

Angular – Framework JS

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I. What is Angular ?

- Angular is a Javascript framework allowing to program simple, rich, and dynamic Web interfaces. It is a client-oriented Javascript framework
- Angular is based on the MVC concept: it splits up the models, the view and the controllers, making it easier to develop the programs as the database code, the views (what is seen by the user), and the controllers (making the connection between both of them) are well separated.
- It's based on TypeScript and completely open-source.

II. Angular more in detail

- It first got released in 2009 by Google.
- Different versions since then:
 - AngularJS : first version (from 1.x to 2)
 - Angular 2.0 in 2014 => As the framework almost completely changed its structure, Google decided to also modify it's name from AngularJS to Angular in order to avoid any confusions.
 - Angular 4.0 in 2016 => The version 3.0 was willingly omitted (because of minor changes applied during 2.0 that could cause confusions).
 - Angular 5.0 in 2017
 - Angular 6.0 in 2018 => Making everything easier, especially for future updates & versatility of the different versions.
 - ... up to Angular 9.0 in 2020 (February 9th).

III. What are Angular's advantages ?

- It's a very complete framework with an elegant and simple architecture.
- The framework is very well-documented and complete.
- It also has a huge community of developers, making it easier to discuss and get help about a specific problem.
- As it is owned by Google, the updates and new versions are very frequent (ex: last Angular's version was released in Feb. 2020, and the upcoming one is said to be released on August 2020).
- The MVC architecture being used more and more, so it makes it easier to start with the framework (even if it doesn't have an easy syntax).
- The framework is completely open-source.

IV. Drawbacks of Angular

- The framework in itself is quite “heavy”, and also has a complex syntax.
- When well-mastered, it’s a very powerful tool, but as it’s based on TypeScript, learning it will take some time, and won’t be necessarily easy for a beginner.
- It’s not really possible to work with multiple & similar technologies, hence making Angular a relatively adamant framework: if a project is started in Angular, it has to be finished in Angular or started all over again.
- Since Angular’s 4,5 & 6 versions, the framework is retro-compatible, but switching to a different version isn’t that simple.

Conclusion

Angular is currently, and has been for years now, one of the most popular and used JavaScript (/TypeScript) frameworks.

As said before, it's architecture and the technologies it offers really facilitates the different tasks of a project.

A lot of companies already use Angular on a regular basis (a lot of our internships require some knowledge on it for example).