

Displaying Navbar on all pages | NextJs Tutorial for Beginners #14



Course: Next.js Tutorials For Beginners (+)

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In the last lecture, we did a bit of cleaning up of the whole website. Several files were deleted as they were redundant and unnecessary. As a result, our website now appears more professional. Currently, the navigation bar is only visible on the homepage of the website. As we navigate to other pages, such as the about page or the blog page, we only see demo texts and there is no navigation bar present there.

One way to achieve this would be to copy the navigation bar on those pages and change things accordingly. But, why does this process need to be tedious and redundant when we have the feature of components and we can exploit the `_app.js` file to our benefit? In this lesson, we'll see how we can implement a navigation bar across all pages efficiently.

Run the development server using `yarn dev` from your main directory where your *Hunting Coder* folder is located. Now, integrating the navigation bar into all pages of our website is not that difficult, but the way we will implement it will be very useful

for further applications down the road. And the file `_app.js` is of utmost importance to us. This file can be found in the `pages` folder, and you might be wondering what it looks like. Well, `_app.js` is different from any other page in that folder. It is the only page that gets rendered on every other page in the folder. This can be verified by putting a console log command somewhere in the `MyApp` function of the `_app.js` file. And then you could observe that every time a page is loaded, this log will appear in the console.

For now, the `MyApp` function returns only a component and its corresponding `props`. However, we would simply wrap this part of the return statement inside an empty tag, so that we can now return any other piece of information as well. And this additional piece of information could be anything ranging from a simple `div` element to an entire component. This is what we will exploit to add a navigation component to every page.

So, we'll begin by creating a new component named `Navbar.js` so that we wouldn't have to include the whole snippet in the return statement. Construct an arrow function export component using the shortcut `rface` named `Navbar`. Cut the `nav` component from the `index.js` file and paste it here in this `Navbar` component. Do necessary imports such as `styles` and `Link`. This creates a separate `Navbar` component. We just have to include this now in the `MyApp` function in the `_app.js` file.

In the `_app.js` file, import `Navbar` from its relative location. Add `<Navbar/>` in the return statement of the `MyApp` function. And we are done. The navigation bar gets installed on every page. You can see it for yourself.

```
import React from 'react'
import styles from '../styles/Home.module.css'
import Link from 'next/link'

const Navbar = () => {
  return (
    <nav className={styles.mainnav}>
      <ul>
        <Link href='/'><a><li>Home</li></a></Link>
        <Link href='/about'><a><li>About</li></a></Link>
        <Link href='/blog'><a><li>Blog</li></a></Link>
        <Link href='/contact'><a><li>Contact</li></a></Link>
      </ul>
    </nav>
  )
}
```

```
        </nav>
      )
    }

    export default Navbar
```

Code Snippet 1: *Navbar.js* in the components folder

```
import Navbar from '../components/Navbar'
import '../styles/globals.css'

function MyApp({ Component, pageProps }) {
  return (
    <>
      <Navbar />
      <Component {...pageProps} />
    </>
  )
}

export default MyApp
```

Code Snippet 2: Redefined *_app.js* file

Having added the navigation bar to each of the pages, we will now proceed to giving structure to these individual pages. The *About* page is something I'll let you all design by yourselves according to your preferences. We will direct our attention to blog pages and blog posts in the next tutorial. Following that would be the contact page. So, things will go at their own pace. Have patience and enjoy the tutorials. Hope to see you all there in the next tutorial where we'll structure the blog page and posts. Till then, keep coding and learning!

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