

b Forms

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Let's continue expanding our application by allowing users to add new notes. You can find the code for our current application [here](#).

Saving the notes in the component state

To get our page to update when new notes are added it's best to store the notes in the App component's state. Let's import the useState function and use it to define a piece of state that gets initialized with the initial notes array passed in the props.

```
import { useState } from 'react'
import Note from './components>Note'

const App = (props) => {
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState(props.notes)

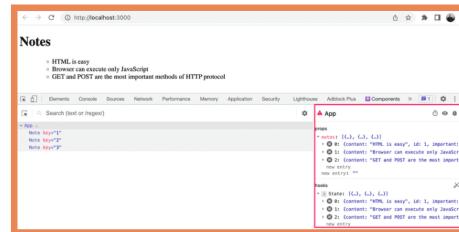
  return (
    <div>
      <h1>Notes</h1>
      <ul>
        {notes.map(note =>
          <Note key={note.id} note={note} />
        )}
      </ul>
    </div>
  )
}

export default App
```

The component uses the `useState` function to initialize the piece of state stored in `notes` with the array of notes passed in the props:

```
const App = (props) => {
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState(props.notes)
  // ...
}
```

We can also use React Developer Tools to see that this really happens:



If we wanted to start with an empty list of notes, we would set the initial value as an empty array, and since the props would not be used, we could omit the `props` parameter from the function definition:

```
const App = () => {
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState([])
  // ...
}
```

Let's stick with the initial value passed in the props for the time being.

Next, let's add an HTML `form` to the component that will be used for adding new notes.

```
const App = (props) => {
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState(props.notes)

  const addNote = (event) => {
    event.preventDefault()
    console.log('button clicked', event.target)
  }

  return (
    <div>
      <h1>Notes</h1>
      <ul>
        {notes.map(note =>
          <Note key={note.id} note={note} />
        )}
      </ul>
      <form onSubmit={addNote}>
        <input />
        <button type="submit">Save</button>
      </form>
    </div>
  )
}
```

We have added the `addNote` function as an event handler to the form element that will be called when the form is submitted, by clicking the submit button.

We use the method discussed in [part 1](#) for defining our event handler:

```
const addNote = (event) => {
  event.preventDefault()
  console.log('button clicked', event.target)
}
```

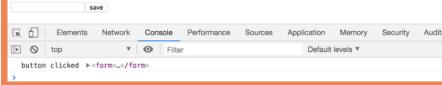
The `event` parameter is the `event` that triggers the call to the event handler function:

The event handler immediately calls the `event.preventDefault()` method, which prevents the default action of submitting a form. The default action would, among other things, cause the page to reload.

The target of the event stored in `event.target` is logged to the console:

Notes

- HTML is easy
- Browser can execute only Javascript
- GET and POST are the most important methods of HTTP protocol



The target in this case is the form that we have defined in our component.

How do we access the data contained in the form's `input` element?

Controlled component

There are many ways to accomplish this; the first method we will take a look at is through the use of so-called controlled components.

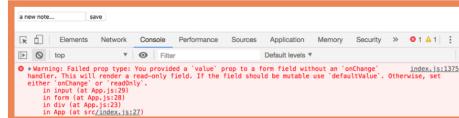
Let's add a new piece of state called `newNote` for storing the user-submitted input and let's set it as the `input` element's `value` attribute:

```
const App = (props) => {
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState(props.notes)
  const [newNote, setNewNote] = useState(
    'a new note...'
  )

  const addNote = (event) => {
    event.preventDefault()
    console.log('button clicked', event.target)
  }

  return (
    <div>
      <h1>Notes</h1>
      <ul>
        {notes.map(note =>
          <Note key={note.id} note={note} />
        )}
      </ul>
      <form onSubmit={addNote}>
        <input value={newNote} />
        <button type="submit">save</button>
      </form>
    </div>
  )
}
```

The placeholder text stored as the initial value of the `newNote` state appears in the `input` element, but the input text can't be edited. The console displays a warning that gives us a clue as to what might be wrong:



Since we assigned a piece of the `App` component's state as the `value` attribute of the `input` element, the `App` component now controls the behavior of the `input` element.

