Day 5 - React Hooks, Form Handling, Routing

Objective: Learn how to manage data and side effects using React Hooks (useState, useEffect), navigate between pages using React Router, handle forms dynamically, and connect React with APIs using fetch.

Date: 27-10-2025

1. REACT HOOKS OVERVIEW

Hooks are special functions that allow functional components to use state and lifecycle features that were previously available only in class components.

Commonly Used Hooks:

Hook	Purpose
useState()	Manage component state
useEffect()	Handle side effects (API calls, data loading)
useContext()	Manage global data
useRef()	Access or modify DOM elements directly

2. USESTATE HOOK

useState is used to store and update dynamic data in a component.

Example:

Explanation:

• count is a state variable.

- setCount() updates its value.
- Changing the state automatically re-renders the component.

3. USEEFFECT HOOK

useEffect is used to perform side effects like:

- Fetching data from APIs
- Setting up timers
- Updating the document title

Example:

```
import React, { useState, useEffect } from "react";
function UserList() {
 const [users, setUsers] = useState([]);
 useEffect(() => {
  fetch("https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/users")
   .then(response => response.json())
   .then(data => setUsers(data));
 \}, []); // Empty dependency \rightarrow runs only once after render
 return (
  <div>
   <h2>User List</h2>
   <ul>
    \{users.slice(0, 5).map(user => (
     {user.name}
    ))}
   </div>
```

```
);
```

Explanation:

- The effect runs once when the component loads.
- Fetches data from an external API.
- Stores the result in users state and displays it.

4. REACT ROUTER (NAVIGATION BETWEEN PAGES)

React Router enables navigation between multiple views or components within a single-page app (SPA).

Installation

```
npm install react-router-dom
```

Basic Setup

```
// App.js
import { BrowserRouter as Router, Routes, Route, Link } from "react-router-dom";
import Home from "./Home";
import About from "./About";
import Contact from "./Contact";
function App() {
 return (
  <Router>
   <nav>
    <Link to="/">Home</Link> |
    <Link to="/about">About</Link> |
    <Link to="/contact">Contact</Link>
   </nav>
   <Routes>
    <Route path="/" element={<Home />} />
```

```
<Route path="/about" element={<About />} />
<Route path="/contact" element={<Contact />} />
</Routes>
</Router>
);
```

Explanation:

- <Router> wraps the whole app.
- <Routes> defines different page paths.
- <Link> enables navigation without reloading the page.

5. REACT FORM HANDLING

React manages form data through **controlled components**, where the form elements are linked to component state.

Example:

```
import React, { useState } from "react";

function StudentForm() {
  const [formData, setFormData] = useState({ name: "", course: "" });

  const handleChange = (e) => {
    setFormData({ ...formData, [e.target.name]: e.target.value });
};

const handleSubmit = (e) => {
    e.preventDefault();
    alert(`Student: ${formData.name}, Course: ${formData.course}`);
};

return (
```

```
<form onSubmit={handleSubmit}>
  <input
   type="text"
   name="name"
   placeholder="Enter Name"
   value={formData.name}
   onChange={handleChange}
  />
  <input
   type="text"
   name="course"
   placeholder="Enter Course"
   value={formData.course}
   onChange={handleChange}
  />
  <button type="submit">Submit
 </form>
);
```

Key Points:

- value attribute binds input to state.
- onChange updates state dynamically.
- onSubmit processes the form data.

6. CALLING APIS IN REACT USING FETCH

React can send HTTP requests to backend APIs (for example, an ASP.NET Core Web API).

GET Request Example:

```
fetch("https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts")
   .then(res => res.json())
```

```
.then(data => console.log(data))
.catch(err => console.error("Error fetching data:", err));

POST Request Example (Sending Data):

fetch("https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts", {
    method: "POST",
    headers: { "Content-Type": "application/json" },
    body: JSON.stringify({ title: "Hello", body: "React + .NET API", userId: 1 })
})
.then(res => res.json())
.then(data => console.log("Data submitted:", data))
.catch(err => console.error("Error:", err));
```

When using with .NET APIs:

- Replace URL with your backend endpoint.
- Set correct headers and handle authentication if required.

7. EXAMPLE: REACT COMPONENT WITH API + FORM + USEEFFECT

```
import React, { useState, useEffect } from "react";

function Students() {
  const [students, setStudents] = useState([]);
  const [newStudent, setNewStudent] = useState("");

  useEffect(() => {
    fetch("https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/users")
        .then(res => res.json())
        .then(data => setStudents(data.slice(0, 5)));
}, []);

const addStudent = () => {
```

```
if (newStudent.trim() === "") return;
  setStudents([...students, { name: newStudent }]);
  setNewStudent("");
 };
 return (
  <div>
   <h2>Student List</h2>
   \{\text{students.map}((s, i) => (
      \langle li \text{ key}=\{i\}\rangle \{s.name\} \langle /li\rangle
    ))}
   <input
     type="text"
     placeholder="Add new student"
     value={newStudent}
     onChange={(e) => setNewStudent(e.target.value)}
   />
   <button onClick={addStudent}>Add</button>
  </div>
 );
export default Students;
```

BEST PRACTICES

- Keep API URLs in a separate config file.
- Use useEffect carefully to prevent infinite loops.

- Validate form input before sending.
- Use async/await for cleaner asynchronous code.
- Use React Router for organized navigation.

