Google Web Toolkit (GWT)



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What Is GWT?

- An open-source, Java-based framework for creating Ajax web applications
- · Created and used by Google
- Makes writing web applications similar to Swing applications
 - dramatically reduces the need to understand HTML and JavaScript
 - maintaining Java code is easier than maintaining a mixture of HTML, JavaScript and Java code
- Client-side Java code
 - compiled to HTML and JavaScript
 - uses CSS for formatting
 - restricted to a subset of Java 1.4 for now
- Server-side code can be implemented in any language
 - including Java 5 and 6
 - Java-based GWT RPC servlets are commonly used (more on this later)

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Why Use GWT?

- · Creates browser-based GUIs using Swing-like components
- · No need to write HTML which means no scriptlets
- · Uses CSS for formatting and some layout
- · No need to write JavaScript, but can if desired
- No messy navigation control with redirects and forwards
- Makes asynchronous server calls which results in a better user experience
- Ajax features can be implemented without thinking about DOM manipulation
- · Direct DOM manipulation, if needed, is easy to do
- · Can easily pass Java objects between client and server
 - no need to populate Java objects from HTTP data
 - no need to populate HTML forms from Java objects
- · Can throw Java exceptions from the server back to the client
- · Can use Java IDEs like Eclipse, IDEA and NetBeans
- · Created, maintained, enhanced and used by Google
 - recognized for their software expertise
 - one of the few serious Microsoft competitors

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Tool Support

- IDE plugins
 - Intellij IDEA
 - GWT Studio
 - Eclipse
 - Cypal Studio for GWT (was Googlipse)
 - · Instantiations GWT Designer
 - NetBeans
 - GWT4NB
- Other tools
 - Wirelexsoft VistaFei a GWT IDE

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Installing

- Steps
 - verify that a Java SDK (1.4 or higher) is installed
 - run "java -version" from a shell/command prompt
 - browse http://code.google.com/webtoolkit/
 - click the "Download Google Web Toolkit (GWT)" link
 - download a platform-specific archive/zip file for a selected version
 - unpackage the archive/zip file to a selected directory
 - set the environment variable **GWT_HOME** to the path to the unpackaged GWT directory
- Can also build latest code from source
 - see http://code.google.com/webtoolkit/makinggwtbetter.html#compiling

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Creating a New Project

- · Steps differ
 - depending on whether an IDE plugin is being used
 - we'll assume no IDE
- Non-IDE steps
 - create a directory for the application
 - from a shell/command prompt, navigate to that directory
 - run the applicationCreator script to create the project directory structure and populate it with initial project files
 - under Windows, run %GWT_HOME%\applicationcreator {package}.client.{module}
 - under UNIX/Linux/Mac OS X, run \$GWT_HOME/applicationcreator {package}.client.{module}

for example, com.ociweb.running.client.RunningCalc

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Typical Project Directory Structure Ant build.properties and build.xml (optional) classes - holds .class files generated by Java compiler www - holds HTML, CSS, images, XML and JavaScript (including that generated by GWTCompiler) lib - holds JARs used by this project (optional) package directories module.gwt.xml client - module.java entry point class - service.java for a GWT RPC service – serviceAsync.java ∫ - other client-side .java files to be compiled to JavaScript public - module.html - module.css - images server - not automatically created - serviceImpl.java ← - other server-side .java files tomcat - used by hosted mode embedded server Copyright $\ensuremath{\mathbb{O}}$ 2007 by Object Computing, Inc. (OCI). All rights reserved.

Implementing a New Project

- · The initial files to be edited for a new project are
 - the main HTML file
 - src/{package-dirs}/public/{module}.html
 - the entry point Java source file
 - src/{package-dirs}/client/{module}.java

