

Clojure SPAs with re-frame

Artem Chernyak

2020

Groundwork

- ▶ ClojureScript
- ▶ Hiccup
- ▶ React
- ▶ Reagent

ClojureScript

- ▶ Mostly Clojure
- ▶ Runs on node
- ▶ Runs in browser
- ▶ Reagent

Hiccup for HTML

```
[:html  
  [:h1 "Hello World"]]
```

- ▶ Supports basic html tags
- ▶ Auto closing tags
- ▶ Lisp syntax

Properties in Hiccup

```
[:html  
  [:h1  
    {:class "title"}  
    "Hello World"]]
```

```
[:html  
  [:h1.title "Hello World"]]
```

- ▶ Supports basic html tags
- ▶ Auto closing tags
- ▶ Lisp syntax

Clojure in Hiccup

```
[ :ul  
  (for [i (range 1 4)]  
    [:li i])]
```

- ▶ Supports basic html tags
- ▶ Auto closing tags
- ▶ Lisp syntax

React

- ▶ JavaScript framework
- ▶ Component based
- ▶ Highly reusable abstractions
- ▶ Great performance

Clojure in Hiccup

```
(defn hello [name]  
  [:h1 "Hello " name])
```

```
[:html  
 [hello "World" ]]
```

- ▶ Use Hiccup
- ▶ Allows modularizing with components
- ▶ Work just like function

State management

```
(defn click-count (r/atom 0))

(defn counting-component []
  [:div
    "The atom " [:code "click-count"] " has value: "
    @click-count ". "
    [:input {:type "button" :value "Click me!"
             :on-click #(swap! click-count inc)}}]])
```

- ▶ Uses clojure atom syntax
- ▶ Allows for dynamic components
- ▶ Automatically triggers re-render

Local state

```
(defn timer-component []  
  (let [seconds-elapsed (r/atom 0)]  
    (fn []  
      (js/setTimeout #(swap! seconds-elapsed inc)  
                       1000)  
      [:div  
       "Seconds Elapsed: " @seconds-elapsed])))
```

- ▶ Only initializes when needed
- ▶ Isolated to the component
- ▶ Can share as needed
- ▶ Tight re-draw loop

Sharing state

```
(defn atom-input [value]
  [:input {:type "text"
           :value @value
           :on-change #(reset! value
                              (-> % .-target
                                   .-value))}]])
```

```
(defn shared-state []
  (let [val (r/atom "foo")]
    (fn []
      [:div
       [:p "The value is now: " @val]
       [:p "Change it here: " [atom-input val]]]])))
```

Leaky React

```
(defn list [items]
  [:ul
    (for [item items]
      ^{:key item}
      [:li "Item " name])])
```

- ▶ Use Hiccup
- ▶ Allows modularizing with components
- ▶ Work just like function

Passing arguments gotcha

```
(defn timer-component [event]
  (let [seconds-elapsed (r/atom 0)]
    (fn [event]
      (js/setTimeout #(swap! seconds-elapsed inc)
                      1000)

      [:div
       "Seconds Elapsed since "
       event ": "
       @seconds-elapsed])))
```

- ▶ Required in both functions
- ▶ Breaks initial render if missing at top level
- ▶ Breaks subsequent renders if missing in return

Lazy isn't always good

```
(defn list []  
  [:ul  
    (doall  
      (for [i (range 1 4)]  
        [:li i]))))
```

- ▶ Forces update
- ▶ Can cause intermittent bugs

Why re-frame?

- ▶ Data oriented
- ▶ State sharing
- ▶ Less decisions

The six domains

- ▶ Event dispatch
- ▶ Event handling
- ▶ Effect handling
- ▶ Query
- ▶ View
- ▶ DOM

Mental Model

- ▶ Events trigger **dispatchers**
- ▶ Dispatch handlers produce effect maps
- ▶ Effects modify db and external resources
- ▶ **subscribers** listen to changes on the db

Events

- ▶ User interactions
- ▶ Other events
- ▶ Time

Dispatching

```
(defn delete-button [item-id]
  [:button
   {:on-click #(re-frame.core/dispatch
                 [:delete-item item-id])}])
```

- ▶ Just a function
- ▶ Can take extra parameters
- ▶ Every dispatch type must have a handler

Handling a Dispatch

```
(defn delete-item
  [{:keys [db]} [_ item_id]]
  {:db (dissoc-in db [:items item-id])})

(rf/reg-event-fx
 :delete-item
 delete-item)
```

- ▶ Always return effect maps
- ▶ Effects get automatically triggered
- ▶ Only effects can modify state

Effect handlers

```
(rf/reg-fx  
  :db  
  (fn [val]  
    (reset! app-db val)))
```

- ▶ Performs some side effect
- ▶ Libraries can provide effects

Why?

- ▶ Easy testing
- ▶ Single point of control
- ▶ Force separation of concerns
- ▶ Your own DSL