# Introduction To Full-Stack Web Development

**CS 386** 

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- 28.1 Introduction to ReactJS
- 28.2 ReactJS Architecture
- 28.3 Getting started with ReactJS
- 28.4 ReactJS Concepts

Class 28

- React was developed by Meta (formerly Facebook)
- > ReactJS is open-source JavaScript library that is used for:
  - ☐ Building user interfaces in declarative and efficient way
- Component-based front-end library responsible only for:
  - ☐ View layer of MVC (Model View Controller) architecture
- > React is used to create modular user interfaces
- Promotes development of reusable UI components that display dynamic data

- ReactJS uses declarative paradigm:
  - Declarative view means:
    - o Developers describe how the user interface should look based on its current state
    - o Then React takes care of updating the DOM (Document Object Model) accordingly
  - ☐ Makes it possible for applications to be both effective and flexible
  - Creates simple views for each state in application
  - ☐ Efficiently updates and renders just right components when data changes
- Makes your code more predictable and easier to debug
- Each component in React application is responsible for:
  - ☐ Rendering separate, reusable piece of HTML code
- Ability to nest components within other components:
  - ☐ Allows for building of complex applications from simple building blocks
- Component may also keep track of its internal state:
  - ☐ Example: TabList component may keep variable for currently open tab in memory

- Use Case:
  - Let us say one of your friends posted photograph on Facebook
  - Now you go and like image and then you started checking out comments too
  - □ Now while you are browsing over comments you see that likes count has increased by 100 since you liked picture, even without reloading the page
  - ☐ This magical count change is because of ReactJS

#### How does it work?

- While building client-side apps, team of Facebook developers realized that DOM is slow
- Document Object Model (DOM) is application programming interface (API) for HTML and XML documents
- Defines logical structure of documents and way document is accessed and manipulated
- > To make it faster, React implements virtual DOM:
  - ☐ DOM tree representation in JavaScript
  - $lue{}$  When it needs to read or write to DOM, it will use the virtual representation of it
  - ☐ Virtual DOM will try to find most efficient way to update browser's DOM

#### **How does it work?**

- Unlike browser DOM elements, React elements are plain objects and are cheap to create
- React DOM takes care of updating the DOM to match the React elements:
  - Reason for this is that JavaScript is very fast
  - Worth keeping DOM tree in it to speed up its manipulation
- React was developed to be used in browser
  - ☐ But because of its design it can also be used in server with Node.js

## JSX (JavaScript Syntax Extension)

- JavaScript XML is abbreviated as JSX (Syntax extension for JavaScript)
- ReactJS uses XML or HTML-like syntax
- Syntax is turned into React Framework JavaScript calls
- Expands ES6 to allow HTML-like text to coexist with JavaScript react code
- Not required to use JSX, but it is recommended in ReactJS
- > JSX is JavaScript code with combination of XML syntax in it
- > JSX tag has tag name, attributes and children which make it look like XML

#### **JSX and Babel**

- > JSX cannot be implemented directly by browsers
- ➤ Instead requires "compiler" to transform it into ECMAScript → Babel comes in
- Babel acts as this "compiler" (transpiler) allowing to leverage all benefits of JSX while building React components
- Babel's use is not only rooted in React:
  - ☐ Main purpose is as compiler to convert code written in ECMAScript2015+ into backwards-compatible JavaScript
  - As JavaScript continues to advance, Babel makes available syntax transformer plugins so users may employ latest syntax in their code without having to wait for browser support

#### **Virtual DOM**

- Most crucial aspect of web development since it splits the code into modules and then executes it
- JavaScript frameworks typically update entire DOM at once, making the online app slow
- React makes use of virtual DOM, which is carbon copy of real DOM
- When web application is modified:
  - □ Virtual DOM is updated first
  - Difference between real DOM and virtual DOM is determined
- > When it discovers the difference:
  - DOM updates parts that have changed recently
  - Leaving rest unchanged

## **One-way Data Binding**

- > As name implies, one-way data binding is one-direction or unidirectional flow
- Data only goes in one direction:
  - From top to bottom, from parent components to child components
  - ☐ Child component's properties (props) cannot return data to its parent component
  - ☐ But they can communicate with it to change states based on inputs
- One-way data-binding operates in this manner
- > Everything remains modular, and as result, quick

#### **Declarative**

- ReactJS uses simple JavaScript:
  - To enable component-based approach to develop websites and mobile apps
- Benefit of cutting development costs
- Best features of ReactJS enable web pages and mobile apps to have highly interactive and dynamic user interfaces
- > When your data changes:
  - Creates basic views for each project state
  - ☐ React will update and render only relevant components
- > When used frequently on websites and apps, library becomes easier

#### **React Native**

- ReactJS is used to build user interfaces of web applications (apps running in web browser)
- React Native is used to build applications that run on both iOS and Android devices (that is, cross-platform mobile applications)
- Instead of using web components like ReactJS, React Native employs native components as building blocks
- > To get started with React Native, need to understand basic React concepts:
  - ☐ JSX
  - Components
  - ☐ State
  - Props
- Even if already familiar with React, need to learn about React Native capabilities like native components

