Client Side Validations

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What?

a.k.a. inline validations



Video Credit: Luke Wroblewski

Benefit Higher Conversion Rate

- * Less time spent entering data
- * Less visual attention
- * Pon't have to wait for server to validate data
- * Less frustration



● ○ ○ □ Register	er to Vote X	
← → # C	https://www.raiseyourvote.com/client/registrations/new?registration[address_state]=DC	M F-
	RAISE YOUR Voting is a fundamental right—and when we make our voices heard, we can keep moving our nation forward, wolces heard, we can keep moving our nation forward, building a fairer, stronger, and more just America.	
	► ■ Fill & Print / Sign Form Stamp & Mail	
	Home Address Street Address ZIP Code	
	☐ I have a different mailing address. ☐ I have recently moved.	
	Personal Information	
	Title First Name Middle Name Last Name Suffix	
	Driver's License Num. or Last 4 of Social Security Num. (?) Birthdate MMDD07777	
	Email Address (7) Phone Number (7)	
	Political Party (7) Race or Ethnic Group (2)	ŧ



- * 47 states
- * Each state has its own rules for NVRA submission
- * This means *tons* of validations
- * We're registering voters... conversion rate very important
- * Pon't want to duplicate complex validation model on both server and client



- * Javascript tons of options...
- * HTML5 Form Validations



- * Looks good
- * Tons of options
- * Full browser support
- * Still duplicating effort on the client

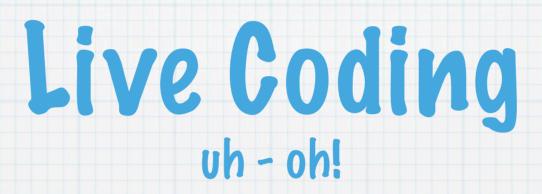
HOW? HTML5 Form Validations

- * Poesn't look that good
- * Poesn't satisfy all validations needed
- * No real browser support (yet)
- * Still duplicating effort on the client

Rails?

- * We're already building a validation model on the server
- * What if we could send those rules to the client?

Client Side Validations gem install client_side_validations



How does it work?

- * Reserves one route as a middleware: /validations/uniqueness.json
- * Builds a JSON validation rule/message/option object
- * Embeds the object on the page
- * client_side_validations.js is aware of client side validation forms
- * applies the embedded object to the form

How does it work?

- * Uses jquery-validation http://docs.jquery.com/Plugins/Validation
- * Supports Rails 2.x & 3.x RC Should work with any ActiveRecord or ActiveModel based model (Mongoid, not MongoMapper... yet)
- * Going to get you most of the way there

What can it do?

* Currently supported validations

```
validates_presence_of
validates_format_of
validates_numericality_of*
validates_length_of*
validates_size_of*
validates_uniqueness_of
validates_confirmation_of
validates_acceptance_of
validates_inclusion_of
validates_exclusion_of
```

* il 8n or custom messages

What can't it do?

- * fields_for
- * Custom validations

Hindsight

* Similar solutions already exist

http://github.com/augustl/live-validations http://github.com/grimen/validatious-on-rails

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Live-Validations has prototype as a dependency, actually ended up with a somewhat similar API as ClientSideValidations. The git-hub project description simply says 'No Longer Maintained'

Validatious has Formtastic support however it is incomplete by the author's omission. Hasn't been touched in almost 2 years.

Both have shaky validates_uniqueness_of support at best Neither support fields_for (live-validations has had it as an open issue for over a year and a half)

The End

* Client Side Validations

http://github.com/dnclabs/client_side_validations http://github.com/dnclabs/client_side_validations_examples

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(shameless self-promotion)

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