

ADVANCED COMPONENTS

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Objectives

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- Review advanced details related to building components
- Dynamic component creation
- Lifecycle hooks
- Content projection
- Accessing the DOM
- More ...

CSS

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- The CSS standard was originally focused around separation of concerns
 - ▣ Content → HTML
 - ▣ Logic → JavaScript
 - ▣ Styling → CSS
- Having different programming language for each concern is great
- However, the standard original MOO contradicts the component state of mind

Styling Components

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- A component is an isolated unit of UI
- Styling inside parent component should not break a child
- On the other hand, a parent may need to customize “a bit” the appearance of a child component
- However, CSS is global by nature. It usually “cascades” more than we need

Be aware of Cascading

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- Assume the following ContactListComponent

parent.component.html

```
<ul>
  <li *ngFor="let contact of contacts">
    <span>{{contact.name}}</span>
    <button>Delete</button>
  </li>
</ul>
```

How easily can
we style each
button
differently ?

- And the following parent component

contactList.component.html

```
<div class="buttons">
  <button>Refresh</button>
</div>

<my-contact-list></my-contact-list>
```

Be aware of Cascading

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- If we want to style the button element inside the parent, we can use the following

```
my-app button {  
  background-color: red;  
}
```

- However it means that every descendant button of my-app is effected
- Do we want to change the styling of contact-list component too ?

Be Specific

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- We can move to a more specific definition

```
my-app > button {  
  background-color: red;  
}
```

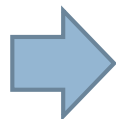
- It means that only direct child of my-app is effected
- However, this is too strict definition
- Any time we move the button inside its containing component the CSS definition must be fixed

CSS Modules

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- A CSS Module is a CSS file in which all class names are scoped locally by default
- See more details at <https://github.com/css-modules/css-modules>
- The trick is to change the class name into something unique

```
my-app button {  
  background-color: red;  
}
```



```
my-app_uvwxyz button {  
  background-color: red;  
}
```

- And then somehow use the unique name inside HTML/code

Shadow DOM

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- One of four Web Component standards
 - ▣ HTML templates
 - ▣ Shadow DOM
 - ▣ Custom Elements
 - ▣ HTML Imports
- Allows for scoped CSS (and more ...)
 - ▣ Styles don't leak out
 - ▣ Page styles don't bleed in
- Most browsers do not support it ☹️

Angular POV

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- Angular implements parts of the Shadow DOM standard even for older browser
 - ▣ CSS encapsulation
 - ▣ :host
 - ▣ /deep/
 - ▣ template
 - ▣ content
- You can think of Angular as a way to bring the future power of web components into today SPA development

View Encapsulation

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- For every component Angular is aware of its template + styling
- Thus, Angular is capable of “fixing” both and make them more encapsulated
- The effective CSS + HTML is a bit different than the one you write
- Be prepared for performance penalty since Angular needs to parse both CSS & HTML → Use AOT

View Encapsulation

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- Angular implementation for a Shadow DOM way of thinking

```
<div class="buttons">  
  <button>Refresh</button>  
</div>  
  
<my-contact-list></my-contact-list>
```



```
<div _ngcontent-c0="" class="buttons">  
  <button _ngcontent-c0="">Refresh</button>  
</div>  
  
<my-contact-list _ngcontent-c0="" _ngghost-c1="">  
</my-contact-list>
```

```
button {  
  background-color: red;  
}
```



```
button[_ngcontent-c0] {  
  background-color: red;  
}
```

Every element is attached with unique attribute and CSS is fixed with the same unique name

Styling the host element

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- Assuming a component named **my-app**
- The following definition does not work

```
my-app {  
  display: flex;  
  flex-direction: row;  
}
```

- my-app is considered a child element, not the host element itself

Styling the host element

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- We can use the standard **:host** CSS syntax

```
:host {  
  display: flex;  
  flex-direction: row;  
}
```

- Angular transforms it to the following definition

```
[_ngghost-c0] {  
  display: flex;  
  flex-direction: row;  
}
```

Adding CSS class to host element

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- There are cases where `:host` is not enough
 - ▣ For example, attaching 3rd party CSS class
- There is no way to do that through the HTML ☹️
- Use **@HostBinding** instead

```
export class AppComponent {  
  @HostBinding("class.external") external: boolean = true;  
}
```

```
:host(.external) {  
  background-color: red;  
}
```

