Refs & Portals
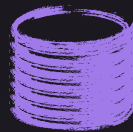
Advanced DOM Access & Value Management

▶ Accessing **DOM Elements** with **Refs**

▶ **Managing Values** with Refs

▶ **Exposing API Functions** from Components

▶ **Detaching DOM Rendering** from JSX Structure with **Portals**

State vs Refs

State

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Causes component re-evaluation (re-execution) when changed

Should be used for values that are directly reflected in the UI

Should not be used for "behind the scenes" values that have no direct UI impact

Refs

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Do not cause component re-evaluation when changed

Can be used to gain direct DOM element access (→ great for reading values or accessing certain browser APIs)

Can be used to expose API functions from your components

Should not be used for managing values that have a direct UI impact

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