8 Using Community Hooks

Exercise 1: Exploring the input handling Hook

A very common use case when dealing with Hooks, is to store the current value of an input field using State and Effect Hooks.

The useInput Hook greatly simplifies this use case, by providing a single Hook that deals with the value variable of an input field. It works as follows:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useInput } from 'react-hookedup'
export default function App () {
   const { value, onChange } = useInput('')
   return <input value={value} onChange={onChange} />
}
```

This code will bind an onChange handler function and value to the input field. This means that whenever we enter text into the input field, the value will automatically be updated.

Additionally, there is a function that will clear the input field. This clear function is also returned from the Hook:

```
const { clear } = useInput('')
```

Calling the clear function will set the value to an empty value, and clear all text from the input field.

Furthermore, the Hook provides two ways to bind an input field:

- •bindToInput: Binds the value and onChange props to an input field using e.target.value as the value argument for the onChange function. This is useful when dealing with HTML input fields.
- •bind: Binds the value and onChange props to an input field using only e as the value for the onChange function. This is useful for React components that directly pass the value to the onChange function.

The bind and bindToInput objects can be used with the spread operator, as follows:

As we can see, for the input field we can use the {...bindToInput} props to assign the value and onChange functions. For ToggleButton, we need to use the {...bind} props instead, because we are not dealing with input events here, and the value is directly passed to the change handler (not via e.target.value).

Now that we have learned about the Input Hook, we can move on to implementing it in our blog app.

Exercise 2: Implementing Input Hooks in our blog app

Now that we have learned about the Input Hook, and how it simplifies dealing with the input field state, we are going to implement Input Hooks in our blog app.

First, we have to install the react-hookedup library in our blog app project:

```
> npm install --save react-hookedup
```

We are now going to implement Input Hooks in the following components:

- The Login component
- The Register component
- The CreatePost component

Let's get started implementing Input Hooks.

Step 1: The Login component

We have two input fields in the Login component: the **Username** and **Password** fields. We are now going to replace the State Hooks with Input Hooks.

Let's start implementing Input Hooks in the Login component now:

1. Import the useInput Hook at the beginning of the src/user/Login.js file:

```
import { useInput } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we remove the following username State Hook:

```
const [ username, setUsername ] = useState('')
```

It is replaced with an Input Hook, as follows:

```
const { value: username, bindToInput: bindUsername } = useInput('')
```

Since we are using two Input Hooks, in order to avoid name collisions, we are using the rename syntax ({ from: to }) in object destructuring to rename the value key to username, and bindToInput key to bindUsername.

3. We also remove the following password State Hook:

```
const [ password, setPassword ] = useState('')
```

It is replaced with an Input Hook, as follows:

```
const { value: password, bindToInput: bindPassword } = useInput('')
```

4. We can now remove the following handler functions:

```
function handleUsername (evt) {
    setUsername(evt.target.value)
}
function handlePassword (evt) {
    setPassword(evt.target.value)
}
```

5. Finally, instead of passing the onChange handlers manually, we use the bind objects from the Input Hooks:

The login functionality will still work in exactly the same way as before, but we are now using the much more concise Input Hook, instead of the generic State Hook. We also do not have to define the same kind of handler function for each input field anymore. As we can see, using community Hooks can greatly simplify the implementation of common usecases, such as input handling. We are now going to repeat the same process for the Register component.

Step 2: The Register component

The Register component works similarly to the Login component. However, it has three input fields: Username, Password, and Repeat Password.

