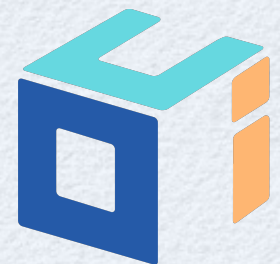




# Svelte

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

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# What Is It?

- Alternative to web frameworks like React, Vue, and Angular
- A web application **compiler**, not a runtime library
  - implemented in TypeScript
  - 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



# 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!

# Todo App ...

code and tests at  
<https://github.com/mvolkmann/svelte-todo>

**To Do List**

1 of 2 remaining Archive Completed

Add

☒ learn Svelte Delete

☐ build a Svelte app Delete

← a Todo component

```
src/main.js
import ToDoList from './ToDoList.svelte';
const app = new ToDoList({target: document.body});
export default app;
```



# ... Todo App ...

script and  
style sections  
are optional

```
<script>
  import {createEventDispatcher} from 'svelte';
  const dispatch = createEventDispatcher();
  export let todo; // the only prop
</script>

<style>
  .done-true {
    color: gray;
    text-decoration: line-through;
  }
  li {
    margin-top: 5px;
  }
</style>

<li>
  <input
    type="checkbox"
    checked={todo.done}
    on:change={ () => dispatch('toggleDone') }
  />
  <span class={'done-' + todo.done}>{todo.text}</span>
  <button on:click={ () => dispatch('delete') }>Delete</button>
</li>
```

src/Todo.svelte

export makes it a prop

What is the name of this component?  
Can't tell.  
Names are assigned when other  
components import this one.

interpolation

# ... Todo App ...

```
<script>
  import Todo from './Todo.svelte';

  let lastId = 0;
  const createTodo = (text, done = false) => ({id: ++lastId, text, done});

  let todoText = '';
  let todos = [
    createTodo('learn Svelte', true),
    createTodo('build a Svelte app')
  ];

  $: uncompletedCount = todos.filter(t => !t.done).length;
  $: status = `${uncompletedCount} of ${todos.length} remaining`;

  function addTodo() {
    todos = todos.concat(createTodo(todoText));
    todoText = '';
  }

  const archiveCompleted = () => todos = todos.filter(t => !t.done);

  const deleteTodo = todoId => todos = todos.filter(t => t.id !== todoId);

  function toggleDone(todo) {
    const {id} = todo;
    todos = todos.map(t => t.id === id ? {...t, done: !t.done} : t);
  }
</script>
```

src/TodoList.svelte

Top-level variables ARE  
the component state!

reactive  
declarations

No methods,  
just functions.

Not really archiving in this  
simple implementation,  
just deleting.



# ... Todo App ...

```
<style>                                     src/ToDoList.svelte
  button {
    margin-left: 10px;
  }

  /* This removes bullets from a bulleted list. */
  ul.unstyled {
    list-style: none;
    margin-left: 0;
    padding-left: 0;
  }
</style>
```

# ... Todo App

```
<div>
  <h2>To Do List</h2>
  <div>
    {status}
    <button on:click={archiveCompleted}>Archive Completed</button>
  </div>
  <form on:submit|preventDefault>
    <input
      type="text"
      size="30"
      autofocus
      placeholder="enter new todo here"
      bind:value={todoText}
    />
    <button disabled={!todoText} on:click={addTodo}>
      Add
    </button>
  </form>
  <ul class="unstyled">
    {#each todos as todo}
      <Todo
        todo={todo}
        on:delete={ () => deleteTodo(todo.id) }
        on:toggleDone={ () => toggleDone(todo) }
      />
    {/each}
  </ul>
</div>
```

src/TodoList.svelte

not doing anything on submit

binds value of form element to a variable;  
simulates two-way data binding;  
provides current value and  
event handling for updating variable  
when user changes value

Mustache-style markup

passing a prop; can be any JavaScript expression



# Logic in Markup

- Three approaches for conditional and iteration logic

- **React**

- uses JSX where logic is implemented by 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?

