

slides at https://github.com/mvolkmann/talks

R. Mark Volkmann

Object Computing, Inc.

http://objectcomputing.com Email: mark@objectcomputing.com

Twitter: @mark_volkmann GitHub: mvolkmann



What Is Svelte?

- Alternative to web frameworks like React, Vue, and Angular
- A web application compiler, not a runtime library
 - compiles .svelte files to a single JavaScript file
 - no Svelte runtime dependencies, only devDependencies
- Doesn't use a virtual DOM
- Developed by Rich Harris
 - formerly at "The Guardian"; currently at "The New York Times"
 - previously created Ractive web framework https://ractive.js.org/
 - used at "The Guardian"
 - inspired parts of Vue
 - created Rollup module bundler https://rollupjs.org/
 - alternative to Webpack and Parcel

What is SvelteKit?

- Framework on top of Svelte that replaces Sapper
- Like Next for React or Nuxt for Vue
- Features
 - file-based page routing
 - file-based endpoints (REST services)
 - layouts
 - ex. common page header, footer, and nav
 - error page
 - code splitting for JS and CSS
 - page visits only load the JS and CSS they need
 - hot module reloading (HMR)
 - provided by Vite; very fast!
 - static pages and sites

- setup of TypeScript
- setup of Sass or Less CSS preprocessors
- setup of ESLint
- setup of Prettier
- adapters for deployment targets
 - currently node, static, begin, netlify, and vercel
 - to change, modify svelte.config.cjs

Important files and directories:

src/app.html - starting HTML file
src/routes - holds page components and endpoints
src/lib - holds other components and functions
build - holds files generated by npm run build

Config files:

.eslintrc.cjs
.prettierignore
.prettierrc
jsconfig.json
package.json
svelte.config.cjs

Creating a SvelteKit Project

- Install Node.js
- npm init svelte@next [project-name]
 - omit project-name to create in current directory
 - asks these questions
 - Use TypeScript in components? defaults to no
 - What do you want to use for writing Styles in Svelte components? CSS (default), Less, or SCSS
 - Add ESLint for code listing? defaults to no
 - Add Prettier for code formatting? defaults to no
 - outputs instructions for next steps
- cd project-name
- npm install

```
localStorage,
                                                            and window
                                          additions
                                                    .eslintrc.cis
                                            env: {
                                              browser: true,
                                                               for Promise
                                               es6: true,
                                              node: true
                                                               for console
sets useTabs to true and printWidth to 100
                                            },
                                  my preferred settings
                   .prettierrc
   "arrowParens": "avoid",
                                .prettierianore
   "bracketSpacing": false,
   "printWidth": 80,
                                              add this
                                build/**
   "singleQuote": true,
   "trailingComma": "none",
                                  .eslintignore
                                                    create this file
   "useTabs": false
                                build/
```

for document,

Running a SvelteKit Project

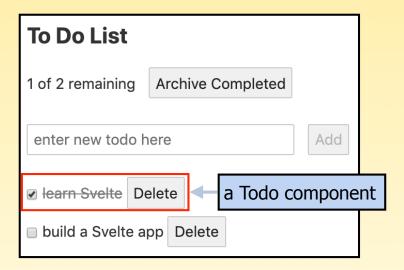
5

- npm run dev to run in development mode
 - provides watch and live reload
 - options go after --
 - to open in default browser add --open or -o
 - to specify port add --port # or -p # (defaults to 3000)
- npm build to build for deployment
 - creates files in build directory that should be deployed
- npm run lint to run ESLint
- npm run format to run Prettier

An Example

- Since you are all experienced web developers, let's look at an example app so you can compare the look of the code to your current favorite web framework
- On to the classic ... todo app!
- Code at
 - https://github.com/mvolkmann/sveltekit-todo
 - https://github.com/mvolkmann/sveltekit-todo-w-endpoints

Todo App ...