Let's implement Input Hooks in the Register component now:

1. Import the useInput Hook at the beginning of the src/user/Register.js file:

```
import { useInput } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we remove the following State Hooks:

```
const [ username, setUsername ] = useState('')
const [ password, setPassword ] = useState('')
const [ passwordRepeat, setPasswordRepeat ] = useState('')
```

They are replaced with the corresponding Input Hooks:

```
const { value: username, bindToInput: bindUsername } =
useInput('')
  const { value: password, bindToInput: bindPassword } =
useInput('')
  const { value: passwordRepeat, bindToInput: bindPasswordRepeat } =
useInput('')
```

3. Again, we can remove all of the handler functions:

```
function handleUsername (evt) {
    setUsername(evt.target.value)
}

function handlePassword (evt) {
    setPassword(evt.target.value)
}

function handlePasswordRepeat (evt) {
    setPasswordRepeat(evt.target.value)
}
```

4. Finally, we replace all of the onChange handlers with the corresponding bind objects:

The register functionality will also still work in the same way, but now using Input Hooks. Next up is the CreatePost component, where we are going to implement Input Hooks as well.

Step 3: The CreatePost component

The CreatePost component uses two input fields: one for the title, and one for the content. We are going to replace both of them with Input Hooks. Let's implement Input Hooks in the CreatePost component now:

1. Import the useInput Hook at the beginning of the src/post/CreatePost.js file:

```
import { useInput } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we remove the following State Hooks:

```
const [ title, setTitle ] = useState('')
const [ content, setContent ] = useState('')
```

We replace them with the corresponding Input Hooks:

```
const { value: title, bindToInput: bindTitle } = useInput('')
const { value: content, bindToInput: bindContent } = useInput('')
```

3. Again, we can remove the following input handler functions:

```
function handleTitle (evt) {
    setTitle(evt.target.value)
}

function handleContent (evt) {
    setContent(evt.target.value)
}
```

4. Finally, we replace all of the onChange handlers with the corresponding bind objects:

The create post functionality will also work in the same way with Input Hooks.

Exercise 3: React life cycles with Hooks (Chapter8_2)

As we have learned in the previous labs, we can use the useEffect Hook to model most of React's life cycle methods. However, if you prefer dealing with React life cycle directly, instead of using Effect Hooks, there is a library called react-hookedup, which provides various Hooks, including Hooks for the various React life cycles. Additionally, the library provides a merging State Hook, which works similarly to this.setState() in React's class components.

Step 1: The useOnMount Hook

The useOnMount Hook has a similar effect to the componentDidMount life cycle. It is used as follows:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useOnMount } from 'react-hookedup'
export default function UseOnMount () {
   useOnMount(() => console.log('mounted'))
   return <div>look at the console :)</div> }
```

The preceding code will output **mounted** to the console when the component gets mounted (when the React component is rendered for the first time). It will not be called again when the component re-renders due to, for example, a prop change.

Alternatively, we could just use a useEffect Hook with an empty array as the second argument, which will have the same effect:

```
import React, { useEffect } from 'react'
export default function OnMountWithEffect () {         useEffect(() => console.log('mounted with effect'), [])
    return <div>look at the console :)</div> }
```

As we can see, using an Effect Hook with an empty array as the second argument results in the same behavior as the useOnMount Hook or the componentDidMount life cycle method.

Step 2: The useOnUnmount Hook

The useOnUnmount Hook has a similar effect to the componentWillUnmount life cycle. It is used as follows:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useOnUnmount } from 'react-hookedup'

export default function UseOnUnmount () {
    useOnUnmount(() => console.log('unmounting'))
    return <div>click the "unmount" button above and look at the console </div> }
```

The preceding code will output **unmounting** to the console when the component gets unmounted (before the React component is removed from the DOM).

If you remember from Chapter 4, Using the Reducer and Effect Hooks, we can return a cleanup function from the useEffect Hook, which will be called when the component unmounts. This means that we could alternatively implement the useOnMount Hook using useEffect, as follows:

```
import React, { useEffect } from 'react'

export default function OnUnmountWithEffect () {
    useEffect(() => {
        return () => console.log('unmounting with effect')
    }, [])

    return <div>click the "unmount" button above and look at the console</div> }
```

As we can see, using the cleanup function that is returned from an Effect Hook, with an empty array as the second argument, has the same effect as the useOnUnmount Hook, or the componentWillUnmount life cycle method.

