

# SPA (Single Page Application)

- Load an HTML Page
- HTML loads JS
- JS keeps replacing HTML contents
  - Looks like changing "pages"
  - No actual browser navigation
  - All on a "single-page"

# Can make a SPA with plain JS

- Most SPAs make use of "service calls"
  - JS sends/gets data from server
  - No Page navigation/loads
- This course doesn't dive into service calls
  - My 6250 class does go into them
    - Boston 6250 classes may not
    - Writing the services
    - Writing the JS to call/use them
- We haven't written SPAs until React
  - But understand SPAs don't need React

# MPA vs SPA

## MPA - Multiple Page Application

- Was "website"
- Enter data or change content = page navigation

## SPA - Single Page

- Single static HTML
- Service calls instead of page navigation
- Change content

# **Can have BOTH MPA + SPA**

SPA where

- Changes are related
- Content and UI consistent

MPA when

- Changing between topics
- Minimal shared content

Think of layers of consistency

# Mixing SPA and MPA

- You've seen this already w/some companies
- Switching between "marketing" and "store"
- Switching between "sales" and "support"
  - May not know you are logged in
  - May have different website look

# Websites have layers of UI consistency

- Different websites, minimal UI consistency
  - Industry conventions
    - Header/footer/search interface
- Same website, some UI consistency
  - Colors, fonts, layout
  - "dress", branding, "feel"
  - Patterns of navigation
- Same app, much consistency
  - Patterns of use
    - Details, Edits

# Story Time! - What is a Website?

One place I worked:

- I was in charge of the general "website"
- Also wrote some "web apps" on that site
- A team in a diff org wrote specialized "web apps"

We argued often over urls and site appearance

- I (and designer) wanted one site "look"
- I (and designer) wanted url to reflect overall site
- Other teams didn't even understand those ideas

# State

Our JS apps have been "simple"

- Page starts a certain way (a "state")
- When changes happen, we change HTML
  - Usually by changing classes
  - But can also change HTML structure



# State and Render

Advanced apps follow a different pattern:

- "state" is in variables
  - Ex: A list of news stories
- User actions change the "state" variables
  - Ex: "like" a story, block another
- Actions can trigger from the system too
  - Ex: more, newer list of news stories
- When state variables change, page "renders"
  - = Updates HTML to match new state

# **We have focused on UI/UX so far**

- This state/render cycle is FUNDAMENTAL to React
- State: variables with all values that can change
- Actions: Change the state
  - Do NOT change the HTML
  - Ex: user events can run actions
- Render: Replace the HTML to match new State
  - Separation between event and render (!)

# Up until now TODO example:

Imagine a "Todo list"

- List of tasks
- Whether they are done

Up until now, we might have:

- Had HTML with tasks (probably a `<ul>`)
- Had classes that say if task is done
  - Ex: `done` class on the `<li>`
- When user said task was done/not done
  - Add/remove class from appropriate `<li>`

# State/Render TODO example:

- Have a state variable
  - Ex: Array of task objects
- Have a way to replace HTML to show state
  - Ex: A `render()` function
    - Sets `.innerHTML` of `<ul>`
    - Generates `<li>` elements
      - With current task names
      - `done` class if task is done
- Events don't change HTML
  - Change state variable instead
  - Call `render()`

# Results of the state/render cycle

- State/render can feel like more work
- But as we add features, complexity remains level
- Old way would get more complex over time
  - Hard to make decisions based on state
    - No state variable, have to read HTML
    - Changing HTML changes how to read it
    - Every new feature changes HTML

# **We don't need to code a state/render cycle!**

- This is a UI/UX class
- React will do this for us
- BUT we MUST understand the concept

State describes current data

- NOT HTML, just data

We change state, not the HTML

- Change state rerenders as new HTML
  - This is our UI/UX skillset!

# HTML is Declarative

HTML is **declarative**

- Says what it is
- Not how to do it
  - Ex: Button is clickable, looks clickable
  - Ex: A `<form>` is a form, an `<input>` is a field

JS is **imperative**

- You give list of instructions
  - "How" to do anything

# We've kept HTML, CSS, and JS separate so far

- Hard to edit one in the other
  - No inline JS
  - No inline CSS
- But we're starting to feel limits
  - `.innerText` and `.innerHTML` put HTML in JS
  - JS uses a lot of class names from HTML
- State/render would do even more
  - Lots of HTML in JS



# JSX is Declarative

React uses **JSX**

- Declarative
- Looks like HTML
- Actually a JS function that returns HTML
- Can call other JSX functions for HTML
- Can insert HTML
- Allows for easy editing of HTML in JS

# JSX Example

```
function Greeting() {  
  return (  
    <p>Hello World</p>  
  );  
}  
//...elsewhere  
<Greeting/>
```

NOT JS, but JSX

- Browser can't handle without translation
- Much friendlier to use
- Output is HTML and JS

# More JSX Example

```
function TodoItem({ task, done }) {  
  const complete = done ? 'todo__text--complete' : '';  
  return (  
    <li><span className={complete}>{task}</span></li>  
  );  
}  
//...elsewhere  
<TodoItem task="Pounce" done={false} />
```

A few differences!

- `className` instead of `class`
- `{}` to replace with values
  - Notice no template literals (```) here
  - Not strings!
  - No `${}` unless you have template literals

# More JSX differences

```
function TodoItem({ task, done }) {  
  const complete = done ? 'todo__text--complete' : '';  
  return (  
    <li><span className={complete}>{task}</span></li>  
  );  
}  
//...elsewhere  
<TodoItem task="Pounce" done={false} />
```

A few differences!

