# Comp 324/424 - Client-side Web Design

Spring Semester 2017 - Week 13

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# **Final Presentation & Report**

- team presentation on Monday 24th April @ 4.15pm
- team report due on Monday 1st May by 4.15pm

### **Final Assessment Outline**

- continue to develop your app concept and prototypes
- working app (as close as possible...)
- NO PHP, Python, Ruby, Go, XML, SQL, Bootstrap...
- explain design decisions
  - describe patterns used in design of UI and interaction
  - layout choices...
- show and explain implemented differences from DEV week
  - where and why did you update the app?
  - perceived benefits of the updates?
- how did you respond to peer review?
- any other useful or pertinent information
- coursework outline

# n.b. 10 minutes maximum per group

# **Final Assessment Report**

report outline - demo and report

### **Project Status Report**

- what is currently working?
- which data store?
- any APIs? Internal or remote...
- what is left to add or fix?
  - features, UI elements, interactions...
- who is working on what?
  - logic, design, testing, research...

### **Teams**

- Group I Team Chicago
- Group 2 Team FSSA
- Group 3 Team Health
- Group 4 Team JOKE
- Group 5 Team JRE
- Group 6 Team M2NS
- Group 7 Team MDS
- Group 8 Team Purple
- Group 9 Team Sustainability
- Group 10 Team VHR
- Group II Team Weather.Mix

### **Data Visualisation**

### general examples

# Sample dashboards and visualisations

- gaming dashboard
- schools and education
- students and grades
- D3 examples

# Example datasets

Chicago data portal

# Article example

- dashboard designs
- replace jQuery with D3

### **Data Visualisation**

### projects examples

# A few examples from recent projects,

- GitHub API tests
- check JSON return
- early test examples
- metrics test examples

#### overview

- React began life as a port of a custom PHP framework called XHP
  - developed internally at Facebook
- XHP, as a PHP framework, was designed to render the full page for each request
- React developed from this concept
  - creating a client-side implementation of loading the full page
- **React** can, therefore, be perceived as a type of state machine
  - control and manage inherent complexity of state as it changes over time
- able to achieve this by concentrating on a narrow scope for development,
  - maintaining and updating the DOM
  - responding to events
- React is best perceived as a view library
- no definite requirements or restrictions on storage, data structure, routing...
- allows developers freedom
  - incorporate **React** code into a broad scope of applications and frameworks

#### why use React?

- React is often considered the V in the traditional MVC
- [React(http://facebook.github.io/react/docs/why-react.html) was designed to solve one problem

# building large applications with data that changes over time

- React can best be considered as addressing the core concerns
  - simple, declarative, components
- simple define how your app should look at any given point in time
  - React handles all UI changes and updates in response to data changes
- declarative as data changes, React effectively refreshes your app
  - sufficiently aware to only update those parts that have changed
- components fundamental principle of React is building re-usable components
  - components are encapsulated in their design and concepts
  - they make it simple for code re-use, testing...
  - in particular, the separation of design and app concerns in general
- React leverages its built-in, powerful rendering system to produce
  - quick, responsive rendering of DOM in response to received state changes
- uses a virtual DOM
  - enables React to maintain and update the DOM without the lag of reading it as well

#### state changes

- as **React** is informed of a state change, it re-runs render functions
- enables it to determine a new representation of the page in its virtual DOM
- then automatically translated into the necessary changes for the new DOM
  - reflected in the new rendering of the view
- may, at first glance, appear inherently slow
  - React uses an efficient algorithm
  - checks and determines differences
  - differences between current page in the virtual DOM and the new virtual one
- from these differences it makes the minimal set of necessary updates to the rendered DOM
- creates speed benefits and gains
  - minimises usual reflows and DOM manipulations
- also minimises effect of cascading updates caused by frequent DOM changes and updates

#### component lifecycle

- in the lifecycle of a component
  - its props or state might change along with any accompanying DOM representation
- in effect, a component is a known state machine
  - it will always return the same output for a given input
- following this logic, React provides components with certain lifecycle hooks
  - instantiation mounting
  - lifetime updating
  - teardown unmounting
- we may consider these hooks
  - first through the instantiation of the component
  - then its active lifetime
  - finally its teardown

