

Cordova - Guide - App Development - Blueprint

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A useful blueprint for Apache Cordova application development and design with jQuery Mobile.

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Intro

We're now going to quickly create a shell app we can use as a template for updating initial designs with jQuery Mobile, testing new features, working with various APIs, and so on.

Effectively, this will be a starting template for our trip notes app that we can use for the initial `www` directory. We can also use this blueprint for developing our other initial projects and applications.

So, we need to

- update layout of `index.html`
- add some custom styles to `style.css`
- consider our initial splash screen
- create an initial placeholder icon for our application
 - shown on device &c....

blueprint - `config.xml`

For any new project in Cordova, we get an Apache filled `config.xml` file, which we need to slightly modify for our requirements.

We'll need to update any applicable metadata in this file, in particular the following

```
<name>blueprint</name>
<description>
  blueprint for Apache Cordova frameworks with jQuery Mobile
</description>
<author email="test@test.com" href="http://csteach422.github.io">
  ancientlives
</author>
<content src="index.html" />
```

For final production, we'll also need to update allowed access for application domains. This is modified in the `<access>` element.

blueprint - `index.html`

It's also a good idea to strip out the `index.html` page to give ourselves a consistent layout and structure for developing applications.

We can start with a simple body, organised with a header and a main content category,

```
<!-- homepage -->
```

```
<div data-role="page" id="home">
  <div data-role="header">
    <h3>blueprint</h3>
  </div><!-- /header -->
  <div role="main" class="ui-content">
    </div><!-- /content -->
</div><!-- /home -->
```

Unless specifically required by a given application structure or functionality, you'll notice that many mobile applications do not include a footer within their content categories. So, we can leave our footer out of this default blueprint for our Cordova applications. If needed for a given design, we can simply add it to the app's specific template.

blueprint - `style.css`

For initial applications, we can stick with the default styling offered by jQuery Mobile. However, as we continue to iterate through designs and applications, we can often find ourselves with a preferred aesthetic scheme and palette.

Therefore, we can simply add any overrides to our app's custom CSS file.