

REACT ROUTER

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- The majority of websites were made up of a number of pages that users may see by requesting and viewing individual files.
- We have current location in the location bar, forward and back buttons to help navigate.
- For multi page server rendering web sites this is fine.
- React however is a single page app(SPA).
- These features will not work without a routing solution.

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- The React provides code for UI.
- Developers have developed router specific code for React.
 - React Router
 - React Router DOM (Web)
 - React Router Native (Mobile)
- Before setting up navigation routes.

```
npm install react-router-dom
```

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React Router

- Complex websites typically consist of multiple pages (e.g. an online shop with pages for products, orders etc).
- Without multiple pages
 - state and conditional values to display different content
- React Router package
 - Listen to URL path changes and display different components for different paths.
 - Technically it is a **SPA**.

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- To create a new React Router framework project.
 - npx create-react-router@latest

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1. Define the routes using **createBrowserRouter**
2. Defining the root component

```
> App.jsx > ...
1 import { createBrowserRouter, RouterProvider } from 'react-router-dom';
2
3 import { Home } from './components/Home.jsx';
4 import { Page1a } from './components/Page1a.jsx';
5 import { LoginForm } from './components/LoginForm.jsx';
6
7 const router = createBrowserRouter([
8   { path: '/', element: <Home /> },
9   { path: '/page1', element: <Page1a /> },
10  { path: '/page2', element: <LoginForm /> }
11]);
12
13 function App() {
14   return <RouterProvider router={router} />;
15 }
16
```

6

```

export function LoginForm() {
  function emailEnteredHandler(event) {
  }
  function passwordEnteredHandler(event) {
    setEnteredPassword(event.target.value);
  }
  // Below, props are split across multiple lines for better readability
  // This is allowed when using JSX, just as it is allowed in standard HTML
  return (
    <form>
      <input
        type="email"
        placeholder="Your email"
        onBlur={emailEnteredHandler} />
      <input
        type="password"
        placeholder="Your password"
        onBlur={passwordEnteredHandler} />
      <p>Go to the <a href="/page1">page one</a>.</p>
    </form>
  );
}

```

- HTTP request is sent to the server whenever a link is clicked.

□ Issues

- shared state.
- the browser to download all website assets (e.g., script files) again

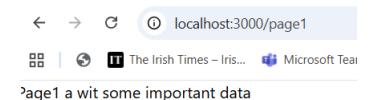
7

- Access internal pages by clicking on a link.
- The `to` prop, specifies the link to navigate.

```

import { Link } from "react-router-dom";
export const Home = () => {
  return (
    <div>
      <h1>Home Page</h1>
      <nav>
        <ul>
          <li><Link to="/">Home</Link></li>
          <li><Link to="/page1">Page 1</Link></li>
          <li><Link to="/page1/page3">Page 3 (nested under Page 1)</Link></li>
          <li><Link to="/page2">Page 2 (Login)</Link></li>
        </ul>
      </nav>
    </div>
  );
}

```



Home Page

- Home
- Page 1
- Page 3 (nested under Page 1)
- Page 2 (Login)

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NavLink

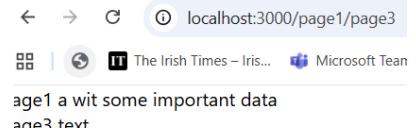
- **NavLink** can detect when its target route is active.
- You can style the active link dynamically (`className` or `style`).
- `end on the /page1` link ensures it's only active on that exact path (not on subroutes like `/page1/page3`)

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Wrapping routes

- Wrap other routes with a special **children** property

```
const router = createBrowserRouter([
  {
    path: '/',
    element: <Home />,
  },
  {
    path: '/page1',
    element: <Page1a />,
    children: [
      { index: true, element: <Home /> },
      { path: 'page3', element: <Page3 /> },
    ],
  },
  {
    path: '/page2',
    element: <LoginForm />,
  },
]);
```



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Outlet

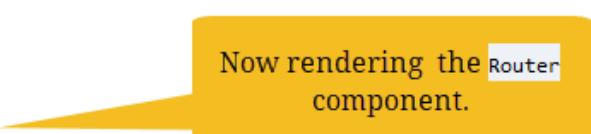
- Placeholder for rendering **nested routes** inside a parent route.
- <Outlet /> injects child components in the parent's layout
- Without using <Outlet /> the component has no where to render.

```
export const Page1a = () => {
  return (
    <div>
      <div>Page1 a wit some important data</div>
      <Outlet /> /* Render Page3 */
    </div>
  );
};
```

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index.js

```
menuSys > src > JS index.js > ...
1 import ReactDOM from 'react-dom/client'
2 import { BrowserRouter } from 'react-router-dom';
3 import App from './App'
4
5 const root = ReactDOM.createRoot(document.getElementById('root'));
6
7 root.render(
8   <BrowserRouter>
9     <App />
10    </BrowserRouter>
11 )
```



Now rendering the Router component.

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- route configuration places in the App.js
- Wrapper component for routes we want to render is called Routes.
- Inside of Routes, there is a Route component for each page that has to be rendered.

