WebSharper: Creating Functional, Reactive F# Web Applications

Adam Granicz IntelliFactory

#granicz

#websharper #trywebsharper





Agenda

Part I

- Warm-up why are we doing this?
- Random bits on F#
- WebSharper
 - What resources are out there to learn from
 - Installing, Project templates
 - Getting Started examples
 - Fundamentals
 - HTML combinators and templates
 - Pagelets markup and events
 - Sitelets request routing, safe URLs, serving contexts

Agenda

Part II

- Reactive development
 - UI.Next, Dynamic dataflow, Reactive DOM and templating
- Functional user interfaces
 - Formlets/Flowlets, Piglets, WebSharper.Forms
- Working with JavaScript libraries
 - WIG, resources, proxies
- Hands-on examples REST, data charting, FRP

Background

CEO of IntelliFactory,
The F# Company

Started FP in 1999 with OCaml, worked on generic frontends, multilingual compilers and theorem proving at Caltech

6x F# MVP - 2010 - present

Coauthor of 5 F# books, 4 of them with Don Syme, the designer of F#

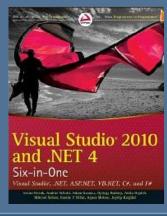


Regular speaker in numerous developer conferences, and committee member in academic conferences/workshops

F# books

- Expert F# 2007
- Expert F# 2.0 2010
- Visual Studio 2010 and .NET 4 Six-in-One 2010
- Expert F# 3.0 2012
- Expert F# 4.0 2015











IntelliFactory

F# consulting, training, development

Headquartered in Budapest Founded in 2004

- Doing functional, reactive web development in F#
- Making web and cloud technologies for developers
- Extensive experience with building full-stack F# enterprise apps



- 280+ F# projects, ~60 open source
 - One of the largest F# codebases around
- 30+ commercial applications built

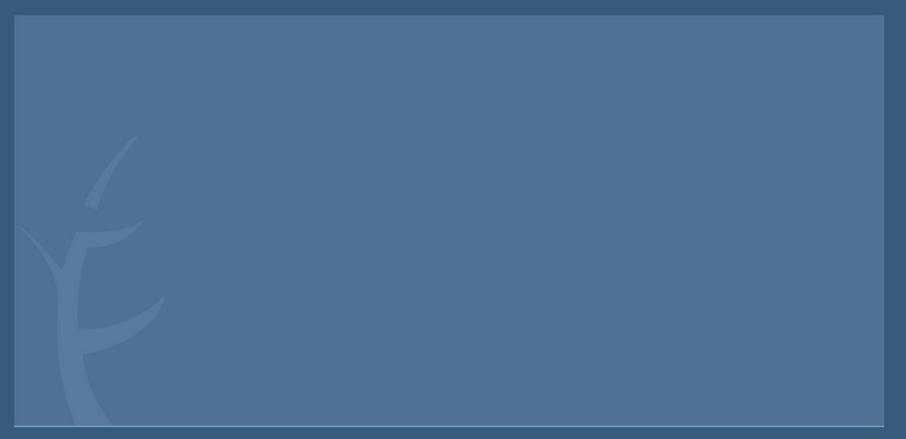
Motivation

Web applications are everywhere, but they still require a myriad of languages and libraries/technologies

We want to

- Yield more programmer productivity
- Distill FP abstractions for the web
- Make these widely and easily available
- Trigger industry adoption





.NET, F#, and WebSharper

.NET ecosystem
 Multiple languages (C#, F#, VB, IronPython/Ruby)
 Industry standard libraries (web, data, communication, ...)

F#
 Functional-first
 Advanced features (active patterns, units of measure, TPs, ...)
 Highest ranked FP language on the TIOBE index

WebSharper
 The largest F# web ecosystem – 80k+ downloads
 Entire client-server applications in F#
 F# to JavaScript compiler
 Web abstractions (formlets, flowlets, sitelets, piglets, ...)

F# ...

- Is a functional programming language developed by MS(R)
- Is an ideal language for rapid and robust software development
- Packs more functionality in less code script-like syntax
- Yields code that is easier to extend and maintain
- Is a standard front-end in Visual Studio
- Has full access to the .NET APIs and components
- Runs within the .NET CLR, making it possible to use within existing .NET projects

F# - Key benefits

- Application code is considerably shorter than in C#, VB, or Java
- Dramatically reduces development time by providing powerful programming constructs
- Ideal for a wide range of domains including finance, science and technology, and those with numerical and symbolic computation
- Language support for developing distributed, parallel, asynchronous and reactive applications

Why F#?

Functional core language

Functions as values

Anonymous and higher-order functions

Parametric polymorphism

Type inference

Functional data structures

Pattern matching

Lazy vs. eager evaluation

Cool, more advanced features

Active patterns

Units of measure

Type Providers

Snippet

```
type Expr =
    Integer of int
    with
   static member Sum (e1, e2) = Binop (( + ), e1, e2)
   static member Diff (e1, e2) = Binop (( - ), e1, e2)
   static member Prod (e1, e2) = Binop (( * ), e1, e2)
   static member Div (e1, e2) = Binop (( / ), e1, e2)
let rec Eval = function
    Integer i -> i
    | Binop (f, e1, e2) -> f (Eval e1) (Eval e2)
let =
   let i = Expr.Integer
   Expr.Prod (Expr.Sum (i 4, i 9), Expr.Diff (i 9, i 4))
   |> Eval
    |> printf "Result=%d"
```

Bindings

Bindings assign a name to a value, example:

let
$$x = 1+1$$

In pure functional programming, bound values do not change. An attempt to "change" them:

... is called shadowing, where the latter binding shadows the former one, effectively losing a reference.

