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# How to customize the File Input with Tailwind and React?

How I solved this obscure interview question

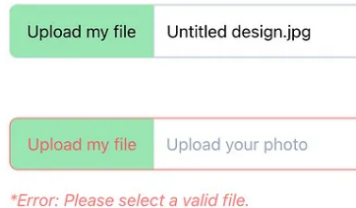


Programmer Girl - Front-end developer · Follow  
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As part of a **test task for a Front-end developer position**, I need to change the default text in an `input type="file"`. In this article, I'll share how I approached this task using React and Tailwind CSS.



File Input Text in React with Tailwind CSS

There are two answers for you for the questions I mentioned in the title:

- *First answer (you may not like it):* You can **NOT** directly modify it due to browser security restrictions!
- *Second answer:* you can **hide one input** and create your input with the text you need.

So, to sum up, you can create a custom file input component using React and Tailwind CSS to change the default text in an `input type="file"` element.

Here's how I did that:

Within the label, there's a span element displaying the text "Upload my file". This text can be customized based on the selected file or error state.

```
import { useState } from "react";

const FileInput = props => {
  const [file, setFile] = useState(null);
  const [error, setError] = useState(props.error);

  const handleFileChange = e => {
    if (e.target.files) {
      setFile(e.target.files[0]);
      setError(false);
    }
  };

  const handleError = () => {
    setError(true);
  };

  return (
    <div>
```

```

    <form onSubmit={handleError}>
      <label
        className={`flex items-center ${
          error ? "border-red-400" : "border-black-600"
        } bg-green-300 hover:bg-green-400 border w-500px cursor-pointer rounded
      }
      >
        <span className={`flex-grow pl-4 ${error ? "text-red-500" : ""}`}>
          Upload my file
        </span>
        <input type="file" hidden onChange={handleFileChange} />
        <input
          type="text"
          placeholder={file ? file.name : "Upload your photo"}
          value={file && file?.name}
          disabled={!file}
          className={`border ${
            error ? "border-none text-red-400" : "border-gray-400"
          } bg-white p-3 ml-4 flex-grow rounded-r-lg border-r-0 border-top-0 b
        } />
      </label>

      {error && (
        <p className="text-red-400 italic">
          *Error: Please select a valid file.
        </p>
      )}
    </form>
  </div>
);
};

export default FileInput;

```

I added the code to the *codesandbox* to demonstrate the implementation of the custom file input component using React and Tailwind CSS:

### Demo code

### Summary

To summarize, changing the default text in an `input type="file"` element involves creating a custom file input component.

This component allows text customization and styling while ensuring compatibility with browser security measures.

So, I created the needed input with `type="text"` and custom text. I will do other components from the test task for the Front-end developer position.

Wish me luck!

. . .

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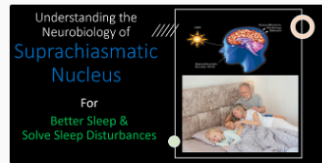
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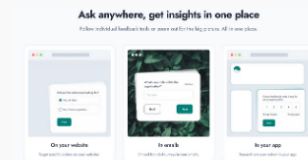
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