INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS • सिद्धिर्भवति कर्मजा •

IIT Madras

BSc Degree

Frontend implementation

What is the frontend?

- User-facing part of app
    - User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX)

What is the frontend?

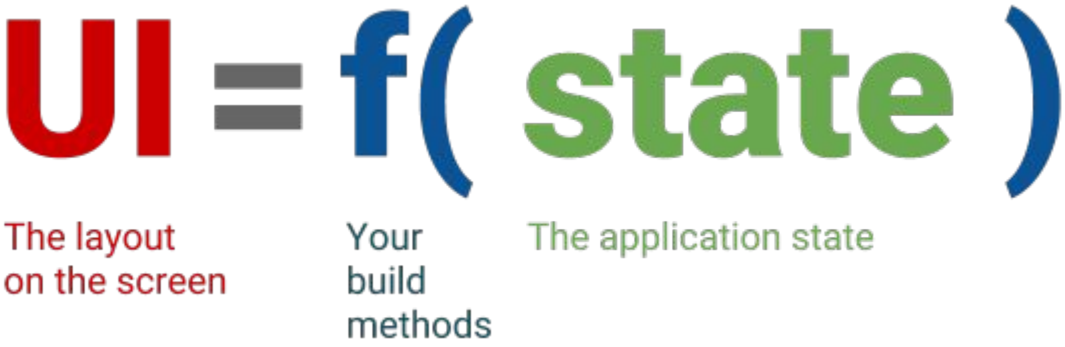
- User-facing part of app
  - User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX)
- Requirements
  - Avoid complex logic - application logic should be in backend
  - No data storage
  - Work with stateless nature of HTTP

What is the frontend?

- User-facing part of app
  - User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX)
- Requirements
  - Avoid complex logic - application logic should be in backend
  - No data storage
  - Work with stateless nature of HTTP
- Desirable
  - Aesthetically pleasing
  - Responsive - no lag / latency
  - Adaptive - different screens

Programming Styles

- Imperative: sequence of actions to achieve final result
  - Draw boxes for navigation, main text, fill in text, wait for clicks etc.
  - Functions for each step, composition of functions
- Declarative: specify desired result
  - Compiler / Interpreter knows how to achieve result
  - Function integration automated



$UI = f(\ state\ )$

The layout on the screen

Your build methods

The application state

Credit: Flutter documentation “Start thinking declaratively”

State?

- Internal details of the system: memory
- Reproducibility
  - Given a “system state”, the system should always respond the same way to input
- Complexity
  - Any non-trivial application needs internal state

System State

- Complete database of amazon.in, flipkart.com
    - Stocks of available items, prices, logged in/registered users etc.
- All news articles ever published on toi.com, thehindu.com, bbc.com
- All students, courses, marks, certificates etc. for NPTEL

Typically huge, but comprehensive

- Completely independent of the user interface / frontend!

Application State

Application:

- System as seen by an individual user / session
- Includes interactivity, session management

Examples:

- Shopping cart, user preferences, theme
- Followed news items, recommendations
- Dashboard displays

UI State (Ephemeral State)

UI

- Part of application actually seen / interacted with
- Ephemeral - “lasting for a very short time” (term used by Flutter)

Examples:

- Loading icons
- Currently selected tab in multi-tab document / page

Application and UI management

- HTTP is stateless
- How to convey state between client and server?
  - Client maintains state - sends requests to server for specific items
  - Server maintains state - only specific requests allowed to client

Example: Tic-Tac-Toe

- What to display on screen?
- Who determines the display?
- How should user input be collected and processed?