**Part 02: React Fundamentals**

**Module 01: React Fundamentals**

**Lesson 01: Why React**

* Its compositional model
* Its declarative nature
* The way data flows through a Component

Composition occurs when *simple* functions are *combined* together to create *more complex* functions. Think of each function as a single building block that *does one thing* (DOT). When you combine these simple functions together to form a more complex function, this is **composition**.

With declarative code, we don't code up all of the steps to get us to the end result. Instead, we *declare* what we want done, and JavaScript will take care of doing it.

In React, the data flows from the parent component to a child component.

[**Lesson 02: Rendering UI with React**](file:///D:\Courses\React%20Nanodegree\Udacity%20-%20React%20nd019%20v2.0.0\Part%2002-Module%2001-Lesson%2002_Rendering%20UI%20with%20React\index.html)

We'll be looking at using React's .createElement() method in the next couple of videos. For starters, here is its signature:

React.createElement( /\* type \*/, /\* props \*/, /\* content \*/ );

* type – either a string or a React Component

This can be a string of any existing HTML element (e.g. 'p', 'span', or 'header') or you could pass a React *component*(we'll be creating components with JSX, in just a moment).

* props – either null or an object

This is an object of HTML attributes and custom data about the element.

* content – null, a string, a React Element, or a React Component

Anything that you pass here will be the content of the rendered element. This can include plain text, JavaScript code, other React elements, etc.

Since React's main focus is to streamline building our app's UI, there is only one method that is absolutely required in any React component class: render().

A great mindset to have when building React apps is to [think in components](https://facebook.github.io/react/docs/thinking-in-react.html). Components represent the modularity and reusability of React. You can think of your component classes as factories that produce instances of components. These component classes should follow the [single responsibility principle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_responsibility_principle) and just "do one thing". If it manages too many different tasks, it may be a good idea to decompose your component into smaller subcomponents.

Scaffolding Your React App

JSX is awesome, but it does need to be transpiled into regular JavaScript before reaching the browser. We typically use a transpiler like [Babel](https://github.com/babel/babel) to accomplish this for us. We can run Babel through a build tool, like [Webpack](https://github.com/webpack/webpack" \t "_blank) which helps bundle all of our assets (JavaScript files, CSS, images, etc.) for web projects.

To streamline these initial configurations, we can use Facebook's Create React App package to manage all the setup for us! This tool is incredibly helpful to get started in building a React app, as it sets up everything we need with *zero configuration*! Install Create React App (through the command-line with [npm](https://www.npmjs.com/get-npm" \t "_blank)), and then we can walk through what makes it so great.

*npm install -g create-react-app*

If you're seeing errors when trying to install a package globally, feel free to check out [this article](https://docs.npmjs.com/getting-started/fixing-npm-permissions) in the npm documentation. Note that to find out where global packages are installed, you can run npm list -g in your console.

Use this.props.<propertyName> - to access properties (component’s attribute)

**Lesson 03: State Management**

Three main components of React:

* Props – allow you to pass data into your components
* Functional Components – an alternative, and probably more intuitive approach to creating components
* Controlled Components – allow you to hook up the forms in your application to your component state

Creating component:

* import React, { Component } from 'react'
* class ListContacts extends Component {
* render() { return … }
* }
* export default ListContacts

If your component does not keep track of internal state (i.e., all it really has is just a render() method), you can declare the component as a Stateless Functional Component.

Earlier in this Lesson, we learned that props refer to attributes from parent components. In the end, props represent "read-only" data that are *immutable*.

A component's state, on the other hand, represents *mutable* data that ultimately affects what is rendered on the page. State is managed internally by the component itself and is meant to change over time, commonly due to user input (e.g., clicking on a button on the page).

To add state to a component all we need to do is to add state property to our class whose value is an object. This object represents the state of our component. Each key in object represents a distinct piece of state for this component. As with props we can access state property using this.state.<property>

When defining a component's initial state, avoid initializing that state with props. This is an error-prone *anti-pattern*, since state will only be initialized with props when the component is first created.

By having a component manage its own state, any time there are changes made to that state, React will know and *automatically*make the necessary updates to the page. The process of determining what has changed in the previous and new outputs is called Reconciliation.

You can use setState() to update component state. There are two ways to use it:

* Pass the function – first argument is previous state. The object returned from this function will be merged with the current state to from the new state of the component
* Pass in an object. This object will be merged with the current state to form the new state of the component

Use first when new state of the component depends on previous state. The end result will always be the same. The UI is just a function of your state.

PropTypes is a package that lets us define the data type we want to see right from the get-go and warn us during development if the prop that's passed to the component doesn't match what is expected.

To use PropTypes in our app, we need to install [prop-types](https://facebook.github.io/react/docs/typechecking-with-proptypes.html):

npm install --save prop-types

Alternatively, if you have been using [yarn](https://www.npmjs.com/package/yarn) to manage packages, feel free to use it as well to install:

*yarn add prop-types*

*Usage:*

Email.propTypes = {

text: // ???

