

ADVANCED COMPONENTS

Ori Calvo, 2017

oric@trainologic.com

<https://trainologic.com>

Objectives

2

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

CSS

3

- 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

4

- 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

5

- 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

6

- 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

7

- We can move to a more specific definition

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

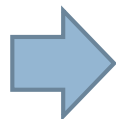
- It means that only direct child of my-app is effected
- However, this is too strict definition
- Any time we move the button inside its containing component the CSS definition must be fixed

CSS Modules

8

- 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

9

- 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

10

- 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

11

- 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

12

- 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

13

- 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

14

- 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

15

- 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

16

- ❑ 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

17

- ❑ 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

18

- 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

19

- 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

20

- 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

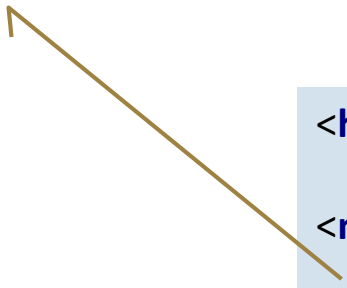
Content Projection

21

- 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 !!!!

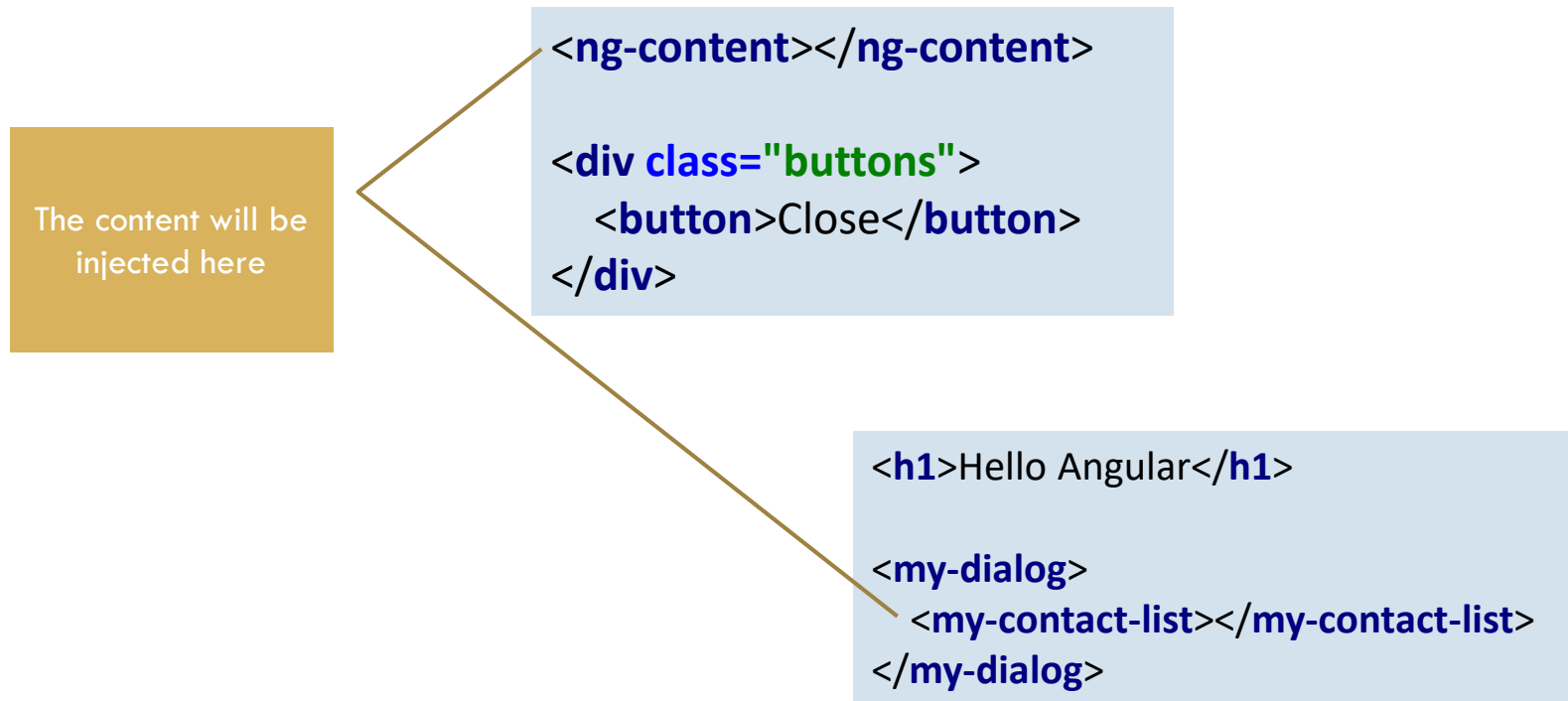
```
<h1>Hello Angular</h1>  
  
<my-dialog>  
  <my-contact-list></my-contact-list>  
</my-dialog>
```



