



WEBINAR

# React Native Cross-Platform Components

[mark@objectcomputing.com](mailto:mark@objectcomputing.com)

© 2019, Object Computing, Inc. (OCI). All rights reserved. No part of these notes may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior, written permission of Object Computing, Inc. (OCI)

[objectcomputing.com](https://objectcomputing.com)

# PROVIDED CROSS-PLATFORM COMPONENTS

documented at <https://facebook.github.io/react-native/docs/components-and-apis>



- Containers

- **View, ScrollView, FlatList, SectionList, VirtualizedList**

- Output

- **Text, Image, ImageBackground**

**Image** cannot have children.  
**ImageBackground** can!

- Input

- **Button, Picker, Slider, Switch, TextInput, TouchableHighlight, TouchableOpacity**

**Picker** is like an HTML **select**.  
**Slider** is like an HTML **input** with type **range**.  
**Switch** is like an HTML **input** with type **checkbox**.  
**TextInput** is like an HTML **input** with type **text**.

**View** and **ScrollView** automatically use flexbox for layout where **flexDirection** defaults to "column".

# REACT NATIVE ELEMENTS

---



- Collection of cross-platform React Native components that supplement provided components
- <https://react-native-training.github.io/react-native-elements/>
- **Avatar, Badge, Button, ButtonGroup, Card, CheckBox, Divider, Header, Icon, Image, Input, ListItem, Overlay, Pricing, Rating, SearchBar, Slider, SocialIcon, Text, Tile, Tooltip**



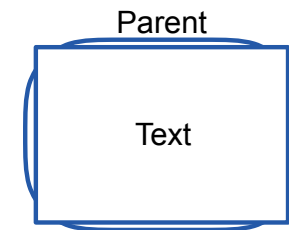
# NOTES ON TEXT

---



- **Text** component

- inherits **backgroundColor** style prop of parent
- **color** style property defaults to '**black**'
- can span multiple lines using { '**\n**' }
- can spill outside parent if parent has non-zero **borderRadius** and **Text** has no **margin** or its **backgroundColor** is not **transparent**



# NOTES ON IMAGE



- Example

```
<Image
  style={styles.logo}
  source={require('../assets/something.png')}
/>
```

- **require** function must be passed a string literal, not a variable
- Supports many more props
  - including **defaultSource**, **loadingIndicatorSource**, and **resizeMode** (values are **center**, **contain** (default), **cover**, **repeat**, and **stretch**)





## ScrollView

---



- When height is less than content height, content can be scrolled
- When content includes **TextInput** components, add **ScrollView** prop **keyboardShouldPersistTaps="handled"**
- Allows taps on components outside the **ScrollView** while on-screen keyboard is displayed



## FlatList ...

---



- More efficient than **ScrollView** for rendering of long lists of components
  - $\geq 30$
- Can be vertical (default) or horizontal
- Can have multiple columns
- Built on **VirtualizedList**



## ... FlatList

---

- Props are Add more from section 12.4 in book?
  - **data** - an array of objects that hold data for each list item
  - **keyExtractor** - function that takes an object and returns a key
  - **renderItem** - function that takes an object and its index and returns JSX
  - plus all props supported by **ScrollView** and **VirtualizedList**



## FlatList EXAMPLE

---



- Add this!

## SectionList

---



- Similar to FlatList, but displays a list of items broken into sections
- Built on **VirtualizedList**



## SectionList EXAMPLE

---



- Add this!

## KINDS OF BUTTONS

- **Button** “supports a minimal level of customization”

- no **style** prop is supported and only **color** can be set
- most apps do not use this

These buttons are not meant to have a border or background color. To add those wrap in a **View** that has the styling.

