

# Tuesday: Router-Outlet

## RouterLink

It's annoying if a user has to keep putting in URLs in the browser address bar to navigate to a different view. This is an example of bad user experience. Let's create a navbar with which users can quickly switch to different views with this command on our terminal:

```
$ ng generate component navbar
```

We will use a bootstrap navbar for this component.

*src/app/navbar/navbar.component.html*

```
<nav class="navbar navbar-expand-lg navbar-dark bg-dark">
  <a class="navbar-brand"><b>GOALS APP</b></a>
  <button class="navbar-toggler" type="button" data-toggle="collapse" data-target="#navbarNavAltMar
kup" aria-controls="navbarNavAltMarkup" aria-expanded="false" aria-label="Toggle navigation">
    <span class="navbar-toggler-icon"></span>
  </button>
  <div class="collapse navbar-collapse" id="navbarNavAltMarkup">
    <div class="navbar-nav">
      <a class="nav-item nav-link active">Goals<span class="sr-only">(current)</span></a>
      <a class="nav-item nav-link">About</a>
    </div>
  </div>
</nav>
```

We have created a navbar with two elements, Goals and About. To display our navbar component whether or not we have a view, let's add its selector to our root template file.

*src/app/app.component.html*

```
<app-navbar></app-navbar>
<router-outlet></router-outlet>
```

When we run our server, we can see our navbar displayed. If we click any of the navbar links however, there is no change in the views.

## RouterLink

To make these navigation links work, we use the routerLink attribute which is from the RouterLink directive found in the RouterModule. Remember directives? Let's make our links work:

*src/app/navbar/navbar.component.html*

```
<nav class="navbar navbar-expand-lg navbar-dark bg-dark">
  <a class="navbar-brand" routerLink="goals"><b>GOALS APP</b></a>
  <button class="navbar-toggler" type="button" data-toggle="collapse" data-target="#navbarNavAltMar
kup" aria-controls="navbarNavAltMarkup" aria-expanded="false" aria-label="Toggle navigation">
    <span class="navbar-toggler-icon"></span>
  </button>
  <div class="collapse navbar-collapse" id="navbarNavAltMarkup">
    <div class="navbar-nav">
      <a class="nav-item nav-link active" routerLink="goals">Goals<span class="sr-only">(current)</
span></a>
```

```
<a class="nav-item nav-link" routerLink="/about">About</a>
</div>
</div>
</nav>
```

We have added the attribute `routerLink` to the navbar-brand element, Goals navigation link and About navigation link and equated each to the exact route whose view we want to display. The `RouterLink` directive will now turn user clicks on the elements with the `routerLink` attribute into router navigations. If our server is still running, we can click on these navbar elements and we'll see the views change respectively to the routes we have assigned them.

## RouterLinkActive

The `RouterLinkActive` directive also has a `routerLinkActive` attribute which changes the CSS properties of an active route. This improves the user experience in our app by visually informing users that they are on a specific page(or a specific view). Let's add it to the elements in our navbar.

*src/app/navbar/navbar.component.html*

```
<nav class="navbar navbar-expand-lg navbar-dark bg-dark">
  <a class="navbar-brand" routerLink="/goals"><b>GOALS APP</b></a>
  <button class="navbar-toggler" type="button" data-toggle="collapse" data-target="#navbarNavAltMar
kup" aria-controls="navbarNavAltMarkup" aria-expanded="false" aria-label="Toggle navigation">
    <span class="navbar-toggler-icon"></span>
  </button>
  <div class="collapse navbar-collapse" id="navbarNavAltMarkup">
    <div class="navbar-nav">
      <a class="nav-item nav-link active" routerLink="/goals" routerLinkActive='active'>Goals<span c
lass="sr-only">(current)</span></a>
      <a class="nav-item nav-link" routerLink="/about" routerLinkActive='active'>About</a>
    </div>
  </div>
</nav>
```

We have added the `routerLinkActive` attribute to all our navbar elements that navigate to a specific route and equated it to `active`. Any given `routerLink` will be active only if its URL is the exact match of the current URL. To test out this feature, click any of these links on the navbar and see their visual appearance change.