10. REACT Refs

The *ref* is used to return a reference to the element. **Refs** should be avoided in most cases, however, they can be useful when we need DOM measurements or to add methods to the components.

10.1.Using Refs

The following example shows how to use **refs** to clear the input field. *ClearInput* function searches for element with **ref = "myInput"** value, resets the state, and adds focus to it after the button is clicked.

Example: App.jsx

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';


class App extends React.Component {

   constructor(props) {
      super(props);

      this.state = {
         data: ''
      }
      this.updateState = this.updateState.bind(this);
      this.clearInput = this.clearInput.bind(this);
   };

   updateState(e) {
      this.setState({data: e.target.value});
   }

   clearInput() {
      this.setState({data: ''});
      ReactDOM.findDOMNode(this.refs.myInput).focus();
```

```
        }


    render() {
        return (
            <div>
                <input value = {this.state.data} onChange =
    {this.updateState}
                    ref = "myInput"></input>
                <button onClick = {this.clearInput}>CLEAR</button>
                <h4>{this.state.data}</h4>
            </div>
        );
    }


}


export default App;
```

Example: main.js

```
    import React from 'react';
    import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';
    import App from './App.jsx';


    ReactDOM.render(<App/>, document.getElementById('app'));
```

Once the button is clicked, the input will be cleared and focused.

Output: