Design a Dynamic Frontend with React



Introduction to React and Other Basic Concepts



A Day in the Life of a MERN Stack Developer

You are working in an organization as a MERN stack developer. Recently, you discovered the power and popularity of ReactJS, a JavaScript library for building user interfaces.

To work with ReactJS, you need to learn about its installation, the organization of the folder structure, component-based architecture and the components. You also must learn event handling, event binding, and methods.

By mastering these key concepts, you will be able to successfully begin your journey as a ReactJS developer.



Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

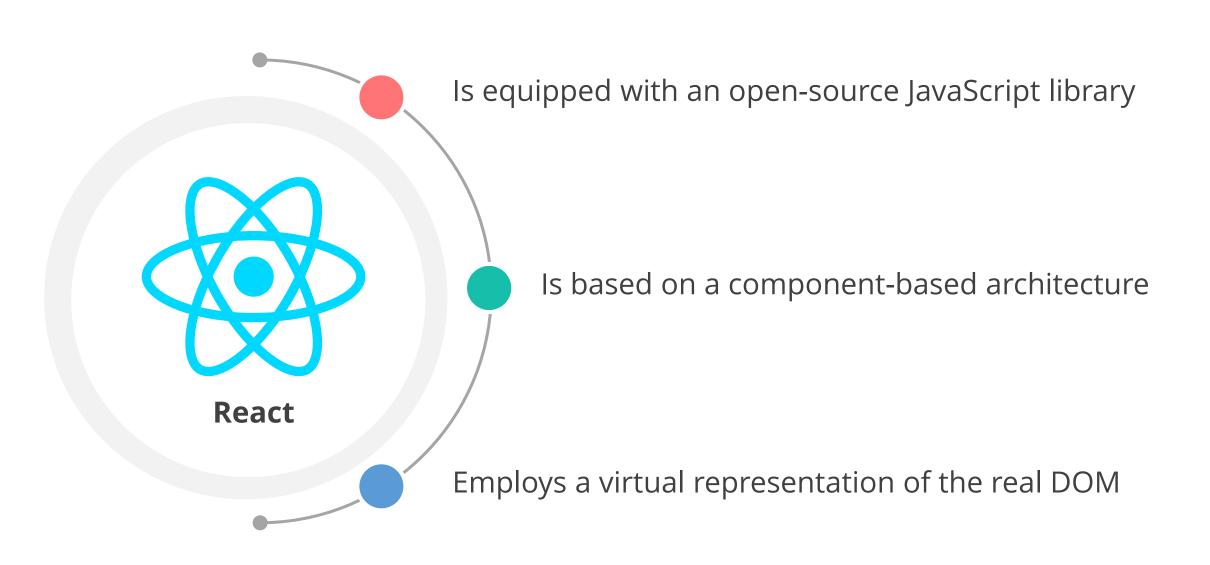
- Create the default structure of a ReactJS project to provide a solid foundation for the development workflow
- Comprehend the concepts of React components to build an efficient user interface
- Identify the steps in the event handling process to build interactive web applications
- Work with the rendering concepts to deliver a smooth and responsive user experience



Getting Started with ReactJS

Introduction to ReactJS

React is a JavaScript-enabled, open-source library that is used for creating the frontend of an application.



Installation of React

Launching React requires installing the necessary tools and dependencies to create and run React applications.



Steps to be followed:

- Go to node.js download page: https://nodejs.org/en/download/
- 2. Download the LTS version of the operating system
- 3. Install the downloaded file

Installation of React

To verify the installation, open the command prompt and check **node -v** and **npm -v** to ensure the packages are downloaded correctly.

```
# Open the command prompt or terminal
# Run the following commands

# Check Node.js version
node -v

# Check npm version
npm -v
```

Installation of React

To create a new React project, install the create-react-app command-line tool globally on the system.

npm install -g create-react-app

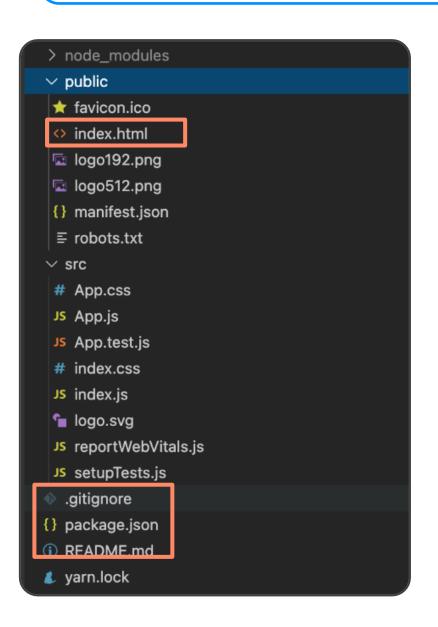
Start a New Project

Navigate to the directory where the React project needs to be created and download the development server to begin a new project.

cd my-react-app npm start

Folder Structure

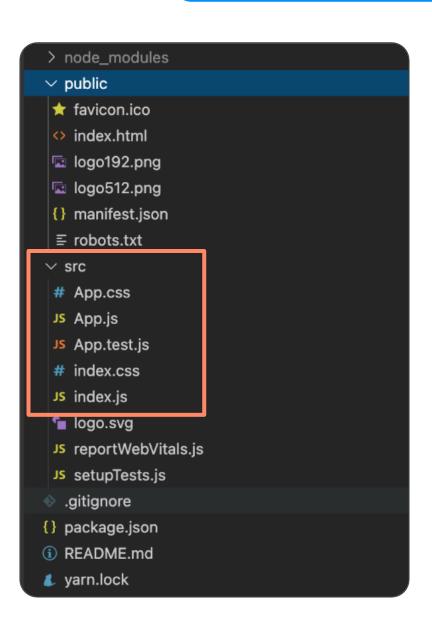
The default project structure consists of several directories, such as public, src, and the node_modules folder.



- In /public, the necessary file is index.html, which is equivalent to the static index.html file.
- .gitignore is used for adding the files that git will ignore.
- package.json includes all the package versions.
- README.md is the marked-down file used for adding the summary at the bottom of the project.

Folder Structure

The /src directory is important as it contains all the code related to a React application.



- The /src directory includes all the React-related codes.
- /src/App.js is the primary component of an application. Often, it is referred to as the App component.
- /src/App.css allows the developer to define the visual appearance and layout of components and elements.
- /src/index.js has been assigned the task of rendering the root component into the DOM.

Programming in React: Prerequisites

Before starting a program, it is important to:

Delete all the files from the /src directory and only keep index.js

Import ReactDOM, React, and append a component of React

Programming in React: Example

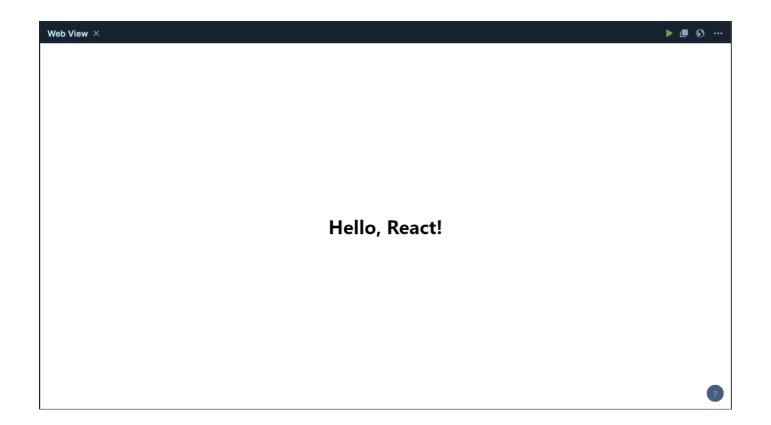
A simple code in React is illustrated as follows:

```
import React from "react";
import ReactDOM from "react-dom";
const App = () \Rightarrow {
 return (
   <div>
   <h1>Hello, React!</h1>
   </div>
);
};
ReactDOM.render(<App />,
document.getElementById("root"));\
```

Programming in React: An Example

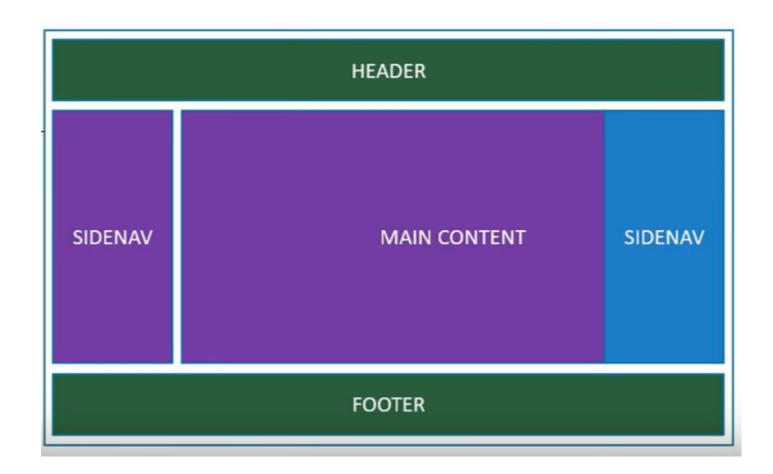
The returned output of the App function is JSX (an extension to JS), which allows writing functions similar to HTML-like syntax.

After saving the code and checking the browser, the output will appear as given below:



React Components: An Overview

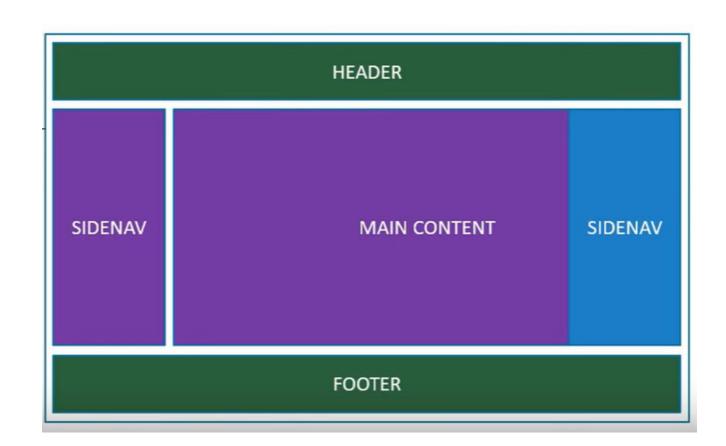
As React is a component-based architecture, developers can divide the application into individual units.



Each component is responsible for:

- Rendering a specific part of the UI
- Handling its own logic
- Creating a hierarchy

React Components: An Overview

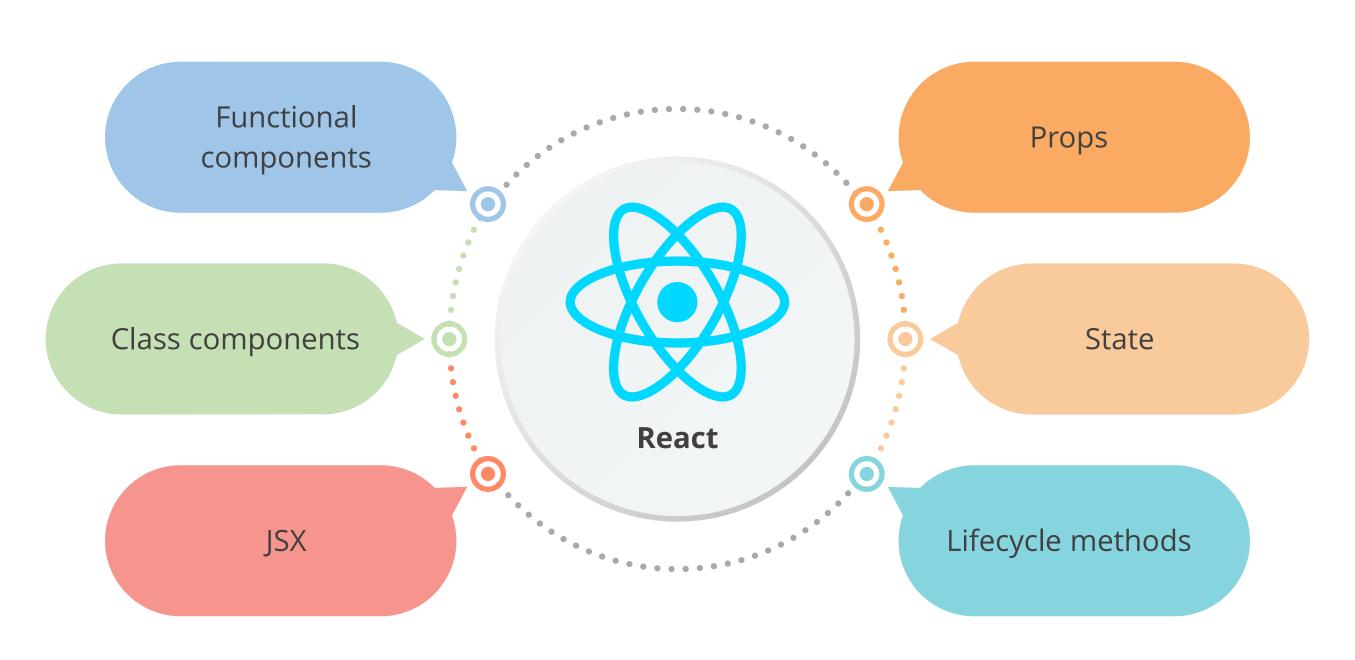


- Each component constitutes a part of the user interface.
- It resembles a building block in React.
- It can be reused.