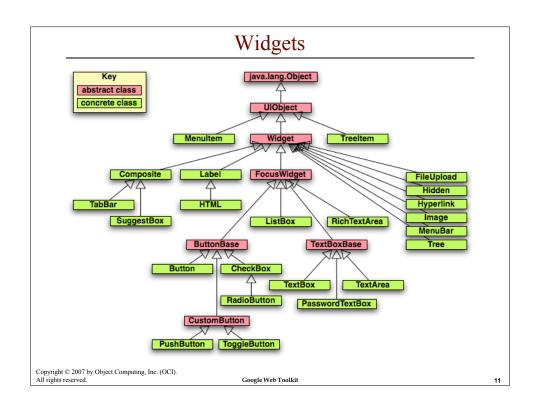
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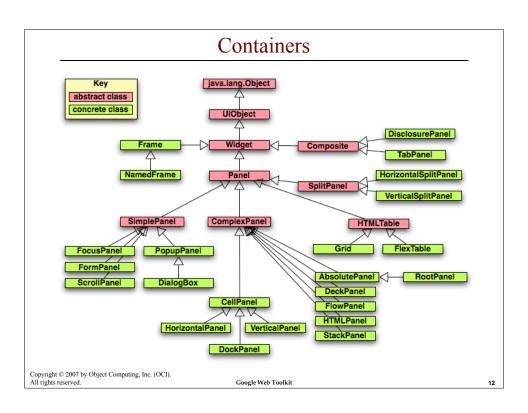
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Minimal HTML <html> <title>{title}</title> </head> <body> "bootstrap script" loads <script language="javascript" </pre> browser/locale-specific JavaScript src="{package}.{module}.nocache.js"></script> <!-- OPTIONAL: include this if you want history support --> <iframe id="__gwt_historyFrame" style="width:0;height:0;border:0"> </iframe> <!-- can add static HTML here --> </body> </html> Copyright © 2007 by Object Computing, Inc. (OCI). All rights reserved.

Minimal Entry Point Java Class

```
package com.ociweb.demo.client;
       import com.google.gwt.core.client.EntryPoint;
       import com.google.gwt.user.client.ui.*;
       public class {module} implements EntryPoint {
         public void onModuleLoad() {
           final Label label = new Label();
           Button button = new Button("Click Me");
           button.addClickListener(new ClickListener() {
              public void onClick(Widget sender) {
                label.setText("clicked");
           });
           Panel panel = new FlowPanel();
           panel.add(button);
           panel.add(label);
           RootPanel.get().add(panel);
       }
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```





Modules

- · GWT applications are referred to as "modules"
- A module has an XML descriptor, {module}.gwt.xml
 - can specify
 - · inherited modules
 - to share custom widgets and other code
 - · entry point Java class name
 - · source paths
 - for locating Java source files to be compiled to JavaScript
 - public paths
 - for locating CSS, JavaScript and image files
 - · and more
 - stored in the source tree package directory just above entry point Java source file
 - · in parent directory of client and public directories

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Example Module XML

```
<module>
    <inherits name="com.google.gwt.user.User"/>
    <source path="client"/> <!-- the default -->
    <entry-point class="com.ociweb.gwt.client.Hello"/>
        <stylesheet src="Hello.css"/> module package module name

