For this discussion post I would like to discuss the differences between Angular template-driven and reactive forms. It must be noted that forms are an important way for users to interact with applications. Forms are used in applications to allow users to log in, update a profile and perform other data entry tasks. Angular provides two different approaches to handling user input through forms: reactive and template-driven. The former is characterized using event handling, which sends user input to a component or controller when a certain event occurs; the latter relies on template directives, which tell Angular how to render a component. (Angular, n.d.)

Going into greater detail it can be said that reactive forms “use an explicit and immutable approach to managing the state of a form at a given point in time. Each change to the form state returns a new state, which maintains the integrity of the model between changes. Reactive forms are built around observable streams, where form inputs and values are provided as streams of input values, which can be accessed synchronously.” (*Angular*, n.d.) Regarding template driven forms it needs to be noted that they “Rely on directives in the template to create and manipulate the underlying object model. They are useful for adding a simple form to an app, such as an email list signup form. They're straightforward to add to an app, but they don't scale as well as reactive forms. If you have very basic form requirements and logic that can be managed solely in the template, template-driven forms could be a good fit.” (*Angular*, n.d.-b)

The major differences between template driven and reactive forms can be summarized in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Set of form model  Data Model  Data Flow  Form Validation | **Reactive** | **Template-Driven** |
| Explicit, created in component class | Implicit, created by directives |
| Structured and immutable | Unstructured and mutable |
| Synchronous | Asynchronous |
| Functions | Directives |

(*Angular*, n.d.-b)

References:

*Angular*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 15, 2023, from <https://angular.io/guide/reactive-forms>

*Angular*. (n.d.-b). Retrieved February 15, 2023, from, <https://angular.io/guide/forms-overview>