User Interaction: AJAX Basics

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INF 133 Fall 2011

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Data Presentation → HTML XHTML XML ← Data Transport

JSON

- AJAX
  - "Asynchronous Javascript and XML"
    - although XML can be replaced with any data format
  - Developed to support "rich clients"
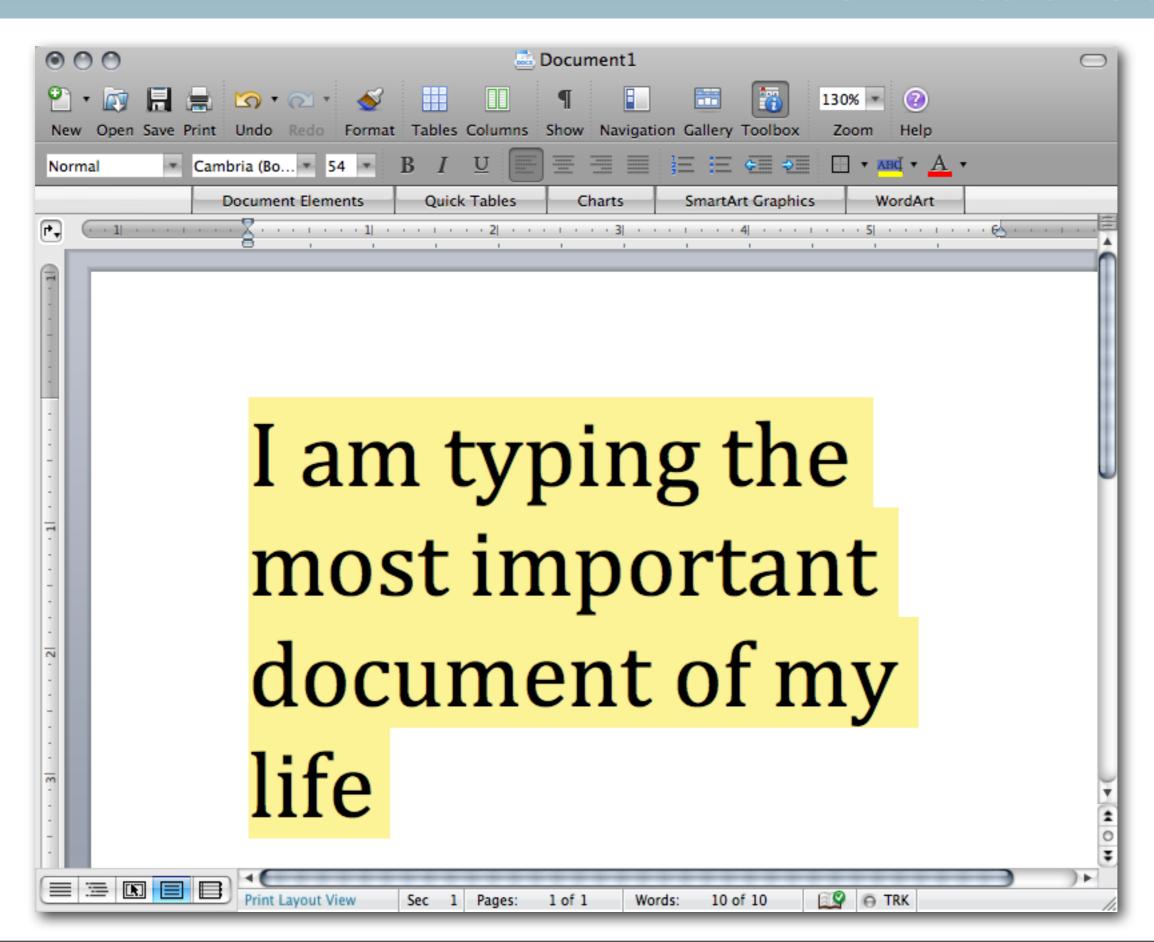 - One of the big enablers of Web 2.0

