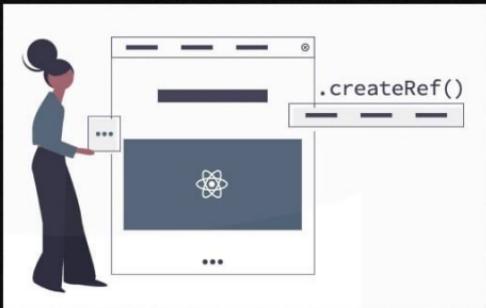




# Refs in React

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## What are Refs?

Refs allow you to identify and manipulate specific elements in your applications Dom so that you can modify their behavior or properties when needed.

They are an escape hatch from React's purely declarative paradigm, allowing developers to interact directly with the DOM when necessary.



## Benefits of using Refs:

- ✓ Refs allow access to the underlying DOM element, which can be useful for performing imperative animations, integrating with third-party libraries, or manipulating focus.
- ✓ Refs can improve performance by avoiding unnecessary re-renders.

Refs can be created using the `createRef()` method, which returns an object with a `current` property that can be used to access the underlying DOM element.



```
const myRef = React.createRef();
```



Refs can be attached to React components using the `ref` attribute.



```
<input ref={myRef} />
```

In this example, we create a Ref using `createRef()` and attach it to an `<input>` element using the `ref` attribute. We also define a function `handleClick()` that uses the `current` property of the Ref object to set focus on the input element when a button is clicked.



```
import React, { createRef } from 'react'

function TextInput() {
  const inputRef = createRef()

  function handleClick() {
    inputRef.current.focus()
  }

  return (
    <>
      <input type="text" ref={inputRef} />
      <button onClick={handleClick}>Focus
    Input</button>
    </>
  )
}
```

This demonstrates one of the primary use cases for Refs -

Accessing and Manipulating DOM elements imperatively.



To better understand this topic  
check out this video on my **YouTube**  
channel.



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In React, refs are like player numbers. They allow you to identify ...



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