Must be true, else,
the CSS class is
not injected

ViewEncapsulation.None

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- ❑ No CSS encapsulation
- ❑ Angular just injects the CSS into the head
- ❑ You cannot use :host

This is the trick

```
@Component({  
  selector: "my-app",  
  templateUrl: "./app.component.html",  
  styleUrls: ["./app.component.css"],  
  encapsulation: ViewEncapsulation.None,  
})  
export class AppComponent {  
}
```


ViewEncapsulation.Native

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- ❑ Makes Angular use the browser's native support
- ❑ Has poor browser support (Mostly Chrome)
- ❑ No styles are written to the document head
- ❑ Styles reside inside the component template

No transformation over the CSS since :host is assumed to be natively supported by the browser

```
<my-app>
  <#shadow-root>
    <style>
      :host {
        display: flex;
        flex-direction: column;
      }
    </style>
    <h1>Hello Angular</h1>
  </#shadow-root>
</my-app>
```

/deep/ ➔ ::ng-deep

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- A parent component may want to override some default stylings for its child component
- CSS encapsulation prevent that by default
- Use /deep/ syntax (now deprecated)

Omitting :host
creates a “plain”
global CSS rule

```
:host {  
  display: flex;  
  flex-direction: column;  
}  
  
:host /deep/ button {  
  background-color: red;  
}
```

ng-container

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- Allows for grouping of sibling elements without introducing additional HTML element

```
<p>  
  I turned the corner  
  <ng-container *ngIf="hero">  
    and saw {{hero.name}}. I waved  
  </ng-container>  
  and continued on my way.  
</p>
```

Content Projection

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- Previously known as transclusion (AngularJS)
- Every component may have a content that is defined by the host of the component
- For example, a dialog component

We expect that the dialog component reuses the content somewhere inside its template

```
<h1>Hello Angular</h1>
```

```
<my-dialog>
```

```
  <my-contact-list></my-contact-list>
```

```
</my-dialog>
```

This is the content

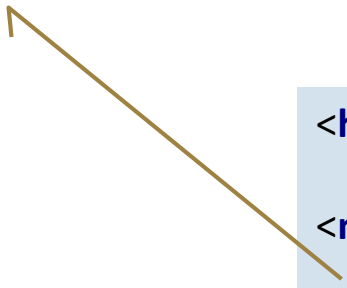
Content Projection

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- By default the content is not part of the DOM
- However, all components inside the content are created !!!

my-contact-list
component is created
but not display !!!!

