# The Death of Create React App (CRA)

Create React app was a very simple way for beginners of React to learn by creating a full pre-configured React project using one command. Its simplicity reduced the learning curve for many and removed the complexity of configurations for those only starting their journey with the React library.

Many frameworks exists besides Create React App such as Vite and Next.js, however these are not considered as beginner-friendly as Create React App. As you can see at <https://react.dev/learn/start-a-new-react-project> create react app has been removed as of March ’23. Some say this is a negative move that was caused by a lack of support by the maintainers of the library at Meta. Others are calling it progression and evolution of the React ecosystem.

It is worth noting that all recommended frameworks are now ‘production-ready’ and less accessible for people who want to create simple applications or to experiment with React.

Not all of this is negative though, as Vite is becoming a popular replacement for apps on the scale create react app was previously used for. Vite uses esbuild which is a JS bundler written in go and can offer 10-100x faster build/bundle times and this has a positive impact on development time and performance where create react app notoriously struggled with larger more complex applications.

More and more React apps are becoming full-stack applications with the increased popularity of frameworks such as Next and this follows the “JavaScript everywhere” paradigm. This includes server-side rendering as well as a JavaScript backend. Next also supports out-of-the-box routing without the need for libraries like react-router. There is also an organisational benefit of having the API and pages on the same server.

One of the biggest reasons for the downfall of the create react app framework was the overdependency on Webpack (JS bundler) which lacks many features, and it is difficult for more complex configurations especially with Tailwind CSS. Webpack is also quite slow compared to newer bundling tools like Vite as mentioned. Server-side rendering is a growing trend too which means people are turning to frameworks like Next which have native support for this and also TypeScript’s growing popularity has meant it is difficult for developers using create react app to change to TypeScript during a project.

**Note**: Create React App is still available although not maintained or encouraged by documentation anymore

**References**:

<https://www.crocoder.dev/blog/create-react-app-is-dead-what-are-the-alternatives/>

<https://dev.to/thevinitgupta/create-react-app-is-dead-3igo>

https://www.npmjs.com/package/vite