

Lab 4: Introduction to jQuery Mobile

So although we did all this work developing the Bike Drexel app using HTML5, CSS, and JavaScript, in this lab we introduce jQuery Mobile, a framework that will do most of the work for us.

In labs 4 and 5 we will develop our web app Bike Drexel from scratch using JQuery Mobile. See here the sample app: <http://www.cs.drexel.edu/~erin/cs530/Lab4>

In this lab you will learn to:

- Create a multipage webapp
- Add buttons to the header and content elements
- Display dialogs and popups
- Link external and internal pages
- Design your own themes

Prerequisites

Before you start, login to tux and create a new directory called “Lab4” in your public_html/cs530 directory. Grab all the files from Lab4 on BBLearn and save them in the Lab4 project directory you just created.

What is jQuery Mobile?

[jQuery Mobile](http://jquerymobile.com/) (<http://jquerymobile.com/>) is a HTML5-based mobile framework written in JavaScript that is designed to make responsive websites and apps that are accessible on all smartphone, tablet and desktop devices.

jQuery Mobile put together 3 things:

1. Javascript API and library
2. CSS and themes (natively styled)
3. Effects

Pages:

jQuery Mobile uses a very simple and powerful approach to define the content of the webapp. The main unit of the framework is a page. A page is just a div element with a specific role. One HTML document can host one page or many pages inside the same file. This is a new concept that is different from simple HTML5.

Roles:

jQuery Mobile uses standard HTML markup, such as the div tag. To define what the framework should do with that div, we define a role. A role in the framework is defined using the attribute data-role. For example, `<div data-role= “page”>.`

The main roles available in jQuery are defined in the following table:

| Role | Description | URL |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| page | Defines a page, the unit the jQuery Mobile uses to show content | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/pages/ |
| toolbar | Toolbars (header/footer) of a page | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/toolbar/ |
| grid | Grid (columns) for content of a page | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/grids/ |
| navbar | Defines a navigation bar, typically inside a header | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/navbar/ |
| button | A visual button | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/button-markup/ http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/button/ |
| controlgroup | Renders a group of buttons | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/controlgroup/ |
| collapsible | Collapsible panel of content inside a page | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/collapsible/ |
| listview | Content of multiple items as a list | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/listview/ |
| dialog | Dialog page | http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/pages-dialog/ |

Mobile page structure

jQuery Mobile site must start with an HTML5 'doctype' to take full advantage of all of the framework's features. In the head, references to jQuery, jQuery Mobile, and the mobile theme CSS are all required to start things off:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Page Title</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet"
href="http://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.4.5/jquery.mobile-1.4.5.min.css" />
    <script src="http://code.jquery.com/jquery-1.11.1.min.js"></script>
    <script src="http://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.4.5/jquery.mobile-
1.4.5.min.js"></script>
```

```

</head>
<body>

...

</body>
</html>

```

Inside the <body> tag, each view or page on the mobile device is identified with an element (usually a div) with the data-role="page" attribute:

```

<div data-role="page">
    ...
</div>

```

Within the page container, any valid HTML markup can be used, but for typical pages in jQuery Mobile, the immediate children of a page are divs with data-roles of: header, content, and footer.

Here is a skeleton of a page:

```

<div data-role="page">
    <div data-role="header">...</div>
    <div data-role="content">...</div>
    <div data-role="footer">...</div>
</div>

```

Complete single page template

Putting it all together, following is the standard boilerplate page template you should start with.

Step 1: Create a new HTML 5 file called SinglePage.html. Copy the following jQuery Mobile single page template to your file. Save your file and copy it to your tux account. Test your file.

If all worked well you should be able view your first jQuery Mobile web app.

```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
    <head>
        <title>Page Title</title>
        <link rel="stylesheet"
href="https://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.4.5/jquery.mobile-1.4.5.min.css" />
        <script src="https://code.jquery.com/jquery-1.11.1.min.js"></script>
        <script src="https://code.jquery.com/mobile/1.4.5/jquery.mobile-
1.4.5.min.js"></script>
    </head>

```

```

<body>

<div data-role="page">

    <div data-role="header">
    <h1>Page Title</h1>
    </div><!-- /header -->

    <div data-role="content">
    <p>Page content goes here.</p>
    </div><!-- /content -->

    <div data-role="footer">
    <h4>Page Footer</h4>
    </div><!-- /footer -->
</div><!-- /page -->