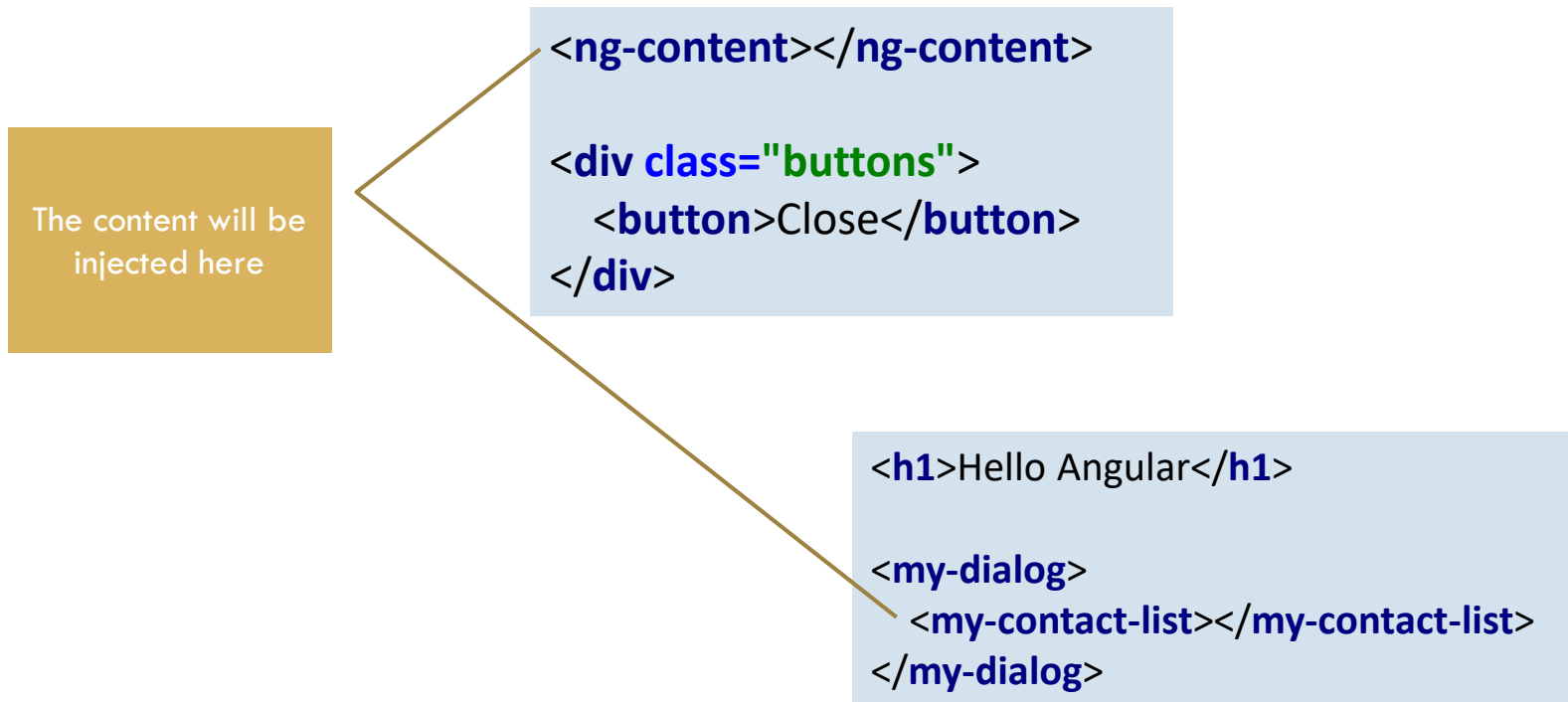
```
<h1>Hello Angular</h1>  
  
<my-dialog>  
  <my-contact-list></my-contact-list>  
</my-dialog>
```



Content Projection

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- A component may decide to inject the content into its template by using the **ng-content** marker



Content Lifetime

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- The lifetime of the content is not controlled by the surrounding component
- The owner of the content is the parent of the dialog

Content is removed from the DOM but its child components are still alive

```
<ng-content *ngIf="showDialog"></ng-content>  
  
<div class="buttons">  
  <button>Close</button>  
  <button (click)="toggleDialog()">Toggle Dialog</button>  
</div>
```

Multi ng-content

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- Use the **select** attribute

```
<ng-content select=".header"></ng-content>  
<ng-content select=".content"></ng-content>  
<ng-content select=".buttons"></ng-content>
```

- The client need to “reuse” the correct selectors

```
<my-dialog>  
  <my-contact-list class="content"></my-contact-list>  
</my-dialog>
```

Must be the
same

Default content

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- Angular does not allow default content ☹️

Does not work !

```
<ng-content select=".buttons">
  <button>Close</button>
  <button (click)="toggleDialog()">Toggle Dialog</button>
</ng-content>
```

- You can simulate that using the following trick

If the wrapper of ng-content has no children it means the client did not specify any content and we should use the default

```
<div #buttons>
  <ng-content select=".buttons"></ng-content>
</div>
<div *ngIf="!buttons.firstElementChild">
  <button>Close</button>
  <button (click)="toggleDialog()">Toggle Dialog</button>
</div>
```

