

ViemIT Learning React –I Module

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Introduction-**React** is a JavaScript library for building user interfaces

What Is React?

React is a declarative, efficient, and flexible JavaScript library for building user interfaces.

It lets you compose complex UIs from small and isolated pieces of code called “components”.

React has a few different kinds of components, but we'll start with `React.Component`

- React (also known as React.js or ReactJS) is a free and open-source front-end JavaScript library for creating UI component-based user interfaces.
- React is maintained by Meta (previously Facebook) along with a community of individual developers and organizations.

The best way to install React or create a React project is to install it with [create-react-app](#). This is one of the steps that most beginners struggle with, but in this guide, we'll go over how to get started properly and successfully.

We'll be using our terminal for this (you can either make use of an in built terminal or download any you prefer). One prerequisite is to have [Node.js](#) installed on your PC, knowing full well that NPM (or, alternatively, Yarn) is required. We'll be using NPM for this guide.

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To confirm that you have Node installed on your PC, just launch your terminal/command prompt and type `node -v` and `npm -v` to see which versions you have. Because `create-react-app` requires that you have `NPX` installed, you'll need to make sure your Node version is not less than v14.0.0 and your NPM version is not less than v5.6. Suppose you have an older version of NPM, you could use the following command to update it:

```
npm update-g
```

What is Create-react-app?

Though the name explains what it does, you might start to wonder what `create-react-app` really means.

Creating a React app manually is complicated and time-consuming, but `create-react-app` makes it much easier by automating all the configuration and package installation.

`create-react-app` is the best way to start building a new [single-page application](#) in React.

If you are interested in learning how to create a React app manually without `create-react-app`, you can check out [this guide](#).

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How to Create a React Application

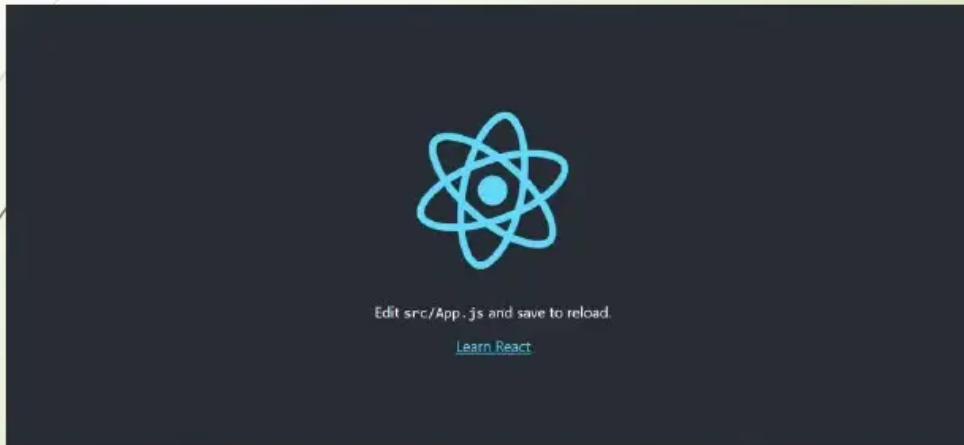
The first step is to start your terminal/command prompt, navigate to the folder where you want to save your React application, and then execute this command:

```
npx create-react-app my-app
```

Note: my-app is the name of the application we are creating, but you can change it to any name of your choice. The installation process may take a few minutes. After it is done, you should see a folder that appears in your workspace with the name you gave your app. Congratulations!

How to Run Your React Application

Now, head back to the terminal, and the first thing you need to do is navigate to the directory where the app was installed using `cd my-app`. Then finally run `npm start` to see your app live on `localhost:3000`. You should see something like this:



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Directory Structure

We've just finished the first part of this article. Now let's figure out what each file and folder in our React application means and does. This is critical either as a beginner or an experienced React developer.

The directory structure of your newly created React app looks like this when you open it:

Let's now start by explaining these folders and what they stand for:

node_modules folder

The `node_modules` folder contains all of our dependencies, and this folder is ignored when we set up source control.

