Input and Validation

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Early web app input: HTTP `form` tag

```
<form action="/product/update" method="post">
  Product: <input type="text" name="product"/><br />
  Deluxe: <input type="checkbox" name="delux" /><br />
  <input type="submit" value="Submit"/>
</form>
```

- `method="get"` - Encode form properties as query params

  `HTTP GET product/update?product=foobar&delux=on`

- `method="post"` - Encode form properties as query params in message body

  ```
  HTTP POST product/update
      Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
      product=foobar&delux=on
  ```

Rails input pattern using form POST

- GET Page containing form
  - Contains a method="post" form to a POST Page
- POST Page - Validate and perform operation (typically create or update)
  - If successful, redirect to a "done "page (possibly another GET Page) if successful
  - If failed validation, redirect page to the GET Page with incorrect fields highlighted
  - If error, redirect to some oops page

Validation requirements in web applications

- Protect integrity of storage (required fields, organization, security, etc.)
  - Can let HTTP request either from web app or generated out the web app damage us
  - Need to enforce at web server API
- Provide a good user experience
  - Don't let users make mistakes or warn them as soon as possible
  - Pushing validation closer to the user is helpful

Validation with AngularJS

- Rule #1: Still need server-side validation to protect storage system integrity
- Rule #2: Let user know about validity problems as early as possible
- Angular reuses the HTML form tag

```
<form name="myForm">
   <input type="text" name="myName" ng-model="name" required
          ng-minlength="3" ng-maxlength="20" />
</form>
```

- Generates a scope object property under form name (`myForm`)
  `$scope.myForm.myName` has validation information
  - Two-way binding - Controller can do anything with JavaScript object

Angular validation information

`$scope.myForm.myName`

Status: `$untouched, $touched, $pristine, $dirty, $valid, $invalid`

Error: `$error.required`
`.minlength`
`.maxlength`

- Also updates classes on input tag (`e.g. ng-invalid-maxlength`)
- Can provide instant feedback on errors

Angular Material: md-input-container pattern

```
<form name="userForm" ...

  <md-input-container>
     <label>Last Name</label>
     <input name="lastName" ng-model="lastName" required md-maxlength="10" minlength="4">
     <div ng-messages="userForm.lastName.$error" ng-show="userForm.lastName.$dirty">
        <div ng-message="required">This is required!</div>
        <div ng-message="md-maxlength">That's too long!</div>
        <div ng-message="minlength">That's too short!</div>
     </div>
   </md-input-container>
</form>
```

Asynchronous validation

- Can in background communicate with web server to validate input
  - Example: user name already taken
- Example: states search with md-autocomplete

```
<md-autocomplete md-selected-item="ctrl.selectedItem"
      md-search-text="ctrl.searchText"
      md-items="item in ctrl.querySearch(ctrl.searchText)"
      md-item-text="item.display" placeholder="What is your favorite US state?">
         <span md-highlight-text="ctrl.searchText">{{item.display}}</span>
</md-autocomplete>
```

- Trend towards using recommendation systems for input guidance

Single Page App Input

- Rather than POST with redirect you can do a XMLHttpRequest POST/PUT
- Angular supports two interfaces to XMLHttpRequest ($http and $resource)

```
function FetchModel(url, doneCallback) {
    $http.get(url).then(function(response) {
          var ok = (response.status === 200);
          doneCallback(ok ? response.data : undefined);
        }, function(response) {
          doneCallback(undefined);
        });
}
```

Minor Digression - Promises

Callbacks have haters

- Pyramid of Doom

```
fs.ReadFile(fileName, function (error, fileData) {
        doSomethingOnData(fileData, function (tempData1) {
            doSomethingMoreOnData(tempData1, function (tempData2) {
                finalizeData(tempData2, function (result) {
                    // Called Pyramid of Doom
                    doneCallback(result);
    }); }); }); });
```

- An alternative to pyramid: Have each callback be an individual function
  - Sequential execution flow jumps from function to function - not ideal

Idea behind promises

- Rather than specifying a done callback

  ```
  doSomething(args, doneCallback);
  ```

- Return a promise that will be filled in when done

  ```
  var donePromise = doSomething(args);
  ```

  `donePromise` will be filled in when operation completes

- Doesn't need to wait until you need the promise to be filled in

`then()` - Waiting on a promise

- Get the value of a promise (waiting if need be) with **`then`**

```
donePromise.then(function (value) {
    // value is the promised result when successful
}, function (error) {
    // Error case
});
```