#### component lifecycle - intro

- React components include a minimal lifecycle API
- provides the developer with enough without being overwhelming
- at least in theory
- React provides what are known as will and did methods
  - will called right before something happens
  - did called right after something happens
- relative to the lifecycle, we can consider the following groupings of methods
  - Instantiation (mounting)
  - Lifetime (updating)
  - Teardown (unmounting)
  - Anti-pattern (calculated values)

#### component lifecycle - method groupings - Instantiation (mounting)

- includes methods called upon instantiation for the selected component class
- eg: getDefaultProps or getInitialState
  - use such methods to set default values for new instances
  - initialise a custom state of each instance...
- also have the important render method
  - builds our application's virtual DOM
  - the only required method for a component
- render method has rules it needs to follow
  - such as accessible data
  - return values
- render method must also remain pure
  - cannot change the state or modify the DOM output
  - returned result is the virtual DOM
  - compared against actual DOM
  - helps determine if changes are required for the application

#### component lifecycle - method groupings - Lifetime (updating)

- component has now been rendered to the user for viewing and interaction
- as a user interacts with the component
  - they are changing the state of that component or application
  - allows us as developers to act on the relevant points in the component tree
- State changes for the application
  - those affecting the component
  - may result in update methods being called
- we're telling the component how and when to update

#### component lifecycle - method groupings - Teardown (unmounting)

- as React is finished with a component
  - it must be unmounted from the DOM and destroyed
- there is a single hook for this moment
  - provides opportunity to perform necessary cleanup and teardown
- componentWillUnmount
- removes component from component hierarchy
- this method cleans up the application before component removal
- undo custom work performed during component's instantiation

#### component lifecycle - method groupings - Anti-pattern (calculated values)

- React is particularly concerned with maintaining a single source of truth
- one point where props and state are derived, set...
- consider calculated values derived from props
  - considered an anti-pattern to store these calculated values as state
- if we needed to convert a props date to a string for rendering
  - this is not state
  - it should simply be calculated at the time of render

#### a few benefits

- one of the main benefits of this virtual approach
  - avoidance of micro-managing any updates to the DOM
- a developer simply informs React of any changes
  - such as user input
- React is able to process those passed changes and updates
- React has inherent benefit of delegating all events to a single event handler
  - naturally gives React an associated performance boost

#### getting started - part I

- many different options for using React
- create a new app using React
  - e.g. Create React App GitHub
- add React to an existing app
  - e.g. using NPM to install React and depencies

```
npm init
npm install --save react react-dom
```

import React into a project using the standard Node import options, e.g.

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';
```

#### getting started - part 2

- for earlier versions of React and JSX
  - pre-compile JSX into JavaScript before deploying our application
  - used React's JSXTransformer option to compile and monitor JSX for dev projects
- as React has evolved over the last year
  - still use this underlying concept
  - Babel in-browser JSX transformer for explicit ES6 support (if required...)
- Babel will add a check to our app to allow us to use JSX syntax
  - React code then understood by the browser
- dynamic transformation works well for most test scenarios
  - preferable to pre-compile for production apps
  - should help to make an app faster for production usage

#### JSX - intro

- JSX stands for JavaScript XML
  - follows an XML familiar syntax for developing markup within React components
- JSX is not compulsory within React
  - might be omitted due to compile requirements for an app
- |SX may be useful for an app
  - it makes components easier to read and understand
  - its structure is more succinct and less verbose
- A few defining characteristics of JSX
  - each JSX node maps to a function in JavaScript
  - JSX does not require a runtime library
  - JSX does not supplement or modify the underlying semantics of JavaScript

#### **ISX** - benefits

- why use JSX, in particular when it simply maps to JavaScript functions?
- many of the inherent benefits of ISX become more apparent
- as an application, and its code base, grows and becomes more complex
- benefits can include
  - a sense of familiarity easier with experience of XML and DOM manipulation
  - eg: React components capture all possible representations of the DOM
  - JSX transforms an application's JavaScript code into semantic, meaningful markup
  - permits declaration of component structure and information flow using a similar syntax to HTMI
  - permits use of pre-defined HTML5 tag names and custom components
  - easy to visualise code and components
  - considered easier to understand and debug
  - ease of abstraction due to JSX transpiler
  - abstracts process of converting markup to JavaScript
  - unity of concerns
  - no need for separation of view and templates
  - React encourages discrete component for each concern within an application
  - encapsulates the logic and markup in one definition

#### JSX - composite components

example React component might allow us to output a HTML heading

- currently fixed to Welcome heading
- now update this example to work with dynamic values
- JSX considers values dynamic if they are placed between curly brackets{ • }
  - treated as JavaScript context

