Best practices & advanced TypeScript tips for React developers

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Topics

- Writing React components using TypeScript
 - Mutually exclusive component props
 - Generic React component prop types
 - Deriving React component prop types
 - Inferring TypeScript types
- TypeScript stricter features
 - Beyond strict using noUncheckedIndexedAccess
- Validating data at the boundary using Zod
 - Inferring TypeScript types from Zod schemas
- Type mapping
 - With Omit<>, Pick<> and Readonly<>
 - Custom type mapping
- Runtime and compile type safety
 - Type predicate and assertion functions
 - Exhaustiveness checking

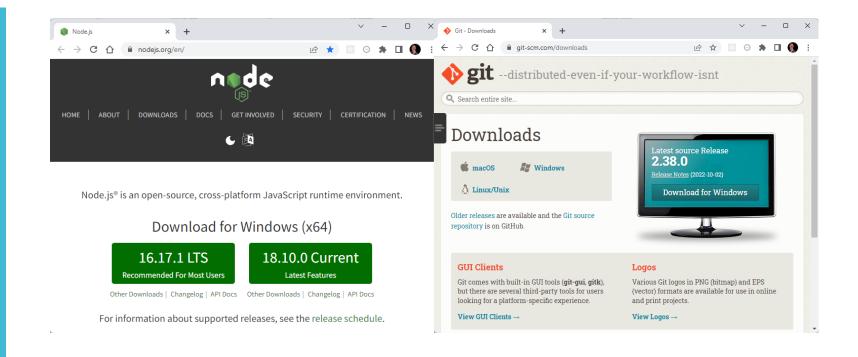
Type it out by hand?

"Typing it drills it into your brain much better than simply copying and pasting it. You're forming new neuron pathways. Those pathways are going to help you in the future. Help them out now!"

Prerequisites

Install Node & NPM
Install the GitHub repository

Install Node.js & NPM



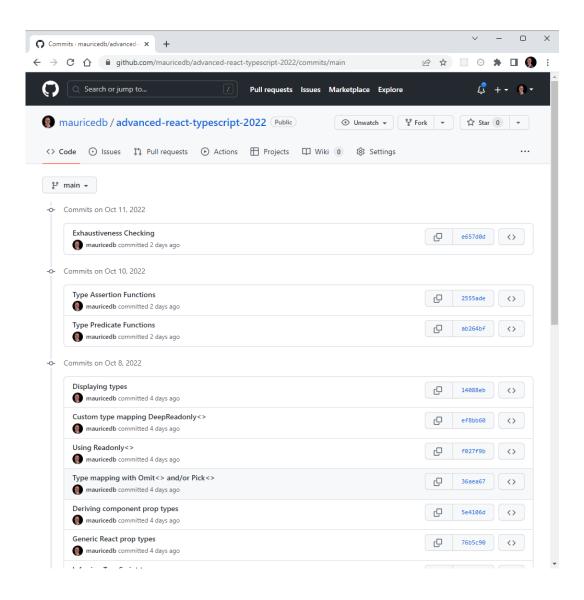
PS C:\Repos> node --version
v16.17.1
PS C:\Repos> git --version
git version 2.38.0.windows.1
PS C:\Repos> npm --version
8.19.2

Following Along

- Repo: https://github.com/mauricedb/advanced-react-typescript-2022
- Slides: https://bit.ly/react-ts-2022

The changes





Clone the GitHub Repository

```
PS C:\Temp> git clone git@github.com:mauricedb/advanced-react-typescript-2022.git
Cloning into 'advanced-react-typescript-2022'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 145, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (145/145), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (92/92), done.
Receiving objects: 76% (111/145), 9.28 MiB | 4.60 MiB/sremote: Total 145 (delta 53), reused 138 (delta 46), pack-reused 0
Receiving objects: 100% (145/145), 9.82 MiB | 4.65 MiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (53/53), done.
PS C:\Temp> |
```

Install NPM Packages

```
PS C:\Temp> cd .\advanced-react-typescript-2022\
PS C:\Temp\advanced-react-typescript-2022> npm install
added 251 packages, and audited 252 packages in 5s

81 packages are looking for funding
  run `npm fund` for details

found 0 vulnerabilities
PS C:\Temp\advanced-react-typescript-2022>
```