Step 3: The useLifecycleHooks Hook

The useLifecycleHooks Hook combines the previous two Hooks into one. We can combine the useOnMount and useOnUnmount Hooks as follows:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useLifecycleHooks } from 'react-hookedup'

export default function UseLifecycleHooks () {
    useLifecycleHooks({
        onMount: () => console.log('lifecycle mounted'),
            onUnmount: () => console.log('lifecycle unmounting')
    })

return <div>look at the console and click the button</div> }
```

Alternatively, we could use the two Hooks separately:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useOnMount, useOnUnmount } from 'react-hookedup'
export default function UseLifecycleHooksSeparate () {
   useOnMount(() => console.log('separate lifecycle mounted'))
   useOnUnmount(() => console.log('separate lifecycle unmounting'))
   return <div>look at the console and click the button</div> }
```

However, if you have this kind of pattern, I would recommend simply using the useEffect Hook, as follows:

```
import React, { useEffect } from 'react'

export default function LifecycleHooksWithEffect () {
    useEffect(() => {
        console.log('lifecycle mounted with effect')
        return () => console.log('lifecycle unmounting with effect')
    }, [])

return <div>look at the console and click the button</div> }
```

Using useEffect, we can put our whole effect into a single function, and then simply return a function for cleanup. This pattern is especially useful when we learn about making our own Hooks in the next labs.

Effects make us think differently about React components. We do not have to think about the life cycle of a component at all. Instead, we think about effects, dependencies, and the cleanup of effects.

Step 4: The useMergeState Hook

The useMergeState Hook works similarly to the useState Hook. However, it does not replace the current state, but instead merges the current state with the new state, just like this.setState() works in React class components.

The Merge State Hook returns the following objects:

- state: The current state
- setState: A function to merge the current state with the given state object

For example, let's consider the following component:

1. First, we import the useState Hook:

```
import React, { useState } from 'react'
```

2. Then, we define our app component and a State Hook with an object containing a loaded value and a counter value:

```
export default function MergeState () {
  const [ state, setState ] = useState({ loaded: true, counter: 0 })
```

3. Next, we define a handleClick function, where we set the new state, increasing the current counter value by 1:

```
function handleClick () {
    setState({ counter: state.counter + 1 })
}
```

4. Finally, we render the current counter value and a +1 button in order to increase the counter value by 1. The button will be disabled if state.loaded is false or undefined:

As we can see, we have a simple counter app, showing the current count and a +1 button. The +1 button will only be enabled when the loaded value is set to true.

If we now click on the +1 button, counter will increase from 0 to 1, but the button will get disabled, because we have overwritten the current state object with a new state object.

To solve this problem, we would have to adjust the handleClick function as follows:

```
function handleClick () {
    setState({ ...state, counter: state.counter + 1 })
}
```

Alternatively, we could use the useMergeState Hook in order to avoid this problem altogether, and get the same behavior that we had with this.setState() in class components:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useMergeState } from 'react-hookedup'

export default function UseMergeState () {
   const { state, setState } = useMergeState({ loaded: true, counter: 0 })
```

As we can see, by using the useMergeState Hook, we can reproduce the same behavior that we had with this.setState() in class components. So, we do not need to use spread syntax anymore. However, often, it is better to simply use multiple State Hooks or a Reducer Hook instead.

Exercise 4: Various useful Hooks(Chapter8_3)

In addition to life cycle Hooks, react-hookedup also provides Hooks for timers, checking the network status, and various other useful Hooks for dealing with, for example, arrays and input fields. We are now going to cover the rest of the Hooks that react-hookedup provides.

These Hooks are as follows:

- The usePrevious Hook, to get the previous value of a Hook or prop
- Timer Hooks, to implement intervals and timeouts
- The useOnline Hook, to check whether the client has an active internet connection
- Various data manipulation Hooks for dealing with booleans, arrays, and counters
- Hooks to deal with focus and hover events

Step 1: The usePrevious Hook

The usePrevious Hook is a simple Hook that lets us get the previous value of a prop or Hook value. It will always store and return the previous value of any given variable, and it works as follows:

1. First, we import the useState and usePrevious Hooks:

```
import React, { useState } from 'react'
import { usePrevious } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we define our App component, and a Hook in which we store the current count state:

```
export default function UsePrevious () {
   const [ count, setCount ] = useState(0)
```

3. Now, we define the usePrevious Hook, passing the count value from the State Hook to it:

```
const prevCount = usePrevious(count)
```

The usePrevious Hook works with any variable, including component props and values from other Hooks.