Example: The side navigation component can be placed either on the left or the right side.

Components in React

Here are the following types of components in React:



Functional Components

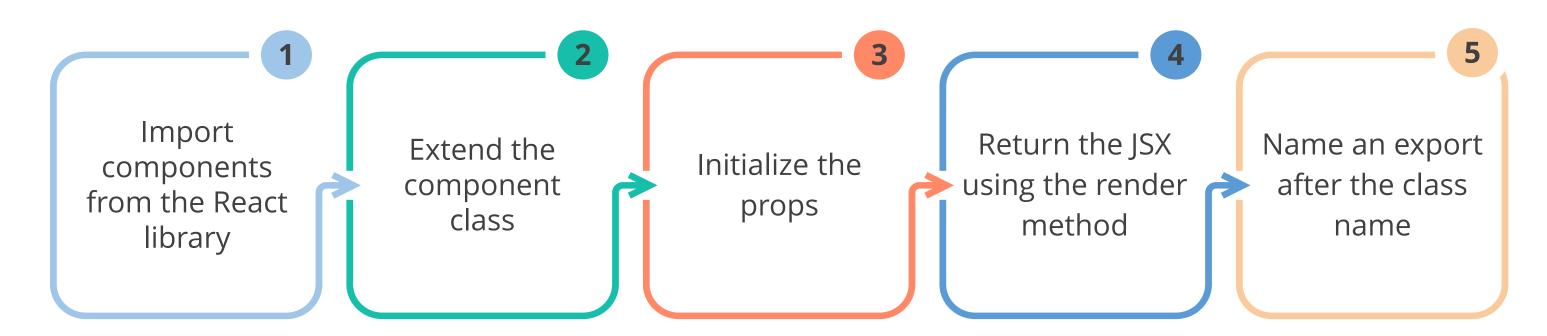
Functional components can be defined and developed using JavaScript functions. They are popular because of the following features:



Class Components

A class component defines and creates reusable UI components using JavaScript classes.

To create a class component:



Class Components: An Example

The following example shows how a class component can be developed:

```
class Welcome extends React.Component {
  render() {
   return <h1>Hello, {this.props.name}
  </h1>;
  }
}
```

Example:

Class **Welcome** extends **React.Component.** A render method of the class returns a <h1> tag (**Hello**).

Functional and Class Components

Developers have a preference for functional components instead of class components. Here are some of the reasons why they do so:

Simplicity

Functions accept props and return a declaration.

No this Keyword

this keyword is absent, which makes the task easier for beginners.

No State

A state with many components is not needed to find a solution.

Complex Logic

Logic is not complicated.



Duration: 15 Min.

React Components

Problem Statement:

You are given a project to create and start a React application with a class component displaying a text on the screen.

Assisted Practice: Guidelines



Steps to be followed:

- 1. Create a class component
- 2. Implement a render function to return the h2 element

Hooks: An Overview

Hooks allow the addition of custom behavior to an application, enabling more flexibility. Some of the important features of Hooks are as follows:

Follow specific rules and naming conventions

Call hooks only at the top level of the functional component Use the **use** prefix, followed by the feature they provide

Hooks: An Overview

Hooks enable coders to use functional components in coding without the help of class syntax. They revolutionized the method of writing React components by allowing users to:

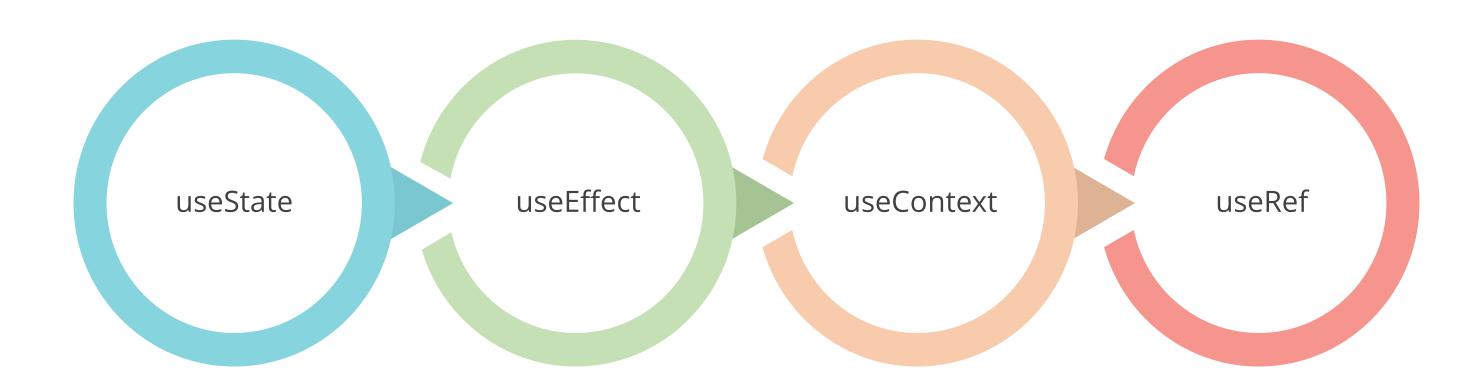
Use the features of components in functional components

Add features for state and lifecycle

Arrange the component logic into units

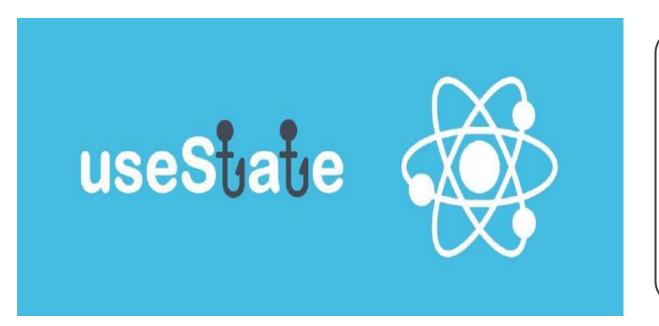
Types of Hooks

Here are the following Hooks that help to manage state, handle side effects, share data between components, and more:



The useState Hook

The **useState** Hook is vital as it permits functional components to have their own state.

