

CS142 Project 4: Page Generation with ReactJS

Due: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 11:59 PM

Setup

You should already have installed Node.js and the npm package manager on your system. If not, follow the [installation instructions](#) now.

Create a directory `project4` and extract the contents of [this zip file](#) into the directory. The zip file contains the starter files for this assignment.

This assignment requires many node modules that contain the tools (e.g. [Webpack](#), [Babel](#), [ESLint](#)) needed to build a [ReactJS](#) web application as well as a simple Node.js web server ([ExpressJS](#)) to serve it to your browser. These modules can be fetched by running the following command in the `project4` directory:

```
npm install
```

That command will fetch around 600 node modules using around 100 megabytes of space into the subdirectory `node_modules`.

We can use npm to run the various tools we had it fetch. As can be seen in the "scripts" property of the `package.json` file, the following run commands are available:

- `npm run lint` - Runs ESLint on all the project's JavaScript files. The code you submit should run ESLint without warnings.
- `npm run build` - Runs [Webpack](#) using the configuration file `webpack.config.js` to package all of the projects JSX files into a single JavaScript bundle in the directory `compiled`.
- `npm run build:w` - Runs [Webpack](#) like the "run build" command except it invokes webpack with `--watch` so it will monitor the React components and regenerates the bundle if any of them change. This option is useful for development so changes made to components can be picked up by simply refreshing the browser to load the newly updated bundle. Otherwise you need to remember to run "npm run build" after every change. You might get a deprecation warning [DEP_WEBPACK_WATCH_WITHOUT_CALLBACK] that you can safely ignore.

Your solutions for all of the problems below should be implemented in the `project4` directory.

This project uses [ReactJS](#), a popular framework for building web applications. The project's goal is to get you enough up to speed with ReactJS and the CS142's coding conventions that you will be able to build a web application with it in the next project.

In order to fetch our web app via the HTTP protocol, we use a simple Node.js web server that can be started with the command from the `project4` directory:

```
node webServer.js
```

All the files in the `project4` can be fetched using a URL starting with [http://localhost:3000](#). Click on [http://localhost:3000](#) to verify your web server is running. It should serve the file `index.html` to your browser.

We recommend you configure your development environment to run webpack in watch mode so you will need to run the node webserver and webpack when building and testing your project. You could do this by running the programs in different command line windows. Syntax errors get detected and reported by Babel so the output of webpack is useful. If you are running on a system with a unix-like shell like MacOS. The command:

```
node webServer.js & npm run build:w
```

runs the web server in background and the webpack in foreground within a single window.

On Windows you can start the web server in background and webpack in foreground with the two Windows commands:

```
start /B node webServer.js
npm run build:w
```

You can stop the background webserver with the command:

```
taskkill /IM node.exe /F
```

Getting Started

In this project we require that you use the model, view, controller pattern described in class. There are many ways of organizing code under this pattern so we provide an example that both demonstrates some basic ReactJS features as well as showing the file system layout and module pattern we would like you to follow in your projects.

You should start by opening the example in your browser by navigating to the URL [http://localhost:3000/getting-started.html](#). The page displays examples of ReactJS in action. The HTML in `getting-started.html` provides a div for ReactJS to draw the app into and a script tag include the app's JavaScript bundle `compiled/gettingStarted.bundle.js`. The webpack config file `webpack.config.js` directs that this bundle be created from the ReactJS file `gettingStarted.jsx`, a JSX program that renders the ReactJS component named `Example` into the div in `getting-started.html`.

To support reusable components, we adopt a file organization that co-locates the ReactJS component and its associated CSS stylesheet in a subdirectory of a directory named `components`. The `Example` component is located in the files `components/example/{Example.jsx,Example.css}`.

You should look through the files invoked in the `getting-started.html` view (`getting-started.html`, `gettingStarted.jsx`, `components/example/{Example.jsx}`) since it shows the JavaScript and JSX statements needed to run an ReactJS web application along with explanatory comments. You should use this pattern and file naming convention for the other components you build for the class.

Model data is typically fetched from the webserver which retrieves the data from a database. To avoid having to set up a database for this project we will give you an HTML script tag to load the model data directly into the browser's DOM from the local file system. The models will appear in the DOM under the property name `cs142models`. You will be able to access it under the name `window.cs142models` in a ReactJS component.

Problem 1: Understand and update the example view (5 points)

You should look through and understand the `getting-started.html` view and the `Example` component. To demonstrate your understanding do the following:

- Update the model data for the Example component to use your name rather than "Unknown name". You should find where "Unknown name" is and replace it.
- Replace the contents of the `div` region with the class `motto-update` in the Example component with some JSX statements that displays your name and a short (up to 20 characters) motto. Like the user's name, the initial value for motto should come in with the model data. You must include some styling for this display in `Example.css`.
- Extend the display you did in the previous step so it allows the user to update the motto being displayed. The default value should continue to be retrieved from the model data.