... Todo App ...

```
src/lib/Todo.svelte
  <script>
    import {createEventDispatcher} from 'svelte';
    import {fade} from 'svelte/transition';
    const dispatch = createEventDispatcher();
    export let todo; // the only prop
                                        export makes it a prop
  </script>
  <input</pre>
       type="checkbox"
11
       checked={todo.done}
                                                   interpolation
12
       on:change={() => dispatch('toggleDone')}
13
    />
    <span class={'done-' + todo.done}>{todo.text}</span>
14
    <button on:click={() => dispatch('delete')}>Delete
15
16 
17
18 <style>
                                       What is the name of this component?
19
     .done-true {
                                       Can't tell.
       color: gray;
20
                                       Names are assigned when other
21
       text-decoration: line-through;
                                       components import this one.
22
23
    li {
      margin-top: 5px;
24
25
26 </style>
```

8

script and style sections are optional

... Todo App ...

```
<script>
                                                            src/routes/index.svelte
     import Todo from '../lib/Todo.svelte';
 3
 4
     let lastId = 0;
     const createTodo = (text, done = false) => ({id: ++lastId, text, done});
 6
     let todoText = '';
                                             Top-level variables ARE the
     let todos = [
                                             component state if used in HTML!
 9
       createTodo('learn Svelte', true),
                                            When state changes, only the
10
       createTodo('build a Svelte app')
                                            relevant part of DOM are updated.
11
     ];
12
                                                                            reactive
13
     $: uncompletedCount = todos.filter(t => !t.done).length;
14
     $: status = `${uncompletedCount} of ${todos.length} remaining`;
                                                                            declarations
15
16
     function addTodo() {
                                                        No methods,
                                                                      Not really archiving in this
17
       todos = todos.concat(createTodo(todoText));
                                                       liust functions.
                                                                      simple implementation,
       todoText = '';
18
19
     }
                                                                      just deleting.
20
21
     const archiveCompleted = () => todos = todos.filter(t => !t.done);
22
23
     const deleteTodo = todoId => todos = todos.filter(t => t.id !== todoId);
24
25
     function toggleDone(todo) {
26
       const {id} = todo;
27
       todos = todos.map(t => t.id === id ? \{...t, done: !t.done\} : t);
28
             No this anywhere,
29 </script>
              just plain functions!
```

... Todo App

```
<div>
                                                   src/routes/index.svelte
     <h2>To Do List</h2>
     <div>
 3
       {status}
       <button on:click={archiveCompleted}>Archive Completed</button>
     </div>
     <form on:submit|preventDefault> | not doing anything on submit
       <input
         type="text"
                                               binds value of form element to a variable:
 9
         size="30"
10
                                               simulates two-way data binding;
         autofocus
11
                                               provides current value and
         placeholder="enter new todo here"
12
                                               event handling for updating variable
         bind:value={todoText} 
13
                                               when user changes value
14
       <button disabled={!todoText} on:click={addTodo}>
15
         Add
16
       </button>
17
     </form>
18
     <u1>
19
       {#each todos as todo} | Mustache-style markup
20
         <Todo
21
22
            {todo}
           on:delete={() => deleteTodo(todo.id)}
23
           on:toggleDone={() => toggleDone(todo)}
24
25
       {/each}
26
     27
   </div>
```

... Todo App ...

```
<style>
                                src/routes/index.svelte
     button {
       margin-left: 10px;
     }
 5
     h2 {
       margin-top: 0;
 8
 9
     /* This removes bullets from a bulleted list. */
10
11
     ul {
12
       list-style: none;
       margin-left: 0;
13
       padding-left: 0;
14
15
     }
16 </style>
```

Logic in Markup

Three approaches for conditional and iteration logic

React

 uses JSX where logic is implemented with JavaScript code in curly braces

Angular and Vue

- support framework-specific attributes for logic
- ex. ngIf, ngFor, v-if, v-for, ...

Svelte

- supports mustache-like custom syntax that wraps elements
- ex. {#if} and {#each}
- can wrap multiple elements without introducing a new, common parent

```
Why does it make sense to specify
conditional and iteration logic
INSIDE elements using attributes?

Imagine if you could do that
with JavaScript functions.

doSomething(
   arg1,
   arg2,
   if (arg1 > 10),
   for (arg1 in someCollection));

Isn't that weird?
```

Top Svelte Features

- It's fast!
 - see https://krausest.github.io/js-framework-benchmark/current.html
 - can select frameworks to compare
- Small bundle sizes
- File-based component definitions
- CSS scoped by default
- Clear place to put global CSS
- Easy component state management (reactivity)
- Reactive statements (\$:)
- Two-way data bindings
- Built-in animations
- Easy app state management (stores) We haven't seen this yet.

