When you create a web page and then open it in Dev Tools (F12) in the elements tab you’ll see what looks like the source code. However it is not actually the source code; it is the DOM! And the difference is that the DOM is a combination of your original source code + changes that you made to it via JavaScript. So the HTML code you see, if it were modified by JavaScript, is *not the same* as the original HTML code that was sent to the browser.

Imperative programming is where you specify (in this case) the JavaScript which tells the browser, step by step, what to do so as to add an HTML element, for example.

But Declarative programming is where you simply declare something like, “I want to add an H1 tag with some text” and you don’t specify how to do it; you let the “system” figure that out for you. This is what React does. React is a “declarative library.”

Declarative programming allows you to describe what you want to happen, rather than the steps to make it happen.