



Open Web Apps

INF5750/9750 - Lecture 9 (Part II)

Lecture contents

- What are Open Web Apps (OWA)?
- Why use OWA?
- How to make OWA?
- Use in DHIS2 as DHIS2 Apps

What are Open Web Apps?

- Web technologies to build apps - *haven't we covered that through phonegap?*
- With Open Web Apps we aren't just talking phones, also set-top boxes, browsers etc.
- *The difference between an app and a website is that you can install an app and more thoroughly integrate it into your device*
- *It's not a bookmark — it's part of a system*
- A merger of ideas! From separate Facebook Apps, Chrome Apps, Android Apps - to a web standard for Open Web Apps
- (Future) The idea is that device functions will be Web API calls!!
(Future 2) IoT and possibilities to run apps on Things!

Why OWA?

- Buy Once, Run anywhere!!
- WebPayment API
- Minor platform specific changes
- Standards and will allow multi-platform access

How to Make OWA?

- An Open Web App **manifest** contains information that a Web browser needs to interact with an app
- A file called manifest.webapp. Basic example below

```
{
  "name": "My App",
  "description": "My elevator pitch goes here",
  "launch_path": "/",
  "icons": {
    "128": "/img/icon-128.png"
  },
  "developer": {
    "name": "Your name or organization",
    "url": "http://your-homepage-here.org"
  },
  "default_locale": "en"
}
```

DHIS2 Apps

- Extensions of the DHIS 2 user interface
- Clean and loosely coupled
- Can be uploaded at runtime
- Interacting with the Web API

- HTML5, Javascript and CSS only (at the moment)
- [Manifest](#) file describes the app. Based on Mozilla [Open Web Apps](#)

/	#html files
/manifest.webapp	#manifest file
/css/	#css stylesheets
/img/	#images
/js/	#javascripts

DHIS2 App Manifest

```
{
  "version": "0.1",
  "name": "My app",
  "description": "My app description",
  "launch_path": "/index.html",
  "icons": {
    "16": "/img/icons/mortar-16.png",
    "48": "/img/icons/mortar-48.png",
    "128": "/img/icons/mortar-128.png"
  },
  "developer": {
    "name": "Me",
    "url": "http://me.com"
  },
  "default_locale": "en",
  "activities": {
    "dhis": {
      "href": "*"
    }
  }
}
```

Resources

- Intro to Open Web Apps
 - https://marketplace.firefox.com/developers/docs/intro_apps
- Firefox OS quickstart:
 - https://marketplace.firefox.com/developers/docs/quick_start
- DHIS2 Apps
 - <http://www.dhis2.org/doc/snapshot/en/user/html/ch27.html>