To enable editing of the `input` element, we have to register an `event handler` that synchronizes the changes made to the `input` with the component's state:

```
const App = (props) => {
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState(props.notes)
  const [newNote, setNewNote] = useState(
    'a new note...'
  )

  // ...

  const handleNoteChange = (event) => {
    console.log(event.target.value)
    setNewNote(event.target.value)
  }

  return (
    <div>
      <h1>Notes</h1>
      <ul>
        {notes.map(note =>
          <Note key={note.id} note={note} />
        )}
      </ul>
      <form onSubmit={addNote}>
        <input
          value={newNote}
          onChange={handleNoteChange}
        />
        <button type="submit">save</button>
      </form>
    </div>
  )
}
```

We have now registered an event handler to the `onChange` attribute of the form's `input` element:

```
<input
  value={newNote}
  onChange={handleNoteChange}
/>
```

The event handler is called every time a `change` occurs in the `input` element. The event handler function receives the event object as its `event` parameter:

```
const handleNoteChange = (event) => {
  console.log(event.target.value)
  setNewNote(event.target.value)
```

```
}
```

The `target` property of the event object now corresponds to the controlled `input` element, and `event.target.value` refers to the input value of that element.

Note that we did not need to call the `event.preventDefault()` method like we did in the `onSubmit` event handler. This is because no default action occurs on an input change, unlike a form submission.

You can follow along in the console to see how the event handler is called:

Notes

- HTML is easy
- Browser can execute only Javascript
- GET and POST are the most important methods of HTTP protocol

A screenshot of the browser developer tools Console tab. The input field contains "typing". Below it, the console output shows a list of suggestions: "t", "ty", "typ", "typal", "typin", "typing", "typing t", "typing te", "typing tex", and "typing text".

You did remember to install React devtools, right? Good. You can directly view how the state changes from the React Devtools tab:

A screenshot of the browser developer tools Components tab. It shows the `App` component. In the state section, there is a note object with key "1" and content "typing". The `notes` state is shown as an array containing this note object. The `newNote` state is also visible.

Now the `App` component's `newNote` state reflects the current value of the input, which means that we can complete the `addNote` function for creating new notes:

```
const addNote = (event) => {
  event.preventDefault();
  const noteObject = {
    content: newNote,
    important: Math.random() < 0.5,
    id: notes.length + 1,
  }
  setNotes(notes.concat(noteObject))
  setNewNote('')
}
```

First, we create a new object for the note called `noteObject` that will receive its content from the component's `newNote` state. The unique identifier `id` is generated based on the total number of notes. This method works for our application since notes are never deleted. With the help of the `Math.random()` function, our note has a 50% chance of being marked as important.

The new note is added to the list of notes using the `concat` array method, introduced in part 1:

```
setNotes(notes.concat(noteObject))
```

The method does not mutate the original `notes` array, but rather creates a *new copy* of the array with the new item added to the end. This is important since we must never mutate state directly in React!

The event handler also resets the value of the controlled input element by calling the `setNewNote` function of the `newNote` state:

```
setNewNote('')
```

You can find the code for our current application in its entirety in the [part2-2](#) branch of this GitHub repository.

Filtering Displayed Elements

Let's add some new functionality to our application that allows us to only view the important notes.

Let's add a piece of state to the `App` component that keeps track of which notes should be displayed:

```
const App = (props) => {
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState(props.notes)
  const [newNote, setNewNote] = useState('')
  const [showAll, setShowAll] = useState(true)

  // ...
}
```

Let's change the component so that it stores a list of all the notes to be displayed in the `notesToShow` variable. The items on the list depend on the state of the component:

```
import { useState } from 'react'
import Note from './components>Note'

const App = (props) => {
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState(props.notes)
  const [newNote, setNewNote] = useState('')
  const [showAll, setShowAll] = useState(true)

  // ...

  const notesToShow = showAll
    ? notes
    : notes.filter(note => note.important === true)

  return (
    <div>
      <h1>Notes</h1>
      <ul>
        {notesToShow.map(note =>
          <Note key={note.id} note={note} />
        )}
      </ul>
    </div>
  )
}
```

```
// ...  
  </div>  
}
```

The definition of the `notesToShow` variable is rather compact:

```
const notesToShow = showAll  
  ? notes  
  : notes.filter(note => note.important === true)
```

copy

The definition uses the conditional operator also found in many other programming languages.