4. Next, we define a handler function, which will increase count by 1:

```
function handleClick () {
    setCount(count + 1)
}
```

5. Finally, we render the previous value of count, the current value of count, and a button to increase count:

The previously defined component will first show **Count was and is 0 now.**, because the default value for the Previous Hook is null. When clicking the button once, it will show the following: **Count was 0 and is 1 now.**

Timer Hooks

The react-hookedup library also provides Hooks for dealing with timers. If we simply create a timer using setTimeout or setInterval in our component, it will get instantiated again every time the component is re-rendered. This not only causes bugs and unpredictability, but can also cause a memory leak if the old timers are not freed properly. Using timer Hooks, we can avoid these problems completely, and easily use intervals and timeouts.

The following timer Hooks are provided by the library:

- The useInterval Hook, which is used to define setInterval timers (timers that trigger multiple times) in React components
- The useTimeout Hook, which is used to define setTimeout timers (timers that trigger only once after a certain amount of time)

Step 2: The useInterval Hook

The useInterval Hook can be used just like setInterval. We are now going to implement a small counter that counts the number of seconds since mounting the component:

1. First, import the useState and useInterval Hooks:

```
import React, { useState } from 'react'
import { useInterval } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we define our component and a State Hook:

```
export default function UseInterval () {
   const [ count, setCount ] = useState(0)
```

3. Next, we define the useInterval Hook, which is going to increase the count by 1 every 1000 ms, which is equal to 1 second:

```
useInterval(() => setCount(count + 1), 1000)
```

4. Finally, we display the current count value:

```
return <div>{count} seconds passed</div> }
```

Alternatively, we could use an Effect Hook in combination with setInterval, instead of the useInterval Hook, as follows:

```
import React, { useState, useEffect } from 'react'

export default function IntervalWithEffect () {    const [
    count, setCount ] = useState(0)
    useEffect(() => {
        const interval = setInterval(() => setCount(count + 1), 1000)
        return () => clearInterval(interval)

})

return <div>{count} seconds passed</div> }
```

As we can see, the useInterval Hook makes our code much more concise and easily readable.

Step 3: useTimeout Hook

The useTimeout Hook can be used just like setTimeout. We are now going to implement a component that triggers after 10 seconds have passed: 1. First, import the useState and useTimeout Hooks:

```
import React, { useState } from 'react'
import { useTimeout } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we define our component and a State Hook:

```
export default function UseTimeout () {
   const [ ready, setReady ] = useState(false)
```

3. Next, we define the useTimeout Hook, which is going to set ready to true, after 10000 ms (10 seconds):

```
useTimeout(() => setReady(true), 10000)
```

4. Finally, we display whether we are ready or not:

```
return <div>{ready ? 'ready' : 'waiting...'}</div> }
```

Alternatively, we could use an Effect Hook in combination with setTimeout, instead of the useTimeout Hook, as follows:

```
import React, { useState, useEffect } from 'react'

export default function TimeoutWithEffect () {
   const [ ready, setReady ] = useState(false)
   useEffect(() => {
      const timeout = setTimeout(() => setReady(true), 10000)
      return () => clearTimeout(timeout)
   })

return <div>{ready ? 'ready' : 'waiting...'}</div> }
```

As we can see, the useTimeout Hook makes our code much more concise and easily readable.

Step 4: The Online Status Hook

In some web apps, it makes sense to implement an offline mode; for example, if we want to be able to edit and save drafts for posts locally, and sync them to the server whenever we are online again. To be able to implement this use case, we can use the useOnlineStatus Hook.

