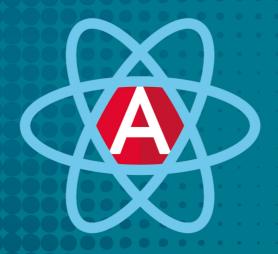
Building Web Applications Using Angular & React





Lesson 7

React: Advanced Techniques

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Return to Javascript

In order to move on and learn new things about React, we should remember JavaScript. We need the map method which you are possibly familiar with. It is used to transform arrays. Simplified syntax of this method:

```
array_name.map(function)
```

Method principle:

- 1. A function specified as a parameter is called for each array element called by map. It means that if there are three elements in an array, the function will be called three times.
- 2. map returns a new array. Elements of this array will be values received after the parameter function operates on each value from the original array.
- 3. The map method does not change the original array.
- 4. The parameter function is called only for elements with values in the original array.

Let's consider a usage example. A function that calculates the square root is called for each element in the array.

```
/*
   Original array
*/
var arr = [9, 4, 16];
/*
   9 4 6
*/
```

```
console.log(arr);

/*
   Math.sqrt function is called for each element
   in the arr array map returns a new array, whose
   elements are arr elements, upon the Math.sqrt call
   for each of them. The original array does not change
*/
var mArr = arr.map(Math.sqrt);

/*
   3 2 4
*/
console.log(mArr);
```

Every time map is called, the square root function is called for each arr element. map returns a new array with the values from arr upon calculating the square root. This is why mArr contains elements with values 3, 2, 4.

In this example, we used a standard sqrt function, but what if we need to call a custom (user-defined) function? How can we do it? To solve this problem, we could use the following map syntax:

```
array_name.map(custom_function(current element){
    body
}
)
```

We pass the custom function to the map call. It will be called for each element in the array. Our function will take the current array element being analyzed as a parameter. This parameter will be populated automatically.

In our next example, a custom function will square each element in the array.

```
Original array
var arr = [3, 4, 7];
console.log(arr);
 Math.pow function is called for each element
 in the arr array map returns a new array, whose
 elements are arr elements, upon the Math.pow call
  for each of them. The original array does not change
var mArr = arr.map(function(item) {
  return Math.pow(item, 2);
});
  9 16 49
console.log(mArr);
```

Our custom function does not have a name. Although we could have easily created a function and passed its name as a parameter. Function code is called for each element of the arr array. In our case, it is Math.pow(item,2).

Notice that the custom function should return a value.

Let's modify this example. We are going to use the newer syntax to create functions:

```
Original array
var arr = [3, 4, 7];
 3 4 7
console.log(arr);
 Math.pow function is called
  for each element in the arr array
 map returns a new array,
 whose elements are arr elements, upon
 the Math.Math.pow call for each of them
  The original array does not change
var mArr = arr.map((item) => {
  return Math.pow(item, 2);
});
 9 16 49
console.log(mArr);
```

Why write function if we can omit it ②. The function body does not change.

We may not write return because there is only one line in the function body. New code:

```
/*
   Original array
*/
var arr = [3, 4, 7];
```

```
/*
    3 4 7
*/
console.log(arr);

var mArr = arr.map(item => Math.pow(item, 2));
/*
    9 16 49
*/
console.log(mArr);
```

We do not write (), {}, return in the code. We do not write () because our function has one parameter, which means that () can be omitted. We do not write {}, because our function has one line, which means that {} can be omitted. The return keyword will be plugged automatically with this type of syntax.

Let's consider another example. We will operate with an array of objects in it. Our object will contain last name and age. The custom function will increase the age by 10 years.

```
var users = [{ lastName: "Brown", age: 30 },
{ lastName: "Davids", age: 40 }];

/*
   In the zeroth element the age is 40
   In the first element 50
*/
var mUsers = users.map(item => {
   item.age += 10;
   return item;
});
```

The users array contains user information. Each element in the array is an object. The custom function takes an array

Lesson 7

element (specific object) as a parameter. It will be called for each object from the users array. We increase the age of the current element by 10 years inside the function. The function returns the modified element. The result of the map is returning a new array with objects inside. The age of each object will be increased by 10 years compared to the corresponding element inside the users. The original users array does not change.