Bindings

Consider the Single Static Assignment (SSA) form:

SSA = each name is assigned a value once, thus bindings are immutable.

Type inference

Types of values do not need to be annotated, they can usually be inferred.

In some cases, they can and need to be.

let
$$(x: int) = 1$$

Key data structures

```
Tuples
                           (T_1, T_2, ...)
                           { Field<sub>1</sub> = V_1; Field<sub>2</sub> = V_2; ... }
Records
Discriminated
unions
                           | Shape₁ of T₁
                           | Shape, of T<sub>2</sub>
```

Sequences (lazy), lists, sets, maps, arrays, etc.

Functional data structures

Purely functional data structures are immutable.

Notable imperative data structures:

arrays

records with mutable fields

reference cells

Lazy vs Eager data structures

Sequences are lazy, e.g. their elements are computed on demand.

Eager data structures compute their elements at the time the data structure is created.

Intervals and Comprehensions

Intervals and comprehensions are expressions that describe how to generate successive elements.

Examples:

```
0 .. 100
0 .. 2 .. 100
for i in 1 .. 100 -> i*i
```

Containers

Comprehensions and enumerating elements can be placed inside containers (data structures with elements of a given type):

{ **for** i **in** 1 .. 100 -> i*i } // The first 100 squares

```
{ ... } Sequence
[ ... ] List
[ | ... | ] Array

Example:
```

Functions as values

Functions can be returned or taken as parameters

- Functions are first-class values just like strings and numbers
- Higher order functions (HOFs)

Anonymous functions (lambdas) are function values with a name:

```
fun x -> x+1
fun x y -> x+y
```

Functions as values

Named functions are simply lambdas assigned a name:

Functions as values

Functions with multiple parameters are written without parentheses. Those parameters within parentheses are single, tupled, parameters.

```
let f x y = x+y  // two arguments
let f (x, y) = x+y  // single argument
```

Pattern matching

Pattern matching is a mechanism to examine structured input data by decomposing it into smaller parts to match against.

Ordinary pattern matching works on constants, discriminated unions, tuples, records, lists and arrays.

Units of Measure

```
[<Measure>] type C
[<Measure>] type F
let ConvertCtoF ( c: float<C> ) =
    9.0 < F > / 5.0 < C > * c + 32.0 < F >
Similar implementations elsewhere:
      Haskell: Dimensional
      Ruby: Quantity.rb
      C++, etc.
```

Active Patterns

Partitioning:

```
let (|Even|Odd|) input =
   if input % 2 = 0 then Even else Odd
```

Decomposition:

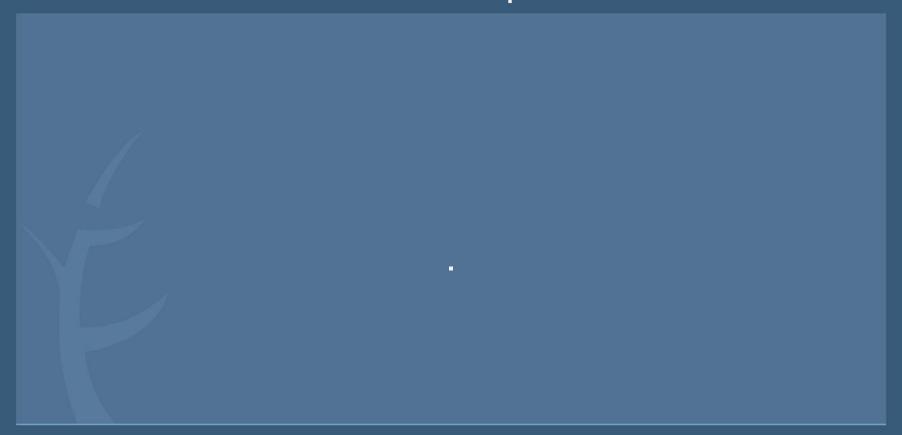
```
let (|HSB|) (col: System.Drawing.Color) =
    (col.GetHue(), col.GetSaturation(),
        col.GetBrightness())
```

Partial Active Patterns

"Shaving off" from the input value space:

```
let ( Integer | ) (str: string) = ...
let (|Float|_|) (str: string) = ...
let ParseNumber = function
   | Integer i -> ...
   Float f -> ...
   _ -> ...
```

WebSharper



WebSharper

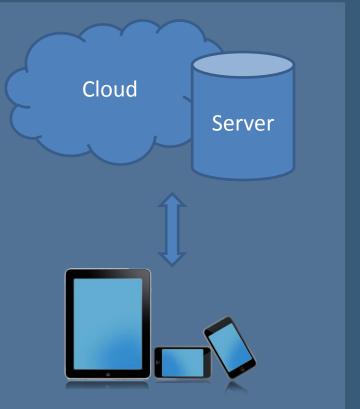
Open source project, available at:

https://github.com/IntelliFactory/websharper

Code contributions are welcome

Bridging the language mismatch

open WebSharper module Server = [<Rpc>] let MyServerFunction(...) = ... module Client = [<JavaScript>] let MyClientFunction(...) = let v = MyServerFunction(...)



