

### Assemble the Social Web with

Using zembly.com, learn how to build, host, and deploy Facebook apps, iPhone apps, flickr widgets, Google mashups, Social Application. Right Here, Right Now, Together, and other widgets and social applications in minutes-all using

SWD

By award-winning authors GAIL ANDERSON and PAUL ANDERSON with zembly architects Todd Fast and Chris Webster

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# Preface

There once was an engineer named Todd who had a vision of creating the programmable web. He wrote a white paper describing his ideas and the social climate for making his vision a reality. As the participation in social networking continued to grow (and, as we have noted in Chapter 5, continues to grow each month by big numbers), the motivation for implementing such a widget-building, application-building environment becomes easier and easier to justify.

This book comes out on the leading edge of **zembly**'s existence. The environment we document and describe today will no doubt change, but for you pioneers of social network programming, it will only get richer, easier, and more rewarding (maybe even financially rewarding).

The biggest challenge we face in writing a book like this is keeping current with **zembly**. As **zembly** evolves it will improve incrementally and continuously. One of the great advantages in offering a web-based tool is that new "versions" happen often and are not tied to lengthy production cycles that traditional development tools use. To keep current, we point readers to **zembly** itself (zembly.com), its blog (blog.zembly.com), and wiki (wiki.zembly.com). These resource points will go a long way in keeping you up to date with new **zembly** features that are rolling out, even as we finish up this manuscript.

# About the Audience

This book is aimed at **zembly** users of all technical levels. We hope not only to help you use **zembly** effectively, but to provide examples that will get you up to speed quickly. We anticipate that **zembly** users will represent a whole range of technologists. You might be classically trained software engineers or what we call *casual technologists*; that is, users who are comfortable on the web, dabble a bit in HTML, CSS, or JavaScript, and see the internet as a tool to be exploited. You might be a professional social network game developer or a home-grown blogger ready to expand your widgetry. You might even be a community organizer ready to reach out to untapped audiences for your cause célèbre.

# JavaScript Programming

As we write about the programmable web, the next logical question might be "What language do I use to program this programmable web?" The short answer is Java-Script. If you're an experienced JavaScript, HTML, and CSS coder, you will be very comfortable constructing services, widgets, and applications on **zembly**. But what if you've never used JavaScript before? Maybe you know Java, or C/C++ or even C#. Or, perhaps you have a background in scripting languages, including Perl, Python, Ruby, or PHP. Fear not; at least one of the author's first exposures to JavaScript programming occurred while working on this project.

To help get you up to speed with JavaScript, consult the web for tutorials at www.w3schools.com. Here's a few tips to get you started.

- JavaScript tutorials are at www.w3schools.com/js.
- HTML tutorials are at www.w3schools.com/html.
- CSS tutorials are at www.w3schools.com/css.
- David Flanagan's *JavaScript, The Definitive Guide* is an excellent reference to have at your desk.
- Begin by cloning and building upon already-published widgets, services, and applications. Not only can you learn from previously written JavaScript, CSS, and HTML code found in these examples, but you can use these as starting points to build your own artifacts.
- Consider using the Prototype JavaScript library. This library is available for your **zembly** widgets and provides some nice JavaScript programming help. Prototype tutorials and references are at www.prototypejs.org/learn.
- **zembly** provides widget templates that let you easily build and configure widgets. You just might be able to build a widget with no programming at all using templates!
- Use the **zembly** forum to ask questions. The forum (forum.zembly.com), is not only a place to ask questions of other **zembly** users, but it also provides a place to report bugs or anomalous behavior.

# About the Examples

Use **zembly**'s Search mechanism to find all of the examples presented in this book. Because the examples are live, deployed services and widgets, you will always find the most current, published version on **zembly**. Provide the search term **zemblybook** and click **Search**, as shown here in Figure 1.

x٧

zembly-boo	k Search
Не	re are your results for 'zembly-book'
All Widgets Applications S	ervices External services
zillow zembly-book-zillow zembly-book-ipho	one zembly-book-gallery <sub>zembly-book-flickr</sub> zembly-book-faceb
zembly-book-facebook zembly-book-da	apper zembly-book-basics Zembly-book
tubeplanner.com real estate new profile design m	nortgage mlb london underground london tube iphone google maps
facebook dapper	

Figure I. Finding all of the examples presented in this book

# **Notational Conventions**

We've applied a rather light hand with font conventions in an attempt to keep the page uncluttered. Here are the conventions we follow.

Element	Font and Example
zembly UI controls	Publish, Create something!, Add a new parameter
URLs	zembly.com
inline code elements	result.user.nsid
code blocks and listings	if (result.user) { }
widget names	LoanPaymentWidget
service names	LoanPaymentService
application names	CapitalPunishment
key combinations	Ctrl+Alt+F, Ctrl+Space
user input	specify minimum 1 and maximum 20

# 2 zembly Basics



### Welcome to zembly.

**zembly** lets you build services, widgets, and web applications and publicly deploy them. The philosophy behind **zembly** is to encourage you to build upon previously published services and widgets, to discover what other **zembly** users are building, and to socialize the building process by collaborating with your **zembly** contacts. As **zembly** matures, it will allow you to build widgets, services, mashups, and social applications targeting the many social networks present on the web. This chapter is aimed at those who are just getting started with **zembly**, giving you a glimpse into the future of building the web.

**zembly** is a social network. It encourages you to build your own contacts and collaborations. Those of you who work on group projects will appreciate the easy collaboration in code development, and by extension, idea sharing. The ultimate goal for **zembly** is to make the threshold very low for building and deploying a widget or mashup that others can drop into a web page (such as a blog or Facebook profile page). Combining social networking, collaborative development, and sharing a collection of published services and widgets, **zembly** facilitates each step that results in a

published, deployed, and fully accessible and easily importable widget, service, or application.

This chapter will help you get started. It assumes that you are a registered **zembly** user.

# What You Will Learn

- How the **zembly** site is organized
- The types of things you can build with zembly
- What you'll find on the Samples page
- How to embed a widget in your web page
- How to view or edit your Profile page
- All about the zembly Keychain
- How to find zembly service providers
- How to create, test, and publish a service
- How to create, test, and publish a widget
- How to include a library with your JavaScript code
- How to manipulate drafts, versions, and the timeline
- How to create a service and widget that calls an external service

# **Examples in This Chapter**

All examples in this chapter are tagged **zembly-book-basics**. To search for them, select **Search** at the top of any **zembly** page. Supply the search term **zembly-book-basics** and click the search icon as shown in Figure 2.1.



Figure 2.1 Searching for the examples in this chapter

The search results lists the widgets and services discussed in this chapter.

# 2.1 Exploring the Samples

Let's start with the **zembly** Samples section, which lists applications (Facebook and OpenSocial), widgets (blue badge), and services (orange badge). To see **zembly**'s samples, select **samples** from the top dashboard, as shown in Figure 2.2.



