

ReactJS.

The Component model

Topics

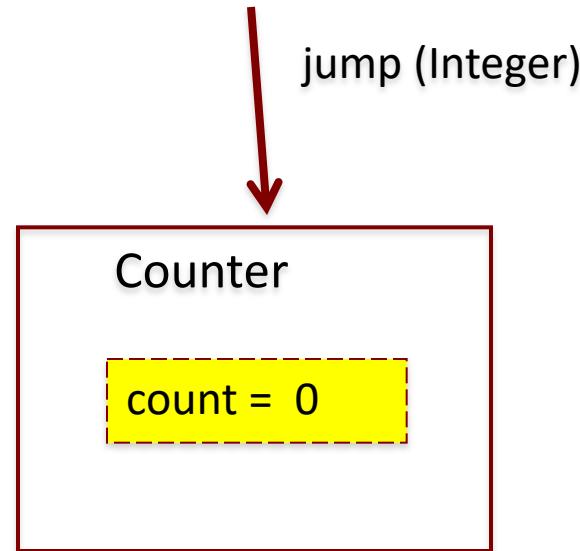
- **Component State.**
 - Basis for dynamic, interactive UI.
- **The Virtual DOM.**
- **Data Flow patterns.**
- **Hooks.**

Component DATA

- **Two sources of data for a component:**
 1. **Props - Passed in to a component; Immutable; the props object.**
 2. **State - Managed internally by the component; Mutable; can be any data type (primitive, array, object)**
 - ***** The basis for dynamic and interactive Uis *****
- **Props-related features:**
 - **Default values.**
 - **Type-checking.**
- **State-related features:**
 - **Initialization.**
 - **Mutation – setter method.**
 - **Performs an overwrite operation, not a merge.**
 - ***** Automatically causes component to re-render. *****

Component Data - Example

- The Counter component.
- Ref. 06_state.js (from lecture archive)
- The useState() method:
 - A React hook.
 - Setter name arbitrary.
 - State variable (count) immutable.
- JS features:
 - Static function property, e.g. defaultProps, prototypes



React's event system.

- **Cross-browser support.**
- **Event handlers receive SyntheticEvent – a cross-browser wrapper for the browser's native event.**
- **React event naming convention slightly different from native:**

React	Native
onClick	onclick
onChange	onchange
onSubmit	onsubmit

- See <https://reactjs.org/docs/events.html> for full details,

Automatic Re-rendering

- EX.: The Counter component.

User clicks button

- *onClick event handler (incrementCounter) executed*
 - *state is changed (setCount())*
 - *component function re-executed (**re-rendering**)*

Modifying the DOM

- DOM – an internal data structure representation of browser's current 'display area' ; DOM always in sync with the display.
- Traditional performance best practice:
 1. Minimize access to the DOM.
 2. Avoid expensive DOM operations.
 3. Update elements offline, then reinsert into the DOM.
 4. Avoid changing layouts in Javascript.
 5. . . . etc.
- Should the developer be responsible for low-level DOM optimization? Probably not.
 - React provides a Virtual DOM to shield developer from these concerns.

The Virtual DOM

- How React works:
 1. It creates a lightweight, efficient form of the DOM – the Virtual DOM.
 2. Your app changes the V. DOM via components' JSX.
 3. React engine:
 1. Perform *diff* operation between current and previous V. DOM state.
 2. Compute the set of changes to apply to real DOM.
 3. Batch update the real DOM.
- Benefits:
 - a) Cleaner, more descriptive programming model.
 - b) Optimized DOM updates and reflows.

Automatic Re-rendering (detail)

- EX.: The Counter component.

