

Title: Changing Widgets in Response to User Input

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Introduction

Flutter is a free, open-source toolkit for building apps that work on mobile, web, and desktop platforms from a single set of code. It is well-known for its reactive programming approach, which makes it easy to create dynamic user interfaces that respond to user actions or automatic updates.

Changing Widgets in Response to User Input

Definition:

In Flutter, updating widgets based on user interactions means changing a widget's state as users interact with the app. This is a fundamental aspect of Flutter's design, using Stateful Widgets to track and manage these changes.

Importance:

This capability is essential for creating interactive and easy-to-use interfaces. It allows apps to be more responsive and engaging, enhancing user interaction and satisfaction.

Comparisons:

Unlike other UI frameworks that need a full page reload to reflect changes, Flutter's design supports smooth and quick updates. Flutter performs particularly well compared to frameworks like React Native because it compiles directly to native code, improving performance, especially during complex state changes.

Advantages and Limitations:

Advantages:

- Allows for highly interactive user interfaces.
- Enhances user experience by providing immediate feedback.
- Reduces the need for full page reloads or refreshes.

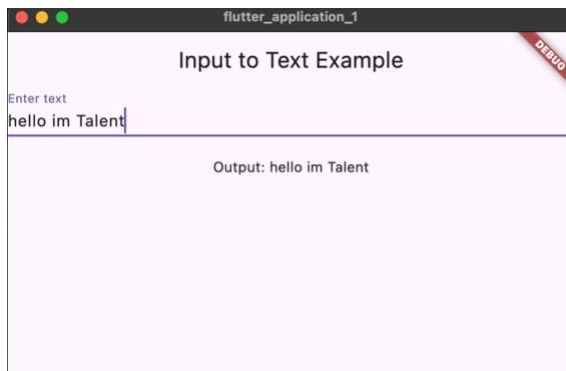
Limitations:

- Managing state in large applications can become complex.
- Overuse of Stateful Widgets can lead to decreased performance if not handled efficiently.

Code Examples

This example demonstrates updating a Text widget based on the user input from a Text Field.

```
main.dart
1 import 'package:flutter/material.dart';
2
3 void main() => runApp(const MyApp());
4
5 class MyApp extends StatelessWidget {
6   const MyApp({super.key}) // Correctly using super parameters with const
7 }
8
9 @override
10 Widget build(BuildContext context) {
11   return const MaterialApp(
12     // Ensuring const is used here
13     home:
14       UserInputWidget(), // Removing const as UserInputWidget needs to be mutable for the state changes
15   ); // MaterialApp
16 }
17
18 class UserInputWidget extends StatefulWidget {
19   const UserInputWidget(
20     {super.key}) // Correctly using super parameters with const
21 }
22
23 @override
24 UserInputWidgetState createState() =>
25   UserInputWidgetState(); // Removed the state class to be public
26
27 class UserInputWidgetState extends State<UserInputWidget> {
28   // Removed to public to avoid private-type-in-public-API error
29   String inputText = ""; // This stays as it is since it's internal state
30
31   @override
32   Widget build(BuildContext context) {
33     return Scaffold(
34       appBar: AppBar(
35         title: const Text(
36           "Input to Text Example"), // Ensuring AppBar title is const // Text // AppBar
37       ),
38       body: Column(
39         children: <widget> [
40           TextField(
41             onChanged: (text) {
42               setState(() {
43                 inputText = text;
44               });
45             },
46             decoration: const InputDecoration(
47               // Ensuring decoration is const
48               labelText: "Enter text",
49             ), // InputDecoration
50           ), // TextField
51           const SizedBox(height: 20, // Ensuring const is used for SizedBox
52             child: Text(
53               "Output: $inputText", // Cannot be const as it's dynamically generated from state // Text
54             ), // widget
55         ], // Column
56       ), // Scaffold
57     );
```



Commentary:

- UserInputWidget is a StatefulWidget that reacts to user inputs.
- TextField takes user input, triggering onChanged.
- setState updates the UI with the new text in the Text widget.

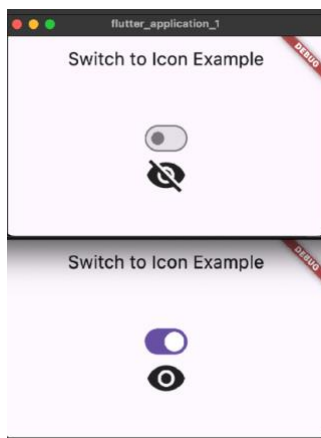
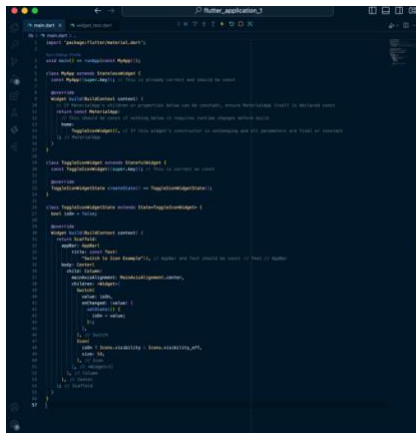
Issues or Considerations:

- Ensure state updates are efficient to avoid UI lag.

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2. Switch to Icon Example

This example toggles an icon based on a Switch.



Commentary:

- ToggleIconWidget changes the icon based on the Boolean state is On.
- The Switch widget toggles the state, which updates the Icon widget accordingly.

Issues or Considerations:

- Managing multiple stateful widgets can require careful state management strategies.

Real-World Scenario

A shopping app where users can toggle their favorite items. Using the “Switch to Icon” example, each product can have a heart icon that users tap to add the item to their favorites. This immediate visual feedback enhances user experience by providing a smooth and responsive interface.

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References

Flutter Official Documentation: [Flutter.dev](https://flutter.dev)
Flutter for Beginners by Alessandro Biessek
Mastering Flutter” by Simone Alessandria