2017-01-26 DSpace 7 UI Working Group Meeting notes

Date

26 Jan 2017

Angular meeting

Attendees

- Art Lowel (Atmire)
- Andrea Bollini (4Science)
- Tim Donohue
- Giuseppe Digilio (4Science)
- William Welling
- James Silas Creel (and others at A&M)
- Matteo Perelli
- Terrence W Brady
- Hardy Pottinger
- Nelson Torres

Notes

- Backchannel on #angular-ui in Slack. Join us at https://goo.gl/forms/s70dh26zY2cSqn2K3
- Testing works and has been merged
    - Tests have been added for the reducers in the code
- The way actions work has changed to make better use of typescript
    - They're now classes, with a type property for their key and the constructor to create them. (example)
    - That way we can use type checking to ensure the reducer only works with the correct actions. (example)
- npm-shrinkwrap was added
    - adds npm-shrinkwrap.json to the project: a file that tracks all dependency versions
    - every new install will use those exact versions
    - From now on, if you install a new package
        - using "npm install some-package --save", you don't have to do anything, shrinkwrap will run automatically
        - by modifying package.json manually, you'll have to run npm run rewrap to update npm-shrinkwrap.json
- Configuration. What do we want to use: https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/42/
    - Typescript or Javascript
    - JSON (no comments allowed)
    - YAML (but not frequently used with JS projects?)
    - Maybe we go with Javascript for now (as widely understood & simple). We could always translate something else to JS later
- PR for a PageNotFound component: https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/44
- PR for a Spinner (loading) component: https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/43
    - adds SpinnerService with an activate and deactivate method
    - If you create a spinner that has to wait on an async call (a response from REST), call activate() before the call, and deactivate() when the call completes
- PR for a Serializer (translate from REST to models & back): https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/45
    - There's an interface, and an implementation for JSON API
    - If the rest team doesn't go with JSON API, the changes should be limited to that class
- Style guide now has guidelines for separate modules https://angular.io/styleguide#!#04-09
    - create a separate module for each feature
    - use a SharedModule for pipes and directives that are shared across the app
    - use a CoreModule for singletons that are needed across the app
        - Note that not every service needs to be in this module, if it's only need across a subset of the app, move it up to the first module that encompasses them all, not further
    - Art will create an issue to refactor our code to match this structure
- Need more help reviewing code
    - Tim can create a small Review team in GitHub so we can @ mention them in tickets
- Slack #angular-ui channel now gets GitHub ticket / PR updates
- Question on Debugging code? What do we use?
    - Chrome browser Dev tools
    - https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/redux-devtools/lmhkpmbekcpmknklioeibfkpmmfibljd?hl=en
    - `npm run watch dev` (Will show errors in console)
    - Hot Module Replacement (HMR) module: https://github.com/AngularClass/angular2-hmr
        - Throws syntax error into browser window (via an overlay)
        - Can be helpful in debugging issues.
        - Art said he looked at it in Dec, but wasn't sure if it worked with Universal, etc.

REST meeting

Attendees

- Art Lowel (Atmire)
- Andrea Bollini (4Science)
- Tim Donohue
- Mark H. Wood
- William Welling
- Matteo Perelli
- Terrence W Brady
- Hardy Pottinger
- Nelson Torres
- Keith Gilbertson

Notes:

Most of the discussion has been around the document available here. We ask all the interested developers to add their comments and thoughts: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dAPjq6xSy7A5Q_xXIxLXgJ2VqugFpxeSmMmvbr2mM5M/edit?usp=sharing

- Backchannel on #rest-api on Slack
- Need priority list. What is highest priority for DSpace 7
- Andrea: My priority is first 3 bullets, but these may even be achieved on current REST platform
  - all the functionalities required by the AngularUI are in place
  - maintain the REST API code is easy and enjoyable by… DSpace-JAVA developers or JAVA developers?
  - REST API are well tested and documented
- HAL vs JSON-API format (highest priority question)
  - Spring REST uses HAL more frequently, lots of tutorials
  - JSON-API is broader standard, but is it too complex for our needs?
  - We have mockups of JSON-API already that angular team is working from (Art)
  - Art: But advantage is you don't need to parse it yourself. Client builds automatically
  - Andrea thinks you'd get similar benefits from HAL (e.g. HAL browser)
  - Art seems to favor JSON-API, while Andrea seems to favor HAL
  - We need to work from the REST API Spec, but we need a decision on format. Have UI developers work against format mockups?
- **ACTION (Art, Andrea & James): Need a HAL mockup for testing Angular2 against**
  - Art, Andrea & James will move this forward
  - Start in the #rest-api channel over the next week. Others interested, please also take part
  - The big question here is does HAL give us what we need/want for Angular2? If so, we should go with it, as it seems to have a decent following in Spring community
- Others can start to look at the Mockups for samples of the formats (to give feedback on them). Keep in mind, even within HAL and JSON-API, we may be able to configure formats to return data in different ways.
  - e.g. Item mockup for JSON-API format: https://github.com/LotteHofstede/dspace-angular/blob/master/src/backend/items.ts
- **ACTION (Andrea/4Science): Spring Data Rest protoype updates to add a DTO layer**
- Questions around Use of Solr for REST API

  - Different endpoints for browse/search that use Solr to find individual objects
  - But at a single object level, the endpoint would just use the Database to load properties, etc.
  - Current Jersey API is "flawed" in that it only uses Database (even for browse).
- **Next meeting in Two weeks (Feb 9)**

  - In meantime, discussions on Slack
  - Stay on Google Hangouts for now (until we hit 15 people limit)
  - Invite to go to dspace-devel list & on Slack