# Markup `if` Statement

- Begin with `{#if condition}`
  - starting with `#` indicates a block opening tag
- Can use `{:else if condition}` and `{:else}`
  - starting with `:` indicates a block continuation tag
- End with `{/if}`
  - starting with `/` indicates a block ending tag
- Include markup to be conditionally rendered
- Example

```
{#if color === 'yellow'}  
  <div>Nice color!</div>  
{:else if color === 'orange'}  
  <div>That's okay too.</div>  
{:else}  
  <div>Questionable choice.</div>  
{/if}
```



# Markup each Statement

- Begin with `{#each iterable as element}`
  - include markup to be rendered for each element
- Optional `{:else}`
  - renders when iterable is empty
- End with `{/each}`

- Examples

```
{#each colors as color}
  <div style='color: {color}'>{color}</div>
{/each}
```

```
red
green
blue
```

```
{#each colors as color, index}
  <div>{index + 1}) {color}</div>
{/each}
```

```
1) red
2) green
3) blue
```

```
{#each people as {name, age}}
  <div>{name} is {age} years old.</div>
{:else}
  <div>There are no people.</div>
{/each}
```

can use destructuring  
when elements are objects

# Promises in Markup

- Can wait for promises to resolve or reject in markup and render different markup for each and while pending a bit like React Suspense
- Examples
  - assuming `getData` function returns a `Promise`

```
{#await getData()}  
  <div>Waiting for data ...</div>  
{:then result}  
  <div>result = {result}</div>  
{:catch error}  
  <div class="error">Error: {error.message}</div>  
{/await}
```

can use any name for variables  
after `:then` and `:catch`

```
{#await getData() then result}  
  <div>result = {result}</div>  
{:catch error}  
  <div class="error">Error: {error.message}</div>  
{/await}
```

can omit block to render while  
waiting for resolve or reject

can omit `catch` block



# Top Svelte Features

- Small bundle sizes
- File-based component definitions
- CSS scoped by default
- Clear place to put global CSS
- Easy component state management (reactivity)
- Easy app state management (stores)
- Easy way to pass data from components to descendant components (context)
- Reactive declarations
- Two-way data bindings
- Easy animations built-in
- Runtime warnings for accessibility issues

missing an `alt` attribute on an `img` element

# Small Bundle Sizes

- Delivered code is much smaller, so loads faster in browsers
- Uses Rollup by default for module bundling, but can also use Webpack or Parcel
- Create production build with `npm run build`
- <https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/a-realworld-comparison-of-front-end-frameworks-with-benchmarks-2019-update-4be0d3c78075/>
  - gzipped app size in KBs

**Angular+ngrx: 134**  
**React+Redux: 193**  
**Vue: 41.8**  
**Svelte: 9.7**



# Does It Disappear?

- Some say Svelte disappears once an app is built
- The Svelte library is mostly defined by `.js` files in `node_modules/svelte`
  - main functions are defined in `internal.js` which is currently ~1400 line of code
  - other library files used for specific features
    - `easing.js`, `motion.js`, `register.js`, `store.js`, `transition.js`
- `npm run build` produces files in `public` directory
  - including `bundle.js`
- Svelte library functions that are used by the app are copied to the top of `bundle.js`
  - in the case of the Todo app shown earlier, this is ~500 lines of code
- So Svelte doesn't disappear, it is just very small



# 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 must start uppercase
    - can't tell from looking at source file what names might be used
  - lowercase names are reserved
    - for predefined elements like those in HTML and SVG



# CSS

- Scoped by default
  - CSS specified in a component `style` tag 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
  - CSS rules for component only apply to elements with this class name
- Clear place for global CSS
  - `public/global.css`
- svelte3 ESLint plugin warns about unused CSS selectors
  - see <https://github.com/sveltejs/eslint-plugin-svelte3>

# Easy Component State Mgmt.

("reactivity")

- Changes to top-level variables 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];
```


works

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

works



# 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 available to any component, define and export them in a file like `src/stores.js` and import them from that file wherever needed
  - for stores that should only be available to descendants of a given component, 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
- **Readable**
  - handle computing their data
  - components cannot modify
- **Derived**
  - derive data from current values of other stores



# 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 subscribe 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 () => {  
      // Called when subscriber count goes to 0.  
    }  
  }  
);
```

using optional  
second argument

error handling omitted

can calculate new value from current with  
`update(currentValue => newValue)`

# 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

```
<script>
  import {onDestroy} from 'svelte';
  import {dogStore} from './stores.js';
  let dogs;
  const unsubscribe = dogStore.subscribe(value => dogs = value);
  onDestroy(unsubscribe);
</script>
```

uses **subscribe** method

```
<!-- Use dogs in HTML. -->
```

```
<script>
  import {dogStore} from './stores.js';
</script>
```

uses auto-subscription

```
<!-- Use $dogStore in HTML. -->
```



# Easy Passing Data to Descendants

- Use “context”
- Alternative to props and stores for making data available in descendant components

```
import {getContext, setContext} from 'svelte';
```

