



# React.js History Overview

## ◆ Origins (2011)

- **Created by:** Jordan Walke, a software engineer at Facebook.
- **Inspiration:** React was inspired by **XHP**, a PHP-based component framework Facebook used.
- Initially used **internally** at Facebook for parts of the UI, especially in the News Feed.

## ◆ Public Release (2013)

- React was **open-sourced** in May 2013 at JSConf US.
- The idea of using a **virtual DOM** and breaking UIs into components was pretty radical at the time.
- Some devs were skeptical because it allowed **JSX** (HTML in JavaScript), which was against the traditional separation of concerns.

## ◆ React Native (2015)

- Facebook released **React Native**, a framework for building native mobile apps using React.
- This was a big deal—it let devs build iOS and Android apps with React-style components.

## ◆ Major Updates

- **React 15 (2016):** Introduced performance improvements and bug fixes.
- **React 16 (2017):** A total rewrite of the core architecture (called **Fiber**) for better rendering.
- **React Hooks (2019):** Introduced in **React 16.8**, allowing functional components to manage state and side effects—this was a huge shift.
- **React 18 (2022):** Introduced **concurrent rendering**, **automatic batching**, and **suspense for data fetching**—improving performance and flexibility.



## Key Innovations

- **Virtual DOM:** Efficient rendering by updating only what's changed.
- **Component-Based Architecture:** UIs as reusable, self-contained pieces.
- **JSX:** JavaScript + XML-like syntax for templating.
- **Unidirectional Data Flow:** Makes debugging and understanding state easier.