#### **Component-Based**

- Everything in React is web page component separated into individual components to form view (or UI)
- Each visual part of software is encapsulated within component, which is self-contained module
- > Because component functionality is defined in JavaScript rather than templates:
  - Easily pass rich data through your app and keep state out of the DOM
- ReactJS components:
  - ☐ Building blocks of any React application
  - One of best features in ReactJS
- Single app is typically built of numerous components
- User interface element is essentially most significant component
- React separates user interface into reusable components that may be processed separately

- Basic example to get started with ReactJS
- Uses Babel script inside HTML page
- Once Babel script is stored in separate file > does not work anymore with file protocol
- ➤ CORS error → Prevents loading files from filesystem
- Need to use local webserver to use http protocol
- To get React CDNs:
  - https://legacy.reactjs.org/docs/cdn-links.html
- Script tag used in HTML page using type text/babel

## **Example 28-1:**

- Use file Example 28-1.html
- Create script tag in html head section with type "text/babel"
- Create constant myFirstElement
  - Assign h1 header with content (no quotes!!): CS386 Full-Stack Web Development
- Create constant container
  - Assign get element by id 'root'
- Create constant root
  - ☐ Use createRoot method of ReactDOM passing container
- Use method render on root passing function myFirstElement as html markup
- Notice html markup is not string!

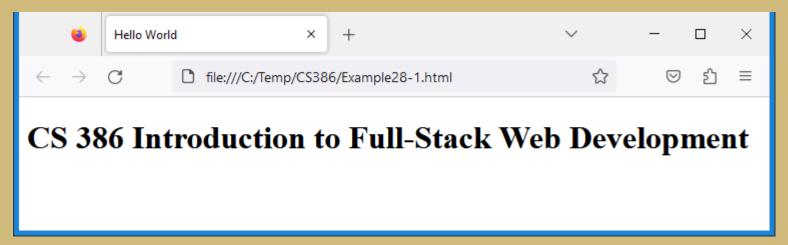
## **Example 28-1:**

- Write following code in between script tags:
- Notice html markup is not string!

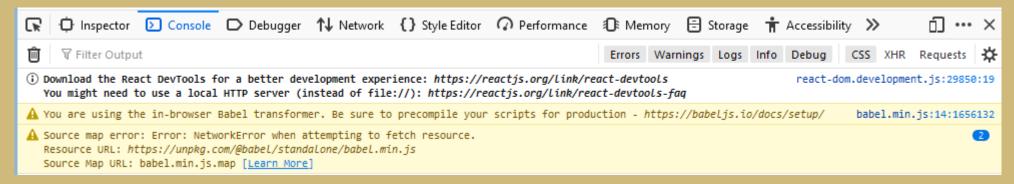
```
C:\Temp\cs386\Example28-1.html - Notepad++
 File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
  ] 🔒 🗎 🖺 🖺 😘 🤚 🚜 📭 💼 🗩 c l 📾 🦢 🤏 🤏 🖫 🖼 🚍 🖺 1 📜 🐷 📓 🕼 🖋 🖜 💌 🗷 🗷 🗷 🗷 🗷 🗷 🗷
 🔚 Example28-1.html 🔣
                       <!DOCTYPE html>
                   ⊟<html>
                                    <head>
                                                <meta charset="UTF-8" />
                                                <title>Hello World</title>
                                                <script src="https://unpkg.com/react@18/umd/react.development.js"></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></sc
                                                <script src="https://unpkg.com/react-dom@18/umd/react-dom.development.js"></script>
                                                <script src="https://unpkg.com/@babel/standalone/babel.min.js"></script>
                                                <!-- Don't use this in production: -->
     10
                                                 <script type="text/babel">
                                                     const myFirstElement = <h1>CS 386 Full-Stack Web Development</h1>;
     11
     12
                                                             const container = document.getElementById('root');
     13
                                                             const root = ReactDOM.createRoot(container);
     14
                                                            root.render(myFirstElement);
     15
                                                </script>
                                                <!--<script type= text/babel" src="Example28-1.js"></script>-->
     16
                                    </head>
     18
                                    <body>
                                                <div id="root"></div>
     19
     20
                                    </body>
     21
                        </html>
                                                                                length: 762 lines: 24
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     Windows (CR LF)
Hyper Text Markup Language file
                                                                                                                                                     Ln:24 Col:1 Pos:763
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      UTF-8
```

#### **Example 28-1:**

- > You noticed that it takes some time to load html page
- JSX compilation takes place