Getting WebSharper

- Downloads for Visual Studio and Xamarin Studio
- In an online IDE cloudsharper.com
- Using yeoman (generator-fsharp)

```
npm install -g yo
npm install -g generator-fsharp
yo fsharp
```

Project templates

- UI.Next vs WebSharper.Html
 - Single-Page Applications (SPAs) client-only
 - Client-Server Applications sitelet-based
 - HTML Applications client only, sitelet-based

http://websharper.com/docs/templates

WebSharper

What do I get with WebSharper?

- 1. Automatic resource management
 - => no need to include dependencies by hand
 - => each page loads only the resources it needs
- 2. Type-safe access to JavaScript libraries via F#
 - => dozens of extensions available (visualization, charts,...)
 - => has its own eDSL for describing JavaScript APIs
 - => TypeScript type provider in upcoming version

WebSharper

What do I get with WebSharper?

- 3. Uniform programming model (everything is F#)
 - => write all server and client code in F#
- 4. Client-Server applications
 - => [<JavaScript>] vs [<Rpc>] annotations
 - => Seamless communication via RPC
 - => No need to worry about how to pass data

WebSharper

What do I get with WebSharper?

- 5. Composable functional programming abstractions
 - a) Pagelets: to represent dynamic markup and behavior
 - b) Sitelets: to represent web applications
 - c) Formlets: to represent complex and dependent web forms
 - d) Flowlets: to represent sequences of user forms
 - e) Piglets: formlets on steroids: Uls for any device

Getting Started

```
module MyApplication
                                  localhost:9000
                                                        ④ ☆ 🗗 🏖 🗏
                                 ← → C n localhost:9000
open WebSharper
                                  Hello world!
open WebSharper.Sitelets
[<Website>]
let Main =
    Application. Text (fun ctx ->
         "Hello World!")
```

Getting Started - SPAs

```
module MyApplication
                                  localhost:9000
                                        localhost:9000
                                                            open WebSharper
                                 Hello world!
open WebSharper.Sitelets
open WebSharper.UI.Next.Html
open WebSharper.UI.Next.Server
[<Website>]
let Main =
    Application.SinglePage (fun ctx ->
        Content.Page(h1 [text "Hello World!"]))
```

Getting Started - Single endpoint apps

```
type EndPoint = int
[<Website>]
let Main =
    Sitelet.Infer (fun ctx (endpoint: EndPoint) ->
        match endpoint with
        i -> Content.Text (string (i*i))
```

Getting Started - Endpoints

Endpoint Type	Sample Request	Parsed Request
Int	/12	12
Float	/12.34	12.34
String	/abc1234	"abc1234"
System.Net.HttpStatusCode	/200	HttpStatusCode.OK
System.DateTime	/2015-08-24-12.55.14	<pre>System.DateTime(2015,8,24,12,55, 14)</pre>
string * int	/abc/1234	("abc", 1234)
{ Name: string; Age: int }	/john/12	{ Name="John"; Age=12 }
string option	/None /Some/abc	None Some "abc"
int list float list string list	/2/1/2 /2/1.1/2.2 /2/abc/1234	[1; 2] [1.1; 2.2] ["abc"; "1234"]
int array float array string array	/2/1/2 /2/1.1/2.2 /2/abc/1234	[1; 2] [1.1; 2.2] ["abc"; "1234"]

Getting Started – Endpoint modifiers

• [<EndPoint ...>]: Specifying URL/method pairs

Getting Started - Endpoint modifiers

• [<Query("param1", ...)>]: specifying query parameters

Sample Request	Parsed Request	
/doc/1234?version=1	Document(1234, Some 1)	
/doc/1234	Document(1234, None)	
/doc/1234	Document(1234, None)	

Getting Started – Endpoint modifiers

• [<Json "param">]: Specifying arguments to be passed as JSON (on POST)

```
Sample Request
/create
/create
{ item:"Book", quantity:1 } item="Book"; quantity=1 })
```

Getting Started – Endpoint modifiers

• [<FormData("param1", ...)>]: Specify arguments to be passed as form data

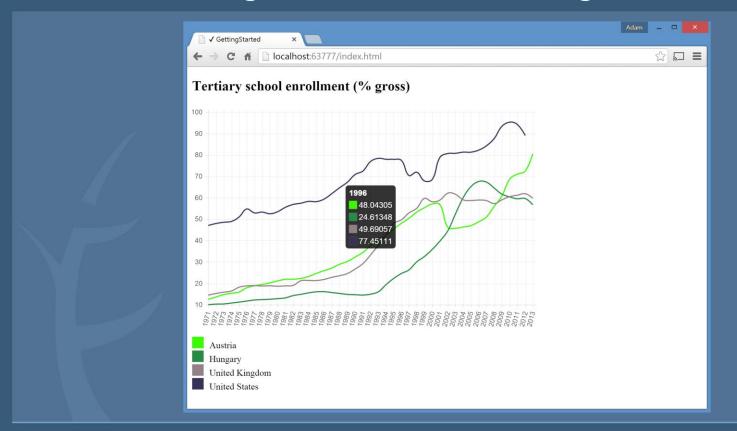
Getting Started - Multiple endpoint apps