};

Controlled components are components which render a form, but the source of truth for the form state lives inside of the component state rather than inside of the DOM. The reason they're called controlled components, is because React is controlling the state of the form.

value={this.state.query}

onChange={(event) => this.updateQuery(event.target.value)}

To recap how user input affects the ListContacts component's own state:

1. The user enters text into the input field.

* The onChange event listener invokes the updateQuery() function.
* updateQuery() then calls setState(), merging in the new state to update the component's internal state.
* Because its state has changed, the ListContacts component re-renders.

Let's see how we can leverage this updated state to filter our contacts. To help us with our filtering we'll need the following packages:

* [escape-string-regexp](https://www.npmjs.com/package/escape-string-regexp)
* [sort-by](https://www.npmjs.com/package/sort-by)

npm install --save escape-string-regexp sort-by

**Lesson 04: Lifecycle Events**

The render method used to be free of side effects. It shouldn’t make ajax requests to do anything that is async in nature. It should only receive props and return the description of the UI.

Lifecycle events are special methods each component can have that allow us to hook into the view when specific condition happen:

* **componentDidMount** – invoke immediately after the component is inserted into the DOM
* **componentWillUnmount** – invoke immediately before the component is removed from the DOM
* **getDerivedStateFromProps** – invoked when mounting or re-rendering the component

To use one of these, you'd just create a method in your component with the name and React will call it. It's an easy way to hook into different parts of the lifecycle of React components.

You'll sometimes see shouldComponentUpdate() in React apps as well. It returns true by default. This means that whenever a component's state (or its parent's state) is updated, the component re-renders.

The [React documentation](https://reactjs.org/docs/react-component.html#shouldcomponentupdate) provides the following guidance for using this lifecycle event:

* The default behavior is to re-render on every state change, and in the vast majority of cases you should rely on the default behavior.
* Do not rely on it to “prevent” a rendering, as this can lead to bugs.
* Consider using the built-in PureComponent instead of writing shouldComponentUpdate() by hand.
* We do not recommend doing deep equality checks or using JSON.stringify() in shouldComponentUpdate(). It is very inefficient and will harm performance.

**componentDidMount()** is invoked immediately after a component is mounted. Initialization that requires DOM nodes should go here. If you need to load data from a remote endpoint, this is a good place to instantiate the network request. Setting state in this method will trigger a re-rendering.

The following lifecycle events will be called in order when a component is being added to the DOM:

1. constructor()

* getDerivedStateFromProps()
* render()
* componentDidMount()

⚠️componentWillMount() has been deprecated. ⚠️

**Lesson 5: React Router**

React Router turns React projects into single-page applications. It does this by providing a number of specialized components that manage the creation of links, manage the app's URL, provide transitions when navigating between different URL locations, and so much more.

React Router is a collection of **navigational components** that compose declaratively with your application.

Install React Router

To use React Router in our app, we need to install [react-router-dom](https://www.npmjs.com/package/react-router-dom).

npm install --save react-router-dom

When you use BrowserRouter, what you're really doing is rendering a Router component and passing it a history prop. Wait, what is history? history comes from the [history](https://github.com/ReactTraining/history) library (also built by React Training). The whole purpose of this library is it abstracts away the differences in various environments and provides a minimal API that lets you manage the history stack, navigate, confirm navigation, and persist state between sessions.

So in a nutshell, when you use BrowserRouter, you're creating a history object which will listen to changes in the URL and make sure your app is made aware of those changes.

In summary, for React Router to work properly, you need to wrap your whole app in a BrowserRouter component. Also, BrowserRouter wraps the history library which makes it possible for your app to be made aware of changes in the URL.

As you've seen, Link is a straightforward way to provide declarative, accessible navigation around your application. By passing a to property to the Link component, you tell your app which path to route to.

<Link to="/about">About</Link>

If you're experienced with routing on the web, you'll know that sometimes our links need to be a little more complex than just a string. For example, you can pass along query parameters or link to specific parts of a page. What if you wanted to pass state to the new route? To account for these scenarios, instead of passing a string to Links to prop, you can pass it an object like this,

<Link to={{

pathname: '/courses',

search: '?sort=name',

hash: '#the-hash',

state: { fromDashboard: true }

}}>

Courses

</Link>

Route component if you want to be able to pass props to a specific component that the router is going to render, you'll need to use Route’s render prop. As you saw, render puts you in charge of rendering the component which in turn allows you to pass any props to the rendered component as you'd like.

In summary, the Route component is a critical piece of building an application with React Router because it's the component which is going to decide which components are rendered based on the current URL path.

## **Serialize The Form Data**

At this point, our form will serialize the values from user input (i.e., the name and email), adding them as a query string to the URL. We can add some additional functionality by having our app serialize these form fields on its own. After all, we want the app to ultimately handle creating the contact and saving it to the state.

To accomplish this, we'll use the [form-serialize](https://www.npmjs.com/package/form-serialize) package to output this information as a regular JavaScript object for the app to use.

npm install --save form-serialize