- **Touchable\*** components display feedback when tapped

- content is specified with a single child element like **Text** or **Image**
- to style add **style** prop to child
- **TouchableHighlight** darkens background when pressed
- **TouchableOpacity** reduces opacity when pressed so background is partially displayed

such as **backgroundColor**, **underlayColor** (for **TouchableOpacity**), **color**, **padding**, and **borderRadius**

## MORE PROVIDED CROSS-PLATFORM COMPONENTS



- **ActivityIndicator**

- loading indicator

- **KeyboardAvoidingView**

- moves out of way of virtual keyboard

- **Modal** dialog

Add a slide with code for your MyModal component

- **RefreshControl**

- provides “pull to refresh” inside **ListView** or **ScrollView**

- **StatusBar**

- controls app status bar

- **WebView**





# PROVIDED LIBRARIES

---



- **AccessibilityInfo**
- **Alert** dialog
- **Animated** to create animations
- **AppState** foreground vs. background
- **AsyncStorage** alternative to browser `localStorage`
- **CameraRoll** save to photo library and get specified photos
- **Clipboard** get and set clipboard string
- **Dimensions** get/set screen dimensions and listen for changes
- **Easing** animations
- **Geolocation**
- **ImageEditor** to crop images
- **ImageStore**
- **InteractionManager** for smooth animations
- **Keyboard**
- **LayoutAnimation**
- **ListViewDataSource**
- **NetInfo** online status
- **PanResponder** handles multi-touches
- **PixelRatio** get pixel density and font scaling factor
- **Share** open dialog to share text
- **StyleSheet** validates CSS properties and values
- **Systace** debugging and testing
- **Vibration**



## PROVIDED PROPERTY SETS - listed under "APIs"

---

- Image Style - ex. `opacity`, `overflow`
- Layout - ex. `flex`, `justifyContent`, `alignItems`
- Shadow - ex. `shadowColor`, `shadowRadius`
- Text Style - ex. `color`, `fontSize`, `fontWeight`
- View Style - ex. `borderColor`, `borderWidth`



# REFRESHER ON REACT PROPS AND STATE

---



props	state
passed from parent	created in component
immutable	mutable by component
parent can pass different values	component methods can change, but these can be passed to children

## react-native-async-storage SERVICE



- Replacement for deprecated **Async-storage** provided by React Native
  - has same API
- Persists data similar to browser **localStorage**
- Keys and values must be strings
  - but can use **JSON.stringify** to store objects and array

```
import AsyncStorage from '@react-native-community/async-storage';

try {
  await AsyncStorage.setItem(key, value, optionalCallback);
} catch (e) {
  // handle error
}

// To do this after a call to setState updates state ...
this.setState(newState, () => {
  // code above goes here
});

try {
  const value = await AsyncStorage.getItem(key, optionalCallback);
  // use value
} catch (e) {
  // handle error
}
```

## MORE react-native-async-storage METHODS

- `AsyncStorage.mergeItem(key, value, callback)`
- `AsyncStorage.removeItem(key, callback)`
- `AsyncStorage.clear(callback)`
- `AsyncStorage.getAllKeys(callback)`
- `AsyncStorage.flushGetRequests()`
- `AsyncStorage.multiGet(keyArray, callback)`
- `AsyncStorage.multiSet(pairArray, callback)`
- `AsyncStorage.multiMerge(pairArray, callback)`
- `AsyncStorage.multiRemove(keyArray, callback)`

use when value is stringified JSON

All these methods return a **Promise**, so can use **await**.  
Optional callback functions are passed an error if any and results if any.