The Online Status Hook returns an object with an online value, which contains true if the client is online; otherwise, it contains false. It works as follows:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useOnlineStatus } from 'react-hookedup'

export default function App () {
   const { online } = useOnlineStatus()
   return <div>You are {online ? 'online' : 'offline'}!</div> }
```

The previous component will display **You are online!**, when an internet connection is available, or **You are offline!**, otherwise.

We could then use a Previous Hook, in combination with an Effect Hook, in order to sync data to the server when we are online again:

```
import React, { useEffect } from 'react'
import { useOnlineStatus, usePrevious } from 'react-hookedup'

export default function App () {

  const { online } = useOnlineStatus()
  const prevOnline = usePrevious(online)
  useEffect(() => {
    if (prevOnline === false && online === true) {
      alert('syncing data')
    }
  }, [prevOnline, online])

return <div>You are {online ? 'online' : 'offline'}!</div> }
```

Now, we have an Effect Hook that triggers whenever the value of online changes. It then checks whether the previous value of online was false, and the current one is true. If that is the case, it means we were offline, and are now online again, so we need to sync our updated data to the server. As a result, our app will show an alert displaying **syncing data** when we go offline and then online again.

Data manipulation Hooks

The react-hookedup library provides various utility Hooks for dealing with data. These Hooks simplify dealing with common data structures and provide an abstraction over the State Hook.

The following data manipulation Hooks are provided:

- The useBoolean Hook: To deal with toggling boolean values
- The useArray Hook: To deal with handling arrays
- The useCounter Hook: To deal with counters

Step 1: The useBoolean Hook

The useBoolean Hook is used to deal with toggling boolean values (true/false), and provides functions to set the value to true/false, and a toggle function to toggle the value.

The Hook returns an object with the following:

- value: The current value of the boolean
- toggle: A function to toggle the current value (sets true if currently false, and false if currently true)
- setTrue: Sets the current value to true
- setFalse: Sets the current value to false

The Boolean Hook works as follows:

1. First, we import the useBoolean Hook from react-hookedup:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useBoolean } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we define our component and the Boolean Hook, which returns an object with the toggle function and value. We pass false as the default value:

```
export default function UseBoolean () {
   const { toggle, value } = useBoolean(false)
```

3. Finally, we render a button, which can be turned **on/off**:

The button will initially be rendered with the text **off**. When clicking the button, it will show the text **on**. When clicking again, it will be **off** again.

Step 2: The useArray Hook

The useArray Hook is used to easily deal with arrays, without having to use the rest/spread syntax.

The Array Hook returns an object with the following:

- value: The current array
- setValue: Sets a new array as the value
- add: Adds a given element to the array
- clear: Removes all elements from the array
- removeIndex: Removes an element from the array by its index
- removeById: Removes an element from the array by its id (assuming that the elements in the array are objects with an id key)

It works as follows:

1. First, we import the useArray Hook from react-hookedup:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useArray } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we define the component and the Array Hook, with the default value of ['one',

3. Now, we display the current array as JSON:

4. Then, we display a button to add an element:

```
<button onClick={() => add('test')}>add element
```

5. Next, we display a button to remove the first element by index:

```
\label{linear_continuous} $$ \button onClick={() => removeIndex(0)}>remove first element</button>
```

6. Finally, we add a button to clear all elements:

As we can see, using the useArray Hook makes dealing with arrays much simpler.

Step 3: The useCounter Hook

The useCounter Hook can be used to define various kinds of counters. We can define a lower/upper limit, specify whether the counter should loop or not, and specify the step amount by which we increase/decrease the counter. Furthermore, the Counter Hook provides functions in order to increase/decrease the counter.

It accepts the following configuration options:

- upperLimit: Defines the upper limit (maximum value) of our counter
- lowerLimit: Defines the lower limit (minimum value) of our counter
- loop: Specifies whether the counter should loop (for example, when the maximum value is reached, we go back to the minimum value)
- step: Sets the default step amount for the increase and decrease functions It returns the following object:
- value: The current value of our counter.
- setValue: Sets the current value of our counter.
- increase: Increases the value by a given step amount. If no amount is specified, then the default step amount is used.
- decrease: Decreases the value by a given step amount. If no amount is specified, then the default step amount is used.

The Counter Hook can be used as follows:

1. First, we import the useCounter Hook from react-hookedup:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useCounter } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we define our component and the Hook, specifying 0 as the default value.

We also specify upperLimit, lowerLimit, and loop:

```
export default function UseCounter () {
   const { value, increase, decrease } = useCounter(0, { upperLimit: 3,
lowerLimit: 0, loop: true })
```

3. Finally, we render the current value and two buttons to increase/decrease the value:

As we can see, the Counter Hook makes implementing counters much simpler.

Exercise 5: Focus and Hover Hooks

Sometimes, we want to check whether the user has hovered over an element or focused on an input field. To do so, we can use the Focus and Hover Hooks that are provided by the react-hookedup library.

The library provides two Hooks for these features:

- The useFocus Hook: To handle focus events (for example, a selected input field)
- The useHover Hook: To deal with hover events (for example, when hovering the mouse pointer over an area)

Step 1: The useFocus Hook

In order to know whether an element is currently focused, we can use the useFocus Hook as follows:

1. First, we import the useFocus Hook:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useFocus } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we define our component and the Focus Hook, which returns the focused value and a bind function, to bind the Hook to an element:

```
export default function UseFocus () {
  const { focused, bind } = useFocus()
```

3. Finally, we render an input field, and bind the Focus Hook to it:

As we can see, the Focus Hook makes it much easier to handle focus events. There is no need to define our own handler functions anymore.

Step 2: The useHover Hook

In order to know whether the user is currently hovering over an element, we can use the useHover Hook, as follows:

1. First, we import the useHover Hook:

```
import React from 'react'
import { useHover } from 'react-hookedup'
```

2. Then, we define our component and the Hover Hook, which returns the hovered value and a bind function, to bind the Hook to an element:

```
export default function UseHover () {
  const { hovered, bind } = useHover()
```

3. Finally, we render an element, and bind the Hover Hook to it:

As we can see, the Hover Hook makes it much easier to handle hover events. There is no need to define our own handler functions anymore.

Exercise 6: Responsive design with Hooks (Chapter8_4)

In web apps, it is often important to have a responsive design. Responsive design makes your web app render well on various devices and window/screen sizes. Our blog app might be viewed on a desktop, a mobile phone, a tablet, or maybe even a very large screen, such as a TV. Often, it makes the most sense to simply use CSS media queries for responsive design. However, sometimes that is not possible, for example, when we render elements within a canvas or **Web Graphics Library** (**WebGL**). Sometimes, we also want to use the window size in order to decide whether to load a component or not, instead of simply rendering it and then hiding it via CSS later.

The @rehooks/window-size library provides the useWindowSize Hook, which returns the following values:

- innerWidth: Equal to the window.innerWidth value
- innerHeight: Equal to the window.innerHeight value
- outerWidth: Equal to the window.outerWidth value
- outerHeight: Equal to the window.outerHeight value

To show the difference between outerWidth/outerHeight, and innerWidth/innerHeight, take a look at the following diagram:



Visualization of the window width/height properties

As we can see, innerHeight and innerWidth specify the innermost part of the browser window, while outerHeight and outerWidth specify the full dimensions of the browser window, including the URL bar, scroll bars, and so on.

We are now going to hide components based on the window size in our blog app.

Responsively hiding components

In our blog app, we are going to hide the UserBar and ChangeTheme components completely when the screen size is very small so that, when reading a post on a mobile phone, we can focus on the content.

Step 1: Let's get started implementing the Window Size Hook:

1. First, we have to install the @rehooks/window-size library:

```
> npm install --save @rehooks/window-size
```

2. Then, we import the useWindowSize Hook at the start of the src/pages/HeaderBar.js file:

