

IOC + JavaScript

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What?

cujo.js

- Spring-like concepts, but *not* a port of Spring to Javascript
- Embraces Javascript's functional and prototypal roots
- Provides architectural tools for next-generation JavaScript applications

http://cujojs.com/

How?

Code demos: Monty Hall UI && TodoMVC

Recent project stats

- 6 "HTML Pages"
- 300+ Javascript modules
- 100+ "View modules" each of which has:
 - HTML templates
 - CSS files
 - i18n bundles
 - test harnesses

Not including 3rd party modules!

Recent project stats

Manual dependency management is just not feasible at this scale

Help!

Larger, more complex apps require carefully crafted rigorous architecture, patterns, and code organization.

-- Brian Cavalier

- We know from Spring, good architectural plumbing helps to manage complexity
- Javascript is no exception
- In the browser and on the server

Can we ...?

- Build smaller modules that are easier to maintain and test
- Separate configuration and connection from application logic
- Glue it all back together

Apply IOC concepts in Javascript

- Declarative component creation
- Lifecycle management
- Configuration
- Dependency injection
- AOP

IOC for front-end Javascript

- What might it look like?
 - XML? Not very Javascript-ish
 - Annotations? No existing infrastructure, need to parse source
- Javascript is flexible: Can we work with the language?

Components

The first thing we need is a way to build components

AMD

Asynchronous

Module

Definition

Three main parts

- Module format
- Run-time loader
- Build-time compiler (recommended for production)

AMD

Designed with browser environments in mind

- Loads asynchronously
- No parsing or transpiling needed
- Built-in closure
- Loads other resource types via plugins

Who supports it?

- dojo 1.7+
- cujo.js
- jQuery 1.7+
- MooTools 2+
- Lodash and many, many others

define()

AMD mandates a single, standardized global function.

define();

define()

```
define(factory);
define(dependencyList, factory);
```

AMD Module variants

"Standard" AMD

```
define(['when', 'pkg/mod'], function (when, mod) {
    // use the dependencies, return your module:
    return {};
});
```

AMD Module variants

AMD-wrapped CommonJS

```
/* no deps, factory params != 0 */
define(function (require, exports, module) {
    // sync, r-value require
    var when = require('when');
    // decorate your exports object
    exports.bestUtilEver = function (stuff) {
        return when(stuff);
    };
};
```

AMD Module variants

AMD-wrapped Node

```
/* no deps, factory params != 0 */
define(function (require, exports, module) {
    // sync, r-value require
    var when = require('when');
    // declare your exports
    module.exports = function bestUtilEver (stuff) {
        return when(stuff);
    };
};
```

UMD

Universal Module Definition

UMD

Boilerplate to sniff environment and export module correctly

- AMD + legacy globals
- AMD + CommonJS
- AMD + Node
- AMD + Node + legacy globals ...

UMD Module variants

AMD + Node (our favorite)

```
(function (define) {

define(function (require) {

   // module code goes here
});

})(typeof define === 'function' && define.amd
   ? define
   : function (factory) {
        module.exports = factory(require);
      });
```

UMD: AMD + Node

app/game/controller

(code demo)

Bootstrapping an AMD app

"The other global"

```
curl();requirejs();
```

• require(); (global require is problematic!)

Bootstrapping an AMD app

run.js

(code demo)

AMD Plugins

- Same dependency mechanism
- Non-AMD resources
- text! HTML Templates and other text
- css! and link! stylesheets
- i18n! localization Google Maps
- JSON data, etc.

AMD Plugins

Can do even more powerful things

- wire! wire.js IOC container integration
- has! has.js feature detection and conditional module loading
- cs! loads and transpiles Coffeescript

Plugins

app/main

(code demo)

CommonJS Module format

- Every file is a module with its own scope
- No closure, no factory, no define()
- require, exports, and module are "free variables"

curl.js <3 CJS!

"Compile to AMD"

Node !== CommonJS

- exports === this
- exports === module.exports

WTF

I know what you're thinking

Which one?!?

Why are there 2 (3?) module formats, and how am I supposed to know which one to pick?!?!!

