Intro to ReactJS

BHS Hackathon 2024

https://github.com/wg4568/bhs-hackathon-2024

Introduction

My name is **William Gardner**, I'm currently studying business and photography at De Anza college. I also run a business in the media production space where I hold a variety of roles...

- Web developer
- Drone pilot
- VFX artist
- Accountant

I'll be at the hackathon all day. Feel free to stop by and ask me questions about this workshop, or anything above!

Workshop Overview

- What is ReactJS, and how does it help us?
- Setting up a ReactJS project in repl.it
- What is a bundler, why do we need one?
- Managing state using hooks
- Getting user input from the browser
- Styling our project with CSS

Prerequisites

- Foundational understanding of Javascript
- Basic HTML knowledge

```
var data = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];
data = data.map((item) => item * 2);
console.log(data);
```

What does (item) => item * 2 represent?
What will this code produce?

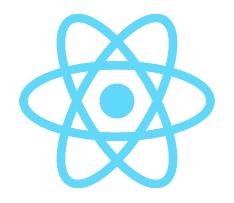
Prerequisites

- Foundational understanding of Javascript
- Basic HTML knowledge

```
var data = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];
data = data.map((item, idx) => item + idx);
console.log(data);
```

What does (item) => item * 2 represent?
What will this code produce?

```
1) An anonymous function that returns double it's input
2) [2, 4, 6, 8, 10]
```



ReactJS is a component based framework for creating web applications.

Traditional HTML Code

What happens if we want to change how a profile is displayed?

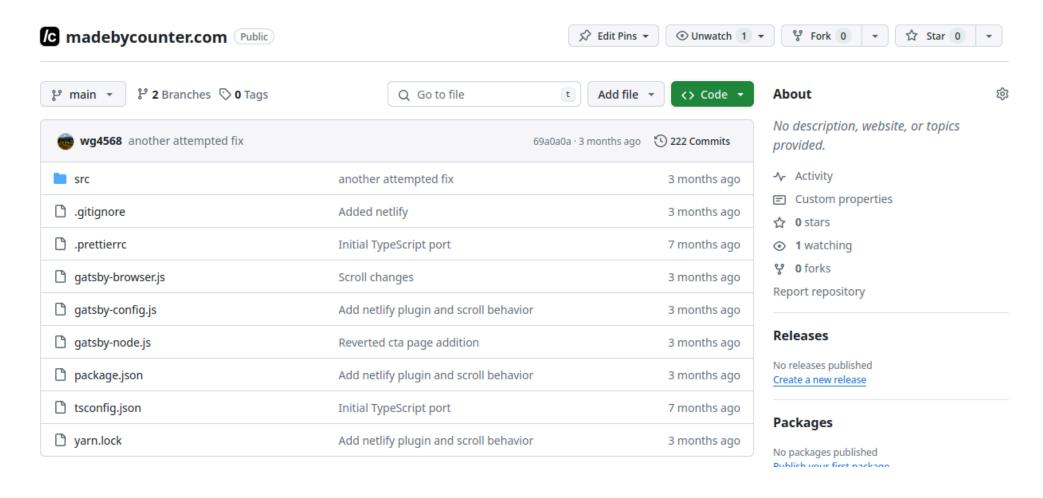
Imagine if we had 150 employees! Is this DRY code?

ReactJS To The Rescue

```
function Profile(props) {
    return <div>
        <img src={props.photo} />
        <h1>{props.name}</h1>
    </div>
function MyApp() {
    return <div>
        <Profile name="Jimmy John" profile="/jimmy.jpg" />
        <Profile name="Sarah Smith" profile="/sarah.jpg" />
    </div>
```

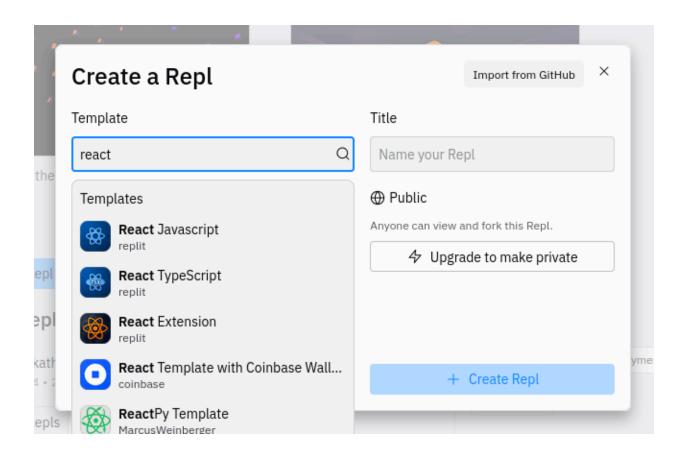
Now we can reuse our Profile component across our project.

