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# part 01 – React Setup

Skip this part if you are using Vite to create your React application. Move directly on to part 02.

1. Choose a folder that will become the parent of your project folder eg: /Documents
2. Navigate into that folder and run the command **npx create-react-app react-bc** from a terminal window pointing to your chosen folder.  
   if you get a dependency conflict try adding --legacy-peer-deps at the end of the command
3. You may be asked to install packages, enter Y to proceed
4. After you CD into the skills folder run the command >**npm start**, your browser should open and you should see the default React UI
5. Open the **react-bc** folder in VSCode, view the code of app.js, this is the file that feeds the default page that shows up on the browser at port 3000. Change the text between the anchor tags, so change *Learn React* to *Learn React Now* or something similar, hit **save**.

# part 02 – Adding Components

1. Create a folder called **components** inside the **src** folder
2. Inside of the **components** folder, create a new .js file called header.js

Once the header.js file opens, import *react* and begin writing a function:

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";//note it is not necessary to add this line anymore, but I left it in as it will appear in some legacy code**  **function Header(){**    **}** |

1. Finish the function by returning the component

|  |
| --- |
| **function Header(){**  **return (**  **<header>**  **This is the header**  **</header>**  **)**  **}** |

1. The component is almost complete, we just need to export this function, so that it can be used by other files, App.js in our case

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react"**  **function Header(){**  **return (**  **<header>**  **This is the header**  **</header>**  **)**  **}**  **export default Header** |

1. Now we can test our component in App.js. Open App.js in VSCode and where all the imports are, include a new line:

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from 'react';**  **import logo from './logo.svg';**  **import './App.css';**  **import Header from './components/header';**  **function App() {**  **return (** |

1. With the **Header** component imported, we can now use it in our app, so add this line to the top of the pair of **div** tags, just under the original **<header**> tag:

|  |
| --- |
| **return (**  **<div className="App">**  **<header className="App-header">**  **<Header />**  **<img src={logo} className="App-logo" alt="logo" />**  **<p>**  **Edit <code>src/App.js</code> and save to reload.** |

1. If you are using the Vite process, you may not see the words of the Header component as it will be hidden by the header bar:

|  |
| --- |
| **import './styles.css'**  **import Header from './components/header';**  **function App() {**  **return (**  **<>**  **<Header />**  **</>**  **)** |

1. Now that we have a good understanding of how components work, remove all the code from between the **div** tags in App.js and just leave our custom header. Also remove the CSS classes.

|  |
| --- |
| **function App() {**  **return (**  **<div>**  **<Header />**  **</div>**  **);**  **}** |

# part 03 – Developing the Header Component

We can further customize our component to look like the original web page that I had built for the other bootcamp.

**Note: you must import React from “react” for this part.**

1. In the case of our original app, we had an image and an **h1** tag for our header. Find the original html files and copy just those two tags and paste them into the custom Header function we just created, so header.js.

|  |
| --- |
| **function Header(){**  **return (**  **<header>**  **<img src="images/chart.gif" id="logo" />**  **<h1><a href="index.html">Skillsoft Weight Tracker</a></h1>**  **</header>**  **)**  **}** |

1. When the browser refreshes, it does not look nice, so lets add some css. Copy the styles.css file provided and paste it into the **src** folder. You may have to do this using the File System of the OS that you are on.
2. In App.js, instead of importing App.css, import styles.css

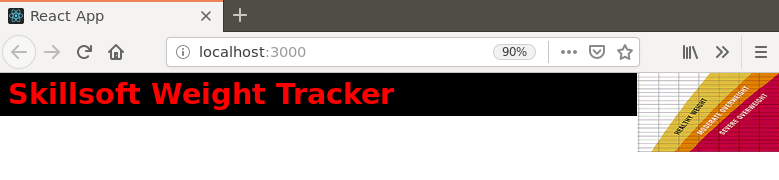
|  |
| --- |
| **import React from 'react';**  **import logo from './logo.svg';**  **import './styles.css';**  **import Header from './components/header';** |

1. Repeat the steps from step 3, but this time copy and paste the image, so *chart.gif*. Then, import chart.gif into header.js.