## SPLASH SCREEN

---



- Displayed during app startup
- To customize, replace **assets/splash.png** with new file that has same aspect ratio



## WEB VIEW

---



- Cross-platform rendering of HTML
- <https://github.com/react-native-community/react-native-webview>
- Replacement for provided **WebView** which will be removed
- Not supported by Expo unless ejected



## THIRD-PARTY COMPONENTS

---



- NativeBase at <https://nativebase.io>
- Current list of components
  - **Anatomy, Accordion, ActionSheet, Badge, Button, Card, CheckBox, DatePicker, DeckSwiper, Fab** (Floating Action Button), **Footer, FooterTab, Form, Header, Icon, Layout, List, Picker, Radio**, search bar (special kind of **Header**), **Segment, Spinner**, swipeable list (special kind of **List**), **SwipeRow, Tab, Tabs, Thumbnail, Toast, Typography, Drawer, Ref**



## SVG ...

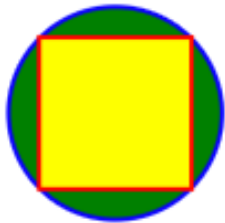
---



- Can use react-native-svg on npm
  - <https://github.com/react-native-community/react-native-svg#common-props>
- Installing
  - when using Expo, skip this because it is already installed
  - `npm install react-native-svg`
  - `react-native link react-native-svg`
- Example
  - see next slide



## ... SVG



```
import {Svg} from 'expo';
import React from 'react';
import {StyleSheet, Text, View} from 'react-native';
```

```
const {Circle, Rect} = Svg;
```

```
const SIZE = 100;
const HALF_SIZE = SIZE / 2;
const OFFSET = SIZE * 0.15;
const SIZE7 = SIZE * 0.7;
```

```
const SvgDemo = () => (
  <View style={styles.container}>
    <Svg
      height="100%"
      width="100%"
      viewBox={`0 0 ${SIZE} ${SIZE}`}>
      <Circle
        cx={HALF_SIZE}
        cy={HALF_SIZE}
        r={HALF_SIZE - 1}
        stroke="blue"
        strokeWidth={2}
        fill="green"
      />
    </Svg>
  </View>
);
```

```
    <Rect
      x={OFFSET}
      y={OFFSET}
      width={SIZE7}
      height={SIZE7}
      stroke="red"
      strokeWidth={2}
      fill="yellow"
    />
  </Svg>
</View>
);

const styles = StyleSheet.create({
  container: {
    alignItems: 'center',
    justifyContent: 'center',
    height: SIZE,
    width: SIZE
  }
});

export default SvgDemo;
```



## STATUS BAR

---



- Modify native status bar by including **StatusBar** element
- Useful props
  - **barStyle** - set to "light-content", "dark-content", or "default"
  - **hidden** - add with no value to hide entire status bar
  - some props only work on Android



## CAMERA

---



- Doesn't work in simulators, but does in Expo Client on mobile devices



# BIOMETRICS



- Can use touch id or face id to authenticate
- Expo API **LocalAuthentication** supports this
- Do not need to eject to use
- iOS Face ID
  - must describe why in **app.json**
  - not supported in Expo Client, but works in standalone apps created by Expo

```
{
  ...
  "infoPlist": {
    "NSFaceIDUsageDescription": "access Running Calculator"
  },
  ...
}
```

# ALERT

---



- To display an alert dialog

```
Alert.alert(title, message, buttons, options);
```

- *buttons* is an array of objects with properties **text**, **style**, and **onPress**
- *options* is an object that can contain **cancelable: true**



# APPLICATION STATE



- States are **active**, **inactive**, and **background**

```
AppState.addListener('change', newAppState => { ... });
```

- Can use to repeat authentication or refetch data whenever app becomes active again
- When performing polling, could use to disable when app state becomes non-active and resume when active





# CLIPBOARD

---



- To change and retrieve system clipboard contents

```
import {Clipboard} from 'react-native';  
Clipboard.setString(value);  
const value = await Clipboard.getString();
```

- Does setString return a Promise?
- Are there any other methods?



## PROGRESS BAR

- No cross-platform component for this, but can use platform-specific components

```
const getProgressComponent = progress => Platform.select({  
  android: (  
    <ProgressBarAndroid  
      progress={progress}  
      indeterminate={false}  
      styleAttr="Horizontal"  
    />  
  ),  
  ios: <ProgressViewIOS progress={progress} />  
});  
{getProgressComponent(progress)}
```

# SCREEN DIMENSIONS



- To get screen dimensions

```
import {Dimensions} from 'react-native';  
const {height, width} = Dimensions.get("window");
```

- Can any other values be passed to the **get** method?