Figure 2.2 The zembly samples help you get started

The sample Facebook applications include CapitalPunishment, which is presented in Chapter 6 (see "Capital Punishment—A Challenging Facebook Application" on page 162). The sample services run on the **zembly** server and generally call other services out on the web to do things. Right now<sup>1</sup> the sample services include

- AmazonProductSearch—lets you search Amazon's product catalogs and retrieve detailed product information, including prices, images, etc.
- FlickrPhotoSearchService calls the flickr picture search service.
- **GoogleGeocodeSampleService**—enables you to search a ZIP code for a given address.
- HelloWorld—takes your name and says hello.
- WeatherTodayService retrieves weather for a specific U.S. zip code.
- **YahooTripSearchService**—enables your applications to use a Yahoo! API to search for public trip plans that were created with Yahoo!.
- YouTubeSampleService—lists information about videos that have a specified tag.
- **ZillowSampleService**—finds a property given an address. The returned information includes the address for the property or properties, the Zillow Property ID (ZPID), the current Zestimate, the date the Zestimate was computed, a valuation range, and the Zestimate ranking for the property within its ZIP code.

<sup>1.</sup> zembly will add more samples to this page, so check back often.

• **zventsSearchService**—search for events that are happening around a given U.S. location.

The Sample section also includes a list of widgets. Widgets provide a user-friendly object that you can embed in a web page. All of the above services have corresponding widgets. To view a widget's page, click its name in the Samples section. For example, if you select **HelloWorldWidget**, **zembly** takes you to its page so you can see how it was built. To view its source, select the **View** tab as shown in Figure 2.3.



Figure 2.3 Exploring the HelloWorldWidget development page

Further down the page **zembly** shows you how to embed the widget in a page by providing the code you can select, copy, and paste. Figure 2.4 shows the code window to embed widget HelloWorldWidget (Share This Widget).

```
Share This Widget
Use this code to embed this widget in a Web page, like your blog, wiki, or other website.
Make sure to fill in the real values where you see [value]!
```

Figure 2.4 Embedding (sharing) a widget

For example, you can create a web page and call the HelloWorldWidget using the following code:

```
<iframe
src="http://dde7e989aa2a4122aef8a6e53f29e9fb.zembly.com/things/
dde7e989aa2a4122aef8a6e53f29e9fb;iframe" frameborder="0">
</iframe>
```

You can then open this file in your web browser, which calls the HelloWorldWidget. This widget displays a box and provides an input field to supply a name. A call is made to the HelloWorld service to display the name provided by the user, as shown in Figure 2.5.

Name:	George Washington Hi!
	The page at http://dde7e989aa2a4122aef8a 🔀
	Hello George Washington!
	OK

Figure 2.5 Embedding and running the HelloWorldWidget in a web page

# Using Clone

You can clone any application, widget, or service on **zembly**. This means that you create a copy for yourself. Once you clone a thing on **zembly**, you own it and you can then modify it. **zembly** encourages you to clone artifacts that you like; it is both a great learning tool and more importantly, you can build something innovative based on the work someone else has already done. This makes **zembly** users more productive. To clone a widget, select **Clone this widget** on its development page, as shown in Figure 2.6.

Furthermore, when you clone something on **zembly**, the score of the original widget (or service or application) increases to reflect the cloning. Scores also change when people rate **zembly** "Things" or favorite them.



Figure 2.6 Cloning a widget increases its score

# Widget Actions

Widgets (this applies to services and applications as well) list actions on their page. Besides cloning, you can add a widget to your list of favorites, report a widget, or watch a widget. When you mark something as a favorite, you have an easily accessible "bookmark" as shown in Figure 2.7.



Figure 2.7 Your Favorites give you a convenient bookmark

When you watch something, **zembly** lets you know when its owner publishes a new version.

# Tags on zembly

Use **zembly** tags to label your widgets, services, and applications to help others find Things through the **zembly** search mechanism, as shown in Figure 2.8.

Tags		
flickr ×		
zembly-book × zembly-book-flickr ×	flickr	Search
Add tags	Here are your results f	for 'flickr'

Figure 2.8 Tags let you find widgets, services, and applications through searching

# AmazonProductSearchWidget—Widget Preview

Let's explore the AmazonProductSearchWidget. From the Samples page, select AmazonProductSearchWidget. **zembly** takes you to this widget's page. You'll see a box area with the instructions **Click here to preview this widget**. When you click the box, the widget runs in a preview window. You can increase the size of the preview window by selecting the corner (or edges) and dragging until the preview window is the size you want, as shown in Figure 2.9.



Figure 2.9 Previewing a widget and adjusting the preview window size

Provide product search index and keywords and click Search. Figure 2.10 shows the result after searching for keyword "zembly" in search index "Books."

idget Preview	
Please enter SearchIndex	
Books	
Please enter KeyWords	
zembly	
Search	
Assemble the Social We zembly	eb with
	Reload

Figure 2.10 Previewing the AmazonProductSearchWidget

Widget code includes (X)HTML (for rendering), CSS (for styling), and JavaScript for program logic and calls to external services. When you make a service call, results typically come back in XML or JSON format. Exactly what the data represents depends on the service and the format it uses. For example, with XML you may see results that are RSS 2.0, or ATOM. As it turns out, the Amazon service that Amazon-ProductSearchWidget calls returns data in XML format. The external web service will specify how to interpret the data that is returned.

You are encouraged to look at the XHTML, CSS, and JavaScript code for this widget (click View as shown in Figure 2.3 on page 14). This chapter will delve into building widgets soon, but first let's show you how to use this widget in a web page.

# Embedding AmazonProductSearchWidget

The AmazonProductSearchWidget has sharing enabled. This means you can export the widget to many popular web sites and pages by simply selecting the logo that corresponds to the target site. **zembly** has partnered with Clearspring to provide sharing and tracking of your widgets (see www.clearspring.com). We show you how to enable sharing in Chapter 3 (see "Sharing Your Widget" on page 66). However, let's first show you how to embed a widget in a web page.

Since sharing is enabled for AmazonProductSearchWidget, select **Embed** from the list of options as shown in Figure 2.11. The share window now displays option Other Sites. Select **Other Sites** and you'll see the window with the JavaScript code you need to invoke the widget from an arbitrary HTML page.

	Post Send	Bookmark De	sktop Embed		
	Blogger	Blogger Sidebar	G Eons		
	f Facebook	🔁 Hoverspot	8 iGoogle		Other Sites
•	My Live.com	🔘 myYearbook	Retvibes	•	
	₩ Pageflakes	Piczo	TypePad		
	TypePad Sidebar	Webwag	WordPress.com		

Figure 2.11 Embedding AmazonProductSearchWidget in a web page

Cut and paste this code into the HTML editor of your choice and open it in your browser. You can add other rendering code as shown in Listing 2.1. Here is the source for the HTML file used to run this widget in a browser.