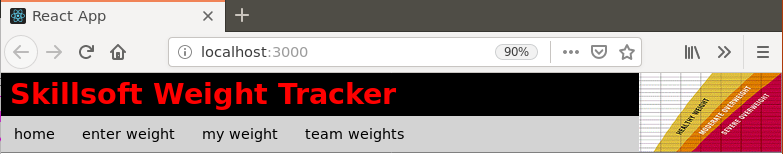
|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **import logo from "./../assets/chart.gif";**  **function Header(){** |

1. Now we can use logo as our **src** for our img tag, around line 7 of header.js

|  |
| --- |
| **function Header(){**  **return (**  **<header>**  **<img src={logo} id="logo" />**  **<h1><a href="index.html">Skillsoft Weight Tracker</a></h1>**  **</header>** |

1. At this point, our default or home page should look like the image below:  
     
   
2. We could make a decision to include the navigation bar as part of the header or leave it as a separate component. I think it may work as part of the header so let’s include it.
3. Paste the following code into the **header** component.

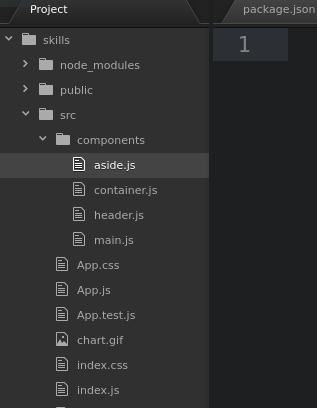
|  |
| --- |
| **return (**  **<header>**  **<img src={logo} id="logo" />**  **<h1><a href="index.html">Skillsoft Weight Tracker</a></h1>**  **<nav>**  **<ul>**  **<li><a href="index.html">home</a></li>**  **<li><a href="enterweight.html">enter weight</a></li>**  **<li><a href="myweights.html">my weight</a></li>**  **<li><a href="teamweights.html">team weights</a></li>**  **</ul>**  **</nav>**  **</header>**  **)** |

1. The page should now look like the image below:  
     
   

# part 04 – The Container Component

We would need to complete the app, with the rest of our components. Again we could make decisions about which parts of the original HTML website should go into which components. In this case here, we could stay as close to the original as possible. Add this module to the imports section:

1. Create a new component by right-clicking in the Components folder and choosing new file, call it container.js
2. Repeat those same steps to create a component called **main** and one called **aside**. So create the corresponding .js files.



1. We will do component in component, so first complete the **main**. As the components are similar, you can just copy the content from header.js into main.js. Then copy the necessary HTML elements from the provided HTML file. Rename accordingly. You could setup a template also.

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **function Main(){**  **return (**  **<main>**  **<h2>How to Participate in the Program</h2>**  **<p> …**  **</main>**  **)**  **}**  **export default Main** |

Note that this is the same structure as the **Header** component file.

1. Do the same for the **Aside** component, this is just the shell.

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **function Aside(){**  **return (**  **)**  **}**  **export default Aside** |

1. Complete the **return()** method with the HTML from our original web site

|  |
| --- |
| **return (**  **<aside>**  **<section>**  **<h4>Health News</h4>**  **<p>**  **Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do**  **</p>**  **</section>**  **<section>**  **<h4>Healthy Recipes</h4>**  **<a href="">grilled chicken</a>**  **<a href="">minced beef patties</a>**  **<a href="">potato pancakes</a>**  **<a href="">fish stew</a>**  **</section>**  **</aside>**  **)** |

1. We will import both the **Main** and **Aside** components into the **Container** component, then place the **Container** component into the App.js file
2. First in container.js, import both the **Main** and **Aside** components:

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **//**  **function Container(){**  **return (**  **)**  **}**  **//**  **export default Container** |