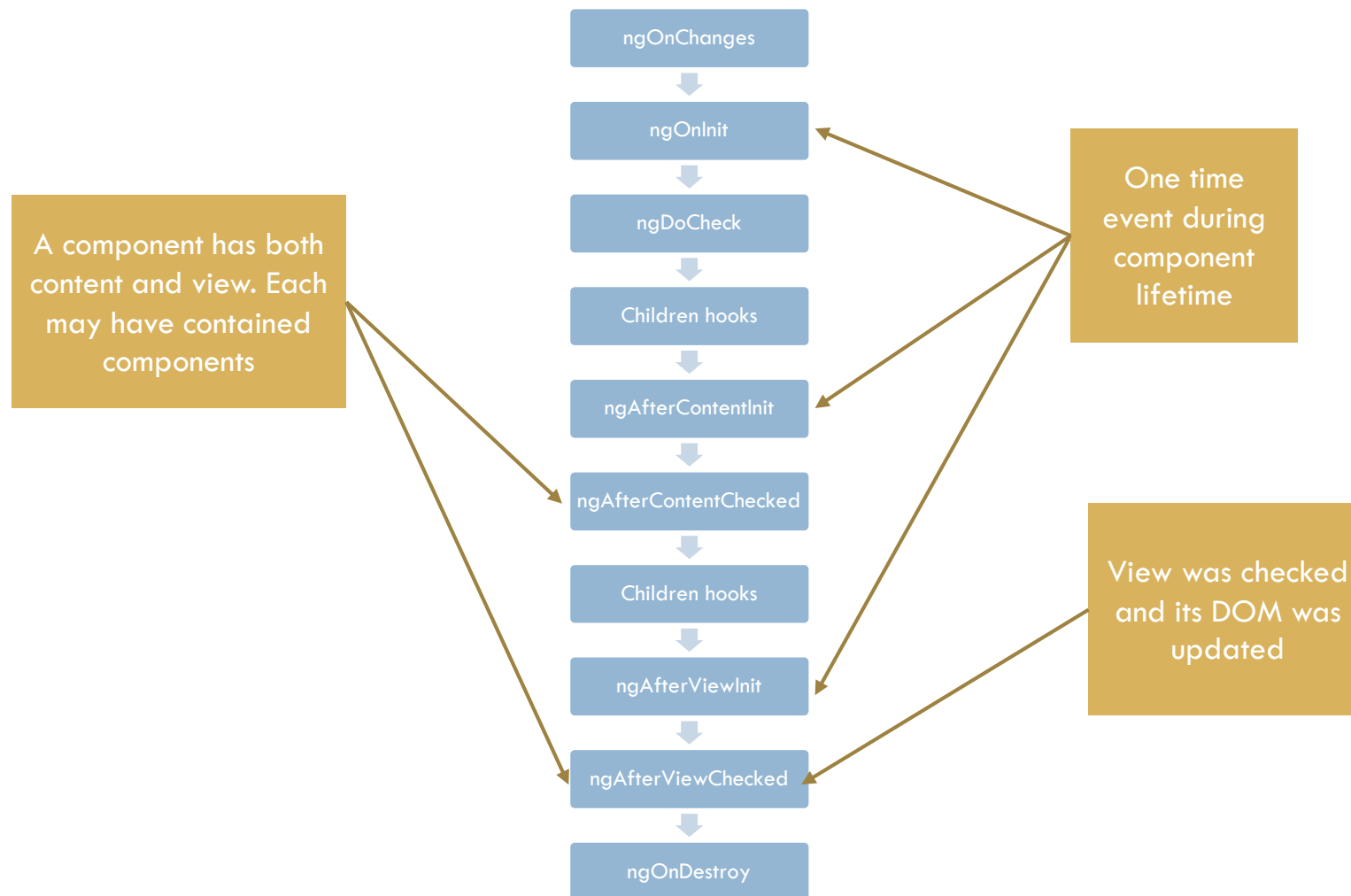
Lifecycle Hooks

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- Just like ASP.NET ...
- Each component is notified several times by Angular during its lifetime
- We use the lifecycle hooks/events to customize component default behavior

