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Google Analytics with react-router v4

chowderhead   May 31 '18 • 2 min read

#reactgoogleanalytics

image by: <https://unsplash.com/@davidclode>

The Problem :

Google analytics requires a Page URL to track analytics inside of the GA dashboard. Single Page applications only have mock transitions and are not actually changing there URL like classic webpages



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Using React-router , we have access to the powerful [History API](#) that uses the browser to manipulate the URL to look and function like an authentic page change.

Sources:

[How to make Google Analytics work in a Single Page Application \(SPA\)](#)

index.html

in the header of the `index.html` page, load the script to load google analytics

```
<script>
  (function (i, s, o, g, r, a, m) {
    i['GoogleAnalyticsObject'] = r; i[r] = i[r] || function () {
      (i[r].q = i[r].q || []).push(arguments)
    }, i[r].l = 1 * new Date(); a = s.createElement(o),
    m = s.getElementsByTagName(o)[0]; a.async = 1; a.src = g;
    })(window, document, 'script', '//www.google-analytics.com/an
</script>
```



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Inside `app.js` on `componentDidMount()` create an instance of GA script and attach it to the window so we have access to it at all times.

```
componentDidMount(){  
  
  window.ga('create', 'UA-XXXXXXX-X', 'auto');  
  
}
```

`app.js`

create a method that takes in a `url` and sets the page view , then sends the view to google analytics:

```
setPageAndSendToGA = url => {  
  window.ga('set', 'page', url);  
  window.ga('send', 'pageview');  
};
```



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provided by `this.props.location`.

Build a conditional that fires our `setPageAndSendToGA()` whenever a specific URI path is passed in.

...

```
trackGoogleAnalytics = location => {  
  if (window.ga) {  
    if (location.pathname == '/sign-up') {  
      let url = location.pathname;  
      this.setPageAndSendToGA(url);  
    }  
  
    if (location.search.length == 10) {  
  
      // here we are using search Params, so we concat it to th  
  
      let url = location.pathname + location.search;  
      this.setPageAndSendToGA(url);  
    }  
  }  
};
```

...



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Then in the `render()` we call the function, and it will fire every time the page location changes

```
render(){  
  
  this.trackGoogleAnalytics(this.props.location);  
  
}
```

Checkout the article listed above in the sources, for a more detailed explanation, this is just my adapted implementation I used for our app.

TROLL ME:

- there is probably a better time to run this function , instead of the render. for our use case, this render is in the top most component in `app.js`
- there might be a better way to listen for page changes in `browserRouter` object instead of



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COMMENTS SO I CAN LEARN TO: OR MAKE
adjustments to the article.



chowderhead + FOLLOW

code is my paint brush and the interwebs is my canvas
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Add to the discussion

PREVIEW

SUBMIT



David Ewing

Jun 1 '18

How does implementing Google Analytics this way impact your application if Google's script fails to load?

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REPLY



chowderhead

Jun 25 '18

Nice observation !

I actually didn't even plan for google to fail at anything hahahahaha

But , luckily this method will be unphased by google analytics failing because what it's doing is checking to see if the ga function is loaded in the first place .

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