```
var heading = 'Welcome';
<h2>{heading}</h2>
```

#### JSX - more dynamic values

- also call functions
  - move some logic for a component to a standard JavaScript function
- then call this function, plus any supplied parameters
- React can also evaluate arrays, and then output each value

#### JSX - conditionals

- a component's markup and its logic are inherently linked in React
- this naturally includes conditionals, loops...
- adding if statements directly to JSX will create invalid JavaScript
  - I. ternary operator

```
render: function() {
  return <div className={
    this.state.isComplete ? 'is-complete' : ''
  }>...</div>
}
```

### 2. variable

```
getIsComplete: function() {
   return this.state.isComplete ? 'is-complete' : '';
},

render: function() {
   var isComplete = this.getIsComplete();
   return <div className={isComplete}>...</div>
}
```

### 3. function call

```
getIsComplete: function() {
   return this.state.isComplete ? 'is-complete' : '';
},
render: function() {
   return <div className={this.getIsComplete()}>...</div>;
}
```

- to handle React's lack of output for null or false values
  - use a boolean value and follow it with the desired output

#### ISX - non-DOM attributes - part I

- in JSX, there are three special considerations for attribute
  - key
  - ref
  - dangerouslySetInnerHTML
    - I. key
- an optional unique identifier that remains consistent throughout render passes
- informs React so it can more efficiently select when to reuse or destroy a component
- helps improve the rendering performance of the application.
- eg: if two elements already in the DOM need to switch position
  - React is able to match the keys and move them
  - does not require unnecessary re-rendering of the complete DOM

#### JSX - non-DOM attributes - part 2

#### 2. ref

- ref permits parent components to easily maintain a reference to child components
  - available outside of the render function
- to use ref, simply set the attribute to the desired reference name

```
render: function() {
  return <div>
      <input ref="myInput" ... />
      </div>;
}
```

- able to access this ref using the defined this.refs.myInput
  - access anywhere in the component
  - object accessed through this ref known as a backing instance
- NB: not the actual DOM
  - a description of the component React uses to create the DOM when necessary
- access DOM itself for this ref
  - use this.refs.myInput.getDOMNode(), where myInput is name of previously defined ref

#### JSX - non-DOM attributes - part 3

- 3. dangerouslySetInnerHTML
- When absolutely necessary, React can set HTML content as a string using this attribute
- to correctly use this property set it as an object with key \_\_html

```
render: function() {
  var htmlString = {
    __html: "<span>...your html string...</span>"
  };
  return <div dangerouslySetInnerHTML={htmlString}></div>;
}
```

#### JSX - reserved words

- JSX transforms to plain JavaScript functions
  - means there are some reserved or special attributes
  - eg: we can't use class or for
- to create a form label with the for attribute we can use htmlFor instead

```
<label htmlFor="text...">
```

create a custom class we can use className

```
<div className={class...}>
```

#### data flow

- data flows in one direction in React
  - namely from parent to child
- helps to make components nice and simple, and predictable as well
- components take props from the parent, and then render
- if a prop has been changed, for whatever reason
- React will update the component tree for that change
- then re-render any components that used that property
- Internal state also exists for each component
  - state should only be updated within the component itself
- we can think of data flow in React
  - in terms of props and state

```
data flow - props - part I
```

- props can hold any data and are passed to a component for usage
- set props on a component during instantiation

```
var classics = [{ title: 'Greek'}];
<ListClassics classics={classics}/>
```

also use the setProps method on a given instance of a component

#### data flow - props with JSX

- set props using {} syntax
- allows us to pass variables of any type via JavaScript injection

