Creating libraries for Elm, lessons learned

Elm Copenhagen October 2016 Meetup @Bownty 2016-10-26

Overview – very few slides

- About me
- How to start ...
- ... and lessons learned
- Show me the code
- Q & A

About me (very shortly)

- Ramón Soto Mathiesen
- MSc. Computer Science **DIKU** and minors in Mathematics **HCØ**
- CompSci @ SPISE MISU ApS
 - "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants"
 - Isaac Newton (Yeah Science, Bitch. Mostly Mathematics)
 - Elm with a bit of Haskell and a bit of F# (fast prototyping)
- Elm / Haskell / TypeScript / F# / OCaml / Lisp / C++ / C# / JavaScript
- Blog: http://blog.stermon.com/

How to start ...

- Goal → Create a pure blockchain library in Elm
 - Pure = No Native JavaScript and no Port code are allowed
- In order to create a *pure* BC I would need all the underlaying components to be *pure* as well:
 - Merkle Tree, no implementation available
 - **SHA256**, browser implementation is not accessible (window.crypto || window.msCrypto) due to purity

... and lessons learned (1/3)

- Use another library as template/base (use Evans)
 - This ensures README.md, examples, tests, changelogs, ...
- If you are porting code to Elm, try to find libraries with a lot of stars on GitHub
 - Most of these libraries are imperative. Once you have working code, transform it to functional and **BONUS**:
 - SHA-2 allowed SHA-1 to be implemented trivially <
- Hook elm-format up to file save. Indispensable !!!

... and lessons learned (2/3)

- Not all of JavaScript is ported to Elm, so you might have to re-create some functionality on your own
 - A few examples: escape/unescape, toString(16), ...
- Test thoroughly and make examples (good for bug finding and refactoring)
 - Use Debug.log "Some Name" (... elm code ...) to console.log
- Don't add images to main README.md (move to examples)

... and lessons learned (3/3)

- Ask for feedback and constructive criticism on #slack
- In ♥ with enforced semantic versioning for libraries (porting bump and diff to .NET NuGet packet manager as stand-alone tool)
- Library must be on GitHub
 (just create a remote sync branch)

Show me the code

- Elm packages (http://package.elm-lang.org/):
 - spisemisu/elm-utf8
 - spisemisu/elm-sha
 - spisemisu/elm-merkletree
 - spisemisu/elm-blockchain (coming soon)

Q & A

Any Questions?