<WA1/><AW1/>2021

# React Life Cycle

#### **Making React Components Alive**

Fulvio Corno Luigi De Russis

Enrico Masala







Applicazioni Web I - Web Applications I - 2020/2021



https://reactjs.org/docs/state-and-lifecycle.html

https://reactjs.org/docs/react-component.html

https://github.com/Wavez/react-hooks-lifecycle

Full Stack React, Chapter "Advanced Component Configuration with props, state, and children"

There's life before and after return<JSX>

### **COMPONENTS' LIFECYCLE**

## Lifecycle Events

- The render action is the most important one for a component
- However, it is also useful to customize what happens at different moments in the evolution of the component







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### Side Effects in Function Components

- A functional React component uses props and state to calculate its output
- **Side effect**: any calculation that do not target the output values, anything that affects something *outside the scope of the function component* being executed
- Examples of side effects:
  - Data fetching
  - Log recording
  - Setting up a subscriptions (handlers, etc.), or removing them
  - Scheduling additional actions when some state values change
  - Manually changing the DOM in React components
  - Managing timeouts and interval timers

— ...

## Side Effects in Function Components

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Full Stack React, "Appendix C: React Hooks"

React Handbook, chapter "Hooks"

https://reactjs.org/docs/hooks-effect.html

https://dmitripavlutin.com/react-useeffectexplanation/ (source for many examples)

Side-effects and Life Cycle in Functional Components

### USEEFFECT HOOK

### No Side Effects in Render Function

Side effects are confined within a useEffect hook.

The hook controls their execution

function GreetBAD(props) {
 const message = `Hello, \${props.name}!`;
 // Calculates output

// Bad!
console.log(`Greetings: \${message}`); // Side-effect!

return <div>{message}</div>;

// Calculates output

The side effect will be executed when React decides to [re-]render.

Never? Once? Twice? When?

Rendering is under React control

import {useEffect} from "react";

```
function Greet(props) {
    const message = `Hello, ${props.name}!`;
    // Calculates output
```

```
useEffect(() => {
    // Good!
    console.log(`Greetings: ${message}`); // Side-effect!
}, []);
```

return <div>{message}</div>;

// Calculates output



- callback: function containing side-effect logic
- useEffect executes the callback function after React has committed the changes to the screen
- [dependencies]: an optional array of dependencies
- useEffect executes callback only if at least one of the dependencies have changed between renderings

- Not provided: the side-effect runs after *every* rendering
- An empty array []: the side-effect runs *once* after the initial rendering
- Has props or state values [prop1, prop2, ..., state1, state2]: the side-effect runs once after the initial rendering, then only when any dependency value changes

• Not provided: the side-effect runs after every rendering

});

• An empty array []: the function MyComponent() {

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

```
useEffect(() => {
    // Runs after EVERY rendering
```

Has props or state value

state2]: the side-effect runs only when any dependency value changes

• Not provided: the side-effect runs after *every* rendering





nges



 Has props or state values [prop1, prop2, ..., state1, state2]: the side-effect runs only when any dependency value changes

# Side Effects At Mount Time / Update Time

<Count num={num}/> <button onClick={()=>setNum(i=>i+1)}>+</button>

function Count(props) {

```
useEffect( ()=>{ console.log(`My static number is ${props.num}`)}, []);
// run only once
```

useEffect( ()=>{ console.log(`My dynamic number is \${props.num}`)}, [props.num] );
// run at every change

```
return <div>{props.num}</div> ;
```

My	static n	number i	.s 3	3	Count.js:5
Му	dynamic	number	is	3	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	4	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	5	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	6	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	7	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	8	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	9	Count.js:8
My	dynamic	number	is	10	Count.js:8

Only when the component is *mounted*.

Will print the *initial value* of the num, only.

At mount time, *plus* every time the num changes.

Will print all the values.

# Side Effects At Mount Time / Update Time

<Count num={num}/> <button onClick={()=>setNum(i=>i+1)}>+</button>

function Count(props) {

```
useEffect( ()=>{ console.log(`My static number is ${props.num}`)}, [] );
// run only once
```

```
useEffect( ()=>{ console.log(`My dynamic number is ${props.num}`)}, [props.num] );
// run at every change
```

```
return <div>{props.num}</div> ;
```

Му	static r	number i	is E	3	Count.js:5
Му	dynamic	number	is	3	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	4	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	5	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	6	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	7	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	8	Count.js:8
Му	dynamic	number	is	9	Count.js:8
My	dynamic	number	is	10	Count.js:8