Lifecycle Hooks

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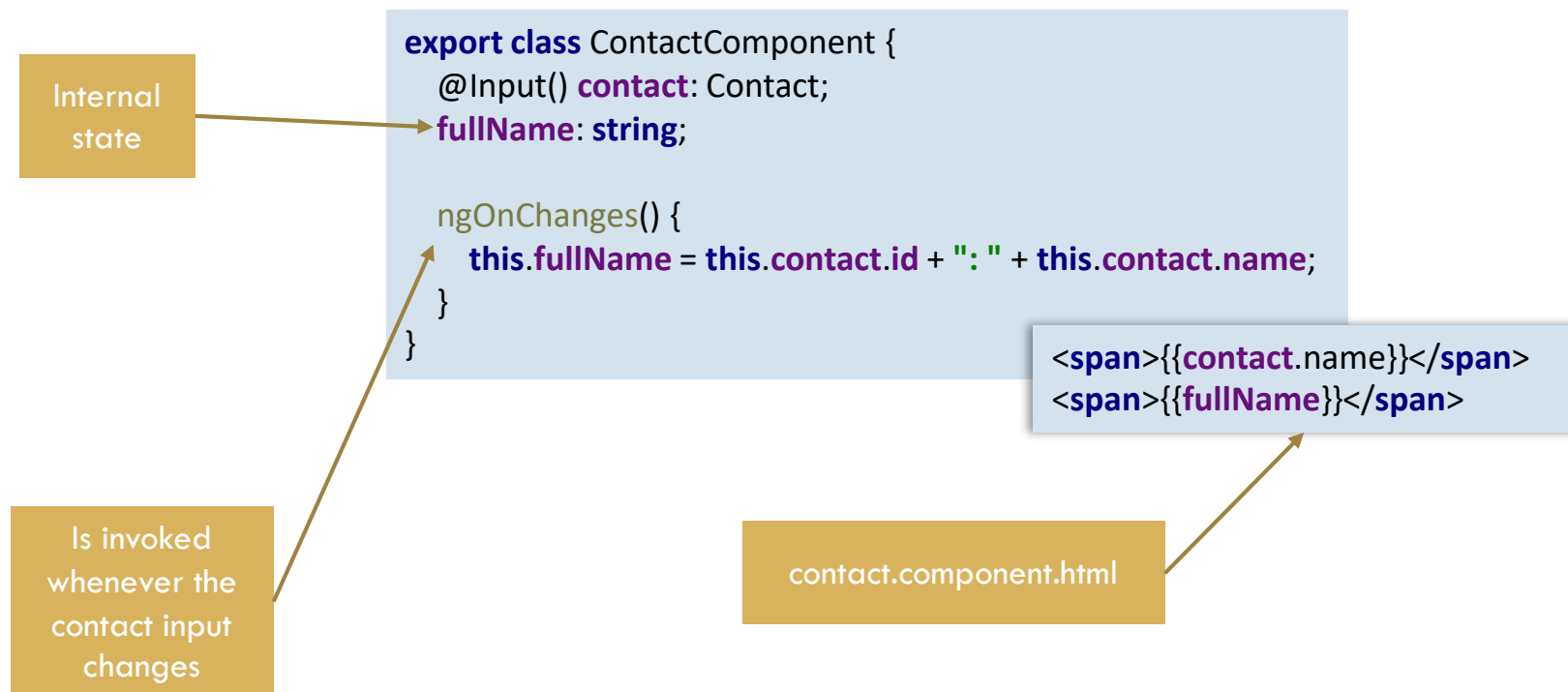
ngOnChanges

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- Angular invoke this function only when one of the component's inputs changed
- The hook is not executed per input but rather after all inputs were updated by Angular
- A good place to update internal state that is derived from all inputs

ngOnChanges

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ngOnChanges – Be aware

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- ngOnChanges is invoked as part of Angular change detection
- Angular executes simple change detection comparison
- The input “shallow” value is compared. Whether it’s a value type or a reference type
- It means that a deep change inside an input does not trigger ngOnChanges

React to deep change - ngDoCheck

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- ngDoCheck is always executed
- Even if no input was changed
- Use the method to update internal state
- Must be super efficient implementation
 - ▣ At your own risk ...

```
export class ContactComponent {  
  @Input() contact: Contact;  
  fullName: string;  
  
  ngDoCheck() {  
    this.fullName = this.contact.id + ": " + this.contact.name;  
  }  
}
```

```
<span>{{contact.name}}</span>  
<span>{{fullName}}</span>
```

React to deep change - Getter

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- If you are willing to execute a calculation “all the time” then you may just use ES5 getter

```
export class ContactComponent {  
  @Input() contact: Contact;  
  
  get fullName(): string {  
    return this.contact.id + ": " + this.contact.name;  
  }  
}
```

```
<span>{{contact.name}}</span>  
<span>{{fullName}}</span>
```

Must be super
efficient, else, you
might hurt the
performance of the
whole application

