

Showing and Synchronizing Data with NSFetchedResultsController



Andrew Bancroft

@andrewcbancroft www.andrewcbancroft.com

Overview

How to keep UI up-to-date with the persistent store

- **Showing data in the UI**
- **Keeping data in sync with persistent store**

**Show and sync data with
NSFetchedResultsController**

**Sync data with Notification Center and
NSManagedObjectContextDidSave
notification**

Finish major features of ShoutOut app

Demo

Adjust 3 areas of code

Ensure upcoming demos go smoothly

Showing Data with NSFetchedResultsController

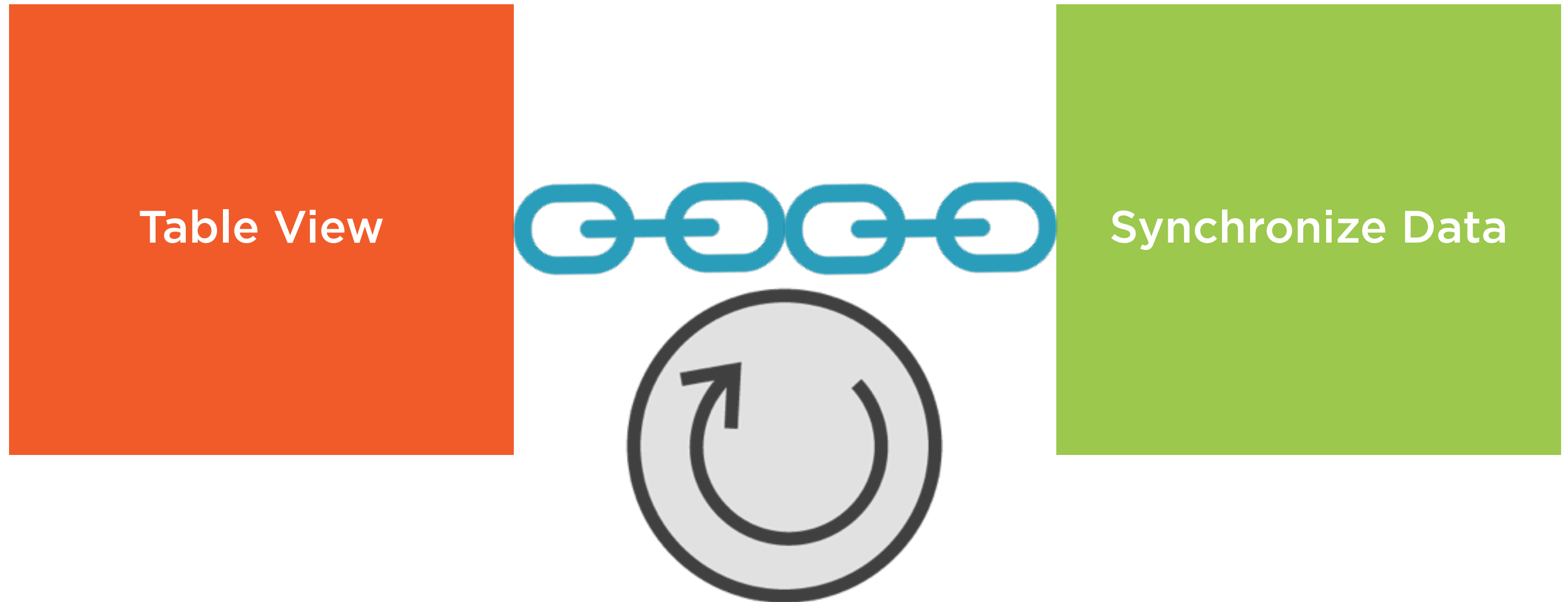
Showing Data with NSFetchedResultsController



NSFetchedResultsController



Why NSFetchedResultsController?





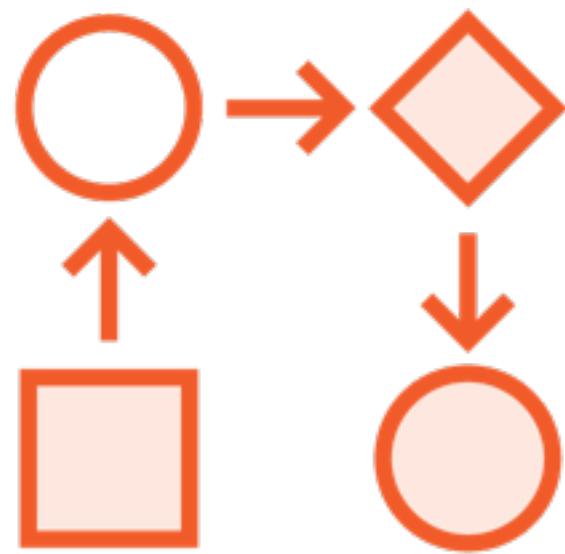
NSFetchedResultsController



NSFetchRequest



Showing Data with NSFetchedResultsController



1. First **show** data
2. *Then* **synchronize** data


```
class ShoutOutDraftsViewController:
    UIViewController,
    UITableViewDataSource,
    UITableViewDelegate {

    var fetchedResultsController: NSFetchedResultsController<ShoutOut>!

}
```

