

Lesson:

Creating Your First React Native Project – Hello World Example



Congratulations on taking your first step into React Native development! In this lesson, we will walk you through the process of creating your first React Native project and demonstrate a simple "Hello World" example. We will explain the code and provide visual representations of the output to help you understand the concepts better.

Prerequisites

Before we begin, make sure you have the following installed on your system:

- Node.js and npm (Node Package Manager)
- Expo CLI

If you haven't installed these prerequisites yet, please refer to the relevant installation guides.

Step 1: Creating a New React Native Project

1. Open your terminal or command prompt.
2. Navigate to the directory where you want to create your React Native project.
3. Run the following command to create a new React Native project called "HelloWorldApp":

```
1 expo init HelloWorldApp
```

4. Wait for the project setup to complete. This might take a few minutes.
5. Once the setup is finished, navigate to the project directory:

```
1 cd HelloWorldApp
```

Congratulations! You have created your first React Native project.

Step 2: Writing the "Hello World" Code

1. Open your favorite code editor and locate the file **App.js** inside the **HelloWorldApp** project directory.
2. Replace the existing code in **App.js** with the following code:

```
1 import React from 'react';
2 import { View, Text, StyleSheet } from 'react-native';
3
4 const App = () => {
5   return (
6     <View style={styles.container}>
7       <Text style={styles.text}>Hello, World!</Text>
8     </View>
9   );
10 };
11
```

```
12  const styles = StyleSheet.create({
13    container: {
14      flex: 1,
15      justifyContent: 'center',
16      alignItems: 'center',
17    },
18    text: {
19      fontSize: 24,
20      fontWeight: 'bold',
21    },
22  });
23
24  export default App;
```

Let's understand the code:

- We import the necessary components from the **react-native** package: **View**, **Text**, and **StyleSheet**.
- Inside the **App** component, we return a **View** component with a **Text** component inside it.
- We apply styles using the **StyleSheet** module to center the content and make the text bold.

Step 3: Running the Project

1. Make sure you have an Android or iOS emulator running or connect a physical device to your computer.
2. In your terminal or command prompt, navigate to the project directory (**HelloWorldApp**).
3. Run the following command to start the React Native development server:

```
1  npm start
```

In the next lessons, we will look at how to run this project in an Android or iOS simulator.

Conclusion

In this guide, you learned how to create your first React Native project and implement a simple "Hello World" example. We explained the code and provided visual representations of the output to help you understand the concepts better. Now that you have the foundation, you can explore and build upon this knowledge to create more complex and interactive React Native applications.