Content Projection

22

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



Content Lifetime

23

- 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

24

- 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

25

- 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>
```

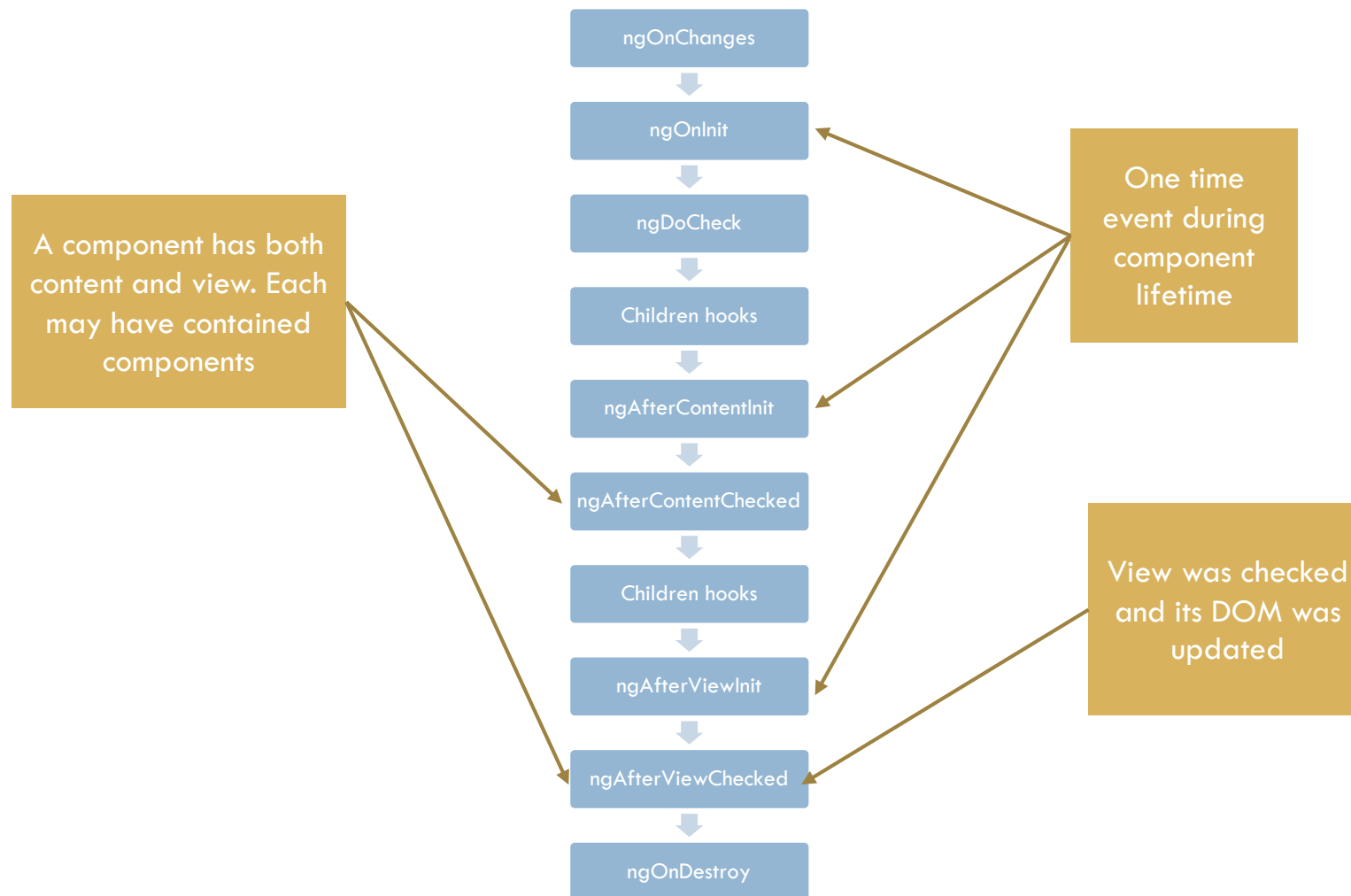
Lifecycle Hooks

26

- 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

27



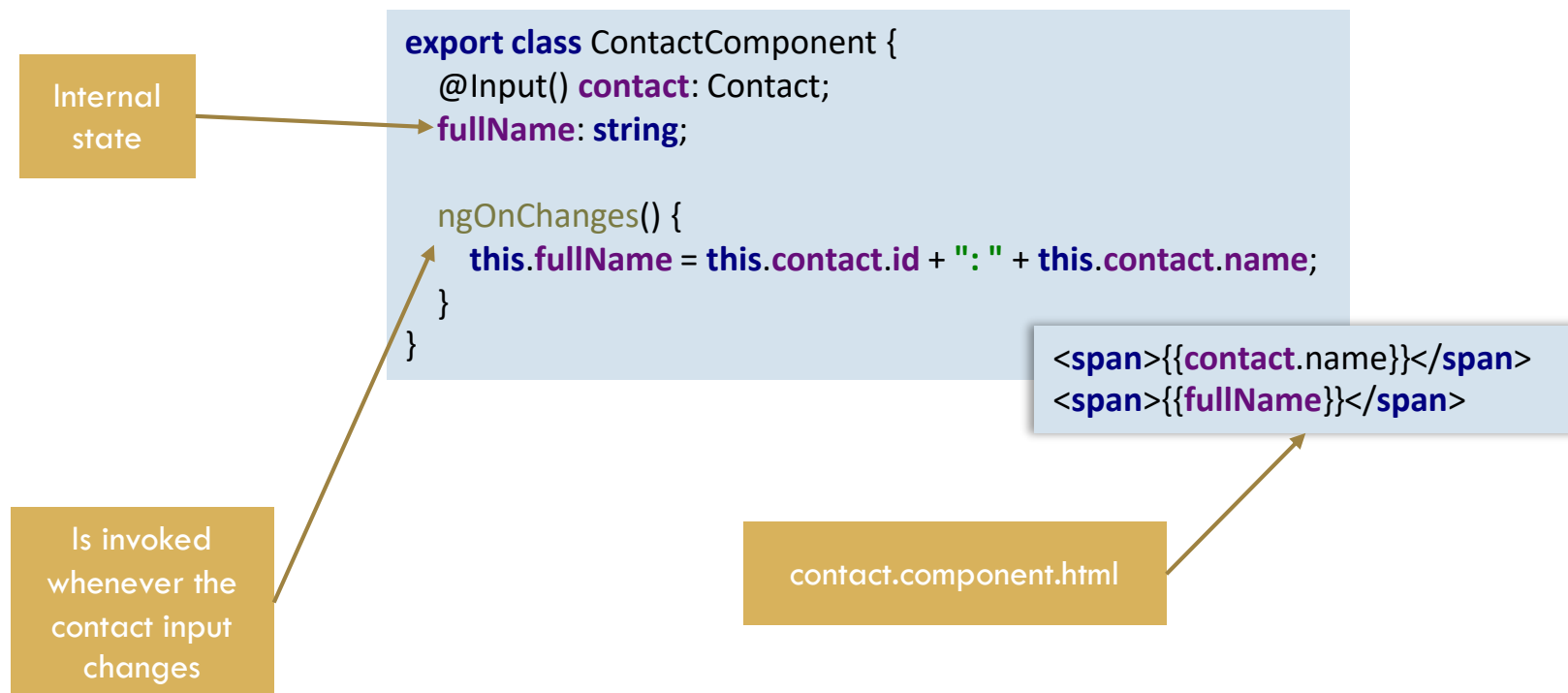
ngOnChanges

28

- 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

29



ngOnChanges – Be aware

30

- 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

31

- 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

32

- 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

33

- 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

34

- ❑ 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

35

```
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

36

- 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

37

- 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

38

```
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

39

- 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

40

- 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

41

- 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

42

- 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

43

```
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

44

- 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

45

□ 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

46

- 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

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

Identity

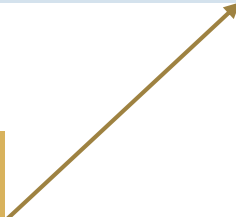
48

- 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

49

- 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

50

- 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

51

- 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

52

```
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

53

- 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

54

- ❑ 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

55

```
@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

56

- 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

57

- 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

58

- ❑ 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

59

- 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 ...