- `{false}` instead of "false"
  - Actual boolean, not a string!
- Attribute-like values passed to function
  - **props**, more on these soon

# Important: React owns the DOM

Big change: Do not access the DOM!

- No `document.querySelector`
- No `document.getElementById`
- No `classList.toggle()`, etc
- React is managing our DOM
- If we change it, we can confuse React

Why did we learn those parts then?!

- Know what React is doing
- Good without React

# Vite

React is great, but can have a lot of set up

- So we will have someone else do the hard work
- `vite` is a program to set up:
  - React
  - Building (converting react to HTML+JS)
  - Linting (syntax warnings, hints, and help)
  - A **development server**
    - With Live reload!
    - ONLY for development, not final use
- Vite isn't required for React, but is convenient

# A Note about Create React App

Course previously used `create-react-app` (CRA)

- A lot of tutorials/docs on web will refer to CRA
  - Common starting point for React SPAs
- Over time
  - CRA got slower to install/use
  - Alternatives got more attention
  - Alternatives were good for more than SPAs

Course now uses `vite`

- Still SPA-focused
- NextJS, Remix are more involved alternatives

# Create a test app

```
npm create vite test-app -- --template react
```

Tells NodeJS to download and run create-vite

- Creates folder holding app "test-app"
- You can give any name you want

Creates a `test-app/` directory

- Where you run the app
- Puts in all the pieces
- You are not "in" that directory yet



# Our new app

Vite installed and configured a lot

Before we look at the details, let's see what we created

```
cd test-app  
npm install  
npm run dev
```

# Umm...neat?

It started a server and is showing a page

- You can inspect the HTML

Follow the suggestion and open `src/App.jsx`

- Leave the server running

# Opening src/App.jsx

This looks like a mix of JS and JSX

- Some weird `import` statements
- function `App()` returns HTML
  - Not as a string, just HTML
  - Has some values in `{}`
  - Uses `className` instead of `class`
  - There's an `onClick`

Now look at HTML for the page in DevTools

# HTML of Page

```
<div id="root">
```

has inner HTML as the output of the App() function

- The `<App/>` JSX
- `classNames` became `classes`
- `{}` were replaced with links
- `{count}` was replaced with a number

Now make a text change to `App.jsx` and save

# Live Reloading

Change shown in browser without manual reloading!

App.js **imports** App.css

- Make a change: set background color to `#e6e;`
- Browser shows this too!

# .jsx files

JSX files will work as either `.js` or `.jsx`

- For this course **you must use** `.jsx`
- Filename is extra information for coders
  - There can be `.js` files that have no JSX in them
  - JSX is for UI, other logic is plain `.js`
    - Separates UI logic from **business logic**
    - Separates UI from sending/getting data

# A word about the default file

- They use `target="_blank"`
  - You should NOT do this: [https://css-tricks.com/use-target\\_blank/](https://css-tricks.com/use-target_blank/)
  - It denies the user the choice
- React brings new options to organize CSS
  - CSS-in-JS, CSS Modules, etc
  - CSS-in-JS looks to be fading
    - And we are learning so much already
  - Continue our **existing CSS conventions**

# Where is the CSS?

The `import` brought in the `src/App.css` file

- You can import additional/different css
- CSS filename(s) do not need to be Capitalized
  - But you can, to match the JSX file, if you want
  - No course requirement on the CSS filenames

There is also a `src/index.css`

- General page/element defaults
- vs `App.css` which styled the content of `App.jsx`
- Similar to what we've done
  - But broken up into separate files!



# Where is the HTML?

The HTML is in `/index.html`

- BUT we won't be changing it
  - Except for anything in `<head>`
    - In particular, `<title>`
    - But also webfonts, more meta tags, etc
- Make all your changes in the js/jsx/css files in `src/`
  - `src/` for the files you edit!
  - These are NOT loaded by browser directly
    - Get **transpiled** into files for browser

# Building

`vite` is a tool to help develop

- In the end we want static HTML/JS/CSS
- We can put those on ANY server
  - `npm run dev` is NOT a production server

Stop your server (Ctrl-C)

- Then run `npm run build`

# What did that do?

We now have a `dist/` directory

- Contains HTML/CSS/JS files
  - Plus some images
- Files have weird names
  - Cache-busting
  - Different content = different filename

These files are ALL you need

- Can put on ANY static webserver
- No Vite, no special programs

# When do we build?

Do all your development with the development server

- Uses `npm run dev` to run

If done and putting up web app for the public

- Then `npm run build`
- Use files inside `dist/` with your webserver
  - Such as `npx serve`, or Java, or C#, etc

# Summary - React

React will let us auto-render when state changes

React uses JSX

- JS that looks like HTML
- Can embed HTML
- Uses `className` instead of `class`
- Uses `{}` to replace with values
- Can have non-strings (unlike HTML)
- All elements must close

# Summary - Vite

Vite is a program that makes React easy to use

- Just one way to use React
- Includes a development server
  - NOT for production (final) use

Vite creates a directory for the app

- `npm create vite APP_NAME -- --template react`
- Start dev server with `npm run dev`
- Build prod files with `npm run build`

# Summary - Editing

Edit files in `src/`

- **Course Requirement:** use semicolons
- **Course Requirement:** kebab-case/BEM classes
- Default `App.jsx` contents should be replaced!
  - Just an example
- Can rename/replace or just use `App.css`
  - `import` needed css file(s)
- Also use `src/index.css`
  - Replace/change any `.css` contents as needed