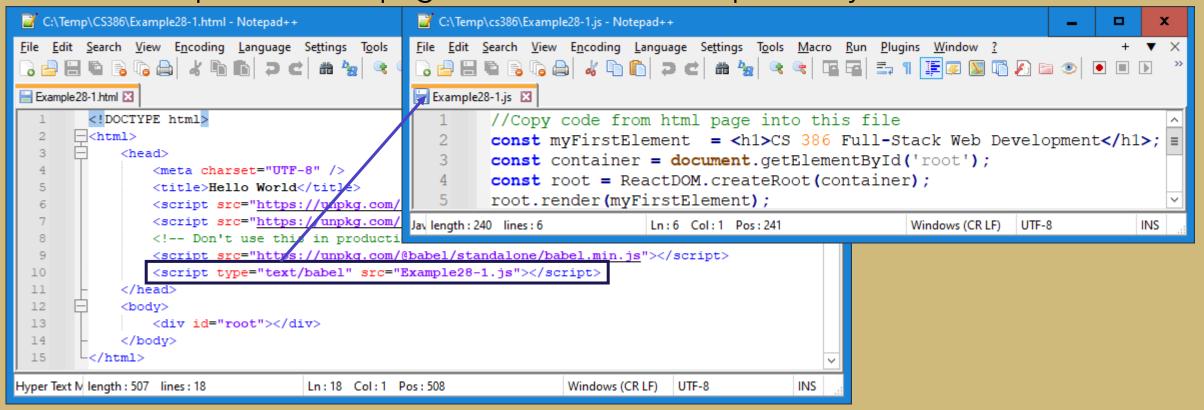


Open web developer tools:



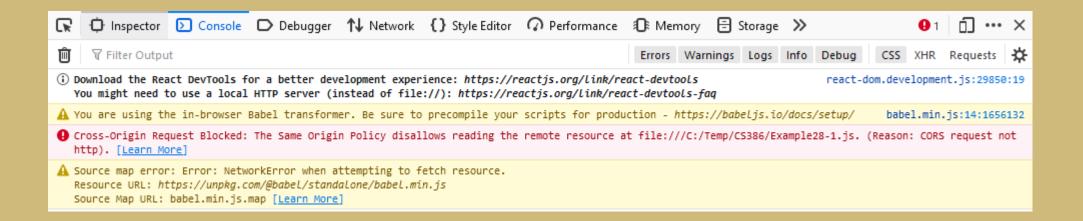
## **Example 28-1:**

- Place Babel script in separate JavaScript file (Example28-1.js) (better way to do it)
- Remove script from html page, instead load Example 28-1.js



#### **Example 28-1:**

- HTML page is not rendered anymore
- Notice error in console



## **Example 28-1:**

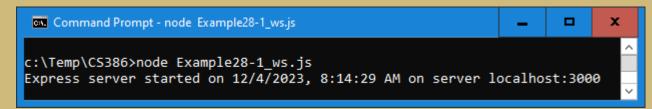
- Need to use web server in order to use http
- Use simple node web server:
  - ☐ Example28-1\_ws.js
- Uses static middleware for current folder
- Route react will serve file

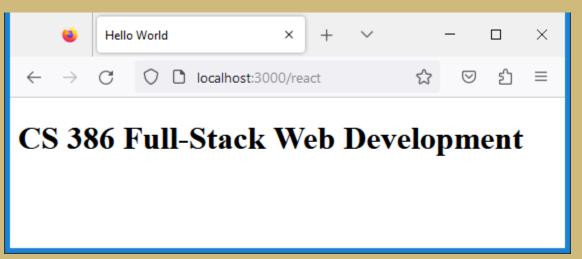
```
C:\Temp\CS386\Example28-1_ws.js - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
🔚 Example28-1 ws.js 🔀
      const express = require("express"); //Top-level function exported by the express module
      const app = express(); //Instantiate express instance
      //Middleware
     console.log('Request method= ' + req.method + " : " + req.url);
          next():
      app.use(express.static( dirname)); //Use static middleware

app.get("/react", function(req, res) {
         res.sendFile('Example28-1.html', {root: dirname});
     □app.listen(3000,'127.0.0.1', function() {//Create server
 16
          console.log(`Express server started on ${new Date().toLocaleString()} on server localhost:3000`)
 17
     L});
                               length: 666 lines: 20
JavaScript file
                                                  Ln:20 Col:1 Pos:667
                                                                         Windows (CR LF) UTF-8
                                                                                             INS
```

## **Example 28-1:**

- Execute web server in node:
  - □ node Example28-1\_ws.js





- Set up react development environment:
  - ☐ In console/terminal, navigate to CS386 folder
  - ☐ Execute following command: npx create-react-app cs386-react
- What is NPX?
  - NPX stands for Node Package eXecute
  - ☐ Simple NPM package runner
  - Allows developers to execute any Javascript Package available on NPM registry without even installing it
- > To start the development environment:
  - Navigate to folder CS386/cs386-react
  - $\square$  Execute following command: npm start (this may take some time)

- > Rename folder src -> src\_bkp (to keep original files)
- Create new folder src
- Copy file index.js from src\_bkp into src
- Windows:
  - ☐ ren src src\_bkp
  - ☐ mkdir src
  - copy src\_bkp\index.js src\\*
  - Also move following files into src folder:
    - o move ..\car.js src
    - o move ..\garage.js src
    - o move ..\list.js src
    - o move ..\list.css src
- Linux/Mac on next slide

```
C:\Temp\CS386\cs386-react>ren src src_bkp

c:\Temp\CS386\cs386-react>mkdir src

c:\Temp\CS386\cs386-react>copy src_bkp\index.js src\*
1 file(s) copied.

c:\Temp\CS386\cs386-react>_
```

```
Command Prompt

c:\Temp\cs386\cs386-react>move ..\car.js src
    1 file(s) moved.

c:\Temp\cs386\cs386-react>move ..\garage.js src
    1 file(s) moved.

c:\Temp\cs386\cs386-react>move ..\list.js src
    1 file(s) moved.

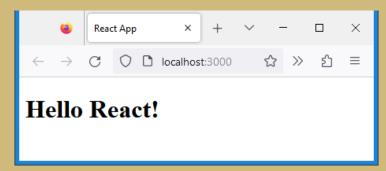
c:\Temp\cs386\cs386-react>move ..\list.css src
    1 file(s) moved.

c:\Temp\cs386\cs386-react>move ..\list.css src
    1 file(s) moved.
```

