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Angular's Future with Signals



LX_T

Agenda

#1
Motivation
& Basics

#2
DEMO

#3
RxJS/NGRX
Interop

Motivation & Basics



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Change Detection (CD) in Angular



Drawbacks


Zone.js:
Magic

Zone.js:
~100K

Cannot patch
async/await

coarse
grained CD

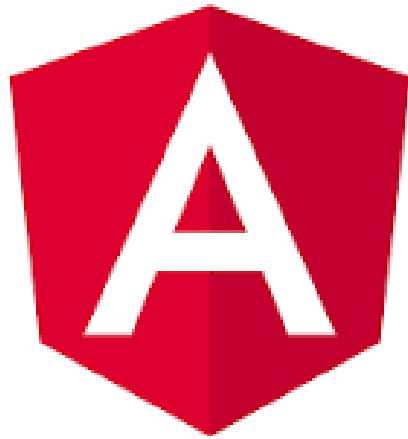
e.g. Components are always checked as a whole, even if only a tiny fraction changed



How Do Other Frameworks Solve This?

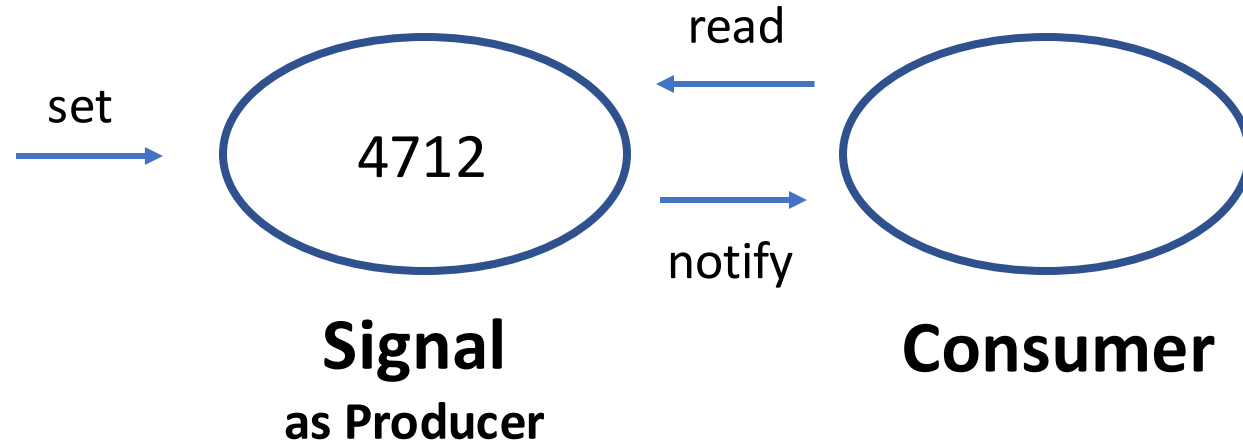


How Will Angular Solve This?



Signals!

Signals: Simple Reactivity



Component Before Signals

```
readonly flights: Flight[] = [];
```

```
const flights = await this.flightService.findAsPromise(from, to);  
this.flights = flights;
```

```
@for (flight of flights; track flight) {  
  <app-flight-card [item]="flight" />  
}
```

Component With Signals

```
readonly flights = signal<Flight[]>([]);
```

```
const flights = await this.flightService.findAsPromise(from, to);  
this.flights.set(flights);
```

```
@for (flight of flights()); track flight) {  
  <app-flight-card [item]="flight" />  
}
```

Signals (field initializer, set, get & update)

```
protected readonly flights = signal<Flight[]>([]); // signal
```

```
this.flights.set(flights);
```

```
this.flights()
```

```
@for (flight of flights(); track flight.id) {  
    <app-flight-card [item]="flight" />  
}
```

```
this.flightsSignal.update((flights) => [...flights]);
```

#2: DEMO



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Signals (computed & effect)

```
readonly flightsLength = computed(() => this.flightsSignal().length);
```

```
effect(() => console.log(this.flightsLength() + ' flight(s) found.'));
```

#2: DEMO



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Subjects vs Signals – Details

RxJS Subjects (Eventing, State, Comparing)	Angular Signals (State)
Complex usage	Lightweight usage (especially getting current value)
Subscription management necessary	No subscription needed (done internally)
More features	Less powerful
Choose between <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eventing/Messaging (Subject)• State (BehaviorSubject) or• Comparing (ReplaySubject)	No choices, clearly opinionated
RxJS provides a ton of functionality to operate on observables like the map, filter, debounceTime & distinctUntilChanged, delay and retry operators	Angular provides two operators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• effect() <i>like tap() and subscribe</i> and• computed() <i>for all others</i> 😊
Using multiple subjects may lead to glitches	Diamond problem solved using multiple signals
RxJS currently by HTTP Client, Forms & Router	Optional for component inputs, outputs and queries

RxJS and Signal Interoperability



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@angular/core/rxjs-interop

`toObservable(signal)`

`toSignal(observable$)`

`takeUntilDestroyed()`

`outputFromObservable()`

DEMO



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Conclusion

Fine-grained
CD

Zone-less
Future

Convertible to
Observables
and vice versa!

No need to
unsubscribe!

No need to
update code!