NSFetchedResultsController Logistics

Used within a view controller that uses a UITableView

View controller holds a reference to NSFetchedResultsController instance

NSFetchedResultsController uses generic typing

```
func configureFetchResultsController {  
    // Create shoutOutFetchRequest with predicate and/or sort descriptors  
    self.fetchResultsController = NSFetchedResultsController<ShoutOut>(  
        fetchRequest: shoutOutFetchRequest,  
        managedObjectContext: self.managedObjectContext,  
        sectionNameKeyPath: nil,  
        cacheName: nil)  
}
```

Configure NSFetchedResultsController

Create an NSFetchRequest instance to be used with the NSFetchedResultsController

Configure any NSPredicates and NSSortDescriptors that are necessary

Initialize NSFetchedResultsController and assign to view controller's
fetchResultsController property

```
override func viewDidLoad() {  
    configureFetchedResultsController()  
  
    do {  
        try self.fetchedResultsController.performFetch()  
    } catch _ {}  
}  
  
// Implement UITableViewDataSource methods
```

Use NSFetchedResultsController

Configure NSFetchedResultsController in viewDidLoad()

Call fetchedResultsController.performFetch()

Implement UITableViewDataSource methods

Demo

Implement first screen of app

Display a list of all ShoutOuts in the persistent store

Demo

**Practice setting up
NSFetchedResultsController**

Use as data source for UITableView

**Initialize & configure
NSFetchedResultsController**

**Implement UITableViewDataSource
protocol methods**

Demo

Tie up loose ends on details screen and in editor

Prepare for synchronizing insert, update, and delete scenarios

Implement details screen

Implement ability to edit existing ShoutOuts

Demo

Implement details screen

Synchronizing Data with NSFetchedResultsController

Synchronization Scenarios



Insert

Update

Delete

Synchronization Scenarios

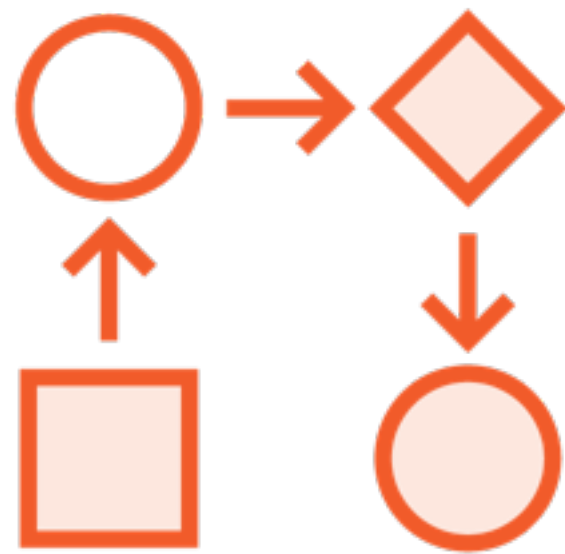
NSFetchedResultsControllerDelegate

Insert

Update

Delete

Workflow for Synchronizing Data



1. Adopt `NSFetchedResultsControllerDelegate`
2. Implement delegate method for responding to when the fetched results controller **will change** content
3. Implement delegate method for **updating the UI** with the changes detected by the fetched results controller
4. Implement delegate method for responding to when the fetched results controller **finished changing** content

Workflow for Synchronizing Data

Content *will* change

Update UI

Content *did* change

```
class ShoutOutDraftsViewController:
    UIViewController,
    UITableViewDataSource,
    UITableViewDelegate {

}
```

NSFetchedResultsControllerDelegate

Adopt the NSFetchedResultsControllerDelegate protocol

```
class ShoutOutDraftsViewController:
    UIViewController,
    UITableViewDataSource,
    UITableViewDelegate,
    NSFetchedResultsControllerDelegate {

}
```

NSFetchedResultsControllerDelegate

Conform to NSFetchedResultsControllerDelegate protocol

```
func configureFetchResultsController {  
  
    // Previous implementation  
  
    self.fetchResultsController.delegate = self  
  
}
```

