

# Angular: Directives vs Pipes

Asked 2 years, 7 months ago   Active 1 year, 4 months ago   Viewed 8k times



**What are the arguments for creating and using directives vs creating and using pipes.**

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The scenario this question stems from is around currency input and output.



If a user needs to input a currency, why not create/use a directive that parses the input into a formatted currency string? The other option is to take in that string, and display it through a pipe like so:



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```
<input type="text" #val (keydown)="currencyVal=val.value" />
<h3>{{currencyVal | currency}}</h3>
```

VS

```
// Where mask-money is a directive that filters the
//input to a formatted currency string
<input type="text" mask-money (keydown)="currencyVal=val.value" />
<h3>{{currencyVal}}</h3>
```

On the other hand, a pipe can be used in the controller/component triggered by an input to filter the value.

I could ask a ton of questions about it, but I basically want to know: **what are the arguments for each?**

javascript

html

 angular

edited May 7 '18 at 14:34

asked Jan 31 '17 at 20:11




Pezetter

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- 1 I'd say the "Angular way" is to use a pipe. Pipes are for formatting data, directives are to alter the behavior/appearance of an element. In your case, you clearly want the former. I don't know if you'll get a lot of "arguments for each case" as this seems like a minor issue. Also, S.O. discourages opinion posts. – [AngularChef](#) Jan 31 '17 at 20:20 

## 1 Answer



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To bring it to the point in the most simple terms, i would say a **pipe** is to manipulate *data*, while a **directive** is more for *DOM manipulation*.

A pipe gets data as an input, transforms it and outputs this data in another way.

A directive gets a DOM element it's "attached" to and enhances it with some kind of features.

Of course you will find examples where both make sense (take the `Components` into account and you have three structure types to decide between) and it's more of a question of preference which you choose.

In your example you would use a *pipe*. Let's say you want to show the currency value in bold text and use an image-icon as a currency symbol you probably take a *directive*

answered Jan 31 '17 at 20:24



lexith

5,823

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