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Practical 7

Aim: To write meta data of your Ecommerce PWA in a Web app manifest file to enable "add to homescreen feature".

Theory:

Regular Web App
A regular web app is a website that is designed to be accessible on all mobile devices such that the content gets fit as per the device screen. It is designed using a web technology stack (HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Ruby, etc.) and operates via a browser. They offer various native-device features and functionalities. However, it entirely depends on the browser the user is using. In other words, it might be possible that you can access a native-device feature on Chrome but not on Safari or Mozilla Firefox because the browsers are incompatible with that feature.

Progressive Web App
Progressive Web App (PWA) is a regular web app, but some extras enable it to deliver an excellent user experience. It is a perfect blend of desktop and mobile application experience to give both platforms to the end-users.

Difference between PWAs vs. Regular Web Apps:
A Progressive Web is different and better than a Regular Web app with features like:
1. **Native Experience**
Though a PWA runs on web technologies (HTML, CSS, JavaScript) like a Regular web app, it gives user experience like a native mobile application. It can use most native device features, including push notifications, without relying on the browser or any other entity. It offers a seamless and integrated user experience that it is quite tough for one to differentiate between a PWA and a Native application by considering its look and feel.

2. **Ease of Access**
Unlike other mobile apps, PWAs do not demand longer download time and make memory space available for installing the applications. The PWAs can be shared and installed by a link, which cuts down the number of steps to install and use. These applications can easily keep an app icon on the user's home screen, making the app easily accessible to the users and helps the brands remain in the users' minds, and improving the chances of interaction.

3. **Faster Services**
PWAs can cache the data and serve the user with text stylesheets, images, and other web content even before the page loads completely. This lowers the waiting time for the end-users and helps the brands improve the user engagement and retention rate, which eventually adds value to their business.

4. **Engaging Approach**
As already shared, the PWAs can employ push notifications and other native device features more efficiently. Their interaction does not depend on the browser user uses. This eventually improves the chances of notifying the user regarding your services, offers, and other options related to your brand and

keeping them hooked to your brand. In simpler words, PWAs let you maintain the user engagement and retention rate.

5. Updated Real-Time Data Access

Another plus point of PWAs is that these apps get updated on their own. They do not demand the end-users to go to the App Store or other such platforms to download the update and wait until installed.

In this app type, the web app developers can push the live update from the server, which reaches the apps residing on the user's devices automatically. Therefore, it is easier for the mobile app developer to provide the best of the updated functionalities and services to the end-users without forcing them to update their app.

6. Discoverable

PWAs reside in web browsers. This implies higher chances of optimizing them as per the Search Engine Optimization (SEO) criteria and improving the Google rankings like that in websites and other web apps.

7. Lower Development Cost

Progressive web apps can be installed on the user device like a native device, but it does not demand submission on an App Store. This makes it far more cost-effective than native mobile applications while offering the same set of functionalities.

The main features are:

Progressive — They work for every user, regardless of the browser chosen because they are built at the base with progressive improvement principles.

Responsive — They adapt to the various screen sizes: desktop, mobile, tablet, or dimensions that can later become available.

App-like — They behave with the user as if they were native apps, in terms of interaction and navigation.

Updated — Information is always up-to-date thanks to the data update process offered by service workers.

Secure — Exposed over HTTPS protocol to prevent the connection from displaying information or altering the contents.

Searchable — They are identified as "applications" and are indexed by search engines.

Reactivable — Make it easy to reactivate the application thanks to capabilities such as web notifications.

Installable — They allow the user to "save" the apps that he considers most useful with the corresponding icon on the screen of his mobile terminal (home screen) without having to face all the steps and problems related to the use of the app store.

Linkable — Easily shared via URL without complex installations.

Offline — Once more it is about putting the user before everything, avoiding the usual error message in case of weak or no connection. The PWA are based on two particularities: first of all the 'skeleton' of the app, which recalls the page structure, even if its contents do not respond and its elements include the header, the page layout, as well as an illustration that signals that the page is loading.