NSFetchResultsControllerDelegate

Conform to NSFetchResultsControllerDelegate protocol

Set initialized NSFetchResultsController instance's delegate property to **self**

```
func controllerWillChangeContent(. . .)
{
}
```

```
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsControllerChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
}
```

```
func controllerDidChangeContent(. . .)
{
}
```



```
func controllerWillChangeContent(. . .)
{
    self.tableView.beginUpdates()
}

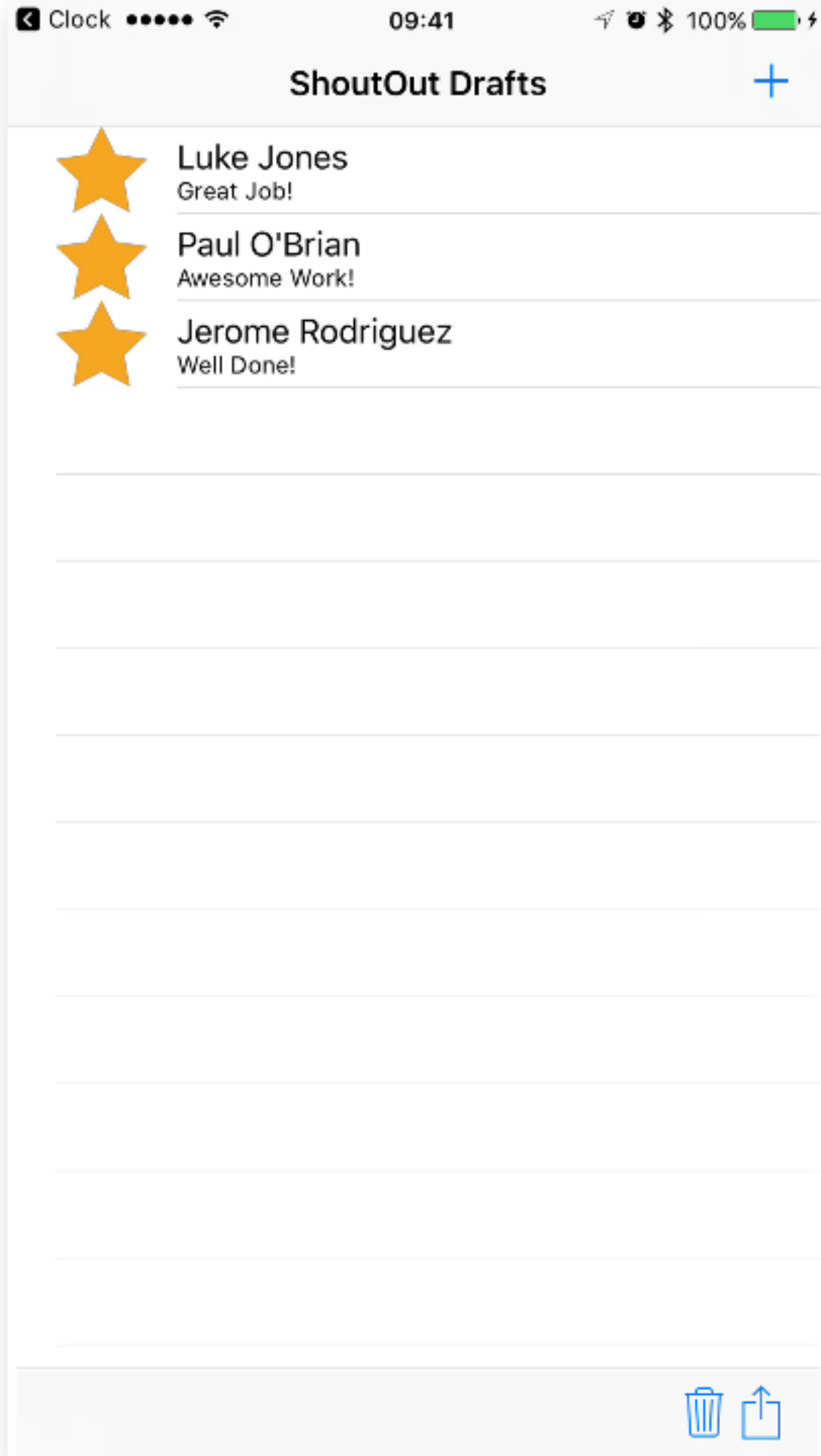
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsControllerChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
}

func controllerDidChangeContent(. . .)
{
    self.tableView.endUpdates()
}
```

```
func controllerWillChangeContent(. . .)
{
    self.tableView.beginUpdates()
}
```

```
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsControllerChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
}
```

```
func controllerDidChangeContent(. . .)
{
    self.tableView.endUpdates()
}
```