Thinking With Components



How might you break down this page into components?

Getting Started

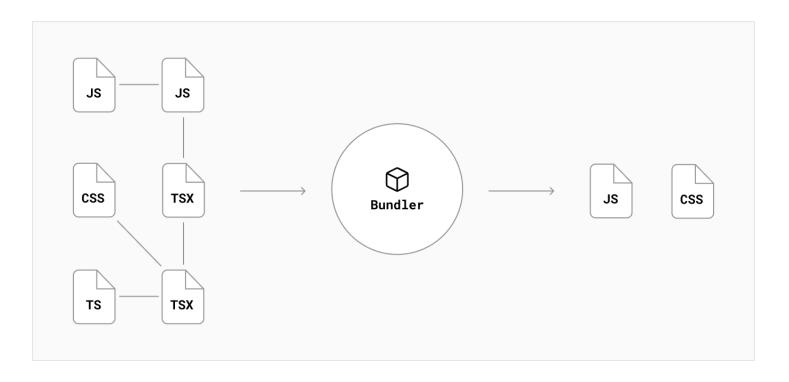


Navigate to https://replit.com/ and create an account. Then start a new project using the React Javascript template.

HTML, in Javascript?!

Otherwise known as JSX, or **Javascript XML**.

Needs to be compiled, or "bundled" into standard Javascript code by a tool such as Vite or Webpack.



Building Your Code

We are using <u>Vite</u> as our bundler.

```
// From package.json
"scripts": {
    "dev": "vite",
    "build": "vite build",
    "preview": "vite preview"
},
```

We can run npm run build in the console to build our code.

Take a look in the new folder called dist/, what files have been created?

Passing Values

We can pass data into React components using **props**.

If you'd like, you can also get the value directly using deconstruction.

```
function Nametag({ name }) {
   return <h1>Written by {name}</h1>
}
```

Why Doesn't This Work?

```
function MyCounter() {
    var count = 0;

    function increaseCount() {
        count = count + 1;
    }

    return <div>
        The total is {count}
        <button onClick={increaseCount}>Increase!</button>
        </div>
}
```

The answer is to do with how ReactJS handles **state**.

State is how an application remembers stuff.

Managing State

ReactJS components manage their own state using **hooks**.

```
function MyCounter() {
   const [count, setCount] = useState(0);

   function increaseCount() {
      setCount(count + 1);
   }

   return <div>
      The total is {count}
      <button onClick={increaseCount}>Increase!</button>
      </div>
}
```

The useState hook creates an object (that can be anything) and a function to update it's value. The value provided to useState is the initial value.

Lists Of Various Things

Use Javascript's .map function to render arrays of elements.

Whenever you are rendering lists of items, ReactJS requires a unique key value for each element. The easiest way to do this is to use the item index.

User Input

The onClick property is used to catch when the user presses the submit button.

```
function MyApp() {
    function showName() {
        // TODO: Get name from input box
        alert("Your name is ??");
    }

    return <div>
        <input type="text" placeholder="Enter your name">
        <button onClick={showName}>Submit!</button>
    </div>
}
```

Notice how we create a function to handle the event.

How do we get the value of the input box?

References To HTML Elements

To get the value of our input box, we need a **reference**. References are created with the useRef hook.

We can use the ref property of the input box to it to the inputRef variable.

A Brief Look At CSS

CSS in React can be done in *many* different ways. The easiest way is to create a regular css file and import it into your app.

```
/* App.css */
.red {
   color: red;
}
```

```
// App.jsx
import "./App.css"

function MyApp() {
    return <h1 className="red">I am red!</h1>
}
```

Notice how React uses className instead of class when specifying css classes.

Next Steps

Check out the code and slides from this lesson

https://github.com/wg4568/bhs-hackathon-2024

Setup a local dev environment

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5ffPXorFf4

Read the ReactJS documentation

https://react.dev/learn