### Listing 2.1 AmazonProductSearchWidget HTML file

```
<h2 style='margin-left:10px; margin-bottom: 0px'>Let's search Amazon!</h2>
<script type="text/javascript"
src="http://widgets.clearspring.com/o/49249714e57f0b59/4924d27e70974fe2/
4924971425b85ee0/cafd08e6/widget.js">
</script>
```

After creating the HTML file, open it in your browser. Enter a product search index and one or more keywords, then click **Search**. Figure 2.12 shows the browser output.

### Let's search Amazon!



Figure 2.12 AmazonProductSearchWidget running in a browser

# Sharing Your Widgets with Clearspring

Besides embedding widgets in pages, you can also share widgets by adding them to any number of popular sites, such as your iGoogle Home page (see www.google.com/ ig). You don't have to be the widget's owner. Click **Post** from the list of options and then select **iGoogle** from the option icons in the grid (see Figure 2.11). Now click **Open** in the Add to your iGoogle page display, as shown in Figure 2.13



Figure 2.13 Adding AmazonProductSearchWidget to your iGoogle home page

After clicking **Open**, you'll be redirected to Google and asked to confirm. Click the big blue **Add to Google** button, as shown in Figure 2.14. You will now see your iGoogle home paged updated with the widget inside.



Figure 2.14 Adding AmazonProductSearchWidget to your iGoogle home page

# 2.2 About You—Your Home Page

**zembly** is about people like you who participate in building and publishing widgets, services, and other objects. The **You** tab takes you to your home page. This is the starting point for the work you do on **zembly**. Figure 2.15 shows your home page with the top-level tabs and the right-side navigation area. From the right-side navigation area you can

- edit or view your profile,
- manage your Keychain (a list of API keys for web services),
- view your favorite zembly things (widgets, services, or applications).

### From the Things tab, you can

- see your work in progress,
- see all the things you own,
- select one of your things to edit.

Top-level tabs	invite your friends link	Right-side navigation points
From here, you can access and edit your profile, keychain and or have been working on, and view and modify your list of fria	other information related to your a ds. You can also invite your frien	get to all the things you own
		Your profile Your profile tells others about you.
Work In Progress		View your profile Edit your profile
Things You Own		Your Keychain Your keychain stores keys for accessing other web
You created these things. Sort by: name creation online status type		Manage your keychain
Widget AmazonSearchWidget (online; created 10 months ago)		Your Favorites
Application BuddyMugs (online; created 7 months ago) Application BuddyPics (online; created 5 months ago)		You have 2 favorites
Application CapitalPunishment (online; created 6 months ago)		MoodPix
Application CapitalPunishmentPartDeux (online; created 5 mon	ths ago)	Application created by Gail

Figure 2.15 Your home page is your starting point

From the **What's happening** tab, you can see what others are doing (reported in the news feed).

From the **People** tab, you can

- view your contacts (other zembly users that you have added to your profile),
- search zembly for additional contacts.

From the Inbox tab, you can

- see messages others have sent you,
- see requests to collaborate that others have sent you.

And the **invite your friends** button lets you bring your friends into the world of **zem**bly.

# Your Profile

Let's start with your profile. Your profile tells other people about you. Click **View your profile**, as shown in Figure 2.16. Your profile includes a picture, your descrip-

tion, your contacts, a list of all the things you own, and a time line that shows what you've been doing.



Figure 2.16 You can Edit or View your profile

You can set your screen name and code name. (You can only set your code name once.) The code name is used to group widgets, services, and applications that you contribute. For example, if your code name is **user1234** then people can call one of your published services (say "myservice") from a widget using something like

```
Things.callService("user1234.myservice")
```

Your screen name is a conversationally nice thing you want other people to call you.

# People—Adding Contacts

Your contacts are people whom you invite to collaborate with you on creating widgets, services, or applications. Contacts are visible on your profile page. You can also view and search for contacts under the People tab on your home page as shown in Figure 2.17.



Figure 2.17 Viewing contacts under People

**zembly** encourages collaboration when creating and editing services and widgets. Before you can request someone to collaborate with you on a project, you must add them as a contact. You add them by viewing their profile page and selecting the **Add as Contact** button. Alternatively, search for them from the **People** tab. Type a word in the search box and hit Search. To add a person to your contacts, simply click the **Add to contacts** link below the person's name, as shown in Figure 2.18. If a person is already a contact, you'll see a message saying so.



Figure 2.18 Adding contacts

Once you add contacts, you can then read what they've recently done through the news feed and add them as a contributor to one or more things that you own. To view the News Feed, select the **What's happening** tab as shown in Figure 2.19.

What's happening People / Things Your News Feed Today & Ryan removed New User from contacts 6 hours ago Jirka published a new version of the trivialni widget, "Mam tady hotovo" 8 hours ago 🕼 Jirka published a new version of the trivialni widget, "Hotovo" 8 hours ago

Figure 2.19 Your News Feed reports what your contacts are doing

# 2.3 Your Keychain and Service Providers

Under your home page (click **You** at the top of any page) you'll find your Keychain (click **Manage your keychain** on your home page, as shown in Figure 2.20). Your Keychain is a list of keys that are associated with select service providers. Service providers have *adapters* on the **zembly** site. Adapters are wrapper services deployed in the **zembly** container that provide access to one or more of the Service Provider's API calls. Adapters make using your key a simple matter of specifying your Keychain—**zembly** extracts the appropriate key for the specific adapter seamlessly behind the scenes.



Figure 2.20 Accessing your Keychain

When you access your Keychain, **zembly** lists all of the service providers that have adapters. For each service provider that you want to use in a service, specify your key. Note that you need to obtain the key on your own first. The process is slightly different for each service provider, but is usually quick. Service providers typically email

you a confirmation. Once you have a key, you enter it into your Keychain using the **Add key** link (as shown in Figure 2.21).

Your Keychain is a very important and necessary part of building the web. You want to keep your keys handy, but you also want them private. **zembly** does this all for you. When other people call your published services, **zembly** uses your key (from your Keychain), but its value remains private.

You can see a list of adapters available by clicking the service's **Check out the services offered by** link. For example, you can see the services offered by Amazon AWS by clicking the link, as shown (circled) in Figure 2.21.



Figure 2.21 Building your Keychain for service providers

When you follow this link, you'll see the service adapters currently deployed within the **zembly** container, as shown in Figure 2.22.

You can further explore each service adapter by following its link to the detailed documentation page. Here, you'll find the service's parameters, error codes, and other pertinent information, which frequently includes external links to the provider's online documentation. "Putting It All Together—Using the WeatherBug API" on page 45 steps you through the process of building a service using one of **zembly**'s external service providers.