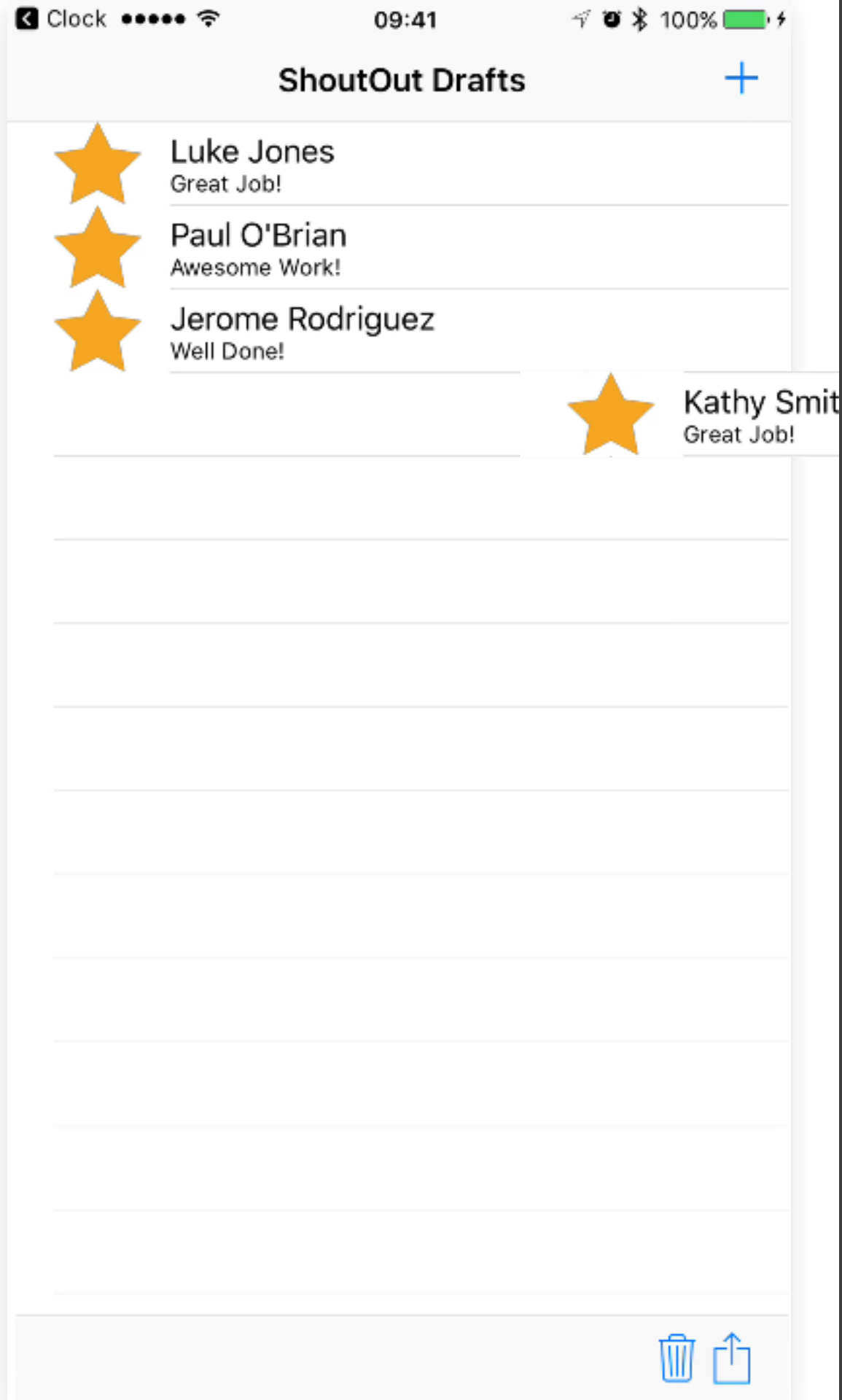
```
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsControllerChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
    switch type {
    case .insert:

    case .delete:

    case .update:

    case .move:

    }
}
```