User clicks button

→ *onClick event handler executed*

→ *component state is changed*

→ *component re-executed (re-renders)*

→ *The Virtual DOM has changed*

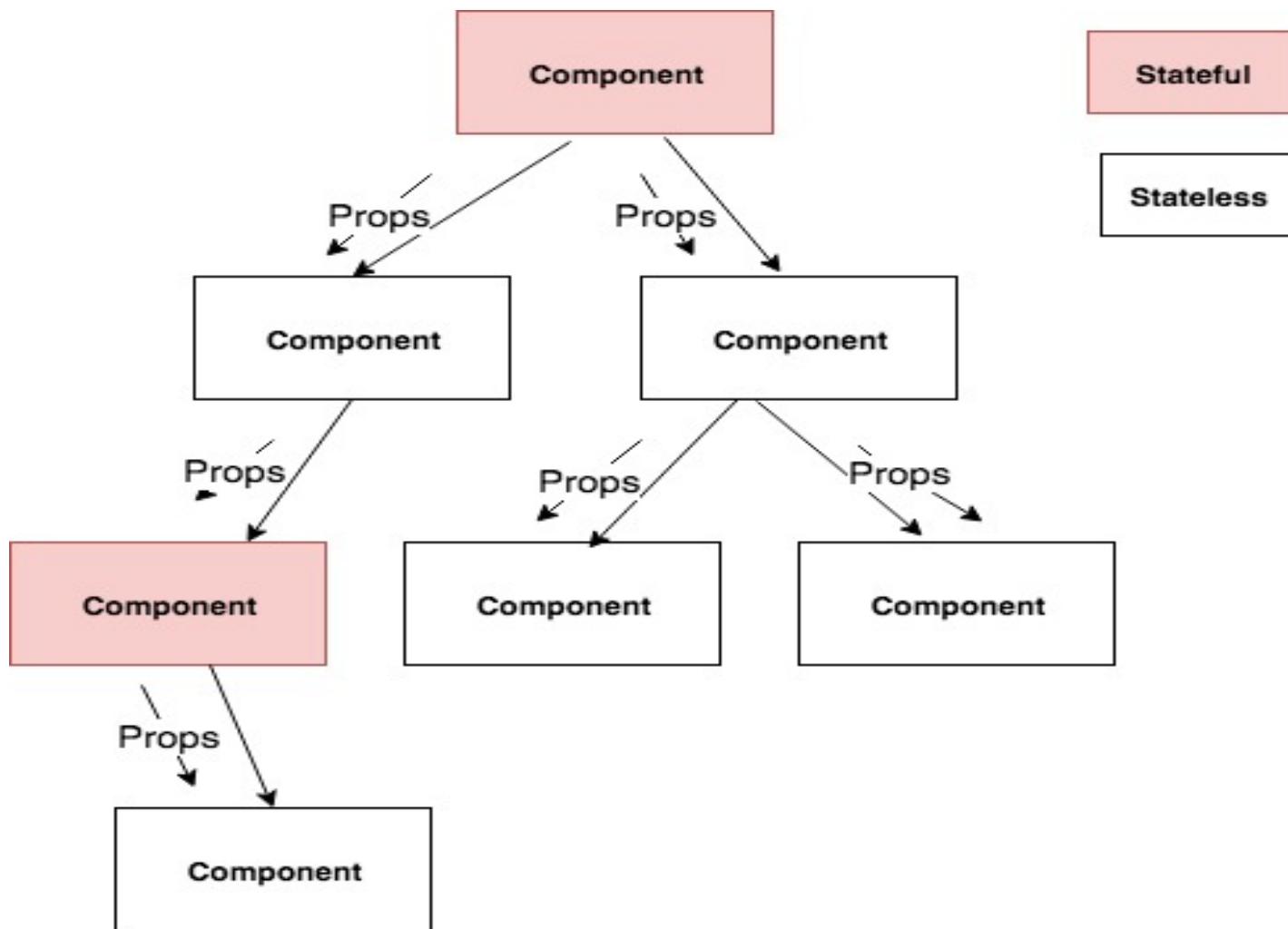
→ *React diffs the changes between the current and previous Virtual DOM*

→ *React batch updates the Real DOM*

Topics

- Component State. ✓
- The Virtual DOM. ✓
- Data Flow patterns.
- Hooks.

Unidirectional data flow



Unidirectional data flow

- In a React app data flows uni-directionally ONLY.
 - Most other SPA frameworks use two-way data binding.
- In a multi-component app a common pattern is:
 - A small subset (maybe only 1) of components will be stateful; the rest are stateless.
- Typical Stateful component execution flow:
 1. Calls *state setter method* to update its state variable(s).
 2. Re-renders automatically.
 3. Passes updated props to subordinate components.
 4. React guarantees subordinate components are also re-rendered with new (perhaps unchanged!!) props.

Topics

- Component State. ✓
- The Virtual DOM. ✓
- Data Flow patterns. ✓
- Hooks

React Hooks

- **Introduced in version 16.8.0 (February 2019)**
- **React Hooks are:**
 1. functions (some HOF);
 2. that allow us easily manipulate the state and manage the lifecycle of a component;
 3. (without needing to convert them into class components.)
- **Examples: useState, useEffect, useContext, useRef, etc**
 - Names must start with ‘use’ for linting purposes.
- **Usage rules:**
 1. Only Call Hooks at the Top Level.
 - Don’t call Hooks inside loops, conditions, or nested function.
 2. Only Call Hooks from React Functions.
 - Don’t call Hooks from regular JavaScript functions.