Using arrays in React Apps

We have not yet worked with data arrays in our React apps. Now is the time to use a data array and display its values on the screen. When can this come in handy? For instance, we can get a data array upon a request to a web service.

Before diving into the new topic, let's recall the destructuring of objects. We worked with it in the previous lesson. Let's analyze the code:

```
let user = {name:"Dan",lastName:"Brown"};
let {...concreteU} = user;
console.log(concreteU);
```

We created a user object in this code. It has two fields: name and lastName. We create a new concreteU object using the destructuring syntax {...concreteU}. The content and arrangement of the user object will be copied to it. It means that there will be two fields inside the concreteU: name and lastName. The value of name is Dan. The value os lastName is Brown. You will run against this syntax later in this lesson.

Let's start with the basic example of using an array. We will display array elements in an app. In the code below, we have an object array with information about writers (first and last name). We will display it on the screen. This is the appearance of our app (Fig. 1).

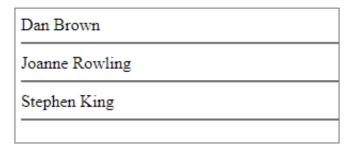


Figure 1

To solve this problem, let's create some more functional components. The first component will contain information about one writer. Let's call it Writer. The second component will display a list of all writers and information about them. Let's call it WritersList.

App.js code:

```
A list of writers
function WritersList() {
  return (
      <Writer {...writers[0]} />
      <Writer {...writers[1]} />
      <Writer {...writers[2]} />
export default function App() {
  return (
      <WritersList />
    </>
  );
```

There are three components and one array in our code. Let's begin to analyze the example with the array

```
/*
  Object array
*/
let writers = [
```

```
{ name: "Dan", lastName: "Brown" },
{ name: "Joanne", lastName: "Rowling" },
{ name: "Stephen", lastName: "King" }
];
```

The writer object array has information about writers. Each element is an individual writer. The writers array is declared globally in our code. This is done to simplify the code.

The Writer component is responsible for displaying writer's data.

Information about the writer will be passed inside the component using props.

The WritersList component will display the writer array. It means that we will use an object of a specific writer inside its code (an object of the Writer component).

The major new thing in the code of WritersList is the following construct:

```
<Writer {...writers[0]} />
```

We create a Writer object and pass the writers[0] as its props. The destructuring syntax does the job here. The content of writers[0] will be copied to props. It means that the properties name and lastName will be copied inside the props. Their values will be copied from the relevant fields of writers[0].

Our array has three elements, so we repeat the creation of the Writer component three times in the code with different indices (0,1,2).

The code of the App component is familiar to us:

We created an object of a writers list and nothing more.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

Our array code has a small flaw. We explicitly indicate each array element in WritersList. We did it three times in the code above. It is clumsy and non-scalable. Let's fix this in the new version of the code. The interface remains the same. All changes occur in the display logic.

App.js code:

```
import React from "react";
import "./styles.css";
var writers = [
 { name: "Dan", lastName: "Brown" },
  { name: "Joanne", lastName: "Rowling" },
 { name: "Stephen", lastName: "King" }
];
function Writer(props) {
            </>
  );
function WritersList(props) {
  return (
     {props.data.map(item => <Writer {...item} />)}
```

Our code has two new things. The first one is inside the App code:

We pass the writers array through the data property inside the WritersList component.

There are also changes inside the WritersList.

We no longer have code with each element of the writers array. Instead, we use an already familiar map method. It returns the array of the Writer components.

```
{props.data.map(item => <Writer {...item} />)}
```

This syntax may look frightening, but we have already encountered each of them before. Let's analyze it piece by piece:

```
props.data.map(
```

Call the map method for the data property (it refers to the writers array).

```
item => <Writer {...item} />
```

This code is called for each element of the writers array. An element for a new array is returned in this code. In fact, we create a new Writer element and fill its props with the values of the current element being analyzed.

