

# useEffect hook

`useState` isn't the only hook in React

- `useEffect` is another (and there are more)

`useEffect()` is passed a callback

- callback runs *after* the component renders

# Basic example

```
import { useEffect } from 'react';

function App() {
  useEffect( () => console.log('in effect') );
  console.log('in app');
  return (
    <div className="app">
      </div>
  );
}
```

```
in app
in effect
```

# useEffect callback called on every rerender

```
import { useState, useEffect } from 'react';

function App() {
  const [ count, setCount ] = useState(0);
  useEffect( () => console.log('in effect') );
  console.log('in app');
  return (
    <div className="app">
      <button onClick={ () => setCount(count+1) }>
        {count}
      </button>
    </div>
  );
}
```

Each `in app` followed by an `in effect`

# Why is Console Showing Messages Twice?

React 18 added a feature

- In "development mode"
  - the dev server via `npm start`
- Components rendered a second time
  - Largely to highlight effect problems

Mostly you can ignore this

- Won't happen in production
  - the built files using `npm run build`
- But watch for surprises!

# Why "Effect"?

`useState` gives us a state

What does `useEffect` give us?

- A "side effect" of rendering
- "side effects" are something to minimize
- but can be useful

# **useEffect dependency array**

useEffect callback doesn't have to run on ALL renders

- can be passed a second argument
- the "dependency array"
- lists values to watch
- a change in a value triggers callback to run
  - only checked on render though

# Dependency Array Demonstration

```
function App() {  
  const [ count, setCount ] = useState(0);  
  const [ watched, setWatched ] = useState(0);  
  useEffect(  
    () => console.log('in effect'),  
    [ watched ],  
  );  
  console.log('in app');  
  return (  
    <div className="app">  
      <button onClick={ () => setCount(count+1) }>  
        Unwatched: {count}  
      </button>  
      <button onClick={ () => setWatched(watched+1) }>  
        Watched: { watched }  
      </button>  
    </div>  
  );  
}
```

# Simple Results

- Whenever the `watched` value changed
  - `useEffect` callback was called
- When an unwatched value changed
  - `useEffect` callback NOT called



# Infinite Loop

If you change a state that is in the dependency array

```
const [state, setState] = useState(0);
useEffect(
  () => setState(state+1),
  [state, setState],
);
```

- Infinite Loop!

Either the useEffect callback

- should NOT change state it depends on
- OR it only conditionally changes the state

# What if empty deps array?

What if:

```
useEffect(  
  () => console.log('in effect'),  
  [],  
);
```

# Empty dependency array results

- `useEffect` callback runs on first render
  - Not on any later renders
- If component is removed from page and reapplied
  - callback once again runs on first render
- If multiple instances of component
  - callback runs on first render of each instance

# When to use dependency array

First questions:

- What is your "effect"?
- Why are you doing so based on render?

Component will re-render each time state changes

- Do you want your effect each time state changes?

If your effect is based on 1+ values

- Those values are your dependency array

# **Effect: Increasing Counter**

Let's write a component that will show a Counter

- When the component FIRST renders, counter starts
- Automatically increments (roughly 1/second)
- Cleans up when component removed

Creating the increment is an "effect"

# Component Base Structure

```
import { useEffect, useState } from 'react';

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

  return (
    <div className="counter">{count}</div>
  );
}

export default Counter;
```

# Increase count ~1/second

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

useEffect(
  () => {
    setInterval( () => {
      console.log('incrementing');
      setCount(count + 1);
    }, 1000);
  }
);
```

But this has a problem!

# Too Many Effects

The interval was changing state (using `setCount()`)

- Which triggers a rerender
- Each render added a NEW effect

Easier to see with `setCount( count => count + 1 );`

We only want to create the interval once

- Use a dependency array



# Adding the dependency array

```
useEffect(  
  () => {  
    setInterval( () => {  
      console.log('incrementing');  
      setCount(count => count + 1);  
    }, 1000);  
  },  
  [] // empty = effect on first render only  
);
```

We DO NOT want `count` as a dependency

- It changes = infinite loop
- Using the function form for setter works fine

We *could* include `setCount()` as a dependency

- `setCount` doesn't change, same result

# Why is counter going up by 2?

This is because of that development feature

- Our effect is running twice

Why would they mess us up like this?

- Actually a sign of a problem in our code
- Let's look at that problem first
  - Then come back to why this reveals the problem

# We still have a problem

`<Counter>` works fine

- Double count not withstanding
- As long as it is on the page
- What happens when removed?

```
function App() {
  const [showCounter, setShowCounter] = useState(false);
  return (
    <div className="app">
      <button
        onClick={ () => { setShowCounter( !showCounter ) } }
      >Toggle Counter</button>
      { showCounter && <Counter/> }
    </div>
  );
}
```

# Interval from effect still exists

Even after component is removed

- Adding component back creates extra effect
- This is why our count was upping by 2
  - Effect was run twice

We need to "clean up" our effect

# **useEffect callback can return a function**

This function is called when:

- component removed from page
- this useEffect called again

This function is used for "cleanup"

Example: if your effect created timeouts or intervals

- remove them because component and component state won't be there to update

# useEffect cleanup function

```
useEffect(  
  () => {  
    console.log('in effect', count);  
    return () => {  
      console.log('cleanup', count);  
    };  
  },  
  [],  
);
```

# Cleanup Counter

- To remove interval we need intervalId
  - But we don't want it in state
  - We use a **closure**
    - Reference to variable no longer in scope

```
useEffect(  
  () => {  
    const intervalId = setInterval( () => {  
      console.log('incrementing');  
      setCount(count => count + 1);  
    }, 1000);  
    return () => {  
      console.log('cleanup');  
      clearInterval(intervalId);  
    };  
  },  
  [] // empty = effect on first render only  
);
```

# Clean!

- We see the cleanup in the console
- Only counts by 1!
- Stops when component removed

Second render made problem more noticeable!

## Effects can cause problems when comp removed

- Be sure to have cleanup for lasting effects
- Consider if component may no longer be there
  - For async effects
- Use the double-render in dev as a "canary"



# Summary - useEffect

A hook that takes a callback

- Callback runs after component renders
- Used for "side effects" to render
  - setup/cleanup needed for component

**Changing state in effect can cause infinite loop**

- Think about it before changing state

# Summary - Dependency Array

Second param to useEffect is a **dependency array**

- If not present
  - callback runs every render
- If present but empty (`[]`)
  - callback runs after first render only
- If present with values
  - callback runs if any values change
- If calling a state setter (avoid infinite loop!)
  - use function form to reference current value
  - avoid putting changing state in dep. array

# Summary - Cleanup function

The useEffect callback can return a function

- automatically used for **cleanup**
- remove timeouts/intervals
- disconnect any external effects

# Summary - Double Render in dev

React 18 does a double render in development

- Shows as "grayed out" text in console
- Can reveal when effects aren't being cleaned up
- Only useful if you pay attention
  - Keep console clean
  - Deal with warnings and errors
  - Check console often