Getting Started – MPAs (client-server)

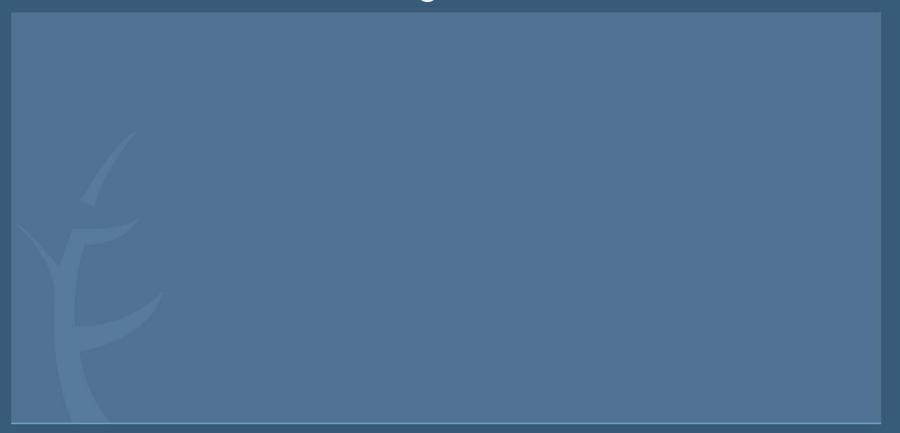
```
let HomePage ctx = ...
let AboutPage ctx = ...
[<Website>]
let Main =
   Application.MultiPage (fun ctx endpoint ->
       match endpoint with
          EndPoint.Home -> HomePage ctx
         EndPoint.About -> AboutPage ctx
```

Getting Started - Working with data





Pagelets



Pagelets

Constructing markup with dynamic behavior



Pagelets - WebSharper.Html

In WebSharper.Html.Client/Server

```
let Main () =
    let input = Input [Attr.Value ""] -< []</pre>
   let output = H1 []
   Div [
        input
        Button [Text "Send"]
        |>! OnClick (fun _ _ ->
            async {
                let! data = Server.DoSomething input.Value
                output.Text <- data
            > Async.Start
        HR []
        H4 [Attr.Class "text-muted"] -< [Text "The server responded:"]
       Div [Attr.Class "jumbotron"] -< [output]
```

Pagelets – UI.Next

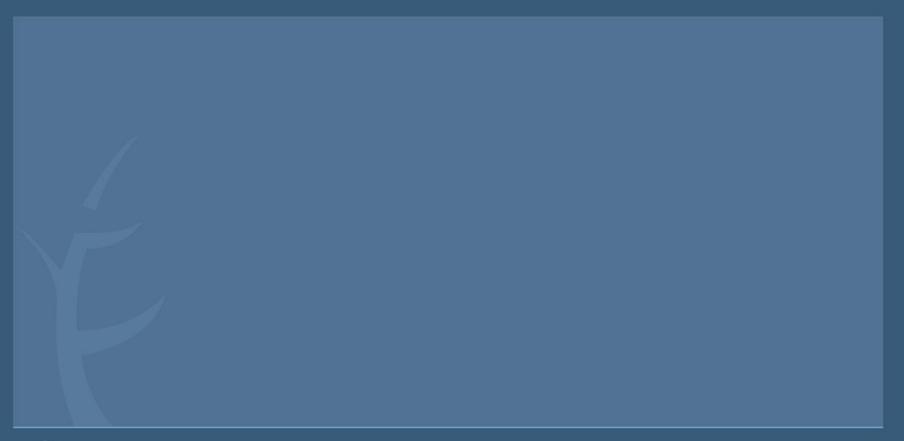
In WebSharper.UI.Next.Html.Client/Server

```
let Main () =
    let input = inputAttr [attr.value ""] []
   let output = h1 []
    div [
        input
        buttonAttr [
            on.click (fun _ _ ->
                async {
                    let! data = Server.DoSomething input.Value
                    output.Text <- data
                 > Async.Start
        ] [text "Send"]
        hr []
        h4Attr [attr.``class`` "text-muted"] [text "The server responded:"]
        divAttr [attr.``class`` "jumbotron"] [output]
```

Pagelets – DOM combinators

HTML	UI.Next	WebSharper.Html
Plain text	text "Plain text"	Text "Plain text"
class "abc"	attr.``class`` "abc"	Attr.Class "abc"
src "abc"	attr.src "abc"	Attr.Src "abc"
<h1>ABC</h1>	h1 [text "ABC"]	H1 [Text "ABC"]
<div> <div></div></div>	div [Div [
	div []]	Div []]
<div class="abc"></div>	divAttr [Div [
<div></div>	attr.``class`` "abc"][Attr.Class "abc"] -< [
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	div []	Div []
]]
<pre><div onclick=""></div></pre>	divAttr [Div [
<div></div>	on.click <@ fun e arg -> @>	Div []
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,] [>! OnClick (fun e arg ->)
	div []	
	J	

Sitelets



Sitelet combinators

```
Application.SinglePage
Application.MultiPage
Application.Text
Sitelet. Empty
Sitelet.Content
Sitelet.Sum
Sitelet.Map
Sitelet.Protect
Sitelet.Infer
<|>, Sitelet.Shift, Sitelet.Folder
```

Authenticated sitelets

• Sitelet.Protect - see GH repo for example

HTML and other responses

- Plain text using Content. Text
 - Content.Text "Hello World!"
- JSON using Content. Json

```
- type Person = { First: string; Last: string; Age: int }
Content.Json { First="John"; Last="Smith"; Age=30 }
```

Files using Content.File

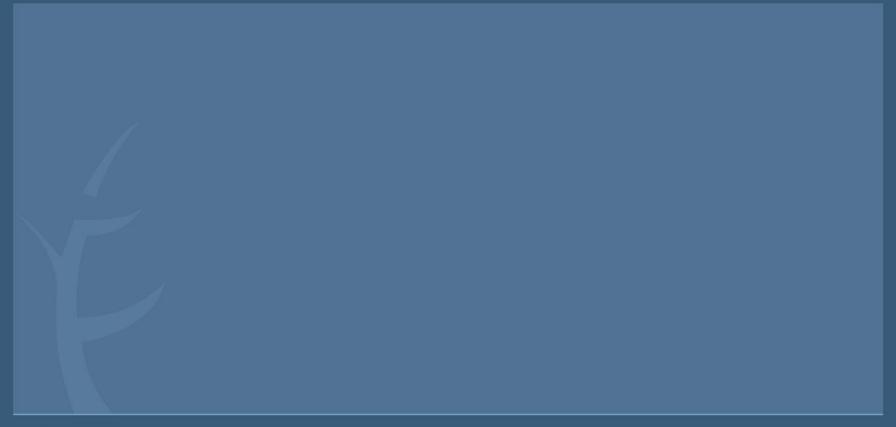
HTML and other responses

Error codes

- Content.Unauthorized
- Content.Forbidden
- Content.NotFound
- Content.MethodNotAllowed
- Content.ServerError

- Error code 401
- Error code 403
- Error code 404
- Error code 405
- Error code 500
- Content.Custom(Status=Http.Status.Custom 402 (Some "Payment Required"))

Reactive development with UI.Next



UI.Next

WebSharper's reactive dynamic dataflow and DOM construction library.

Reactive data model + Reactive DOM/presentation layer

S. Fowler, L. Denuziere, A. Granicz. *Reactive Single-Page Applications with Dynamic Dataflow*. PADL 2014.

Vars: observable, mutable reference cells

Views: projections of Var's in the dataflow graph

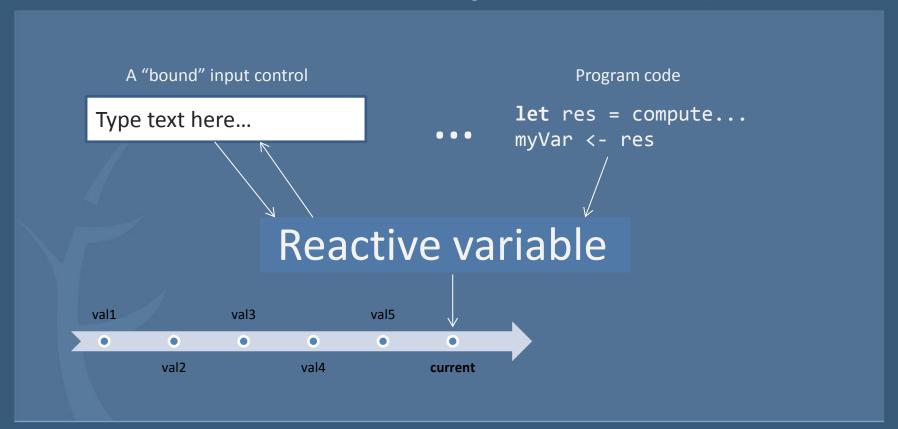
UI.Next reactive DOM

Represented by the Doc type

Monoid – can be empty, can be concatenated

Can contain reactive DOM nodes

Basics - Two-way data binding



Ex 1: Reactive vars, bound controls, and views

```
let var = Var.Create ""
let view = View.FromVar var
let input = Doc.Input [] var
let capitalized = view |> View.Map (fun txt -> txt.ToUpper())
let label = textView capitalized
div [
   input
    label
http://try.websharper.com/snippet/adam.granicz/00003N
```

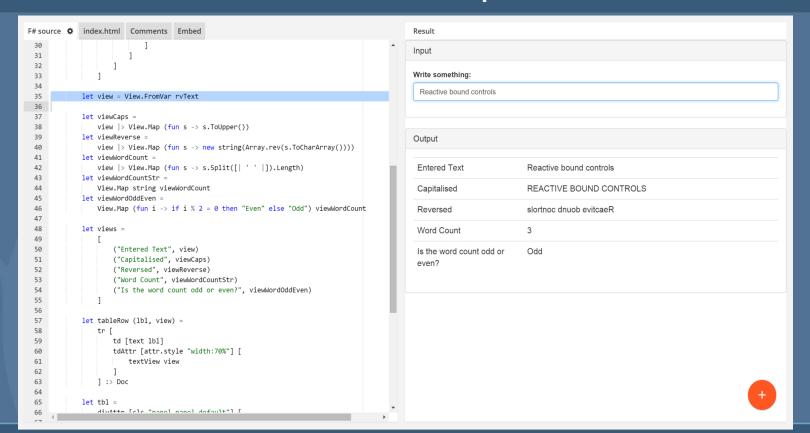
Ex 2: Reactive vars, bound controls, and views

```
open WebSharper.UI.Next
open WebSharper.UI.Next.Client
let v = Var.Create "first value"
                                         Doc: a representation for a
                                         reactive DOM fragment (empty,
let textbox = Doc.Input [] myVar
                                         or single, or multiple node)
let view = View.FromVar v
```