#### TIMELINE

- Component Count is created (num=3) and mounted in App
- Function Count is called
- useEffects are registered (not executed)
- The JSX is returned (with 3)
- Component just mounted => run 1<sup>st</sup> effect
- Component just mounted => run 2<sup>nd</sup> effect
- ..
- User clicks, App updates state, num changes to 4
- Function Count is called for rerendering (num=4)
- The JSX is returned (4)
- props.num changed (prev=3, curr=4) => run 2<sup>nd</sup> effect
- • • •

### useState Meets useEffect

- A state variable may be listed as a dependency in an effect
  - When the state changes, the effect is run
  - If the state is updated, but the value does not change, the effect is not run
- Inside a useEffect function, you may schedule a state update
  - The state will be updated after the effect is finished (*asynchronously*)
  - If the state value changes, the component is re-rendered

### useState Meets useEffect

```
function QuickGate(props) {
    const [open, setOpen] = useState(false) ;
    useEffect(()=>{
        setTimeout(()=>setOpen(false), 500)
    }, [open]) ;
    const openMe = () => {
        setOpen(true) ;
    } ;
    return <div onClick={openMe}>
        {open ? <span>GO</span> : <span>STOP</span>}
    </div> ;
}
```

#### TIMELINE

- Component QuickGate is created and mounted in App
- Function QuickGate is called
- useState creates state open with default value
- useEffect is registered (not executed)
- The JSX is returned (STOP)
- Component just mounted => run effect
  - setTimeout is executed: Timeout is set
- Timeout expires
- setOpen is executed
- State open becomes false => no change
- •
- User clicks
- openMe callback is called
  - setOpen(true) executed
- State open becomes true
- Component re-renders
- The JSX is returned (GO)
- useEffect finds open changed (from false to true)
  - setTimeout is executed: Timeout is set
- ...
- Timeout expires
  - setOpen is executed
- State open becomes false
- Component re-renders
- useEffect finds open changed (from true to false)

## useEffect Optional Array Caveats

- Make sure the array includes **all** values from the component scope (such as props and state) that change over time and that are used by the effect
- Otherwise, your code will reference stale values from previous renders
  - Rule: every value referenced inside the effect function should also appear in the dependencies array
    - *arguments* of the functions
    - variables (and functions) accessed through *closure*
- If the array includes variables that *always change* when executing the effect, you risk having an infinite loop

# useState & useEffect Meet fetch

```
import { useEffect, useState } from 'react';
function FetchEmployeesByQuery({ query }) {
 const [employees, setEmployees] = useState([]);
 useEffect(() => {
    async function fetchEmployees() {
      const response = await fetch(
        `/employees?q=${encodeURIComponent(query)}`
     );
      const fetchedEmployees = await response.json(response);
      setEmployees(fetchedEmployees);
    fetchEmployees();
  }, [query]);
  return (
    <div>
      {employees.map(name => <div>{name}</div>)}
    </div>
```

- useEffect() can perform data fetching side-effect
- When props.query changes, the effect is run
  - Also at the first component mount
- fetchEmployees fetches data from the server
- When the response is available, the employees state is updated
  - Component will re-render

### Note

- The callback argument of useEffect(callback) cannot be an async function.
- But you can always define and then invoke an async function inside the callback itself
  - Inside the function, you may then use await

```
function FetchEmployeesByQuery({ query }) {
  const [employees, setEmployees] = useState([]);

  useEffect(() => { // <--- CANNOT be an async function
    async function fetchEmployees() {
      // ...
  }
  fetchEmployees(); // <--- But CAN invoke async functions
  }, [query]);

  // ...
}</pre>
```

### Example

};

```
import {useEffect, useState} from "react";
function TextFlipper(props) {
    const [text, setText] = useState('') ;
    const [flipped, setFlipped] = useState('') ;
                                                                                                 const express = require('express') ;
                                                                                                 const flip = require('flip-text') ;
    useEffect( ()=>{
        const fetchFlipped = async () => {
                                                                                                 const app = express() ;
             const response = await fetch('/flip?text='+text) ;
                                                                                                 app.get('/flip', (reg, res) => {
             const responseBody = await response.json() ;
                                                                                                    const text = req.query.text ;
             setFlipped( responseBody.text ) ;
                                                                                                   const flipped = flip(text) ;
        };
                                                                                                   res.json({text: flipped}) ;
        fetchFlipped(text) ;
                                                                                                });
    }, [text] );
                                                                                                 app.listen(3001, ()=>{console.log('running')})
    const handleChange = (ev) => {
       setText(ev.target.value) ;
    return <div>
```

```
Text: <input type='text' value={text} onChange={handleChange}/><br/>
   Flipped: {flipped}
</div> ;
```