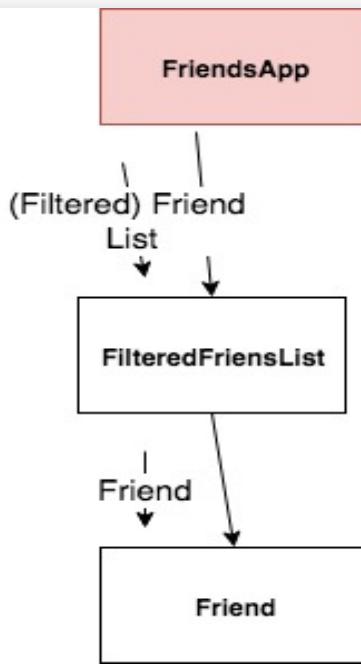
useEffect Hook

- **useEffect lets a component perform side effects.**
- **Side Effect example:**
 - fetching some data from a web API.
 - Subscribe to browser events, e.g. window resize.
- **Signature:** useEffect(callback, dependency array)
- **Execution times:**
 1. **On mounting.**
 2. **On every rendering,**
 - **Unless a dependency array is specified,**
 - **then only when a dependency variable changes value.**
 - **Use an empty dependency array to restrict execution to mount-time only.**

Sample App 1

(see lecture archive)

Component hierarchy diagram



Friends List

Search

- Joe Bloggs

jbloggs@here.con

- Paula Smith

psmith@here.con

- Catherine Dwyer

cdwyer@here.con

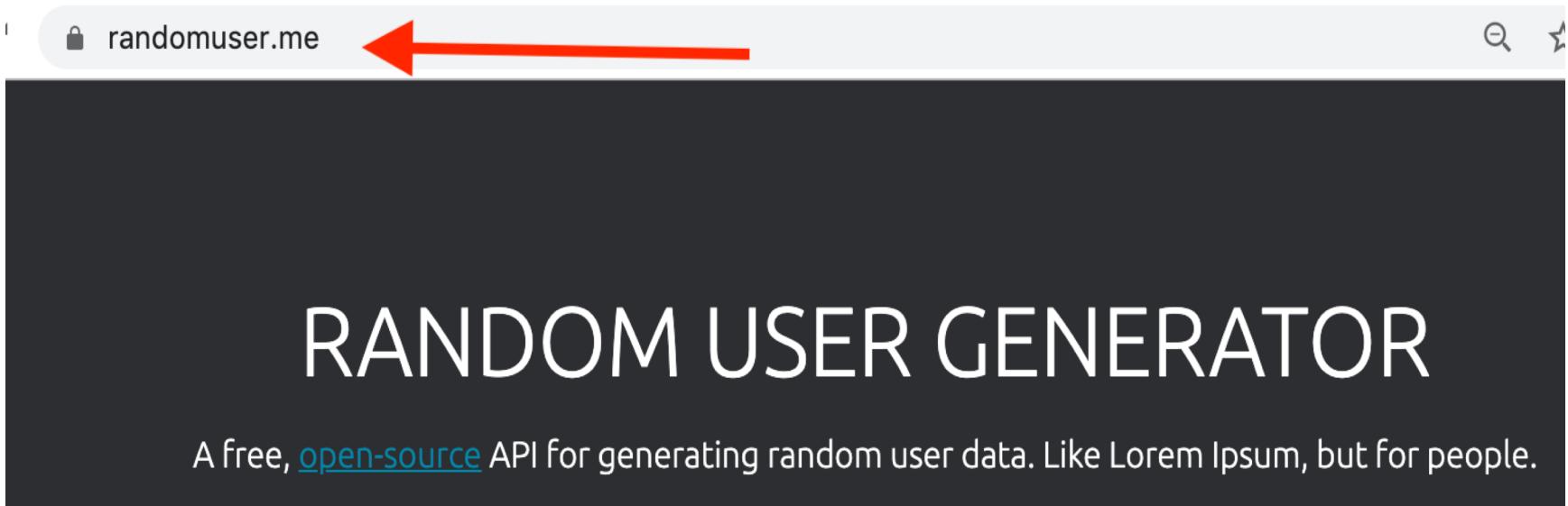
- Paul Briggs

pbriggs@here.con

FriendsApp component:

1. Manages app's state (i.e. text box, full list of friends).
2. Gets friends list (useEffect)
3. Computes matching friends.
4. Controls list re-rendering.

