

Q&A's from AEM GEM Session Introduction to Sightly June 15, 2014

- Q. Is compiled Sightly found somewhere in /var?
- A. Yes, Sightly generated classes can be found in /var/classes/sightly/<sightly_engine_version>
- Q. Is there a way to use an alternative from the AntiSamy XSSFilter default policy with custom contexts?
- A. You cannot plug-in custom XSS filters to Sightly's XSS contexts.
- Q. I assume properties are something similar to the TEI properties found in JSP. Is there a means to make InheritanceValueMap available?
- A. <properties> actually is a ValueMap containing the properties of the current resource. Yes, there is the inheritedPageProperties variable.
- Q. Can the i18n support sling:basename specific values of sling:MessageEntry?
- A. Sightly's i18n support (documentation found [here](#)) is based on the i18n support available in AEM (see documentation [here](#)), which in turn is based on Sling's i18n support.
- Q. Will AEM6 have a codemirror plugin for Sightly or is there a way to use htmlmixed?
- A. We don't plan yet to make a plugin for CodeMirror, but we will release a Brackets plugin for Sightly and AEM.
- Q. Will Sightly ship with any tooling support (pre-compiler, syntax highlighting, benchmark/profiling)?
- A. We will release a Brackets plugin for Sightly and AEM which will have Syntax Highlighting and Code Completion in its first version.
- Q. Is there already some best practice how to extend the new foundation components (/libs/wcm/foundation/components)? I assume Sightly can make overlays and copy & paste of foundation components obsolete.
- A. These foundation components built with Sightly are a first step towards more reusable components, but we'll need to further improve them to make them truly reusable.
- Q. I have observed that certain components such as: the image component used in Geometrix is the coral ui image component and not the granite ui. Are there any demo granite ui components which we can refer while developing our components
- A. The Sightly image components used in Geometrix are the /libs/wcm/foundation/components/image. The Sightly foundation components are based on their previously existing Granite UI components
- Q. What about documentation of Sightly extensions
- A. We currently don't want to offer Sightly extension points in order to avoid project-specific variations of the language.
- Q. 1/Custom Sightly Runtime Extensions 2/ Custom Sightly Plugins 3/Custom Sightly Filters. Is there any doc for the same avbl? <http://docs.adobe.com/docs/en/aem/6-0/develop/sightly.html>?
- A. The API you've seen exported in the code is not meant to be consumed by implementers, therefore we offer no support for it. The only guarantee that we provide is that the resulted markup conforms to the publicly available specification. As mentioned above, we'd like not to offer extension points in order to avoid project-specific variations of the language.
- Q. Thumbs up for pulling code out of the UI! Sometimes you might want a placeholder element in a list, how would you do that with data-sly-list? i.e. Placeholderrepeated
- A. The data-sly-list automatically generates some objects in its scope. One of them is 'item'. \${item} in this context would hold a reference to the current object from your iteration step.
- Q. What are some use cases for data-sly-use.obj="obj.js", why would you use that rather than a Pojo?
- A. We'd like to help typical web developers to write components using Sightly. Most web developers already know JavaScript but might not be proficient with Java.

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- Q. Can I override a jsp with slightly in a subcomponent?
- A. This only works for the first script called by Sling. As soon as another script is included a JSP cannot be overridden with a Sightly template as that reference points to a specific file name.
- Q. Is there time for a hello world Slightly example?
- A. There are some examples on the docs page [here](#), for more advanced examples, you can have a look at a Geometrix page [here](#).
- Q. I see that Slightly is used in the Geometrix Outdoors sample project. Are there any other working, downloadable, sample applications available?
- A. Have a look at: <https://github.com/labertasch/sightlytodomvc>
- Q. If `$(item)` is an instance of a class that Slightly isn't aware of (hasn't been declared with `data-sly-use`, etc.), will your markup still be able to use the getter methods defined in that class?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Are you able to provide `data-sly-list` with an array of custom objects and then access properties of those objects? When I've tried it (using the Java Use-API), Slightly seems to not understand accessing properties of the custom objects within the array.
- A. This shouldn't be a problem.
- Q. I arrived a little late, so this may have been covered, what are the known limitations for Slightly at this time?
- A. There is no major known limitation so far.
- Q. Can OSGI bundle versions be specified/constrained for server-side JS?
- A. With server-side JS you have access to the exact same exported packages as you would from Java OSGi components / services
- Q. If multiple versions of same Java component exist on the server, can server-side JS specify or constrain which version(s) should be used?
- A. It does not; this is essentially the same classloader structure used by JSP pages. If you have duplicate packages, you should hide that behind a Java-based Use class.
- Q. JSPs have the performance benefit of being compiled to byte-code when first-used... Does static server-side JS have a similar capability, or is it interpreted every time it is invoked?
- A. Initially we used the compiled mode for JS server-side scripts but this proved to be slower than running server-side JS scrips in interpreted mode. A sling bug has been filed and IIRC a patch has been made available by one of my colleagues.
- Q. Regarding extension; the idea was to add functions/filters with specific custom implementation.
- A. If you have the need for such functionality you could try to achieve this through the Use-API, which has been designed exactly for this.
- Q. If I have case to reuse logic in a template on various places. Do you have option something like Macros?
- A. There's `data-sly-template`. Template blocks can be used like function calls: in their declaration they can get parameters, which can then be passed when calling them (see `data-sly-call`).
- Q. In expression option after `@` is space required?
- A. No, the space character is not required.
- Q. Is it possible to extend the slightly template engine so that the developer has more flexibility?
- A. We currently don't want to offer extension points in the Slightly API in order to maintain its simplicity and robustness.
- Q. How to debug issue with slightly?
- A. There is no debugger yet for Slightly.

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- Q. Other than wrapping it in a wcm-use object, is there any way to get at the jackrabbit user object for the current user from within sightly?
- A. This is not yet possible without going through the Use-API.
- Q. Is variable binding with template i.e. after execution if variable value is change does template get update?
- A. There is no variable binding yet.
- Q. Is variable value bind with html element?
- A. Same as above.
- Q. How this will be related to HBS (Handle Bar) in social component?
- A. Sightly and HBS are two separated things: Sightly is server-side and HBS is client-side.
- Q. With regard to URL externalization, will this work with multiple domains hosted from a single AEM instance?
- A. URL-externalization is not yet available. Support for it should come with Sightly 1.1