This is the shell

1. Import the other two components that go inside of **Container**, so **main** and aside:

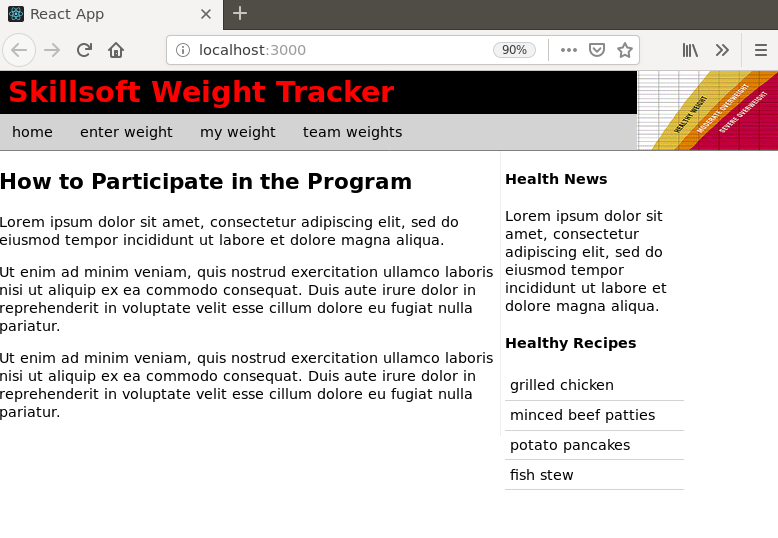
|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **import Main from "./main";**  **import Aside from "./aside";**  **//**  **function Container(){**  **return (**  **<div>**  **</div>**  **)**  **}** |

1. Now we can complete the **Container** component, remember to wrap both Components into one pair of **<div>** tags

|  |
| --- |
| **function Container(){**  **return (**  **<div>**  **<Main />**  **<Aside />**  **</div>**  **)**  **}** |

1. Finally add the **Container** component to the App.js file. Remember to import container first.

|  |
| --- |
| **function App() {**  **return (**  **<div>**  **<Header />**  **<Container />**  **</div>**  **);**  **}** |



Note, if you get a series of errors in the terminal window running the React app, just add a place holder into the href=”” links, so   
**<a href="home">grilled chicken</a>**

# part 05 – The Footer

We will create the *Footer* component in the same manner as the other components. The Footer component will go directly into the app.js file for now.

1. Just copy any of the previous components and rename accordingly. For example if we copy/duplicate the **Container** component, we just rename the file to footer.js
2. Once inside footer.js rename **Container** to **Footer**, and export Footer. Also remove any extra imports like **Main** and **Aside**, here is the shell:

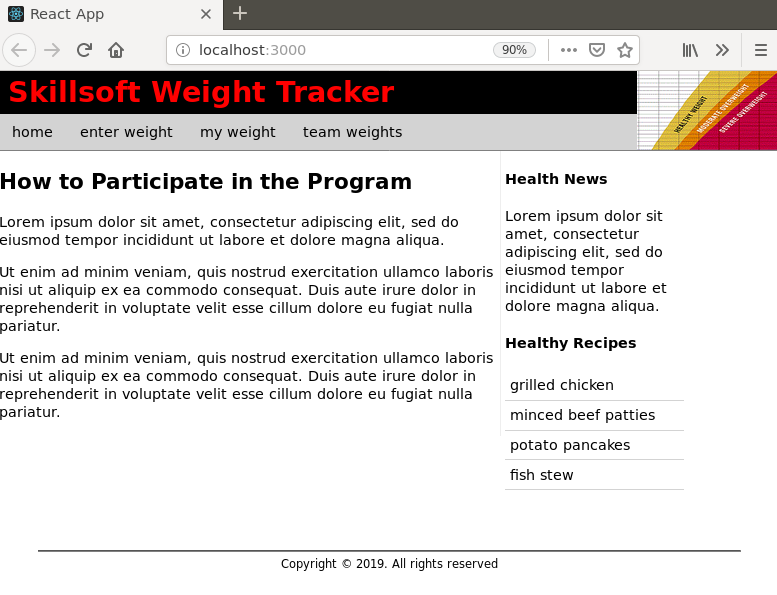
|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **function Footer(){**  **return (**  **<footer>**  **</footer>**  **)**  **}**  **export default Footer** |

1. Add the footer content by copying from the *html* file provided.

|  |
| --- |
| **<footer>**  **<hr />**  **Copyright &copy; 2025. All rights reserved**  **</footer>** |

1. In App.js, first import the **Footer** component, then include it as part of the pair of **<div>** tags

|  |
| --- |
| **import Container from './components/container';**  **import Footer from './components/footer';**  **function App() {**  **return (**  **<div>**  **<Header />**  **<Container />**  **<Footer />**  **</div>**  **);**  **}** |



# Part 06 – Implementing Router

**react-router-dom** provides browser specific components for routing in web apps

1. Install a package to your skills folder to handle routing, its called **react-router-dom** so do this: **>npm install react-router-dom**  
   Of course make sure you stop the app using CTRL-C or use a different terminal window/tab.