```
<a href={'/classics/' + classic.id}>{classic.title}</a>
```

also pass event handlers as props

#### state - intro - part I

- a component in React is able to house state
- State is inherently different from props because it is internal to the component
- it is particularly useful for deciding a view state on an element
  - eg: we could use state to track options within a hidden list or menu
  - track the current state
  - change it relative to component requirements
  - then show options based upon this amended state
- NB: considered bad practice to update state directly using this.state
  - use the method this.setState
- try to avoid storing computed values or components directly in state
- focus upon using simple data
  - directly required for given component to function correctly
- considered good practice to perform required calculations in the render function
- try to avoid duplicating prop data into state
  - use the props data instead

#### state - intro - part 2

```
var EditButton = React.createClass({
 getInitialState: function() {
   return {
     editShow: true
   };
 },
 render: function() {
   if (this.state.editShow == false) {
     alert('edit button will be turned off...');
   return (
     <button className="button edit" onClick={this.handleClick}>Edit
 },
 handleClick: function() {
 //handle click...
 alert('edit button clicked');
 //set state after button click
 this.setState({ editShow: false });
});
```

#### state - intro - part 3

- when designing React apps, we often think about
  - stateless children and a stateful parent

A common pattern is to create several stateless components that just render data, and have a stateful component above them in the hierarchy that passes its state to its children via props.

### React documentation

- need to carefully consider how to identify and implement this type of component hierarchy
  - 1. Stateless child components
  - components should be passed data via props from the parent
  - to remain stateless they should not manipulate their state
  - they should send a callback to the parent informing it of a change, update etc
  - arent will then decide whether it should result in a state change, and a rerendering of the DOM

### 2. Stateful parent component

- can exist at any level of the hierarchy
- does not have to be the root component for the app
- instead can exist as a child to other parents
- use parent component to pass props to its children
- maintain and update state for the applicable components

#### state - intro - part 4

### I. props vs state

- in React, we can often consider two types of model data
- includes props and state
- most components normally take their data from props
- allows them to render the required data
- as we work with users, add interactivity, and query and respond to servers
- we also need to consider the state of the application
- state is very useful and important in React
- also important to try and keep many of our components stateless

### 2. state

- React considers user interfaces, Uls, as simple state machines
- acting in various states and then rendering as required
- in React, we simply update a component's state
- then render the new corresponding UI

#### state - intro - part 5

- I. How state works
- if there is a change in data in the application
  - perhaps due to a server update or user interaction
  - quickly and easily inform React by calling setState(data, callback)
- this method allows us to easily merge data into this.state
  - re-renders the component
- as re-rendering is finished
  - optional callback is available and is called by React
- this callback will often be unnecessary
  - it's still useful to know it is available

#### state - intro - part 6

### 2. In state

- try to keep data in state to a minimum
  - consider minimal possible representation of an application's state
  - helps build a stateful component
- state should try to just contain minimal data
  - data required by a component's event handlers to help trigger a UI update
  - if and when they are modified
- such properties should also normally only be stored in this.state
- as we render the updated UI
  - simply compute required information in the render() method based on this state
  - avoids need to keep computed values in sync in state
  - instead relying on React to compute them for us

### 3. out of state

- in React, this.state should only contain minimal data
- minimum necessary to represent an application's UI state
- should contain
  - computed value/values
  - React components
  - duplicated data from props

- a simple app to allow us to test the concept of stateful parent and stateless child components
- resultant app outputs two parallel div elements
- allow a user to select one of the available categories
- then view all of the available authors

- start with some static data to help populate our app
- categoryId used to filter unique categories
  - again to help get all of our authors per category

- for stateless child components
  - need to output a list of filtered, unique categories
  - then a list of authors for each selected category
- first child component is the CategoryList
  - filters and renders our list of unique categories
  - onClick attribute is included
  - state is therefore passed via callback to the stateful parent

```
//output unique categories from passed data...
var CategoryList = React.createClass({
render: function() {
 var category = [];
  return (
   <div id="left-titles" className="col-6">
     {this.props.data.map(function(item) {
       if (category.indexOf(item.category) > -1) {
       } else {
        category.push(item.category);
         return (
          key={item.id} onClick={this.props.onCategorySelected.bind(null, item.categoryId)}>
           {item.category}
          );
         }}, this)}
     </111>
    </div>
  );
  }
});
```

- the component is accepting props from the parent component
  - then informing this parent of a required change in state
  - change reported via a callback to the onCategorySelected method
  - does not change state itself
  - it simply handles the passed data as required for a React app

- need to consider our second stateless child component
  - renders the user's chosen authors per category
  - user clicks on their chosen category
  - a list of applicable authors is output to the right side div

- this component does not set any state
- simply rendering the passed props data for viewing

#### state - an example app - part 5

- to handle updates to the DOM, we need to consider our stateful parent
- this component passes the app's data as props to the children
- handles the setting and updating of the state for app as well
- as noted in the React documentation,

State should contain data that a component's event handler may change to trigger a UI update.

- for this example app
  - only need to store the selectedCategoryAuthors in state
  - enables us to update the UI for our app