# 2.4 Creating Your First Service: LoanPaymentService

Using some of the posted samples as guidelines, let's create a new service. You won't call an external service here; instead, you'll build one using JavaScript. A familiar example is a service that calculates one's monthly mortgage payment based on principal, interest rate, and length of loan (years).

```
    Service amazon.ecs.ItemSearch (last modified 1 week ago)
        Amazon E-Commerce Service (ECS) lets you search Amazon's product catalogs and retrieve detailed product information,
            including prices, images, customer reviews, and more. You must sign up for the Amazon Associates program to use it. This
            service uses the ItemSearch operation of ECS. More at: http://docs.amazonwebservices.com/AWSECommerceService/2...

    Service amazon.s3.CreateBucket (last modified 6 seconds ago)
        Amazon S3 CreateBucket service
        Service amazon.s3.GetObject (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 GetObject service
        Service amazon.s3.ListBucket (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets service
        Service amazon.s3.ListBuckets (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets service
        Service amazon.s3.ListBuckets (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets service
        Service amazon.s3.PutObject (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets service
        Service amazon.s3.PutObject (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets service
        Service amazon.s3.PutObject (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 ListBuckets service
        Service amazon.s3.PutObject (last modified 6 seconds ago)
            Amazon S3 PutObject service
        Service amazon.s3.PutObject (last modified 6 seconds ago)
        Amazon S3 PutObject service
        Service amazon.s3.PutObject (last modified 6 seconds ago)
        Amazon S3 PutObject service
        Service amazon.s3.PutObject (last modifi
```

# Figure 2.22 Amazon services include Simple Storage Service and E-Commerce Service (ECS)

Here's a summary of the steps you'll follow.

- 1. Create a new service. Give it a name and a description.
- 2. Add parameters to the service (optional).
- 3. Provide JavaScript code that returns data to the caller.
- 4. Add any error types (optional).
- 5. Test drive your service and modify as necessary.
- 6. Capture example return data (optional).
- 7. Publish your service.

Let's start. To create a service, click <u>Create something</u> at the top of the page and select **Service** as shown in Figure 2.23. You'll see a new page that asks you to provide a description of the service. The default service name is NewService, which you should change to something meaningful. Many times, service names end in "Service," but this is not a requirement. Call the service **LoanPaymentService**.



Figure 2.23 Creating a Service

This service requires three input parameters and returns a single numerical result. Error handling for input validation is handled completely by **zembly**; we discuss this further in the next section. Here's the JavaScript that provides the service.

#### Listing 2.2 LoanPaymentService (JavaScript)

```
// LoanPaymentService
// Input parameters are all NUMBERs and all Required
var principal = Parameters.principal;
var interest = Parameters.interest;
var interest_rate = interest / 1200;
var years = Parameters.years;
//Perform the calculation
var months = years * 12;
var x = Math.pow(1 + interest_rate, months);
var payment = (principal * x * interest_rate)/(x-1);
return payment.toFixed(2);
```

### **Specifying Parameters in a Service**

When you create a web service, you tell the service interaction page about the parameters for your service. To add parameters, click **Add a new parameter** in the Call -Parameters window. You specify a parameter's characteristics in a dialog box.

When you add a new parameter you choose its type. By using the appropriate type, you take advantage of **zembly**'s built-in parameter validation. Table 2.1 lists the types supported.

Туре	Additional Fields	Examples
Binary	-	1101
Boolean	-	true, false
Email	-	info@buildtheweb.org
JSON	-	{"firstName":"John", "lastName":"Smith"}
Key	Keyset Provider	(Depends on provider)
Number	Min Value, Max Value	55, 25.3
(integer, real, or floating point)		
String	Max Length, Escape value	any string <= Max Length
URI	-	http://www.asgteach.com
XML	-	<firstname>John</firstname> <lastname>Smith</lastname>

 TABLE 2.1 Parameter Types for Services

For this service, specify three parameters (principal, interest, and years). Make them all **required** and Type **Number**. With Number you also specify the minimum and maximum values. For principal use minimum **10** and maximum **2** million (2,000,000). For interest specify minimum **1** and maximum **20**. Finally, for years use minimum **1** and maximum **99**. Figure 2.24 shows the Parameter Editor for parameter years.

Name:	vears
Description:	How long your loan will endure (in
	Must use this parameter in the call
Type:	Number 🗸
Min Value:	1
Max Value:	99

Figure 2.24 Creating and editing a web service parameter

### Programming Tip

*If your service expects numbers for input, be sure to specify* **Number** *for the parameter type. The built-in parameter validation will verify the correct type and provide range checking as well. Figure 2.27 on page 30 provides an example result for out of range input.* 



Figure 2.25 Creating and editing web service error codes

Note that if you make a parameter required, **zembly** flags an error if the caller doesn't provide a value. If you want the parameter to be optional, uncheck **Must use this parameter in the call**.

Once you've specified the parameters, you can access them in JavaScript. For example, you access the LoanPaymentService principal parameter with Parameters.principal.

### zembly Tip

It's a good practice to provide a description for parameters as shown in Figure 2.24. The description will then appear in your service's documentation page. It will also appear when you add code to call the service through **zembly**'s Find & Use feature (see "Calling LoanPaymentService in Your Widget" on page 39).

# **Error Handling**

When you detect a problem in your service, error codes can communicate status to the caller. You specify error codes in the service's Error Codes section. To add an error code, click **Add a new error type**. Figure 2.25 shows the dialog box that lets you specify a new error type. (You may also edit error codes that you have already defined.)

The error code, description, and HTTP status code all appear on your web service's documentation page. Note that you don't need to define an error code for the Loan-PaymentService, since all error handling is performed by the built-in parameter validation.

# Testing LoanPaymentService

Once you've built a service, you'll want to test it. Use the Call tab located next to the source editor window. You must provide values for any required parameters and click **Test drive now**. This calls the service with the parameter values you've provided and displays any results (or error codes) in the window. Figure 2.26 shows an example with a successful test.

Parameters	5	Test drive	e now	Р	arameters	Test drive now
		Test Drive \	/alue	R	<b>esult</b> OK (200)	Capture example
principal	Edit	300000	x	2	451.25	
nterest	Edit	5.5	x			
oarc	Edit	15	×			

Figure 2.26 Testing a service

Figure 2.27 shows the built-in parameter validation when you provide a value outside the range for parameter years.

Call	Find & Use
Parameters	Test drive now
Result Failure (S	500) Capture example
Log empty	
The parameter value to be in the actual value wa	"years" requires the ne range [1,99], the s "100"

Figure 2.27 zembly's parameter validation

# **Capturing Example Return Data**

To help others use your service, you can capture the return data after testing your service. Simply click the **Capture example** button (as shown in Figure 2.26). **zembly** creates a new heading on your service's documentation page and displays the output. This helps users, especially if the return data contains specific formatting (such as XML or JSON data). Figure 2.28 shows an example for LoanPaymentService.