The map call will be replaced with a newly created Writer array.

Thanks to map, we got rid of the necessity to indicate each element manually.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

You have probably noticed that there is a problem in our data array example ☺.

If you have not noticed it, we will point it out at once. The online code editor CodeSandbox has an interface block that displays the console. If you open our array example there, you will see something like this in the lower right corner:

Figure 2

```
Console © Problems © React DevTools © Filter

Console vas cleared

Warning: Each child in a list should have a unique "key" prop.

Check the render method of `WritersList`. See https://f
b.me/react-warning-keys for more information.

in Writer (at App.js:24)

in WritersList (at App.js:33)

in App (at src/index.js:9)

in StrictMode (at src/index.js:8)
```

Figure 3

The red 1 indicates that we have a problem. Open the console and read this message (Fig. 7).

What does it mean? React warns us that each element in the list should have a unique key. We set a value for the element. But we did not set values for keys.

What is a key? It is a unique value that will never change. React uses keys in order to understand which elements were added, deleted, modified. If you want to be sure that the interface updates correctly, you must specify keys.

Key uniqueness must be maintained within one list. It means that keys in different lists can be not unique.

Keys are set with a key attribute.

Let's consider an example of working with keys. There will be an array of cities to be displayed in our example. Each item of the city list will have a unique key set:

London Paris Tokio

Figure 4

App.js code:

```
import React from "react";
import "./styles.css";

const cities = ["London", "Paris", "Tokio"];

function City(props) {
  return <div>{props.value}</div>;
}
```

```
function CityList(props) {
  const citiesData = props.data.map(
        city => <City key={city} value={city} />
  );
  return <>{citiesData}</>;
}

export default function App() {
  return (
        <>
            <CityList data={cities} />
            </>
        );
}
```

This code works similarly to the previous one. We have components for the city and a list of cities. Let's begin the analysis with the cities array and the City component.

```
const cities = ["London", "Paris", "Tokio"];
function City(props) {
  return <div>{props.value}</div>;
}
```

The array with city names is declared. The City component displays a name of a specific city. The code of the CityList component:

```
function CityList(props) {
  const citiesData = props.data.map(
        city => <City key={city} value={city} />
  );
  return <>{citiesData}</>;
}
```

In this example, we took the map call away from JSX. We did it to show you another possible approach. The parameter function for map looks differently:

```
city => <City key={city} value={city} />
```

We say that an element of the list of cities has two properties. The first property is value — the city name. The second property is key — the key for the current line being created. The key is not displayed in the interface. The user does not see it. This key is important to React. We used a city name as a key in this example. If the city name occurs in the array more than once, then our approach stops working.

In order to avoid potential problems, developers use identifiers as a key. We will show you this technique in another example.

We do not use destructuring syntax because we have a string array, not object array.

The code of the App component:

We passed the array through the data property.

► <u>Link</u> to the project.

It is essential to remember that the key should be passed wherever the list of cities is created, not inside the City component. The code below is wrong:

We set the key attribute inside the City component in the div tag. This approach does not let React identify the list strings. The console warning will tell you about this:

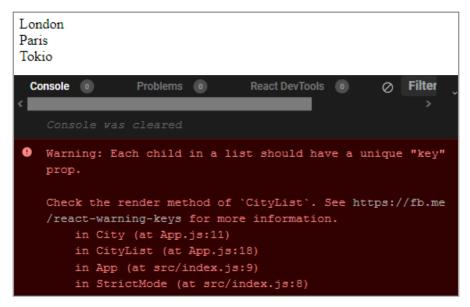


Figure 5

Let's change the writers code by implementing key support. We will use unique identifiers as a key. For this, we will add the id property inside the writer object.

```
import React from "react";
import "./styles.css";
var writers = [
  { id: 1, name: "Dan", lastName: "Brown" },
  { id: 2, name: "Joanne", lastName: "Rowling" },
  { id: 3, name: "Stephen", lastName: "King" }
function Writer(props) {
  return (
    </>
  );
function WritersList(props) {
  return (
      {props.data.map(item => (
        <Writer key={item.id} {...item} />
      ) ) }
  );
export default function App() {
  return (
    <>
```

What has changed in the code? First, an identifier has appeared inside the writer object: the id property.

```
var writers = [
    { id: 1, name: "Dan", lastName: "Brown" },
    { id: 2, name: "Joanne", lastName: "Rowling" },
    { id: 3, name: "Stephen", lastName: "King" }
];
```

Be reminded that values for id should be unique.

