MVC / MVP

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Background

- MVC started w/ Smalltalk-80
- Java UI frameworks & EJBs reignited interest
- Also prevalent in GWT and .NET development
MVC Motivation

- UI changes more frequently than business logic
  - e.g., layout changes (esp. in web applications)
- The same data is often displayed in different ways
  - e.g., table view vs chart view
  - The same business logic can drive both
- Designers and developers are different people
- Testing UI code is difficult and expensive
- Main Goal: Decouple models and views
  - Increase maintainability/testability of system
  - Permit new views to be developed
Model

- Contains application data
  - This is often persisted to a backing store
- Does not know how to present itself
- Is domain independent
- Are often Subjects in the Observer pattern
View

- Presents the model to the user
- Allows the user to manipulate the data
- Does not store data
- Is configurable to display different data
Controller

- Glues Model and View together
- Updates the view when the Model changes
- Updates the model when the user manipulates the view
- Houses the application logic
- Loose coupling between Model and others
- View tightly cohesive with its Controller
Abstract topology
Concrete topology

Factory f = GWT.create(Factory.class);
ViewController c = new ViewController();
View v = f.createView(c);

[gwt.xml maps Factory.class to the right type]
Interaction mechanism

- User interacts with the UI (View)
- UI (View) notifies controller of changes
- Controller handles notifications, processing them into actions that can be performed on the model
- Controller modifies the model as required
- If the model changes, it fires modification events
- The view responds to the modification events
Benefits and tradeoffs

Pro:
- Decouple view from model
  - Support multiple views [collaborative views]
  - Maintainability [add new views]
  - Split teams [relieve critical path]
- Testability [reduce UI testing]

Con:
- Complexity [indirection, events]
- Efficiency [frequent updates, large models]
MVP Motivation

- Take MVC a tiny bit further:
  - Enhance testability
  - Further separate Designers from Developers
- Leveraged by both GWT and .NET
Model

- Contains application data
  - This is often persisted to a backing store
- Does not know how to present itself
- Is domain independent
- Often fires events to an Event Bus
View

- Thin UI front-end for controller
- Does not store data
- Can be interchanged easily
- Does not ever see or manipulate Model objects
- Only interacts with primitives
  - e.g., (setUser(String) instead of setUser(User))
Controller

- Glues Model and View together
- Updates the view when the Model changes
- Updates the model when the user manipulates the view
- Houses the application logic
MVP Topology
Concrete MVP Topology
Concrete Example

Factory f = GWT.create(Factory.class);
AppController ac = new AppController(f);
ac.showMain();

--> View v = f.createView(new ViewController());
Outline o = f.createOutline(new OutlineController());

public interface IJoinTripView {
    Widget asWidget();

    public void setPresenter(Presenter presenter);

    public interface Presenter {
        void onCancel();

        void onJoin(String string);
    }
}
Benefits and tradeoffs

- Same as MVC with improved:
  - Decoupling of views from the model
    - Split teams [relieve critical path]
  - Testability [reduce UI testing]
  - A little less complex than MVC [fewer events]
Activity

- Apply MV<C|P> to your system.
- Identify your events and interfaces.
- Groups will present to each other in 15 minutes.