “myTextAreaWithModel” using require js framework.

```

1  'use strict';
2
3  define([
4      'angular',
5      'utils/directives/myTextAreaWithModel'

```

```
6 ], function (angular, myTextAreaWithModel) {  
7  
8     angular.module('portalModule.directives', [  
9         .directive('myTextAreaWithModel', myTex  
10 }]);  
11
```

Step 4: Finally the HTML code.

```
1  
2 <td width="30%">  
3 <textarea class="resizableAreaWithModel comment  
4     name="comments" ng-model="myAppStatus.commen  
5     jp-text-area-with-model  
6 />  
7 </td>  
8  
9
```

Directives in angularjs are very powerful.

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