React to deep change - Immutability

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- Clone the whole input before changing it
- Thus the reference changes → Angular detects the change easily → ngOnChanges is invoked → Internal state can be updated

```
export class ContactListComponent {  
  contacts: Contact[];  
  
  constructor() {  
    this.contacts = [  
      { "id": 1, "name": "Ori" },  
      { "id": 2, "name": "Roni" },  
    ];  
  }  
  
  change() {  
    this.contacts[1] = Object.assign({}, this.contacts[1], {  
      name: this.contacts[1] + "X"  
    });  
  }  
}
```

Avoid internal state

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- ❑ Component internal state can be extracted into external model that is sent as an input
- ❑ Upon change, the parent component clones the model and updates it
- ❑ Angular rebinds the input
- ❑ Since all state is inside the input model the component does not need to react to changes
- ❑ It just displays the input data
- ❑ A service may encapsulate the details

Avoid Internal State

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```
export class ContactListComponent {
  contacts: ContactViewModel[];

  constructor() {
    this.contacts = [
      new ContactViewModel({id: 1,
        name: "Ori", fullName: ""}),
      new ContactViewModel({id: 2,
        name: "Roni", fullName: ""})
    ];
  }

  change() {
    this.contacts[1].change({
      name: this.contacts[1].name + "X"
    });
  }
}
```

```
export interface IContactViewModel {
  id?: number;
  name?: string;
  fullName?: string;
}

export class ContactViewModel implements IContactViewModel {
  id: number;
  name: string;
  fullName: string;

  constructor(options: IContactViewModel) {
    this.change(options);
  }

  change(options: IContactViewModel) {
    Object.assign(this, options);
    this.fullName = this.id + ": " + this.name;
  }
}
```

The change goes through a method which is responsible for “fixing” the whole model

ngAfterContentChecked & ngAfterViewChecked

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- Querying to the DOM is always tricky inside Angular
- You must query the DOM after it was updated
- **ngAfterContentChecked** – The content was dirty checked and its DOM was updated
- **ngAfterViewChecked** – The same logic but this time for the view

Dynamic Component

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- There are some cases where the component template can only be known at runtime
 - ▣ Think about a view that is defined by a database
 - ▣ Wix style
- In that case we need to dynamically compile a component
- Adding a component to an existing module is not allowed
- Therefore, you will need to compile a module first !!!

Dynamically Create a Module

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```
createComponentFactory(template: string) {  
  @Component({  
    template: template,  
  })  
  class DynamicComponent {  
    constructor(contactService: ContactService) {  
      console.log(contactService);  
    }  
  }  
  
  @NgModule({  
    imports: [  
      CommonModule  
    ],  
    declarations: [DynamicComponent],  
  })  
  class DynamicModule {  
  }  
  
  const moduleFactory = this.compiler.compileModuleAndAllComponentsSync(DynamicModule);  
  const componentFactory = moduleFactory.componentFactories[0];  
  
  return componentFactory;  
}
```

No selector !!!
Angular creates a random one

Add the component to the module

Using the Component

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- Having a component factory we can inject a new component instance into a parent

```
injectTemplate() {  
  const template = "<h1>{{counter}}</h1>";  
  const componentFactory = createComponentFactory(template);  
  
  const componentRef = this.marker.createComponent(componentFactory);  
}
```

Add the component
to the module

```
export class AppComponent {  
  @ViewChild("marker", {read: ViewContainerRef}) marker: ViewContainerRef;  
}
```

```
<div #marker></div>
```

Controlling Dynamic Component State

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- Creating component at runtime is just a mechanism to inject a template into existing parent component
- How can we let template attach to parent state ?

```
injectTemplate() {  
  const template = "<h1>{{state.counter}}</h1>";  
  const componentFactory = this.createComponentFactory(template);  
  const componentRef = this.marker.createComponent(componentFactory);  
  
  componentRef.instance.state = this;  
}
```

This is the trick !!!