But it is important to note that the `package.json` file works in tandem with the `node_modules` folder because

it contains information about all of the dependencies as well as some script commands.

If you delete the `node_modules` folder, the application will break because you'll no longer have your dependencies.

To re-install these dependencies, you can use `npm install` – this will check the `package.json` file for a list of

the dependencies and then install all of them. This will make it easy for you to push your code online or share your code with others without having to share the heavy `node_modules` folder.

Note: This is not just for `create-react-app`.

public folder

Although the majority of the work will be done in the `src` folder, the `public` folder contains some static files, such as the HTML file. You could, for example, change the title of your web app, add CDNs such as Google Fonts, and so on.

Note: Don't be afraid of this file because

it's just a regular HTML file. The only code to remember is

the `div` with the `id` `root` where the entire React application will be placed.

```
<div id="root"></div>
```

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 ✕**.gitignore file**

Just as the name suggests, it's a file that specifies which files and folders will be ignored by our source control. When you open the file, you will see a list of files that are being ignored, including the `node_modules` and `build` folder. You can decide to add some particular files or folders.

build folder

The build folder is another folder that you can't see right now, but that you'll see when you build your project. This will create a production-ready folder of static assets that can be hosted or deployed using a drag-and-drop option on a platform like Netlify.

src folder

So far, we've covered some fundamental folders, but our main concern is the `src` folder, which is where development takes place. Here's what the `src` folder looks like:

Let's start with the fundamental files: `App.js`, `index.js`, `index.css`, and `App.css` (you can delete every other file for now).

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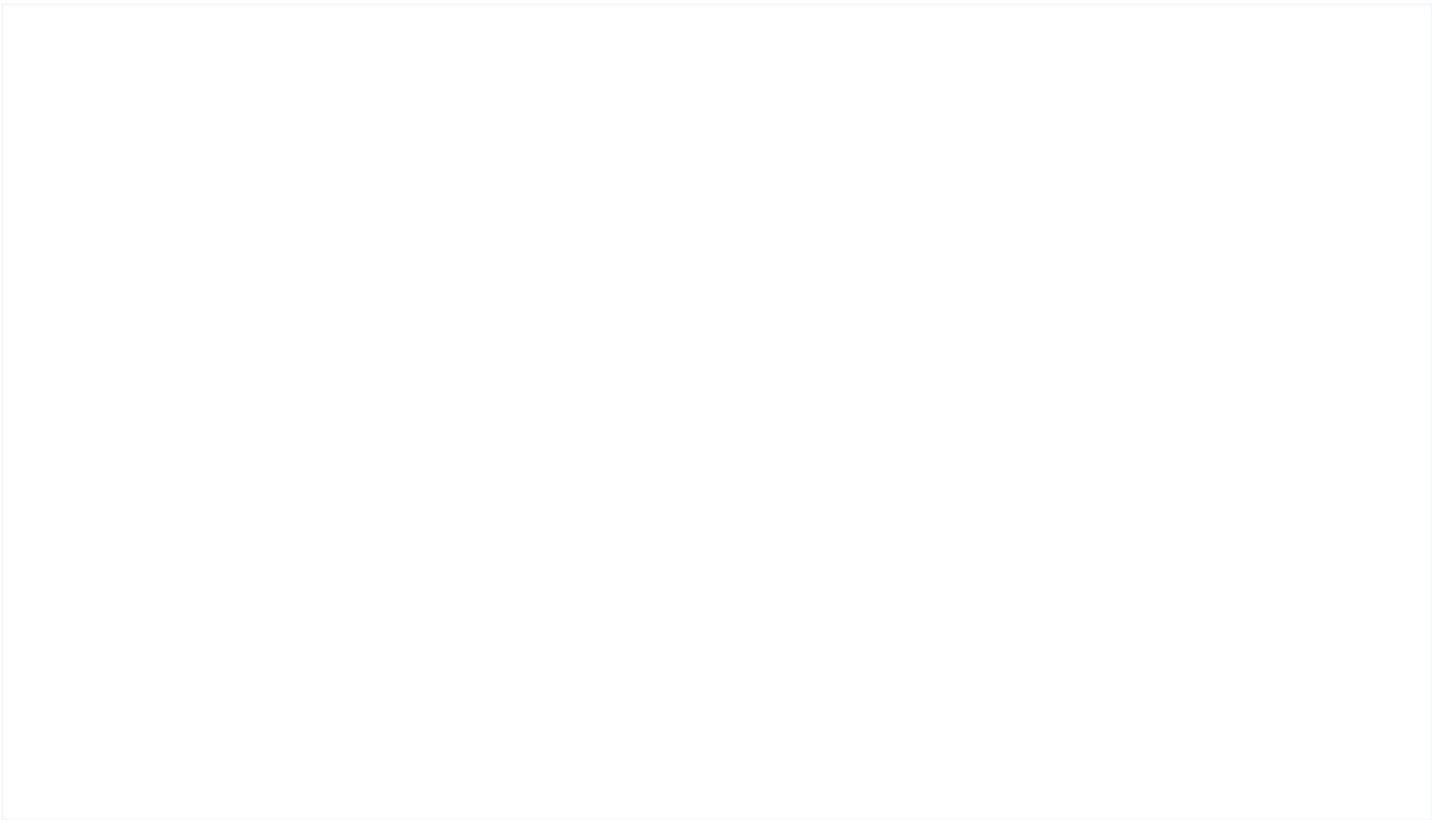