1. Once installed go to App.js and import these 2 classes:

|  |
| --- |
| **import Container from './components/container';**  **import Footer from './components/footer';**  **import {BrowserRouter, Route, Routes} from 'react-router-dom';**  **function App() {** |

1. Remove all the components from between the parenthesis of the return statement and replace it with one component, **BrowserRouter**

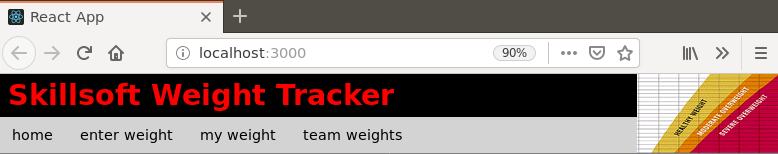
|  |
| --- |
| **function App() {**  **return (**  **<BrowserRouter>**  **</BrowserRouter>**  **);**  **}** |

1. Next we add the Routes pair of tags:

|  |
| --- |
| **function App() {**  **return (**  **<BrowserRouter>**  **<Routes>**  **</Routes>**  **</BrowserRouter>**  **);** |

1. Next we add the component(s), we have three imported at the moment:

|  |
| --- |
| **return (**  **<BrowserRouter>**  **<Routes>**  **<Route path='/' element={<Header />} />**  **<Route path='/container' element={<Container />} />**  **</Routes>** |



Try navigating to the root route first then to the /container route.

# part 07 – Constructing the Root/Home Path

With **router** installed, we can now ‘construct’ what the user will see when they hit our site. It’s the same process as before, simply put components together. We will try to match each of the menu items on our site to just one component, so **home, enter weight, my weight** etc**.**

In the components folder, copy any of the other components (eg container.js), call it home.js then rename the parts accordingly:

|  |
| --- |
| **function Home(){**  **return (**  **<home>**  **</home>**  **)**  **}**  **//**  **export default Home** |

1. Just import the Header, Container and Footer components and add it between the <home> tags:

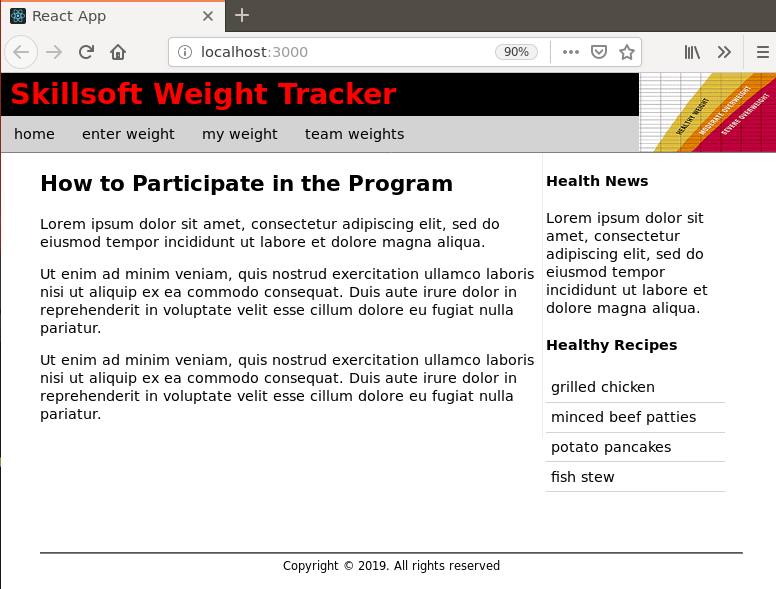
|  |
| --- |
| **import Container from "./container";**  **import Header from "./header";**  **import Footer from "./footer";**  **//**  **function Home(){**  **return (**  **<home>**  **<Header />**  **<Container />**  **<Footer />**  **</home>** |

