

Secrets of the PayPal Interface for the Gift Cards Application



Gift Cards
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As presented on Oct 9,2007
at Toronto FacebookCamp
by
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Agenda

- Background
- Challenges
- Solutions
- Demo
- Questions



Background

- **Convergence of Business Opportunities**
 - Toronto business associate with abundance of Gift Cards to move
 - Toronto having the highest density of active Facebook users
 - Obvious application fit for his business
- **Application cried out for PayPal Interface**
 - Wanted to offer a simple payment scheme
 - Wanted to avoid complex HTTPS interactions
 - Challenged by the challenge
- **Gems Server**
 - Custom built Servlet based web server
 - Proven in large scale deployments
 - Now extended to incorporate Facebook APIs



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Challenges

1. PayPal data would not fit onto Facebook Canvas
 - therefore, must use pop-up window
2. PayPal pop-up window must have specified dimensions
 - therefore had to use pure Javascript in IFRAME, not FBJs
3. For security reasons IFRAMES and canvas cannot communicate
4. How to update canvas under all PayPal termination conditions
- 5 Synchronization of 3 threads on 4 sub-systems



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Approach to Solution

- Two clicks used to avoid pop-up filters
 - the first to start PayPal/Facebook synchronization loop
 - the other to open the PayPal pop-up window
- Gift Cards Server mediates all communication



Solution: Click Twice User Interface

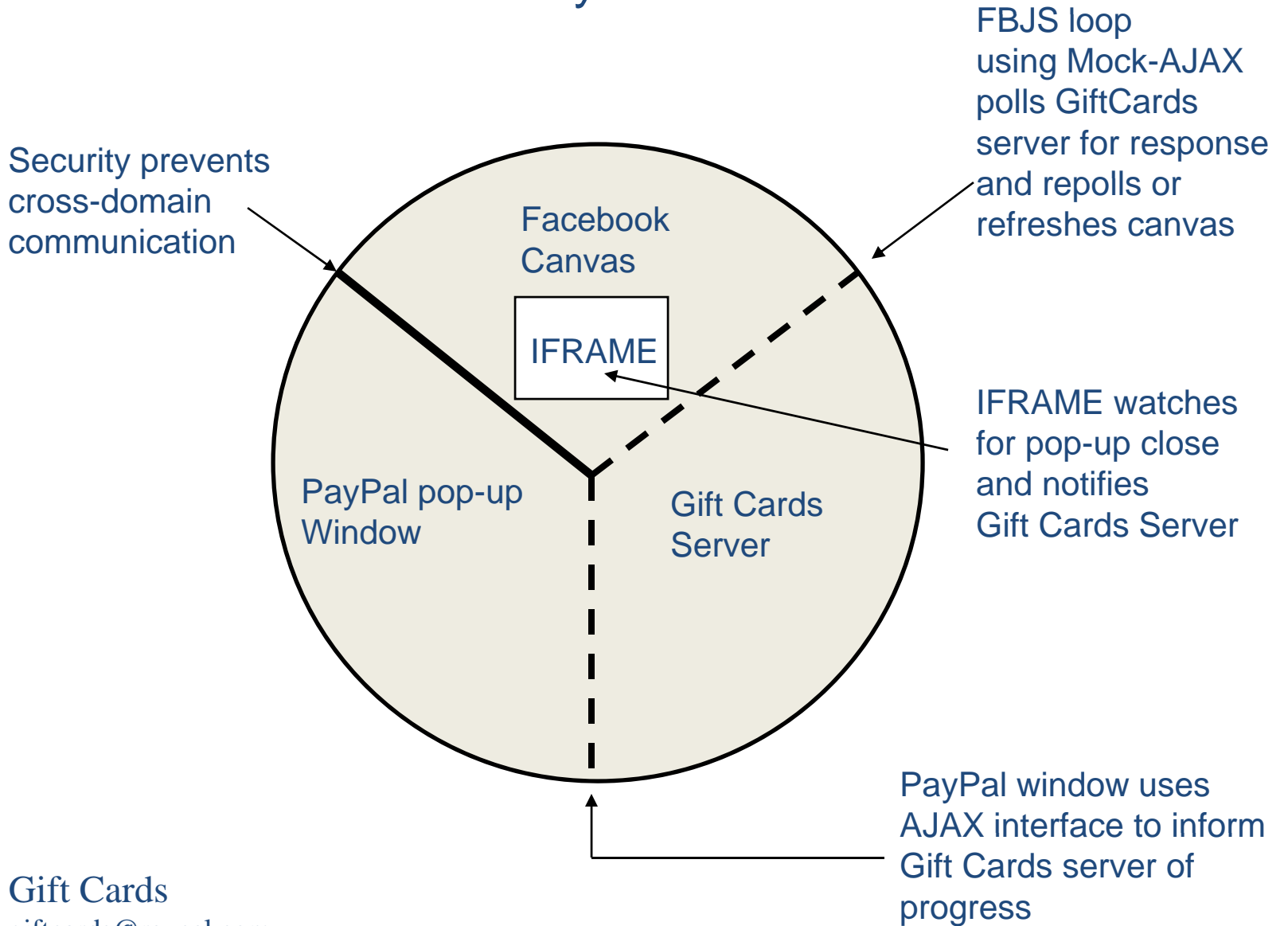
- First click:
 - starts Facebook canvas polling cycle
 - replaces canvas PayPal CheckOut button with IFRAME version
- Intermediate step of asking user to confirm amount:
 - Generates a 2nd click
 - used to open PayPal pop-up window of required size
 - used to start pop-up close monitor
 - 2nd click tells browser it is a proper pop-up window
 - thus correctly not caught by pop-up filters
- Result is a smooth user interface



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Solution: Synchronization



DEMO

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