



Introduction to React

A JavaScript library for building user interfaces

`npx create-react-app@latest`

What is React?

“The computer was born to solve problems that did not exist before.”

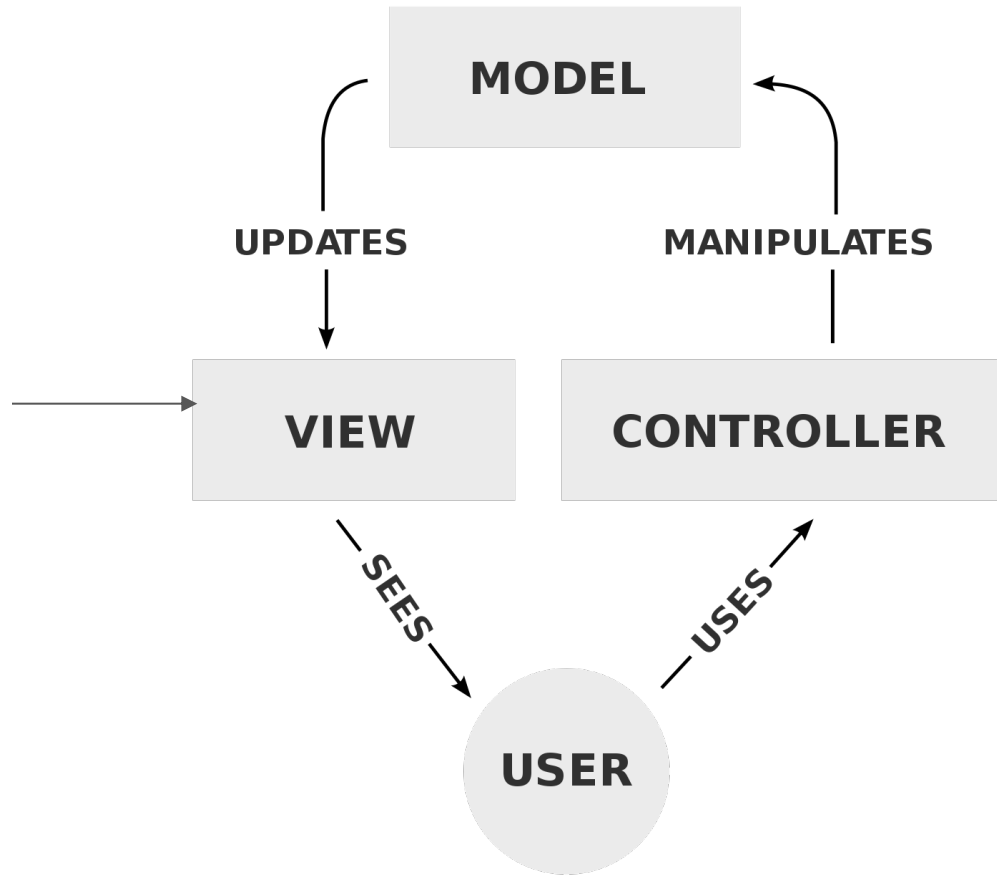
— *Bill Gates*



What is React?

- React is a JavaScript library.
- React is an open-source project created by Facebook.
- React is the view layer of an MVC application (Model View Controller).
- React is component based.
- React is unidirectional data flow from parent to child.
- React uses virtual DOM to Render/Update UI.

What is React?





Introducing JSX

- This funny tag syntax is neither a string nor HTML.
- Embedding Expressions in JSX by wrapping it in curly braces.
- Specifying Children with JSX - Nesting JSX

```
const element = <h1>Hello, world!</h1>
```

```
const name = 'Josh Perez';  
const hello = <h1>Hello, {name}</h1>;
```

```
const text = <div tabIndex="0">text</div>;  
const avatar = <img src={user.avatarUrl}></img>;
```



Rendering Elements

- Elements are the smallest building blocks of React apps.
- React elements are immutable. Once you create an element, you can't change its children or attributes.
- React Only Updates What's Necessary



Components

- Almost everything in React consists of components
- Components let you split the UI into independent, reusable pieces, and think about each piece in isolation.