1. So now in App.js, import just the **Home** component instead of **Header**, **Container** and **Footer**

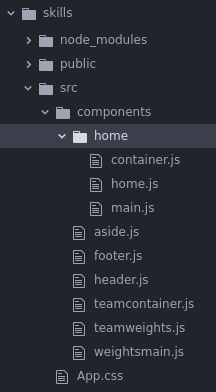
|  |
| --- |
| **import {BrowserRouter, Route, Routes} from 'react-router-dom';**  **import './styles.css';**  **import Home from './components/home';**  **//**  **function App() {** |

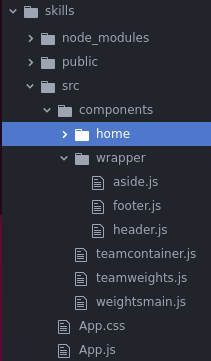
1. Now we can create a path for /home to serve just the **Home** component via the Routes pair of tags:

|  |
| --- |
| **function App() {**  **return (**  **<BrowserRouter>**  **<Routes>**  **<Route path='/' element={<Home />} />**  **</Routes>**  **</BrowserRouter>** |



# part 08 – Component Organization

1. If you look at the menu on the original web site, you will see *home*, *enter weight*, *my weight* and *team weights*. We will now arrange our folder structure inside of components to reflect this menu. We will now create two folders to help organize our files. All static files will go into a *wrapper* folder. Each menu item will then have its own folder, starting with the *home* folder.
2. Starting with home, create a folder inside of components called home and put all the .js files that you think belong to the home ‘view’.
3. Put all the wrapper files like **aside** **footer** and **header** into a folder called **wrapper**



1. Of course all the links will break, so lets fix those one by one. Work on the **home** folder first then replicate this success to the other folders. Take a look at home.js inside of the home folder, change the paths to reflect our changes.

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **import Container from "./container";**  **import Footer from ".**/**../wrapper/footer";**  **import Header from ".**/**../wrapper/header";**  **//**  **function Home(){** |

1. In the container.js file inside of the home folder, change the aside’s **path**

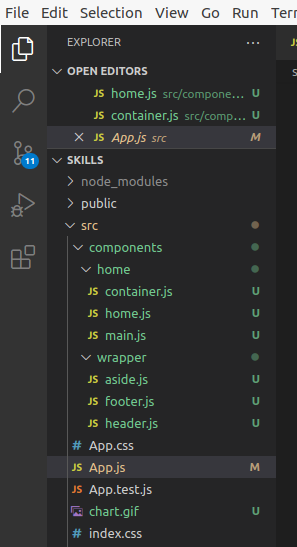
|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **import Main from "./main";**  **import Aside from ".**/**../wrapper/aside";**  **function Container(){** |

1. Now of course our App.js has to change to reflect the new location of **home**, so in App.js change line 3 or wherever **home** is being imported.

|  |
| --- |
| **import './styles.css';**  **import Home from './components/home/home';**  **import { BrowserRouter, Route } from 'react-router-dom';**  **function App() {** |

1. In header.js fix our logo path, header.js should now be inside of the wrapper folder

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **import logo from './../../chart.gif';**  **//**  **function Header(){** |

****This is the view from VSCode. So far we have the components folder and the two child folders home and wrapper.

It would be a good idea here to stop and restart the server so that it builds again.

# part 09 – Json-Server

We will now introduce a fake back-end server so that we can simulate a real API call using http.

1. Install the JSON server from any terminal using this command: **npm install -g json-server**
2. Create a new folder in the current src folder called data. Then inside of that create a db.json file using the following code:

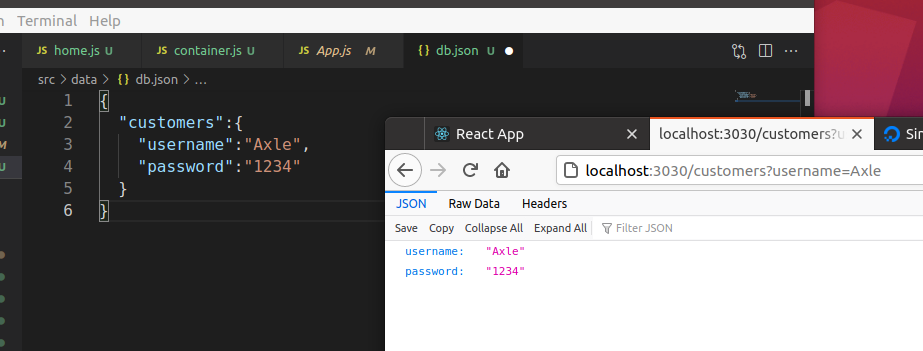
|  |
| --- |
| **{**  **"employees":[**  **{**  **"username":"Axle",**  **"password":"1234"**  **}**  **]**  **}** |