The operator functions as follows. If we have:

```
const result = condition ? val1 : val2
```

copy

the `result` variable will be set to the value of `val1` if `condition` is true. If `condition` is false, the `result` variable will be set to the value of `val2`.

If the value of `showAll` is false, the `notesToShow` variable will be assigned to a list that only contains notes that have the `important` property set to true. Filtering is done with the help of the array filter method:

```
notes.filter(note => note.important === true)
```

copy

The comparison operator is redundant, since the value of `note.important` is either `true` or `false`, which means that we can simply write:

```
notes.filter(note => note.important)
```

copy

We showed the comparison operator first to emphasize an important detail: in JavaScript `val1 == val2` does not always work as expected. When performing comparisons, it's therefore safe to exclusively use `val1 === val2`. You can read more about the topic [here](#).

You can test out the filtering functionality by changing the initial value of the `showAll` state.

Next, let's add functionality that enables users to toggle the `showAll` state of the application from the user interface.

The relevant changes are shown below:

```
import { useState } from 'react'  
import Note from './components>Note'  
  
const App = (props) => {  
  const [notes, setNotes] = useState(props.notes)  
  const [newNote, setNewNote] = useState('')  
  const [showAll, setShowAll] = useState(true)  
  
  // ...  
  
  return (  
    <div>  
      <h1>Notes</h1>  
      <div>  
        <button onClick={() => setShowAll(!showAll)}>  
          show {showAll ? 'important' : 'all'}  
        </button>  
      </div>  
      <ul>  
        {notesToShow.map(note =>  
          <Note key={note.id} note={note} />  
        )}  
      </ul>  
      // ...  
    </div>  
  )  
}
```

copy

The displayed notes (all versus important) are controlled with a button. The event handler for the button is so simple that it has been defined directly in the attribute of the button element. The event handler switches the value of `showAll` from true to false and vice versa:

```
O => setShowAll(!showAll)
```

copy

The text of the button depends on the value of the `showAll` state:

```
show {showAll ? 'important' : 'all'}
```

copy

You can find the code for our current application in its entirety in the `part2-3` branch of this [GitHub repository](#).

Exercises 2.6.-2.10.

In the first exercise, we will start working on an application that will be further developed in the later exercises. In related sets of exercises, it is sufficient to return the final version of your application. You may also make a separate commit after you have finished each part of the exercise set, but doing so is not required.

2.6: The Phonebook Step1

Let's create a simple phonebook. *In this part, we will only be adding names to the phonebook.*

Let us start by implementing the addition of a person to the phonebook.

You can use the code below as a starting point for the `App` component of your application:

```
import { useState } from 'react'  
  
const App = () => {  
  const [persons, setPersons] = useState([  
    { name: 'Arto Hellas' }  
  ])  
  const [newName, setNewName] = useState('')  
  
  return (  
    <div>  
      <h2>Phonebook</h2>  
      <form>  
        <div>
```

copy

```

        name: <input />
      </div>
      <div>
        <button type="submit">add</button>
      </div>
    </form>
    <h2>Numbers</h2>
    ...
  </div>
}

export default App

```

The `newName` state is meant for controlling the form input element.

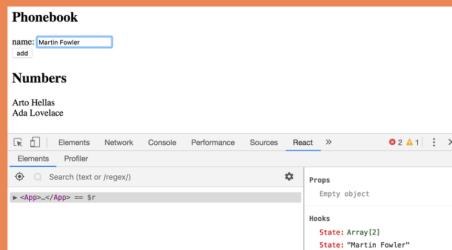
Sometimes it can be useful to render state and other variables as text for debugging purposes. You can temporarily add the following element to the rendered component:

```
<div>{debug: {newName}}</div>
```

copy

It's also important to put what we learned in the [debugging React applications](#) chapter of part one into good use. The [React developer tools](#) extension is *incredibly* useful for tracking changes that occur in the application's state.