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```
import { Routes, Route} from 'react-router-dom';
...
return (
  <>
  <Routes>
    <Route path="/">
      <Route index element={<Home2/>} />
      <Route path="/Page1" element={<Page1 />} />
      <Route path="/Page2" element={<Page2 />} />
      <Route path="*" element={<Page404 />} />
    </Route>
  </Routes>
</>
);
```

Route map the app's location to different React components

Route component for each page to be rendered

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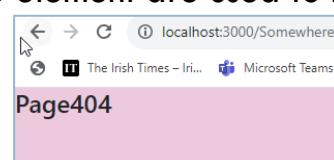
- Each Route component has path and element properties.
- When the browser's location matches the path, the element will be displayed.
- When the location is /, the router will render the Home component.

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404 page

- Visiting pages that do not exist.
- The * path value and the component as the element are used to help unresolved paths

```
<>
<Routes>
  <Route path="/">
    <Route index element={<Home2/>} />
    <Route path="/Page1" element={<Page1 />} />
    <Route path="/Page2" element={<Page2 />} />
    <Route path "*" element={<Page404 />} />
  </Route>
</Routes>
</>
```



The screenshot shows a browser window with the URL 'localhost:3000/Somewhere'. The page content is a pink box containing the text 'Page404'. Below the browser window is a code editor showing the file 'Page404.jsx' with the following code:

```
function Page404( ) {
  return (
    <div>
      <h3>Page404</h3>
    </div>
  )
}

export default Page404
```

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Redirecting

- When using React Router, the default behavior is to forward users.
- `useNavigate` lets you change routes programmatically

components > NavExample.jsx > NavExample > handleClick

```
import { useNavigate } from "react-router-dom";

export const NavExample = () => {
  const navigate = useNavigate();

  function handleClick() {
    navigate("/Page404");
    // navigate(-1); // go back to previous page
  }

  return (
    <button onClick={handleClick}>Go to 404</button>
  );
}
```

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useLocation

- `useLocation` lets you access information about the current URL

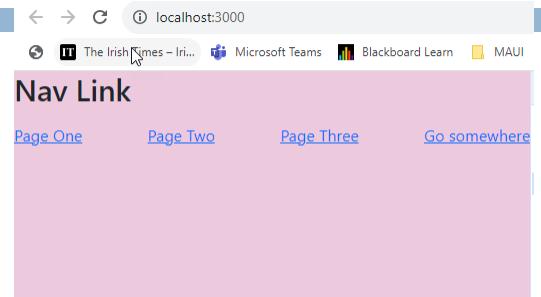
menusys > src > Page404.jsx > Page404

```
1 import React from 'react'
2 import { useLocation } from 'react-router-dom';
3 // import { useContext } from 'react'; ...
5
6 function Page404( ) {
7
8   let cwd = useLocation();
9   console.log(`The current working dir is ${cwd.pathname}`);
10
11 ...
12
13 return (
14   <div>
15     <h3>Page404</h3>
16   </div>
17 )
18
19 }
20
21
22
23 export default Page404
```

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Link component

```
menu sys > src > Home2.jsx > Home2
1 import { Link } from "react-router-dom";
2
3 export function Home2() {
4   return (
5     <div>
6       <h1>Nav Link</h1>
7       <nav className="navbar" >
8         <Link to="Page1">Page One</Link>
9         <Link to="Page2">Page Two</Link>
10        <Link to="Page3">Page Three</Link>
11        <Link to="Somewhere">Go somewhere</Link>
12      </nav>
13    </div>
14  );
15}
16
```



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Nesting Routes

Organise web apps into hierarchies

```
menu sys > src > Home2.jsx > Home2
1 import { Link } from "react-router-dom";
2
3 export function Home2() {
4   return (
5     <div>
6       <h1>Nav Link</h1>
7       <nav className="navbar" >
8
9         <Link to="Page1">Page One
10        <Link to="CompA">component A</Link>
11        <Link to="CompB">component B</Link>
12      </Link>
13      <Link to="Page2">Page Two</Link>
14      <Link to="Page3">Page Three</Link>
15      <Link to="Somewhere">Go somewhere</Link>
16    </nav>
17  </div>
18)
```

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Sample example

```

> App.jsx ...
1  import { BrowserRouter, Routes, Route } from "react-router-dom";
2  import Main from "./components/Main"; 1
3  import Student from "./components/Student"; 2
4
5  function App() {
6    return (
7      <BrowserRouter>
8        <Routes>
9          <Route path="/" element={<Main />} />
10         <Route path="/student" element={<Student />} />
11       </Routes>
12     </BrowserRouter>
13   );
14 }
15
16 export default App;
17

```



```

import { useNavigate } from "react-router-dom";

export default function Main() {
  const navigate = useNavigate(); 1

  const goToStudent = () => [
    // You can pass state through navigate
    navigate("/student", { state: { name: "Joe Bloggs", age: 21 } }); 2
  ];

  return (
    <div style={{ padding: 20 }}>
      <h2>Home Page</h2>
      <button onClick={goToStudent}>Go to Student</button>
    </div>
  );
}

```

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Home Page

```

src > components > Student.jsx > Student
1  import { useLocation, useNavigate } from "react-router-dom";
2
3  export default function Student() {
4    const location = useLocation();
5    const navigate = useNavigate();

7    // Destructure state with fallback values
8    const { name, age } = location.state || { name: "Gerard", age: "N/A" };
9
10   return (
11     <div style={{ padding: 20 }}>
12       <h2>Student Page</h2>
13       <p><strong>Name:</strong> {name}</p>
14       <p><strong>Age:</strong> {age}</p>
15
16       <button onClick={() => navigate(-1)}>Go Back</button>
17     </div>
18   );
19

```

Student Page

Name: Joe Bloggs

Age: 21

[Go Back](#)

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Summary

- React itself doesn't include routing, use react-router-dom
- Wrap your app in a router'
 - BrowserRouter top-level router for web apps.
 - Routes groups routes.
 - Route defines the path and the component to render.
- Navigation Components
 - NavLink adds an active class automatically
 - Use <Outlet /> with nested routes
 - useNavigate() hook to navigate