Code and output:

Adding the manifest and serviceworker files:
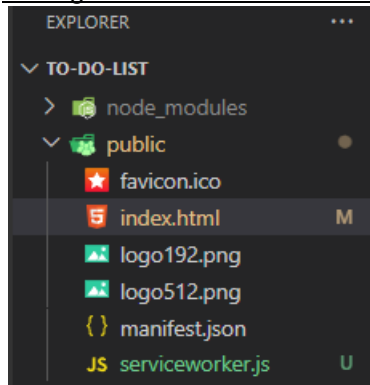
Inserting the code:

//manifest.json
```json
{
  "short_name": "React App",
  "name": "Create React App Sample",
  "icons": [
    {
      "src": "favicon.ico",
      "sizes": "64x64 32x32 24x24 16x16",
      "type": "image/x-icon"
    },
    {
      "src": "logo192.png",
      "type": "image/png",
      "sizes": "192x192"
    },
    {
      "src": "logo512.png",
      "type": "image/png",
      "sizes": "512x512"
    }
  ],
  "start_url": ".",
  "display": "standalone",
  "theme_color": "#000000",
  "background_color": "#ffffff"
}
```
//serviceworker.js
```js
/* eslint-disable no-restricted-globals */
var staticCacheName = "pwa";

self.addEventListener("install", function (e) {
  e.waitUntil(
    caches.open(staticCacheName).then(function (cache) {
      return cache.addAll(["/"]);
    })
  );
});
```

```javascript
self.addEventListener("fetch", function (event) {
  console.log(event.request.url);

  event.respondWith(
    caches.match(event.request).then(function (response) {
      return response || fetch(event.request);
    })
  );
});
```

//index.html

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8" />
    <link rel="icon" href="%PUBLIC_URL%/favicon.ico" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1" />
    <meta name="theme-color" content="#000000" />
    <meta
      name="description"
      content="Web site created using create-react-app"
    />
    <link rel="apple-touch-icon" href="%PUBLIC_URL%/logo192.png" />
    <!--
      manifest.json provides metadata used when your web app is installed on a
      user's mobile device or desktop. See https://developers.google.com/web/fundamentals/web-app-manifest/
    -->
    <link rel="manifest" href="%PUBLIC_URL%/manifest.json" />
    <!--
      Notice the use of %PUBLIC_URL% in the tags above.
      It will be replaced with the URL of the `public` folder during the build.
      Only files inside the `public` folder can be referenced from the HTML.

      Unlike "/favicon.ico" or "favicon.ico", "%PUBLIC_URL%/favicon.ico" will
      work correctly both with client-side routing and a non-root public URL.
      Learn how to configure a non-root public URL by running `npm run build`.
    -->
    <title>Pranav's To do list</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <noscript>You need to enable JavaScript to run this app.</noscript>
    <div id="root"></div>
    <!--
      This HTML file is a template.
      If you open it directly in the browser, you will see an empty page.

      You can add webfonts, meta tags, or analytics to this file.
      The build step will place the bundled scripts into the <body> tag.