Example Output

This is a sample of the plain text returned by this service.

2451.25

Figure 2.28 You can display sample output on your service's documentation page

# Saving Drafts

Each time you edit your code and test drive the service, your current code is automatically saved in a draft for you. **zembly** displays a small bar to indicate the current draft (the bars are displayed on the right with the most recent modification saved on top of the stack).

You can force a saved draft by clicking the Save Code icon at the bottom of the editor (or typing Ctrl+Alt+S). You can return to any previously saved draft or published version simply by clicking the bar. Also, you can see the timestamp and draft or version number by holding the cursor over the bar. See "Drafts, Versions, and Timelines" on page 42 for a more detailed discussion.

# Using the JavaScript Editor

The JavaScript editor color codes key words, comments, and objects. The editor includes icon commands in the lower right window (as shown in Figure 2.29) to save your draft (Ctrl+Alt+S), toggle full screen editing (Ctrl+1), format code (Ctrl+Alt+F), undo editing (Ctrl+Z), redo editing (Ctrl+Y), or create a code snippet (Ctrl+Shift+N). You can also invoke code completion with Ctrl+Space.



Figure 2.29 JavaScript editor command icons

# Publishing LoanPaymentService

Click the **Publish** button to publish your service. This is the magic step that **zem**bly provides to make services and widgets available to others. When you publish your service, **zembly** creates a deployable web service and deploys it in its own managed container. As you modify your service, **zembly** keeps track of drafts (unpublished edits) and versions (published edits). With each version you are encouraged to specify how the new version has improved (why it is cool).

# Calling LoanPaymentService

Once you've tested and published your service, you'll want to call it from another service or widget. The page provides the code you need to call the service from another service, from a widget, or through the browser. However, the easiest way to call your service is to use **zembly**'s Find & Use feature which automatically adds the code as a template in the editor. The Find & Use feature is context sensitive, so it will import the correct code depending on whether you're currently developing a widget or service. In addition, with Find & Use you'll see documentation about the service and its parameters.

Use the following (JavaScript) code to call your service from another service. **zembly** generates the comments for each parameter from the documentation you provide.

#### zembly Tip

Note that this example calls the service using code name ganderson. When you create your own service, *zembly* uses your code name, which is unique to you.

```
var result = Things.ganderson.LoanPaymentService({
    principal: 0, // The principal of the loan (in dollars)
    interest: 0, // The interest rate (per cent) (e.g., 6.5)
```

```
years: 0 // How long your loan will endure (in years)
});
```

Use the following template (JavaScript) code to call your service from a widget.

```
Things.callService("ganderson.LoanPaymentService",
{
    principal: 0, // The principal of the loan (in dollars)
    interest: 0, // The interest rate (per cent) (e.g., 6.5)
    years: 0 // How long your loan will endure (in years)
},
{
    onSuccess: function(data) {
        Log.write(data);
    },
    onFailure: function(error) {
        Log.write("Error: " + error.code + " : " + error.message);
    }
});
```

**Programming Tip** 

The statement Log.write(data) writes messages to the JavaScript debugger Firebug if it's installed. If not, **zembly** loads Firebug lite to get you started (use F12 to bring it up). Logging is enabled by default when you preview drafts and disabled for published versions. You can keep your Log.write() statements in the code. They will go to null (unless you enable debugging of published versions with the debug query parameter).

A third way to call a service is to cut and paste the URL provided on the service page into the address line of your browser. Pasting the URL in your browser address line calls the service from HTTP. You must specify the parameter values in place of each [value] marker. Here is the LoanPaymentService URL with values replacing [value] in the URL.

zembly Tip

Note that you must delete the brackets when you specify the actual value for each parameter. However, if you accidentally leave in the brackets (in this example), the built-in parameter validation returns an error.

Figure 2.30 shows the browser window after calling the LoanPaymentService.



Figure 2.30 Calling a service with HTTP using its URL in the browser

# 2.5 Creating Your First Widget: LoanPaymentWidget

Now it's time to build a widget that uses the previously built LoanPaymentService. Here's a summary of the steps you'll follow to build a widget.

- 1. Create a new widget. Give it a name and a description.
- 2. Upload any resources, such as images (optional).
- 3. Include any libraries your widget uses.
- 4. Provide the HTML, CSS, and JavaScript code.
- 5. Use Find & Use to call zembly services from your widget.
- 6. Preview and publish.
- 7. Embed in a web page.

At the top of the page, select **Create something** and then select **Widget**. **zembly** pops up a secondary dialog that lets you either select a template for your widget or simply create a blank widget. Select **Create a blank widget** as shown in Figure 2.31.

#### Create a widget



Figure 2.31 Creating a blank widget

### zembly Tip

Widget templates are a recent addition to **zembly**. Templates let you choose a configurable starting point for building widgets. You navigate and find the template widget that's closest to what you want to build and click **Choose this template**. At this point the widget's code is visible but not editable. Use the form in the Configure tab to change the widget's look or behavior. If the customizations available do not cover your needs, you can edit the code by selecting button **Switch to edit mode**. Then, you can change anything you want in the CSS, Java-Script, and HTML source code, as well as libraries, resources, and so on. We encourage you to experiment with the various template categories before building a widget from scratch. For this example, however, you will start with a "blank" widget.

When you create a widget, you have the opportunity to supply three different files. You can also add images (which you'll do in this example) and include libraries in a separate step. You'll use (X)HTML for page markup, CSS for style specifications, and JavaScript for program logic. Figure 2.32 shows LoanPaymentWidget, the target widget that you'll build, running in a browser.

This widget includes an image, three input text fields with labels arranged in a table, a Calculate Payment button, and an output field that displays the result returned from the service.

Loa	n Payment Calculato	or
Principal:	300000	
Interest:	5.5	
Term (years):	15	
Cal	culate Payment	
	\$2451.25	

Figure 2.32 LoanPaymentWidget running in a browser

# Uploading an Image

To include an image with your widget, you upload it to **zembly**'s servers. To upload the image, click **Browse** in the Resources dialog. Navigate and select an image from your file system. After you click **Upload**, the image appears in the Resources window, as shown in Figure 2.33. Now click on the image to add it to your widget as an <img> tag.

zembly Tip

The easiest way to do this is to preview the already-built LoanPaymentWidget. First, specify LoanPaymentWidget in the **zembly** Search window and click on LoanPaymentWidget in the results list. While the widget is running in the preview area, right-click the image and save it to your local machine. You can then upload the image as described above.



Figure 2.33 Uploading images to add to your widget

After selecting the image, the HTML code includes an <img> tag as follows. (Select the **(X)HTML** tab.)

```
<img src="${res('house.jpg')}">
```

You'll move the <img> tag inside the outermost <div>, as shown in Listing 2.3.

