

# Lab 8 – Menu Filter

Author: Nigel Nelson  
Section: 021

## Introduction:

- This lab acted as a deep dive into the React framework. While students were previously challenged to implement React in a web app, it was a smaller exercise that came with considerable guidance. However, this lab students received minimal starter code and were tasked with using the React framework to build a single page web app that served as an interactive menu for Culver's menu items. One of the primary emphases in this lab was the use of managing the state of components to force a re-render of the web page in real time. This was used in the filter interface to re-display filtered menu items according to user input. In addition, a major emphasis of this lab was exercising students' knowledge of bootstrap. Students were tasked with displaying menu items as bootstrap cards and were challenged to display this cards in a uniform 3 column grid using bootstrap. Lastly, this lab further reinforced students' comfort with using babel to transpile JSX code into files that are executable by their browsers.

## Summary:

- In this lab, I learned a great deal about the React framework. Perhaps one of my biggest take aways was the way in which properties can be passed between react components. This was very useful for passing information between components, allowing for the removal of any potential global variables. Even more important though, was the understanding that I gained on the use of a components' state. By changing the state of a component, you force a re-rendering of the component in real time. This was very useful in the lab as it allowed the menu items to be filtered in real time as the user applied filters. In addition, I learned about the grid system in bootstrap. It took me quite some time to understand how this grid system worked, but once I did, I realized how intuitive and powerful it is and I'm looking forward to using it in the future. Lastly, I learned how to effectively leverage the <div> element for use with React. Due to the fact that the render() method can only return a single element, it is necessary to incorporate divs to contain multiple elements that may comprise a react component.

## Suggestions:

- It could be helpful to include a direct link to the grid system in bootstrap, it took me a lot of time to figure out how to display my cards properly
- It would also be helpful if we spent more time on the holy grail layout in class, I may be alone in this, but I had difficult time understanding how to use the provided css file.
- Repetitive I know, but it would be nice to have a pdf of the lab prompt.

## What I Enjoyed:

- I enjoyed this problem space, it was nice to get away from bus trackers and have our primary feature be something besides a map.
- I enjoyed the provided screen shots; it gave me a clear understanding of what to strive for.

## Lab 8 – Menu Filter

Author: Nigel Nelson

Section: 021

- I enjoyed the included babel scripts; it was nice just being able to run “npm run build” as opposed to having to create our own scripts for this simple syntax.
- I enjoyed the lab check off, it helped keep me on schedule.