

Composition

tl;dr

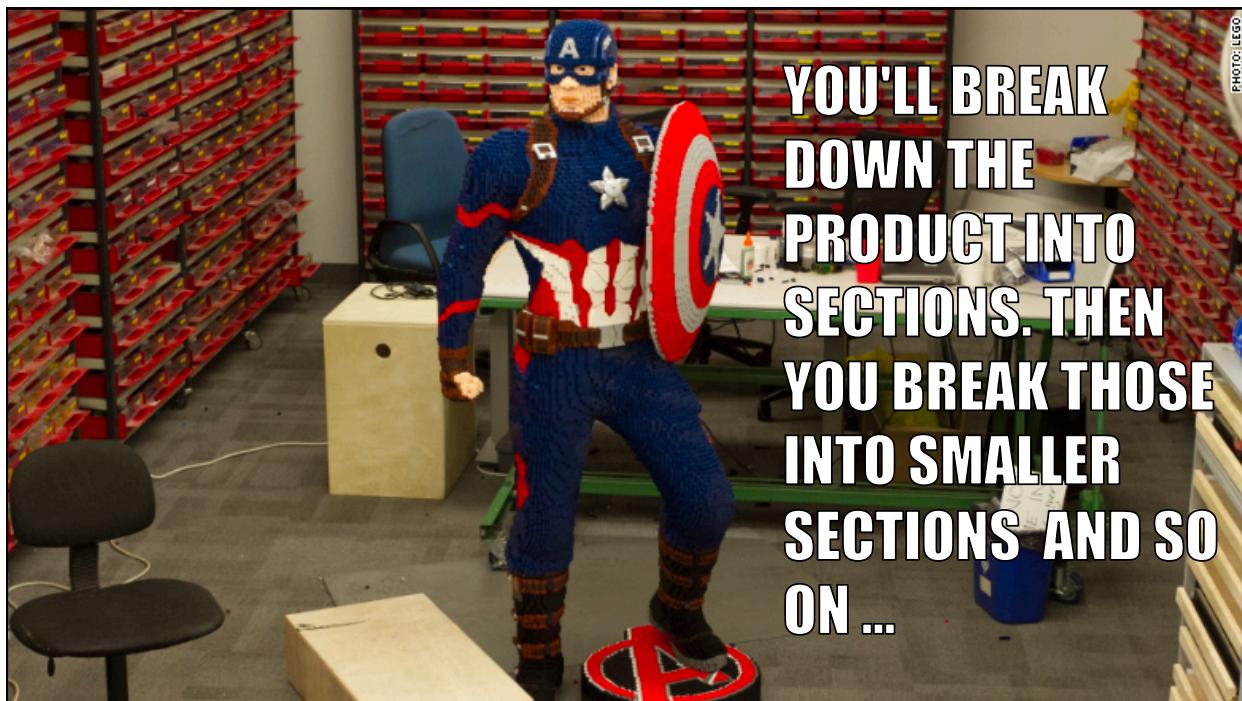
- React is centered around component composition
- To compose, we put the inner component's tag in the outer component's JSX
- To pass data down, write the values as attributes in the host and read them in *props* in the inner where they're immutable
- We cannot pass data back up but we can pass a function from the host to the inner where we pass params into that function
- To talk between other components, you pass data down from the lowest common ancestor and events up through that same ancestor