Components



Function Components

- They are literally JavaScript functions.
- This function is a valid React component because it accepts a single “props” (which stands for properties) object argument with data and returns a React element.

```
function Welcome(props) {  
  return <h1>Hello, {props.name}</h1>;  
}
```



Class Components

- `render()` method returns a React element.
- `this.props` - components params

```
class Welcome extends React.Component {  
  render() {  
    return <h1>Hello, {this.props.name}</h1>;  
  }  
}
```



Conditional Rendering

- Use JavaScript operators like if or the conditional operator to create elements representing the current state.
- Preventing Component from Rendering - return null instead of its render output.

```
function UserGreeting(props) {  
  return <h1>Welcome back!</h1>  
}
```

```
function GuestGreeting(props) {  
  return <h1>Please sign up.</h1>  
}
```

```
function Greeting(props) {  
  const isLoggedIn = props.isLoggedIn  
  if (isLoggedIn) {  
    return <UserGreeting />  
  }  
  return <GuestGreeting />  
}
```



Props

- Props are Read-Only.
- Whether you declare a component as a function or a class, it must never modify its own props.

```
class Car extends React.Component {  
  render() {  
    return <h2>I am a {this.props.brand}!</h2>;  
  }  
}
```

```
class Garage extends React.Component {  
  render() {  
    return (  
      <div>  
        <h1>Who lives in my garage?</h1>  
        <Car brand="Ford" />  
      </div>  
    );  
  }  
}
```



State

- State is similar to props, but it is private and fully controlled by the component.
- Do not modify state directly (instead, use `setState()`).
- State updates may be asynchronous.
- State updates are merged.
- In React, mutable state is typically kept in the state.

```
class MyComponent extends React.Component {
  constructor(props) {
    super(props);
    this.state = {
      name: "",
    };
  }
  onChange = (event) => {
    this.setState({ name: event.target.value });
  };

  render() {
    return (
      <div>
        <h1>My name is: {this.state.name}</h1>
        <input type="text" value={this.state.name}
onChange={this.onChange} />
      </div>
    );
  }
}
```