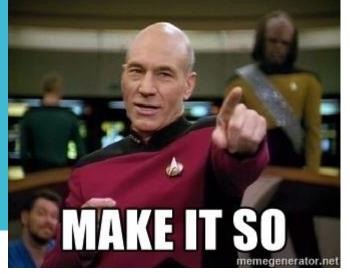
Start the application

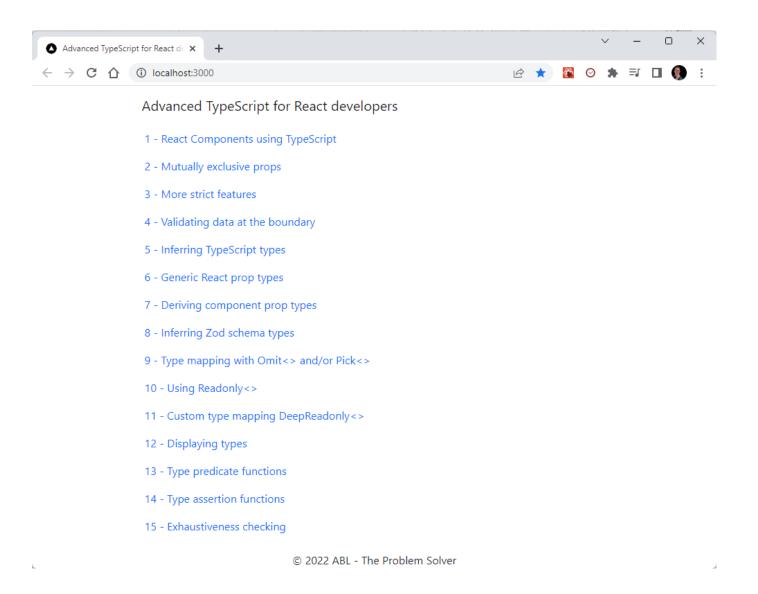
```
PS C:\Temp\advanced-react-typescript-2022> npm run dev

> advanced-react-typescript-2022@0.1.0 dev
> next dev

ready - started server on 0.0.0.0:3000, url: http://localhost:3000
event - compiled client and server successfully in 543 ms (335 modules)
```

The application





Compiling the code

Compiling the code

- Quite often TypeScript code is not type checked during development
 - Create React App use Babel
 - Next.js uses SWC
- G Start with the **00-start** branch
 - git checkout -- track origin/00-start

package.json

npm run compile



```
TERMINAL PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE AZURE GITLENS

[14:12:26] File change detected. Starting incremental compilation...

pages/index.tsx:84:7 - error TS2322: Type 'number' is not assignable to type 'string'.

84 const notString: string = 1;

[14:12:26] Found 1 error. Watching for file changes.
```

React Components using TypeScript

Components and TypeScript

- React components can be written in different ways
 - Named functions or arrow functions
 - Just like with ECMAScript
- Create a type to describe the component Props
 - Either an interface or a type alias
- Annotate the result as a valid React type
 - Or let TypeScript infer the resulting type
- Typing with an arrow function is often easier with React.FC<TProp>
 - But doesn't work well with generic components

alert.tsx



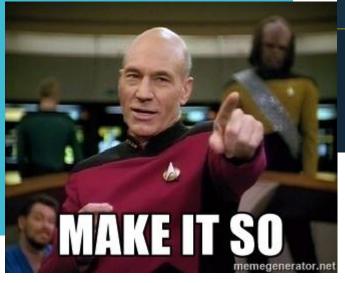
```
TS 01-js-to-ts.tsx
          TS alert.tsx X
      You, 15 minutes ago | 1 author (You)
      import { FC } from 'react'; You, 15 minutes ago • React
      Import { useIntl } from 'react-intl';
      type Props = {
        messageId: string;
        variant: 'primary' 'secondary' 'success' 'danger';
      };
   8
      export const Alert: FC < Props > = (\{ messageId, variant \}) \Rightarrow \{ \}
        const { formatMessage } = useIntl();
  10
  11
  12
        if (!messageId) {
          throw new Error('The messageId prop is required');
  13
  14
  15
  16
        return (
          <div className={ `alert alert-${variant} `} role="alert">
  17
            {formatMessage({ id: messageId })}
  18
          </div>
  19
  20
  21
```