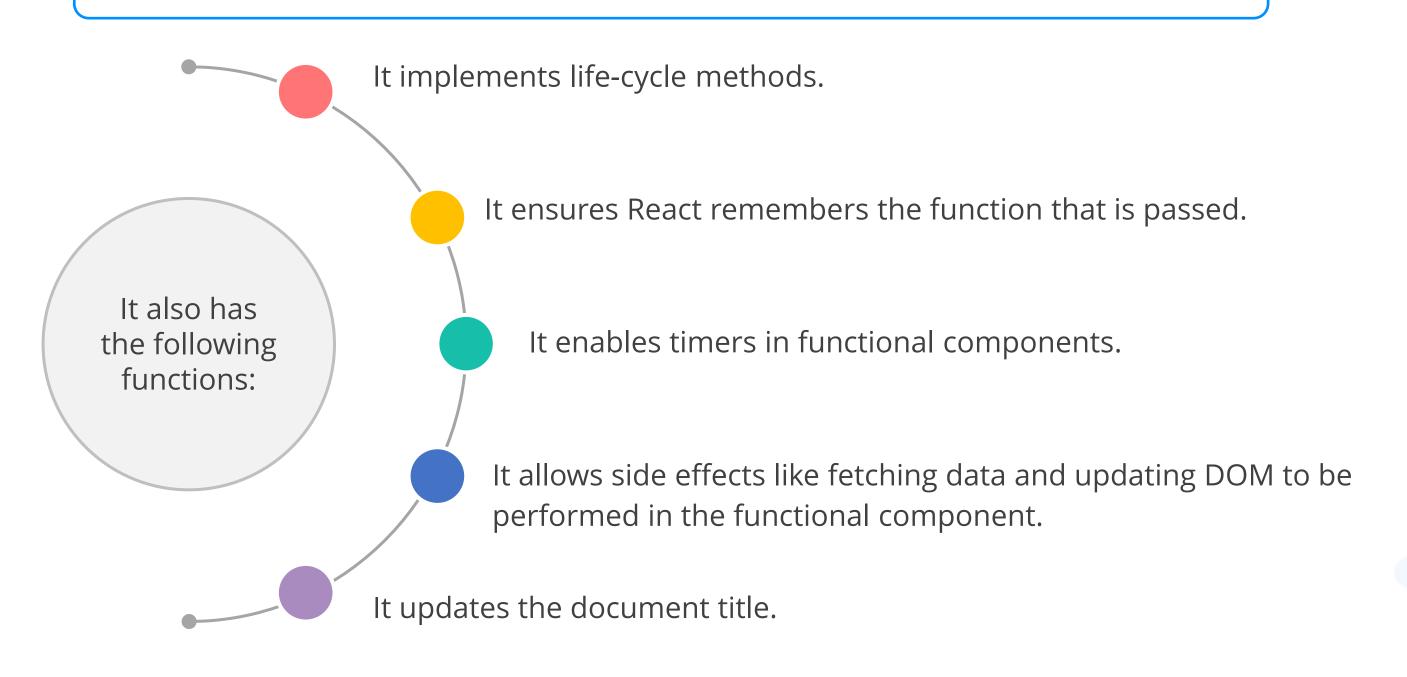


Source: https://jeffdevslife.com/p/usestate-hook/

- **useState** can be used with an array, object, string, Boolean, or number.
- The **useState** function picks the initial state as the argument.
- **useState** Hooks return a pair of values as an array.

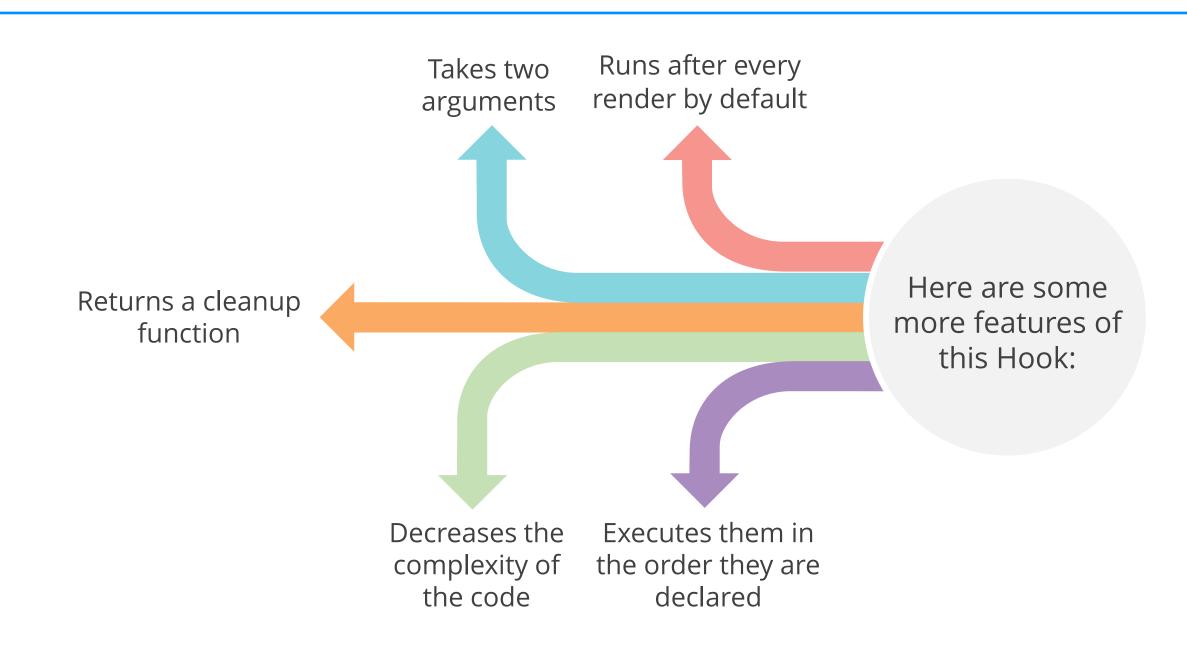
The useEffect Hook: Functions

The **useEffect** Hook ensures side effects are performed in functional components.



The useState Hook: Features

The **useEffect** Hook controls the execution of the side effects and keeps the component's behavior consistent.



JSX Syntax

JSX (JavaScript XML), a syntax extension, ensures coders can write code similar to HTML in JavaScript files. Some of the important features of JSX are as follows:

It is an extension of JavaScript.

It builds user interfaces.

It combines
JavaScript and
HTML into
one language.

It changes into regular JavaScript during runtime.

It embeds
JavaScript
logic.

Benefits of Using JSX

Developers use the JSX component in React applications for the following reasons:

Allows HTML-like code in JavaScript files Efficiently creates interactive UI components Allows declarative and component-based code Allows dynamic content and conditional rendering Improves code organization and reusability Provides intuitive syntax for defining UI elements

Props in React

This code shows how props can be passed as attributes to a component. It also displays how to use the **props** parameter.

```
// Greet.js
import React from 'react';
const Greet = (props) => {
  console.log(props);
  return <h1>Hello, {props.name}!</h1>;
};
export default Greet
```

Props in React

The code shows how props can render dynamic content.

```
// App.js
import React from 'react';
import Greet from './Greet';
const App = () => {
 return (
  <div>
  <Greet name="John" />
  <Greet name="Mary" />
  <Greet name="Rock" />
  </div>
export default App;
```

Using Props in React

The following steps are required:

- To display the value of a specific prop, use the syntax props.name, where name is the attribute name
- To include the value of a prop inside the rendered output in JSX, wrap the prop expression in curly braces {}

```
function List() {
    const students = [
           name: 'Adil',
            id: 1
           name: 'Arman',
            id: 2
           name: 'Ahmet',
           id: 3
           name: 'Anwar',
            id: 4
    return NewList />;
export default List;
```

State in React

JavaScript object **state** holds data for a component.