</body>
</html>

```

External page linking

jQuery Mobile automates the process of building Ajax powered sites and applications. Remember, AJAX = Asynchronous JavaScript and XML. It is a technique for creating fast and dynamic web pages. AJAX allows web pages to be updated asynchronously by exchanging small amounts of data with the server behind the scenes. This means that it is possible to update parts of a web page, without reloading the whole page. Classic web pages, (which do not use AJAX) must reload the entire page if the content should change. To learn more about AJAX go here: http://www.w3schools.com/ajax/ajax_intro.asp

By default, when you click on a link that points to an external page (ex. <http://drexel.edu/cc/departments/computer-science/>), the framework will parse the link's href to formulate an Ajax request and displays the loading spinner.

If the Ajax request is successful, the new page content is added to the DOM, all mobile widgets are auto-initialized, then the new page is animated into view with a page transition.

Step 2: Add a hyperlink to test.html to the content div and test your page. (Make sure index.html has been saved to your Lab4 directory).

e.g. `Here is a link`

Now, change the href attribute to a non-existing file (e.g. testtt.html). Save and test your page. How does the application respond to the failed request?

Page Transitions

The jQuery Mobile framework includes a set of CSS-based transition effects that can be applied to any page link with Ajax navigation. Here is a list of jQuery Mobile transitions:

- fade
- pop
- flip
- turn
- flow
- slidefade
- slide
- slideup
- slidedown
- none

Step 3: By default, the framework applies a fade transition. To set a custom transition effect, add the data-transition attribute to the link:

```
<a href="index.html" data-transition="pop">I'll pop</a>
```

Experiment with the different transitions listed above. Consider when it is appropriate to use each of the transitions.

To learn more about transitions go here: <http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/transitions/>

Multipage template

A single HTML document can contain multiple pages that are loaded together by stacking multiple divs with a data-role of page. Each page block needs a unique ID that will be used to link internally between pages (e.g. ` link `). When a link is clicked, the framework will look for an internal page with the ID and transition it into view.

Here is an example of a 2 page site built with two jQuery Mobile divs navigated by linking to an ID placed on each page wrapper.

```
<body>
```

```
<!-- Start of first page -->
```

```
<div data-role="page" id="foo">
```

```

    <div data-role="header">
    <h1>Foo</h1>
    </div><!-- /header -->

    <div data-role="content">
    <p>I'm first in the source order so I'm shown as the page.</p>
    <p>View internal page called <a href="#bar">bar</a></p>
    </div><!-- /content -->

    <div data-role="footer">
    <h4>Page Footer</h4>
    </div><!-- /header -->
</div><!-- /page -->

<!-- Start of second page -->
<div data-role="page" id="bar">

    <div data-role="header">
    <h1>Bar</h1>
    </div><!-- /header -->

    <div data-role="content">
    <p>I'm second in the source order.</p>
    <p><a href="#foo">Back to foo</a></p>
    </div><!-- /content -->

    <div data-role="footer">
    <h4>Page Footer</h4>
    </div><!-- /footer -->
</div><!-- /page -->
</body>

```

Step 4: Next we will use jQuery Mobile to re-implement our **Bike Drexel** webapp. Based on the above example, create and edit index.html so that it contains 4 pages: Welcome, Stores, Register, and Ride. Edit the titles, headers, and footers so that they reflect the content of our webapp. Make sure to put the jQuery header step 1.

Step 5: Add links from the welcome page to each of the other pages. You can also add an image or a banner (files provided in the project folder). Test your app.

Adding Back buttons

If you use the attribute `data-rel="back"` on an anchor tag (`<a>`), any clicks on that anchor will mimic the back button, going back one history entry and ignoring the anchor's default href. Clicking the back button will also invoke a reverse transition.

Step 6: Add a back button to the pages: stores, register, and ride by adding the following code to their header:

```
<a data-icon="back" data-rel="back" back-btn="true">Back</a>
```

Header Structure

The header is a toolbar at the top of the page that usually contains the page title text and optional buttons positioned to the left and/or right of the title for navigation or actions.

The title text is normally an H1 heading element but it's possible to use any heading level (H1-H6) to allow for semantic flexibility.

In the header there are slots for buttons on either side of the text heading. Each button is typically an anchor (<a>) element, but can be a button element as well. To save space, buttons in toolbars are set to [inline styling](http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.2.0/docs/buttons/buttons-inline.html) (<http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.2.0/docs/buttons/buttons-inline.html>) so the button is only as wide as the text and icons it contains.

The header plugin looks for immediate children of the header container, and automatically sets the first link in the left button slot and the second link in the right. In this example, the 'Cancel' button will appear in the left slot and 'Save' will appear in the right slot based on their sequence in the source order.