- Rename folder src -> src\_bkp (to keep original files)
- Create new folder src
- Copy file index.js from src\_bkp into src
- Linux/Mac:
  - mv src src\_bkp
  - mkdir src
  - cp src\_bkp/index.js src/index.js
  - ☐ Also move following files into src folder:
    - o mv ../car.js src
    - o mv ../garage.js src
    - o mv ../list.js
    - o mv ../list.css

## **Example 28-2:**

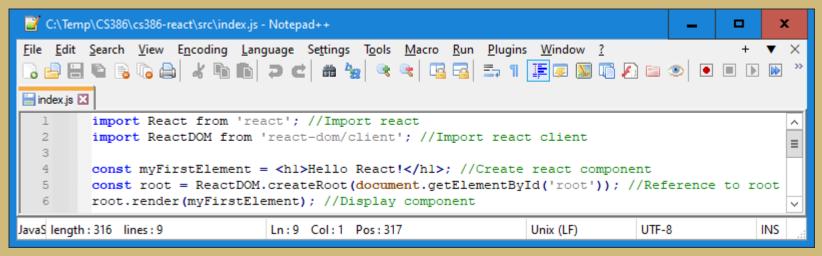
- ➤ Use file Example 28-2.js
- Imports are already done



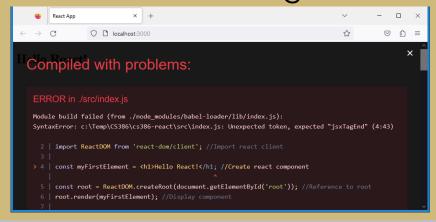
- Create h1 header with some tile, assign into constant myFirstElement
  - ☐ **IMPORTANT:** Do not enclose in quotes!!!!
- Use method createRoot on ReactDOM:
  - ☐ Passing reference of element with id 'root'
  - ☐ Assign into constant root
- Use method render on root passing myFirstElement

## **Example 28-2:**

Copy and paste code from Example28-2.js into index.js in src folder



- Create an error, remove closing angle bracket from closing h1 tag:
- > Notice error message in browser

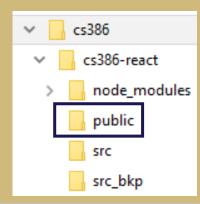


#### ReactJS uses JavaScript 2015 (ES6)

- The following are new features in JavaScript ES6:
  - Classes
  - □ Arrow Functions
  - Variables (let, const, var)
  - □ Array Methods like .map()
  - Destructuring
  - ☐ Modules
  - ☐ Ternary Operator
  - Spread Operator
- Already covered few new features in this course (in bold)
- Learn few more now with ReactJS