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Text: Hello, world

Flipped: pluom 'ollaH

# Handling Slow Responses

```
function TextFlipper(props) {
    const [text, setText] = useState('') ;
    const [flipped, setFlipped] = useState('') ;
    const [waiting, setWaiting] = useState(true) ;
    useEffect( ()=>{
        const fetchFlipped = async () => {
            const response = await fetch('/flip?text='+text) ;
            const responseBody = await response.json() ;
            setFlipped( responseBody.text ) ;
            setWaiting(false);
        };
        setWaiting(true) ;
        fetchFlipped(text) ;
    }, [text] );
    const handleChange = (ev) => {
       setText(ev.target.value) ;
    };
    return <div>
        Text: <input type='text' value={text} onChange={handleChange}/><br/>><br/>
        Flipped: {waiting && <span>(/span){flipped}
```

 $\langle div \rangle$ ;

```
    If HTTP API calls are slow, you can
use an extra state to remember
whether a call is still ongoing (or
if it is been answered)
```

- The Effect will initially set it to 'waiting', and when the response is back, it may be reset to 'not waiting'
- The component rendering will show in some way that the result is still temporary

# Clean-up After Side Effects

- Some side-effects need cleanup: close a socket, clear timers
- If the callback returns a function, then useEffect() considers this as an effect cleanup:

```
useEffect(() => {
    // Side-effect...

return function cleanup() {
    // Side-effect cleanup...
};
}, dependencies);
```

- Cleanup works in the following way:
  - After initial rendering, useEffect() invokes the callback having the side-effect. cleanup() function is **not** invoked.
  - On later renderings, before invoking the next side-effect callback, useEffect() invokes the cleanup() function from the previous side-effect execution (to clean up everything after the previous side-effect), then runs the current side-effect.
  - Finally, after unmounting the component, useEffect() invokes the cleanup() function from the latest side-effect.

# Summary: Four Ways To Call useEffect

- Once, when the component mounts
  - useEffect( () => callOnce(), [] ) // empty 2<sup>nd</sup> arg
- On every component render
  - useEffect( () => callAtEveryRender() ) // missing 2<sup>nd</sup> arg
- On every component render, if some values changed
  - in addition, it is called when the component mounts
  - useEffect( () => callIfAnyDepChange(dep1,dep2), [dep1,dep2])
- When component unmounts

https://dev.to/spukas/4-ways-to-useeffect-pf6

# How To Handle Other Lifecycle Situations

- Full lifecycle is more complex
- Other hooks available for particular situations
  - useLayoutEffect: it fires
     synchronously after all DOM mutations
  - useMemo: returns a *memoized* value (re-computed by a pure function when its parameters change)
  - useCallback: returns a memoized callback function
- Not recommended in general



React Hooks Lifecycle

Made with 🎔 by Gal Margalit. Feel free to contribute and share 🌔 <u>wavez/react-hooks-lifecycle</u>



https://www.robinwieruch.de/react-fetchingdata

The Road to Learn React, Chapter "Getting Real with APIs"

Taming the State in React, Chapter "Local State Management"

React as an API Client

### HANDLING API CALLS IN REACT

# Different Kinds Of State

#### **Application State (or Entity State)**

- Retrieved from the back-end
- Should update the back-end
   on user-initiated CRUD actions
- Should "periodically" check for updates
  - caused by other users, by other open sessions, or by connected systems
- Globally managed, accessible by various components

#### **Presentation State (or View State)**

- Not stored in the back-end
  - only in React
- Does not need to persist
- Lives and dies within the controlling Component
- Implemented as Local State
  - by using useState

### Frequent Use Cases

- How to integrate remote HTTP APIs
- Where/when to load data from remote APIs?
- Delays and "loading..."
- Updating remote data

### **API Client Classes**

- Recommendation: keep your fetch methods in a separate JS module (e.g., API.js)
- Keeps details of HTTP methods inside the API module
  - API should not depend on React or application state/props
  - Application code should not call fetch or have any HTTP information
- Allows easy swapping with "stub" methods for testing

### **Conceptual Architecture**



# Rehydrating And Dehydrating

- Application State is retrieved via HTTP APIs
  - e.g., from info stored in a DB and accessed through the HTTP API server
- **Rehydrating** the Application State means getting it from the HTTP APIs
  - Must happen when the React application mounts
  - Best place: inside a useEffect(fn, []) method
- Rehydrating should also happen when we want to "refresh" the state
  - The React app cannot know whether *others* changed the info provided by the API server
- **Dehydrating** the Application State means extracting it from the React application
  - May happen several times during the React app execution
  - Should happen whenever something (in the Application State) is modified

# Rehydrating At Mount Time

- Very similar to what we saw before...
- Rehydrating may require some time, while the component renders "empty" (with the initial state)
  - use the approach for handling slow responses
  - i.e., a loading/waiting local state

```
import { useEffect, useState } from 'react';
function ShoppingList() {
  const [list, setList] = useState([]);
  const [loading, setLoading] = useState(true) ;
  useEffect(()=> {
    const getItems = async () => {
    const response = await fetch('/api/items');
    const items = await response.json();
    setList(items);
    setLoading(false);
    };
    getItems();
    }, []);
```

# Rehydrating To Refresh The State

- Once you know that something has been changed in the API server, you can use useEffect() as before
  - with one or more dependencies, e.g., [dep1, dep2]

- Beware: two problems might arise
  - the "n-clients problem"
  - infinite loops



# The "N-Clients Problem"

- We are creating a web application that will be opened on *multiple* browsers at once
  - They read and write info from a *unique* API server, however
- What happens in the web app running in, e.g., Browser 1 when Browser 3 updates something in the API server?
  - How can one web app know that someone else changed something in the server?



# The "N-Clients Problem"

### **The Better-Than-Nothing Solution**

- The *web app* asks for data as frequently as possible
  - when it loads a new page/view
  - after adding/updating/removing something
  - periodically (i.e., polling)
  - ...
- Not a solution: just a way to *minimize* the problem

### **The Real Solution**

- The *server* communicates changes as soon as they appear
  - to *all* the current consumers of its information
- Out of scope for this course
  - unfortunately!
- For the curious:
  - WebSockets (e.g., <u>https://socket.io</u>)
  - PubSub mechanisms

# Infinite Loops with **useEffect**

- One of the main pitfalls that might happen with useEffect
  - infinite loops both in rendering and in external (e.g., HTTP) calls
  - especially when useEffect is used with useState
- Two significant cases:
  - 1. The dependency array is missing, but it should not
  - 2. One of the items in the dependency array is a JavaScript Object { } or Array [ ]

Examples from: <a href="https://dmitripavlutin.com/react-useeffect-infinite-loop/">https://dmitripavlutin.com/react-useeffect-infinite-loop/</a>

### Example: Missing Dependencies

What is wrong, here?

import { useEffect, useState } from 'react';

```
function CountInputChanges() {
  const [value, setValue] = useState('');
  const [count, setCount] = useState(-1);
```

}

```
useEffect( () => setCount((c) => (c + 1)) );
```

```
const handleChange = (ev) => setValue(ev.target.value);
```

```
return (
    <div>
        <input type="text" value={value} onChange={handleChange} />
        <div>Number of changes: {count}</div>
        </div> );
```

### 1. Set Up Dependencies Correctly

- Without the dependency (no dependency array), the code in the example will re-render the component **forever**
- It is also a clear error:
  - the update of count depends on the change of value

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

```
function CountInputChanges() {
  const [value, setValue] = useState('');
  const [count, setCount] = useState(-1);
```

```
useEffect( () => setCount((c) => (c + 1)), [value] );
```

```
const handleChange = ({ target }) =>
setValue(target.value);
```

}

# Example: Objects as Dependencies

What is wrong, here?

```
function CountSecrets() {
 const [secret, setSecret] = useState({ value: "", countSecrets: 0 });
 useEffect(() => {
   if (secret.value === 'secret')
      setSecret(s => ({...s, countSecrets: s.countSecrets + 1}));
 }, [secret]);
const onChange = (ev) => { setSecret(s => ({ ...s, value: ev.target.value })); };
return ( <div>
    <input type="text" value={secret.value} onChange={onChange} />
   <div>Number of secrets: {secret.countSecrets}</div>
 </div>
);
```

### 2a. Avoid Objects As Dependencies

- **Problem**: secret as a dependency!
- Inside useEffect, when the input value equals 'secret', setSecret() is called
- setSecret() increments the secrets counter, but also creates a new object
  - secret is now a new object, and the dependency has changed
- So useEffect invokes again the callback that updates the state, and a new secret object is created again, etc.
- How to solve: do <u>not</u> use objects as dependencies!