```
import useWindowSize from '@rehooks/window-size'
```

3. Next, we define the following Window Size Hook after the existing Context Hooks:

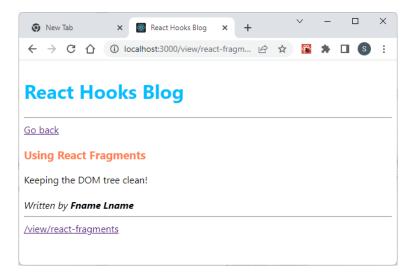
```
const { innerWidth } = useWindowSize()
```

4. If the window width is smaller than 640 pixels, we assume that the device is a mobile phone:

```
const mobilePhone = innerWidth < 640</pre>
```

5. Finally, we only show the ChangeTheme and UserBar components when we are not on a mobile phone:

If we now resize our browser window to a width smaller than 640 pixels, we can see that the ChangeTheme and UserBar components will not be rendered anymore:



Using the Window Size Hook, we can avoid rendering elements on smaller screen sizes.

Exercise 7: Undo/Redo with Hooks(Chapter8_5)

In some apps, we want to implement undo/redo functionality, which means that we can go back and forth in the state of our app. For example, if we have a text editor in our blog app, we want to provide a feature to undo/redo changes. If you learned about Redux, you might already be familiar with this kind of functionality. Since React now provides a Reducer Hook, we can reimplement the same functionality using only React. The use-undo library provides exactly this functionality. The useUndo Hook takes the default state object as an argument, and returns an array with the following contents: [state, functions].

The state object looks as follows:

- present: The current state
- past: Array of past states (when we undo, we go here)
- future: Array of future states (after undoing, we can redo to go here)

The functions object returns various functions to interact with the Undo Hook:

- set: Sets the current state, and assigns a new value to present.
- reset: Resets the current state, clears the past and future arrays (undo/redo history), and assigns a new value to present.
- undo: Undoes to the previous state (goes through the elements of the past array). redo: Redoes to the next state (goes through the elements of the future array).
- canUndo: Equals true if it is possible to do an undo action (past array not empty).
- canRedo: Equals true if it is possible to do a redo action (future array not empty).

We are now going to implement undo/redo functionality in our post editor.

Step 1: Implementing Undo/Redo in our post editor

In the simple post editor of our blog app, we have a textarea where we can write the contents of a blog post. We are now going to implement the useUndo Hook there, so that we can undo/redo any changes that we made to the text:

1. First, we have to install the use-undo library via npm:

```
> npm install --save use-undo
```

2. Then, we import the useUndo Hook from the library in src/post/CreatePost.js:

```
import useUndo from 'use-undo'
```

3. Next, we define the Undo Hook by replacing the current useInput Hook. Remove the following line of code:

```
const { value: content, bindToInput: bindContent } = useInput('')
```

Replace it with the useUndo Hook, as follows. We set the default state to ''. We also save the state to undoContent, and get the setContent, undo, and redo functions, as well as the canUndo and canRedo values:

```
const [ undoContent, {
    set: setContent,
    undo,
    redo,
    canUndo,
    canRedo
} ] = useUndo('')
```

4. Now, we assign the undoContent.present state to the content variable:

```
const content = undoContent.present
```

5. Next, we define a new handler function in order to update the content value using the setContent function:

```
function handleContent (e) {
    setContent(e.target.value)
}
```

6. Then, we have to replace the bindContent object with the handleContent function, as follows:

```
<textarea value={content} onChange={handleContent} />
```

7. Finally, we define buttons to **Undo/Redo** our changes, after the textarea element:

It is important that <button> elements in a <form> element have a type attribute defined. If the type attribute is not defined, buttons are assumed to be type="submit", which means that they will trigger the onSubmit handler function when clicked.

Now, after entering text we can press **Undo** to remove one character at a time, and **Redo** to add the characters again. Next, we are going to implement debouncing, which means that our changes will only be added to the undo history after a certain amount of time, not after every character that we entered.

Debouncing with Hooks

As we have seen in the previous section, when we press **Undo**, it undoes a single character at a time. Sometimes, we do not want to store every change in our undo history. To avoid storing every change, we need to implement debouncing, which means that the function that stores our content to the undo history is only called after a certain amount of time.

The use-debounce library provides the useDebounce Hook, which can be used, as follows, for simple values:

```
const [ text, setText ] = useState('')
const [ value ] = useDebounce(text, 1000)
```

Now, if we change the text via setText, the text value will be updated instantly, but the value variable will only be updated after 1000 ms (1 second).

However, for our use case, this is not enough. We are going to need debounced callbacks in order to implement debouncing in combination with use-undo. The usedebounce library also provides the useDebouncedCallback Hook, which can be used as follows:

Now, if we call debouncedSet('text'), the text value will be updated after 1000 ms (1 second). If debouncedSet is called multiple times, the timeout will get reset every time, so that only after 1000 ms of no further calls to the debouncedSet function, the setText function will be called. Next, we are going to move on to implementing debouncing in our post editor.

Step 2: Debouncing changes in our post editor

Now that we have learned about debouncing, we are going to implement it in combination with the Undo Hook in our post editor, as follows:

1. First, we have to install the use-debounce library via npm:

```
> npm install --save use-debounce
```

2. In **src/post/CreatePost.js**, first make sure that you import the useState Hook, if it is not imported already:

```
import React, { useState, useContext, useEffect } from 'react'
```

3. Next, import the useDebouncedCallback Hook from the use-debounce library:

```
import { useDebouncedCallback } from 'use-debounce'
```

4. Now, before the Undo Hook, define a new State Hook, which we are going to use for the non-debounced value, to update the input field: \

```
const [ content, setInput ] = useState('')
```

5. After the Undo Hook, we remove the assignment of the content value. Remove the following code:

```
const content = undoContent.present
```

6. Now, after the Undo Hook, define the Debounced Callback Hook:

```
const [ setDebounce, cancelDebounce ] = useDebouncedCallback(
```

7. Within the Debounced Callback Hook, we define a function in order to set the content of the Undo Hook:

```
(value) => {
    setContent(value)
},
```

8. We trigger the setContent function after 200 ms:

```
200
```

9. Next, we have to define an Effect Hook, which will trigger whenever the undo state changes. In this Effect Hook, we cancel the current debouncing, and set the content value to the current present value:

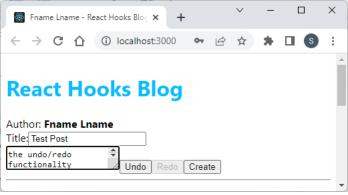
```
useEffect(() => {
    cancelDebounce()
    setInput(undoContent.present)
}, [undoContent])
```

10. Finally, we adjust the handleContent function in order to trigger the setInput function, as well as the setDebounce function:

```
function handleContent (e)
  const { value } = e.target
  setInput(value)
  setDebounce(value)
}
```

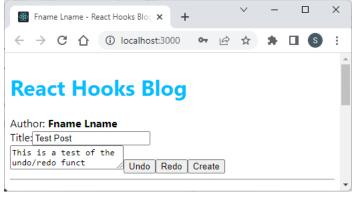
As a result, we instantly set the input value, but we do not store anything to the undo history yet. After the debouncing callback triggers (after 200 ms), we store the current value to the undo history. Whenever the undo state updates, for example, when we press the **Undo/Redo** buttons, we cancel the current debouncing to avoid overwriting the value after undoing/redoing. Then, we set the content value to the new present value of the Undo Hook.

If we now type some text into our editor, we can see that the **Undo** button only activates after a while. It then looks like this:



Undo button activated after typing some text

If we now press the **Undo** button, we can see that we will not undo character by character, but more text at once. For example, if we press **Undo** three times, we get the following result:



As we can see, Undo/Redo and debouncing now work perfectly fine!