Note: *employees* represent an array of *customer* objects

1. Use an OS terminal window and point to the **same folder** where your application lives, and type in **npx json-server --watch src/data/db.json --port 3030**(be careful with this command, there are two dashes before watch and port)
2. If all goes well, you should see something like the image below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

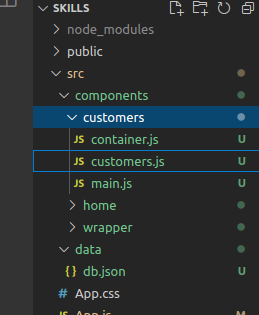
Notice I used the terminal accessible from the OS and this window is now running a process, so we cant close it. Also I am using port 3030 since ReactJS runs on 3000 which is the default port of the Json-server

1. Open a new browser tab and navigate to [http://localhost:3030/employees](http://localhost:3030/customers), you should see the database data there
2. To make the app more interesting, add two more employees using the same structure as the one for Axle

|  |
| --- |
| **{**  **"employees":[**  **{**  **"username":"Axle",**  **"password":"1234"**  **},**  **{**  **"username":"Jane",**  **"password":"1234"**  **},**  **{**  **"username":"Mary",**  **"password":"1234"**  **}**  **]**  **}** |

# part 10 – Database Dump

in this part, we will create a new component to simply read all the data in our database by making an API call into the db.json file.

1. Duplicate (or copy/paste/rename) the original home folder to just employees
2. Rename the home.js file inside of the **new** employees folder to employees.js
3. In employees.js, change the name of the function to employees and also the last line

|  |
| --- |
| **import React from "react";**  **import Container from "./container";**  **import Footer from "../wrapper/footer";**  **import Header from "../wrapper/header";**  **function Employees(){**  **return(**  **<div>**  **<Header />**  **<Container />**  **<Footer />**  **</div>**  **)**  **}**  **export default Employees** |

1. In main.js change the content being displayed to something like this:

|  |
| --- |
| **function Main(){**  **return(**  **<main>**  **<h2>Employees List</h2>**  **</main>**  **);**  **}>** |

Remove the three <p> tags.

1. Adding the new component to the route is easy, go to App.js and import the employees component.

|  |
| --- |
| **import Home from './components/home/home';**  **import Employees from './components/employees/employees';**  **import { BrowserRouter, Route } from 'react-router-dom';**  **function App() {** |

1. Then simply add a new route like this:

|  |
| --- |
| **<BrowserRouter>**  **<Routes>**  **<Route path="/" element={<Home />} />**  **<Route path="/employees" element={<Employees />} />**  **</Routes>** |

1. (Optional) Now if you navigate to **localhost:3000/employees** you should see the new component, but something looks not right. The first path should have the **exact** keyword added to it:

|  |
| --- |
| **function App() {**  **return (**  **<div>**  **<BrowserRouter>**  **<Route exact path="/" component={ Home } />**  **<Route path="/employees" component={ Employees } />**  **</BrowserRouter>**  **</div** |

# part 11 – Get Request

In this section we will make an API call to the /employees end point of our json server. The result from that call will have to be handled asynchronously. Most of the changes will be in the main.js file which is in the employees folder.