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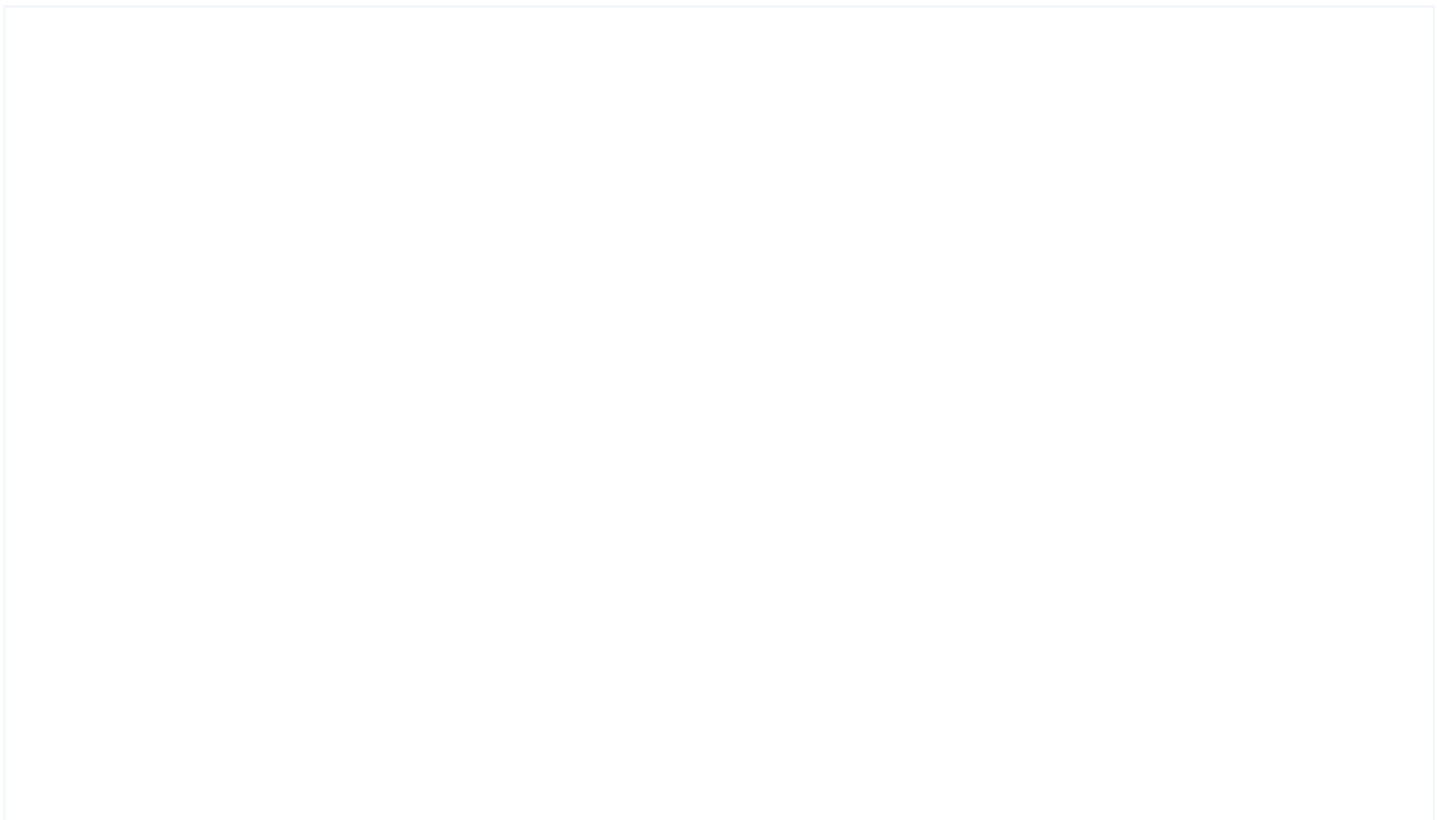
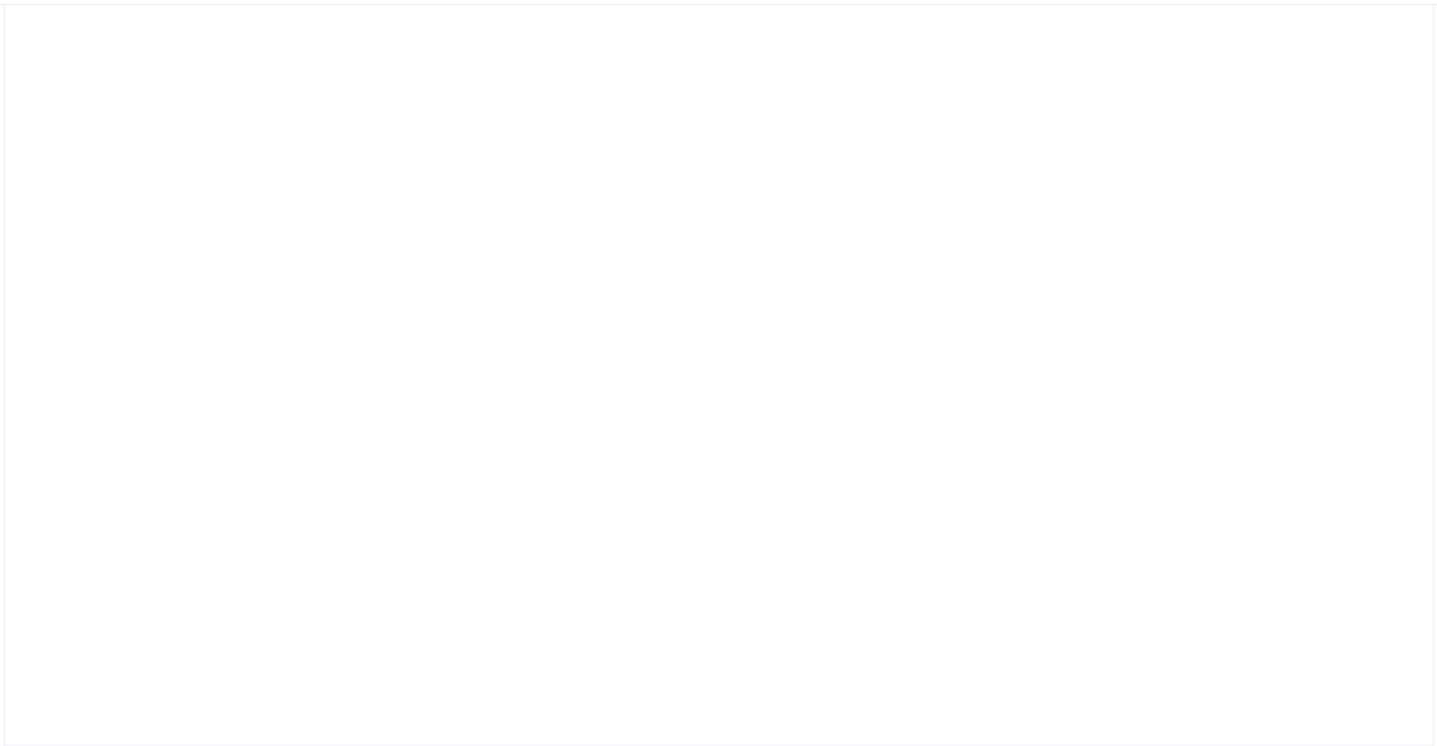