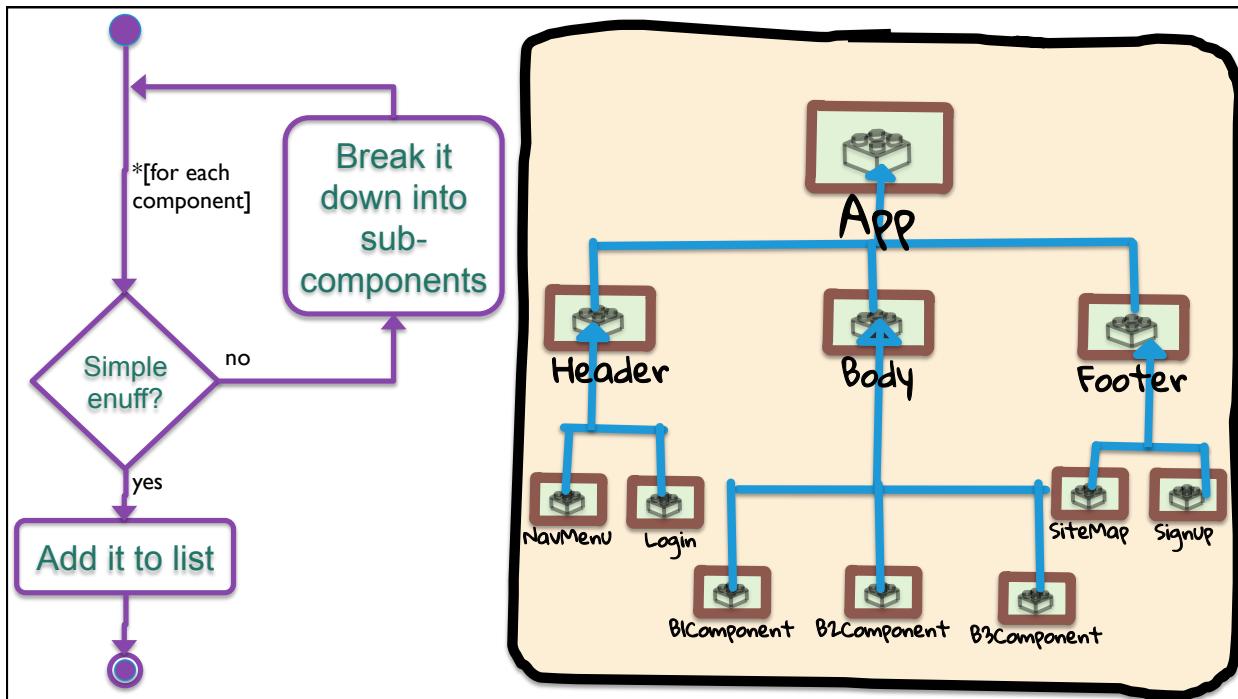
With React, you'll no longer write pages; you'll write components

Each component
is self-contained
and encapsulated



- Even styles are local; CSS no longer cascades through components





How to compose



How to compose

1. Put a <tag> in the host component's JSX
2. If you want data to flow to the inner, use props
3. If you want data to flow up, bind an event



Remember: inner components must be imported into the host component

CompanyDirectory.js

```
import {Person} from './Person';
function CompanyDirectory() {
  return <div>
    <Person />
  </div>
}
```

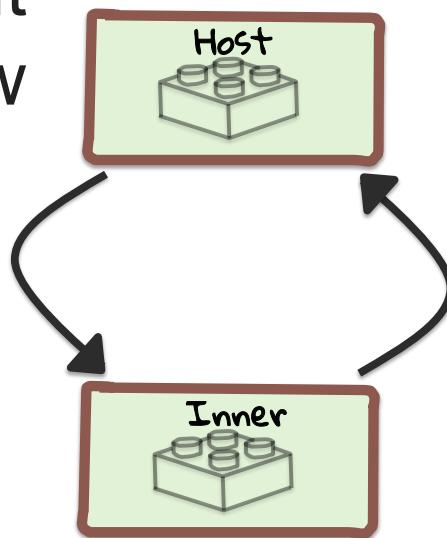
1. Add a tag

Person.js

```
function Person() {
  return <section>
    <p>I am a person.</p>
  </section>
}
```

A word about data flow

We may want data to flow from host component to inner component and back up again.



props

props are basically the input parameters of a component.

How to pass data from host to inner

CompanyDirectory.js

```
function CompanyDirectory() {
  const [p1,p2] = get2Users();
  return <div>
    <Person hairColor="red" eyeColor="blue"
      first={p1.first} last={p1.last}
      imgSrc={p1.imgSrc} />
    <Person hairColor="brunette"
      eyeColor="brown" imgSrc="noImage.jpg"
      first={p2.first} last={p2.last} />
  </div>;
}
```

To read data in inner from host

Person.js

```
function Person(props) {
  const { first, last, hairColor, eyeColor } = props;

  return <section>
    <p>{first} has {hairColor} hair and {eyeColor} eyes.</p>
    <img src={props.imgSrc} alt={first + " " + last} />
  </section>
}
```

You always read the data with *props*.

Props are immutable_(kind of)

- To add something to the props object is an error

`TypeError: Cannot add property foo, object is not extensible`

- To reassign the value of a prop is an error. They're read-only.