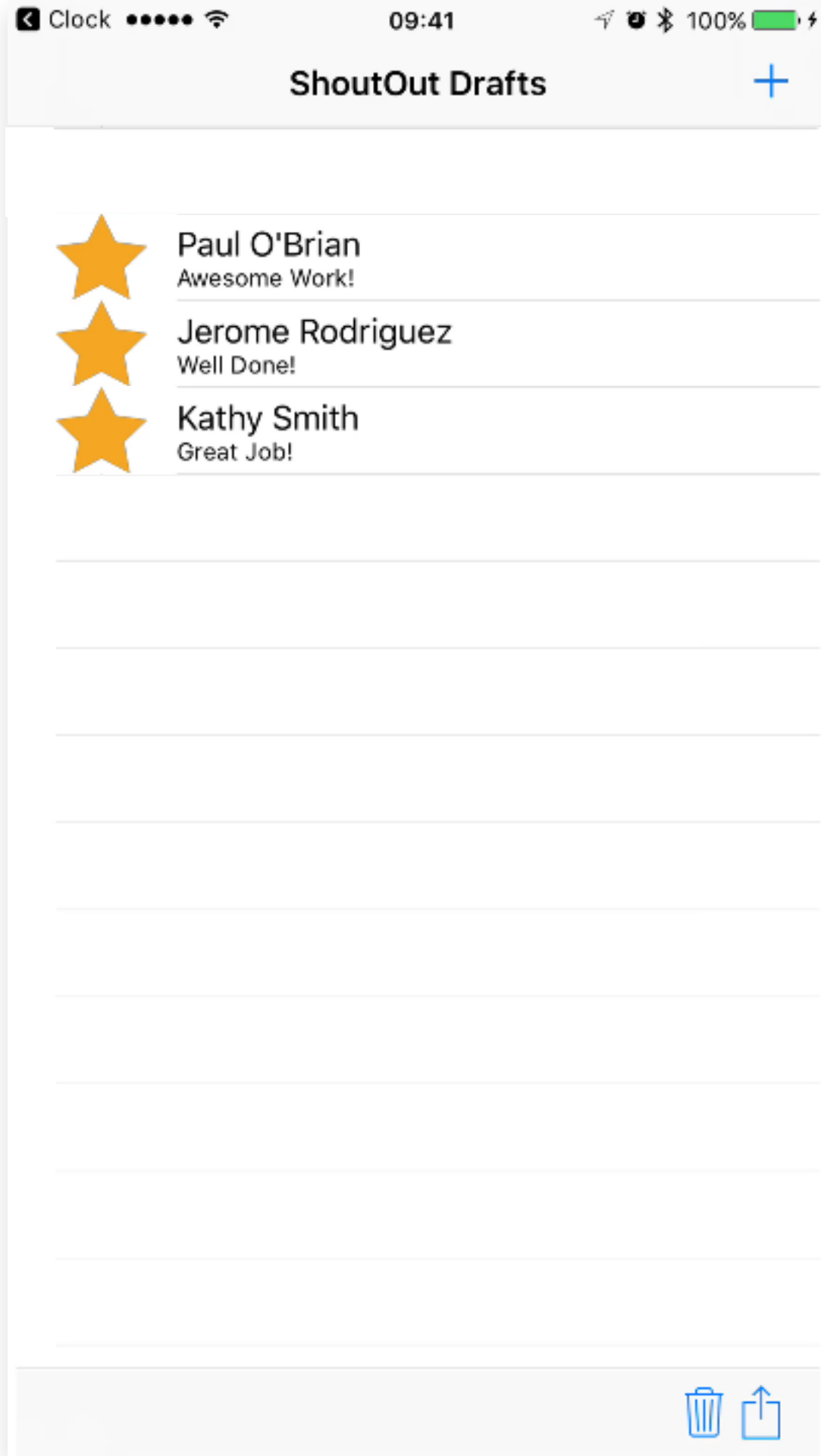


```
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsControllerChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
    switch type {
    case .insert:
        // Add row to table view
    case .delete:

    case .update:

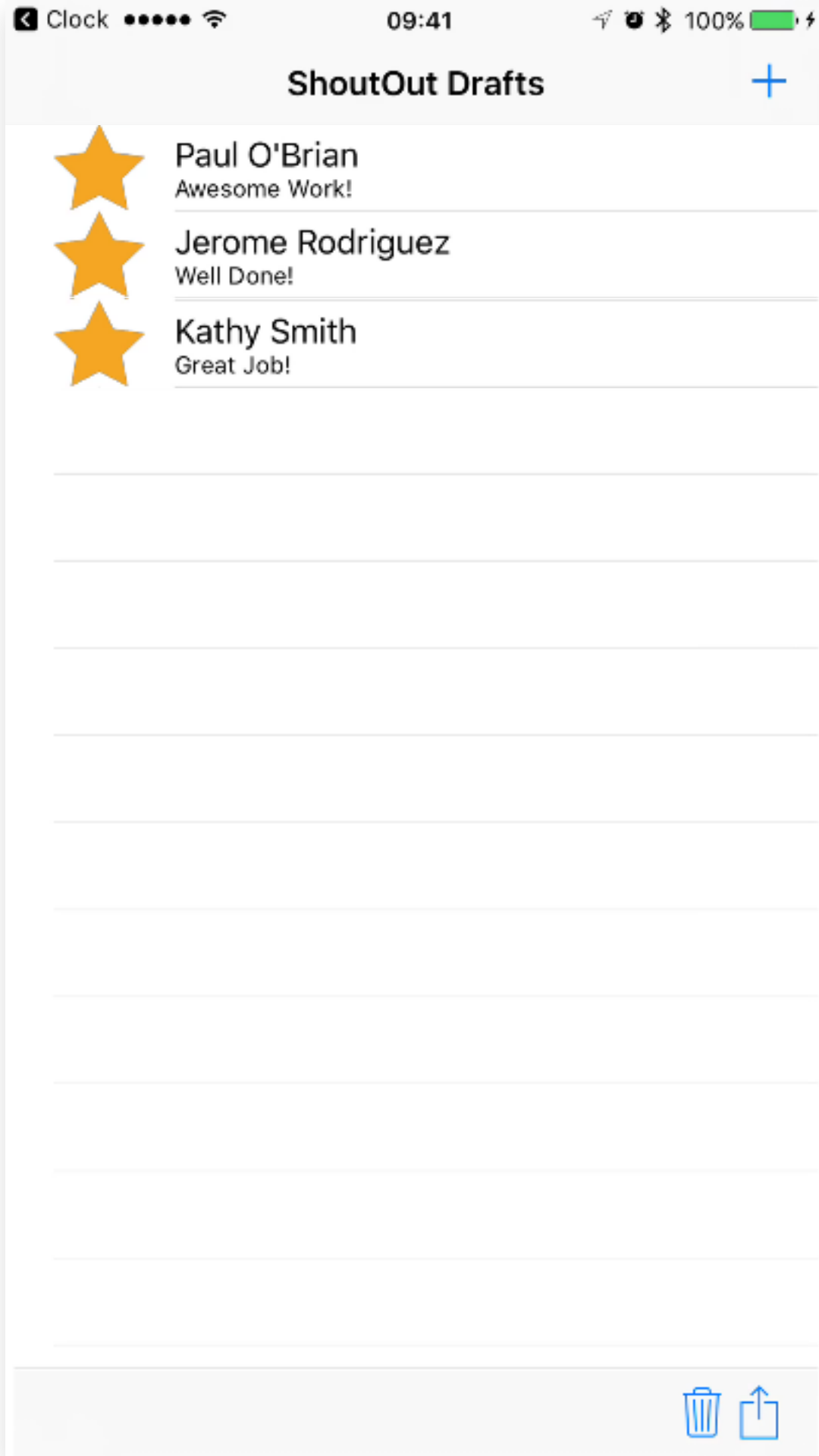
    case .move:

    }
}
```