      To begin the development, run `npm start` or `yarn start`.
      To create a production bundle, use `npm run build` or `yarn build`.
    -->
    <script>
      window.addEventListener("load", () => {
        registerSW();
      });
```
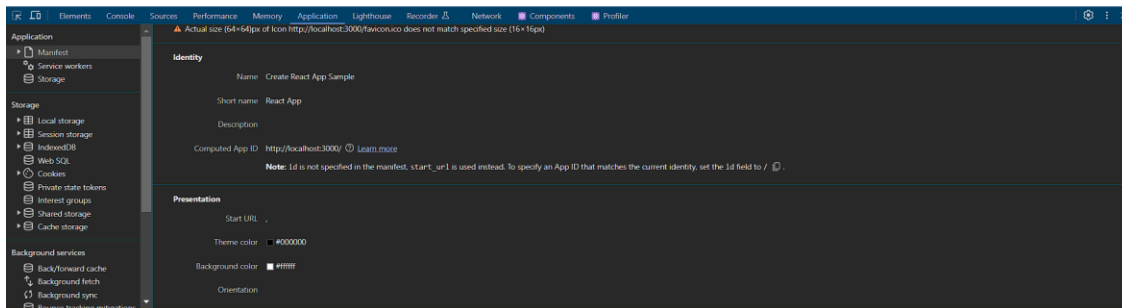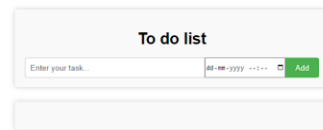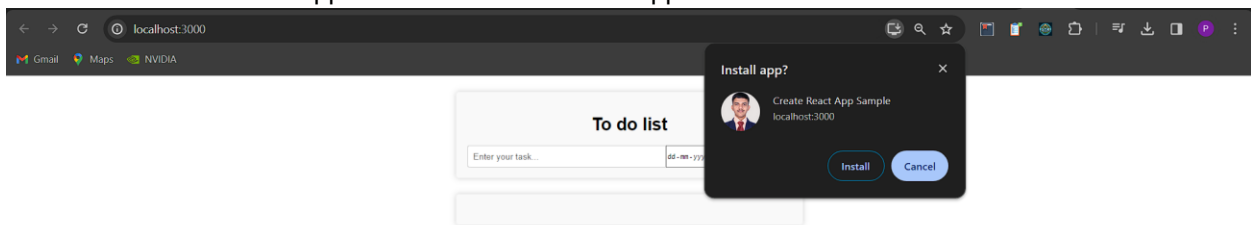
```
      // Register the Service Worker
      async function registerSW() {
        if ("serviceWorker" in navigator) {
          try {
            await navigator;
            ServiceWorker;
            register("serviceworker.js");
          } catch (e) {
            console.log("SW Registration Failed.");
          }
        }
      }
    </script>
  </body>
</html>
```
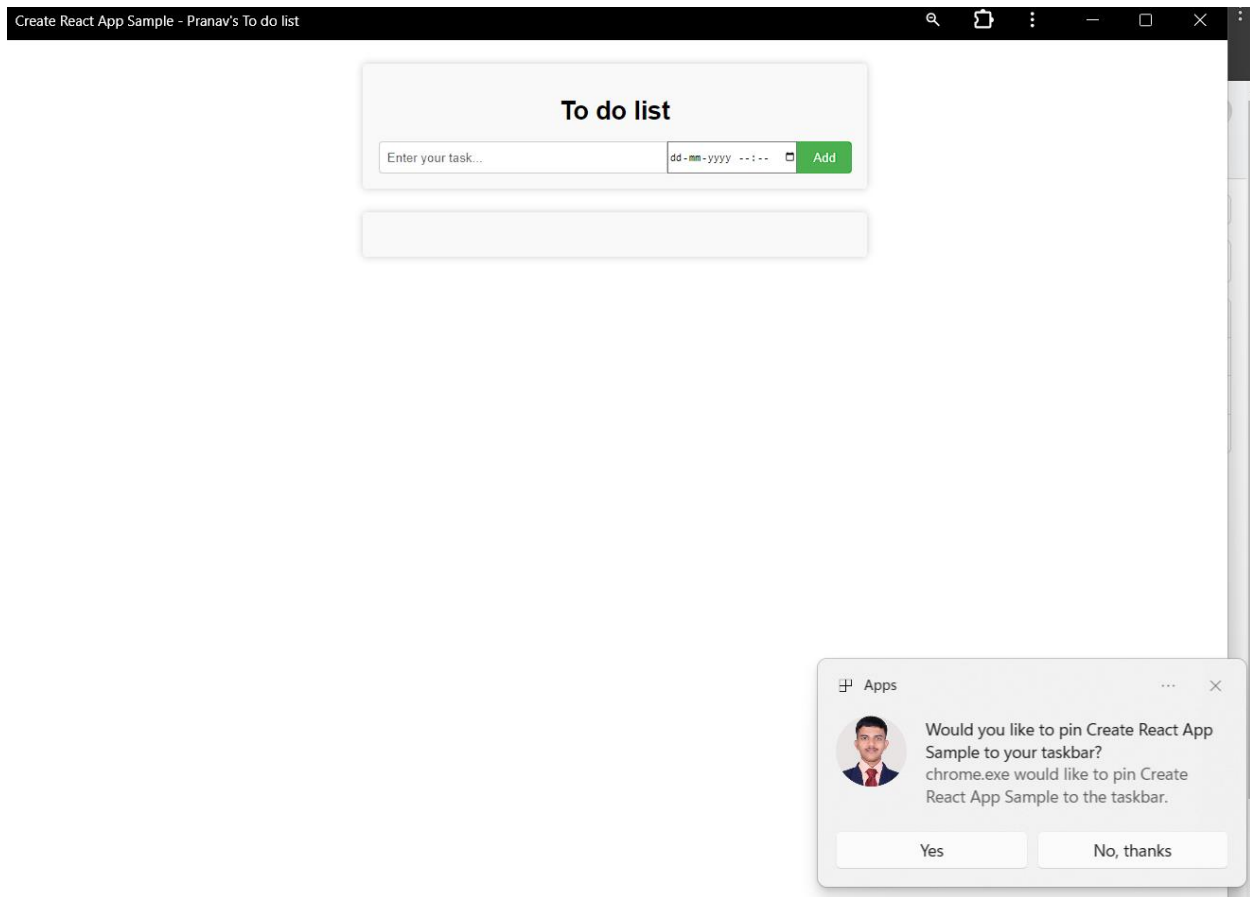
Open localhost:3000 on the browser:

Click on the three dots on the top right corner-> more tools-> developer tools:

Click on the three dots-> Apps-> Install this site as an app

Conclusion:
Thus, the "add to homescreen feature was successfully enabled by adding a manifest file to our web app.