React Patterns



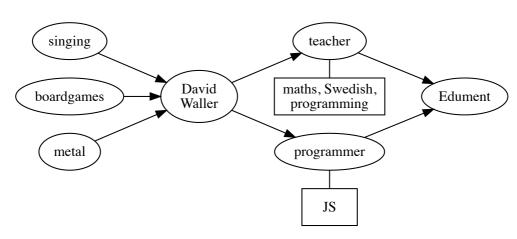
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Seminar overview

- 1. Setting the scene
- 2. Organising files
- 3. Component model
- 4. Project setup
- 5. Component communication
- 6. Dependencies
- 7. State management
- 8. Error handling
- 9. Testing
- 10. Wrapping up

1-1. Setting the scene React fiw!

Hello!



https://blog.krawaller.se

david@krawaller.se

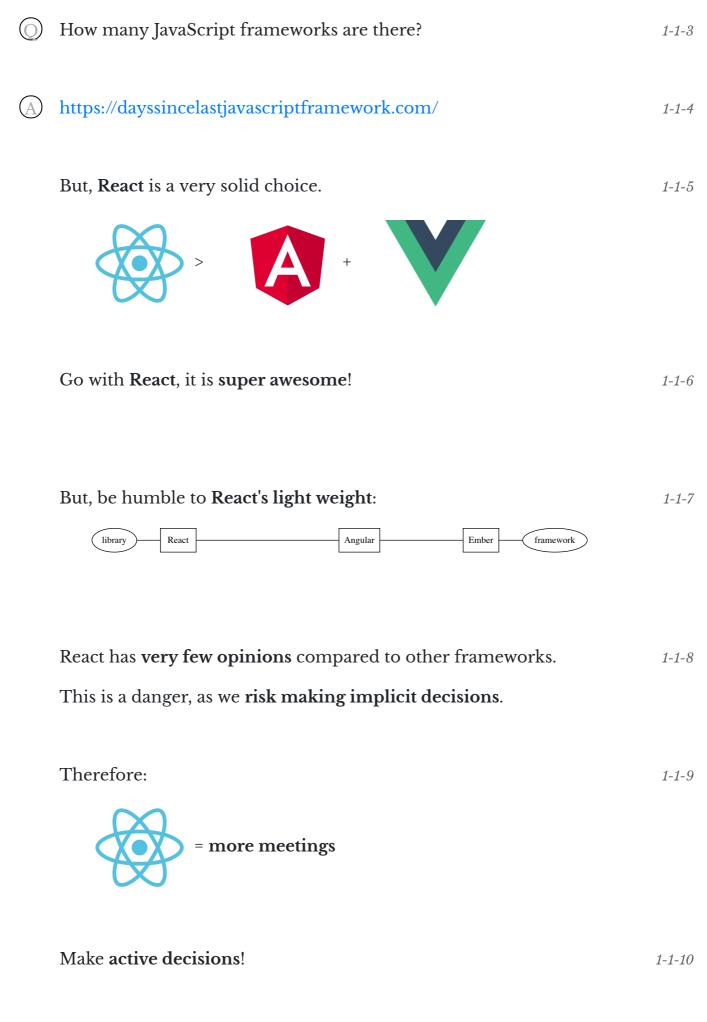
...in other words, **exactly** the kind of person you should be wary of!

1-1-2

1-1-1

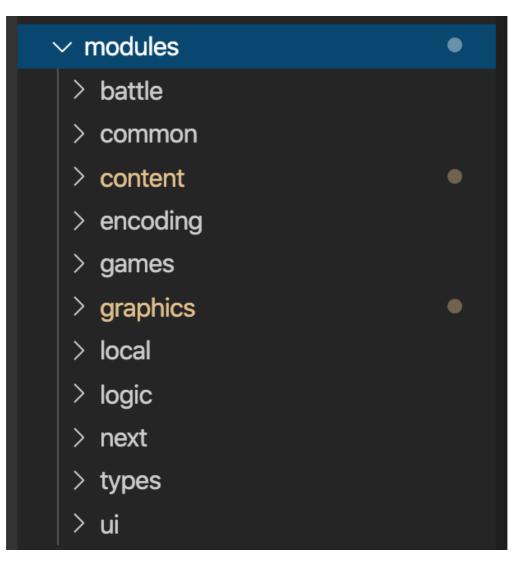
- Dont listen to **religion**!
- Instead look for motivated opinion...
- ...and then make your own for your project

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Arranging the sock drawer

Have a top-level folder per concern

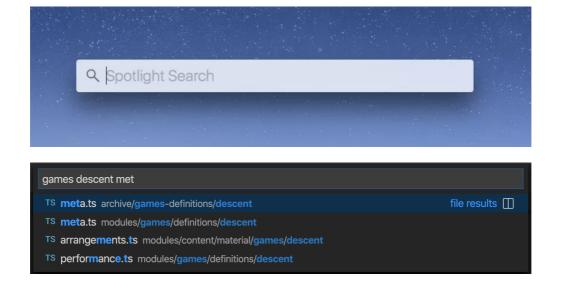


- Each top-level concern is a separate API surface..
- ...and therefore have **separate test suites**
- Refactoring one folder should not affect another..
- ...but changing a folder's API should

(If you're using Redux - more on that later - that should 1-2-3 probably be a top-level folder!)