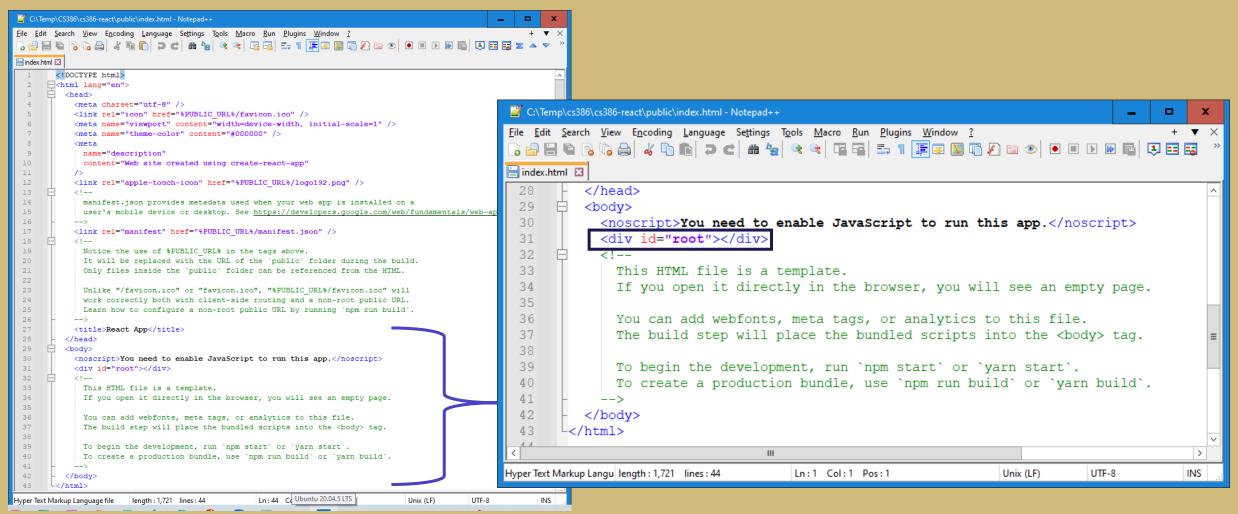
#### **React Render HTML**

- React's goal is in many ways to render HTML in web pages
- React renders HTML to web page by using:
  - ☐ Function called createRoot() and its method render()
- createRoot Function:
  - ☐ createRoot() function takes one argument: HTML element
  - Purpose of function is to define HTML element where React component should be displayed
- render Method:
  - render() method is then called to define React component that should be rendered
  - But render where?
- Another folder in root directory of React project, named "public":
  - ☐ In this folder, there is index.html file
  - Notice single <div> in body of this file with id="root"
  - ☐ This is where React application will be rendered



Class 28

#### ReactJS index.html



Class 28

#### **Root Node**

- root node is HTML element where to display result
- Container for content managed by React:
  - Does NOT have to be <div> element
  - Does NOT have to have id='root'
  - But this is standard convention

#### **HTML Code**

- > HTML code in previous examples used JSX
- > Allows you to write HTML tags inside JavaScript code
- Note that html code is not string but assigned into variable as html code

#### **JSX**

- What is JSX?
  - ☐ JSX stands for JavaScript XML/Extension
  - ☐ JSX allows to write HTML in React
  - ☐ JSX makes it easier to write and add HTML in React
- Coding JSX
  - ☐ JSX allows:
    - o To write HTML elements in JavaScript
    - o Place them in DOM without any createElement() and/or appendChild() methods
  - ☐ JSX converts HTML tags into react elements:
    - Not required to use JSX
    - o But JSX makes it easier to write React applications

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#### **JSX**

#### **Syntax:**

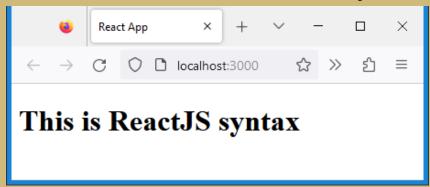
React.createElement(type, props, ...children)

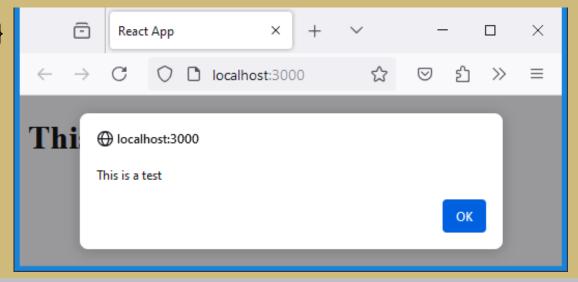
- React without JSX:
  - ☐ Use createElement in ReactJS to create html element **without** JSX
- > type:
  - ☐ Either valid React component type (tag name string (such as 'div' or 'span')
  - Or React component, such as function, class, or special component like Fragment
- > props:
  - ☐ Must either be object or null, if null, it will be treated same as empty object
  - ☐ React will create element with props matching props you have passed
  - Represent properties like id, class, on Click, etc
- optional ...children:
  - ☐ Zero or more child nodes
  - Can be any React nodes, including React elements, strings, numbers, portals, empty nodes (null, undefined, true, and false), and arrays of React nodes

## **Example 28-3:**

## **Syntax:** import React from 'react';

- React.createElement(type, props, ...children)
- Only replace line with JSX syntax in previous example, everything else remains the same
- Using React method createElement without JSX, assign into const myElement:
  - **□** type: 'h1'
  - props: {onClick: function(){alert('This is a test');}}
  - ☐ children: 'This is ReactJS syntax





## **Expressions in JSX**

- With JSX you can write expressions inside curly braces { }
- Expression can be:
  - React variable
  - Property
  - Any other valid JavaScript expression
- > JSX will execute expression and return the result

## **Example 28-4:**

Using expressions enclosed in curly braces



### **Example 28-4:**

Replace only JSX line creating h1 header with expression

```
C:\Temp\CS386\cs386-react\src\index.js - Notepad++
    <u>Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?</u>
 ] 🖆 🗎 🖺 🥫 🥫 🚇 🦧 🗥 🖿 💼 🖚 🕳 🗥 🛬 🔍 🥞 🖫 🚍 🚍 🖺 🖺 🐷 🚳 🐔 😑 🥏 🕒
🔚 index.js 🔀
          import React from 'react'; //Import react
          import ReactDOM from 'react-dom/client'; //Import react client
   3
          const myElement = \langle h1 \rangleThe result of 5 raised to the power of 3 = \{5 ** 3\} \langle h1 \rangle;
         const root = ReactDOM.createRoot(document.getElementById('root'));
         root.render(myElement);
length: 280 lines: 9
                          Ln:9 Col:1 Pos:281
                                                              Unix (LF)
                                                                             UTF-8
                                                                                              INS
```