Recall – RandomUser open API



- We use it to provide a list of friends for the sample app

Sample App 1 - *useEffect* Hook

- **useEffect runs AT THE END of a component's mount process.**
i.e. First rendering occurs BEFORE API data is available.
- We must allow for this in implementation.

The screenshot shows a 'Friends List' application interface on the left and a developer tool's render log on the right.

Friends List Application:

- A search bar containing the letter 'w'.
- A list of friends:
 - Iida Wuori (iida.wuori@example.com)
 - Luke Brown (luke.brown@example.com)

Render Log (right side):

- [HMR] Waiting for update signal from WDS...
- Initial mounting
 - Render FriendsApp
 - fetch effect
 - Render FriendsApp
 - Render FriendsApp
- After typing 1 character
 - >

A red box highlights the first three log entries under 'Initial mounting'. Red annotations to the right of the log entries read 'Initial mounting' and 'After typing 1 character'.

Sample App 1 (version 2)

- **App feature changes** (ref App2.js):
 1. A ‘Reset’ button to trigger loading more friends from API.
 2. Browser tab title shows # of matching friends (side effect).
- **3 state variables:**
 1. Full list of friends retrieved from API
 2. Text box content
 3. **Reset button toggle.**
- **2 side effects:**
 1. ‘Fetch API data’ effect - dependent on reset button state change.
 2. ‘Set browser title’ effect - dependent on matching list change.

Sample App 1 (version 2) events.

- On mounting of FriensApp component (Empty friends array):
Both effect execute → ‘Fetch data’ effect changes ‘friends list’ state → Component re-renders + ‘Set browser title’ effect executes.
- On typing character in text box:
‘Text’ state change → FriendsApp rerenders + Matching friends list changed → ‘Set browser title’ effect executes.
- On clicking Reset button:
‘Reset’ state change → FriendsApp rerenders → ‘Fetch data’ effect executes → ‘Friends list’ state changed → FriendsApp re-renders → ‘Set browser title’ effect executes

Sample App 1 (version 2)

The screenshot shows a mobile application titled "Friends List". The interface includes a title bar with a back arrow, a header "Friends List", and a red "Reset" button. Below the header is a list of friends:

- Dennis Allen
dennis.allen@example.com
- Valerie Welch
valerie.welch@example.com
- Tobias Thomsen
tobias.thomsen@example.com
- Giselle Oliveira

To the right of the app is a developer tools timeline window. The timeline shows the following sequence of events:

- [HMR] Waiting for update signal from WDS...
- Render FriendsApp
- fetch effect
- set title effect
- Render FriendsApp
- set title effect
- Render FriendsApp
- set title effect
- Render FriendsApp
- fetch effect
- Render FriendsApp
- set title effect

Annotations on the timeline indicate specific points of interest:

- "Initial mounting" points to the first "Render FriendsApp" event.
- "After typing 1 character" points to the second "set title effect" event.
- "After clicking reset button" points to the third "set title effect" event.

Unidirectional data flow & Re-rendering

(Sample app 1 – version 1)

The screenshot shows a 'Friends List' application interface on the left and a detailed view of the component tree on the right.

Left Side: Friends List

- Header: Friends List
- Text input field: 'sel'
- List:
 - Malou Jensen
malou.jensen@example.com
 - Tobias Larsen
tobias.larsen@example.com

Right Side: Component Tree (React Dev Tools)

The component tree is organized into three main sections, each highlighted with a red box:

- Top Section (Red Box):** Contains the following components:
 - Render FriendsApp
 - Render of FilteredFriendList
 - fetch effect
 - Render FriendsApp
 - Render of FilteredFriendList
 - Render of Friend (Malou Jensen)
 - Render of Friend (Grace Alvarez)
 - Render of Friend (Melissa Pearson)
 - Render of Friend (نیما کریمی)
 - Render of Friend (Tobias Larsen)
 - Render of Friend (Gildo Mendes)
- Middle Section (Red Box):** Contains the following components:
 - Render FriendsApp
 - Render of FilteredFriendList
 - Render of Friend (Malou Jensen)
 - Render of Friend (Melissa Pearson)
 - Render of Friend (Tobias Larsen)
 - Render of Friend (Gildo Mendes)
- Bottom Section (Red Box):** Contains the following components:
 - Render FriendsApp
 - Render of FilteredFriendList
 - Render of Friend (Malou Jensen)
 - Render of Friend (Tobias Larsen)

Annotations:

- Typed s in text box** (in red) is placed next to the first section of the component tree.
- Typed e in text box** (in red) is placed next to the third section of the component tree.