Accessing the DOM

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- Usually there is no need to access the DOM directly when implementing components
- In case you still need it you may inject an **ElementRef**

Are you sure you
want to go back to
those ugly days ?

```
constructor(private elementRef: ElementRef) {  
  const dom = elementRef.nativeElement;  
  
  this.button = document.createElement("button");  
  this.button.innerText = "Click me";  
  this.onClickHandler = this.onClick.bind(this);  
  this.button.addEventListener("click", this.onClickHandler);  
  
  dom.append(this.button);  
}
```

Accessing the DOM

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- Angular can be executed under NodeJS or under web worker
- In that case **ElementRef.nativeElement** is undefined
- You should write your code with special care and guard against non browser platforms

```
export class AppComponent {  
  constructor(@Inject(PLATFORM_ID) private platformId) {  
    if(isPlatformBrowser(this.platformId)) {  
      console.log("Running under browser");  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Accessing Child Component

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```
export class AppComponent {  
  @ViewChild("clock1") clock1: ClockComponent;  
  @ViewChild("clock2") clock2: ClockComponent;  
  showClocks: boolean;  
  
  toggle() {  
    this.showClocks = !this.showClocks;  
  }  
  
  ngAfterViewChecked() {  
    console.log("ngAfterViewChecked");  
  
    console.log(this.clock1);  
    console.log(this.clock2);  
  }  
}
```

clock1 & clock2
automatically change
when toggling
showClocks

```
<div *ngIf="showClocks">  
  <my-clock #clock1></my-clock>  
  <my-clock #clock2></my-clock>  
</div>
```

Accessing Child Component

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- You may access child component according to its Type

```
export class AppComponent {  
  @ViewChild(ClockComponent) clock: ClockComponent;  
  showClock: boolean;  
  
  toggle() {  
    this.showClock = !this.showClock;  
  }  
  
  ngAfterViewChecked() {  
    console.log("ngAfterViewChecked");  
  
    console.log(this.clock);  
  }  
}
```

- Angular also supports **@ContentChild**

Accessing a List of child components

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□ Use @ViewChild/@ContentChildren

```
export class AppComponent {  
  @ViewChild(ClockComponent) clocks: QueryList<ClockComponent>;  
  
  showClock: boolean;  
  counter: number;  
  
  ngAfterViewInit() {  
    this.clocks.changes.subscribe((clocks: QueryList<ClockComponent>) => {  
      console.log("Change", clocks);  
    });  
  }  
  
  toggle() {  
    this.showClock = !this.showClock;  
  }  
}
```

This is a live collection and is automatically updated with any view change

You should not change UI state here since the notification is executed after Angular already checked the component

```
<div *ngIf="showClock">  
  <my-clock></my-clock>  
  <my-clock></my-clock>  
</div>
```

ngFor Analysis

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- In some cases **ngFor** is the root cause for performance issue
- Since ngFor produces significant amount of DOM Angular puts much effort trying to optimize it
- However, the developer is still responsible for keeping it truly optimized
- Lets see ...

Swapping Items

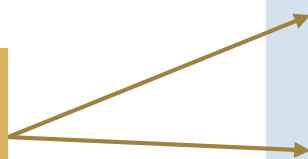
47

- We use ngFor to display a list of contacts
- What happens if we swap two items inside the list

```
const tmp = this.contacts[0];  
this.contacts[0] = this.contacts[1];  
this.contacts[1] = tmp;
```

- Angular is smart enough to swap the DOM elements too

Angular just
swaps the two
elements



The diagram shows two arrows originating from a yellow box on the left. One arrow points to the first element in the HTML code block, and the other points to the second element. This illustrates that Angular swaps the DOM elements to match the order of the data in the array after the swap.

```
<ul>  
  <li>  
    <my-contact><span>Roni</span></my-contact>  
  </li>  
  <li>  
    <my-contact><span>Ori</span></my-contact>  
  </li>  
</ul>
```

Identity

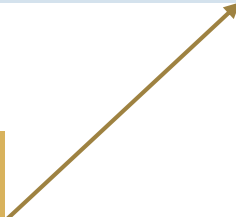
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- To detect permutations Angular by default uses the object identity (address) of each item
- Replacing an existing item with a new object but with exactly the same fields causes DOM recreation

```
<ul>
  <li *ngFor="let contact of contacts">
    <my-contact [contact]="contact"></my-contact>
  </li>
</ul>
```

```
this.contacts = [
  {"id": 1, "name": "Ori"},
  {"id": 2, "name": "Roni"},
];
```

Executing this
code twice
causes DOM
recreation !!!