Problem 2: Create a new component - states view (10 points)

Create a new component view that will display the names of all states containing a given substring. Your view must implement an input field that accepts a substring. The view will display in alphabetical order a **list** of all states whose names contain the given substring (ignoring differences in case). For example, the view for the substring of "al" should list the states Alabama, Alaska, and California. The page should also display the substring that was used to filter the states. If there are no matching states then the web page should display a message indicating that fact (rather than just showing nothing). All states should be displayed when the substring is empty.

As in Problem #1 we provide you the model data with states. It can be accessed via `window.cs142models.states` after it is included with:

```
<script src="modelData/states.js"></script>
```

See `states.js` for a description of the format of the states data.

To help you get started and guide you to the file naming conventions we want you to use we provided a file `p2.html` that will load and display the bundle `compiled/p2.bundle.js` which is generated by webpack from `p2.jsx` which displays the React component `States`. You can open this file in your browser via the URL [http://localhost:3000/p2.html](#).

The files you will need to implement are:

- `components/states/States.jsx` - The ReactJS Component of your states component.
- `components/states/States.css` - Any CSS styles your component needs. **You must include some styling for your state list here.**

Problem 3: Personalizing the Layout (5 points)

Create a ReactJS component named `Header` that will display a personalized header at the top of a view. Add this header to all ReactJS web apps in your assignment (`gettingStarted.jsx`, `p2.jsx`, `p4.jsx`, `p5.jsx`). Note that you **should not** replace the section from part 1 (your name and motto). That section should be separate from your header. Use your imagination and creativity to create a header that is "uniquely you". This can include additional images, graphics, whatever you like. You can extend the JSX/JavaScript in the components but you may not use external ReactJS Components or JavaScript libraries such as JQuery. Be creative!

The files you will need to implement are:

- `components/header/Header.jsx` - The ReactJS Component of your header component. This is defined as a class Header of type [React.Component](#).
- `components/header/Header.css` - Any CSS styles your component needs. **You must include some styling for your header here.**

Note: `gettingStarted.jsx` should have a personalized header from Problem 3 at the top of the page and the section with the motto from Problem 1.2 right below it. All other page views (`p2.html`, `p4.html` and `p5.html`) should have your personalized header from Problem 3.

Problem 4: Add dynamic switching of the views (10 points)

Create a `p4.html` and a corresponding JSX file `p4.jsx` that includes both view components (the `Example` and `States` components). The `p4.jsx` needs to implement an ability to switch between the display of the two components. When a view is displayed there should be a button above it that switches to display the other view. For example, when the `States` view is displayed the button above it should read "Switch to Example," and when pushed the `States` should disappear and the `Example` view should be displayed.

For this problem you will need to create the files above as well as modify the webpack configuration file `webpack.config.js` to build a file `compiled/p4.bundle.js` that you can uses in `p4.html` file. Note that if you are using Webpack with `--watch` (i.e. `npm run build:w`), you will need to restart it after changing code>webpack.config.js.

Problem 5: Single page app (5 points)

Although the approach taken in Problem 4 allows you to switch between the two views, it does not allow you to bookmark or share a URL pointing at a particular view. Even doing a browser refresh event causes the app to lose track of which view was being displayed.

We can address this deficiency by storing the view information into the URL. [React Router](#) provides this functionality for ReactJS. For this problem make a copy of your `p4.html` solution into a file named `p5.html` and copy your `p4.jsx` into a file named `p5.jsx`. Convert the code to use [React Router](#) to switch between the two component views. You should have a **styled toolbar-like control** (simple plain text links are not sufficient) that will allow the user to switch between the example and states component views.

Since this is the first extension from the core ReactJS we import, we're providing you with step-by-step instructions.

- The project's `package.json` specifies react-router so the npm install command already fetched it for us. We do need to explicitly import it into our `p5.jsx` file. Add the following import line:

```
import { HashRouter, Route, Link } from "react-router-dom";
```

The line uses the JavaScript `import` statement to bring in the ReactJS components from React Router: `HashRouter`, `Route`, and `Link`. The `HashRouter` module of React Router uses the fragment portion of the URL for storing information. So we can make `p5.html#/states` mark showing the States view while `p5.html#/example` specifies the Example component view.

- The most common way of using React Router is to conditionally render the view we want based on the current URL. It is the `Route` component that implements this condition rendering when placed inside a `HashRouter` element like:

```
<HashRouter>
  ...
  <Route path="/states" component={States} />
  <Route path="/example" component={Example} />
  ...
</HashRouter>
```

which would render the States component if the URL had `#/states` and the Example component if the URL had `#/example`.

- Although we could use hyperlinks (i.e. `<a tags>`) to switch views react-router recommends using the `Link` component to generated the hyperlinks.

```
<Link to="/states">States</Link>
```

generates a hyperlink with `href="#/states"` and the strings "States" in it.

Style (5 points)

These points will be awarded if your solutions have proper MVC decomposition and follow the style guidelines discussed in lecture and section. **Note that you should not directly manipulate the DOM in your code.** In addition, your code and templates must be clean and readable. Remember to run ESLint before submitting. ESLint should raise no errors.

Deliverables

After implementing part 5, make sure parts 1 through 4 still work!

Use the standard class [submission mechanism](#) to submit the entire application (everything in the `project4` directory).