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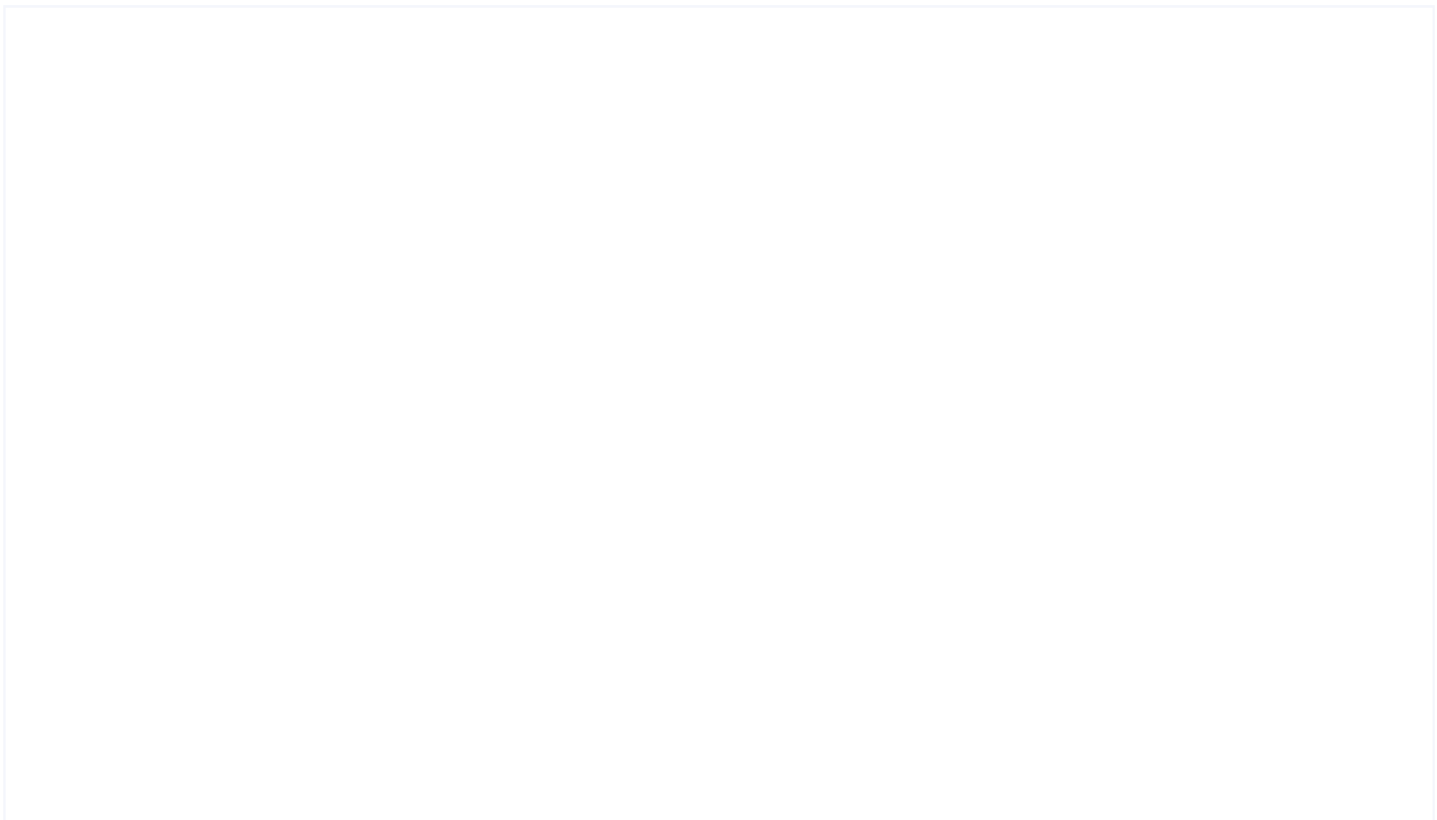
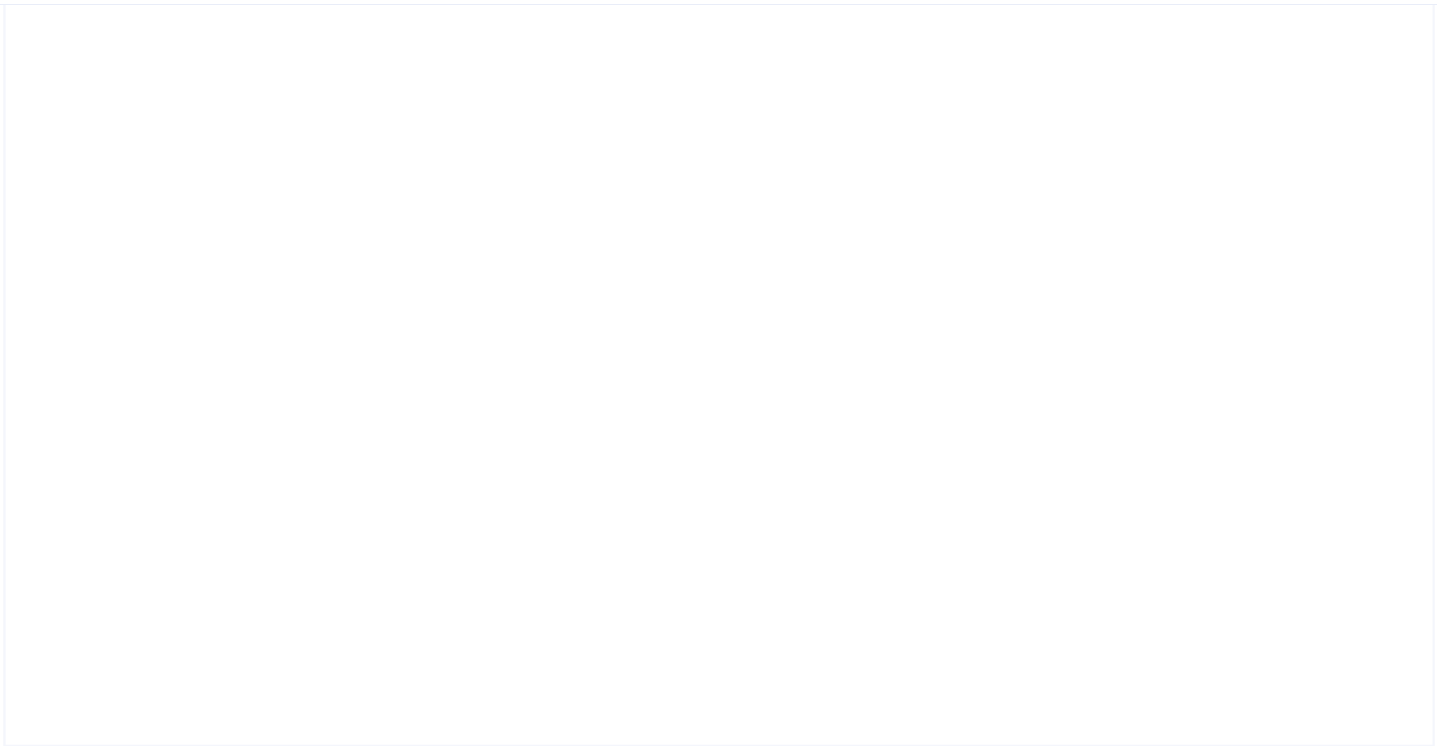