Mutually exclusive props

Mutually exclusive props

- Sometimes not all combinations of props are allowed
 - Two props might be mutually exclusive
 - You must pass one of them but not both
- Use an or between multiple prop types
 - With an optional "never" to prevent illegal combinations

dual-alert.tsx



```
TS 02-mutually-exclusive.tsx 1
src > 02-mutually-exclusive > TS dual-alert.tsx >
    14 type Props = (
    15 ~
    16
                          message: string;
    17
                          messageId?: never;
    18
    19
    20
                          message?: never;
    21
                          messageId: string;
     22
     23
                 variant?: Variant;
     24
     25
 TERMINAL PROBLEMS 1 OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE AZURE GITLENS
 [14:42:13] File change detected. Starting incremental compilation...
pages/02-mutually-exclusive.tsx:10:8 - error TS2322: Type '{ message: string; messageId: string; }' is not assignable to type 'IntrinsicAttributes & Props'.
   Type '{ message: string; messageId: string; }' is not assignable to type '{ message?: undefined; messageId: string; }'.
   Types of property 'message' are incompatible.
   Type 'string' is not assignable to type 'undefined'.
           <DualAlert
```

More strict features

More Strict Features

- There are many more strict settings not enabled by "strict"
 - allowUnreachableCode
 - allowUnusedLabels
 - exactOptionalPropertyTypes
 - noFallthroughCasesInSwitch
 - noImplicitOverride
 - noImplicitReturns
 - noPropertyAccessFromIndexSignature
 - noUncheckedIndexedAccess
 - noUnusedLocals
 - noUnusedParameters

noUnchecked IndexedAccess

- By default every index from an array is seen as the array element type
 - Even if it exceeds the items available and will result in undefined
- Enabling "<u>noUncheckedIndexedAccess"</u> requires you to check the element before using
 - Or the element is its type or undefined

• Try adding Mushrooms to the Pizza Ai Funghi and observe a runtime error 😊

tsconfig.json

```
刘 File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
TS 03-more-strict.tsx
             stransfer tsconfig.json M X TS menu.ts M
tsconfig.json > {} compilerOptions
       You, 4 minutes ago | 1 author (You)
         "compilerOptions": {
            "target": "es5",
            "lib": ["dom", "dom.iterable", "esnext"],
            "allowJs": true,
            "skipLibCheck": true,
            "strict": true,
   8
            "noUncheckedIndexedAccess": true,
            "forceConsistentCasingInFileNames": true,
            "noEmit": true,
  10
            "esModuleInterop": true,
  12
            "module": "esnext",
  13
            "moduleResolution": "node",
  14
            "resolveJsonModule": true,
            "isolatedModules": true,
  15
  16
            "jsx": "preserve",
            "incremental": true
  17
  18
```

menu.ts



Validating data at the boundary

Validating Data

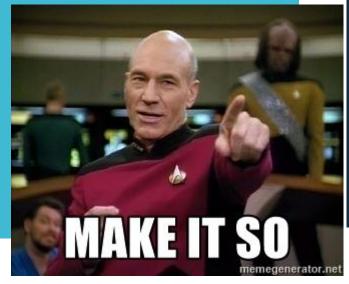
- The type definitions are used at compile time
- They might not match the runtime behavior
 - Specially when doing AJAX requests or reading JSON files

• Try adding Mushrooms to the Pizza Ai Funghi and observe another runtime error 🕾

schemas.ts

```
src > 04-validating-ajax-data > TS schemas.ts >
     import { z } from 'zod';
     export const pizzaSchema = z.object({
       name: z.string(),
     ingredients: z.string().array(),
     price: z.number(),
       extras: z.string().array(),
     export const pizzasSchema = z.array(pizzaSchema);
 11
     export const extraIngredientSchema = z.object({
       name: z.string(),
  13
       price: z.number(),
 15
 16
     export const extraIngredientsSchema = z.record(extraIngredientSchema);
```

