Modular Applications

Common Scenarios and Best Practices



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Have a Question?



sli.do

#js-advanced



Best Practices

Common Scenarios and Techniques

Component Approach



- Components are a common theme among contemporary frameworks and libraires
- Focused on separation of concerns and composability:
 - Combine presentation, style and business logic in a single unit
 - Encapsulate state and control
 - Expose only necessary interfaces
 - Decoupled from the environment (via dependency injection)
 - Highly composable with other components

Application State



- Avoid storing state in the DOM
- Avoid attempting to infer state from the DOM
 - E.g., using the text content of an HTML element to reconstruct what a database record looked like
- Try to write declarative DOM logic:
 - Describe what the DOM should look like for a given state
 - When the state changes, the DOM follows
 - Rendering libraries allow for efficient DOM redraws

Routing



- Attempt to couple application content with the URL route
 - This allows more efficient use of browser history and sharing links to specific parts of the application
 - Can be done with paths, query parameters or fragments
- Examples:
 - Search terms should be included as query parameters
 - If a catalog is paginated, include the current page in the URL
 - Toggleable content or sub-navigation can also be included

Action Feedback



- Provide instant acknowledgement for user actions:
 - Change appearance when links and buttons are clicked
 - Clear the view on navigation
 - Show loading indicators during network requests
 - Disable input during requests, to prevent double submission
- Don't overdo feedback:
 - Don't attempt to validate input before the user has finished
 - There's no need to show notifications for everything

User Input



- Always sanitize user input:
 - Remove leading and trailing whitespace
 - Do not automatically include all form data in the request only pick the properties that are part of the collection
 - Prevent insertion of HTML anywhere in your code
 - Never use eval where user input is involved
- Remember that the front-end application does not provide security – the server must double check all user actions

Error Handling



- Always anticipate errors from network requests and user input
- Errors that can be resolved automatically can be handled behind the scenes
 - You can catch them where they occur
 - E.g., data parsing errors, empty server responses, etc.
- Errors that concern user action must be propagated to the presentation layer of the app (rethrow, or don't catch)
 - E.g., validation errors



Questions?

















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