

IBM Worklight V6.1.0 Getting Started

Shell development concepts



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Agenda

- Overview
- Creating a shell component
- Using a shell component in a test application
- Creating and using a shell bundle in an Inner application

Overview

- The main idea behind the shell component methodology is to create two levels of development inside the organization:
 - Developers who are skilled in native development implement native and web code-bases that can be used as a starting point for one or more applications. For example:
 - Native functionality to be invoked from JavaScript[™] (Cordova plug-ins)
 - Authentication framework
 - Security configuration
 - Web resources that are shared between applications, such as logotypes and themes
 - Developers who have less native development skills but more web expertise receive a ready-to-use shell component and use it as a wrapper to create the organization applications. For example:
 - Business logic
 - UI development
 - Data integration



Overview – Architecture of the Shell-based Application

 Shell component - a component to be used by inner applications as a code base wrapper. It usually consists of native classes and shell-specific web resources that are going to be used in inner applications. The shell component is implemented by shell developers and sent to inner application developers to use.





Overview – Architecture of the Shell-based Application

- Inner application web resources (HTML / JavaScript / CSS) that are run inside the shell component.
- Test application The shell component is not executable by itself. After it is created, an inner application is automatically added to the project by Worklight® Studio. This application is used by the shell developer to test the shell component functionality.





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- This training module covers the basics of creating and using a shell component and an inner application.
- A prerequisite for successful completion of this and subsequent training modules is a solid knowledge of Worklight hybrid application development concepts.
- Make sure that you have a solid understanding of Worklight development principles, specifically iOS and Android development.
- This module covers shell development concepts, using a common folder.
- The following modules cover Android and iOS shell development.



- A shell component is a building block that is used to create inner applications.
- Add a shell component to your project and name it MyShell.
- Note that the MyShellTest application was automatically created for you; this is a test application as described in the Overview section. You can use it to test and debug the shell component.





- The common folder of the shell component contains the following folders:
 - css, images, js these folders contain web resources that are added automatically to inner applications at build time,
 - fragments this folder contains HTML fragments that will be added to predefined locations in the main HTML file of the inner application.
 - preview this folder can be used to implement stubs for simulating native functionality in the Worklight Console preview instead of receiving exceptions.





- The shell-descriptor.xml file contains shell component metadata and application-specific properties
- Application-specific properties that are set in the shell descriptor are used in all inner applications
- shell-descriptor.xml can be edited in either Design or Source mode

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```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
>
<!-- Licensed Materials - Property of IBM
5725-G92 (C) Copyright IBM Corp. 2006, 2012. All Rights Reserved.
US Government Users Restricted Rights - Use, duplication or
disclosure restricted by GSA ADP Schedule Contract with IBM Corp. -->
<!-- Attribute "id" must be identical to shell component folder name -->
>
<!-- Attribute "id" www.worklight.com/shell-descriptor" id="MyShell" platformVersion="5.0" version="1.0">
```



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Using a shell component in a test application

- Follow these instructions to develop a functioning shell component.
- Create a myshell.js file in the MyShell\common\js folder.
- Add the following function to it:

```
function sayHelloFromShell(){
    alert("Hello from Shell");
}
```

 Modify the body-top.wlfragment file and add the following lines to it.

<h1>This is a header that will be visible in all inner applications that use this Shell</h1><script <script <script/myshell.js"></script></script></script></script</script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></



Using a shell component in a test application

- Modify the MyShellTest.js file in the apps/MyShellTest/common/js folder.
- Invoke the function that you previously added in the shell component.

```
function wlCommonInit(){
    sayHelloFromShell();
}
```

- Note that the sayHelloFromShell() function is not a part of the inner application, but is from the shell component.
- Build and deploy the MyShellTest application.
- When you have built and deployed your application, you will find it in Worklight Console as a regular hybrid application.





Using a shell component in a test application

 Preview your MyShellTest application. Note that it contains web resources from both the shell component and the inner application.

Worklight Console × 🚫 MyShellTest - common ×
🔄 🔶 🔿 🕻 🔞 localhost:8080/apps/sei 🔂 🏶 🦑 💩 W 🛂 🗠 🔧
This is a header that will be visible in all inner applications that use this Shell MyShellTest
The page at localhost:8080 says:



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Creating and using a shell bundle

- When the shell developer builds a shell component a .wlshell file is created in the project bin folder. This file is called a *shell bundle* and can be sent to inner application developers to use.
- A shell developer working with a test application is not required to explicitly create a shell bundle. The test application references the shell component source code directly from the location that is specified in its application-descriptor.xml file.
- However, when the shell developer wants to send the shell component to the inner application developer the need to create a shell bundle arises.



Creating and using a shell bundle

- To create a shell bundle, right-click a shell component folder and select Run As > Build Shell Component.
- The .wlshell file is created in the bin\ folder of your project, as described previously.



This file can be sent to inner application developers.



Creating and using a shell bundle

- The inner application developer must copy the shell bundle file to a Worklight project.
- When inner application developers create a new inner application, they must specify the location of a shell bundle file.
- If a new shell bundle file is received from shell component developers, inner application developers must replace the existing shell bundle file and rebuild their applications.





Next training modules

- Shell development for iOS and Android environments is covered in subsequent training modules.
- Ensure that you have a solid understanding of this training module before you move to the next ones.



Check yourself questions

- In which case should the shell development approach be taken?
 - The company has only two developers
 - The company wants to create a number of mobile applications sharing the common native code base and authentication mechanism
 - The company wants to create a native iOS and Android application, but its resources are limited
 - The company has distributed development teams that are situated on different continents but requiring to share the source code
- Which of the following should not be a part of the shell component?
 - Authentication module
 - Native functionality JavaScript wrapper
 - Application UI components
 - Company logotype that should be shared between several applications
- When a shell developer completes developing the shell components, what is the correct way to distribute it to inner application developers?
 - Compressing the Worklight project and emailing it to inner application developers
 - Committing the Worklight project to a source control management system and telling inner application developers to use source code from it
 - The shell developer should not distribute the shell component to inner application developers. They
 should send their inner applications to the shell developer in order to build them
 - Sending the.wlshell shell bundle file to inner application developers



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