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React.js

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React background

What is React?

- JavaScript library for building user interfaces (UI)
- Open-source project by Facebook (after few years of internal usage)
- Declarative
  - Write how the component should look and how it should behave
  - Complex UIs are easy to create
- Component-Based
  - Encapsulate logic and presentation in reusable components
- Learn Once, Write Anywhere - runs wherever JS runs
  - Web Apps (client- and server-side), React Native on mobile devices
- Almost always used with JSX

JSX

- Syntax extension to JavaScript
  - allows JS to understand HTML elements (implemented as objects)
- Template language with full JS power
- Usage with React is optional, i.e. React can be used without it? But why would you do that?
  - Preact.js - not really React, but it's without JSX - because of performance edges
- JavaScript expressions can be embedded inside JSX with {} brackets
- JSX Elements are basic building blocks
  - Elements are used to build components
- .jsx file extension
- Describes how UI should look

Basic JSX example

```
const greet = (
  <h1>
    <span className={isFancy ? 'fancy' : 'regular'}>
      Hello
    </span>
    {name}
  </h1>
)
```

- Note the ( ) brackets
- Attributes are camelCase in JSX.
  - className instead of class, tabIndex instead of tab-index, ...
  - class is a reserved keyword in JS so we use className to add CSS classes to the element.
- Any JS expression can be embedded into JSX. Eg. {name}, {2+4}, {person.name}, {getScore()}
- JSX is JS expression -> can be stored in variables, used in JSX, ...

Create React App

- A way to setup React application with predefined configuration
- https://create-react-app.dev/
- yarn create react-app [app-name] --template typescript
  - Creates a new React project with types
  - tsconfig.json file in which you define compiler rules
  - Your TS code is transpiled into desired version of JS code

02

Components

Components

React components

- Encapsulate behavior and presentation
- Basic block of component composition
- Always capitalised (e.g. Counter not counter)
- Translate state and props into JSX (markup)
  - Props - properties a component receives
  - State - internal data that can be passed to children
- Should return only one parent element - i.e. SINGLE TOP ELEMENT
  - Multiple elements should be wrapped in fragments <> and </>, i.e. one parent element
  - Can also return null, false, string, array

Encapsulation and composition

- Two key principles of React and writing good code
- Encapsulation
  - “hide” as much logic as possible in separate components
  - Achieve separation of concerns
  - Code is easier to understand
- Component composition
  - Separate logic and presentation into components
  - Use components as building blocks of more complex features -> code reuse

Functional components

- Initial idea: Function: (props) => Markup
  - Like in math, e.g. f(x) = x + 2

```
function Text() {
  return <p>This is our first React component</p>
}
```

Components

Props

- Used to pass informations into components
  - Can be values, Functions, Objects
- Read-only - **Do not modify props**
- When props change, component updates
- Passed as JSX attributes
  - Try to have generic props, i.e. avoid *isRed*, *isBlue*, use *color* prop
- In Typescript, type of props is also specified

Components

Props

Components

Children

- Component can have child components
  - Pass to it via props
- To specify that component has children, we use PropsWithChildren<*OtherPropsType*> as component's props type
- The most important way of component composition

Styling JSX Elements

- We will be using styled-components library from next lesson
- Each element can receive style object with its styles
  - Inline styling - like style attribute on a HTML element
- Components can also be styled via classes

React example from scratch - project.md

03

Hooks and useState

Class vs functional components

- In initial React releases, class components were much more powerful
  - Functional components could not access React lifecycle, just return data based on props
  - Entered: **Hooks**
  - Now they are equally powerful but with less code -> class components become an afterthought
- We will be learning only functional components
- Hooks are always prefixed with *use* keyword

Class vs functional components

useState

- **Internal** component state used inside it
  - Belongs to an instance, not a class or function itself, so every instance will have its own encapsulated state
- When state changes, component updates
- Should not be modified directly (it's a const after all) - use setter method
  - const [counter, setCounter] = React.useState(0)
- Used to store dynamic data
- Parent component can't access child components state
  - A component can pass its state (or part of it) as a prop to the children

useState example - counter.md

04

useEffect

React lifecycle

- React lifecycle phases:
  - Mounting -> Rendering element in the DOM for the first time
  - Updating -> Re-rendering component with fresh props & state
  - Unmounting -> Removing element from the DOM
  - Error Handling

Hooking into func. lifecycle with useEffect hook

```
React.useEffect(() => {
  // body of a function which is executed in hook, after first render

  return () => {
    // cleanup method which is executed when the component is unmounted from the DOM
  }
}, [/* array of dependencies */])
```

- Executed when component renders/updates and a value in array of dependencies changes
- Array of dependencies
  - OPTIONAL - no array of dependencies: executed on every re-render
  - Empty - on first render
- The method in effect OPTIONALLY returns a cleanup function - free all taken resources and remove listeners

useEffect example - clock.md

Rules of hooks (more later...)

- **Only call hooks at the top level**
  - i.e. never call them after any return method
- **Don't call them conditionally**
  - but they can encapsulate conditional logic
- By abiding these two rules, you will hopefully abide a third one
  - **At every re-render, exactly the same amount of hooks should be called**
  - **In the exactly the same order**
- **Only Call Hooks from React Functions**
  - i.e. call them from React function components or custom hooks

05

Lists

Lists

React Lists

- Array is a valid JSX element
  - Can contain any valid JSX element
- key attribute is a must
  - SHOULD be unique for each element in an array
  - Describe an element as closely as possible (ideally unique Id for each element)
  - Do not use the index as key!
- key is important for React to be performant when rendering lists
  - Allows React to reuse old DOM structure

List example - list.md

Thank you for your attention!

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