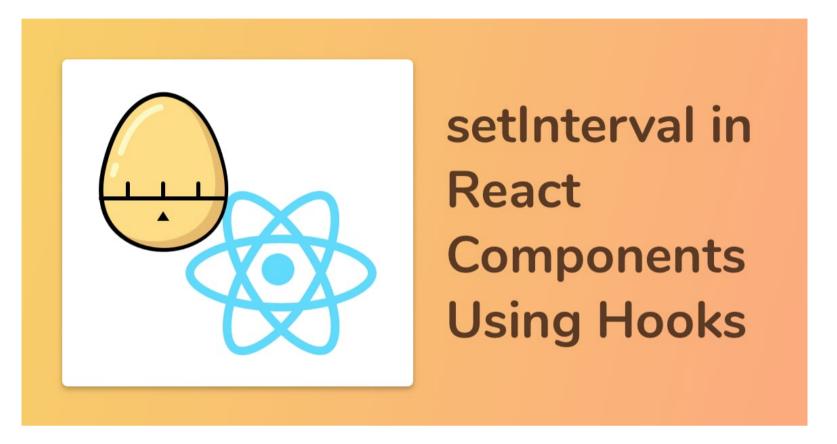


setInterval in React Components Using Hooks

May 5, 2019 / <u>3 comments</u>

Beginner React Tutorials React Hooks



Using setInterval inside React components allows us to execute a function or some code at specific intervals. Let's explore how to use setInterval in React.

The TL;DR:

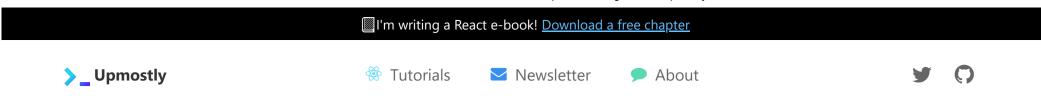
```
useEffect(() => {
  const interval = setInterval(() => {
    console.log('This will run every second!');
  }, 1000);
  return () => clearInterval(interval);
}, []);
```

The code above schedules a new interval to run every second inside of the useEffect Hook. This will schedule once the React component mounts for the first time. To properly clear the interval, we return clearInterval from the useEffect Hook, passing in the interval.

What is setInterval?

setInterval is a method that calls a function or runs some code after specific intervals of time, as specified through the second parameter.

For example, the code below schedules an interval to print the phrase: "Interval triggered" every second to the console until it is cleared.



Tip

setTimeout is a similar method that runs a function once after a delay of time. Learn about <u>setTimeout in React</u> <u>Components using Hooks</u>.

Clearing setInterval in React

A function or block of code that is bound to an interval executes until it is stopped. To stop an interval, you can use the clearInterval() method.

For example, the code below schedules a new interval when the React component mounts for the first time. After the React component unmounts the interval is cleared:

```
IntervalExample.js

...

useEffect(() => {
   const interval = setInterval(() => {
      setSeconds(seconds => seconds + 1);
      }, 1000);
      return () => clearInterval(interval);
      }, []);

...
```

Take a look at the useEffect Hook. At the end of the Hook, we're returning a new function. This is the equivilent of componentWillUnmount in a React Class component.

The useEffect function returns the clearInterval method with the scheduled interval passed into it. As a result, the interval is correctly cleared and no longer triggers every second after the component unmounts from the DOM.

Above all, when using setInterval, it is imperative that you clear the scheduled interval once the component unmounts.

Using setInterval in React Components

To schedule a new interval, we call the setInterval method inside of a React component, like so:

IntervalExample.js

I'm writing a React e-book! <u>Download a free chapter</u>











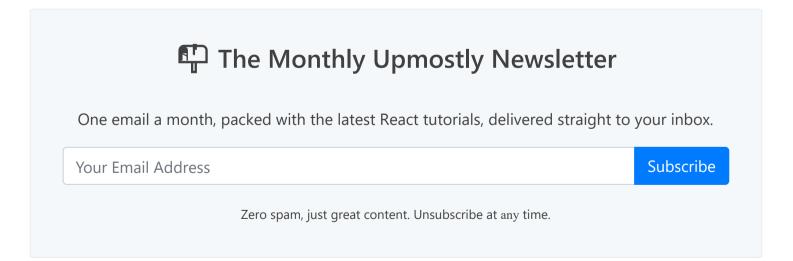


The example above shows a React component, IntervalExample, scheduling a new interval once it mounts to the DOM.

The interval increments the **seconds** state value by one, every second.

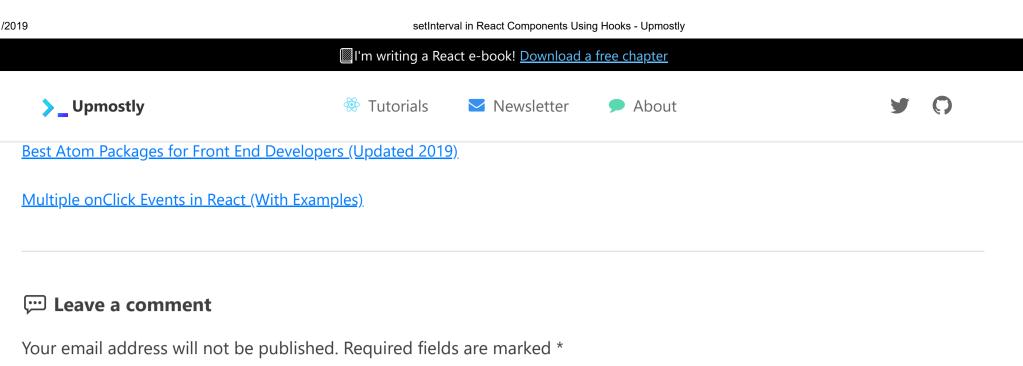
Finally, we display the number of seconds in the return function to show how many seconds have elapsed since the component mounts.

The code above will give us a working demo that looks something like this:



Hey, I'm James King

My tutorials help 60,000+ developers learn React and JavaScript every month. If you'd like to receive a friendly email once in a while of all new React tutorials, just pop your email above! I appreciate the support!



Email address

Your email address

We will never share your email with anyone else.

Name

Your name

Post Comment

Comments

Federico

July 5, 2019 at 4:46 pm

Great explanation! Thanks it helps me a lot.

<u>Reply</u>

Shvarcs

August 15, 2019 at 6:58 am

Thanks for an article!

I have a question. What if I want to run setInterval 10x and then stop. Without removing the component. So, componentWillUnmount() won't be called out. Is there a way to call clearInterval() after x amount of times?

<u>Reply</u>

James King

October 16, 2019 at 4:03 pm

You'd have to keep track of how many times the interval has run, then detect when that variable's value is 10 and cancel the interval.

Reply

I'm writing a React e-book! <u>Download a free chapter</u>

**** Upmostly

Tutorials

➤ Newsletter

About





Upmostly brings you original React and JavaScript tutorials each week. Level up your React skills.

Get the monthly newsletter, packed full of our latest React tutorials, delivered straight to your inbox.

Your Email Address

Join Newsletter

MoneyMonster.org Privacy RSS Twitter Github

Copyright © 2018 – 2019 Upmostly