http://try.websharper.com/snippet/adam.granicz/00001u



UI.Next example



HTML Templating

UI.Next Type Provider

Uses a TP to read markup content and generate Docs with placeholders for reactive content and event handlers.

```
open WebSharper.UI.Next
```

type MyTemplate = Templating.Template<"main.html">

Reactive template placeholders

data-var: bind the value of an input control to a reactive variable

data-attr: assign an attribute

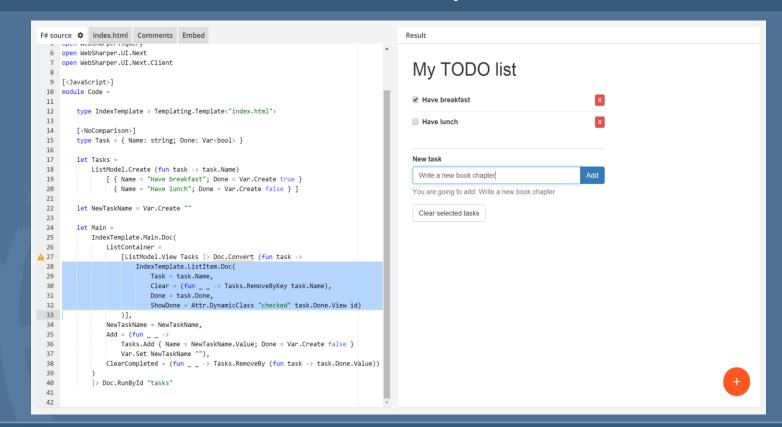
data-event-xxx: bind an event handler for xxx

data-template: use the given node as a template data-children-template: use the contents of the given node as a template

\$!{var}: the view of a reactive variable

http://try.websharper.com/example/todo-list

Reactive templates

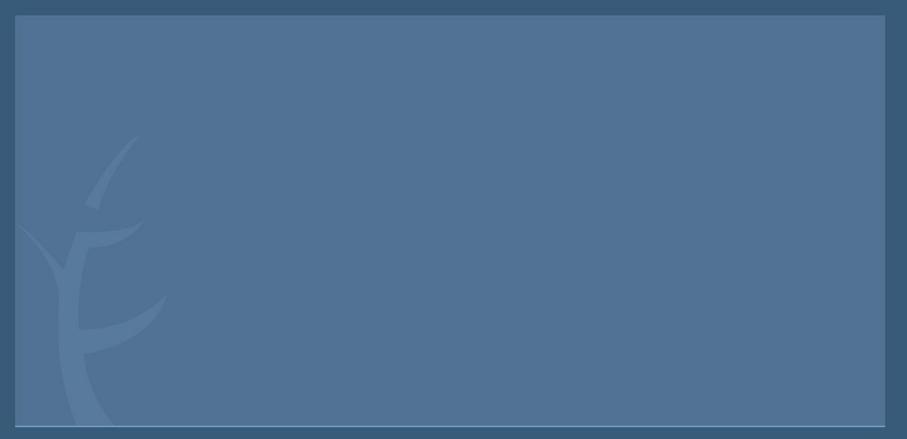


Reactive "sitelets"

Client-side routing

http://try.websharper.com/snippet/adam.granicz/000033

Formlets



Formlets¹

A compositional abstraction for constructing web forms based on applicative functors:

Formlets

Formlet.Return - embedding pure expressions in a formlet

- : 'T -> Formlet<'T>
- sequencing formlets and combining their results
 - : Formlet<'A -> 'B> -> Formlet<'A> -> Formlet<'B>

Implemented via IF's own reactive library, based on a partial implementation of Rx's hot observables and explicit subscription to future value streams.

Reactive formlets

Enable formlet controls to be bound to a reactive variable.

No need to manually manage subscriptions, these are inferred from the dataflow graph.

Makes data binding natural and easy.

Two sets of controls available: with and without explicit Vars

Reactive formlets with explicit Vars

```
let FN = Var.Create "First name"
let AGE = Var.Create "20"
Formlet.Return (fun fn age -> { FirstName=fn; Age=age })
<*> Controls.InputVar FN
<*> (Controls.InputVar AGE
    > Validation.IsMatch "^[1-9][0-9]*$" "Need an integer"
    > Formlet.Map (int))
http://try.websharper.com/snippet/adam.granicz/00003P
```

Dependent formlets and flowlets

```
Enhance flowlets with dynamic composition
Use the bind operator (let! in an F# computation expr)
J. Bjornson, A. Tayanovskyy, A. Granicz. Composing Reactive GUIs in
F# using WebSharper. IFL 2010.
Formlet.Do {
    let! fn = Control.Input "First name"
    let! age = (Control.Input "20" |> ...)
    return { Firstname=fn; Age=age }
```

