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WEB 425 Angular with Typescript

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Discussion 2.1 - RouterOutlet

Our goal in creating a Single Page Application is to only load the page once in the browser. We are relying on requests to allow the user to navigate the state of the application through dynamically loading views and content within that page. Every Angular application relies on a single router to track the user’s navigation state and the URL of that associated view.

While some elements in the page may remain static, there is typically at least one content area where we will replace views depending on user actions. This area can be referred to as an outlet, and it is here that the router can change views based on context. We mark this in the page with the tag <router-outlet>.

Let’s clarify some terms concerning routing in Angular. The Router is the actual runtime object doing routing. The RouterOutlet is a placeholder within the web page which indicates where the Router should render components. Routes are the mapping of URLs to the components that can be rendered where indicated by the RouterOutlet. A RouterLink is a backup option in case HTML navigation must be used, similar to the ‘href’ property. The ActivatedRoute is an object representing the current route in use.

While each application will have only one router, it can have multiple router outlets. This allows developers to accommodate user interfaces where simultaneous views can be presented and independently have their state tracked. These groupings are referred to as sibling routes. We can account for this in our main page using multiple <router-outlet> tags, however any additional such tags beyond the first will require an additional ‘name’ attribute with a unique value. The Router will consider the first tag (without name attribute) the primary route, and all other named instances as auxiliary routes.

**Reference:**

Fain, Y., & Moiseev, A. (2016). *Angular 2 Development with TypeScript* (1st ed.). Manning Publications.