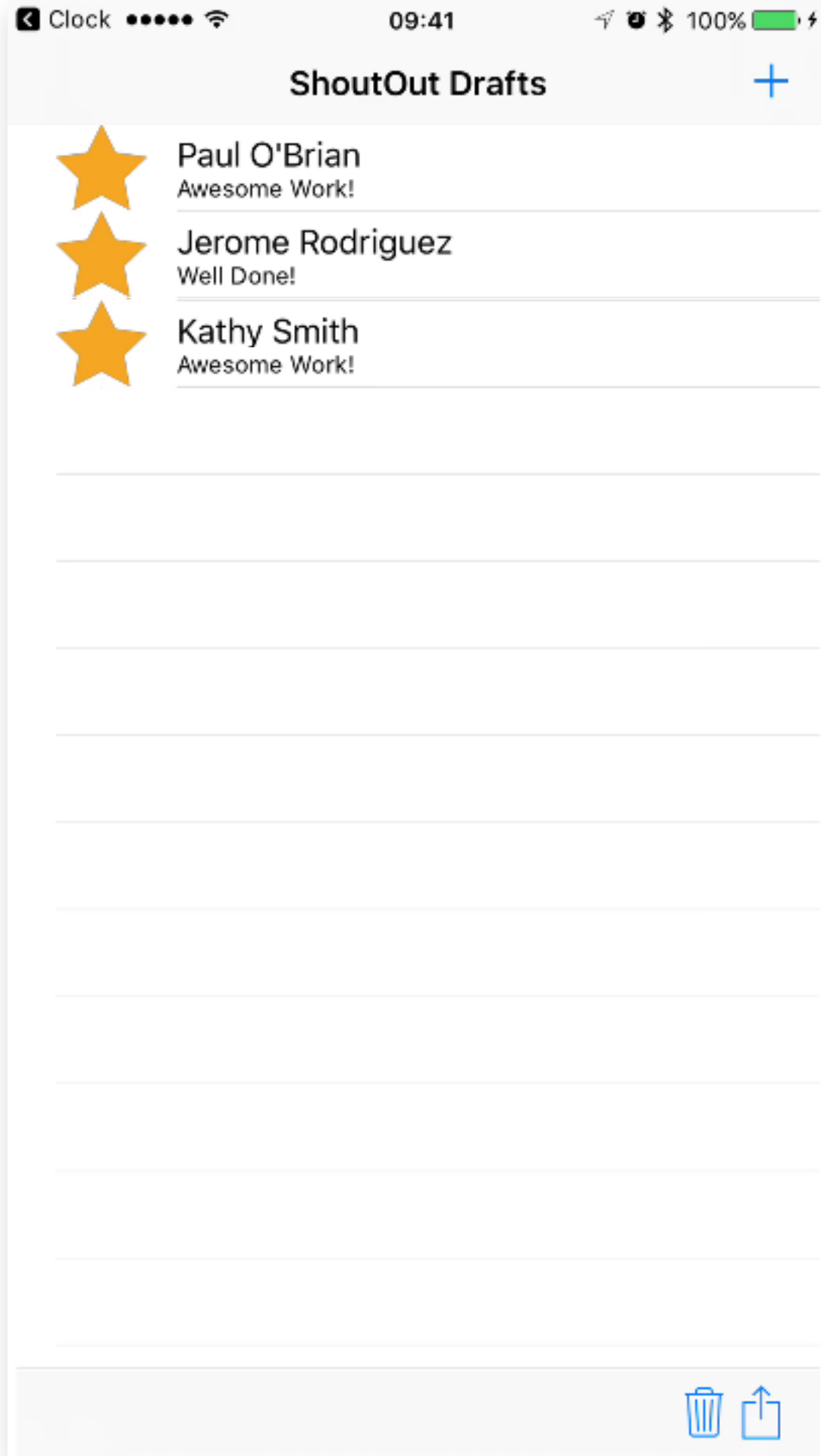
```
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsControllerChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
    switch type {
    case .insert:
        // Add row to table view
    case .delete:
        // Remove row from table view
    case .update:
    case .move:

    }
}
```