pizza-shopdata-loader.tsx



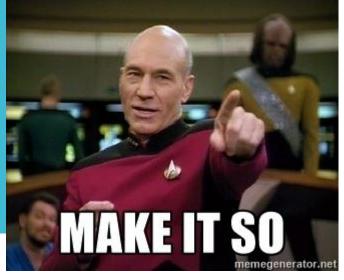
```
TS 04-validating-ajax-data.tsx
                TS schemas.ts U
src > 04-validating-ajax-data > TS pizza-shop-data-loader.tsx >
      import { PizzaShop } from './pizza-shop';
      import { extraIngredientsSchema, pizzasSchema } from './schemas';
      const server = 'http://localhost:3000';
  10
       export const PizzaShopDataLoader: FC = () \Rightarrow \{
         const { data: pizzas, error: pizzasError } = useSWR<Pizza[]>(
  12
           '/api/pizzas.json',
  13
           (resource, init) ⇒
  14
             fetch(`${server}${resource}`, init)
  16
                .then((res) \Rightarrow res.json())
  17
                .then(pizzasSchema.parse)
         );
  18
  19
         const { data: extraIngredients, error: extraIngredientsError } =
  20
  21
           useSWR<ExtraIngredients>(
              '/api/good-extra-ingredients.json',
  22
  23
              (resource, init) \Rightarrow
                fetch(`${server}${resource}`, init)
  24
                  .then((res) \Rightarrow res.json())
  25
                  .then(extraIngredientsSchema.parse)
  26
  27
```

Inferring TypeScript types

Inferring TypeScript types

- In many cases TypeScript can infer types from existing objects
 - Not just the object shape but also valid keys
- Use the "extends" keyword to limit a generic type argument
 - One generic argument can be used to infer a second etc.

configuration.tsx



```
Advanced-react-typescript-2022
         TS configuration.tsx M X
 4 function getConfigItem<
      TSection extends keyof typeof config,
      TItem extends keyof typeof config[TSection]
   >(section: TSection, item: TItem) {
      const config = {
        user: {
          firstName: 'John',
10
11
          lastName: 'Doe',
12
          birthDate: new Date(1990, 6, 10),
13
        address: {
14
15
          street: 'Main St',
16
          houseNumber: 123,
17
          city: 'New York',
18
      };
19
20
      return config[section][item];
21
22
23
    export const Configuration: FC = () \Rightarrow \{
      const firstName = getConfigItem('user', 'firstName');
      const lastName = getConfigItem('user', 'lastName');
26
27
      const birthDate = getConfigItem('user', 'birthDate').toLocaleDateString();
28
```

Generic React prop types

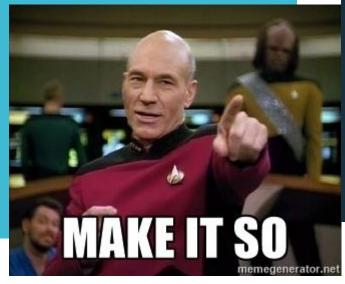
Generic React prop types

- React component **prop types** can also be **generic**
 - To ensure that various props have matching type definitions
- The **generic type can be specified** when the component is rendered
 - Or will automatically inferred if not
- Very powerful to create reusable, flexible but fully typed components

two-forms.tsx

```
export const TwoForms: FC = () \Rightarrow \{
      return (
        \Diamond
          <GenericForm
            header="User"
            initialValues={{
10
              firstName: 'John',
11
              lastName: 'Doe',
12
            onSubmit={function (values) {
13
              alert(
14
                 `${values.firstName} ${values.lastName}\n\n{JSON.stringify(values, null, 2)}`
15
              );
17
18
```

generic-form.tsx



```
type Props<TValues> = {
     header: string;
     initialValues: TValues;
     onSubmit: (values: TValues) ⇒ void;
 8
    export function GenericForm<TValues extends Record<string, any>>({
11
     header.
     initialValues,
     onSubmit,
    }: Props<TValues>) {
15
      const [values, setValues] = useState(initialValues);
16
17
     return (
        <form className="mb-5" onSubmit={() ⇒ onSubmit(values)}>
18
          < h3 className = "mb-3" > \{header\} < /h3>
19
20
          \{0bject.keys(values).map((key) \Rightarrow (
21
            <LabeledInput</pre>
23
              key={key}
              value={values[key]}
24
              onChange={(e) ⇒ setValues({ ... values, [key]: e.target.value })}
25
26
```

