

Lesson 1: React Native Basics

and how to get started!

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React Native Quickstart

Lesson Outline

1. What is React Native?
2. Setting up our Development Environment

What is React Native?

What is React Native?

React Native is a framework which uses JavaScript/TypeScript to create mobile apps based on 'native' technologies such as Apple's Swift/Objective-C and Android's Gradle builder.

We use React Native in order to ship an app to both iOS and Android using a single codebase.

React Native Technical Overview

A React Native project consists of three main parts.

- Pages
- Style
- Components

It's as easy as that! (mostly.)

Through several lessons, I hope to provide enough information about how these 3 parts work together to form an app.

Setting up our Development Environment

Installing Node.js

Node.js is essentially the backbone of how we're going to run JavaScript.

Download it from here: <https://nodejs.org/en>

Make sure to choose the latest stable release at the time of writing, **18.16.0 LTS**.

Verifying our Node.js Installation

To make sure we installed it properly, run the following command in your Command Prompt.

1

```
npm
```

You should see a bunch of lines pop out and not look like an error.

Installing Yarn

Yarn is my preferred package manager, though there are others out there! Yarn will help us more efficiently handle external dependencies/libraries.

In your Command Prompt, enter the following command:

```
1 npm install --global yarn
```

Creating a React Native project with Expo

Expo allows us to run the app on iOS and Android using the Expo Go app.

In your Command Prompt, enter the following command:

```
1 yarn create expo-app myNewProject
```

Whichever directory you were in previously, you should now see a new folder /myNewProject created!

Trying out React Native

Now that we have /myNewProject, let's run the app!

Enter the following commands into your Command Prompt:

```
1 cd /myNewProject  
2 yarn expo start
```

After a while a QR code should have popped up, scan it with the Expo Go app! If you're on iOS, you'll still need to have the Expo Go app but scan it with the Camera app instead.

End of Lesson

Questions? Reach out at: karlorjalo@gmail.com