It gets worse

ES Harmony modules are coming

Problem: Harmony is an *authoring format*. It doesn't handle:

- Dependency management
- Packaging, version management
- Compiling, concatenation
- Non-harmony resources (CSS, HTML, JSONP, etc.)

Relax



Relax

Your code is safe!

AMD consumes CJS and (soon) Harmony modules

Evolution

```
// curl.js config (coming soon!)
packages: |
  { name: 'node-thing', location: 'lib/node/thing', main: './main',
    transform: ['curl/transform/cjsm11'] },
  { name: 'cs-thing', location: 'lib/cs/thing', main: './init',
    transform: ['curl/transform/coffee'] },
  { name: 'future-thing', location: 'lib/harmony/stuff', main: './main',
    transform: ['curl/transform/es7'] }, ... ],
```

CommonJS Modules today

monty-hall-ui/cjsm (branch)

Same modules written as CommonJS Modules/1.1, but unwrapped!

(code demo)

Micro-modules

Smaller is better!

Micro-modules

Single-function modules are

- more reusable
- easier to test
- easier to discover

Hazard!

https://github.com/dojo/dijit/blob/ef9e7bf5df60a8a74f7e7a7eeaf859b9df3b0

```
"dojo/_base/array", // array.forEach
            "dojo/_base/declare", // declare
            "dojo/_base/Deferred", // Deferred
            "dojo/il8n", // il8n.getLocalization
            "dojo/dom-attr", // domAttr.set
            "dojo/dom-class", // domClass.add
            "dojo/dom-geometry",
            "dojo/dom-style", // domStyle.set, get
            "dojo/_base/event", // event.stop
            "dojo/keys", // keys.F1 keys.F15 keys.TAB
            "dojo/ base/lang", // lang.getObject lang.hitch
            "dojo/sniff", // has("ie") has("mac") has("webkit")
            "dojo/string", // string.substitute
            "dojo/topic", // topic.publish()
            "dojo/_base/window", // win.withGlobal
            "./ base/focus",
                                   // dijit.getBookmark()
18
            "./ Container",
            "./Toolbar",
            "./ToolbarSeparator",
            "./layout/_LayoutWidget",
22
            "./form/ToggleButton",
            "./_editor/_Plugin",
24
            "./_editor/plugins/EnterKeyHandling",
            "./_editor/html",
26
            "./ editor/range",
27
            "./ editor/RichText",
28
            "./main",
                           // dijit. scopeName
29
            "dojo/il8n!./_editor/nls/commands"
    ], function(array, declare, Deferred, i18n, domAttr, domClass, domGeometry, domStyle,
31
                            event, keys, lang, has, string, topic, win,
32
                            focusBase, Container, Toolbar, ToolbarSeparator, LayoutWidget, ToggleButton,
33
                            Plugin, EnterKeyHandling, html, rangeapi, RichText, dijit){
```

Hazard!

How do we avoid dependency hell when using micro-modules?

Connections

- The lines in your box-and-line diagrams
- Can be just as important as the stuff you put inside the boxes
- Unfortunately, we end up putting the lines inside the boxes

AMD

- Maintains good separation of concerns
- But more like Java import, which isn't necessarily right for all situations.

Example

```
define(['dojo/store/JsonRest'], function(JsonRest) {
  function Controller() {
    this.datastore = new JsonRest({ target: "mycart/items/" });
  Controller.prototype = {
    addItem: function(thing) {
      return this.datastore.put(thing);
 return Controller;
});
```

What's that smell?

- this.datastore = new JsonRest(..) is essentially a *line* inside our Controller *box*
- How would you unit test it?
- Could you use this with another type of data store?
- Multiple instances, each with a different type of store?
 - different target URL?

Refactor

```
define(function() { // No AMD deps!

function Controller(datastore) {
   this.datastore = datastore;
}

Controller.prototype = {
   addItem: function(thing) {
     return this.datastore.put(thing);
   },
   // ...
}

return Controller;
});
```

Or Similarly

```
define(function() { // No AMD deps!

   // Rely on the IOC Container to beget new instances
   return {
     datastore: null,
     addItem: function(thing) {
        return this.datastore.put(thing);
     },
     // ...
   };
});
```

What did we do?