1. In main.js import the **Component** module from React by using de-structuring syntax. Also turn **Main** into a class by *extending* **Component**

|  |
| --- |
| **import React, { Component } from "react"**  **//**  **class Main extends Component{**  **return (**  **<main>** |

1. Add a render() method, then wrap the entire return statement into the render method:

|  |
| --- |
| **class Main extends Component{**  **render(){**  **return (**  **<main>**  **<h2>Customer List</h2>**  **</main>**  **)**  **}**  **}** |

1. and add a constructor, also export **Main** as before.

|  |
| --- |
| **import React, { Component } from "react"**  **class Main extends Component{**  **constructor(){}**  **}**  **export default Main** |

1. The page should refresh and show a reference error, lets fix this by referencing the super constructor and also passing props as a parameter

|  |
| --- |
| **class Weights extends Component{**  **constructor(props){**  **super(props);**  **}**  **}** |

In a class, calling the constructor and passing props is how the class can access the *this* parameter and also be able to pass properties from parent to child etc.

Also at this point, since we activated ES Lint, it will complain about a no-useless-constructor, just follow VS Code quick fix solution.

1. This is the entire main.js file at the moment

|  |
| --- |
| **import React, { Component } from "react"**  **//**  **class Main extends Component{**  **// eslint-disable-next-line no-useless-constructor**  **constructor(props){**  **super(props);**  **}**  **//**  **render(){**  **return (**  **<main>**  **<h2>Customer List</h2>**  **</main>**  **)**  **}**  **}**  **//**  **export default Main** |

1. Methods are executed in a specific order with React, so the suggestion is to use the **componentDidMount()** method (of any class component) as a wrapper for accessing external data. Insert the method and also within it, insert the **fetch()** method to access our API (json-server)

|  |
| --- |
| **constructor(props){**  **super(props);**  **}**  **componentDidMount(){**  **fetch()**  **}**  **render(){** |

1. Before we execute the **fetch()** method, lets prepare a variable to hold the contents of that ‘hit’. Within the constructor let us initialize an empty array for this purpose

|  |
| --- |
| **constructor(props){**  **super(props);**  **this.state = {**  **allEmployees: []**  **}**  **}**  **componentDidMount(){** |

We have to use **this.state** and point it to a complex object, containing our variable.

1. Now we can work on the **fetch()** method. First pass into the **fetch()** method a parameter that represents our API’s URL

|  |
| --- |
| **componentDidMount(){  fetch("http://localhost:3030/employees")**  **}** |

1. The **fetch()** method returns a *promise*, so lets chain on a **then()** method and log the response

|  |
| --- |
| **componentDidMount(){**  **fetch("http://localhost:3030/employees")**  **.then(data => {**  **console.log(data.json());**  **});**  **}** |

Note: if you want to see this function using the traditional *function* keyword, check the appendix.

1. Since the return is also a promise object we can return that object so that we can handle it with another **then()** method:

|  |
| --- |
| **componentDidMount(){**  **fetch("http://localhost:3030/employees")**  **.then(data => {**  **return data.json();**  **})**  **}** |

1. We can log the second return just to see what is inside

|  |
| --- |
| **componentDidMount(){**  **fetch("http://localhost:3030/employees")**  **.then(data => {**  **return data.json();**  **})**  **.then(resolvedData=>console.log(resolvedData));**  **}** |

1. Once we have the data we can store it in our class property

|  |
| --- |
| **fetch("http://localhost:3030/employees")**  **.then(data => {**  **return data.json();**  **})**  **.then(resolvedData=>{**  **this.setState({**  **allEmployees:resolvedData**  **});**  **});** |

Note we have to use a function to achieve this, **setState()**

# part 12 – Showing the Results

In this section we will display the data returned by our **fetch()** method. Most of the changes will be in the **render()** method since this is what gets passed to the browser. Remember we now have the **allEmployees** array which contains all of our customer objects

1. You may have inserted **<main>** tags from the previous section, so keep this and insert curly braces so that React can interpret our **allEmployees** array

|  |
| --- |
| **render(){**  **return (**  **<main>**  **<h2>Customer List</h2>**  **{}**  **</main>**  **)** |

1. Insert the **allEmployees** array and since it is an array add the **map()** method to the end.

|  |
| --- |
| **render(){**  **return (**  **<main>**  **<h2>Employees List</h2>**  **{**  **this.state.allEmployees.map( )**  **}**  **</main>**  **)**  **};** |

1. The **map()** method gives us access to the array members but we need a function with a parameter so that each member can be stored somewhere, here we will use customer (singular) and we pass that value into a pair of parenthesis with a pair of **<div>** tags inside

