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Getting Started with React

- What is React?
- Characteristics of React
- Tooling up
- React uses ES6 or above
- Managing React packages

What is React?

- React is a lightweight client-side library from Facebook, to help you develop large-scale web apps
 - Gives you a logical way to construct your application
 - Simplifies DOM tree creation, e.g. via JSX
 - Simplifies state management, e.g. via Redux
 - Simplifies asynchronous operations, e.g. via Sagas
- React allows you to create apps for:
 - Web browsers (we'll cover this)
 - iOS and Android native apps (via React Native)

Characteristics of React

- React is a relatively small library
 - E.g. much smaller and simpler than Angular
- React is very lean and flexible - it allows you to use your own libraries to do things like:
 - Interact with local storage
 - Call Rest services
 - Generate CSS stylesheets
 - Test your code
 - Etc.

Tooling Up

- You can use any IDE you like to develop React apps
 - E.g. Visual Studio Code, with the React Extension Pack
 - E.g. JetBrains WebStorm
 - E.g. React Studio (primarily for graphics designers)
- Most browsers also include handy extensions, to help you view React elements in your web page
 - E.g. React Developer Tools for Chrome
 - E.g. React Developer Tools for Firefox

React uses ECMAScript 6 or Above

- React applications are written in ECMAScript 6 or above, which offers many key language improvements:
 - Interpolated strings
 - Arrow functions (a.k.a. lambdas)
 - Classes and inheritance
 - Object and array destructuring
 - Spread parameters
 - Array mapping and filtering
 - Generator functions

Managing React Packages

- The React library has quite a small number of libraries
 - You need to manage these libraries in your application
 - E.g. using Node Package Manager (npm) or Yarn
- To get started, we'll download React libraries directly from `https://unpkg.com/`
 - This is the CDN site for Node Package Manager libraries
- Later, we'll see how to use WebPack to do it "properly"

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Summary

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