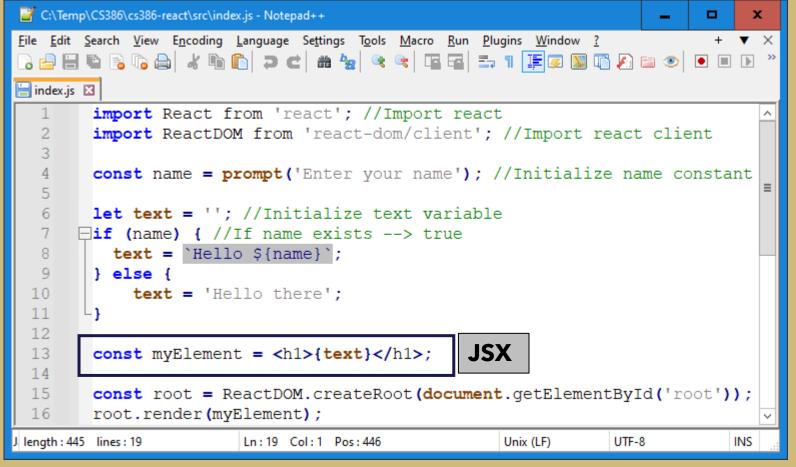
#### **HTML in JSX**

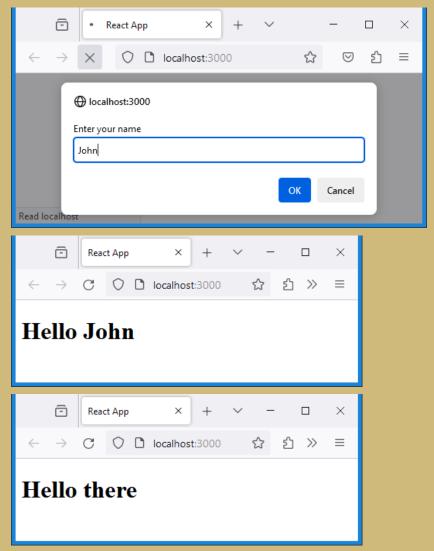
- > To write HTML on multiple lines, put HTML inside parentheses
- > HTML code must be wrapped in **ONE** top level element
- > To write two sibling paragraphs:
  - ☐ Must put them inside parent element, like div element
- > Alternatively, can use a "fragment" to wrap multiple lines:
  - Prevents unnecessarily adding extra nodes to DOM
  - ☐ Fragment looks like an empty HTML tag: <></>
- > All html elements must be closed, even void ones
- JSX follows XML rules, and therefore HTML elements must be properly closed
- For void or self closing elements, use forward slash before ending angle bracket

#### **HTML in JSX**

- class attribute is much used attribute in HTML
- > JSX is rendered as JavaScript, class is reserved word in JavaScript
- Not allowed to use it in JSX
- Use attribute className instead in JavaScript/JSX
- React supports if statements, but not inside JSX
- > To use conditional statements in JSX:
  - ☐ Place if statements outside of JSX
  - Or use ternary expression instead inside curly braces

### **Example 28-5:**





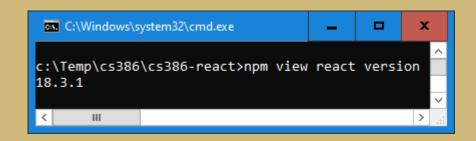
### **Example 28-5:**

Using ternary operator

```
C:\Temp\CS386\cs386-react\src\index.js - Notepad++
                                                                        File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
🔚 index.js 🗵
        import React from 'react'; //Import react
        import ReactDOM from 'react-dom/client'; //Import react client
  4
        const name = prompt('Enter your name'); //Initialize name constant
  5
        const myElement = <h1>{name ? `Hello ${name}` : 'Hello there'}</h1>;
  6
        const root = ReactDOM.createRoot(document.getElementById('root'));
  9
        root.render(myElement);
Java( length : 338 lines : 12
                         Ln:12 Col:1 Pos:339
                                                   Unix (LF)
                                                              UTF-8
                                                                           INS
```

#### **React Components**

- > Components are independent and reusable bits of code
- Serve same purpose as JavaScript functions, but work in isolation and return HTML
- Components come in two types:
  - Class components
  - ☐ Function components
- In older React code bases, may find Class components primarily used
- > It is now suggested to use Function components along with Hooks
- Hooks were added in React 16.8



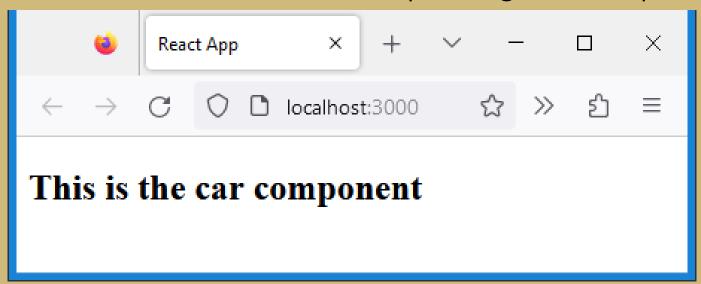
#### **React Components**

- When creating React components:
  - ☐ Component's name **MUST** start with upper case letter
- Function component returns HTML
- Function components can be written using much less code:
  - Compared to class method, are also easier to understand

```
Syntax:
function Component_name() {
    return (
        html
    )
}
//Render component
root.render(<Component_name />)
```