# Including Library Prototype JS

From the Resources tab, select **Libraries** at the bottom. Select **Prototype** from the list of libraries, as shown in Figure 2.34. Prototype is a general-purpose JavaScript library that includes functions (such as enhanced array iteration) and syntax shortcuts for DOM elements.



Figure 2.34 Including the Prototype JavaScript library in your widget

# Building LoanPaymentWidget

Listing 2.3 shows the HTML code for this widget. The input elements are organized within a table element to create symmetrical spacing. The <div> tag with id="result-Div" holds the results returned from the LoanPaymentService; the <div> tag with id="errorDiv" holds any returned error messages.

```
Listing 2.3 LoanPaymentWidget (HTML)
```

```
<div id="loanDiv" class="widget">
  <img src="${res('house.jpg')}">
  <div id="headingDiv" class="heading">
  Loan Payment Calculator
  </div>
  Principal:
      <input id="principal" type="text" size="20" value="300000">
       Interest:
      <input id="interest" type="text" size="20" value="6.0">
       Term (years):
      <input id="years" type="text" size="20" value="30">
      <div id="calcdiv" class="calc">
      <button id="calcButton">Calculate Payment</button>
       </div>
       <div id="resultDiv" class="results">
       </div>
      <div id="errorDiv" class="errorResults">
       </div>
       </div>
```

# Using CSS for Styling

The widget's CSS file provides style sheets for the widget. Note that there is a separate style for results and errorResults. Here is the CSS code.

Listing 2.4 LoanPaymentWidget (CSS)

```
div.widget {
   background-color: #e6e6ff;
   border: 1px solid #aaaaff;
   padding: 5px 5px 5px 5px;
   font-size: 0.8em;
}
div.heading {
   font-size: 1.3em;
   font-weight: bold;
   text-align: center;
}
div.calc {
   margin: 5px;
   text-align: center;
}
div.results {
   margin: 5px 2px 2px 2px;
   padding: 1px 2px 2px 2px;
   font-weight: bold;
   text-align: center;
}
div.errorResults {
   margin: 5px 2px 2px 2px;
   padding: 1px 2px 2px 2px;
   font-weight: bold;
   color: #C61C1C;
   text-align: center;
}
```

# Calling LoanPaymentService in Your Widget

**zembly** makes it easy for you to add code to call services in your widget (this works when building services, too). Open the JavaScript editor for your widget (click the JavaScript tab in the editor zone). Then select the **Find & Use** tab in the window to the right of the editor zone. You'll see a Search window. Type in LoanPaymentService and click **Search**.



Figure 2.35 Find & Use Search for Services lets you easily add code to your widget

Figure 2.35 shows the results (quite a few, as it turns out). Using the avatars as a clue, find the LoanPaymentService near the start of the list. If you click its description, **zembly** opens the LoanPaymentService page in a new window. You can then study its documentation (or code). To add code to call the service to your widget, simply click **Add to editor** in the search results window. This will give you the correct calling template as a starting point. You can then edit the JavaScript to specify the parameter values and add the coding logic for your widget.

Listing 2.5 shows the JavaScript that calls LoanPaymentService using the three input values. Prototype's Event.observe function connects the calcButton click event to the handler.

After obtaining the principal, interest, and years input from the user, you pass these parameters to the LoanPaymentService. The return value is in data, which you prepend with a dollar sign (\$) (for a successful payment result) or error, which returns an error code (error.code) and message (error.message). You insert the payment or the error information into the page's HTML markup.

```
$("resultDiv").innerHTML = [insert payment html here];
$("errorDiv").innerHTML = [insert error html here];
```

Because style errorDiv defines its text color as red as shown below (and in Listing 2.4 on page 39), error messages appear in red and normal return results are in black.

```
div.errorResults {
    margin: 5px 2px 2px 2px;
    padding: 1px 2px 2px 2px;
    font-weight: bold;
    color: #C61C1C;
    text-align: center;
}
```

The Prototype shortcut notation uses \$("element\_id") instead of the more verbose document.getElementById("element\_id").

Listing 2.5 LoanPaymentWidget (JavaScript)

```
Event.observe($("calcButton"), 'click', function() {
   var principal = $("principal").value;
   var interest = $("interest").value;
  var years = $("years").value;
  Things.callService("ganderson.LoanPaymentService",
   ł
      "principal": principal, // The principal of the loan (in dollars)
      "interest": interest, // The interest rate (per cent) (e.g., 6.5)
      "years": years // How long your loan will endure (in years)
   },
   { onSuccess: function(data) {
            var resultsHtml = "$" + data;
            $("resultDiv").innerHTML = resultsHtml;
            $("errorDiv").innerHTML = "";
      },
      onFailure: function(error) {
            $("errorDiv").innerHTML = error.code + ": " + error.message
               + ".<br/>";
            $("resultDiv").innerHTML = "";
         }
      });
});
```

# **Previewing and Publishing**

Test your widget using the Preview tab or the Preview widget box. When you're satisfied that the widget is working, publish your widget by selecting the **Publish** button. After you publish a widget, you can embed it in any web page.

# Embedding LoanPaymentWidget

This widget is embedded in a web page with the following HTML source.

```
<iframe width=400 height=280
src="http://94f52847744e493b944aed46cf255e63.zembly.com/things/
94f52847744e493b944aed46cf255e63;iframe" frameborder="0">
</iframe>
```

You copy/paste the source from the widget's documentation page (under Share This Widget). Here, we've supplied height and width attributes to adjust the size of the iframe tag area.

zembly Tip

You can add width and height attributes to the iframe tag as shown above to make the widget larger than the default iframe size.

# 2.6 Drafts, Versions, and Timelines

When editing a service or widget, **zembly** records the changes you make as intermediate drafts. **zembly** automatically saves a new draft every time you make a change, such as adding a parameter or editing the code. A draft is a clone of the entire state of your service or widget. A draft comes to an end when you publish a service or widget. You can see which version you are looking at or editing below your object's title, as shown in Figure 2.36.



Figure 2.36 Draft and version number of object's current edit session

# **Edit History**

A stack on the right side of the edit zone (small boxes) shows the history of your published versions and drafts, as shown in Figure 2.37. The oldest versions are on the bottom of the stack and, if you hover the mouse over a box, you can see when **zembly** saved the draft (light box) or the published version (dark box).



Figure 2.37 Edit history is a stack of published versions and drafts

If you look quickly when you make a change to the service or widget, or when you click around on the page after making a change, you'll see a new box being added to the top of the stack, as shown in Figure 2.38.



Figure 2.38 Saving a new draft

When you click on one of the boxes, the current changes are saved (as a new draft) and the old draft or version you clicked on is loaded. This lets you move back and forth within your edit history seamlessly. Once you begin editing by changing something, **zembly** creates a new draft based on the draft you changed.