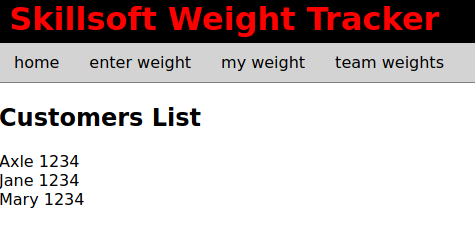
|  |
| --- |
| **render(){**  **return (**  **<main>**  **<h2>Employees List</h2>**  **{**  **this.state.allEmployees.map((customer) =>**  **(<div>**  **</div>)**  **)**  **}**  **</main>**  **)**  **};** |

1. Now we can get access to the value of each of the items inside the array.

|  |
| --- |
| **render(){**  **return (**  **<main>**  **<h2>Employees List</h2>**  **{**  **this.state.allEmployees.map((customer) =>**  **(<div>**  **{customer.username}&nbsp;**  **{customer.password}**  **</div>)**  **)**  **}**  **</main>**  **)**  **};** |

1. The error showing up in the console window is related to how React works with the **map()** method. This method needs a key and a value when it displays data so we can use the implicit count of **map()** itself to give the code a key and value:

|  |
| --- |
| **this.state.allEmployees.map(( customer, i ) =>**  **( <div key = {i} >**  **{customer.username}&nbsp;**  **{customer.password}**  **</div>)** |



1. (Optional) this is an alternative to writing constructing what is inside of the **map()** method:

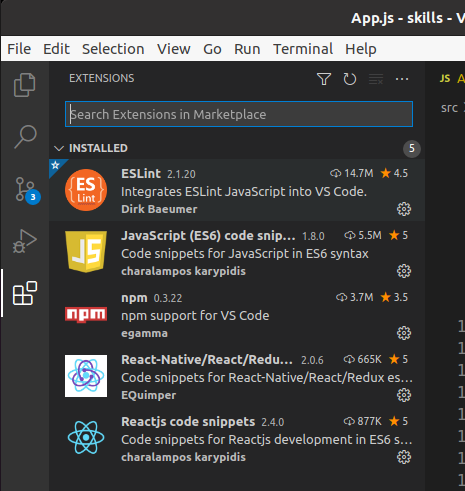
|  |
| --- |
| **rrender(){**  **return (**  **<main>**  **<h2>Customer List</h2>**  **{**  **this.state.allEmployees.map( (customer, i) => {**  **return <div key={i}>**  **{customer.username}&nbsp;**  **{customer.password}**  **</div>**  **})**  **}**  **</main>**  **)**  **}** |

# Appendix A – Pre-requisite Courses

1. Asynchronous Programming in JavaScript - Ron Sumida  
   This course references asynchronous code in JS
2. JavaScript: Objects - Kishan Iyer   
   This course references the ***this*** keyword in JS
3. JavaScript Front-end Development: Functions & Objects - Axle Barr  
   References arrow functions (lambda expressions)

# Appendix B – ES6 Code Snippets for VS Code

1. Ctrl + Shift + P
2. Install extensions -> search for the following and install them via VS Code



# Appendix C – Using Traditional function()

1. In the following code, this is the **componentDidMount()** method of the main.js file in the employees folder. If you use this method, you will need to **bind()** the functions to the **this** keyword, otherwise the **this** keyword will refer to some other object, like the Window object.

|  |
| --- |
| componentDidMount(){  fetch("http://localhost:3030/employees")  .then(function(data) {  return(data.json());  }).then(function(resolvedData){  this.setState({  allEmployees:resolvedData  });  }.bind(this));  } |

# Appendix D – File Watchers Limit Reached (ENOSPC)

1. If you are on Linux you may get an error about file watchers limit, this is due to the number of times that React recompiles and hotloads. Hidden from view is a package called inotify that Linux systems use to track this sort of activity. You would need to adjust this value using the steps below:

|  |
| --- |
| Run the following command at any terminal prompt: **sudo gedit /etc/sysctl.conf**  This would bring up the sysctl.conf file for editing    Add a new line with this value: **fs.inotify.max\_user\_watches=524288**  Make sure that there is no # sign in front of the line.  Save the file and try restarting the app with **npm start** |

**npm install react-router-dom@5.3.0**