## GEOLOCATION ...



- Enabled by default in iOS
- Enable for Android by adding line to **AndroidManifest.xml**

```
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION" />
```

- Can use with react-native-maps to display location

```
navigator.geolocation.getCurrentPosition(successCb, errorCb);
```

- **successCb** is passed an object with a **coords** property whose value is an object with properties **accuracy**, **altitude**, **altitudeAccuracy**, **heading**, **latitude**, **longitude**, and **speed**



## ... GEOLOCATION

---



- `navigator.geolocation.watchPosition`
  - similar to `getCurrentPosition`, but calls `successCb` again every time device location changes
  - returns a watch id used to cancel it
- `navigator.geolocation.clearWatch(watchId)`
  - cancels a specific `watchPosition`
- `navigator.geolocation.stopObserving()`
  - cancels all `watchPositions`





# KEYBOARD API



- Used to access native keyboard when behavior of **TextInput** isn't enough
- Can control when device keyboard is displayed and hidden

```
import {Keyboard} from 'react-native';  
Keyboard.addListener(eventName, callback);  
Keyboard.removeListener(eventName);  
Keyboard.dismiss();
```

- Events are
  - `keyboardWillShow`, `keyboardDidShow`, `keyboardWillHide`, `keyboardDidHide`, `keyboardWillChangeFrameListener`, and `keyboardDidChangeFrameListener`

What does this mean?



## NETINFO API ...

---



- Determines if online or offline
- Enabled by default in iOS
- Enable for Android by adding line to **AndroidManifest.xml**

```
<uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_NETWORK_STATE" />
```

- Uses
  - show an offline indicator
  - show cached data when offline
  - save inputs when offline and process when online again



## ... NETINFO API

- On iOS values are none, Wifi, cell, and unknown
- On Android there are many more values
  - NONE, BLUETOOTH, DUMMY, ETHERNET, MOBILE, MOBILE\_kind, VPN, WIFI, WIMAX, and UNKNOWN
  - where kind is DUN, HIPRI, MMS, or SUPL

```
import {NetInfo} from 'react-native';
NetInfo.fetch().done(callback);
// callback is passed one of the values above
const expensive = await NetInfo.isConnectionExpensive();
const connected = await NetInfo.isConnected();
const listener = connection => { ... };
NetInfo.addEventListener('change', listener);
NetInfo.removeEventListener('change', listener);
```

Is this a valid alternative?

## PANRESPONDER API ...



- Used to detect single and multiple touch events
- Uses
  - implement swipeable cards
  - allow users to rearrange items

```
import {PanResponder} from 'react-native';  
const panResponder = PanResponder.create({  
  on_____: (event, gestureState) => { ... },  
  ...  
});
```

can be **StartShouldSetPanResponder**, **MoveShouldSetPanResponder**, or **PanResponderAction** where **Action** is **Reject**, **Grant**, **Start**, **End**, **Move**, **TerminationRequest**, **Release**, or **Terminate**

Try to use these to implement a draggable View (see example in book)

## ... PANRESPONDER API

---

- Properties in event objects passed to **on\*** methods
  - **changedTouches** - array of objects with these properties
    - **identifier**, **locationX**, **locationY**, **pageX**, **pageY**, **target**, **timestamp**, **touches**
    - **target** is a node id
    - **touches** is an array of all touches, not just the changed ones
  - **gestureState** - object with these properties
    - **stateID**
    - **moveX**, **moveY** - screen coordinates of touch
    - **x0**, **y0** - screen coordinates of responder
    - **dx**, **dy** - since touch started
    - **vx**, **vy** - current velocity
    - **numberOfActiveTouches**