Any changes you make are related to your current draft, which is the thing you're working on before you've published. You can keep multiple drafts for any length of time. You only create a new version of a service or widget when you publish. Then your edit history for the draft is wiped out (along with the current draft, which converts to a published version). At this point, you start over and any changes are saved as new drafts based on the latest published version.

You can also remove all current drafts of a service or widget if you don't want to keep any of the changes saved for your code. Select **Erase and start over**, as shown in Figure 2.39. **zembly** confirms the action before removing the drafts.



Figure 2.39 Erase and start over removes all saved drafts

### **Viewing Versions**

The timeline lets you look at older versions of widgets or services as shown in Figure 2.40.



Figure 2.40 Finding a previous version of a published object

When you click on one of the points on the timeline, **zembly** reloads the page with that version.

# **Online/Offline Status**

You can bring a published service or widget offline by toggling its online/offline status indicator as shown in Figure 2.41. Currently, this affects all published versions of the item. In the future, you will be able to specify individual versions for offline publishing.

```
    Service LoanPaymentService (online) created 1 month ago)
    This service calculates a fixed rate loan's monthly payment amount based percent), and term in years. Th...
```

Widget LoanPaymentWidget (online) created 1 month ago)

Figure 2.41 Online/offline toggle for a service or widget

# 2.7 Putting It All Together—Using the WeatherBug API

You'll now build a service and widget that uses the WeatherBug API. (Note that **zembly** already provides a sample service and widget for the WeatherBug API. However, in this section you'll build your own.) Here's a summary of the steps you'll follow to build this service and widget.

#### zembly Tip

As with all the examples throughout the book, you are encouraged to clone the examples (find them using the **zembly** search mechanism). We provide the steps here so that you can easily build services and widgets on your own.

### Steps to create the WeatherBugService

- 1. Obtain a WeatherBug API key (from WeatherBug) and add it to your **zembly** Keychain.
- 2. Create a new service to access the WeatherBug API.
- 3. Add a parameter to the service.
- 4. Using Find & Use, add the JavaScript code to call the WeatherBug API.
- 5. Format the return data.
- 6. Test and publish the service.

### Steps to create the WeatherBugWidget

- 1. Create a new blank widget.
- 2. Provide HTML for formatting.

- 3. Using Find & Use, add the call your WeatherBug service.
- 4. Include the Prototype library.
- 5. Add JavaScript code.
- 6. Preview and publish the widget.
- 7. Embed it in a web page.

Let's begin. The WeatherBug API is included in the list of services you can access from **zembly**. These services have been wrapped as adapters by the **zembly** structure, giving you easy access to WeatherBug's API.

# **Using Your Keychain**

To start, access your Keychain (click **Manage your Keychain** from your home page). This displays the service providers currently supported on **zembly**. Scroll down to the WeatherBug's listing, as shown in Figure 2.42.



Figure 2.42 Accessing WeatherBug's registration page

The first step is to register with the WeatherBug service to obtain a key. You do this directly with WeatherBug. (Click **Register with WeatherBug** to get started.) After several email confirmations, WeatherBug will send you a key. When you add the WeatherBug API key to your keychain, **zembly** prompts for your name. (Each API site has its own requirements for what constitutes a legal API key.) Your name is stored with the key in your private keychain data.

**zembly** knows this key is associated with the WeatherBug API. When you access the WeatherBug API using 0wner.keychain, the WeatherBug key is used in exactly the correct format required by WeatherBug. Also, when other people use a service you build, they access the service using your key. Your key is protected since it is wrapped in the Keychain mechanism.

# Building WeatherBugService

Now that you have a WeatherBug key, you can build a service. From your Keychain page, scroll down to the WeatherBug listing and click **Check out the services offered by WeatherBug**. This directs you to the list of services; currently LiveWeatherRSS is the only one. Now click on **WeatherBug.LiveWeatherRSS** and **zembly** directs you to the LiveWeatherRSS page, as shown in Figure 2.43.

The WeatherBug.LiveWeatherRSS information page describes how to call the adapter and use its data. Besides the description, the page provides information on the parameters and error codes and a text box tells you how to call the adapter from a service.



Figure 2.43 Drilling down to check out the services offered by WeatherBug

Here's the code template to access the LiveWeatherRSS adapter.

```
var result = Things.WeatherBug.LiveWeatherRSS({
    zipcode: "", // 5-digit ZipCode, U.S. cities only
    // unittype: "", // Optional. Default value is 1. Values are 0
    // (US customary units) or 1 (metric units - kms, degrees Celsius, etc).
    keys: Owner.keychain
});
```

```
What Are Things?
```

**zembly** provides the Things object in the environment. It represents all artifacts (services, widgets, and applications) that are potentially accessible. Group WeatherBug specifies the publishing owner. Currently LiveWeatherRSS is the only service available under this group. The LiveWeatherRSS API call takes three parameters: the target zip code, the unit type (this is optional, but it defaults to '1' which means metric units), and keys. When you build this service, you'll supply values for unit type and keys and allow the user to supply the target zip code.

Now, let's build the service. Click Create something at the top of the page and choose Service from the drop down menu. For this service, you'll have a single parameter (the target zip code). The unit type defaults to "1" (metric units) but you'll specify U.S. units (such as Fahrenheit and inches) which is "0". For the keys data use 0wner.key-chain, which pulls your WeatherBug-specific API key. You write this service using JavaScript. The LiveWeatherRSS service returns XML. You'll extract just the data you want and return the results to the caller in JSON.

# Using E4X and JavaScript

**zembly** returns XML data as a DOM document object. This means that you can access the object directly in your JavaScript using E4X notation.

zembly Tip

Although E4X support is not standard in all browsers, it is supported in the **zembly** environment. Therefore, you can use E4X without sacrificing portability in the services you build. However, for maximum portability, avoid using E4X in widgets. (This is why this service returns results in JSON.)

Listing 2.6 shows a sample of the XML response from WeatherBug. Let's show you how to access the various nodes using JavaScript and E4X.

### Listing 2.6 Sample XML Response from WeatherBug

```
<rss version="2.0">

    <channel>

    <title>Observations from Encinitas, CA - USA</title>

    <link>...</link>

    <description> . . . (contains HTML code) . . . </description>

    . . . omitted data . . .

    </channel>

</rss>
```

Because the data is already returned as a DOM document object, you access node title using (for example),

```
data.channel.title
```

As discussed earlier, you provide a single parameter ("zipcode"), which is a String, it's required, and is escaped, as shown in Figure 2.44.