For instance, a state object can be initialized inside a constructor.

```
class Truck extends React.Component {
  constructor(props) {
super(props);
this.state = {brand: "Ford"};
  render() {
return (
   <div>
      <h1>My Truck</h1>
   </div>
```

Using State in React

A state object can be used with the syntax: **this.state.propertyname**, anywhere in a component.

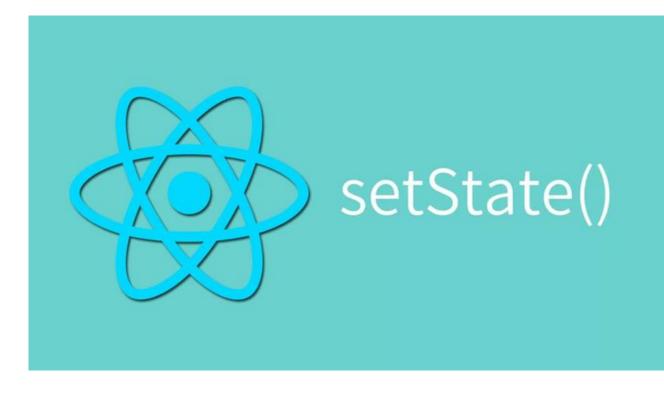
```
class Truck extends React.Component {
  constructor(props) {
   super(props);
   this.state = {
  brand: "Ford",
  model: "Pickup",
   color: "red",
  year: 1994
  render() {
```

Using State in React

The code represents a component that renders information about a specific product, including its brand, color, model, and year, using JSX syntax in React.

setState in React

The component class provides a method, **setState**, that updates a component's state.



Source: https://www.poudelanil.com.np/react-setstate-callback/

When a developer calls setState, React:

- Merges the provided object with the current state object
- Updates the specified properties

setState in React: Example

Example: Change the color of the truck from red to blue with a click of a mouse button. For this, use the **onClick** event, which is called when the mouse button is clicked.

```
class Truck extends React.Component {
  constructor(props) {
   super(props);
  this.state = {
  brand: "Ford",
  model: "Pickup",
   color: "red",
  year: 1964
   };
  color change = () => {
  this.setState({color: "blue"});
```

setState in React: Example

Example: Here, the **render() method** of the Truck component returns a JSX structure that represents the visual output of the component.

Destructure Props and State

In React, destructuring props in the state refers to extracting specific properties from the props object.

Consider an employee object with the given properties:

Before ES6, each property had to be accessed individually using dot or bracket notation.

```
const employee = {
  first_name: "Ramesh",
  last_name: "Fadatare",
  email_Id:
"ramesh@gmail.com"
  }
```

```
console.log(employee.first_name) // Ramesh
console.log(employee.last_name) // Fadatare
console.log(employee.email_Id) // ramesh@gmail.com
```

Destructure Props and State

Destructuring of Props and State properties can efficiently extract and assign values concisely. The following code illustrates this point:

Destructuring helps in streamlining the given code.

const { first_name,
 last_name, email_Id } =
employee;

The previous code is similar to the following code.

```
const first_name =
employee.first_name
const last_name =
employee.last_name
const email_Id=
employee.email_Id
```

Now, the mentioned properties can be received.

```
console.log(first_name)
// Ramesh
console.log(last_name)
// Fadatare
console.log(email_Id) //
ramesh@gmail.com
```

Destructure Props and State: Example

The given code is a functional component called Employee in React that displays employee details.

Destructure Props and State: Example

This code represents the main entry point of a React application. The Employee component receives props for **firstName**, **lastName**, and **emailId**.

```
import React from 'react';
import logo from './logo.svg';
import './App.css';
import Table from
'./components/functional-
components/Table';
import PropsDemo from
'./components/props/PropsDemo';
import { Employee } from
'./components/Employee';
function App() {
```

```
return
  <div className="App">
    <header className="App-header">
     <Employee first name = "Ramesh"</pre>
last name = "Fadatare" email Id =
"ramesh@gmail.com" />
    </header>
  </div>
  );
 export default App;
```

Destructure Props: Function Parameter Destructured

Here is one way to destructure props in a functional component:

1. Function parameter destructured

```
import React from 'react'
export const Employee = ({first name, last name, email Id})
=> {
 return (
     <div>
        <h1> Employee Details</h1>
        <h2> First Name : {first name} </h2>
        <h2> Last Name : {last_name} </h2>
        <h2> Email Id : {email Id} </h2>
     </div>
```

Destructure Props: Props Destructured

2. Props destructured in the function body

```
import React from 'react'
export const Employee = props => {
  const {first_name, last_name, email_Id} = props;
  return (
     <div>
        <h1> Employee Details</h1>
        <h2> First Name : {first_name} </h2>
        <h2> Last Name : {last name} </h2>
        <h2> Email Id : {email Id} </h2>
     </div>
```

Destructure Props Using Class Components

Specific props are picked up from **this.props** object and allotted to individual variables when destructuring props in class components.

Here is an example of a program without destructuring:

Destructure Props Using Class Components

Destructuring props in class components using the **render() function** is given below:

```
Employee Details</h1>
           <h2> First Name :
{first name} </h2>
           <h2> Last Name :
{last name} </h2>
           <h2> Email Id : {email Id}
</h2>
        </div>
 export default Employee;
```

Destructure State

This code is an example of a class component in React that renders the details of an employee.

```
import React, { Component } from
'react'
class StateDemp extends Component {
 render() {
    const {state_1, state_2,
state 3} = this.state;
    return (
<div>
           <h1> State Details</h1>
           <h2> state1 :
```

```
{state 1} </h2>
           <h2> state2 : {state 2}
</h2>
           <h2> state3 : {state 3}
</h2>
        </div>
export default StateDemo;
```



Duration: 15 Min.

Problem Statement:

You are given a project to implement a React web application to store any details of a bike.

