

What I learned – Build something from scratch Phase – Week 3

This week I was able to work more fluent on the project because I already knew the basics of React from experience of the second week working on it. The experience I got helped me to work this week, because either I had already code something like it, or gave a hint to how I could search for things.

One thing I worked on last week was the use of “context” in react, where you can use a react hook called useContext. This is useful to move the same data around your files. We applied this hook to mange logged user’s data, this way whenever you would reload a page, the information wouldn’t get lost, of course this is helped by the back-end. In relation to this I learned on what is the cycle of React and which functions happen first, i.e. constructor function happens first, although I read you shouldn’t edit it if you don’t know what you are doing, then everything gets rendered and the DOM is read, and the first function that runs after rendering is the componentDidMount, which alternatively is the useEffect Hook, both functions work in the same way, but you use one or another if you are within a class or function component.

Other than the useEffect hook I learned how to use the useState hook. This one helps you handle local variables, but in addition it gives you a function to alter the state of a given variable, this one is commonly used with the useEffect hook. Another one I learned was the useRef hook, which helped to refer to a input tag. It was helpful in order to read its value and manipulate it.

This week I also looked into some libraries and started to read their documentation. One was the library of react modal, this one helped us to create modals whenever you click a button, I had to learn how to use props so I could move data from file to file. Although I took long to understand them at the end, I was able to use them properly. Another one I worked with was the full calendar library, this one became more of a challenge as it is a complex documentation, it has plenty editable material, so I had to go through a lot of examples in order to use it within our project.

Although it seems I struggle in some parts, I realize I am understanding more things and more important I am understanding them faster. This is really important because of the time limit we have for the delivery of our project, which will happen on the 20th of November.