**ReactJS Tutorial Part #1: Introduction to ReactJS Basics -** [Teman Ngoding](https://temanngoding.medium.com/?source=post_page-----2a7b4736f7a6--------------------------------) Apr 26, 2022

Currently the development of JavaScript for the frontend is growing and the more libraries there are to improve the quality of the frontend the better. Currently out of many popular UI libraries, ReactJS ranks first in 2022 in terms of popularity.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

This is the era when ReactJS reigns supreme for frontend developers.

**What is ReactJS?**

ReactJS is a declarative, efficient, and flexible JavaScript library for building reusable UI components. It is an open-source component-based library that is responsible for the UI of the application. It was originally developed and maintained by Facebook and later used in its products like WhatsApp & Instagram.

Maybe you all think that ReactJS is a framework, but ReactJS is just a library for creating UI.

**History of ReactJS**

ReactJS is a JavaScript library created by Facebook, it is not an MVC framework. ReactJS is a composable user interface which means users can create various UIs and later can be divided into several components and is also a reusable component which means the components can be reused without having to rebuild from scratch, ReactJS can be used to build user interfaces specifically for the application display. in a single page that handles display on web and mobile apps.

Officially released in 2013, ReactJS was created by Jordan Walke. ReactJS has become one of the most important UI libraries in JavaScript, and has been used by Facebook, Instagram, Netflix, Spotify, Medium to Twitter. React has changed the way you build UI interfaces, most people call ReactJS a framework. Technically, ReactJS is not a framework but a library that is used to create UI.

Jordan Walke is an employee of Facebook, the ReactJS prototype that he first released was Fax JS which was inspired by XHP. Facebook realizes that their web application is increasingly complex, there are many parts that must be continuously updated such as the news feed, chat list, chat box, and others in real time. To fulfill this, it is not possible to use traditional jQuery because it will cost a lot in the future. Manipulating DOM requires large resources, so ReactJS is here to provide a solution in the form of Virtual DOM which they think is faster.

**Why use ReactJS?**

The main goal of ReactJS is to develop a User Interface (UI) that increases application speed. It uses a virtual DOM (JavaScript object), which improves application performance. The JavaScript virtual DOM is faster than the regular DOM. We can use ReactJS on client and server side as well as with other frameworks. It uses components and data patterns that improve readability and help maintain larger applications.

The DOM is an object that is created by the browser every time a web page is loaded. It dynamically adds or removes data on the back end and when any modification is made, then every time a new DOM is created for the same page. This repeated creation of the DOM creates unnecessary waste of memory and reduces application performance.

Therefore, a new technology React JS framework was created which eliminates this drawback. ReactJS allows you to split your entire application into various components. ReactJS still uses the same traditional data streams, but doesn’t operate on the browser’s Document Object Model (DOM) directly; instead, it operates on a virtual DOM.

That is, instead of manipulating the document in the browser after changes to our data, it completes changes to the DOM that are made and executes completely in memory. After the virtual DOM is updated, React determines what changes are made to the actual browser DOM. The React Virtual DOM exists entirely in memory and is a representation of the web browser’s DOM. Therefore, when we write React components, we don’t write directly to the DOM; instead, we write virtual components that react to turn into the DOM.

**Getting Started to Learn ReactJS**

Some of the tools that all of you should prepare to learn ReactJS:

Web Browser  
Text Editor (VS Code recommended)  
Nodejs and NPM

For the Node JS and NPM installation process, all of you can learn on the official npm website.

<https://docs.npmjs.com/downloading-and-installing-node-js-and-npm>