Assisted Practice: Guidelines



Steps to be followed:

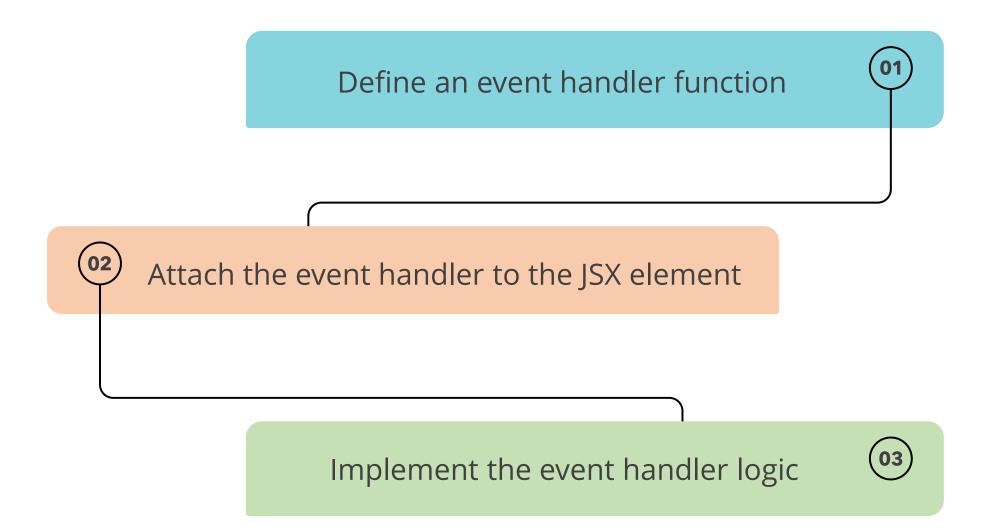
- 1. Create a class bike with the make, model, and color
- 2. Create a function to change the bike color using **setState**
- 3. Render the bike property on the page

Handling Events

Event Handling vs. DOM

Event handling captures and responds to the actions or events in a component.

The typical steps to handle events in React are:



Event Handling vs. DOM

In React, event handling allows one to respond to user interactions such as button clicks, form submissions, or keyboard input.

Features of React and DOM event handling are as follows:

React events use camelCase names

DOM events use lowercase names

React events require a function as an event handler

DOM events can use a string as an event handler

Example: OnClick

Example: Onclick

onClick= {buttonClicked} onclick=
"buttonClicked()"

Event Handling vs. HTML

React event handling and HTML event handling have some similarities, but there are also important differences between them.

HTML

React

<button onclick="buttonClicked()">
 Button Click!

<button onClick={buttonClicked}>
 Button Click! </button>

Event handlers are defined as attributes on HTML elements.

Event handlers are typically passed as props to components.

Event Handling vs. HTML

To prevent default behavior in React, return false cannot be used, and instead, preventDefault() must be called explicitly.

HTML

```
//HTML
<button onclick="console.log('Button')</pre>
Clicked.'); return false">
 Click Me
 </button>
```

React

```
// React
Function handleClick (e) {
    e.preventDefault ();
    console.log('Button clicked.');
Return (
     <button onClick={handleClick}>
         Click me
     </a>
   );
```

Event Handling: Functional Component

The **FunctionClick()** component renders a button. When the button is clicked, the **clickHandler()** function is called.

```
import React from 'react'
function FunctionClick() {
  function clickHandler() {
    console.log('Button clicked')
  }
```

Event Handling: Class Component

The **ClassClick** component is a class-based component in React that renders a button. When the button is clicked, the **clickHandler()** method is called, logging a message to the console.

```
import React, { Component } from
'react'
class ClassClick extends
Component {
  clickHandler() {
  console.log('Clicked the
button')
 render() {
```

```
return (
     <div>
     <button
onClick={this.clickHandler}>Clic
k Me</button>
     </div>
export default ClassClick
```

Binding Event Handlers

Event Binding permits coders to state a function or method to be implemented when an event occurs.

```
import React, { Component } from 'react'
class EventBind extends Component {
  constructor() {
    super()
    this.state = {
    message: 'Hello'
    }
  }
```

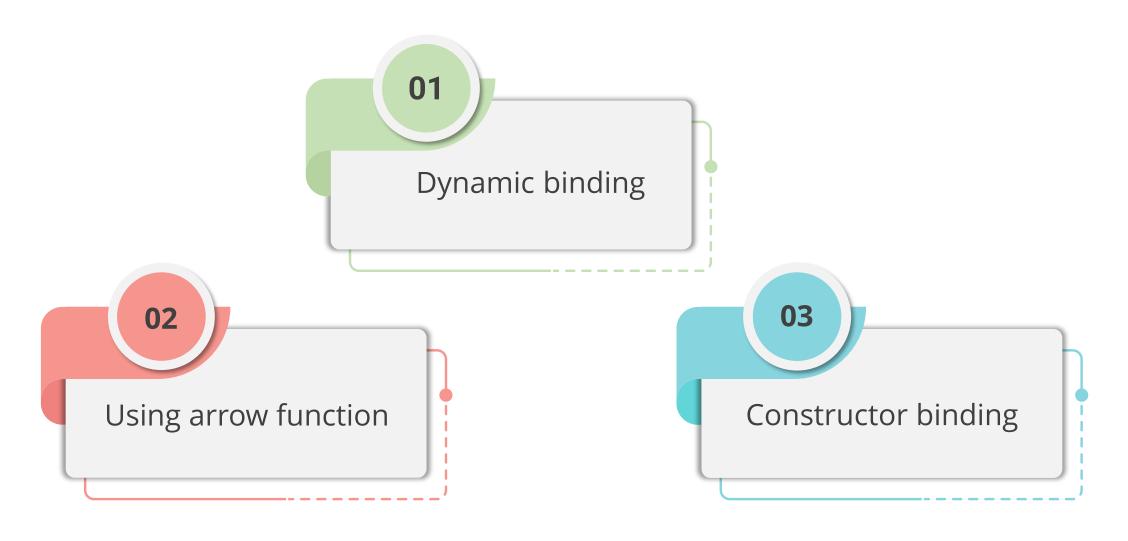
When using class methods for event handling, the coder must ensure the correct binding of **this** within the method to access the component's instance and its properties.

Binding Event Handlers

If the binding is not done, the **this** keyword may return undefined, resulting in a **TypeError**: **Cannot read property setState of undefined error**.

Binding Event Handlers: Methods

React offers three ways to bind event handlers:



Dynamic Binding

Dynamic Binding refers to the process of establishing a connection between a function and its execution context (the value of **this**) at runtime.

```
import React, { Component } from 'react'
class EventBind extends Component {
  constructor() {
    super()
    this.state = {
    message: 'Hello'
    }
  }
}
```

It allows for flexible and late binding of functions to objects or instances.

Dynamic Binding

```
clickHandler = () => {
    this.setState({message:'Goodbye'})
 render() {
  return (
  <div>
        <div>{this.state.message}</div>
      <button onClick={this.clickHandler}>Click</button>
  </div>
```

Changing **this.state.message** causes the component to rerender and generate a new handler that is different from the one used during the initial call to render().