- Ancestor components set context associated with the component

```
setContext(key, value);
```

- must be called during component initialization
- Descendant components get context from closest ancestor that has context with given key

```
const value = getContext(key);
```

- must be called during component initialization

# More on Context

- Keys can be any kind of value, not just strings
- Values can be any kind of value including functions and objects with methods
- Context is not reactive!
  - descendant components are not re-rendered when context they use is changed in an ancestor component
  - use stores if reactivity is needed



# Context Example

**A.svelte**

```
<script>
  import {setContext} from 'svelte';
  import B from './B.svelte';
  setContext('favorites', {color: 'yellow', number: 19});
</script>

<div>
  This is in A.
  <B />
</div>
```

## Output

```
This is in A.
This is in B.
This is in C.
favorite color is yellow
favorite number is 19
```

**B.svelte**

```
<script>
  import C from './C.svelte';
</script>

<div>
  This is in B.
  <C />
</div>
```

**C.svelte**

```
<script>
  import {getContext} from 'svelte';
  const {color, number} = getContext('favorites');
</script>

<div>
  This is in C.
  <div>favorite color is {color}</div>
  <div>favorite number is {number}</div>
</div>
```

# Reactive Declarations

- `$:` is a “labeled statement” with label name “`$`” that Svelte treats as a “reactive declaration”

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 top-level statements that should be repeated whenever any referenced variables change
- Examples

```
$: average = total / count;  
$: console.log('count =', count);
```

like “computed properties” in Vue

great for debugging

when applied to an assignment to an undeclared variable 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  
}
```

executes if any variables referenced in condition or body change, but of course the body only executes when condition is true



# Two-way Data Bindings

- Form elements can be bound to a variable
- Simulates two-way data binding
- Provides current value and event handling for updating variable when user changes value

# Binding Example ...

Name

Happy? ☒

Favorite Flavors ☒ vanilla ☐ chocolate ☒ strawberry

Favorite Season ☒ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ Fall ☐ Winter

Favorite Color

Life Story

Mark likes yellow, Spring, and is happy.  
Mark's favorite flavors are vanilla, strawberry.  
Story: Once upon a time ...

```
<script>
  const colors = ['red', 'orange', 'yellow', 'green', 'blue', 'purple'];
  const flavors = ['vanilla', 'chocolate', 'strawberry'];
  const seasons = ['Spring', 'Summer', 'Fall', 'Winter']
  let favoriteColor = '';
  let favoriteFlavors = [];
  let favoriteSeason = '';
  let happy = true;
  let name = '';
  let story = '';
</script>
```

these variables  
are bound to  
form elements on  
next two slides



# ... Binding Example ...

```
<div class="form">
  <div>
    <label>Name</label>
    <input type="text" bind:value={name} />
  </div>
  <div>
    <label>Happy?</label>
    <input type="checkbox" bind:checked={happy} />
  </div>
  <div>
    <label>Favorite Flavors</label>
    {#each flavors as flavor}
      <label>
        <input type="checkbox" value={flavor} bind:group={favoriteFlavors} />
        {flavor}
      </label>
    {/each}
  </div>
```

for checkboxes, bind to  
**checked** property  
rather than **value**

using **bind:group** with a set  
of related checkboxes makes  
the value an array of strings

# ... Binding Example