- Consider a spreadsheet, once can
  - Edit data in place
  - Changes are updated in real-time
  - Dependencies across the document
  - Feedback from the mouse and cursor
  - Cells highlight
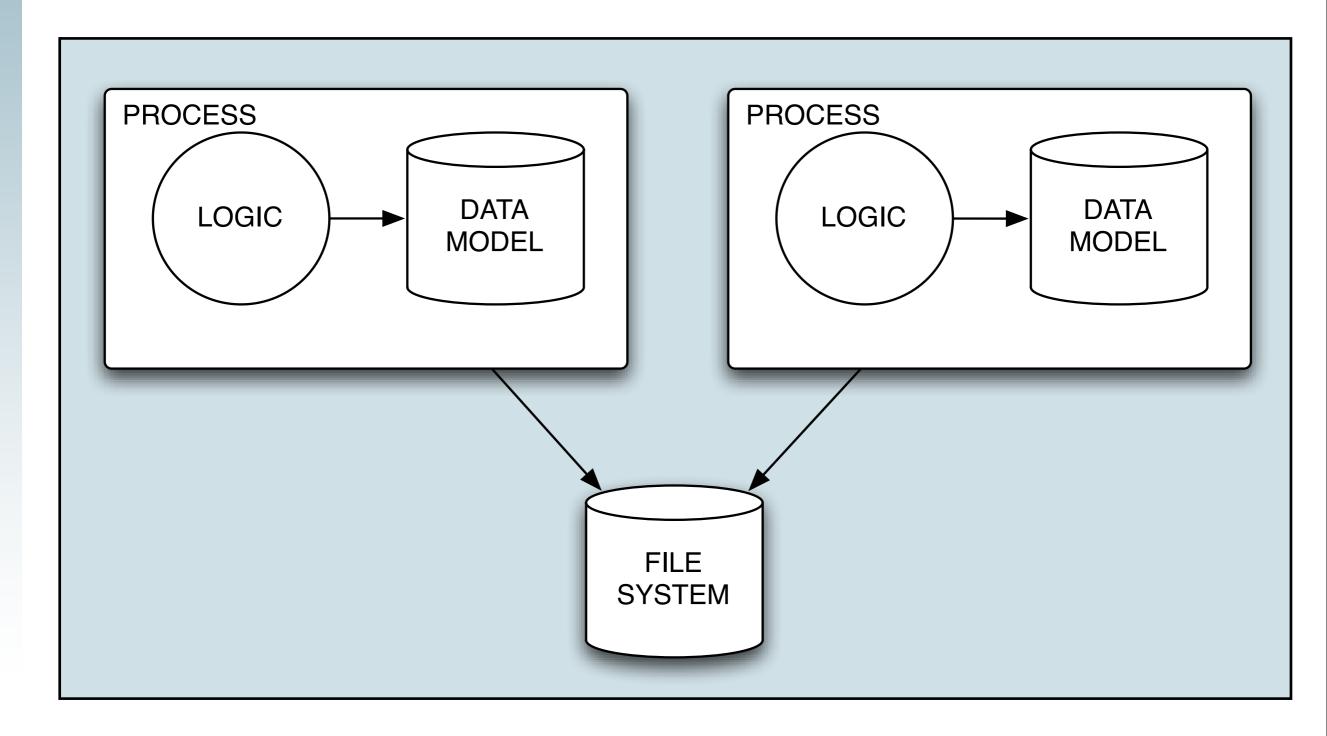 - Overall a pretty rich user interface experience