Using the Arrow Function

With arrow functions, there is no need to explicitly bind the event handler, as they automatically capture the **this** context of the component.

```
import React, { Component } from 'react'
class EventBind extends Component {
 constructor() {
  super()
  this.state = {
  message: 'Hello'
  this.clickHandler =
this.clickHandler.bind(this)
clickHandler() {
  console.log(this)
```

```
this.setState({message: 'Goodbye'})
 render() {
  return (
   <div>
        <div>{this.state.message}</div>
      <button
onClick={this.clickHandler}>Click</button>
   </div>
 export default EventBind
```

Constructor Binding

Constructor binding binds the context of a class method to the component.

```
import React, { Component } from 'react'
class EventBind extends Component {
  constructor() {
   super()
   this.state = {
  message: 'Hello'
   this.clickHandler = this.clickHandler.bind(this)
 clickHandler() {
   console.log(this)
```

Constructor Binding

```
this.setState({message: 'Goodbye'})
 render() {
  return (
  <div>
        <div>{this.state.message}</div>
      <button
onClick={this.clickHandler}>Click</button>
   </div>
export default EventBind
```

Constructor binding provide good performance and are widely used in React applications for binding events.



Problem Statement:

You are given a project to create a React component that binds its event handler contexts and passes data into the event handler.

Assisted Practice: Guidelines



Steps to be followed:

- 1. Import the necessary dependencies from the **React** and **react-dom** libraries
- 2. Import the **MyList** component from **./MyList**
- 3. Define an array of items with their IDs and names
- 4. Render the **MyList** component with the **items** array as a property and mount it to the **root** element in the HTML document
- 5. Implement the **MyList** component

Rendering

Methods as Props

Methods as props: a method defined in a parent component is shared with a child component as a prop.

Parent component:

```
import React, { Component } from 'react'
import ChildComponent from '../ChildComponent';
class PerentComponent extends Component {
    constructor(props) {
        super(props)

        this.state = {
            parentName: 'Parent'
        }
        this.greetParent = this.greetParent.bind(this)
    }
}
```

Methods as Props

The child component can then invoke that method when certain events or conditions occur.

```
greetParent() {
    alert('Hello: ' + this.state.parentName);
 render() {
    return (
       <div>
             {/* We pass a reference to a method as props to the child component
             greetHander will now be available to the child component */}
             <ChildComponent greetHandler={this.greetParent}></ChildComponent>
       </div>
export default PerentComponent
```

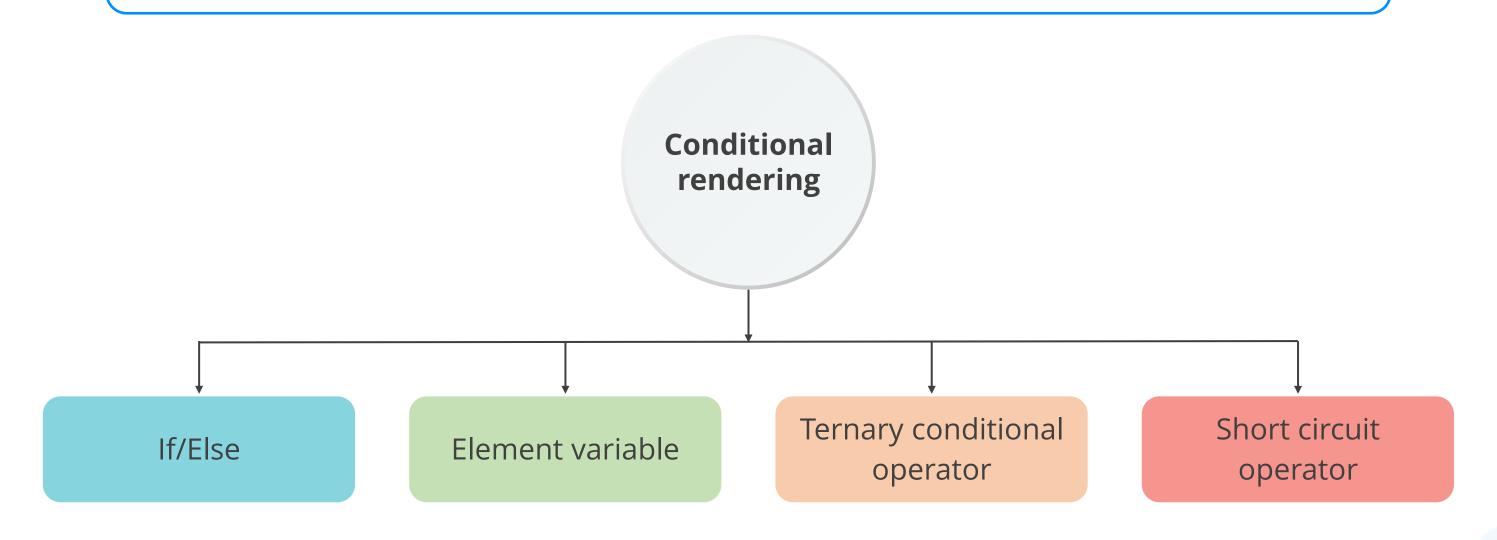
Methods as Props

Here, a functional component called **ChildComponent** is used. This component receives a prop called **greetHandler** from its parent component.

Child component:

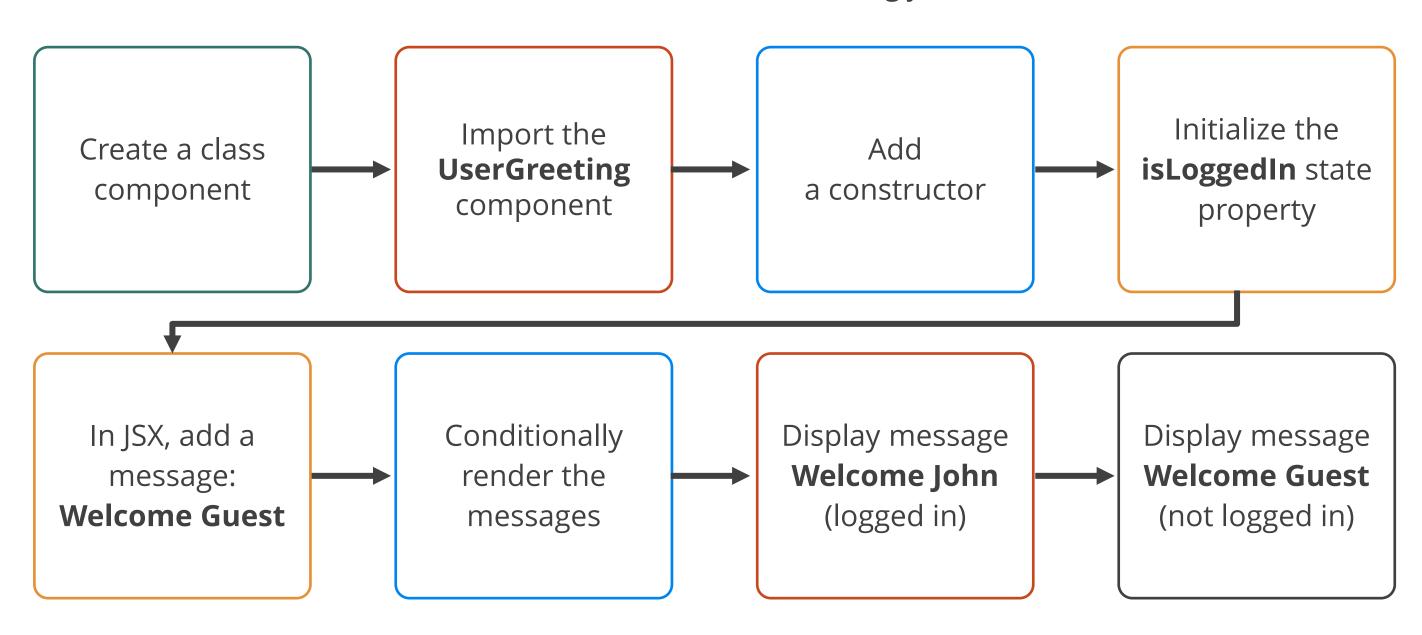
Conditional Rendering in HTML and JavaScript