### zembly Tip

Only a limited subset of characters are allowed in URLs. Escaping means that any special characters such as space, quotation marks, or the ampersand sign are encoded and then unencoded within the service. Typically characters must be encoded because they have a special meaning within a URL (such as ; ? or =) or there is a possibility of misinterpretation (such as space or #).

escription: 5-digitZip	Code, U.S. cities only
Must us	
Turney Otring	se this parameter in th
Type: String	~

Figure 2.44 Editing a parameter

To add the code you need to call the adapter to the editor, select the **Find & Use** tab in the box to the right of the editor. Specify **LiveWeatherRSS** and click **Search**. **zembly** returns the matching services. Click **Add to editor** and **zembly** adds the code you need to the editor, as shown in Figure 2.45.



Figure 2.45 Find & Use lets you search for services and add code to the editor

Listing 2.7 shows the JavaScript source for WeatherBugService. Function Log.write allows you to write information to a log file that you can view in the Call window to the right of the editor. Select **Log** at the bottom of the Call window to view. Here, function Log.write(typeof data) writes "xml" to the log file.

Using the E4X notation, the WeatherBugService extracts the data for the title, description, and link to pass to the caller. This is the data you'll work with when you create a widget that uses this service.

Listing 2.7 WeatherBugService (JavaScript)

```
var data = Things.WeatherBug.LiveWeatherRSS({
    "zipcode": Parameters.zipcode, // 5-digit ZipCode, U.S. cities only
    "unittype": "0",
    "keys": Owner.keychain
});
//log type of the result object (XML object)
Log.write(typeof data); // writes "xml"
//You can use E4X notation to access the elements and attributes
//inside this object directly
var result = new Object();
result.title = ""+data.channel.item.title;
result.description = ""+data.channel.item.description;
result.link = ""+data.channel.link;
// Returns JSON
return result;
```

As you build the service, you can test drive it and look at the results that are returned.

# Calling WeatherBugService

The next step is to build a widget that uses this service. The point of building a widget is to create a user-friendly snippet of code that others can paste directly into a web page. This widget should provide nice formatting of the data returned by Weather-BugService. Before leaving the WeatherBugService page, you'll see that it tells you how to call this service from a widget. Here is the template code **zembly** provides.

```
onSuccess: function(data) {
    Log.write(data);
},
onFailure: function(error) {
    Log.write("Error: " + error.code + " : " + error.message);
}
});
```

When you build your widget, you'll use this code to call the service. Let's take a brief look at the response you get when you make a successful call to a service (the onSuccess handler). The code within Things.callService examines the response and gives you a pointer to the data object directly (as the first argument).

- If the service returns an object (if the response content type is *application/json*), then data is a JavaScript object. The WeatherBugService returns JSON data to the calling widget.
- If the service returns an XML document (if the response content type is *application*/ *xml*), then data is a DOM object.
- If the service returns a plain string, number, boolean or date, then the data object will have its string representation. The LoanPaymentService returns a number, which will have its string representation in the calling widget.

Note that the onFailure handler accesses the error object.

# Building WeatherBugWidget

From the top of the page, click **Create something!** and select **Widget** from the drop down menu. Choose **Create a blank widget**. The widget page lets you rename the widget, provide a description, and specify HTML, CSS, and JavaScript code. The HTML code should provide an input field for the zip code and a button to click and grab the weather data. You'll also need a named <div> tag to display the results. (This is id="weatherBugResults" in Listing 2.8 below.)

Here is the HTML code for the WeatherBugWidget.

### Listing 2.8 WeatherBugWidget (HTML)

```
<div id="weatherBugWidget">
   Please enter a ZipCode to search WeatherBug service: <br/>
   <input id="zipcode" type="text" value="92024" />
        <br/>
        <br/>
        <button id="weatherButton">Get Weather</button>
        <br/>
        <button'>
        <button'>
```

### Sample JSON Output

Before you look at the JavaScript code for this widget, let's look at the data that the service returns. Listing 2.9 shows sample JSON output (property description has been shortened). The result object is embedded in curly braces { } and each property is identified in quotation marks followed by a colon and its value. Properties are separated with commas.

Because the data arrives to the caller as a JavaScript object, you do not need to perform any parsing. For example, the title property is accessed using (for example)

data.title

#### Listing 2.9 Sample JSON Output

```
{
    "title": "Live Conditions from Encinitas, CA - USA",
    "description":
    "<img src=\"http://deskwx.weatherbug.com/images/Forecast/icons/cond026.gif\"
        border=\"0\" alt=\"Current Conditions\"/>
        ( . . . data omitted . . . )
        <br />",
        "link":
        "http://weather.weatherbug.com/CA/Encinitas
weather.html?ZCode=Z5546&Units=0&stat=ENCNT"
}
```

### WeatherBugWidget JavaScript

This widget doesn't specify any CSS. Listing 2.10 shows the JavaScript code for this widget. Note that each property in the returned data object (data) is accessed directly using JavaScript notation. Since the data in property description is straight HTML, you can use that directly in the HTML markup.

zembly Tip

*The JavaScript code in Listing 2.10 relies on the Prototype Library. Be sure to select Prototype from the list of libraries under the Resources/Libraries tab.* 

#### Listing 2.10 WeatherBugWidget (JavaScript)

```
// WeatherBugWidget (WBW)
// Register a listener for the "weatherButton" with Prototype Event.observe
```

```
Event.observe($("weatherButton"), 'click', function() {
   var zipcode = $("zipcode").value;
   // call service and pass zipcode
   Things.callService("ganderson.WeatherBugService", {
      zipcode: zipcode},
      ł
      onSuccess: function(data) {
         // format the return data and inject into page markup
         var resultsHtml = "<b>" + data.title + "</b><br/>>" +
            data.description + "<br/>><b><a href=" + data.link +</pre>
            ">weather details</a></b><br/> " ;
         $("weatherBugResults").innerHTML = resultsHtml;
      },
      onFailure: function(error) {alert(error.code);}
   });
});
```

Each time you edit the widget, you can test it directly on the widget page. Once you're finished editing, publish it. **zembly** provides the code you use to run the widget in a browser. You can configure the iframe by specifying height and width attributes. Here is the HTML source.

#### Listing 2.11 Sample HTML source to call the WeatherBugWidget

```
<iframe width=500 height="350"
    src="http://0eb6e21170b8405ca2658cec54fc5005.zembly.com/things/
0eb6e21170b8405ca2658cec54fc5005;iframe" frameborder="0">
</iframe>
```

Figure 2.46 shows sample output from running the above HTML.

zembly Tip

See "LiveWeatherBugWidget" on page 274 and "LiveWeatherMapWidget" on page 284 for enhancements to this widget.

Please enter a ZipCode to search WeatherBug service: 92024 GetWeather
Observations from Encinitas, CA - USA
Temperature: 60.5 °F
Humidity: 41 % Wind Speed: 3 mph NE Pressure: 30.02 "
Dew Point: 37? °F Gusts: mph ENE Rain Today: 0.00 "
weather details

Figure 2.46 WeatherBugWidget running in a browser

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