Unidirectional data flow & Re-rendering

- What happens when user types in text box?

User types a character in text box

→ *onChange event handler executes*

- *Handler changes state (FriendsApp component)*
 - *React re-renders FriendsApp*
 - *React re-renders children (FilteredFriendList) with new prop values.*
 - *React re-renders children of FilteredFriendList.
(Re-rendering completed)*
 - *(Pre-commit phase) React computes the new Virtual DOM*
 - *React diffs the new and previous Virtual DOMs*
 - *(Commit phase) React batch updates the Real DOM.*
 - *Browser repaints screen*

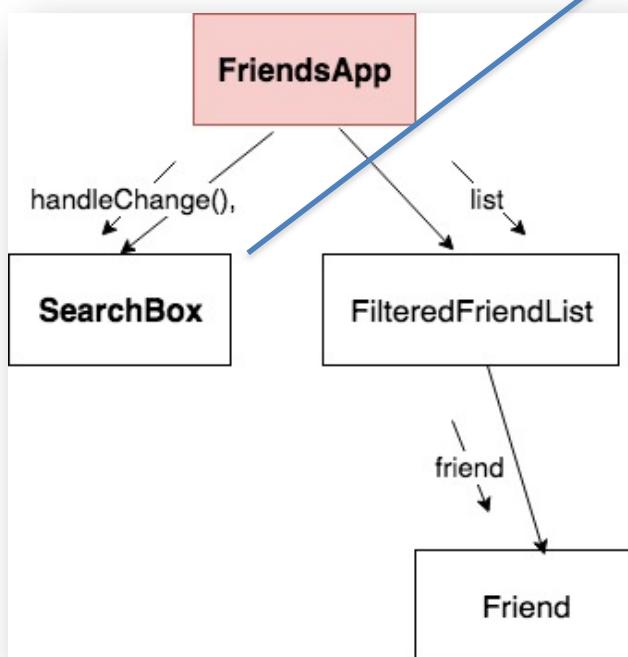
Topics

- Component State. ✓
- The Virtual DOM. ✓
- Data Flow patterns. ✓
- Hooks. (More later) ✓

Sample App 2

(Inverse data flow pattern or Data down, actions up pattern)

- What if a component's state is influenced by an event in a subordinate component?
- Solution: The data down, action up pattern.



The screenshot shows a web application titled "Friends List". At the top is a search bar with the placeholder "Search". Below it is a list of friends, each represented by a red-bordered box containing a name and an email address:

- Joe Bloggs
jbloggs@here.com
- Paula Smith
psmith@here.com
- Catherine Dwyer
cdwyer@here.com
- Paul Briggs
pbriggs@here.com

Data down, Action up

Pattern:

- 1. Stateful component (FriendsApp) provides a callback to subordinate (SearchBox).**
- 2. Subordinate calls it when event (onChange) occurs.**

```
const SearchBox = props => {
  const onChange = event => {
    event.preventDefault();
    const newText = event.target.value.toLowerCase();
    props.handleChange(newText);
  };

  return <input type="text" placeholder="Search"
    onChange={onChange} />;
};
```

```
const FriendsApp = () => [
  const [searchText, setSearchText] = useState("");
  const [friends, setFriends] = useState([]);

  useEffect(() => {
    // ...
  }, []);

  const filterChange = text =>
    setSearchText(text.toLowerCase());

  const updatedList = friends.filter(friend => {
    // ...
  });

  return (
    <>
      <h1>Friends List</h1>
      <SearchBox handleChange={filterChange} />
      <FilteredFriendList list={updatedList} />
    </>
  );
}
```

Summary

- **Component state.**
 - User input/interaction is ‘recorder’ in a component’s state variable.
 - State changes cause component re-execution -> re-rendering.
 - Re-rendering (may) result in UI changes -> dynamic apps.
- **Hooks – allows us manipulate state variables and hook into the lifecycle of a component.**
 - useState, useEffect, etc
- **React achieves DOM update performance improvements by managing an intermediate data structure, the Virtual DOM.**
- **Data only flows downward through the component hierarchy – this aids debugging.**
 - Actions (Events) flow upwards