Customizing presentation via piglets

L. Denuziere, E. Rodriguez, A. Granicz. *Piglets to the Rescue*. IFL 2013.

```
Piglet.Return (fun user pass -> (user, pass))
<*> Piglet.Yield ""
<*> Piglet.Yield ""
|> Piglet.WithSubmit
|> Piglet.Run (fun (user, pass) ->
    JS.Alert ("Welcome, " + user + "!"))
> Piglet.Render (fun rvUsername rvPassword submit ->
    form [
```

WebSharper.Forms = Reactive piglets

Form.YieldVar

Var's can be bound to form controls

Form controls can be nested in reactive markup

WebSharper.Forms

```
let fname, age = Var.Create "...", ...
Form.Return (fun fn age -> { FirstName=fn; Age=age })
<*> Form.YieldVar fname
<*> Form.YieldVar age
> Form.WithSubmit
> Form.Render (fun fn age submitter ->
    div [
       Doc.Input [] fn
       Doc.IntInputUnchecked [] age
       Doc.ButtonValidate "Submit" [] submitter
http://try.websharper.com/snippet/adam.granicz/00004Q
```

WebSharper.Forms.Bootstrap

http://try.websharper.com/snippet/adam.granicz/00004x



List models

http://try.websharper.com/example/todo-list

Working with JavaScript libraries

50+ extensions to various JavaScript libraries

- Core: JQuery, EcmaScript, WebGL
- Visualization: Google Visualization, D3, Raphael, Protovis, etc.
- Charting: Highcharts, Chart.js, etc.
- GIS: Google Maps, Bing Maps, Leaflet.js
- Mobile: jQuery Mobile, Sencha Touch, Kendo Mobile
- •

WIG

eDSL to describe JavaScript APIs in F#/WebSharper



Creating new extensions

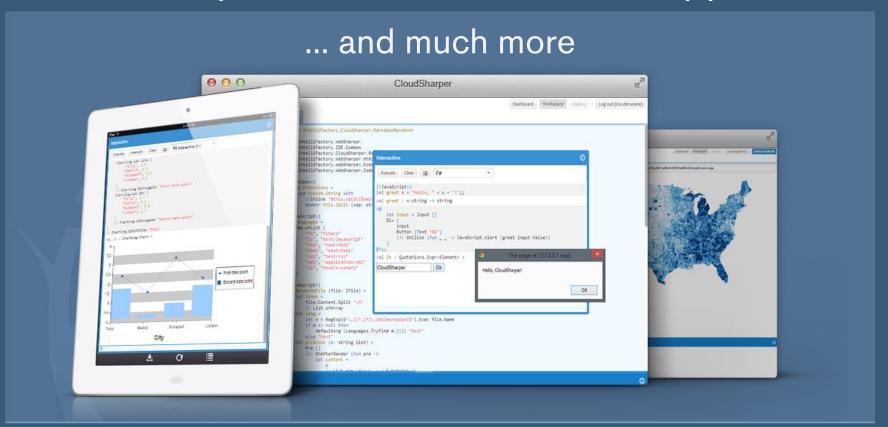
You can implement your own extension:

- manually (via JavaScript inlines)
- using WIG
- importing TypeScript declarations

Where do you go next?