Second, the code of the WritersList component has changed.

When describing the Writer component, we explicitly specify the key attribute and set its value to item.id.

There are no more changes in our code. The use of key made the warning disappear, but most importantly, now React will be able to tell one string of the list from another.

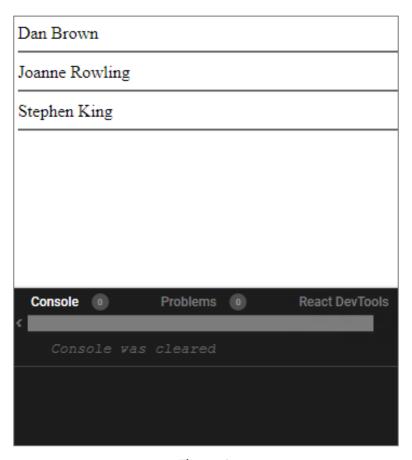


Figure 6

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

Forms

You are already familiar with the mechanism of forms in HTML. It is time to discuss how React works with forms using basic mechanisms. In order to dive, let's begin with a basic example of form display.



Figure 7

Our UI has a text box and a button. Nothing unusual. The code of our form is as follows:

We use typical tags for working with forms in order to create one. The form tag declares a form. Two input tags create a text box and a submit button (used to send information to the server). In the first input, the type attribute is equal to text, which means that we create a text box. In order to create the submit button, we indicate submit as we describe the type attribute. If the user presses the submit button, form data will be sent and the page will reload.

We did not use any attributes for the form tag. It means that we did not specify the path to the server-side script that will analyze the form data. In real life, you will need to do this using the action attribute. So, where do data go if action is not specified? Data from the form on a page will be sent to the page itself. Let's say our form is in the myform.php file on the server; when the submit button is clicked, data will be sent to myform.php.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

Can we slow down the sending of data upon pressing the submit button? Of course, we can! And we will use the preventDefault for this. Let's show this with an example:

```
import React from "react";
import "./styles.css";
function Form() {
  const handleSubmit = event => {
      Cancel the response of the default handler
    event.preventDefault();
      Get access to the text box
    let uName = document.getElementById("userName");
    alert(uName.value);
  };
  return (
    <form onSubmit={handleSubmit}>
          ut type="text" id="userName" />
      <input type="submit" value="Click me" />
    </form>
  );
```

The appearance of our app has not changed. The difference is only in the code.

```
<form onSubmit={handleSubmit}>
```

When describing the form, we specified the processing of data sending. An event occurs when the user presses the submit button inside the form.

```
const handleSubmit = event => {
    /*
        Cancel the response of the default handler
    */
        event.preventDefault();

    /*
        Get access to the text box
        */
        let uName = document.getElementById("userName");
        alert(uName.value);
};
```

In the code of our handler, we cancel the default event handling by calling the preventDefault. After this we get access to the text box and display its value.

Lesson 7

In order to get a link to the text box, we use the already familiar getElementById.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

But is it possible to get access to the value of a form element without using getElementById? Of course! The answer is in the next section.

Refs

Refs are tools for binding a form element to some variable. Due to this binding you can exchange values with a control. The one responsible for this interaction is React.

A ref variable is created with the React.createRef() method. Steps to create a ref variable:

- 1. Create a ref variable by calling createRef;
- 2. Attach it to a specific control through the ref attribute.

 After we complete these steps, our variable is ready to go!

