

Mozilla driven Applications with PHP and XUL

A Hands-On Presentation

About me

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 - Working as Lead Developer at SalesEmotion AdSolutions GmbH in Hamburg
 - Internet based Development since 1997
 - Using PHP since Version 3
 - Frequent author for the german PHP-Magazin
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Intro

- Don't hesitate to ask
- Slides will be available after the conference

Mozilla as a Framework

- Mozilla is more than a browser
 - Thunderbird
 - Firefox
 - Calendar
 - XULRunner
 - Upcoming base for all mozilla driven Applications

The Mozilla GUI Language

- XML driven GUI
 - XUL Namespace inspired by Ghostbusters ;)
 - `xmlns="http://www.mozilla.org/keymaster/gatekeeper/there.is.only.xul"`
 - Compiled and cached internally
 - Disable during development:
`user_pref("nglayout.debug.disable_xul_cache", true);`
 - Uses JavaScript for interaction
 - XPCOM Subsystem for low-level things

Why XUL?

- Platform independent
- Flexibility
- Extensible using XBL
 - XML Binding Language
 - Most mozilla controls are based on internal XBLs
- Secure and Fast

Remote Security

- Remote XUL
 - Limited access to system - as in HTML
 - Can ask for additional privileges (discouraged)
 - Set `signed.applets.codebase_principal_support = true`
 - `netscape.security.PrivilegeManager.enablePrivilege(..);`
 - Doesn't require anything but firefox/mozilla
 - Can be deployed from any webserver

Local Security

- Local XUL
 - Needs to be a registered extension
 - Accessible via chrome:// pseudo protocol
 - chrome://<app>/content/ for Xul and Code
 - chrome://<app>/locale/ for language (optional)
 - chrome://<app>/skin/ for your own skins (optional)
 - Full Access to the system using XPCOM
 - Can be used standalone with XULRunner

Mozilla Templates

- **RDF Templates**

- Dynamic and automated updates in XUL on changes in RDF
- Two syntaxes:
 - Simple templates
 - Complex syntax for nested and rule based templates

- **XSL Templates**

- Selfwritten XBL to generate from XML/XSL

So what exactly is XBL?

- Stands for XML Binding language
- Mapped to tagnames using css
 - `tagname { -moz-binding: url('chrome://<app>/content/<xbl>#xblid'); }`
 - For XSL templates add “display: none;” to that so the content is hidden
- XML way of programming
 - Platform independent, flexible
- Extend and combine existing elements

XML-RPC and SOAP

- Mozilla has a build in SOAP Client
 - including WSDL Support
- PHP 5 has a native SOAP Server
 - Including WSDL Support
- Mozilla also supports XML RPC and XmlHttpRequest (aka Ajax)

PHP & RDF

- RDF – The resource description framework
- RDF is usually saved in xml notation or an proprietary binary format
- PHP can easily create XML
 - Database content can be delivered in RDF
 - All kinds of listings (files, user, ..) can be described as a RDF:Seq

Real life example

*international
PHP2005
conference*

Survived ;)

- Links:
 - <http://xulplanet.com>
 - <http://developer.mozilla.org>
 - <http://kb.mozillazine.org>
- Any Questions?