

Empowering websites with MashUps

A sneak peak into technologies of the web

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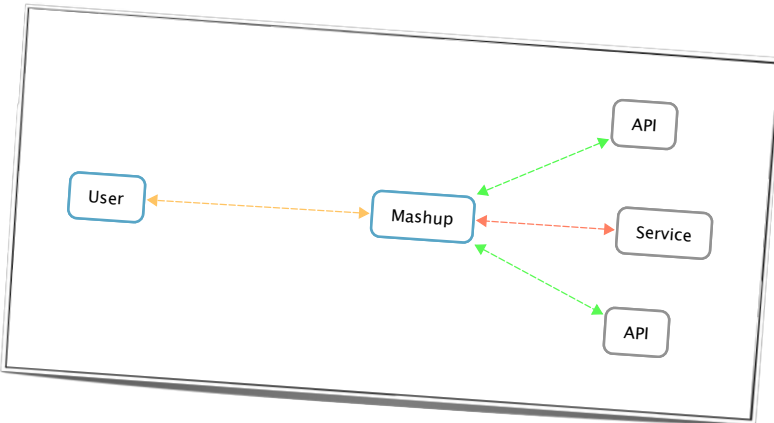
What is a mashup?

By definition a mashup is a web page or application that uses and combines data, presentation or functionality from two or more sources to create new services. The main characteristics of the mashup are combination, visualization, and aggregation. It is important to make existing data more useful, moreover for personal and professional use.

Project

The aim of the project was to:

- Discover the world of web components and modules that can be aggregated together to obtain a new sort of web application.
- Understand that web architecture and how the data is interacting with each other.



In order to achieve that, a web Mashup called Mashup Word was developed during the study week. It is a collaborative online text editor which allows users to work together on a document in a collaborative manner. Such documents can then be shared over Facebook or through a simple link. When a user connects to the mashup and requests to use a certain feature.

Mashups through it's logic connects to all necessary services and API's to retrieve requested data, combines it to present a desired request and sends it back to user.

Materials and methods

In order to achieve the goal, a number of web technologies have been used:

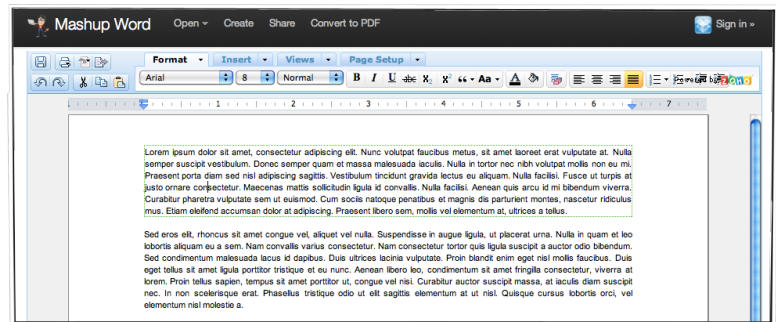
- PHP (Hypertext Processor): A web oriented programming language which allowed the mashup to connect and retrieve necessary data from a various amount of sources.
- Javascript: A client side scripting language which allowed the integration of interactive end-user experience with animated dialogs and intuitive interface.
- HTML: Combined to CSS it was used to create the user interface and style it.
- Dropbox API to enable OAuth authentication and file storage.
- Zoho.com API to provide online collaborative editing feature.
- Facebook API to provide users with a sharing option.

But before developing the project some theoretical basics had to be acquired:

- World Wide Web, it's structure and how documents are linked with each other.
- What is a Mashup and how would it be possible to create one.
- APIs and web services and how can they be integrated into a website.

Project started as a step by step development with implementation of one feature at a time, focusing on difficulties that may arise with implementation of a data source, web service or an API.

And gradually progressed to obtain a fully grown project at the end of the study week. Including an authentication with Dropbox API, document creation and collaborative edition with Zoho API and a sharing feature provided by Facebook API.



Final project is available at:
arc.inf.unisi.ch/mashup-word