1-2-2

	Split concerns into separate toplevel folders	1-2-4
\bigcirc	Are these good rules?	1-2-5
	<pre>{ "rules": { "max-lines": ["error", 200], "max-lines-per-function": ["error", { "max": 20 }], "max-statements": ["error", 10] } }</pre>	
A	No. But yes!	1-2-6
	The tradeoff:	1-2-7
	 a small function/file is easier to read but means more indirection 	
	Good discussion in Fun fun functions - Straight-line code over functions	

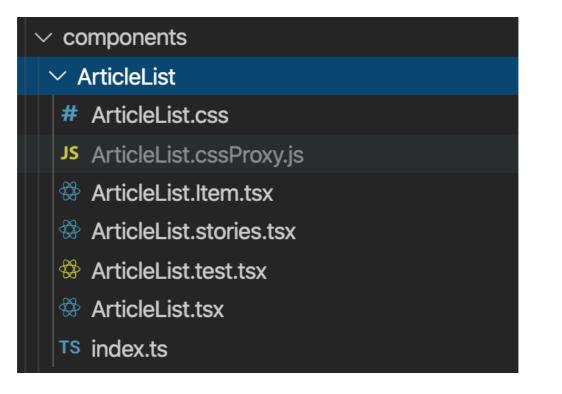


- Files (and folders!) are cheap
- Fuzzy file search is a game changer
- Scrolling is expensive
- Ergo, one thing (component!) per file

1-2-9

1-2-8

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 Folder named from component 	1-2-11
 Component in file with same name 	
Reexport from index file	
 Subcomponents as MainComp.SubComp.jsx 	
 Co-locate tests as MainComp.test.jsx 	
 Co-locate all other component-specific stuff! 	
Co-locate everything to do with a component into a	1-2-12
dedicated folder, with one thing per file.	
If you agree with the idea of component folders , consider	1-2-13
adding a stub command to quickly start a new component!	
npm run stubComponent MyNewComponent	
This can be done using Yeoman , or just a node file with some	1-2-14
JS copying templates!	

Good component scaffolding brings two advantages:	1-2-15
 Quick development Solidifies setup and pattern choices 	
Have a component scaffolding setup!	1-2-16
1-3. Component model What dress to wear	
After choosing React, there are still lots more choices to be made!	1-3-1
For example	
An ancient beer fridge:	1-3-2
<pre>const Clicker = React.createClass({ getInitialState() { return { count: 3 }; }, more() { this.setState({ count: this.state.count + 1 }); }, render() { return (<div> {this.state.count} bottles of beer on the wall <button onclick="{this.more}">Buy more</button> </div>); }; }</pre>	

```
class Clicker extends React.Component {
 state = { count: 3 };
 more = () => this.setState({ count: this.state.count + 1 });
 render() {
    return (
     <div>
       {this.state.count} bottles of beer on the wall
       <button onClick={this.more}>Buy more</button>
     </div>
   );
 }
}
```

Hook version:

```
const Clicker = () => {
 const [count, setCount] = useState(3);
 const more = setCount(count + 1);
 return (
   <div>
     {count} bottles of beer on the wall
     <button onClick={more}>Buy more</button>
   </div>
 );
};
```



Which one is the best?

1-3-4

1-3-5



\bigcirc	Really? Why?	1-3-7
A	Logic sharing with classes:	1-3-8
	<pre>const MyComponent = recompose(withDetailsExpander(), withLocation(), withAuth())(MyComponentInner);</pre>	
	Logic sharing with hooks:	1-3-9
	<pre>const MyComponent = (props) => {</pre>	

```
const { ... } = useDetailsExpander()
const { ... } = useLocation()
const { ... } = useAuth()
// ... the rest
```

}

1-3-6

This means:

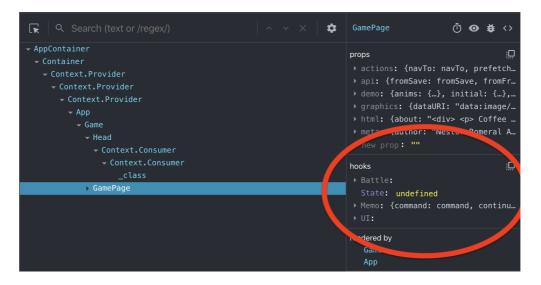
- Flatter render tree
- Less props pollution
- Less indirection

hooks > HoC:s

review.