Conditional rendering is a process where different components are rendered based on certain conditions or values.



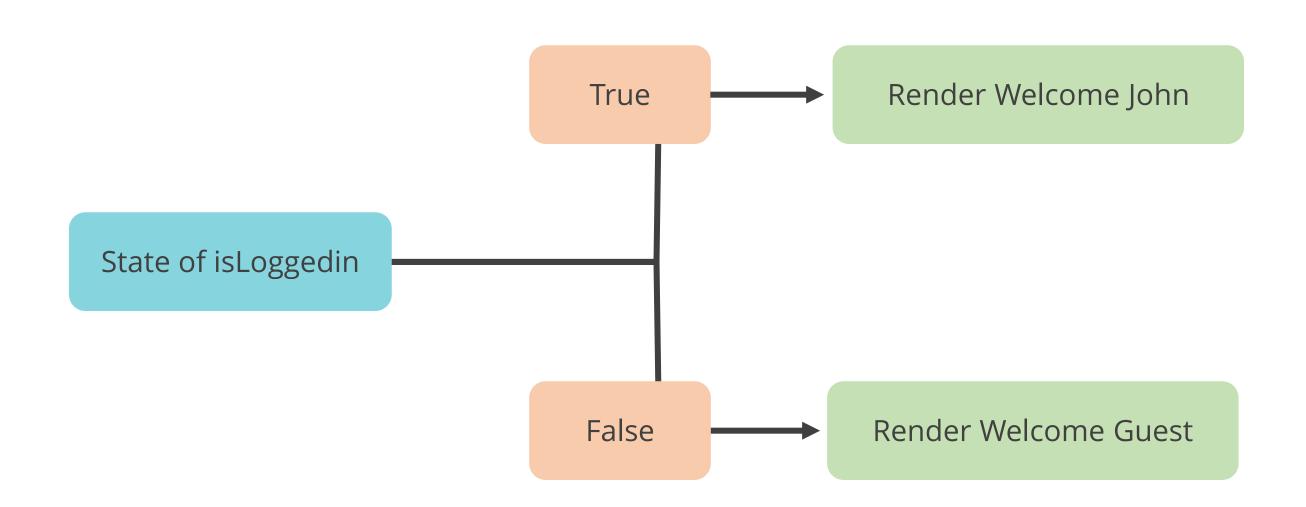
Conditional Rendering: If/Else

To create a new file UserGreeting.js:



Conditional Rendering: If/Else

When the app is run and viewed in the browser, it will either render **Welcome John** or **Welcome Guest** based on the value of is**LoggedIn** in the **UserGreeting** component's state.



Conditional Rendering: If/Else Code

The conditions are checked in conditional rendering, and different components are rendered based on the results. Here is a program that highlights conditional rendering by using the **If/Else** code:

```
import React, { Component } from 'react';
class UserGreeting extends Component{
  constructor(props) {
    super(props)
    this.state = {
      isLoggedIn: false
  render() {
    if(this.state.isLoggedIn) {
      return (
        <div>Welcome John</div>
    } else {
      return
        <div>Welcome Guest</div>
```

Conditional Rendering: If/Else Code

Different components can be rendered dynamically in conditional rendering based on the logic.

Here is the remaining part of the code:

Conditional Rendering: Element Variable

Element variables are used for the conditional rendering of components in JavaScript.



The variable containing the element is returned in the JSX.

Example:

if (this.state.isLoggedIn), message = div tag with text Welcome John, else message = div tag with text Welcome Guest

Conditional Rendering: Element Variable Code

Conditional rendering using element variables allows developers to display elements selectively based on conditions. Here is an example that shows conditional rendering:

```
import React, { Component } from 'react';
class UserGreeting extends Component{
  constructor(props) {
    super(props)
    this.state = {
      isLoggedIn: false
  render() {
    if(this.state.isLoggedIn) {
      return (
        <div>Welcome John</div>
    } else {
      return
        <div>Welcome Guest</div>
```

Ternary Conditional Operator

The ternary operator can be used within the JSX by adding a return statement and using a conditional operator with parentheses to display the appropriate element. Here is a code that explains this aspect:

```
import React, { Component } from 'react';
class UserGreeting extends Component{
  constructor(props) {
    super(props)
    this.state = {
      isLoggedIn: false
  render() {
    if(this.state.isLoggedIn) {
      return (
        <div>Welcome John</div>
    } else {
      return
        <div>Welcome Guest</div>
```

Ternary Conditional Operator

The text should appear in the browser once the code is executed.



Short Circuit Operator

This approach is a specific case of the ternary operator when rendering either something or nothing.

```
import React, { Component } from 'react'

class UserGreeting extends Component {
    constructor(props) {
        super(props)
        this.state = {
            | isLoggedIn: true
            |
                  | render() {
                  | return this.state.isLoggedIn && <div>Welcome John</div>
            | }
                  | export default UserGreeting
```

To render **Welcome John**

Conditional Rendering

Duration: 15 Min.

Problem Statement:

You are given a project to create a counter application in React to increase the counter value on each click. However, the value displayed on the web page should always be an even number.

Assisted Practice: Guidelines



Steps to be followed:

- 1. Create a class component
- 2. Create an **onClick()** function to update the counter value
- 3. Create a render method to return the counter value only if it is even

Key Takeaways

- The component-based architecture of React breaks down an application into small, individual parts. These are made into complex UIs.
- There are two components: a stateless functional component and a stateful class component.
- React supports the features of stateful components in functional components. It allows state features without using classes.
- Prop is the optional input that a component can accept.
- Destructuring pulls data from an array or object and assigns it to its variables.



Thank You