Example of Promise usage

- $http.get() returns a promise

```
$http.get(url).then(function(response) {
            var ok = (response.status === 200);
            doneCallback(ok ? response.data : undefined);
          }, function(response) {
            doneCallback(undefined);
          });
```

Promises

```
var myFile = myReadFile(fileName);
var tempData1 = myFile.then(function (fileData) {
    return doSomethingOnData(fileData);
});
var finalData = tempData1.then(function (tempData2) {
    return finalizeData(tempData2);
});
return finalData;
```

- Note no **Pyramid of Doom**
- Every variable is a promise
  - A standard usage: Every variable - If **thenable** call `then()` on it otherwise just use the variable as is.

Chaining promises

```
return myReadFile(fileName)
    .then(function (fileData) { return doSomethingOnData(fileData); })
    .then(function (data) { return finalizeData(data); })
    .catch(errorHandlingFunc);
```

- Add in ES6 JavaScript arrow functions:

```
return myReadFile(fileName)
    .then((fileData) => doSomethingOnData(fileData))
    .then((data) => finalizeData(data))
    .catch(errorHandlingFunc);
```

From `loadDatabase.js`

- Mongoose returns promises so instead of `async`

```
var removePromises = [User.remove({}), Photo.remove({}),
                      SchemaInfo.remove({})];

Promise.all(removePromises).then(...
```

-- and --

```
var userPromises = userModels.map(function (user) {
     return User.create({ ...

Promise.all(userPromises).then(...
```

Creating your own promise

- Create a promise with **`new Promise()`**

```
var donePromise = new Promise(function (fulfill, reject) {
    // calls fulfill(value) to have promise return value
    // calls reject(err) to have promise signal error
});
```

Converting callbacks to Promises

```
function myReadFile(filename) {
  return new Promise(function (fulfill, reject) {
    fs.readFile(filename, function (err, res) {
      if (err)
         reject(err);
      else
         fulfill(res);
    });
  });
}
```

JavaScript and Promise

- Lots of slightly different JavaScript promise libraries

  Q, Bluebird, RSVP

- Used in many software packages
  - jquery, Angular, Protractor, ...
- JavaScript ES6 specification defines a Promise API

End Digression - Back to $http API

Uploading models using $http.post

```
$http.post(url, modelObj).then(function successCallback(response) {
    // response.status  --- HTTP status code
    // response.data    --- POST response if successful (decoded)
    // response.headers  --- HTTP response headers
  }, function errorCallback(response) {
     // Network Error case (webServer or network down?)
  }
});
```

- App must wait for reply since errors may occur on server
  - Need some user interface way of communicating this to the user

`$resource` - RESTful server access

- In REST APIs you have **resources** named as URLs

```
var resource = $resource(resourceURLTemplate, paramDefaults);
```

- And operations on resources:

```
resource.get(params, doneCback)  - {method:'GET'}
resource.save(params, doneCback) - {method:'POST'},
resource.query(params, doneCback)- {method:'GET', isArray: true}
resource.remove(params, doneCback) - {method:'DELETE'},
resource.delete(params, doneCback) - {method:'DELETE'} };
```

$resource examples

```
var testRes = $resource("/test/info");
    var infoModel = testRes.get({}, function () {
        console.log('infoModel', infoModel);
    }, function errorHandling(err) {
        // Any error or non-OK status
    });

var userRes = $resource("/user");
    userRes.save({user: 'mendel', password: 'pwd'}, function () {
        // Success
    }, function errorHandling(err) {
        // Any error or non-OK status
    });
```

Server-side validation

- Regardless of validation in browser server needs to check everything
  - Easy to directly access server API bypassing all browser validation checks
- Mongoose allows validator functions

```
var userSchema = new Schema({
   phone: { type: String,
            validate: {
                  validator: function(v) {
                      return /d{3}-d{3}-d{4}/.test(v);
                  },
                  message: '{VALUE} is not a valid phone number!'
              }
          }
  });
```

Some integrity enforcement requires special code

- Maintaining relationship between objects
- Resource quotas
- Examples related to our Photo App
  - Only author and admin user can delete a photo comment.
  - A user can only upload 50 photos unless they have a premium account.