Deriving component prop types

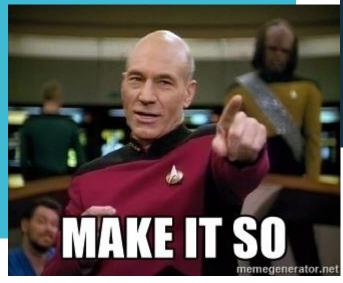
Deriving component prop types

- Infer a component Prop type
 - Using React.ComponentProps<typeof Component>
- No need to publicly export all those prop definitions
 - Just in case they are needed
- Very useful when you want to export the nested component props
 - Use type mappings to modify the type as needed

pizza-onmenu.tsx

```
TS 07-deriving-prop-types.tsx
                   TS pizza-on-menu.tsx M X TS labeled-checkbox.tsx M
src > 07-deriving-prop-types > TS pizza-on-menu.tsx > ...
                   <div className="mb-3">
   38
                      <h5 className="card-title">Extras</h5>
   39
                      {pizza.extras.map((extra) \Rightarrow (
  40
                        <LabeledCheckbox</pre>
  41
                           key={extra}
  42
                           checked={extras.includes(extra)}
  43
                           disabled={extra == 'mushrooms'}
   44
                           id={ `${pizza.name}-${extra} `}
  45
                           onChange=\{() \Rightarrow \{
   46
```

labeledcheckbox.tsx



```
TS pizza-on-menu.tsx M
                               TS labeled-checkbox.tsx M X
TS 07-deriving-prop-types.tsx
       You, 2 minutes ago | 1 author (You)
       import { ComponentProps, FC, useId } from 'react';
      Import { Checkbox } from './checkbox';
      import { Label } from './label';
      type Props = ComponentProps<typeof Checkbox>;
      export const LabeledCheckbox: FC < Props > = (\{ children, id, ... props \}) \Rightarrow \{ \}
         const internalId = useId();
         return (
  10
           <div className="form-check">
  11
             <Checkbox id={id ?? internalId} { ... props} />
             <Label htmlFor={id ?? internalId}>{children}/Label>
  13
           </div>
  14
  16 };
```

Inferring Zod schema types

Inferring Types

- Maintaining a Zod schema and a TypeScript interface is tedious
 - Both have to be kept in sync
- The TypeScript types can be **inferred** from the Zod schema
 - Using "z.infer<typeof schema>"



```
TS 08-inferring-schema-types.tsx
                  TS schemas.ts
                            TS types.ts M X
src > 08-inferring-schema-types > TS types.ts > ..
       You, 1 minute ago | 1 author (You)
      import { z } from 'zod';
       Import {
         extraIngredientSchema,
         extraIngredientsSchema,
         pizzaSchema,
      } from './schemas';
      export type Pizza = z.infer<typeof pizzaSchema>;
      export type ExtraIngredients = z.infer<typeof extraIngredientsSchema>;
  11
       export type ExtraIngredient = z.infer<typeof extraIngredientSchema>;
  13
       export type PizzaOnOrder = {
         name: string;
         price: number;
         extraIngredients: ExtraIngredient[];
  18 };
```

Type mapping with Omit<> and/or Pick<>

Type mapping with Omit<> and/or Pick<>

- Type mapping lets you create a new type based on an existing type
 - With one or more modifications
- There are many build in type mappings
 - "*Omit<T>*": Create a new type by removing one or more pros
 - "*Pick<T>*": Create a new type with just the specified props
- A type mapping can contain conditional logic to alter a part of the type



Using Readonly<>

Readonly<T>

- The Readonly<T> mapped type creates a read-only mapped type
 - Can't change properties anymore
 - Or use "array.push()" etc.
- A Readonly<T> is **not recursive**
 - Only the first level of properties becomes read-only
- \mathbb{P} Recommended for **function arguments** to show intent \mathbb{P}
 - And AJAX responses etc.