```
var Container = React.createClass({
   getInitialState: function() {
       return {
       selectedCategoryAuthors: this.getCategoryAuthors(this.props.defaultCategoryId)
       };
   },
 getCategoryAuthors: function(categoryId) {
       var data = this.props.data;
       return data.filter(function(item) {
           return item.categoryId === categoryId;
       });
 render: function() {
   return (
     <div className="container col-md-12 col-sm-12 col-xs-12">
     <CategoryList data={this.props.data} onCategorySelected={this.onCategorySelected} />
     <AuthorList authors={this.state.selectedCategoryAuthors} />
     </div>
   );
 },
 onCategorySelected: function(categoryId) {
   this.setState({
     selectedCategoryAuthors: this.getCategoryAuthors(categoryId)
   });
 }
});
```

#### state - an example app - part 7

- our stateful parent component sets its initial state
  - including passed data and app's selected category for authors
- helps set a default state for the app
  - we can then modify as a user selects their chosen category
- callback for this user selected category is handled in the onCategorySelected method
  - updates the app's state for the chosen categoryId
  - then leads to the app re-rendering the DOM for any changes
- we still have computed data in the app's state
  - as noted in the React documentation,

this.state should only contain the minimal amount of data needed to represent your Uls state...

- we should now move our computations to the render method of the parent component
  - then update state accordingly

```
var Container = React.createClass({
   getInitialState: function() {
   return {
      selectedCategoryId: this.props.defaultCategoryId
   };
 },
 render: function() {
   var data = this.props.data;
   var selectedCategoryAuthors = data.filter(function(item){
     return item.categoryId === this.state.selectedCategoryId;
   }, this);
   return (
       <div className="container col-md-12 col-sm-12 col-xs-12">
       <CategoryList data={this.props.data} onCategorySelected={this.onCategorySelected} />
       <AuthorList authors={selectedCategoryAuthors} />
        </div>
   );
 },
   onCategorySelected: function(categoryId) {
   this.setState({selectedCategoryId: categoryId});
 }
});
```

- state is now solely storing the categoryId for our app
- can be modified and the DOM re-rendered correctly

#### state - an example app - part 9

- we can then load this application
  - passing data as props to the Container
  - data from JSON Authors

DEMO - state example

#### state - minimal state - part I

- to help make our UI interactive
  - use React's state to trigger changes to the underlying data model of an application
  - need to keep a minimal set of mutable state
- **DRY**, or don't repeat yourself
  - often cited as a good rule of thumb for this minimal set
- need to decide upon an absolute minimal representation of the state of the application
  - then compute everything else as required
  - eg: if we maintain an array of items
  - common practice to calculate array length as needed instead of maintaining a counter

#### state - minimal state - part 2

- as we develop an application with React
  - start dividing our data into logical pieces
  - then start to consider which is state
- for example,
  - is it from props?
  - if yes, this is probably not state in React
  - does it update or change over time? (eg: due to API updates etc)
  - if yes, this is probably not state
  - can you compute the data based upon other state or props in a component?
  - if yes, it is not state
- need to decide upon our minimal set of components that mutate, or own state
  - React is based on the premise of one-way data flow down the hierarchy of components
  - can often be quite tricky to determine
- initially, we can check the following
  - each component that renders something based on state
  - determine the parent component that needs the state in the hierarchy
  - a common or parent component should own the state
    - NB: if this can't be determined
    - o simply create a basic component to hold this state
    - o add component at the top of the state hierarchy

### Additional reading, material, and samples

- design thoughts
- event handling
- more composing components
- DOM manipulation
- forms
- intro to flux
- animations
- lots of samples...

### **Demos**

state example

# References

- React
  - React
  - React API Reference
  - React Create React App GitHub