Small Bundle Sizes

- Delivered code is much smaller, so loads faster in browsers
- Create production build with npm run build
- A RealWorld Comparison of Front-End Frameworks with Benchmarks
 - https://medium.com/dailyjs/a-realworld-comparison-of-front-end-frameworks-2020-4e50655fe4c1

Gzipped App Size in KBs

Lines of Code

Angular+ngrx: 694

React+Redux: 193

Vue: 71

Svelte: 15

Angular+ngrx: 4210 React+Redux: 2050

Vue: 2076

Svelte: 1057

File-based Component Defs

- Angular uses classes
- React uses functions or classes
- Vue uses object literals
- Svelte doesn't use any JavaScript container
 - JavaScript, CSS, and HTML in source files are combined to form the component definition which automatically becomes the default export
 - name is associated when imported and <u>must start uppercase</u>
 - lowercase names are reserved
 - for predefined elements like those in HTML and SVG

CSS

Scoped by default

- CSS specified in a component style element is automatically scoped to the component
- achieved by adding the same generated CSS class name, svelte-hash,
 to each rendered element of the component affected by these CSS rules

Clear place for global CSS

- in Svelte see public/global.css; linked by public/index.html
- in SvelteKit see src/app.css; imported by src/routes/\$layout.svelte

Easy Component State Mgmt.

("reactivity")

- Changes to <u>top-level variables</u> referenced in interpolations automatically cause those interpolations to be reevaluated
- Example

```
<script>
  let count = 0;
  const increment = () => count++;
</script>

<div>count = {count}</div>
<button on:click={increment}>+</button>
```

- Must assign a new value to trigger
 - pushing new elements onto an array doesn't do this

```
myArr = myArr.concat(newValue);
works

myArr = [...myArr, newValue];

// Alternative trick
myArr.push(newValue);
myArr = myArr;
works
```

Reactive Statements

```
a.k.a. "destiny operator"
```

\$: is a "labeled statement" with label name "\$" that Svelte treats as a "reactive statement"

Labeled statements can be used as targets of break and continue statements. It is not an error in JavaScript to use same label more than once in same scope.

- Add as a prefix on <u>top-level statements</u> that should be repeated whenever any referenced variables change
- Examples

like "computed properties" in Vue

great for debugging

When applied to an assignment to an undeclared variable it is called a "reactive declaration" and the let keyword is not allowed.

Can apply to a block

```
$: {
   // statements to repeat go here
}
```

Can apply to multiline statements like if statements

```
$: if (someCondition) {
   // body statements
}
re-evaluates condition if
any variables it references change,
and executes body only when true
```

Loan Example

```
<script>
    let interestRate = 3;
    let loanAmount = 200000;
    let years = 30;
    const MONTHS PER YEAR = 12;
    $: months = years * MONTHS PER YEAR;
    $: monthlyInterestRate = interestRate / 100 / MONTHS PER YEAR;
    $: numerator = loanAmount * monthlyInterestRate;
    $: denominator = 1 - (1 + monthlyInterestRate) ** -months;
11
    $: payment =
12
        !loanAmount || !months ? 0 :
13
        interestRate ? numerator / denominator :
14
        loanAmount / months; // no interest
15 </script>
16
17 < label for="loan">Loan Amount</label>
18 < input id="loan" type="number" bind:value={loanAmount} />
19
20 < label for="interest">Interest Rate</label>
21 <input id="interest" type="number" bind:value={interestRate} />
22
23 < label for="years">Years</label>
24 <input id="years" type="number" bind:value={years} />
25
26 < div>
    Monthly Payment: ${payment.toFixed(2)}
28 </div>
```

Easy App State Mgmt.