- Decoupled the concrete JsonRest implementation
- Refactored to rely on a datastore interface
 - Even though the interface is *implicit*

What did we accomplish?

- Moved the responsibility of *drawing the line* out of the Controller.
- Made Controller more flexible and easier to test

But we created a question

Who provides the datastore?

We know what to do

Dependency Injection in the Application Composition Layer

DI & Application Composition

```
define({
  controller: {
    create: 'myApp/controller',
    properties: {
      datastore: { $ref: 'datastore' }
  datastore: {
    create: 'dojo/store/JsonRest',
    properties: {
      target: 'things/'
});
```

The DOM

- Obviously, working with the DOM is a necessity in front-end Javascript
- Similar problems: lines inside the boxes

Example

```
define(['some/domLib'], function(domLib) {
  function ItemView() {
    this.domNode = domLib.byId('item-list');
  ItemView.prototype = {
    render: function() {
      // Render into this.domNode
 return ItemView;
});
```

That same smell

- Depends on an HTML id, and a DOM selector library
- Changing the HTML could break the JS
- Have to mock the DOM selector lib

Refactor

```
define(function() { // No AMD deps!
  function ItemView(domNode) {
    this.domNode = domNode;
  ItemView.prototype = {
   render: function() {
      // Render into this.domNode
 return ItemView;
});
```

Better

- Decouples DOM selection mechanism
- and HTML: Can inject a different DOM node w/o changing ItemView's source.

DOM & Application Composition

```
define({
  itemView: {
    create: {
      module: 'myApp/ItemView',
      args: { $ref: 'dom!item-list' }
  },
  plugins: [
    { module: 'wire/dom' }
    // or { module: 'wire/sizzle' }
    // or { module: 'wire/dojo/dom' }
    // or { module: 'wire/jquery/dom' }
});
```

DOM Events

```
define(['some/domLib', some/domEventsLib'], function(domLib, domEventsLib) {
  function Controller() {
    domEventsLib.on('click', domLib.byId('the-button'), this.addItem.bind(this));
  Controller.prototype = {
    addItem: function(domEvent) {
      // Add the item to the cart
  return Controller;
});
```

That same smell, only worse!

- Depends on:
 - hardcoded event type,
 - HTML id,
 - DOM selection lib
 - DOM events lib
- More mocking

Refactor

```
define(function() { // No AMD deps!
  function Controller() {}
  Controller.prototype = {
    addItem: function(domEvent) {
        // Update the thing
    }
  }
  return Controller;
});
```

Better

- Only cares about a general event: "Now it's time to add the item to the cart"
- Different/multiple event types on multiple DOM nodes
- No hardcoded DOM selector: multiple
- Controller instances Only have to mock the domEvent, then call addItem

DOM Events & App Composition

```
itemViewRoot: { $ref: 'dom.first!.item-view'},
controller: {
 create: 'myApp/Controller',
  on: {
    itemViewRoot: {
      'click:button.add': 'addItem'
},
plugins: [
  { module: 'wire/on' }
 // or { module: 'wire/dojo/on' }
 // or { module: 'wire/jquery/on' },
  { module: 'wire/dom' }
```

JS-to-JS Connections

Can components collaborate in a more loosely coupled way than DI?

Synthetic events

- Javascript methods act like events
- "Connect" methods together
- Neither component has knowledge of the other

Example

```
Controller.prototype.addItem = function(domEvent) {...}
CartCountView.prototype.incrementCount = function() {...}
```

Using DI

```
controller: {
   create: 'myApp/cart/Controller',
   properties: {
     cartCountView: { $ref: 'cartCountView' }
   }
},
cartCountView: {
   create: 'myApp/cart/CartCountView'
}
```

Things we can improve

- Controller now dependent on CartCountView interface
- Have to mock CartCountView to unit test Controller
- What if there are other times we'd like to update the cart count?