After finishing this exercise your application should look something like this:



Note the use of the React developer tools extension in the picture above!

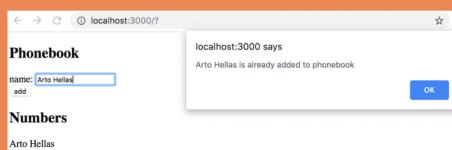
NB:

- you can use the person's name as a value of the `key` property
- remember to prevent the default action of submitting HTML forms!

2.7: The Phonebook Step2

Prevent the user from being able to add names that already exist in the phonebook. JavaScript arrays have numerous suitable methods for accomplishing this task. Keep in mind how [object equality works](#) in Javascript.

Issue a warning with the `Alert` command when such an action is attempted:



Hint: when you are forming strings that contain values from variables, it is recommended to use a [template string](#):

```
'${newName} is already added to phonebook'
```

copy

If the `newName` variable holds the value `Arto Hellas`, the template string expression returns the string

```
'Arto Hellas is already added to phonebook'
```

copy

The same could be done in a more Java-like fashion by using the plus operator:

```
newName + ' is already added to phonebook'
```

copy

Using template strings is the more idiomatic option and the sign of a true JavaScript professional.

2.8: The Phonebook Step3

Expand your application by allowing users to add phone numbers to the phone book. You will need to add a second `input` element to the form (along with its own event handler):

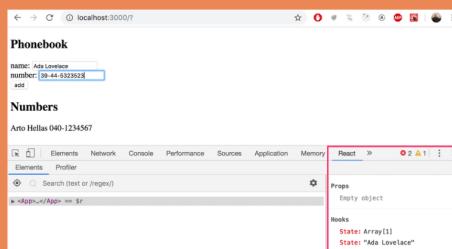
```

<form>
  <div>name: <input /></div>
  <div>number: <input /></div>
  <div><button type="submit">add</button></div>
</form>

```

copy

At this point, the application could look something like this. The image also displays the application's state with the help of [React developer tools](#):



2.9*: The Phonebook Step4

Implement a search field that can be used to filter the list of people by name:

Phonebook

filter shown with

add a new

name:
number:

Numbers

Arto Hellas 040-123456
Ada Lovelace 39-44-5323523

You can implement the search field as an `input` element that is placed outside the HTML form. The filtering logic shown in the image is *case insensitive*, meaning that the search term `Arto` also returns results that contain Arto with an uppercase A.

NB: When you are working on new functionality, it's often useful to "hardcode" some dummy data into your application, e.g.

```
const App = () => {
  const [persons, setPersons] = useState([
    { name: 'Arto Hellas', number: '040-123456', id: 1 },
    { name: 'Ada Lovelace', number: '39-44-5323523', id: 2 },
    { name: 'Dan Abramov', number: '12-43-234345', id: 3 },
    { name: 'Mary Poppins', number: '39-23-6423122', id: 4 }
  ])
  // ...
}
```

copy

This saves you from having to manually input data into your application for testing out your new functionality.

2.10: The Phonebook Step5

If you have implemented your application in a single component, refactor it by extracting suitable parts into new components. Maintain the application's state and all event handlers in the `App` root component.

It is sufficient to extract *three* components from the application. Good candidates for separate components are, for example, the search filter, the form for adding new people to the phonebook, a component that renders all people from the phonebook, and a component that renders a single person's details.

The application's root component could look similar to this after the refactoring. The refactored root component below only renders titles and lets the extracted components take care of the rest.

```
const App = () => {
  // ...

  return (
    <div>
      <h2>Phonebook</h2>
      <Filter ... />
      <h3>Add a new</h3>
      <PersonForm ... />
      ...
      <h3>Numbers</h3>
      <Persons ... />
    </div>
  )
}
```

copy

NB: You might run into problems in this exercise if you define your components "in the wrong place". Now would be a good time to rehearse the chapter [do not define a component in another component](#) from the last part.

[Propose changes to material](#)

Part 2a
[Previous part](#)

Part 2c
[Next part](#)



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