 Let's create an app with this interface:

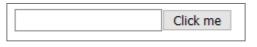


Figure 8

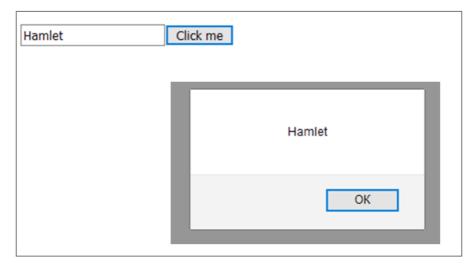


Figure 9

By clicking on the button we display a message box with the value entered in the text box. Data are not sent to the server because we will call preventDefault in the onSubmit handler. The appearance of the app upon button click (Fig. 4).

In our example, we are going to create a functional component and a ref variable.

The *App.js* code:

```
import React from "react";
import "./styles.css";
function Form() {
  let uRef = React.createRef();
  const handleSubmit = event => {
    event.preventDefault();
    alert(uRef.current.value);
  };
    <form onSubmit={handleSubmit}>
   <input type="submit" value="Click me" />
</form>
      <input type="text" id="userName" ref={uRef} />
export default function App() {
  return (
      <Form />
    </>
  );
```

Important steps in the code.

```
let uRef = React.createRef();
```

Creation of a ref variable. It is not bound to any control yet.

```
const handleSubmit = event => {
    event.preventDefault();
    alert(uRef.current.value);
};
```

In the onSubmit handler, we access the value of a control to which the ref variable will be bound. The construct uRef. current.value is used for this.

```
<input type="text" id="userName" ref={uRef} />
```

Here we link the text box and the ref variable. The link occurs through the ref attribute. All the issues on sending data are solved by React.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

The second example of working with ref variables will be implemented through class components.

The appearance of the app:

Input name	
Input last name	
Send data	

Figure 10

Data will not be sent upon button click. We will display a window with data received from the user.

App.js code:

```
import "./styles.css";
class Form extends Component {
 nameRef = React.createRef();
 lastNameRef = React.createRef();
 render() {
    const handlerSubmit = event => {
        rent.preventDefault();
     let str = this.name
str += this.lastNam
     alert(str);
    };
      <form onSubmit={handlerSubmit}>
        <div className="formElement">
            type="text"
            placeholder="Input name"
            ref={this.nameRef}
            required
          />
        <div className="formElement">
            type="text"
            placeholder="Input last name"
            ref={this.lastNa
            required
        <div className="formElement">
          <input type="submit" value="Send data" />
```

We would like to draw attention to important points in the code.

```
import React, { Component } from "react";
import "./styles.css";
class Form extends Component {
```

We imported Component to cut the notation of React. Component to Component upon inheritance.

```
class Form extends Component {
  nameRef = React.createRef();
  lastNameRef = React.createRef();
```

The creation and usage of ref variables works just like in functional components. We created two ref variables that we are going to use to access controls.

```
const handlerSubmit = event => {
   event.preventDefault();
   let str = this.nameRef.current.value+" ";
   str += this.lastNameRef.current.value;
   alert(str);
};
```

The code of the onSubmit handler differs from the previous example only in the presence of this keyword.

```
<input
  type="text"
  placeholder="Input name"
  ref={this.nameRef}
  required
//>
```

A control can also be bound through the ref attribute.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

State and Forms

We are already used to the fact that React is responsible for the state and interface update in our app, however controls in form update their appearance on their own. For instance, if a user enters a letter into a text box, it automatically appears there.

May we need React for this process? Of course. There may be many reasons for this.

For example, in order to maintain a uniform approach to the entire UI interface of the app. Or maybe we want to task React with displaying text in a box if the user did not enter a forbidden value.

The well-known mechanism of state comes to our aid.

Let's start with an example where we will assign the text box update to React.

The appearance of our app:



Figure 11

In this example, if you try to input text in the text box, nothing will happen.

```
import React, { useState } from "react";
import "./styles.css";

function Form() {
  const [nameState, setNameState] = useState("");
  return (
```

We create a state variable in the code.

```
const [nameState, setNameState] = useState("");
```

In order to assign the state variable to the text box, we use the value property.

```
<input type="text" placeholder="Input name"
    value={nameState}</pre>
```

To assign the ref variable, we used the ref property.