MINI PRACTICE TASK

Objective:

Integrate React Hooks, forms, and API communication.

Tasks:

- 1. Create a multi-page app using React Router (Home, Students, About).
- 2. In Students page:
 - o Use a form to add new students.
 - o Fetch student data using API (or local JSON).
 - o Display students dynamically.
- 3. Use useState for form and list management.
- 4. Use useEffect for fetching data when component loads.

Files:

- App.js
- Students.js
- About.js
- Home.js

Snapshots:

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Code: About.js

Code: Home.js

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  const [students, setStudents] = useState([]);
  const [newStudent, setNewStudent] = useState("");
  const [course, setCourse] = useState("");
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Code: Students.js

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import { BrowserRouter as Router, Routes, Route, Link } from "react-router-dom";
import Home from "./components/Home";
import About from "./components/About";
import Students from "./components/Students";
import "./App.css";
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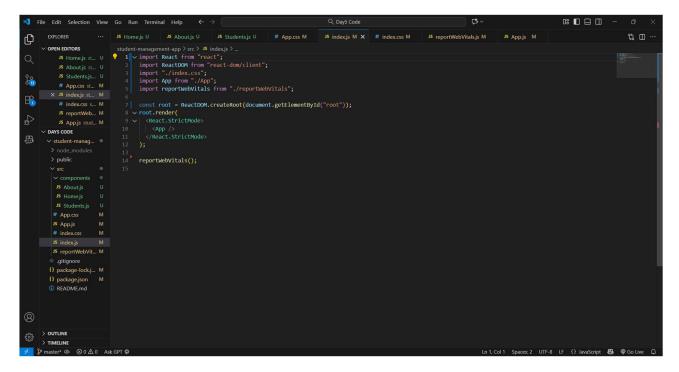
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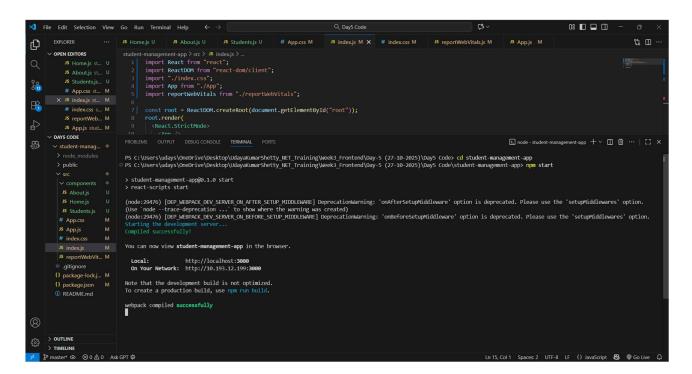
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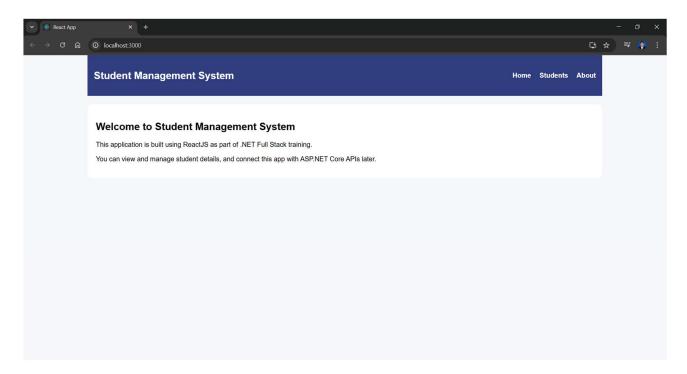
Code: App.js



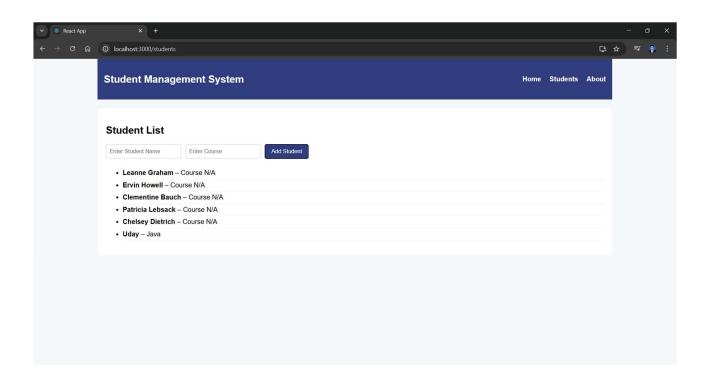
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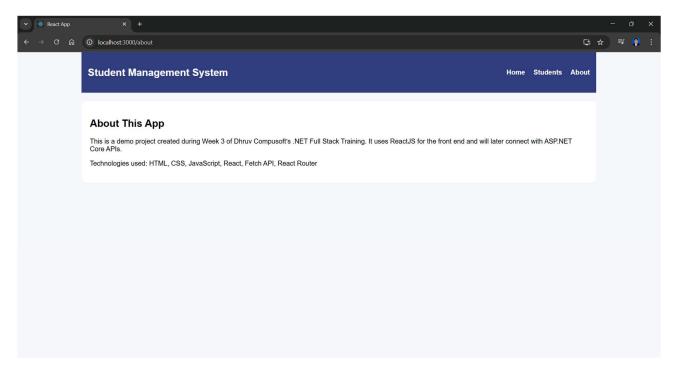
Code: Terminal Commands



Output : Home



Output: Students



Output : About