### Supporting an advanced user experience using FIWARE

Philipp Slusallek, Torsten Spieldenner Web UI chapter

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Open APIs for Open Minds

### Supporting an advanced user experience in FIWARE

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### WebUI Chapter in FIWARE





### WebUI Chapter in FIWARE: Architecture

- Objective: Significantly improve the user experience:
  - Interactive 3D graphics, shared 3D experiences
  - Integration with GIS and Point of Interest (POI) data
  - Immersive interaction (AR)



### Introduction

#### **The modern Web:**

 Since the first text-based web pages, the internet now supports a wide range of interactive, multimedia content



- Formerly static web pages evolved into community driven social platforms
- Many types of stand-alone applications moved to the Web
  - Email, collaborative text processing, image and video editing, games, ...



#### **Bringing 3D graphics to the Web:**

- 3D visualization provide a compelling and intuitive way to perceive and interact with different kinds of data
  - Smart City & IoT data, robotics, scanned point clouds, ...
- 3D in browsers became possible with WebGL
- Capabilities of WebGL and HTML5 used by modern game engines to deploy browser-based 3D games
- **Requires deeper knowledge and experience in 3D application** programming.
- Steep learning curve, and considerable effort also for simple applications WARE

**Declarative 3D for the Web:** 

- Goal: Make creation of 3D content accessible to designers and artists
- 3D-UI / XML3D: Extension of HTML5 to describe 3D scenes within web page
- Including 3D models, materials, lighting, ...
- Runs directly in the browser (plugin free)
- Can link directly to services (e.g. FIWARE)





Simple example:



Support for additional formats can be provided as plugin



**Complex scenes with instantiated structured geometry:** 



#### **Define externally:**

- 1 <asset id = " myasset " transform = "# baseTransform ">
- 2 <assetmesh shader =" shaders .xml#tex" src=" cube . json " />
- 3 <assetmesh shader =" shaders .xml# tex2 " src=" part\_2 . json " />
- 4 </asset >

#### Instantiate with one node:

- 1 <model id=" instance\_1 " src="# myasset "/>
- 2 <model id=" instance\_2 " src="# myasset "/>





**Interaction with 3D scenes:** 

- Standard HTML events directly registered on XML3D nodes
- Javascript API for scripting
- Create or modify nodes and node values, link 2D and 3D content ....
- Query and modify XML3D scenes with established frameworks, such as jQuery, backbone.js, and others

var myCube = \$("#cube");

myCube.style = "transform: translate3d(0px, 1px, 0px);"

```
var newCube =
    document.createElement("mesh");
newCube.src = "cube.json";
```

\$("#xml3d").append(newCube);



Complex computations with "Xflow":

- Dataflow description integrated into XML3D (can use GPU)
- Efficient computation of complex tasks, like character animation (skinning)
- Map input values (e.g. sensor data) to effects in the scene (e.g. scale or shading of a 3D object)
- Compelling tool to add information visualization capabilities to 3D scenes





#### **Next Generation XML3D (in development):**

- Exploit capabilities of Web Components
- Web Components: Implemented in latest browser versions
- Define custom DOM-nodes that encapsulate complex, user-defined concepts
- Possibility to add (scripted) behavior of the node
- Maximum flexibility to define and extend application specific sets of 3D-UI nodes



**Summary: Advanced user experience with 3D-UI:** 

- 3D-UI allows to add interactive 3D graphics to web applications using simple HTML5 primitives
- Web, JavaScript, and Xflow provide plenty of options to link 3D graphics to *external services* and *application specific data*



# Augmented reality with 3D-UI / XML3D and AR

Using webcam input with Xflow with AR:

- Feature / Markertracking implemented as Xflow-Operator
- Detects markers or features in the webcam stream
- Allows to position 3D-UI / XML3D objects according to marker positions in the webcam stream
- Nice Web game from FIWARE hackathon





### Interactive 3D maps with GIS Data Provider

#### **3D Terrain with GIS Data Provider:**

- GIS Data provider:
  - Provides elevation data sets for different regions of the world
- Can be queried using REST calls
  - Filter by geo-location, longitude / latitude, ....
- Result can directly be delivered in XML3D format
  - GIS Data Provider / GeoServer 3D returns query as XML3D node





### Interactive geo-visualization: With GIS, POI and 3D-UI







Recap:

#### We have seen so far:

- Interactive declarative 3D for web browsers
- Interactive 3D maps and augmented reality applications

**Question:** 

- How to share a 3D scene among multiple users?
- Possible use-cases: gaming, social platforms, training, collaborative work ...



Synchronization Generic Enabler:

Common requirement of many multi user environments:

- Consistent world state needs to be stored somewhere in the network
- Changes to the world state need to be synchronized to connected client applications
- Often: (Soft) real-time requirement



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Synchronization Generic Enabler:

Synchronization GE approach:

- Lightweight server implementation with extendable component system
- REST HTTP SceneApi and WebSocket based real-time synchronization
- Targets browsers as client frontends (e.g. 3D-UI)



#### Synchronization Generic Enabler:

**Role of Synchronization GE in FIWARE:** 

- Context Broker (and others) as scalable backend data provider
- Provides access to data for large scale complex applications
  - E.g. city visualizations
- Synchronization: Allows implementing application logic in the cloud
  - Keep connected clients in synch w.r.t. to changes in data
- Simulation, filtering, visualization, .... before sending data to clients
- By this, building the bridge between data and WebUI visualization clients in FIWARE



#### Synchronization GE architecture:



- World state is described in internal scene model
- Restful SceneAPI for CRUD operations
- WebSocket support for realtime client applications



Synchronization GE architecture:

- Established highly flexible *Entity-Component-Attribute* model
- Entities: empty data containers. Roles of entity in the world assigned by *Components*
- Components defined and assigned during runtime:
  - Easy adaption of the GE to application specific use-cases





#### Mapping a scene to backend data:

- ECA model can be used to express basically any JSONlike object data

- This includes data from POI data provider and Context broker

- Support of NGSIv2 formatted messages in implementation *FiVES* 



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Mapping the scene to 3D-UI:

- Components can directly be mapped to 3D-UI DOM nodes in a Model-View manner
- Common Model-View-\* frameworks for HTML also work with 3D-UI
- Unambiguous mapping between entities and nodes



#### Synchronization GE show case:



Using 3D Maps in multi user scenarios:

- Define a component that describes the role of an entity as geo patch with longitude and latitude
- Render this entity as result of query against GIS data provider
- Create entities from query response of POI data provider



 Extrude buildings, animate characters and visualize sensor data using Xflow



### Summary: WebUI Chapter in FIWARE

Adding a new dimension to Web user interfaces:

- 3D graphics enhance the experience of existing web applications
- By building heavily on HTML5, 3D-UI makes creation of 3D Web apps also accessible for designers
- Building interaction on a 3D-UI application is as easy as adding interaction to standard HTML pages



### Summary: WebUI Chapter in FIWARE

Linking data to 3D user interfaces:

- 3D applications can be linked to arbitrary sources of data using model-view-patterns
- Established HTML frameworks work for 3D-UI as well as for 2D websites
- We have seen examples of how to create applications from the domain of geo visualization



### Summary: WebUI Chapter in FIWARE

**Creating multi user experiences using FIWARE:** 

- The Synchronization Generic Enabler is designed to serve multiple clients in a shared environment
- The underlying data model is designed such that both backend data from data providers and the 3D-UI scene graph nodes can be directly mapped to the synchronization runtime data
- By this, *Synchronization* provides the bridge between FIWARE data back ends and multi user 3D frontend applications



### Thank you!

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