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

```
function CountSecrets() {
   const [secret, setSecret] = useState({ value: "",
   countSecrets: 0 });
```

```
useEffect(() => {
    if (secret.value === 'secret')
        setSecret(s => ({...s, countSecrets: s.countSecrets
+ 1}));
    }, [secret.value]);
```

```
const handleChange = ({ target }) => { setSecret(s => ({
    ...s, value: target.value })); };
```

### 2b. Avoid Arrays As Dependencies

```
import { useEffect, useState } from 'react';
function ShoppingList() {
  const [list, setList] = useState([]);
  useEffect(()=> {
    const getItems = async () => {
      const response = await fetch('/api/items');
      const items = await response.json();
      setList(items);
    };
    getItems();
  }, []); // don't use: [list]
```

```
return (
    {list.map((item, i) => {item})}
    );
}
```

- The same issue might happen with arrays...
- ... so, it is better to avoid arrays as dependencies
  - you can use an empty dependency array []
  - or an additional state to trigger useEffect
  - or any item in the array, the length property (if appropriate), or ...

### Dehydrating During Updates

```
const addItem = async () => {
  setList(items => [...items, element]);
  const response = await fetch('/api/items', {
    method: 'POST',
    body: element,
 });
  . . .
};
return (...
    <input type="text" value={element} ... }></input>
    <button onClick={addItem}>Add</button>
  ...);
```

The two updates (remote API, local state) run **in parallel**.

**Optimistic** state update: it assumes that remote state will be updated without errors => **Risky!** 

# Dehydrating During Updates – Alternative

```
const addItem = async () => {
```

```
const response = await fetch('/api/items', {
    method: 'POST',
    body: element,
 });
 if (response.ok)
    setList(items => [...items, element]);
};
return (...
    <input type="text" value={element} ... }></input>
    <button onClick={addItem}>Add</button>
  ...);
```

The state is updated only **after** checking that the request is successfully => **No parallel updates!** 

**Issue**: the user of our app will <u>not</u> see the just added item for a while...

# During Updates: Dehydrate And Rehydrate

```
const [list, setList] = useState([]);
 const [element, setElement] = useState('');
 const [update, setUpdate] = useState(true);
 useEffect(()=> {
   if(update) {
      const getItems = async() => {
       const response = await fetch('/api/items');
       const items = await response.json();
       setList(items);
        setUpdate(false);
     };
     getItems();
 }, [update]);
 const addItem = async () => {
   setElement('');
   setList(items => [...items, `${element} (temp)`]);
   const response = await fetch('/api/items', {
     method: 'POST',
     body: element,
    });
   if (response.ok)
      setUpdate(true);
 };
 return (<>
     {list.map((item, i) => {item})}
      <input type="text" value={element}</pre>
onChange={(ev)=>setElement(ev.target.value)}></input>
     <button onClick={addItem}>Add</button>
   </>
 );
}
```

function ShoppingList() {

- Update the state in parallel so that the user can see that the operation was *completed*
- 2. Mark the just updated item as *temporary* 
  - e.g., by using a different background color, label, ... than the others
- **3. Refresh** the *entire* component as soon as the server completes the update operation
  - successfully or not



Full Stack React, "Appendix C: React Hooks"

React Handbook, chapter "Hooks"

https://reactjs.org/docs/hooks-rules.html

Peeking Under the Hood

### THE RULES OF HOOKS

# Quiz

- What is the "magic" behind useState?
- How can the same function return different state variables?
- How can the values be persisted across function calls?

```
function Example(props) {
  [hidden, setHidden] = useState(true) ;
  [count, setCount] = useState(0) ;
  [mode, setMode] = useState('view') ;
  . . .
  setHidden(false) ;
  . . .
  setCount( c => c+1 ) ;
  . . .
  setMode('edit') ;
  • • •
```

### Answer

- React associates to each functional component an array of Hook "slots"
  - Slots are stored with the function, therefore they are persistent
- Each time you call a Hook, a new "slot" is used
  - The first time, it is created
  - The other times, it is reused

```
function Example(props) {
  [hidden, setHidden] = useState(true) ;
  [count, setCount] = useState(0) ;
  [mode, setMode] = useState('view') ;
  ...
```

```
setHidden(false) ;
. . .
setCount( c => c+1 ) ;
. . .
setMode('edit') ;
. . .
```

# Corollary

- React must "know" which functions may host Hooks
- Hooks must always be called in the same order each time a component renders

```
function Example(props) {
  [hidden, setHidden] = useState(true) ;
  [count, setCount] = useState(0) ;
  [mode, setMode] = useState('view') ;
  . . .
  setHidden(false) ;
  . . .
  setCount( c => c+1 ) ;
  . . .
  setMode('edit') ;
  • • •
```

### Hook Usage Rules

- Only Call Hooks at the Top Level
  - Always call Hooks at the top level of your React function
  - Do not call Hooks inside loops, conditions, or nested functions
- Only Call Hooks from React Functions
  - Do not call Hooks from regular JavaScript functions
  - You may call Hooks from React function components
  - You may call Hooks from custom Hooks

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