- "Stores" hold application state outside any component
- Alternative to using props or "context" to make data available in components
- Where to define?
 - for stores that should be <u>available to any component</u>, define and export them in a file like <code>src/stores.js</code> and import them from that file wherever needed
 - for stores that should only be <u>available to descendants of a given component</u>, define them in that component and pass them to descendants using props or context

Kinds of Stores

Writable

- only kind that can be modified by components
- methods
 - set (newValue)
 - update(currentValue => newValue) | calculates new value from current value

Readable

- handle computing their data, perhaps from a REST call
- components cannot modify

Derived

derive data from current values of other stores

Custom

- must implement subscribe method
- can provide custom methods to update state and not expose set and update methods

Defining Writable Stores

```
stores.js
import {writable} from 'svelte/store';
export const dogStore = writable([]);
initial value
```

```
export const fancyStore = writable(
   initialValue,
   async set => {

      // Called when subscriber count goes from 0 to 1.
      // Compute initial value and pass to set function.
      const res = await fetch('/some/url');
      const data = await res.json();
      set(data);

    return () => {
            // Place cleanup code here.
            // Called when subscriber count goes to 0.
      }
    }
}
```

Using Stores

- Option #1 subscribe method very verbose
- Option #2 \$ auto-subscription shorthand much better
 - variables whose names begin with \$ must be stores
 - automatically subscribes when first used and unsubscribes when removed from DOM

Issues to Consider

Popularity

- perhaps Svelte is now considered the#4 most popular approach for building web apps
- isn't yet easy to find developers that already know it
- but it's very easy to learn and there is less to learn than other approaches

Component libraries

- fewer available than for other frameworks, but perhaps enough for your app
- just a matter of time for more to arrive

Cannot generate HTML in functions

encourages creating additional .svelte files in cases
 where React would use functions that return JSX

Related Tools

- Svelte VS Code extension
- SvelteKit https://kit.svelte.dev
 - "a framework for building web applications of all sizes,
 with a beautiful development experience and flexible filesystem-based routing"
 - provides routing, server-side rendering, code splitting, and building static sites
 - uses Vite "Next Generation Frontend Tooling" which provides "instant server start", "lightning fast HMR", and "optimized builds"
- Svelte Testing Library
 - https://testing-library.com/docs/svelte-testing-library/intro/
- Storybook with Svelte
 - https://storybook.js.org/docs/svelte/get-started/introduction
 - https://mvolkmann.github.io/blog/topics/#/blog/svelte/storybook/
- Svelte Native https://svelte-native.technology/
 - for implementing native mobile apps
 - builds on top of NativeScript
 - community-driven project

Topics Not Covered Here

but covered in my book

- Two-way data bindings
 - more options than shown here
- Easy animations built-in
- Inserting HTML
- Slots
 - for passing child elements to a component
- Event details
 - handling, modifiers, dispatching
- Lifecycle functions
 - onMount, beforeUpdate,
 afterUpdate, and onDestroy
- Actions
 - register a function to be called when a specific element is added to DOM
 - ex. moving focus

- Routing
 - use SvelteKit file-based routing or page on npm
- Module Context
 - to run JavaScript code in a component source file only once instead of once for each component instance created
- Special Elements
 - <svelte:name ...>
- Debugging with {@debug}
 - debugger breaks on state changes
- Unit tests
 - with Jest and Svelte Testing Library
- End-to-end tests
 - with Cypress
- Compiling to custom elements
 - can be used with any framework

Svelte Resources

- "Rethinking Reactivity" talk by Rich Harris
 - delivered multiple times, most recently at "Shift Conference" June 20, 2019
 - explains issues with using virtual DOM (like React and Vue) and motivation for Svelte
- Home page https://svelte.dev
 - contains **Tutorial**, **API Docs**, **Examples**, online **REPL**, **Blog**, and **Sapper** link
 - REPL is great for trying small amounts of Svelte code
 - REPL can save for sharing and submitting issues

predecessor to SvelteKit

- **SvelteKit** https://kit.svelte.dev
- GitHub https://github.com/sveltejs/svelte
- Svelte Community https://github.com/sveltejs/community
 - "contains data for Svelte meetups, packages, resources, recipes, and showcase websites"
- Discord chat room https://discordapp.com/invite/yy75DKs

Conclusion

- Svelte is a worthy alternative to React, Vue, and Angular
- Check out my book
 - https://www.manning.com/books/svelte-and-sapper-in-action