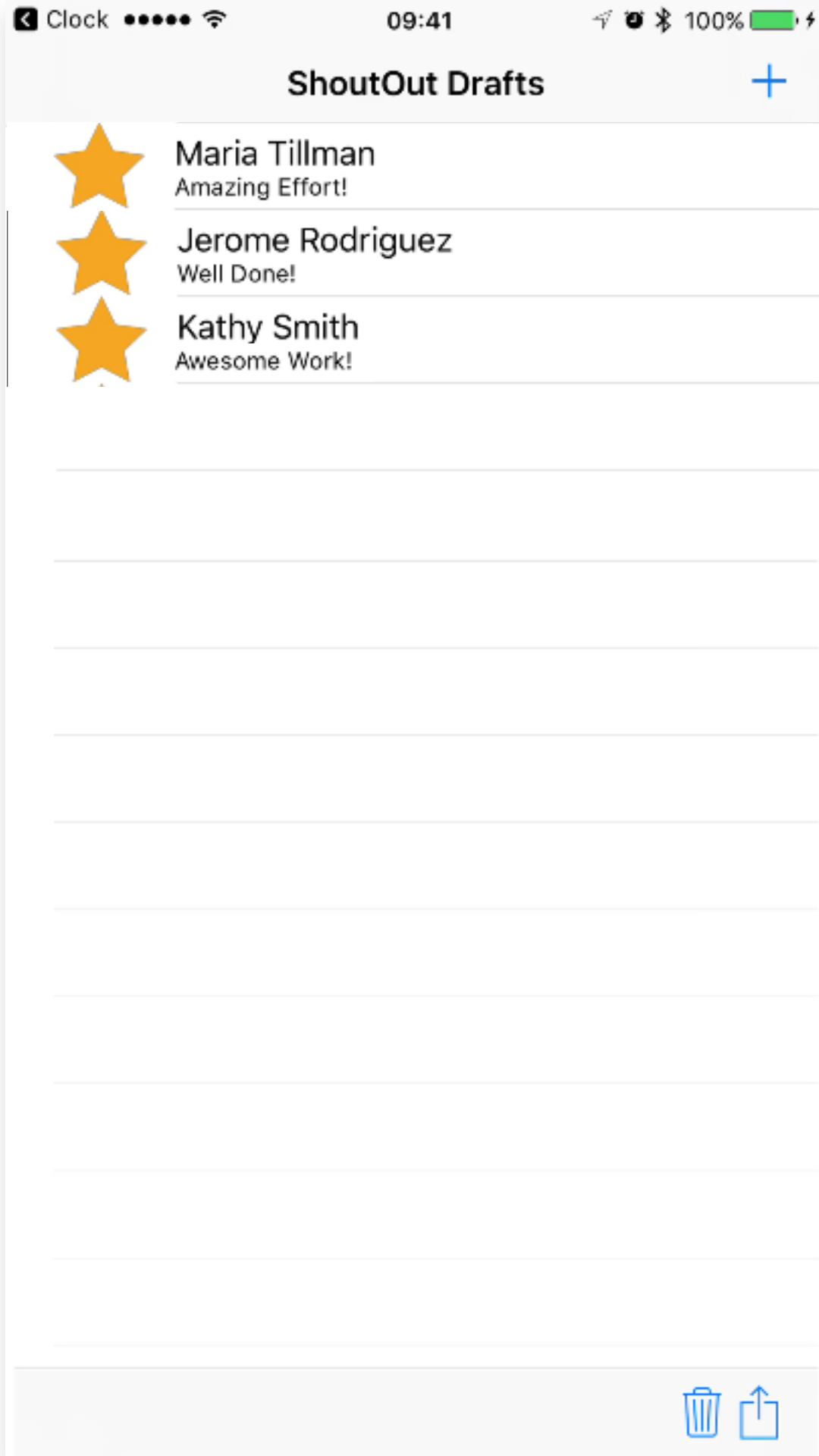
```
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsControllerChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
    switch type {
    case .insert:
        // Add row to table view
    case .delete:
        // Remove row from table view
    case .update:
    case .move:

    }
}
```



```
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
    switch type {
    case .insert:
        // Add row to table view
    case .delete:
        // Remove row from table view
    case .update:
        // Change data in table view
    case .move:

    }
}
```



```
func controller(
    _ controller: NSFetchedResultsController
    didChange anObject: Any,
    at indexPath: IndexPath?,
    for type: NSFetchedResultsControllerChangeType,
    newIndexPath: IndexPath?)
{
    switch type {
    case .insert:
        // Add row to table view
    case .delete:
        // Remove row from table view
    case .update:
        // Change data in table view
    case .move:
        // Rearrange rows in table view
    }
}
```