pizza-shop.tsx



Custom type mapping DeepReadonly<>

DeepReadonly<T>

- Make a whole nested object structure read-only
 - Recursive mapped types are very powerful
 - An improvement over the default "Readonly<T>"
- Source:

https://gist.github.com/basarat/1c2923f91643a16a9ode638e76bceoab

```
TS 11-using-deep-readonly.tsx
                  TS types.ts M X TS menu.ts M
                                      TS pizza-shop.tsx M
                                                   TS ordered-pizza.tsx M
       You, 4 minutes ago | 1 author (You)
      export type DeepReadonly<T> = {
         readonly [P in keyof T]: DeepReadonly<T[P]>;
       export type Pizza = {
         name: string;
         ingredients: string[];
         price: number;
         extras: string[];
  10
  11
       export type ExtraIngredients = Record<string, ExtraIngredient>;
  13
       export type ExtraIngredient = {
  14
  15
         name: string;
  16
         price: number;
  17 }:
```

menu.ts

pizza-shop.tsx

```
TS 11-using-deep-readonly.tsx
      export const PizzaShop: FC = () \Rightarrow \{
        const { formatNumber } = useIntl();
        const [order, setOrder] = useState<DeepReadonly<PizzaOnOrder[]>>([]);
  11
        const totalPrice = useMemo(() ⇒ calculateTotalPrice(order), [order]);
  12
  13
        const onPlaceOrder = () \Rightarrow {
  14
           const extrasForAEuro = order.flatMap((pizza) ⇒
  15
             pizza.extraIngredients.filter((extra) \Rightarrow extra.price == 1)
  16
  17
          );
           console.log('Extras for a Euro', extrasForAEuro);
  18
  19
  20
  26
  27
  28
  29
```

ordered-pizza.tsx



Displaying types

Displaying Types

- A disadvantage of mapped types is that the type definition in tooltips becomes hard to read
 - It shows how a type is constructed instead of the resulting type
- The "Resolve<T>" turns this into the resulting type instead
 - Source: https://effectivetypescript.com/2022/02/25/gentips-4-display/



```
TS types.ts M X
                     type PizzaOnOrder = {
src > 12-displaying-types > T$ types.ts > 🙉
                         readonly name: string;
  18
                         readonly price: number;
                                                                   /25/gentips-4-display/
                         extraIngredients: ExtraIngredient[]; yof T]: T[K] };
      type Resolve
  21
      export type PizzaOnOrder = Resolve<</pre>
        Pick<Pizza, 'name' | 'price'> & {
           extraIngredients: ExtraIngredient[];
  24
  25
  26 >;
```

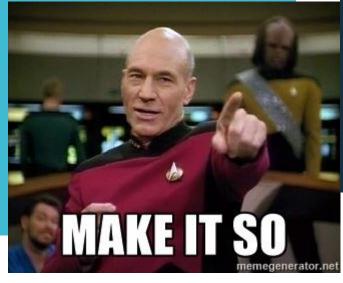
Type Predicate Functions

Type Predicate Functions

- Often a TypeScript cast is used when types don't quite line up
 - But that is just silencing the compiler
 - A Casting via "unknown" will even allow any (invalid) type cast A
 - There is no runtime checking or guarantee
- A type predicate can do a cast in a runtime safe manner
 - P Checks both at runtime and compile time
 - A function that returns a "boolean" to indicate if the type matches

```
TS 13-predicates-assertions.tsx
src > 13-predicates-assertions > TS types.ts > [❷] Book
      export type ItemsOnSale = Book | Magazine | Pen;
  18
      export function isBook(item: ItemsOnSale): item is Book {
        return item.type == 'book';
  20
  21
      export function isMagazine(item: ItemsOnSale): item is Magazine {
  23
         return item.type == 'magazine';
  24
  25
  26
      export function isPen(item: ItemsOnSale): item is Pen {
         return item.type == 'pen';
  28
  29
```

item-on-sale.tsx



```
TS 13-predicates-assertions.tsx
                             TS item-on-sale.tsx M X
                  TS types.ts M
src > 13-predicates-assertions > TS item-on-sale.tsx > ...
    7 type Props = {
          item: ItemsOnSale;
  10
       export const ItemOnSale: FC < Props > = (\{ item \}) \Rightarrow \{ \}
         if (isBook(item)) {
            return <BookOnSale book={item} />;
         } else if (isMagazine(item)) {
            return <MagazineOnSale magazine={item} _/>;
  15
  16
  17
         // case 'pen':
          // return <PenOnSale pen={item as Pen} />;
  18
  19
  20
          return null;
  21 };
```

