User Interaction: AJAX Basics

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Follow up from last class
• AJAX
  • "Asynchronous Javascript and XML"
    • although XML can be replaced with any data format
  • Developed to support "rich clients"
  • One of the big enablers of Web 2.0
• Consider a spreadsheet, once can
  • Edit data in place
  • Changes are updated in real-time
  • Dependencies across the document
  • Feedback from the mouse and cursor
  • Cells highlight
  • Overall a pretty rich user interface experience
• “Rich Client”
  • Rich
    • In the U/I sense
    • “Spread-sheet” like
  • Client
    • Lives in a networked world
• Sovereign Application vs.
• Transient Application
I am typing the most important document of my life
• Desktop World

AJAX in action: Crane

PROCESS

LOGIC → DATA MODEL

PROCESS

LOGIC → DATA MODEL

FILE SYSTEM
AJAX in action: Crane

• Cloud Computing World

PROCESS
LOGIC → DATA MODEL

PROCESS
LOGIC → DATA MODEL

CLOUD SERVICE
MIDDLE WARE
SERVER FARM

CLOUD SERVICE
MIDDLE WARE
SERVER FARM
Network induces variable delays, always
• Asynchronousness
• Defining principles of AJAX

1. Browser hosts an application, not content
2. Server delivers data not content
3. User interaction with the application can be fluid and continuous
4. This is real coding