Building an app with React Native
in one month

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Sesam

Overview

What is React Native

Why we chose it for our app

Is it suitable for your project?

About me

Working at Sesam since March

Front-end development

No experience with mobile development

Sesam Key

Raise awareness of data privacy

Provide a useful tool

Both iOS and Android

What it does

Scan user's email inbox

Create a list of companies

Send them a request email

Track communication

Requirements

IMAP, SMTP

OAuth2

PGP key generation

Sesam Registry integration

Options

Native	**Cordova/PhoneGap**
Xamarin	**Ionic**
Flutter	**Unity**
PWA	**React Native**

Why we chose React Native

Experience with React

Ability to quickly prototype
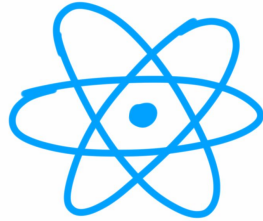
Keep as much as possible on device

Develop on Linux/Mac/Windows

Learning experience

What it is and how it works

Open source framework for building cross-platform mobile applications with React
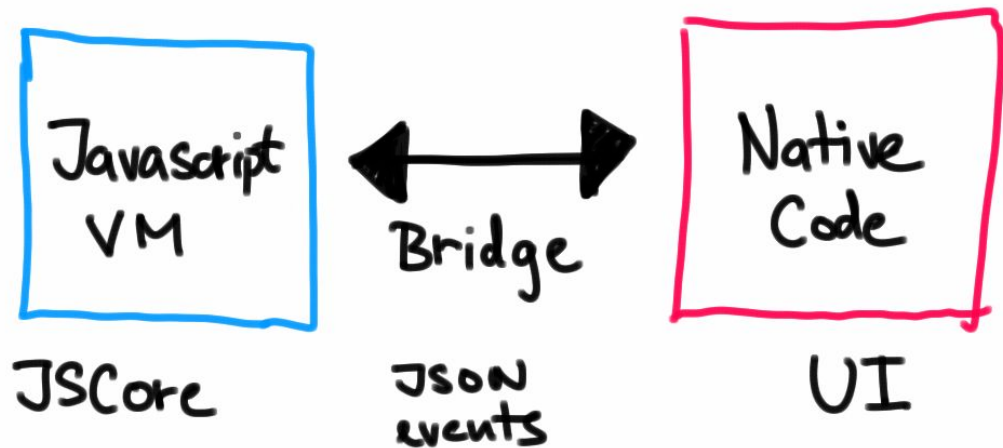
Facebook, Pinterest, Wix, AirBnb

Doesn't rely on WebViews

No DOM → Native UI libraries

Threads

1. **Main UI thread**
2. **Javascript thread (JSCore engine)**
3. **Other Native modules threads**

UI stays responsive when JS thread does work

Asynchronous, batched, serialized events as JSON messages

I know React. Do I know React Native?

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Kind of.

Similarities

Same component architecture

JSX syntax

Class or functional components

Can use many familiar libraries

Lifecycle methods

```
<View style={[styles.container]}>
    <TouchableOpacity onPress={this.handleClick}>
        <Image source={require('./logo_white.png')}/>
    </TouchableOpacity>
    <Text style={{ fontSize: 30 }}>Some text</Text>
    <Button onPress={this.handlePress}>Caption</Button>
</View>
```

Plenty to learn

No CSS; styles behave slightly differently

iOS/Android idiosyncrasies

Native modules interoperability

Building, deployment, testing process

Building and deployment

GitHub → Nevercode → App Store/Play Store

Our experience

Upsides

Familiar for React developers

Redux or other state management libraries

Create React Native App

Very simple layout and styling

Animation control

Downsides

Evolving

Need to dive into native code

Polyfilling Node libraries

No single navigation solution

Still need a Mac

Expo confusion

Conclusion

Not a silver bullet

Knowing React helps

The right tool for the right job

Thank you!