        <servlet path="/com.ociweb.gwt.Hello/SomeService"
            class="com.ociweb.gwt.server.SomeServiceImpl"/>
        </module>
```

For details on the content of module XML files, see http://code.google.com/webtoolkit/documentation/com.google.gwt.doc.DeveloperGuide.Fundamentals.Modules.ModuleXml.html

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CSS

- · GWT encourages formatting with CSS
- All widgets support these methods
 - addStyleName adds to existing list of styles for the widget
 - setStyleName replaces existing list of styles for the widget
- · To specify formatting for each style name
 - add a CSS class to a stylesheet file (.css) in the src/{package-dirs}/public directory
- Most widgets have a default CSS class name
 - for example, Button widgets use the gwt-Button CSS class
- For more info, see
 http://www.ociweb.com/mark/programming/GWT.html#Formatting

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Event Handling

- Most widgets support listening for user events
 - events generated by each widget differ
- · Listener interfaces
 - define methods that are invoked on objects that implement them (your code) when certain events occur
 - for example, ClickListener
 - often implemented by an anonymous inner class
 - like earlier example on page 10
- Adapter classes
 - make it easier to implement listener interfaces by providing method implementations that do nothing, saving you the trouble of writing them
 - only for interfaces with more than one method
- For more info. see
 - http://www.ociweb.com/mark/programming/GWT.html#Widgets
 - http://www.ociweb.com/mark/programming/GWT.html#ListenersAdapters

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Event Handling (Cont'd)

 Listener interfaces and adapter classes are summarized below

Name	Adapter	Methods
ChangeListener	none	void onChange(Widget sender)
ClickListener	none	void onClick(Widget sender)
FocusListener	FocusListenerAdapter	void onFocus(Widget sender)
		void onLostFocus(Widget sender)
KeyboardListener	KeyboardListenerAdapter	void onKeyDown(Widget sender, char keyCode, int modifiers)
		void onKeyPress(Widget sender, char keyCode, int modifiers)
		void onKeyUp(Widget sender, char keyCode, int modifiers)
LoadListener	none	void onError(Widget sender)
		void onLoad(Widget sender)
MouseListener	MouseListenerAdapter	void onMouseDown(Widget sender, int x, int y)
		void onMouseEnter(Widget sender)
		void onMouseLeave(Widget sender)
		void onMouseMove(Widget sender, int x, int y)
		void onMouseUp(Widget sender, int x, int y)
MouseWheelListener	none	void onMouseWheel(Widget sender, int x, int y,
		MouseWheelVelocity velocity)
PopupListener	none	void onPopupClosed(PopupPanel sender, boolean autoClosed)
ScrollListener	none	void onScroll(Widget sender, int scrollLeft, int scrollTop)
TableListener	none	<pre>void onCellClicked(SourcedTableEvents sender, int row, int cell)</pre>
TabListener	none	void onBeforeTabSelected(SourcesTabEvents sender, int tabIndex)
		void onTabSelected(SourcesTabEvents sender, int tabIndex)
TreeListener	none	void onTreeItemStateChanged(TreeItem item)
		void onTreeItemStateChanged(TreeItem item)

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Running in Hosted Mode

- In "hosted mode", a special browser is used to display and exercise the user interface
 - uses Java bytecode instead of generated JavaScript
- Once the hosted mode browser is running
 - changes to client-side Java code (made in any editor) can be tested by simply clicking the refresh button in the browser
 - no separate compiling or deploying is required!
 - allows guick testing of CSS and client-side Java code changes
 - can use an IDE debugger to step through code
- Server-side code changes still require recompile/redeploy
- Steps
 - from a shell/command prompt, navigate to application directory
 - run {module}-shell script
 - this compiles client-side code, starts hosted mode browser, and runs application inside it
 - can also launch from Ant or an IDE

-noserver option allows use of a server other than embedded Tomcat

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Running in Deployed Mode

- To deploy a GWT application to an app. server so it can be run outside hosted mode
 - compile client-side Java code into HTML and JavaScript using the GWTCompiler

By default, JavaScript is generated in "obfuscate" mode which results in smaller files. Another supported mode is "pretty" which makes the files readable, but larger. The last mode is "detailed" which is like "pretty", but adds more verbose names to assist with tracing JavaScript functions back to methods in specific Java classes. To specify the mode that the GWT compiler should use, run the compile script with the -style=OBF|PRETTY|DETAILED option

- compile server-side Java code using a standard Java compiler
- GWTCompiler generates a separate JavaScript file for each supported browser and locale combination
 - the correct JavaScript file is automatically downloaded to the requesting browser
 - this reduces the amount of JavaScript code that must be downloaded since only code applicable to that browser/locale is downloaded

continued on next page

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Running in Deployed Mode (Cont'd)

- bundle the following in a WAR file
 - · module XML and HTML
 - · generated HTML/JavaScript
 - · CSS files
 - · image files
 - server-side .class files
 - GWT-supplied gwt-servlet.jar
 - · other JARs required by server-side code
- deploy the WAR file to a JEE server such as Tomcat or JBoss
- run the application from a web browser by visiting
 http://{server}:{port}/{package}/{module}.html
- These steps are typically automated with Ant
 - see http://www.ociweb.com/mark/programming/GWT.html#Deploying for an example Ant build file

for debugging in deployed mode, using Firebug in Firefox is recommended

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Server Calls

- · Several forms are supported
 - HTML form submission
 - XMLHttpRequest (classic Ajax)
 - JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)
 - GWT RPC
- Perhaps the most common is GWT RPC
 - uses Java servlets that extend RemoteServiceServlet
 - automatically serializes objects from classes that
 - · implement one of these marker interfaces

```
com.google.gwt.user.client.rpc.IsSerializablejava.io.Serializable
```

- · have a no-arg constructor
- many GWT versions of standard Java classes do this
 - such as java.util.List and java.util.Map
- see steps to use at http://www.ociweb.com/mark/programming/GWT.html#ServerCalls

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JavaScript Native Interface (JSNI)

- Java methods can invoke JavaScript code through JSNI
- Uses special native methods that embed JavaScript code in Java source files
- Example