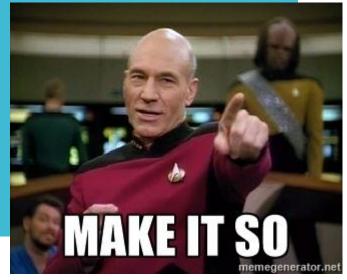
Type Assertion Functions

Type Assertion Functions

- Type assertion functions can be even easier
 - Throw an error if the type doesn't match
- Often a better alternative then a cast
 - The code will not continue if the assumption is wrong

```
export function assertBook(item: ItemsOnSale): asserts item is Book {
     if (!isBook(item)) {
       throw new Error('Item is not a book');
33
34
35
36
   export function assertMagazine(item: ItemsOnSale): asserts item is Magazine {
     if (!isMagazine(item)) {
       throw new Error('Item is not a magazine');
39
40
41
42
   export function assertPen(item: ItemsOnSale): asserts item is Pen {
     if (!isPen(item)) {
       throw new Error('Item is not a pen');
45
46
47
```

item-on-sale.tsx



```
TS 13-predicates-assertions.tsx
                  TS types.ts M
                             TS item-on-sale.tsx M X
src > 13-predicates-assertions > TS item-on-sale.tsx > ...
       type Props = {
          item: ItemsOnSale;
  10
       export const ItemOnSale: FC < Props > = (\{ item \}) \Rightarrow \{ \}
          switch (item.type) {
  12
            case 'book':
  13
               assertBook(item);
  14
               return <BookOnSale book={item} />;
  15
  16
            case 'magazine':
               assertMagazine(item);
  17
               return <MagazineOnSale magazine={item} />;
  18
  19
                  return <PenOnSale pen={item as Pen} />;
  20
  21
  22
  23
          return null;
  24
```

Exhaustiveness Checking

Exhaustiveness Checking

- The TypeScript compiler doesn't tell us if every case is provided
 - It's easy to forget to add a switch case when an enumeration is expanded
- The "never" type is a great way to make sure
 - · A compile error if the default case can be reached
 - \mathbb{Q} Make sure to add an exception or error logging at runtime \mathbb{Q}

```
TS 13-predicates-assertions.tsx
                   TS types.ts M X TS item-on-sale.tsx M
src > 13-predicates-assertions > TS types.ts > [❷] Book
        export type Book = {
          type: 'book';
        title: string;
          description: string;
    5
      };
    6
       export type Magazine = {
        type: 'magazine';
          title: string;
      };
  10
  11
       export type Pen = {
        type: 'pen';
  13
        color: string;
  14
  15
```

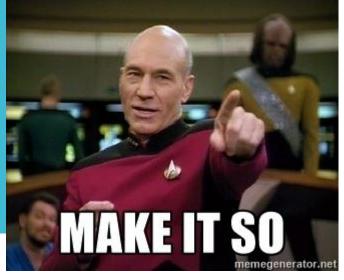
```
TS 13-predicates-assertions.tsx

TS types.ts M x

src > 13-predicates-assertions > TS types.ts > 10 Book

49 | export function assertNever(value: never): never {
50 | throw new Error('Unexpected value: ' + JSON.stringify(value, null, 2));
51 | }
```

item-on-sale.tsx



```
TS 13-predicates-assertions.tsx
                  TS types.ts M
                             TS item-on-sale.tsx M X
src > 13-predicates-assertions > TS item-on-sale.tsx > ...
       type Props = {
         item: ItemsOnSale;
  10
       export const ItemOnSale: FC < Props > = (\{ item \}) \Rightarrow \{ \}
         switch (item.type) {
  12
            case 'book':
  13
               return <BookOnSale book={item} />;
  14
            case 'magazine':
  15
  16
               return <MagazineOnSale magazine={item} />;
  17
            case 'pen':
  18
               return <PenOnSale pen={item} />;
  19
            default:
               assertNever(item);
  20
  21
  22
  23
         return null;
  24
```

Conclusion

- TypeScript's strict settings help catch many errors
 - Make sure to turn on the additional strict features as well
- TypeScript offers a lot of features for React component props
 - Infer or mutate prop types and detect invalid combinations of values
- Validate all data at boundaries
 - Not just from the user, also from API's
- Use mapped types to create new types
 - The possibilities are almost endless
- Use type predicates and assertions both at compile and run-time
 - Instead of just casting at compile time
- Enable exhaustiveness checking with the "never" type
 - Make sure to log unexpected cases at runtime

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