### **Example 28-6:**

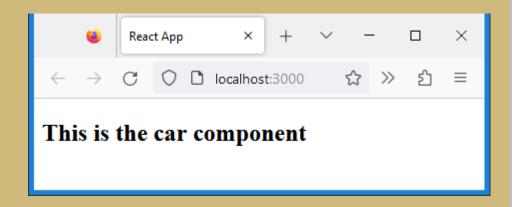
- Building first component
- Create function Car
  - Return h1 element with content as shown below:
- > Use render method on root passing car component using html/xml syntax



### **Example 28-6:**

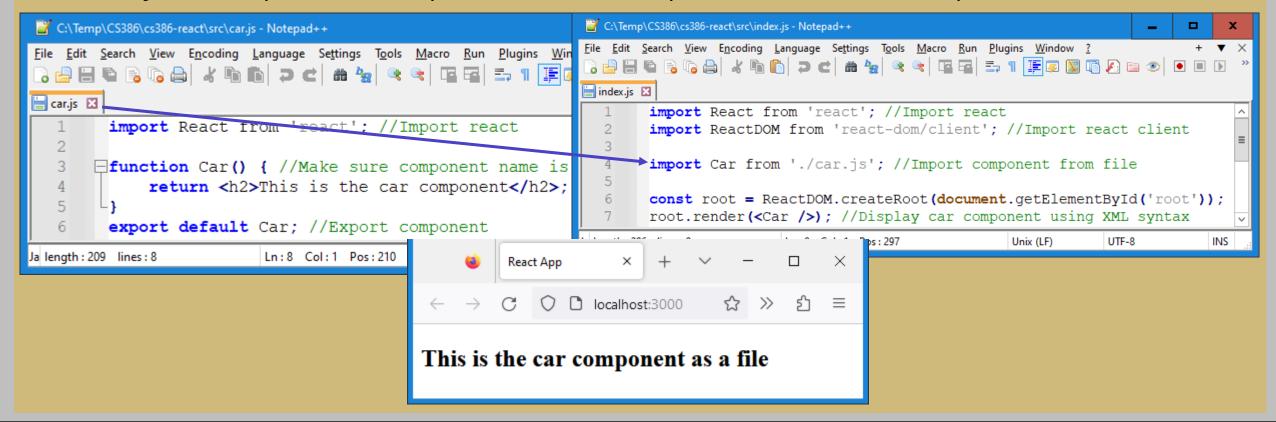
- Building first component
- Notice the html element syntax for displaying car element:
  - □ <Car/>

```
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```



#### **Example 28-6:**

- Place component in separate file (place file in src directory)
- If only one export, use export default component (easier to import)

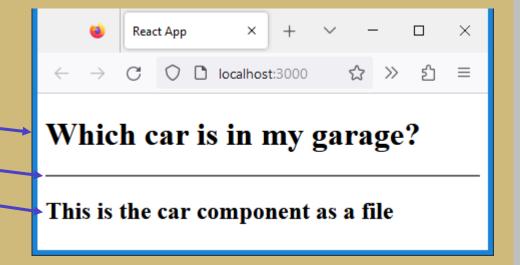


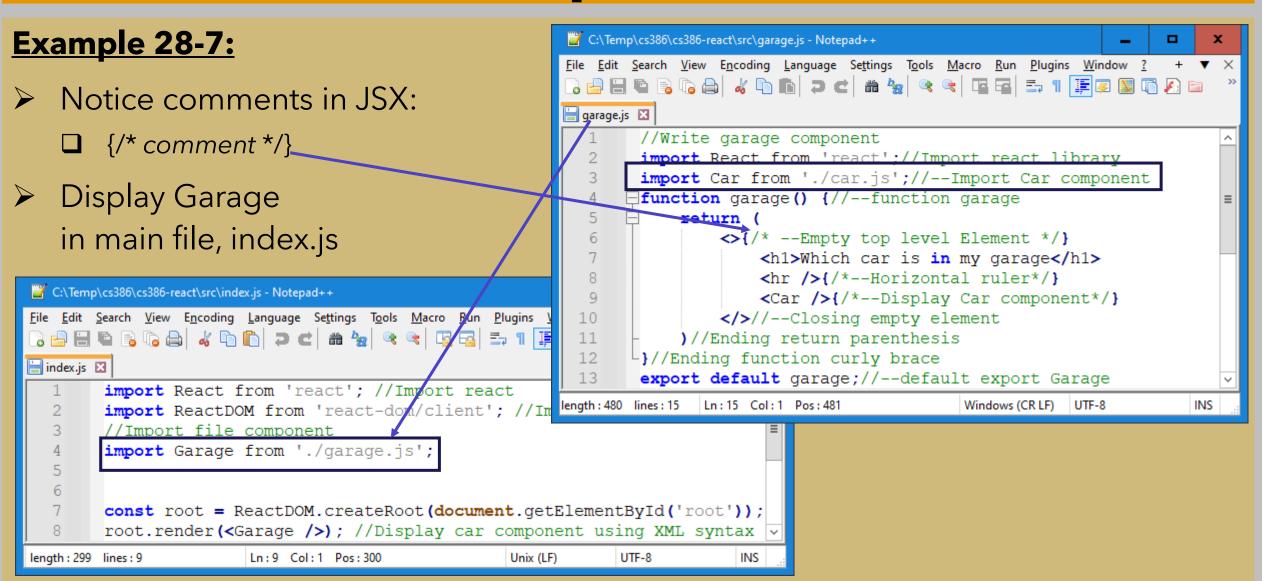
#### **React Components**

- Nested components, to be truly modular
- Next example shows two components, nested:
  - Garage and Car
- Load Car component into Garage
- Load Garage component into main file (index.js)

#### **Example 28-7:**

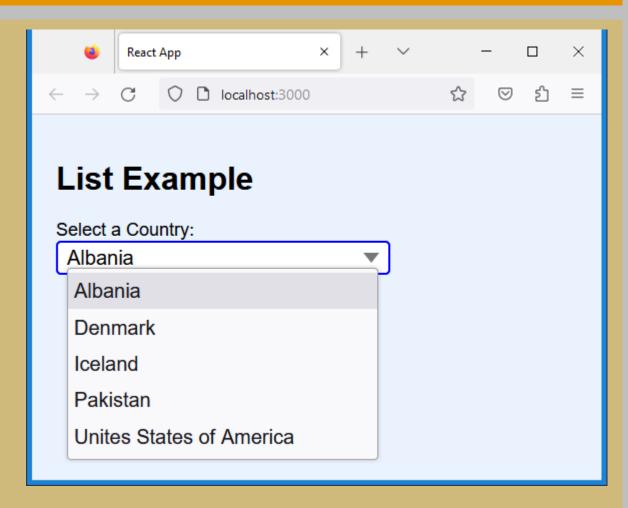
- Use file garage.js file in src folder
- Import:
  - ☐ Import 'react' into React
  - Import car component
- Create garage component using function:
  - Use empty element to wrap component
  - ☐ H1 header
  - ☐ Horizontal ruler
  - Display car component
- Default export Garage





### **Example 28-8:**

- Advanced example of a <select> component including CSS
- list.js:
  - Countries in array
  - ☐ Use map() to loop over array to assemble <options> markup
- list.css:
  - Regular stylesheet file
  - Import into list.js



### Example 28-8:

```
C:\Temp\cs386\cs386-react\src\list.js - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
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🔚 list.js 🔣
        import React from 'react': //Import
        import './list.css':
        //Array of countries
       ∃const countries = [
            {abbr: 'AL', country: 'Albania'},
            {abbr: 'DK', country: 'Denmark'},
            {abbr: 'IS', country: 'Iceland'},
  8
            {abbr: 'PK', country: 'Pakistan'},
  9
            {abbr: 'US', country: 'Unites States of America'},
       function SelectList() {
 13
            return (
 15
                     <label htmlFor="selCountries">>Select a Country:</label>
                     <div className="select">
 16
                          <select id="selCountries">
 18
                              {countries.map(function(item) { {/*Loop over array countries */}
                                  {/* Must use React key attribute for select lists */}
 19
                                  return <option key={item.abbr} value={item.abbr}>{item.country}</option>;
                              })}
                          </select>
                     <span className="focus"></span>
                     </div>
                 </>
 26
        export default SelectList;
JavaScript file
                                  length: 798 lines: 31
                                                          Ln:31 Col:1 Pos:799
                                                                                       Windows (CR LF) UTF-8
                                                                                                                INS
```

```
C:\Temp\CS386\cs386-react\src\list.css - Notepad++
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        /*https://moderncss.dev/custom-select-styles-with-pure-css/*/
       *::before.
      ∃*::after {
         box-sizing: border-box;
          --select-border: #777;
         --select-focus: blue:
         --select-arrow: var(--select-border);
 14
      ⊟select {
         -webkit-appearance: none;
             -moz-appearance: none;
                  appearance: none;
         background-color: transparent;
         border: none:
         padding: 0 1em 0 0;
         margin: 0:
         width: 100%;
          font-family: inherit;
          font-size: inherit;
          cursor: inherit:
         line-height: inherit;
         z-index: 1:
 29
          outline: none;
length: 2,382 lines: 117
                    Ln:1 Col:1 Pos:1
                                                Windows (CR LF) UTF-8
```

#### Example 28-8:

```
C:\Temp\CS386\cs386-react\src\index.js - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
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🔚 index.js 🔣
        import React from 'react'; //Import react
        import ReactDOM from 'react-dom/client'; //Import react client
        //Import component
        import List from './list.js';
      function Page ()
            return (\//Make sure return is followed by parenthesis
                     <h1>List Example</h1>
                      List />
 13
 14
        const root = ReactDOM.createRoot(document.getElementById('root'));
        root.render(<Page />);
length: 385 lines: 18
                        Ln:18 Col:1 Pos:386
                                                     Unix (LF)
                                                                 UTF-8
                                                                              INS
```