Why is the text not displayed? This is due to the fact that we assigned the element update to React but did not specify the logic of this process.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

The update logic is implemented through the onChange handler for the text box.

Let's now modify the example so that the typed text appears in the text box.

```
import React, { useState } from "react";
import "./styles.css";
function Form() {
 const [nameState, setNameState] = useState("");
 const handlerSubmit = event => {
    event.preventDefault();
    alert(nameState);
  };
 const handlerChange = event => {
    setNameState(event.target.value);
  };
  return (
    <form onSubmit={handlerSubmit}>
        type="text"
        placeholder="Input name"
        value={nameState}
        onChange={handlerChange}
       required
      <input type="submit" value="Click me" />
    </form>
  );
export default function App() {
  return (
      <Form />
   </>
  );
```

When creating the text box, we specified that we have a change handler there.

```
type="text"
    placeholder="Input name"
    value={nameState}
    onChange={handlerChange}
    required
//>
```

This is a handlerChange function.

```
const handlerChange = event => {
    setNameState(event.target.value);
};
```

We take the current text being typed by using event. target.value and update the state through setNameState in the function body. After the state variable is updated, React automatically updates the control it is assigned to.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code:

The next example will analyze the text typed by the user and cancel input if the current value does not suit us.

The appearance of the app:

Input name	
Input last name	
Send info	

Figure 12

We will forbid to enter test as a name. This project was created using class components.

App.js code:

```
import "./styles.css";
class UserForm extends Component {
 state = {
   nameState: "",
   lastNameState: ""
 };
 render() {
   const handlerSubmit = event => {
     event.preventDefault();
     };
   const handlerNameChanged = event => {
     let name = event.target.value;
     if (name.trim().toUpperCase() === "TEST") {
       alert("Wrong name!");
       this.setState({ nameState: "" });
       this.setState({ nameState:
   const handlerLastNameChanged = event => {
     this.setState({ lastNameState:
   };
```

```
<form onSubmit={handlerSubmit}>
<input</pre>
          type="text"
          className="formElement"
          placeholder="Input name"
          value={this.state.nameState}
          onChange={handlerNameChanged}
          required
          type="text"
          className="formElement"
          placeholder="Input last name"
          value={this.state.lastNameSt
          onChange={handlerLastNameChanged}
          required
        <input type="submit"</pre>
               className="formElement"
               value="Send info" />
    );
export default class App extends Component {
  render() {
        <UserForm />
      </>
    );
```

We create two state variables, one for each text box.

```
class UserForm extends Component {
  state = {
    nameState: "",
    lastNameState: ""
};
```

We are the ones who use the set properties, not the constructor, as we have done many times before.

To check the value in the text box, we use the onChange event handler:

```
const handlerNameChanged = event => {
  let name = event.target.value;
  if (name.trim().toUpperCase() === "TEST") {
    alert("Wrong name!");
    this.setState({ nameState: "" });
} else {
    this.setState({ nameState: event.target.value});
};
```

If the value is test, we change the state variable by writing an empty value to it.

If the value is not test, we update the state variable by writing the current value to it.

Analyze the code very carefully and check how it works.

► <u>Link</u> to the project code.

Homework

- 1. Create an app Personal Page. Use text boxes to display pieces of information. For example, name, phone number, email, city of residence, etc. The presence of text boxes allows the user to modify the source data. Also, add a button that returns the initial values. Use state and class components.
- 2. Create a registration form. The user should enter his nickname, email, gender, age. Use React to work with forms. Use React for validation of the entered values.
- 3. Create a photo upload form. The user should enter his nickname, password, email, photo, description of the photo, tags. Use React to work with forms. Use React for validation of the entered values.
- 4. Create an app to display information about the cities in your country. Be sure to use object arrays and the map function.
- 5. Create an app to display information about your favorite bands. Be sure to use object arrays, the map function, and class components.



Lesson 7

React: Advanced Techniques

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