```
<div>
  <label>Favorite Season</label>
  {#each seasons as season}
    <label>
      <input type="radio" value={season} bind:group={favoriteSeason} />
      {season}
    </label>
  {/each}
</div>
<div>
  <label>Favorite Color</label>
  <select bind:value={favoriteColor}>
    <option />
    {#each colors as color}
      <option>{color}</option>
    {/each}
  </select>
</div>
<div>
  <label>Life Story</label>
  <textarea bind:value={story} />
</div>
```

using `bind:group` with a set of related radio buttons makes the value a single string

to change a select to a scrollable list that allows selecting multiple options add `multiple` attribute; makes the value an array of selected values



# Easy Animations Built-in

- **svelte/animate** provides
  - **flip**
- **svelte/motion** provides
  - **spring**
  - **tweened**
- **svelte/transition** provides
  - **crossfade**
  - **draw** - for SVG elements
  - **fade**
  - **fly** - set **x** and/or **y**
  - **scale**
  - **slide**
- Also see **svelte/easing**

basic example

```
<script>
  import {fade} from 'svelte/transition';
  ...
</script>

<li transition:fade>
  <!-- some content -->
</li>
```

this fades in when mounted  
and fades out when destroyed

# Outstanding Issues

- TypeScript support
  - it's coming, but not ready yet
  - <https://github.com/sveltejs/svelte/issues/1639>
- Popularity
  - perhaps Svelte will soon be considered the #4 most popular approach for building web apps
  - isn't easy to find developers that already know it
  - but it's very easy to learn and there is less to learn than other approaches



# Creating a Project

- Install Node.js from <https://nodejs.org>
  - installs **node**, **npm**, and **npm** commands
- Approach #1
  - **npm degit sveltejs/template app-name**
  - **degit** is useful for project scaffolding
- Approach #2
  - browse <https://svelte.dev/repl>
  - click download button
  - unzip downloaded zip file
  - demo this!

**degit** was created by Rich Harris.  
It downloads a git repo,  
by default the master branch.  
In this case **sveltejs** is the user name  
and **template** is the repo.  
The second argument is the  
name of the directory to create.

# Installing and Running

- `cd app-name`
- `npm install`
- `npm run dev`
  - provides live reload, unlike `npm run start`
  - syntax errors are reported in window where this is running, not in browser because it doesn't produce a new version of the app if there are errors
- Browse `localhost:5000`
- Just renders "Hello world!"



# Topics Not Covered Here

but covered at <https://objectcomputing.com/resources/publications/sett/july-2019-web-dev-simplified-with-svelte>

- Inserting HTML
- Slots
  - for passing child elements to a component
- Event details
  - handling, modifiers, dispatching
- Lifecycle functions
  - `onMount`, `beforeUpdate`, `afterUpdate`, `onDestroy`
- Actions
  - register a function to be called when a specific element is added to DOM
- 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}`
- Unit tests
  - with Jest and Svelte Testing Library
- End-to-end tests
  - with Cypress
- Compiling to custom elements
  - can be used with any framework



# Related Tools

- **"Svelte" VS Code extension**
  - provides syntax highlighting and intellisense
- **Sapper** - <https://sapper.svelte.dev/>
  - "application framework powered by Svelte"
  - name may be a contraction of "Svelte" and "Application"
  - similar to Next and Gatsby
  - provides routing, server-side rendering, and code splitting
- **Svelte Native** - <https://svelte-native.technology/>
  - for implementing native mobile apps
  - based on nativescript-vue
  - community-driven project
- **Svelte Testing Library** - <https://testing-library.com/docs/svelte-testing-library/intro>
- **Storybook** with Svelte - <https://storybook.js.org/docs/guides/guide-svelte/>



# Svelte Resources

- **“Rethinking reactivity”** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdNJ3fydeao>
  - talk by **Rich Harris** at “You Gotta Love Frontend (YGLF) Code Camp 2019”
- **Home page** - <https://svelte.dev>
- **Tutorial** - <https://svelte.dev/tutorial>
- **API Docs** - <https://svelte.dev/docs>
- **Examples** - <https://svelte.dev/examples>
- **Online REPL** - <https://svelte.dev/repl>
  - great for trying small amounts of Svelte code; can save for sharing and submitting issues
- **Blog** - <https://svelte.dev/blog>
- **Discord chat room** - <https://discordapp.com/invite/yy75DKs>
- **GitHub** - <https://github.com/sveltejs/svelte>



# Conclusion

- Svelte is a worthy alternative to the current popular options of React, Vue, and Angular
- For more, see my long article
  - <https://objectcomputing.com/resources/publications/sett/july-2019-web-dev-simplified-with-svelte>