- "Rich Client"
  - Rich
    - In the U/I sense
    - "Spread-sheet" like
  - Client
    - Lives in a networked world
- Sovereign Application vs.
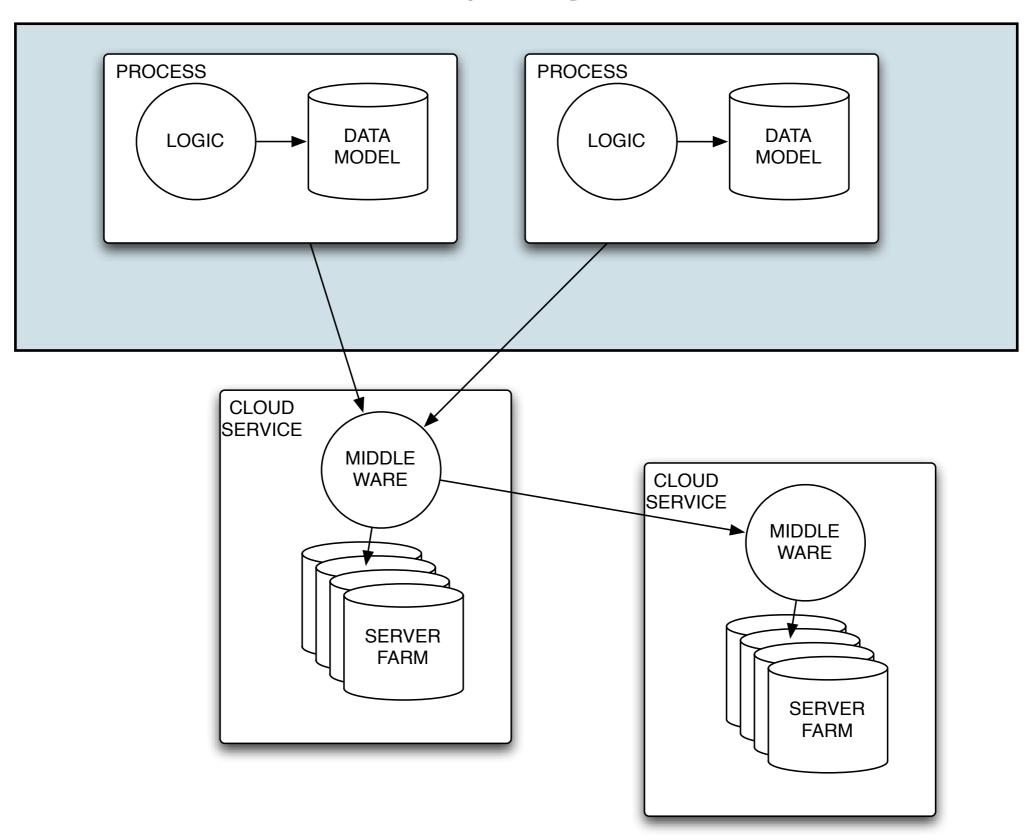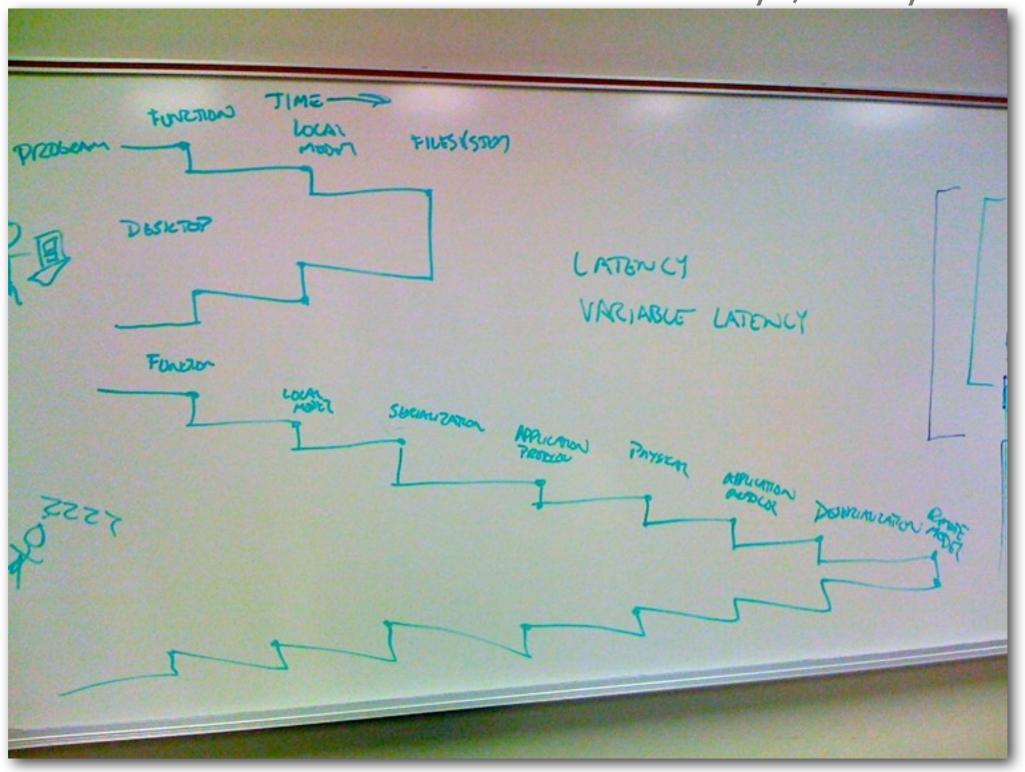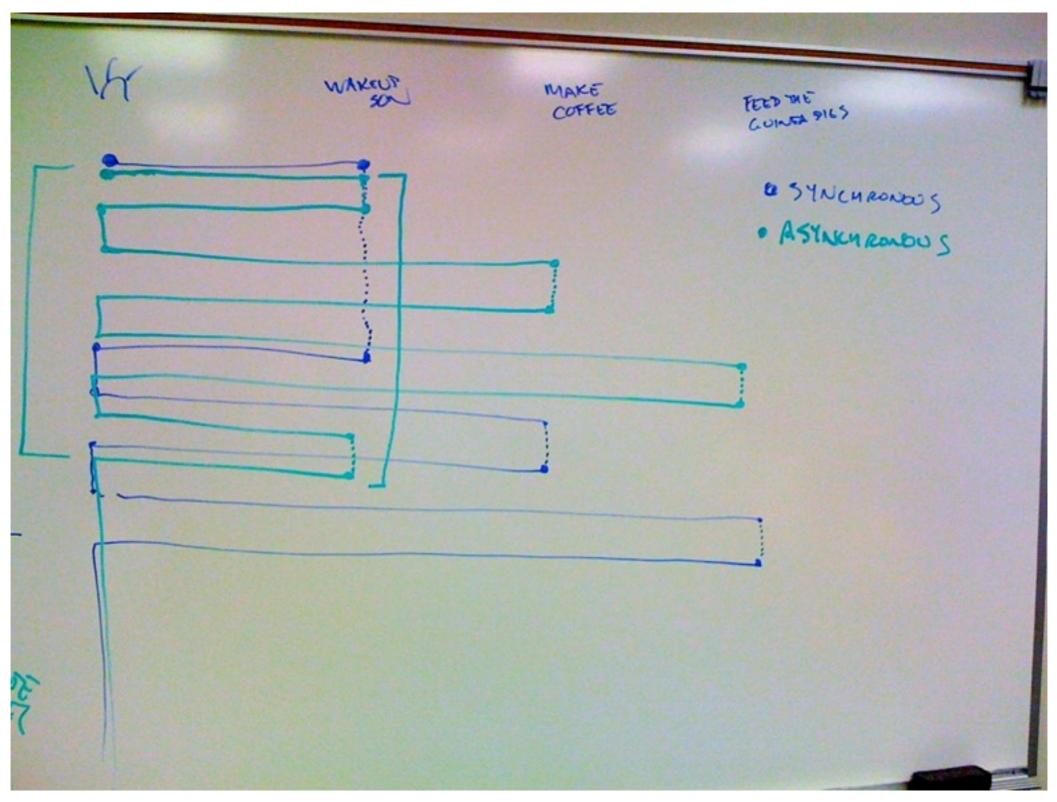- Transient Application

• Desktop World

- Cloud Computing World

• Network induces variable delays, always

- Asynchronousness

- Defining principles of AJAX

1. Browser hosts an application, not content
2. Server delivers data not content
3. User interaction with the application can be fluid and continuous
4. This is real coding