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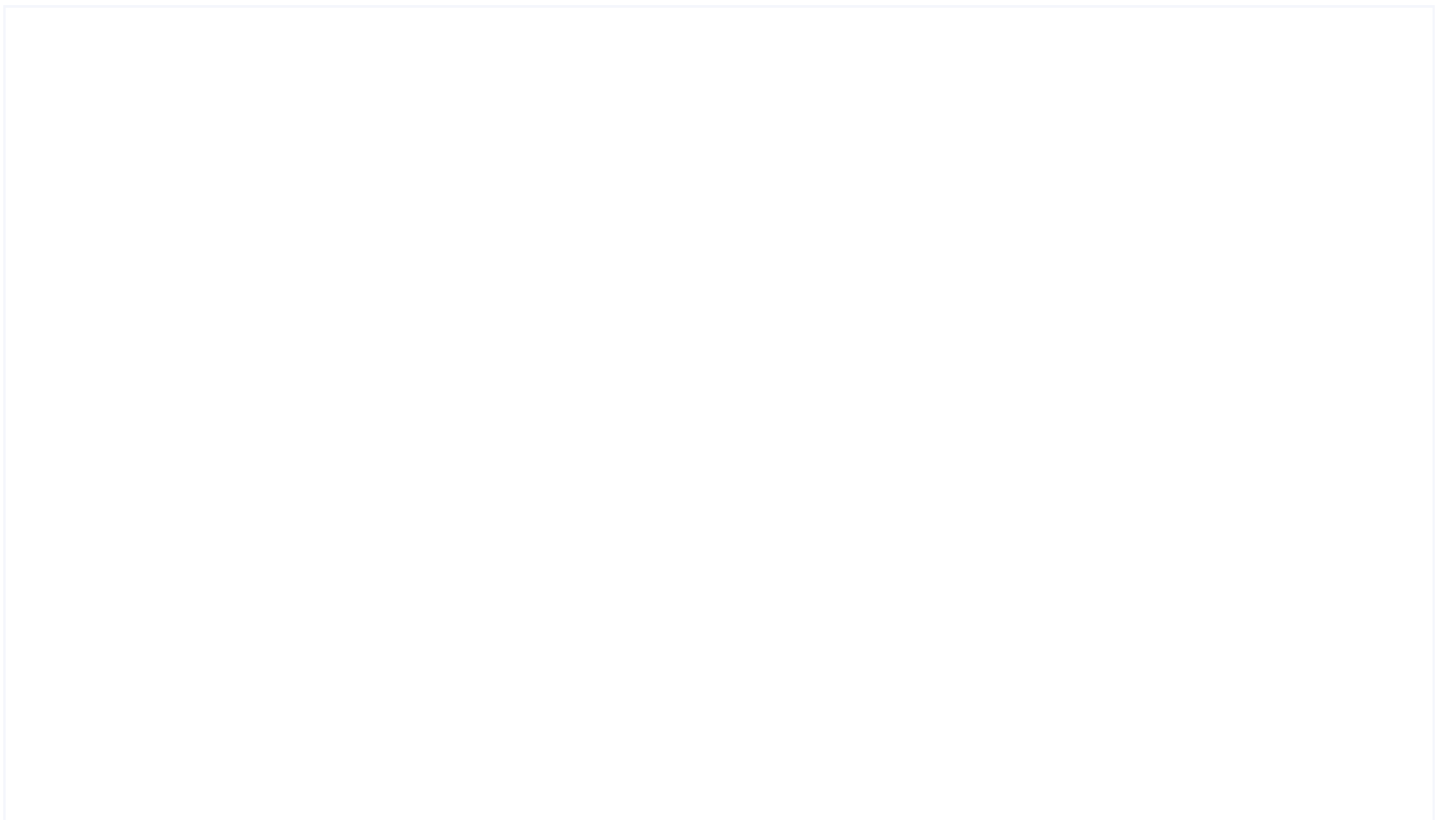
