

What is ViewChild in Angular2?

Asked 3 years, 4 months ago Active 10 months ago Viewed 8k times



From the official [documentation](#). A ViewChild :

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Configures a view query.



View queries are **set** before the ngAfterViewInit callback is called.



The explanation is very minimal and I still don't quite understand what is it used for.

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Consider this [example](#) from a blog I found.

Taking away the `@ViewChild(TodoInputCmp)` have no effect on the code inside `TodoInputCmp`

Can someone give me some insight?

Thanks

javascript

typescript

 angular

asked Apr 14 '16 at 5:09



testing

858

1

11

28

related: [stackoverflow.com/questions/34326745/...](#) – [awqueous](#) Apr 14 '16 at 6:06

the [example](#) you mentioned has no effect just because someone forgot to remove unused code. – [Ankit Singh](#) Apr 14 '16 at 6:19

3 Answers

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It provides a reference to elements or components in your view:

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```
@Component({
  ...
  directives: [SomeComponent],
  template: `
    <div><span #myVar>xxx</span><div>
    <some-comp></some-comp>`
})
class MyComponent {
  @ViewChild('myVar') myVar: ElementRef;
  @ViewChild(SomeComponent) someComponent: SomeComponent;

  ngAfterViewInit() {
    console.log(this.myVar.nativeElement.innerHTML);
    console.log(this.someComponent);
  }
}
```

The variables are not initialized before `ngAfterViewInit()`

answered Apr 14 '16 at 5:13



[Günter Zöchbauer](#)

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The `ViewChild` decorator is used to gain access to a child component, found in the template, so that you can access its properties and methods.

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answered Apr 14 '16 at 5:13



[rgvassar](#)

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`@ViewChild()`

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In Angular we define a template of a component by combining plain HTML with other Angular components. In the view (html file) we can

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```
<input type="text" #firstNameInput>  
<myDefaultComponent #reference></myDefaultComponent>
```

Using template reference variables the components and html elements are usually only available inside the view. However, when we want to inject references of the component or html element and inject them into our model (ts file component class) we can use `@ViewChild()` in order to achieve this.

We use `@ViewChild()` decorator in the following manner:

```
@ViewChild('myReference') myClassproperty;
```

Using `@ViewChild()` will do different things based on where the reference was placed:

1. When the reference was placed on a html component it will inject the **html DOM component** into the model as a class property (`myClassproperty` in this example). We then can access this property in the model using `this.myClassproperty`
2. When the reference was placed on a angular component it will inject the **Angular component** into the model as a class property (`myClassproperty` in this example). We then can access this property in the model using `this.myClassproperty`

Thus `@ViewChild()` is very convenient to inject other child components or child HTML elements into the model class. The parent component now can react based on the behaviour of its child components and html elements which is a feature that is often required.

Caveat:

Also important to note is that you should put `@ViewChild()` in an `ngAfterViewInit()` hook. This is because you can only have access to the elements in the view after they are rendered.

answered Oct 13 '18 at 12:58



[Willem van der Veen](#)

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