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Angular attribute binding

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In this video we will discuss **Attribute Binding in Angular**

In our previous videos we discussed **Interpolation** and **Property binding** that deal with binding Component class properties to HTML element properties and not Attributes.

However, in some situations we want to be able to bind to HTML element attributes. For example, **colspan** and **aria** attributes does not have corresponding DOM properties. So in this case we want to be able to bind to HTML element attributes.

To make this happen, Angular provides attribute binding. With **attribute binding** we can set the value of an attribute directly. Angular team recommends to use Property binding when possible and use attribute binding only when there is no corresponding element property to bind.

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Let us understand **Attribute Binding in Angular** with an example. We want to display Employee Details in a table as shown below.

Employee Details	
First Name	Tom
Last Name	Hopkins
Gender	Male
Age	20

To achieve this we are going to make use of Employee component we have implemented in Part 6 of Angular 2 tutorial.

In our root component - **app.component.ts** we have the following code

```
import { Component } from '@angular/core';

@Component({
    selector: 'my-app',
    template: `
            <div>
                <my-employee></my-employee>
            </div>
        `
})
export class AppComponent {
}
```

Code in employee.component.ts file
```
import { Component } from '@angular/core';

@Component({
    selector: 'my-employee',
    templateUrl: 'app/employee/employee.component.html',
    styleUrls: ['app/employee/employee.component.css']
})
export class EmployeeComponent {
    imagePath: string = 'Tom.png';
```

```
    firstName: string = 'Tom';
    lastName: string = 'Hopkins';
    gender: string = 'Male';
    age: number = 20;
}
```

Code in employee.component.css file

```css
table {
    color: #369;
    font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
    font-size: large;
    border-collapse: collapse;
}

td {
    border: 1px solid black;
}
thead{
    border: 1px solid black;
}
```

Code in employee.component.html file

```html
<table>
    <thead>
        <tr>
            <th colspan="2">
                Employee Details
            </th>
        </tr>
    </thead>
    <tbody>
        <tr>
            <td>First Name</td>
            <td>{{firstName}}</td>
        </tr>
        <tr>
            <td>Last Name</td>
            <td>{{lastName}}</td>
        </tr>
        <tr>
            <td>Gender</td>
            <td>{{gender}}</td>
        </tr>
```

Slides

```html
      <tr>
         <td>Age</td>
         <td>{{age}}</td>
      </tr>
   </tbody>
</table>
```

Notice at the moment we have hard-coded **colspan** attribute value to 2 in the HTML. Instead we want to bind to a component class property. So in the employee.component.ts file include 'columnSpan' property as shown below.

```typescript
export class EmployeeComponent {
    columnSpan: number = 2;
    imagePath: string = 'Tom.png';
    firstName: string = 'Tom';
    lastName: string = 'Hopkins';
    gender: string = 'Male';
    age: number = 20;
}
```

If we use interpolation to bind columnSpan property of the component class to colspan attribute of the <th> element we get the error - Can't bind to 'colspan' since it isn't a known property of 'th'
```html
<th colspan="{{columnSpan}}">
```

We get the same error if we use Property Binding
```html
<th [colspan]="columnSpan">
```

This error is because we do not have a corresponding property in the DOM for colspan attribute. To fix this we have to use attribute-binding in Angular, which sets the colspan attribute. To tell angular framework that we are setting an attribute value we have to prefix the attribute name with attr and a DOT as shown below.
```html
<th [attr.colspan]="columnSpan">
```

The same is true when using interpolation
```html
<th attr.colspan="{{columnSpan}}">
```

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Sajjad Hussain August 1, 2017 at 4:02 AM

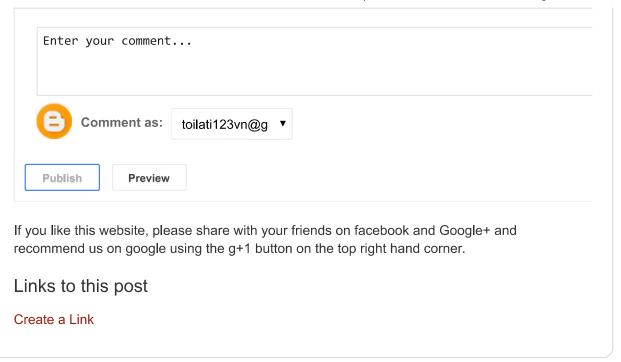Nice ... Best Tutorial always ever

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HariSiddu May 20, 2019 at 5:51 AM

colspan spelling mistakes sir..at slide

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