CloudSharper – an online IDE that supports F#



Full F# language support

Multi-project solutions

Web and mobile Apps

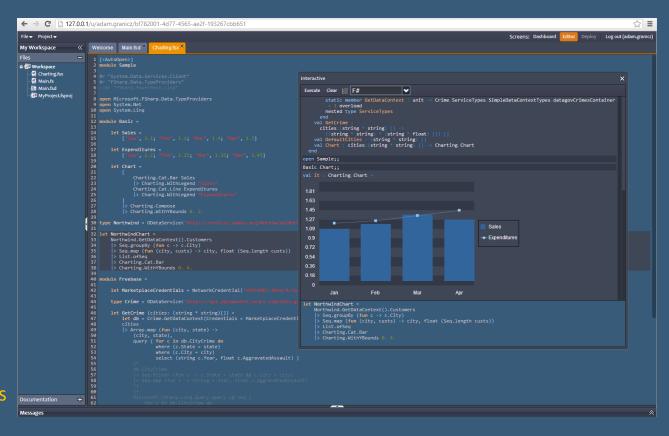
Syntax highlighting

On the fly type checking

Interactive exploration

Integration with data

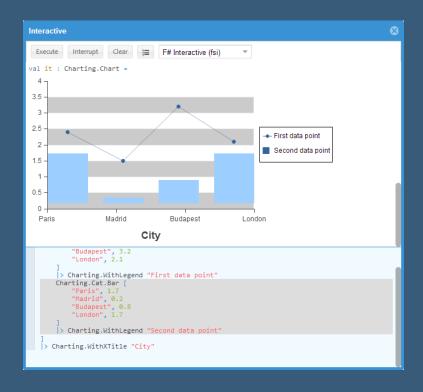
Support for type providers



CloudSharper - The online development environment

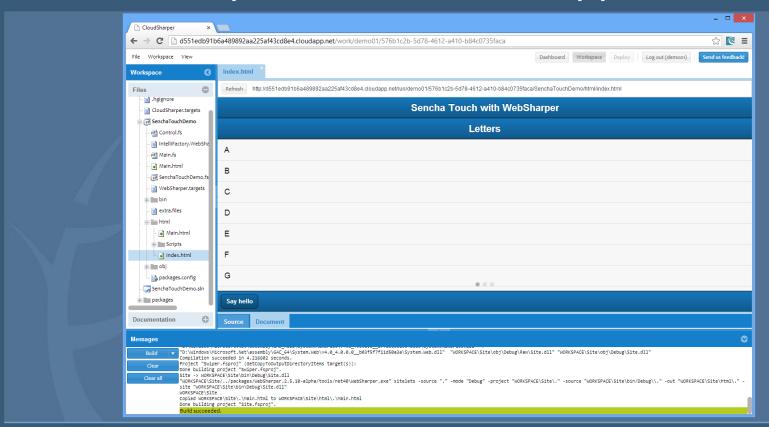


```
Interactive
 Execute Clear 📜 F#
         static member GetDataContext : unit -> Crime.ServiceTypes.SimpleDataContextTypes.datagovCrimesContainer
         nested type ServiceTypes
     val GetCrime
      cities:(string * string) []
          (string * string) * (string * float) []) []
    val DefaultCities : (string * string)
    val Chart : cities:(string * string)
                                              -> Charting.Chart
 open Sample;;
 Basic.Chart;;
         Charting Chart
 1.63
 1.45
 1.09
                                                                  Expenditures
 0.54
 0.36
 0.18
           Jan
                         Feb
                                                        Apr
 let NorthwindChart =
     |> Charting.Cat.Bar
```



Interactive running a simple data visualization

A simple Sencha Touch application





FPish – a community for functional programmers

http://fpish.net



FPish - http://fpish.net

Aggregates and catalogs FP content about:

0.8AEvents/Conferences Courses User Groups Blogs Jobs Developers etc...



FsBlogger – a markdown-driven blog engine

http://fsblogger.com



Previous

₱ 6/9/2015, 9:45:00 PM

lune 2015 Fear and Loathing with APL

WebSharper 3.2 with support for scriptable applications, better resource management, and additional streamlined syntax

Next

CraftConf 15-Takeaways from "Jepsen IV: Hope Springs Eternal"

F# Weekly #23, 2015

CodeMotion 15-Takeaways from "Measuring micro-services" Backwards compatibility is (still) hard

For a Few Dollars More

F# Weekly #22, 2015

Joy of Coding experience report

A Fistful of Dollars

May 2015

A consistent approach to track correlation IDs through

microservices CraftConf 15-Takeaways from "Architecture Without an End

State"

F# Weekly #21, 2015

WebSharper 3.1 published

Save the day with a Visual Basic, C#, or F# T-Shirt!

The Detail-Oriented Nature Of Software Development

CloudSharper 0.9.31 published

Understanding homoiconicity through Clojure macros

Simplifying (?) State with C# Async

Null-checking considerations in F# - it's harder than you think

The following code: 1 Button [Text "some text"]

|>! OnClick (fun e args -> JS.Alert "Clicked"

can now be written as:

additional streamlined syntax by adam.granicz

WebSharper 3.2 with support for scriptable applications, better resource management, and

We are thrilled to announce the availability of WebSharper 3.2, paving the road to further upcoming enhancements to streamline developing and deploying WebSharper apps, and also shipping several key

No need to annotate sitelet assemblies with Website This is what pre-3.2 code looked like:

changes summarized here.

```
module Site =
       let Main =
           Sitelet.Sum [
               Sitelet.Content "/" Home HomePage
               Sitelet.Content "/About" About AboutPage
    [<Sealed>]
    type Website() =
       interface IWebsite<Action> with
            member this.Sitelet = Site.Main
            member this.Actions = []
14
    [<assembly: Website(typeof<Website>)>]
```

Now you can simply do:

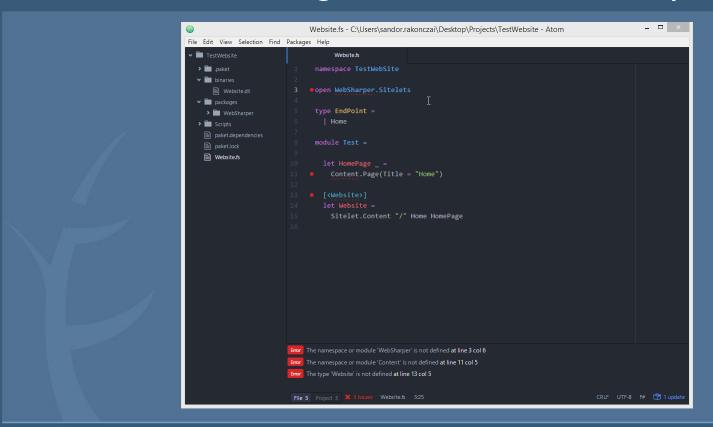
```
module Site =
    [<Website>]
    let Main =
       Sitelet.Sum [
           Sitelet.Content "/" Home HomePage
           Sitelet.Content "/About" About AboutPage
```

Old code works as before, but we now look for the Website attribute on values as well if no assembly-level instance is found, yielding the shorter syntax above.

Dot-syntax for chained event handlers

FsBlogger.com

Atom integration for WebSharper



Thanks for your attention

QUESTIONS?

Get in touch

@websharper @trywebsharper @cloudsharper @granicz

```
http://websharper.com,
http://try.websharper.com
http://intellifactory.com
http://cloudsharper.com
```