```
private native boolean matches(
   String regExp, String value) /*-{
   var pattern = new RegExp(regExp);
   return value.search(pattern) != -1;
} -*/;
   Note that GWT doesn't yet support the
```

regular expression capabilities in Java 5.

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Other Supported Features

- Custom widgets
 - implemented by Java classes that typically extend the GWT Composite class
- Reusable modules
 - can be "inherited" by multiple GWT applications
- Internationalization
 - using Java property files
- · JUnit testing
- · Client-side XML processing

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More Information

- Web pages
 - project homepage http://code.google.com/webtoolkit/
 - developer guide http://code.google.com/webtoolkit/documentation/
 - class doc. http://code.google.com/webtoolkit/documentation/gwt.html
 - OCI notes http://www.ociweb.com/mark/programming/GWT.html
- Mailing list
 - Google Group http://groups.google.com/group/Google-Web-Toolkit
- Blogs
 - Google Developer Blog http://googlewebtoolkit.blogspot.com/
 - Robert Hanson (author of "GWT In Action") http://roberthanson.blogspot.com/
- Podcasts
 - Java Posse "GWT Round Table" on 10/15/06
 - http://javaposse.com/index.php?post_id=140955
- Books
 - see next page and http://www.ociweb.com/mark/programming/GWT.html#Resources

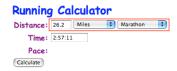
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Running Calculator Example

- · Let's build a web app. for calculating running paces
 - users enter a distance and a time
 - the application calculates the pace per mile
- · Here's the GUI we want



- Details
 - part outlined in red is a custom widget called DistanceWidget
 - contains a TextBox for entering a distance
 - contains a ListBox for selecting units of "Miles" or "Kilometers"
 - changing selection converts the distance
 - contains a ListBox for selecting common distances such as "Marathon"
 - selecting one sets the distance TextBox and the units ListBox
 - time TextBox accepts formats of hh:mm:ss, mm:ss or ss

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Steps To Write "Entry Point" Class

- · We'll assume some things are already in place
 - Calculator.java does math to convert distances and calculate paces
 - DistanceWidget.java custom widget for entering a distance
- RunningCalc.java implements EntryPoint
 - create the following widgets
 - · Label to display application title
 - DistanceWidget
 - TextBox to enter time (set visible length to 10)
 - Label to display calculated pace
 - FlexTable to layout labels and data entry/display widgets

• "Calculate" Button

- add widgets to the FlexTable
- create VerticalPanel and use it to layout application title Label, FlexTable and "Calculate" Button
- add VerticalPanel to RootPanel
- add a ClickListener to "Calculate" Button that calculates pace and sets pace Label

double miles = distanceWidget.getMiles();
String time = timeTextBox.getText();
String pace = Calculator.getMilePaceTime(miles, time);
paceLabel.setText(pace);

see pages

38 to 40

Additional Tasks:

- add validation to the distance and time TextBoxes
- add CSS to make the GUI look nicer - add a KeyboardListener to the time TextBox so pressing Enter there is the same as pressing the "Calculate" Button

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The Finished Code

All of the code in the finished application follows

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Calculator.java

```
package com.ociweb.running.client;

public class Calculator {

    private static final double KILOMETERS_PER_MILE = 1.609344;
    private static final double MILES_PER_KILOMETER = 1 / KILOMETERS_PER_MILE;

    public static double convertKilometersToMiles (double kilometers) {
        return kilometers * MILES_PER_KILOMETER;
    }

    public static double convertMilesToKilometers (double miles) {
        return miles * KILOMETERS_PER_MILE;
    }

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```

Calculator.java (Cont'd)

```
* Converts a time string to the equivalent number of seconds.
           * Times must be in the format hh:mm:ss, mm:ss or ss.
          \verb"public static int "convertTimeToSeconds" (String time) \ \{
            // Validate the time.
            String regex = "/(\\d{1,2})(:(\\d{1,2}))?(:(\\d{1,2}))?/";
            if (matches(regex, time)) {
                                                                             matches is defined
              throw new RuntimeException("Invalid time: " + time);
                                                                            on page 32
            String[] pieces = time.split(":");
            int count = pieces.length;
            int p0 = Integer.parseInt(pieces[0]);
                                                                          not checking for
            int p1 = count > 1 ? Integer.parseInt(pieces[1]) : 0;
                                                                          conversion errors
            int p2 = count > 2 ? Integer.parseInt(pieces[2]) : 0;
            int hours = count == 3 ? p0 : 0;
            int minutes = count == 3 ? p1 : count == 2 ? p0 : 0;
            int seconds = count == 3 ? p2 : count == 2 ? p1 : p0;
            return (hours * 60 + minutes) * 60 + seconds;
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                                               Google Web Toolkit
                                                                                                          30
```

