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In my CareerChanger
course at
codingcareer.org, you'll
learn React and a
complimentary
framework, Redux.

Exercise 59

MORE ON SINGLE PAGE APPLICATIONS

In the exercise using the OMDB API, I mentioned the term, *single page applications*, or SPAs. In recent years, SPAs have overtaken the older *request-response-display* model. That model involved multiple page refreshes and caused headaches for users and developers alike. Good riddance to them.

Different front-end frameworks have been created to make building SPAs easier. Google created Angular, a former Google engineer, Evan You, created Vue, and Facebook created React. Each of them have their strengths, but it seems that React is emerging as the leader.

In this exercise, you'll get to see what an SPA *feels* like to a user. While the content is swapped in and out, and there are separate files, there are no page refreshes and the project feels more like a desktop app than an old-school website.

The action happens in `index.js`, specifically in the `selectContent` function, where I use `fetch`. We saw that previously in the OMDB exercise, but here, it's used not to make requests of a third-party, but to retrieve our own files.

But where is the `async/await` that we used in that exercise? The `fetch` function still returns a promise, but this time I'm using `.then` to deal with asynchronicity: same idea, different syntax.