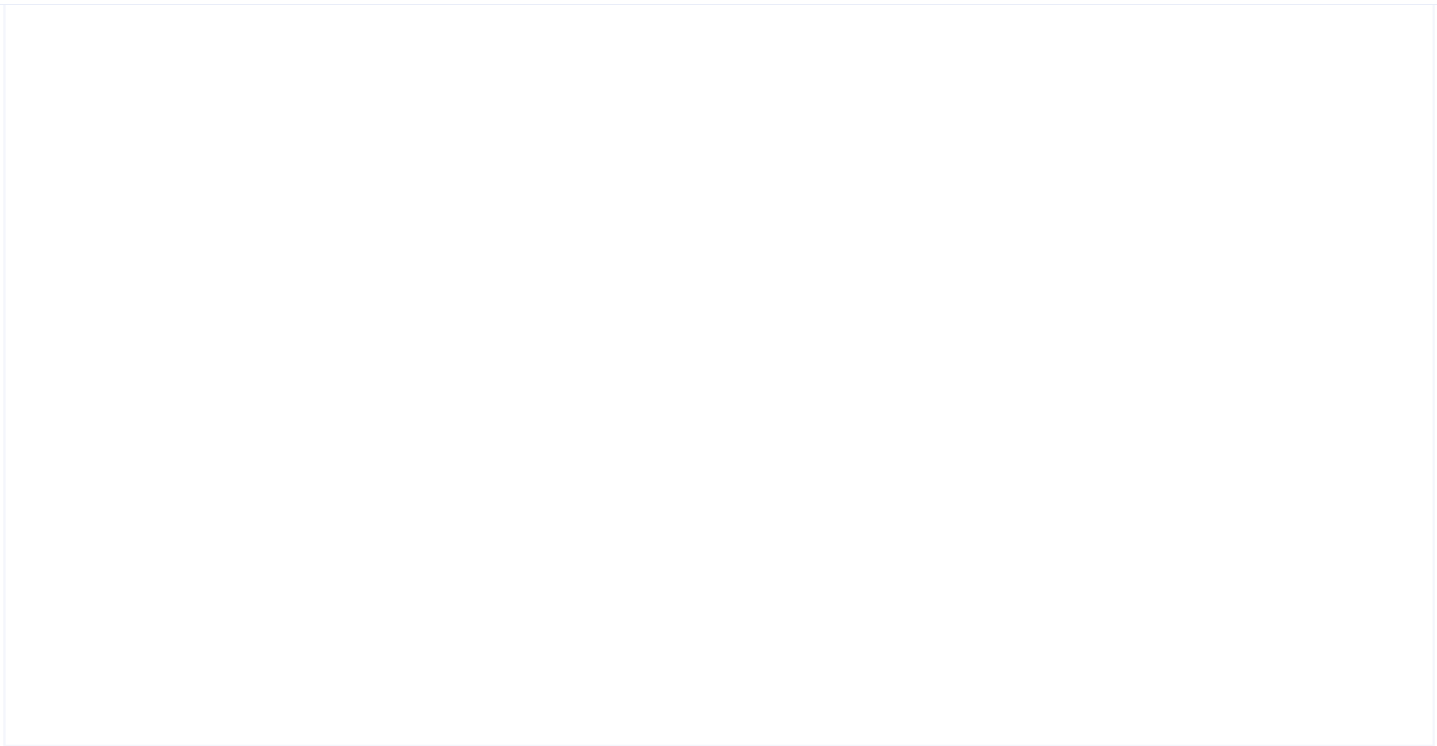


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