`TypeError: Cannot assign to read only property 'first' of object '#<Object>'`



Full disclosure: if the prop is an object, the properties of that object can be changed, just not the prop itself

But what if I have data that needs to change? Like based on user input or Ajax calls or something?

- Well, that is not props. It's called state
- Coming soon to a lecture near you!

Passing data back up

From child to parent

3. Pass data up from inner to host



- For performance reasons, data cannot flow up.
- But we can pass a **function** to an inner to be invoked.
- If this function receives parameters, they will be seen in the host.

3 steps to get data to a host from an inner

In the host (aka parent)	In the inner (aka child)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define a function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parameter(s) receive the data needed from the inner <pre>function funcName(p1, p2) { // Do stuff with p1 & p2 }</pre> 2. Pass that function to the child as a prop <pre><inner foo={funcName} /></pre> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Call the function, passing in the data <pre><someElement onClick={()=>props.foo(a,b)}></pre>

For example ...

- You have a task list component which is composed of a bunch of task components.

Q: Where is the list?

A: TaskList.js

Q: So where must the "delete" function live?

A: TaskList.js

Q: How will delete know which one to delete?

A: We can give it a task id.

Q: Where is the button to delete a task?

A: Task.js

So how does Task.js tell TaskList.js (the host) what is the task id?

Task.js

```
export function Task(props) {
  return (
    <li>
      <button
        onClick={()=>props.remove(props.id)}>✓</button>
      {props.text}
    </li>
  );
}
```

...And emit the
event with the value
you want to send
up.

To
send
data
from
inner
to host

TaskList.js

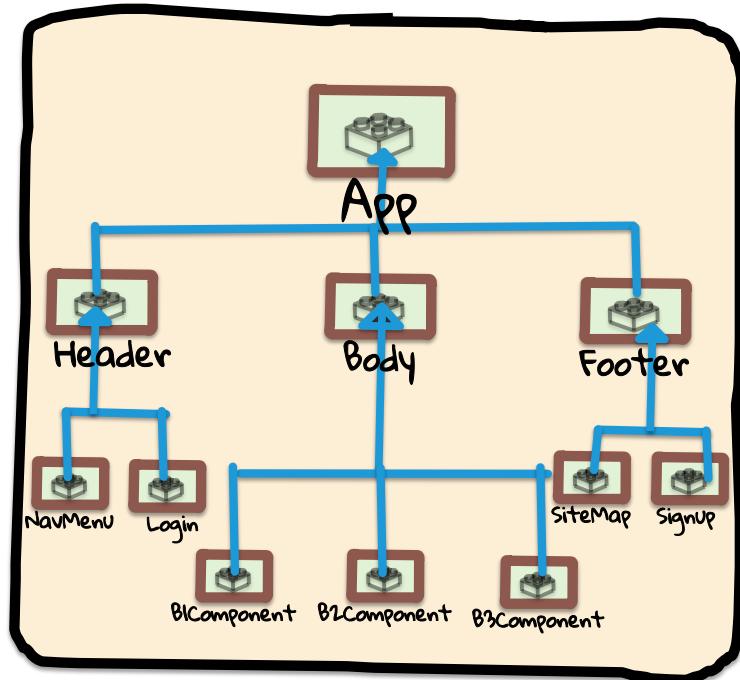
```
function TaskList {  
  function delete(taskId){  
    tasks=tasks.filter(t=>t.id!==taskId);  
  };  
  return (  
    <div>  
      <Task text="buy food" id=10  
            remove={delete} />  
    </div>  
  );  
}
```

When the
remove event
fires, run the
delete()
method

To read
data in
host
from
inner

Between siblings, cousins,
and other distant relatives

- Just combine the parents and children techniques.
- Push up using events until you reach the lowest common ancestor, then push down using props



There are other ways to communicate

Global variables

Context
(pass *this* down into a child)

refs
(not a clean way. Almost non-used and confusing)

The cleanest way is to use a state container like Redux!

tl;dr

- React is centered around component composition
- To compose, we put the inner component's tag in the outer component's JSX
- To pass data down, write the values as attributes in the host and read them in *props* in the inner where they're immutable
- We cannot pass data back up but we can pass a function from the host to the inner where we pass params into that function
- To talk between other components, you pass data down from the lowest common ancestor and events up through that same ancestor