

This blog post is an easy introduction to NextJS and its features.
However, before starting to read this blog post, you must be familiar with React library.

NextJS is a React framework, which means is a platform for developing software applications by using React library.

It has a lot of features which make development of React applications easier.

As a programmer, we don't need to start from scratch when there are already tools designed to help us with our projects. Frameworks are software that is developed and used by developers to build applications, so NextJS is one of them.

This question appeared in my head many times before I wasn't familiar with NextJS. I was pretty sure that React library itself is enough to build an application. But as I was developing my web developer's skills and started to build highly-scaled large applications, I had to import many additional libraries together with React (for example, for routing).

NextJS makes the development of large React application easier, since it provides many additional features, which we will discuss below in details. This framework solves many common problems and simply makes the life of React developer easier :) We still write React code and use React features, but also together with that we are provided by lots of built-in features to solve common problems and clear instructions how to use them.

page-based routing system (with support for dynamic routes)

With NextJS we don't need to care about writing a code for routers for the pages, we just create a page in a special folder and NextJS provides it with routing, simple as that
pre-rendering, both static generation (SSG) and server-side rendering (SSR) are supported.

Server-side rendering (SSR) is preparing of content of a page on a server, while one-page React application uses client-side rendering (CSR). The problem with CSR is that it's not actually SEO friendly, because search engines will not see the actual content of the page. By using SSR in NextJS we can avoid such issues as flickering page while data fetching and our website content will be SEO friendly.

built-in CSS and Sass support, and support for any CSS-in-JS library.

development environment with Fast Refresh support.

full-stack capabilities.

NextJS makes it easier for React developers to add back-end code to the project. It very easy here to add our own code for storing data, getting data, authentication etc.

With all that being said, I highly recommend you to consider using this framework and if you have already decided to learn it - congratulations, you made a good choice.

In this tutorial series, you'll be provided with a practical introduction to how Next.js can help you build web applications.

Created by Vercel, a cloud company for hosting frontends and serverless functions, Next.js is a React framework capable of creating applications that run both on the client and the server, otherwise known as Universal JavaScript applications. This framework helps you build universal apps faster by streamlining basic features like client-side routing and page layout while simplifying advance features like server-side rendering and code splitting.

In this first part of the series, you'll learn how to create pages and a page layout using Next.js 9, the most recent framework version at the time of writing. Familiarity with the React library is recommended.

To understand how Next.js works, it helps to think about creating websites the classical way using HTML pages. The file is the entry point of a website and it contains logic that takes the visitor to any other pages.

With Next.js, each page is represented by a JavaScript file under the subdirectory. Each file, instead of having HTML templates, exports a React component that is used by Next.js to render the page with the default root route being. Go ahead and create this file under subdirectory: