

# Customized directive

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A customized directive in Angular is a way to extend the behavior of HTML elements in your application. Directives allow you to create reusable and modular pieces of functionality that can be applied to elements, attributes, or even components. They are a key feature in Angular for building dynamic and interactive applications.

Let's dive into the details of how and why you might use a customized directive in Angular:

## Purpose of Custom Directives:

### 1. **Reusability:**

- One of the primary benefits of custom directives is that they promote reusability. You can define a set of behaviors or styles and apply them to multiple elements or components throughout your application.

### 2. **Abstraction:**

- Directives allow you to abstract complex behavior and encapsulate it into a single directive. This makes your code more modular and easier to understand.

### 3. **Separation of Concerns:**

- Custom directives help in separating the concerns of your application. You can encapsulate specific functionalities or interactions within directives, promoting a cleaner and more maintainable codebase.

### 4. **Encapsulation:**

- Directives provide a way to encapsulate behavior and styles specific to a particular component or element. This encapsulation helps prevent global style and behavior clashes.

## Use Cases for Custom Directives:

### 1. **Behavior Modification:**

- You can use a custom directive to modify the behavior of an element. For example, creating a directive to handle drag-and-drop functionality, form validation, or infinite scrolling.

### 2. **Styling:**

- Custom directives can be used to apply specific styles to elements. This is useful for creating reusable styles that can be applied consistently across your application.

### 3. **Attribute Manipulation:**

- Directives can manipulate or enhance attributes of HTML elements. For instance, creating a directive to automatically focus an input field when a page loads.

#### 4. DOM Manipulation:

- If you need to interact with the DOM directly, custom directives provide a convenient way to do so. You can use the **Renderer2** service to perform safe DOM manipulations within your directive.

#### Example Custom Directive:

Let's say you want to create a directive that highlights text when the user hovers over it. Here's how you might define such a directive:

```
import { Directive, ElementRef, HostListener, Input } from '@angular/core';

@Directive({
  selector: '[appHighlight]'
})
export class HighlightDirective {
  @Input() highlightColor: string = 'yellow';

  constructor(private el: ElementRef) {}

  @HostListener('mouseenter') onMouseEnter() {
    this.highlight(this.highlightColor);
  }

  @HostListener('mouseleave') onMouseLeave() {
    this.highlight(null);
  }

  private highlight(color: string | null) {
    this.el.nativeElement.style.backgroundColor = color;
  }
}
```

In this example:

- The **@Directive** decorator is used to define a directive.
- The **selector** property ('[appHighlight]') specifies that this directive should be applied to elements with the **appHighlight** attribute.
- **@Input** is used to create a property (**highlightColor**) that can be set from the outside.
- **@HostListener** is used to listen for events on the host element (mouseenter and mouseleave).
- The **highlight** method changes the background color of the host element based on the provided color.

You can then use this directive in your HTML templates:

```
<!-- Apply the appHighlight directive with a specific highlight color -->
<p appHighlight [highlightColor]='cyan'>Hover me to highlight!</p>
```

```
<!-- Apply the appHighlight directive with the default highlight color -->
<p appHighlight>Hover me to highlight!</p>
```

This is a simple example, but it demonstrates how a custom directive can encapsulate behavior and be reused across different elements in your application.

Let's create a custom directive example with **Renderer2** in Angular. In this example, we'll create a directive that adds a border to an element and changes its background color when clicked.

```
// highlight-click.directive.ts
import { Directive, ElementRef, Renderer2, HostListener, Input } from
 '@angular/core';

@Directive({
  selector: '[appHighlightClick]'
})
export class HighlightClickDirective {
  @Input() borderColor: string = 'blue';
  @Input() backgroundColor: string = 'lightyellow';

  constructor(private el: ElementRef, private renderer: Renderer2) {}

  @HostListener('click') onClick() {
    this.highlight();
  }

  private highlight() {
    // Use Renderer2 to safely manipulate the DOM
    this.renderer.setStyle(this.el.nativeElement, 'border', `2px solid
 ${this.borderColor}`);
    this.renderer.setStyle(this.el.nativeElement, 'background-color',
 this.backgroundColor);
  }
}
```

In this example:

- The **@Directive** decorator is used to define a directive.
- The **selector** property ('[appHighlightClick]') specifies that this directive should be applied to elements with the **appHighlightClick** attribute.
- **@Input** is used to create properties (**borderColor** and **backgroundColor**) that can be set from the outside.
- **@HostListener** is used to listen for the **click** event on the host element.

- The `highlight` method uses `Renderer2` to safely manipulate the DOM by setting the border and background color of the element.

Now, let's use this directive in a component:

```
// app.component.ts
import { Component } from '@angular/core';

@Component({
  selector: 'app-root',
  template: `
    <div appHighlightClick [borderColor]='red'
[backgroundColor]='lightgreen'>
      Click me to highlight!
    </div>
  `,
  styles: [`
    div {
      padding: 20px;
      cursor: pointer;
    }
  `]
})
export class AppComponent {}
```

In this component:

- The `appHighlightClick` directive is applied to a `div` element.
- The `borderColor` and `backgroundColor` properties of the directive are set to customize the appearance.

When you click on the `div` element, the `onClick` method in the directive is triggered, and it uses `Renderer2` to modify the element's styles.

This example demonstrates the use of a custom directive with `Renderer2` to safely manipulate the DOM in response to user interaction. It's a simple illustration, but you can extend and customize directives based on your application's specific needs. Always remember to use `Renderer2` when directly interacting with the DOM to ensure compatibility with different rendering environments.