Synthetic event connection

```
controller: {
  create: 'myApp/cart/Controller' },
  cartCountView: {
    create: 'myApp/cart/CartCountView',
    connect: {
        'controller.addItem': 'incrementCount'
    }
}
```

Better

- Application Composition layer makes the connection
- Controller no longer dependent on CartCountView
- Neither component needs to be re-unit tested when making this connection
 - Nor if the connection is removed later
 - Only need to re-run functional tests
- Could completely remove CartCountView simply by cutting it out of the Application Composition spec

Still not perfect

What if addItem throws or fails in some way?

AOP Connections

```
controller: {
   create: 'myApp/cart/Controller' },

   cartCountView: {
      create: 'myApp/cart/CartCountView',
      afterReturning: {
        'controller.addItem': 'incrementCount'
      }
}
```

Closer

- Only increment count on success
- What about failures?

AOP Connections

```
controller: {
  create: 'myApp/cart/Controller',
  afterReturning: {
    'addItem': 'cartCountView.incrementCount'
  afterThrowing: {
    'addItem': 'someOtherComponent.showError'
cartCountView: {
 create: 'myApp/cart/CartCountView'
},
someOtherComponent: // ...
```

Better! But not quite there

- More decoupled, testable, refactorable
- Still a level of coupling we can remove

Coupled parameters

```
function Controller() {}

Controller.prototype = {
   addItem: function(domEvent) {
      // How to find the item data, in order to add it?
   }
}
```

Coupled parameters

- Controller receives a domEvent, but must locate the associated data to update
- Need DOM traversal, and understand the DOM structure
 - data id or hash key hiding in a DOM attribute?
- Have to mock for unit testing

Coupled parameters

Controller only really cares about the item

Refactor

```
function Controller() {}

Controller.prototype = {
   addItem: function(item) {
      // Just add it
   }
}
```

Transform connections

Connections that can, um, transform data!

Transform function

```
define(function() {
    // Encapsulate the work of finding the item
    return function findItemFromEvent(domEvent) {
        // Find the item, then
        return item;
    }
});
```

App Composition

```
itemList: { $ref: 'dom.first!.item-list'},
findItem: { module: 'myApp/data/findItemFromEvent' }

controller: {
   create: 'myApp/Controller',
   on: {
    itemList: {
      'click:button.add': 'findItem | addItem'
    }
  }
}
```

Ahhh, at last

- Controller is easier to unit test
- Algorithm for finding the thing
 - can also be unit tested separately and more easily
 - can be changed separately from Controller
 - can be reused in other parts of the app

Awesome, we're done, right?

Not quite ...

What about asynchrony?

- Occurs most often at component and system boundaries
- Hence, connections often need to be asynchronous
 - Canonical example: XHR

Example

```
Controller.prototype.addItem = function(item, callback) {...}
CartCountView.prototype.incrementCount = function() {...}
```

Example

```
controller: {
          create: 'myApp/cart/Controller',
          afterReturning: {
                     'addItem': 'cartCountView.incrementCount'
          },
          afterThrowing: {
                     'addItem': 'someOtherComponent.showError'
},
cartCountView: {
          create: 'myApp/cart/CartCountView'
},
someOtherComponent: // ...
```

Uh oh

- Moved the function result from the return value to the parameter list
- Since addltem can't return anything, afterReturning doesn't work!
- And how do we provide the callback?

Brief, asynchronous detour

- Javascript is designed around a single-threaded event loop
- Browser DOM events and network I/O are async
- SSJS platforms (Node, RingoJS, etc) are built around async I/O
- AMD module loading is async--the A in AMD!

Callbacks

The typical solution is callbacks, aka "Continuation Passing"

Example

```
// You wish!
var content = xhr('GET', '/stuff');
```

Add callback and error handler

Callback infestation

```
// It's turtles all the way *up*
function getStuff(handleContent, handleError) {
          xhr('GET', '/stuff',
                     function(content) {
          // transform content somehow, then
          // (what happens if this throws?)
                               handleContent(content);
      function(error) {
          // Maybe parse error, then
          // (what happens if THIS throws?!?)
                               handleError(error);
          );
```

Async is messy

- Code quickly becomes deeply nested and harder to reason about
- Familiar programming idioms don't work
 - It's upside-down: Values and errors flow *down* the stack now rather than up.
 - Functions are no longer easily composable: g(f(x)) doesn't work anymore
 - try/catch/finally, or something reasonably similar is impossible
- Callback and errback parameters must be added to every function signature that might eventually lead to an asynchronous operation
- Coordinating multiple async tasks is a pain

Promises

- Synchronization construct
- Not a new idea
- Similar to java.util.concurrent.Future
- Placeholder for a result or error that will materialize later.

Example

Return a promise, into which the content, or an error, will materialize.

```
function getStuff() {
   var promise = xhr('GET', '/stuff');
   return promise;
}
```

Promises

- Restore call-and-return semantics
 - Move function results back to the return value
 - Remove callback function signature pollution
- Provide an async analog to exception propagation It's right-side up

More about Promises

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futures_and_promises

http://blog.briancavalier.com/async-programming-part-1-its-messy

http://blog.briancavalier.com/async-programming-part-2-promises

http://github.com/cujojs/when/wiki

http://wiki.commonjs.org/wiki/Promises/A

Promises

- Several proposed standards
- Promises/A defacto standard
 - cujo.js: when.js
 - Dojo: dojo/Deferred
 - jQuery: \$.Deferred (well, close enough)
 - Q
 - soon YUI, Ember

IOC + Promises

- Promises/A is an *integration standard* for asynchrony
- IOC is about gluing components together so they can collaborate
- Sounds like a match!

Refactor to return a promise

```
Controller.prototype.addItem = function(item) {
    // Asynchronously add the item, then
    return promise;
}
```

Promise-aware AOP

```
controller: {
          create: 'myApp/cart/Controller',
          afterResolving: {
                     'addItem': 'cartCountView.incrementCount'
          },
          afterRejecting: {
                     'addItem': 'someOtherComponent.showError'
},
cartCountView: {
          create: 'myApp/cart/CartCountView'
},
someOtherComponent: // ...
```

Win

- Count will only be incremented after the item has been added successfully!
- If adding fails, show the error

Async without async

- Promise-aware AOP for async connections
- AMD loaders manage async module loading and dependency graph resolution.
- Promise-aware IOC container:
 - Integrate with AMD loader to load modules used in application composition specs.
 - Async component creation: constructor or plain function can return a promise
 - Async DI: component references are injected as promises for the components resolve
 - Component startup/shutdown methods can return a promise

Connections

- Implement application logic in components
- Connect components non-invasively via Application Composition
 - DI, events (DOM and JS), AOP, Promise-aware AOP
- Adapt APIs by transforming data along connections Enjoy the easier testing and refactoring:)

Organize!

Components, components

the "file tree on the left" actually became useful!

-- Brian Cavalier

Organize!

Divide your app into feature areas

What are the things you talk about when you talk about the app?

Organize!

app/

Case: View-component

View-components consist of

- HTML(5) template (keep it simple!)
- CSS file (structural bits of OOCSS/SMACCS)
- i18n file(s)
- javascript controller (optional)
- test harness (also for design)
- any assets necessary for rendering
- any view-specific data transforms, validations, etc.
- wire spec (optional)

Case: View-component

app/instructions

Testing visual components

How?????

Testing visual components

Double-duty test harnesses

- Fixture for creating HTML and designing CSS
- Harness for user-driven tests
- Harness for unit tests

Testing visual components

Double-duty test harnesses

Unit tests

- Smaller is better
- Fewer dependencies means fewer mocks!

Unit tests

cujo.js

- AMD Modules curl & cram
- IOC & Application Composition wire
- Promises/A when
- AOP meld
- ES5 poly
- Data binding cola (alpha)

Alternatives

- AMD Modules RequireJS, Dojo, Isjs, BravoJS
- IOC AngularJS
- Promises Q, Dojo
- AOP Dojo
- ES5 es5shim
- Data binding Backbone, and everyone else

cujo.js

Get it at http://cujojs.com

Discussions, Announcements, Questions, etc.

https://groups.google.com/d/forum/cujojs



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