Calculator.java (Cont'd)

```
/**
          * Gets the minutes per mile pace time string
          * for a given distance (in miles) and total time.
          * Times must be in the format hh:mm:ss, mm:ss or ss.
         public static String getMilePaceTime(double miles, String time) {
           int seconds = convertTimeToSeconds(time);
           long secondsPerMile = Math.round(seconds / miles);
           double minutesPerMile = secondsPerMile / 60.0;
           int wholeMinutesPerMile = (int) Math.floor(minutesPerMile);
           long wholeSecondsPerMile =
             Math.round((minutesPerMile - wholeMinutesPerMile) * 60.0);
           String pace = wholeMinutesPerMile + ":";
           if (wholeSecondsPerMile < 10) pace += '0';</pre>
           pace += wholeSecondsPerMile + " per mile";
           return pace;
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```

Calculator.java (Cont'd)

```
* Gets the minutes per kilometer pace time string
           * for a given distance (in kilometers)
           * and total time.
           * Times must be in the format hh:mm:ss, mm:ss or ss.
          public static String getKilometerPaceTime(
            double kilometers, String time) {
            return getMilePaceTime(kilometers, time);
          * Regular expression matching using JavaScript (JSNI).
           \star @param regExp the regular expression
           * @param value the value to be compared
           * @return true if the value matches; false otherwise
          public native static boolean matches(String regExp, String value) /*-{
            var pattern = new RegExp(regExp);
            return value.search(pattern) != -1;
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                                               Google Web Toolkit
                                                                                                          32
```

DistanceWidget.java

```
package com.ociweb.running.client;
       import com.google.gwt.user.client.ui.*;
       import java.util.Map;
       import java.util.HashMap;
       public class DistanceWidget extends Composite {
         private static Map distanceMap = new HashMap();
          private ListBox distanceListBox = new ListBox();
          private ListBox unitListBox = new ListBox();
          private TextBox distanceTextBox = new TextBox();
          private int otherIndex;
          public DistanceWidget() {
            setupDistanceTextBox();
            setupUnitListBox();
            setupDistanceListBox();
            Panel panel = new HorizontalPanel();
            panel.add(distanceTextBox);
            panel.add(unitListBox);
            panel.add(distanceListBox);
            initWidget(panel);
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```

DistanceWidget.java (Cont'd)

```
private void addDistance(String name, double distance) {
    distanceMap.put(name, new Double(distance));
    if ("Other".equals(name)) otherIndex = distanceListBox.getItemCount();
    distanceListBox.addItem(name);
}

private double getDistance(String name) {
    Double distance = (Double) distanceMap.get(name);
    return distance.doubleValue();
}

public double getMiles() {
    double distance = Double.parseDouble(distanceTextBox.getText());
    boolean isKilometers = unitListBox.getSelectedIndex() == 1;
    if (isKilometers) {
        distance = Calculator.convertKilometersToMiles(distance);
    }
    return distance;
}

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```

DistanceWidget.java (Cont'd)

```
private void setupDistanceListBox() {
            addDistance("Marathon", 26.2);
            addDistance("1/2 Marathon", 13.1);
            addDistance("10K", 10);
            addDistance("5K", 5);
            addDistance("Mile", 1);
            addDistance("Other", 0);
            distanceListBox.setSelectedIndex(0);
            distanceTextBox.setText(String.valueOf(getDistance("Marathon")));
            distanceListBox.addChangeListener(new ChangeListener() {
             public void onChange(Widget sender) {
                int index = distanceListBox.getSelectedIndex();
                String name = distanceListBox.getItemText(index);
                double distance = getDistance(name);
                String distanceText = distance == 0 ? "" : String.valueOf(distance);
                distanceTextBox.setText(distanceText);
                unitListBox.setSelectedIndex(name.endsWith("K") ? 1 : 0);
            });
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```