Customizing Identity

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- Use **trackBy** syntax to change the identity algorithm of ngFor

```
<ul>
  <li *ngFor="let contact of contacts; trackBy: trackByFn">
    <my-contact [contact]="contact"></my-contact>
  </li>
</ul>
```

```
trackByFn(index, item) {
  return item.id;
}
```

```
trackByFn(index, item) {
  return index;
}
```

Angular reuses
the DOM
whatever the
value of item

For read-only list
which need to be
refreshed this is
the preferred
way

Heterogeneous ngFor

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- Assume a polymorphic collection of items
- For each type of item we want to display different view
- According to OCP we don't want to maintain an if/else
- Instead we hold a map between items types and views
- How can we handle injection of different view depends on the item type ?

ComponentFactoryResolver

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- A built-in provider that returns a component factory for a component type
- Use it to dynamically inject a component to an existing parent
- Usually you will set a marker inside the parent's view and inject the component using **ViewContainerRef**
- See next slide

Heterogeneous ngFor

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```

export class ListItemComponent {
  @ViewChild("marker", {read: ViewContainerRef})
  marker: ViewContainerRef;

  @Input() item: any;
  @Input() itemToComponentType: any;

  componentRef: ComponentRef<any>;

  constructor(private componentFactoryResolver: ComponentFactoryResolver) {
  }

  ngOnChanges() {
    if(this.componentRef!=null) {
      this.componentRef.destroy();
      this.componentRef = null;
    }

    if(this.item != null) {
      const componentType = this.itemToComponentType(this.item);
      const componentFactory = this.componentFactoryResolver.resolveComponentFactory(componentType);
      this.componentRef = this.marker.createComponent(componentFactory);
      this.componentRef.instance["item"] = this.item;
    }
  }
}

```

<div #marker></div>

Define a
marker inside
the view

Dynamically create
a component at
after the marker

```

<ul>
  <li *ngFor="let item of items">
    <my-list-item [item]="item"
      [itemToComponentType]="itemToComponentTypeFn">
    </my-list-item>
  </li>
</ul>

```

entryComponents

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- By default a component does not have a factory
 - ▣ Less CPU and code
- You need to manually ask Angular to create a factory by specifying the component under the **entryComponents** section

```
@NgModule({  
  entryComponents: [  
    ContactComponent,  
    GroupComponent,  
  ]  
})  
export class AppModule {  
}
```

Filtering ngFor

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- ❑ Angular by design does not offer a pipe for filtering/sorting the collection
 - ❑ AngularJS did
- ❑ Performance is the main reason
- ❑ Past experience showed that developers do not use that capability in efficient way
- ❑ You can still define your own

Custom Pipe

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```
@Pipe({name: 'filter'})
export class FilterPipe implements PipeTransform {
  transform(coll: any[], filterBy: string): any[] {
    if(filterBy === undefined) {
      return coll;
    }

    return coll.filter(contact => contact.name.indexOf(filterBy) !== -1);
  }
}
```

```
<ul>
  <li *ngFor="let contact of contacts | filter: filterBy">
    <span>{{contact.name}}</span>
  </li>
</ul>
```

Pipe
parameter

Pipe Optimization

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- Angular is smart enough to run the pipe only if one of its input changes
- Angular assume the pipe is a pure function
 - ▣ The output is derived only from the input
- However, for a collection this assumption is problematic. For example,
 - ▣ Collection value at index 5 changes
 - ▣ The collection reference remains the same
 - ▣ Angular does not run the filter
 - ▣ DOM is not updated

Impure Pipe

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- Angular always execute the pipe even if none of its inputs changed

```
@Pipe({  
  name: 'filter',  
  pure: false  
})  
export class FilterPipe implements PipeTransform {  
  transform(coll: any[], filterBy: string): any[] {  
    if(filterBy === undefined) {  
      return coll;  
    }  
  
    console.log("transform");  
  
    return coll.filter(contact => contact.name.indexOf(filterBy) != -1);  
  }  
}
```

Impure pipe

Be Aware

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- ❑ Running filtering during every change detection is expensive
- ❑ This is the main reason Angular does not offer a filter pipe
- ❑ It is better to react to change events and only then filter the data

Summary

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- There are many aspects to consider when implementing a component
- Most of the time Angular's defaults are good enough
- You may want to customize
 - ▣ View Encapsulation
 - ▣ Lifecycle Hooks
 - ▣ Pipes
 - ▣ More ...