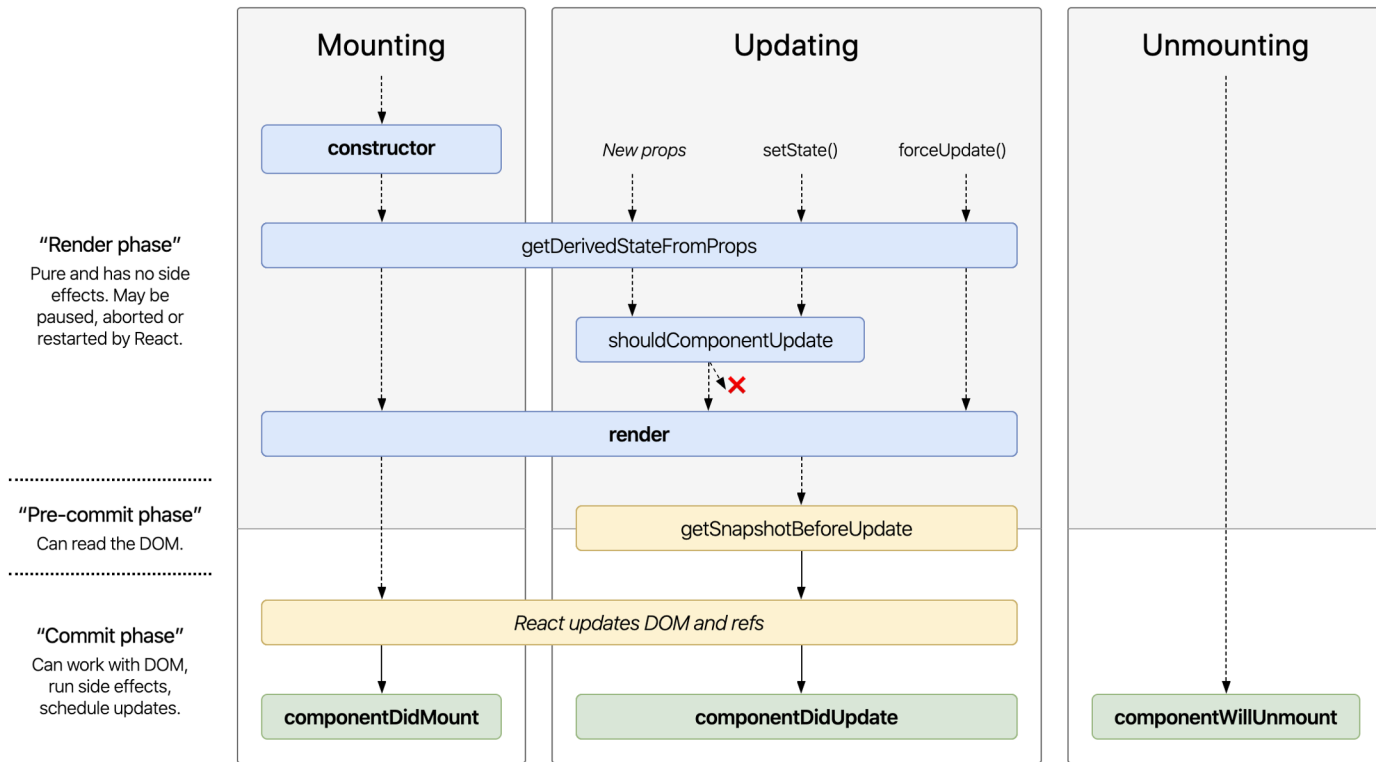
The Component Lifecycle

Each component in React has a lifecycle which you can monitor and manipulate during its three main phases.

The three phases are: **Mounting**, **Updating**, and **Unmounting**.

```
class MyComponent extends React.Component {  
  constructor(props) {  
    super(props)  
    console.log('constructor')  
  }  
  componentDidMount() {  
    console.log('componentDidMount')  
  }  
  componentWillUnmount() {  
    console.log('componentWillUnmount')  
  }  
  render() {  
    console.log('render')  
    return (  
      <h1>Hello, world!</h1>  
    )  
  }  
}
```

The Component Lifecycle





Lists and Keys

- A “key” is a special string attribute you need to include when creating lists of elements.
- Keys Must Only Be Unique Among Siblings.

```
function NumberList(props) {  
  const numbers = props.numbers  
  const listItems = numbers.map((number) =>  
    <li key={number.toString()}>  
      {number}  
    </li>  
  )  
  
  return (  
    <ul>{listItems}</ul>  
  )  
}
```




Controlled Components

With a controlled component, the input's value is always driven by the React state. While this means you have to type a bit more code, you can now pass the value to other UI elements too, or reset it from other event handlers.

```
class SomeControlledComponent extends React.Component {
  constructor(props) {
    super(props);
    this.state = { name: "" };
  }

  onChange = (event) => {
    this.setState({ name: event.target.value });
  };

  onSubmit = (event) => {
    console.log(this.state);
  };

  render() {
    return (
      <div>
        <h1>{this.state.name}</h1>
        <input type="text" value={this.state.name}
        onChange={this.onChange} />
        <button onClick={this.onSubmit}>Submit</button>
      </div>
    );
  }
}
```



Uncontrolled Components

- Form data is handled by the DOM itself.
- Uncontrolled inputs are like traditional HTML form inputs, you have to 'pull' the value from the field when you need it.
- In most cases, it is recommend to use controlled components.

```
class SomeUncontrolledComponent extends React.Component {
  constructor(props) {
    super(props);
    this.input = React.createRef();
  }
  onSubmit = (event) => {
    console.log(this.input.current.value);
  };

  render() {
    return (
      <div>
        <input type="text" ref={this.input} />
        <button onClick={this.onSubmit}>Submit</button>
      </div>
    );
  }
}
```



Lifting State Up

- There should be a single “source of truth” for any data that changes in a React application.
- The state is first added to the component that needs it for rendering. Then, if other components also need it, you can lift it up to their closest common ancestor.



Carry on with a TODO example in class

- Let's make a TODO list app – a shopping list