DistanceWidget.java (Cont'd)

```
private void setupDistanceTextBox() {
  distanceTextBox.setVisibleLength(5);
  distanceTextBox.addChangeListener(new ChangeListener () {
    public void onChange(Widget sender) {
                                                        the user changed the distance
      \verb|distanceListBox.setSelectedIndex| (otherIndex); \\
                                                        and we'll assume it doesn't
                                                        match a predefined choice
 });
```

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DistanceWidget.java (Cont'd)

```
private void setupUnitListBox()
 unitListBox.addItem("Miles");
  unitListBox.addItem("Kilometers");
 unitListBox.setSelectedIndex(0);
  unitListBox.addChangeListener(new ChangeListener() {
    public void onChange(Widget sender) {
      // Convert value in distanceTextBox to new unit.
      int index = unitListBox.getSelectedIndex();
     String distanceText = distanceTextBox.getText();
                                                             not checking for
     double distance = Double.parseDouble(distanceText);
                                                             conversion errors
     distance = index == 0 ?
        Calculator.convertKilometersToMiles(distance) :
        Calculator.convertMilesToKilometers(distance);
     distanceTextBox.setText(String.valueOf(distance));
 });
```

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RunningCalc.java

```
package com.ociweb.running.client;

import com.google.gwt.core.client.EntryPoint;
import com.google.gwt.user.client.ui.*;

public class RunningCalc implements EntryPoint {

private Button calculateButton = new Button("Calculate");
private DistanceWidget distanceWidget = new DistanceWidget();
private Label paceLabel = new Label();
private FlexTable table = new FlexTable();
private TextBox timeTextBox = new TextBox();
private int row = 0; // used in the addRow method

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```

RunningCalc.java (Cont'd)

```
public void onModuleLoad()
            timeTextBox.setText("2:57:11");
             timeTextBox.setVisibleLength(10);
            timeTextBox.addKeyboardListener(new KeyboardListenerAdapter() {
               \verb"public void "onKeyUp" (Widget" sender, char keyCode, int modifiers) {} \\
                 if (keyCode == KEY_ENTER) calculatePace();
            });
            paceLabel.addStyleName("paceLabel");
            calculateButton.addClickListener(new ClickListener() {
              public void onClick(Widget sender) {
                 calculatePace();
            });
            addRow("Distance:", distanceWidget);
            addRow("Time:", timeTextBox);
            addRow("Pace:", paceLabel);
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```

RunningCalc.java (Cont'd)

```
Label titleLabel = new Label("Running Calculator");
            titleLabel.addStyleName("title");
            VerticalPanel panel = new VerticalPanel();
            panel.add(titleLabel);
            panel.add(table);
            panel.add(calculateButton);
            RootPanel.get().add(panel);
          private void addRow(String labelText, Widget widget) {
            Label label = new Label(labelText);
            label.addStyleName("tableLabel");
            table.setWidget(row, 0, label);
            table.setWidget(row, 1, widget);
            row++;
          private void calculatePace() {
            double miles = distanceWidget.getMiles();
            String time = timeTextBox.getText();
            String pace = Calculator.getMilePaceTime(miles, time);
           paceLabel.setText(pace);
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                                               Google Web Toolkit
```

Running Calc.gwt.xml

RunningCalc.html

RunningCalc.css

```
body {
          font-family: Comic Sans MS, sans-serif;
                                                            defaults
          font-size: small;
          margin: 8px;
         .paceLabel {
          color: green;
          font-size: 10pt;
          font-weight: bold;
         .tableLabel {
          color: purple;
          font-size: 12pt;
          font-weight: bold;
          text-align: right;
        .title {
          color: blue;
          font-size: 18pt;
          font-weight: bold;
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```

Running The Application

- To run in hosted mode
 - run generated RunningCalc.shell script
 - · compiles client-side Java code
 - starts hosted mode browser
 - · displays web app. inside it
- To test code changes
 - press "Refresh" button to recompile the code and refresh the display
- To view in default web brower
 - press "Compile/Browse" button
- Cleaning up
 - generated directories that can be safely deleted are
 - · .gwt-cache contains bytecode used by hosted mode browser
 - tomcat contains files used by hosted mode embedded server
 - www contains generated and copied HTML, CSS, images, JavaScript and XML files used by a real web browser

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Wrap-Up

- GWT provides ...
 - a way to leverage Java expertise and tools to build dynamic web applications without requiring knowledge of HTML, JavaScript and DOM manipulation
- · Thanks for attending!

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