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Project Summary

What is the process that we just went through?

In the process of building this application, we have been through a complete software development process. We started from prototyping, routing, hooking up with API and even adding new features.

Let's revise a bit on the process of developing a web application.

Step 1: Prototyping
In this step, a software engineer would set up the development environment and the technology stack in a "minimal" way. This phase is for the software to try out the technologies that he/she is going to use, as well as the features that he/she is going to develop.

Step 2: Page Routing and User Flow
In this step, you will start using the features and code that you built in Step 1 in building a usable application. You will be arranging your features into multiple pages and organizing a user flow. In this stage, you start building a working website or web applications using the components. You will also start looking into how different pages and features are connected to each other.

Step 3: Connecting with APIs
In this step, you are going to connect your application with real data. For example, you will be connecting your app with a backend server, or a testing server. You will also make sure that the user interactions, data and other necessary information are being loaded and saved in the database through the backend program. After completing this step, you can actually launch your web application on the internet!

Step 4: Incremental Updates to the Application
After launching the application, you will then need to constantly adding new features to your web application, based on feedback from users, business requirements or your creativity. When you are building new features, you would want to make sure that you test well and do not break the existing functionality.

Step 5: Refactoring
This is not really a last step. Instead, it is a step that you should be doing every day, every week and every month. It's about keep improving the code quality in your application. When you find that there is an outdated library, upgrade it. When you find the code could be written in a more neat manner, clean it up. When you find that there are some best practices that your code did not follow, make changes to it. Refactoring should be in your mind when you are working on the code. Whatever you spotted, you should take action and make it better.

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Next Step

Now you should understand the process of developing a website or web application. You should also learn all the necessary skills in building a React application.

In the next module, you are going to work on two React projects on your own. When you are working on the React project, keep the process above in mind, and that would help guide your direction. Enjoy the challenge and look forward to your project submissions!

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