Reef

Ajax the way it should be
Who am I?

• Esteban Lorenzano, 38
• In the community since 2007
  • Started “Smallworks” with two friends, to work on Smalltalk projects (Mostly).
• Other community projects: Mars, SqueakDBX, Gofer Project Loader
Seaside is cool...

For all the reasons you already know

So, why do we need another tool?
So, what’s Reef?

Javascript/Ajax component framework for Seaside
The problem

We want to provide a transparent model, where all the different kinds of interactions are handled the same way.
Dispatcher at client side handles browser-to-smalltalk interaction.
Architecture

- Uses jQuery
- First version uses both: prototype and jQuery, but that was ugly and fortunately deprecated
Architecture

- “Some kind” Model-View-Controller
- but, as Seaside, Reef components has view-controller at the same place.
Architecture

• You can add any component (with any complexity) as a Seaside component.

• call #asComponent
Component model

- You create your components
  - by extending a REContainer (can be REPanel, REForm, etc.)
  - or creating a widget structure inside a Seaside component.
- Right now, just those widgets I needed... but extensible any time.
Demo
Conventions

• Buttons should trigger an action, not a form submission. (#callback:)

• Forms should allow triggering (#trigger, #triggerThenDo:)

• Form widgets also

• Just panels can be refreshed (#refresh, #refreshThenDo:)
Demo
Using callbacks

- Simple callbacks. It fires a “dispatch” action, which is a simple “jQuery load” (but you don’t do it).

- Client callbacks. Generates a jQuery script, which is executed in the browser.

- Page callbacks. It renders a new page.
Demo
Context

• Some times you need to force some behavior, and you need to know if you are inside a Reef callback or a normal callback.

• REContext
  • #isInContext
  • #inPage:, #inClient:

• Example: REComponent>>#answer renders a new page
Demo
Relax moment

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Decorations

- Just like Seaside, your components can be decorated to add behavior.
- Unlike Seaside, you can decorate widgets too. It allows elegant adding of plugins.
  - Numeric format on text field
  - Date format on text field
Demo
Plugins

• You can easily add jQuery plugins, just need to find the right insertion point

• Most of the times they can be added to existing widgets through decorations (e.g. RETextField>>#beDate)
No more demos
What’s next?

• Add more components
• Getting some feedback from the community
• Please, use it!
Questions?

http://squeaksource.com/Reef

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