

What is the read parameter in @ViewChild for

Asked 3 years, 3 months ago Active 3 months ago Viewed 18k times



Need help to understand meaning of {read: ViewContainerRef} in following statement.

67

```
@ViewChild('myname', {read: ViewContainerRef}) target;
```



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edited Jun 15 '16 at 15:55



Günter Zöchbauer

366k 83 1168 1059

asked May 26 '16 at 2:58



Pankaj Kapare

4,641 3 24 46

4 see [this](#) – Ankit Singh May 26 '16 at 4:30

1 Answer



There can be several instances of various types associated with the element tag with the `#myname` template variable.

87

For each element there is an `ElementRef` and `ViewContainerRef` (maybe others from components or directives applied to that tag).



If the element is a component, then there is the component instance.



There can also be one or several directives applied to the element

With `{read: SomeType}` you tell what type should be returned from the element with the `#myname` template variable.

If you don't provide the `read` parameter, `@ViewChild()` returns the

- `ElementRef` instance if there is no component applied, or the
- component instance if there is.
- If you want to get something different you need to explicitly specify using `read`.

See also [How can I select an element in a component template?](#)

edited May 28 at 7:23



abd995

805 2 10

answered May 27 '16 at 6:22



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'maybe others from components or directives applied to that tag' : How can we get the full list of possible type ? – [Ghetolay](#) Jun 24 '16 at 8:39

The directives and components listed in `directives: [...]` of the current component or in `PLATFORM_DIRECTIVES` where a selectors matches. You can use stackoverflow.com/questions/35233572/... to investigate on a running application. – [Günter Zöchbauer](#) Jun 24 '16 at 9:27

- 2 This only supports Angular types that are associated with a node. `HTMLElement` is not one of them. `ElementRef` allows to access the `HTMLElement` using `ElementRef.nativeElement`. – [Günter Zöchbauer](#) Jun 25 '16 at 20:10
- 1 Just trying all kind of things and investigating the Angular2 source. – [Günter Zöchbauer](#) Jun 30 '16 at 3:03
- 1 You can't when the element is a component. You can only specify what you want if you use `@ViewChild(... read: ElementRef) ...` – [Günter Zöchbauer](#) Jan 15 at 10:20

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