```
<div data-role="header">
  <a href="index.html" data-icon="delete">Cancel</a>
  <h1>Edit Contact</h1>
  <a href="index.html" data-icon="check">Save</a>
</div>
```

Buttons automatically adopt the swatch color of the bar they sit in. Later we will introduce a way to change their color and make them visually stand out.

The jQuery Mobile framework includes a selected set of icons most often needed for mobile apps. An icon can be added to a button by adding a data-icon attribute on the anchor (<a>) specifying the icon to display. For example, try adding the following markup to the header.

```
<a href="index.html" data-role="button" data-icon="delete">Delete</a>
```

Check the following link for a list of data-icons: <http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/button-markup/>

By default, all icons in buttons are placed to the left of the button text. This default may be overridden using the data-iconpos attribute to set the icon to the right, top, or bottom of the text. For example, try the markup:

```
<a href="index.html" data-role="button" data-icon="delete" data-  
iconpos="right">Delete</a>
```

Check the link above for more information about styling and positioning button icons.

Step 7: Add a button to the header of each of the webapp pages (in addition to the back button added in Step 6). Experiment with different data-icons as well as with different data-iconpos values.

Step 8: Add a button to the body of the stores page. The button should link to the welcome page and display an appropriate data-icon.

Popups

A **popup** consists of two elements: the screen, which is a transparent or translucent element that covers the entire document, and the container, which is the popup itself. To create a popup, a popup div **has to be nested inside the same page as the link** and the data-role="popup" attribute need to be added to the div with the popup contents.

Then a link with the href set to the id of the popup div, and the attribute data-rel="popup" tells the framework to open the popup when the link is clicked.

Step 9: Add the following anchor tag and popup div to index.html and test your application.

```
<a href="#popupBasic" data-role="button" data-rel="popup">Open Popup</a>
```

```
<div data-role="popup" id="popupBasic">
```

```
    <p>This is a completely basic popup, no options set.<p>
```

```
</div>
```

How do you close the popup?

The jQuery framework makes it easy to create a variety of different popups by adding in elements and through simple styling. **Here are a few real-world examples that combine various settings and styles:**

A tooltip popup


```
<p><a href="#popupInfo" data-rel="popup" data-transition="pop" class = "my-tooltip-
btn ui-btn ui-alt-icon ui-nodisc-icon ui-btn-inline ui-icon-info ui-btn-icon-
notext">Learn more</a></p>
```

```
<div data-role="popup" id="popupInfo" class="ui-content" data-theme="a" style="max-
width:350px;">Tooltip</div>
```

A form popup

```
<div data-role="popup" id="popupLogin" data-theme="a" class="ui-corner-all">
  <form>
    <div style="padding:10px 20px;">
      <h3>Please sign in</h3>
      <label for="un" class="ui-hidden-accessible">Username:</label>
      <input type="text" name="user" id="un" value="" placeholder="username" data-theme="a"
      />

      <label for="pw" class="ui-hidden-accessible">Password:</label>
      <input type="password" name="pass" id="pw" value="" placeholder="password" data-
      theme="a" />

      <button type="submit" data-theme="b">Sign in</button>
    </div>
  </form>
</div>
```

An image popup

```
<div data-role="popup" id="popupPhoto" data-overlay-theme="a" data-theme="d" data-
corners="false">
  <a href="#" data-rel="back" class="ui-btn ui-corner-all ui-shadow ui-btn-a ui-
icon-delete ui-btn-icon-notext
ui-btn-right">Close</a> 
</div>
```

Step 10: Add anchor tags to index.html to display the above popups. Test your application.

Check out the following link for more information about popups:

<http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.4.5/popup/>

Themes

The default theme includes 5 swatches that are given letters (a, b, c, d, e) for quick reference. To make mapping of color swatches consistent across our widgets, we have followed the convention that swatch "a" is the highest level of visual priority (black in our default theme), "b" is secondary level (blue) and "c" is the baseline level (gray) that we use by default in many situations, "d" for an alternate secondary level and "e" as an accent swatch. Themes may have additional swatches for accent colors or specific situations. For example, you could add a new theme swatch "f" that has a red bar and button for use in error situations. Learn more about Themes in [this page \(http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.1.2/docs/api/themes.html\)](http://demos.jquerymobile.com/1.1.2/docs/api/themes.html).

Most theme changes can be done using [ThemeRoller \(https://themeroller.jquerymobile.com/\)](https://themeroller.jquerymobile.com/), but it's also simple to manually edit the base swatches in the default theme and/or add additional swatches by editing the theme CSS file. Just copy a block of swatch styles, rename the classes with the new swatch letter name, and tweak colors as you see fit.

When you are done, make sure to submit your URL for Lab 4 in BBLearn.