

Chapter 1: Why Next.js?

React is powerful, but it doesn't handle everything out of the box—like routing, server-side rendering, or performance optimizations. That's where **Next.js** shines.

Benefits of Next.js:

- File-based routing (no extra libraries needed)
- Built-in server-side rendering (SSR)
- Optimized images and fonts
- API routes without setting up a backend

Hello World with Next.js

After creating a new app with `npx create-next-app@latest`, go to `pages/index.js` and replace the code with:

```
export default function Home() {
  return <h1>Hello Next.js!</h1>;
}
```

Run `npm run dev` and visit `http://localhost:3000` — you now have your first Next.js app running!