Synchronizing Data with Notification Center

How do you update a UI with a single `NSManagedObject` instance?

What alternative is there to
NSFetchedResultsControllerDelegate?

Synchronizing Data with Notification Center



NotificationCenter.default



Notification

Notification

Notification



102.1 FM

94.2 FM

98.8 FM



UITableViewSelectionDidChange

NSKeyboardDidShow

UITextFieldDidChange



NSManagedObjectContextDidSave

NSManagedObjectContextDidSave

NSManagedObjectContextDidSave



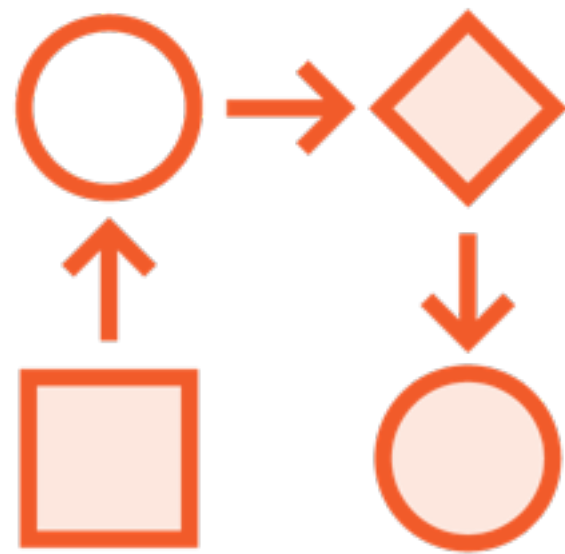
NSManagedObjectContextDidSave

NSManagedObjectContextDidSave

NSManagedObjectContextDidSave



Workflow for Synchronizing Data



1. `NotificationCenter.default.addObserver`
2. Listen for `NSManagedObjectContextDidSave`
3. Implement callback closure to respond to the notification by updating the UI
4. `NotificationCenter.default.removeObserver`

Summary

Looked at scenarios requiring UI updates:

- **Insert**
- **Update**
- **Delete**

Used NSFetchedResultsController + delegate to show and sync data

**Observed
NSManagedObjectContextDidSave
notification**

**Coming up: Creating new versions of
your data model and implementing
migrations**

Have you ever made a mistake?

Have you ever had a user change
his/her mind about the
requirements of the app you're
building?

Hard to be perfect
on the first version
of your app

Things outside of
your control
change your
direction

Some changes in
direction occur at
the level of your
data model

Summary

Looked at scenarios requiring UI updates:

- **Insert**
- **Update**
- **Delete**

Used NSFetchedResultsController + delegate to show and sync data

**Observed
NSManagedObjectContextDidSave
notification**

**Coming up: Creating new versions of
your data model and implementing
migrations**