	Also, with hooks, related logic is bunched together better.	1-3-11
	 But! Classes are very well understood Hooks takes some getting use to Stale closure hook bugs can be hard to debug 	1-3-12
	Be humble to this!	
\bigcirc	Can you spot the bug ?	1-3-13
	<pre>const readSessions = useCallback(() => { const sessions = getSessionList(meta.id); setSessionInfo({ sessions, status: "loaded" }); }, [setSessionInfo]);</pre>	
	<pre>const readSessions = useCallback(() => { const sessions = getSessionList(meta.id); setSessionInfo({ sessions, status: "loaded" }); }, [setSessionInfo]); // < Demons live here (missing meta)</pre>	1-3-14
	Always pay extra attention to the dependency array in code	1-3-15

Make a habit of checking the **hooks section in the devtools**:



And **never** use hooks without a seatbelt:

```
{
    "rules": {
        "react-hooks/rules-of-hooks": "error",
        "react-hooks/exhaustive-deps": "error"
    }
}
```

Skip classes for hooks , but come prepared and be humble	1-3-18
PS: custom hooks are great for code reuse, but also just for splitting things up !	1-3-19
Imagine a fat component :	1-3-20
<pre>const Modal = props => {</pre>	

```
const { title, content } = props;
const [isOpen, setIsOpen] = useState(false);
const open = useCallback(() => {
   setIsOpen(true);
}, [setIsOpen]);
const close = useCallback(() => {
   setIsOpen(false);
}, [setIsOpen]);
// render using isOpen, open, close, title, content
};
```

1-3-17

We move the guts into a **custom hook**:

```
const useModal = () => {
  const [isOpen, setIsOpen] = useState(false);
  const open = useCallback(() => {
    setIsOpen(true);
  }, [setIsOpen]);
  const close = useCallback(() => {
    setIsOpen(false);
  }, [setIsOpen]);
  return [isOpen, open, close];
};
```

This can live in Modal.useModal.js in the same folder.

```
Now our component code is focused on the rendering: 1-3-22
```

```
const Modal = props => {
  const { title, content } = props;
  const [isOpen, open, close] = useModal();
  // render using isOpen, open, close, title, content
};
```

A final note regarding **state** when you **convert from class to hooks**:

- this.state and this.setState usage becomes useState calls
- this.nonRenderState becomes useRef calls

1-4. Project setup

Building the wardrobe

1-3-23

We're gonna cover:

a Babel
b NextJS
c StorybookJS
d CSS in JS
e Typing solution

a First - Babel!

1-4-2



\bigcirc	Waddya mean Babel, surely we just use Create React App ?	1-4-3
	Probably not . And if you do, invest time in the settings . CRA means lock-in by design!	1-4-4
	 The gist; Owning the project setup is hard and takes time but it inevitably means less compromise and more 	1-4-5
	adaptability down the line	

	Remember this advice?	1-4-6
	Make active decisions!	
	It is of double importance for the build setup and related infrastructure!	
	Therefore:	1-4-7
	Have a home-rolled Babel/bundler setup with dedicated maintenance	
	In my experience, the freedom that brings is worth a lot down the line.	
b	Next - Next!	1-4-8
\bigcirc	We agree CRA is flaky, and yes we should own the setup , but we came here hoping for some practical tips on the subject ! Don't you have any beyond <i>do it yourself</i> ?	1-4-9
	Fine: strongly consider using NextJS as a platform for your app!	1-4-10



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NextJS gives you

1-4-14

Quick setup just like CRA
(that can hook into your Babel config)
dev setup with HMR
Server side rendering
Folder-based routing solution...
...with automatic code splitting

It used to be only a server-client package, but it can now 1-4-12 export to a static site.

Thus we can use it as a CRA replacement!

Take a close look at using NextJS as a foundation	1-4-13
--	--------

C Also - check out StorybookJS!



\bigcirc	Isn't Storybook just a component gallery ? We're not building a UI library, we're building an app!	1-4-15
\bigcirc	Wrong! The biggest value of Storybook is letting us iterate quickly on components.	1-4-16
	It is super useful in every React project, big and small (and tiny!), no matter what we're building!	
	Every React project should have a Storybook !	1-4-17

	With regular CSS , it is hard to say	1-4-19
	 what styles a component will get which components a style will be applied to 	
	This scales really badly and leads to specificity hell.	1-4-20
	You should apply a technique to mitigate this !	
	This can be something like CSS Modules , or a full-blown CSS in JS solution .	1-4-21
	The important thing is that you don't use naked CSS (for a non- trivial project).	
	Exactly which one you choose is less important!	
	Have a CSS solution !	1-4-22
\bigcirc	Surely all that only applies to CSS n00bs ? We understand BEM so we don't need that stuff!	1-4-23
\bigcirc	Good for you! :)	1-4-24
e	Finally - typing solution!	1-4-25
\bigcirc	What, TypeScript ?	1-4-26
A	Past me:	1-4-27
	No, TS is just a safety blanket for backenders forced to write JS. Once you truly grok JS you don't need it.	

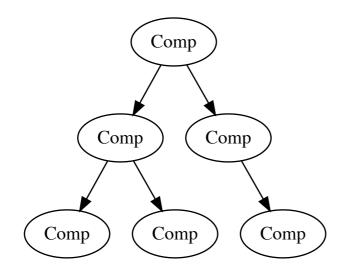
(\mathbf{A})	Current me:	1-4-28
	Hells to the yes! Everyone should use TS.	
\bigcirc	What about Flow ?	1-4-29
	No.	1-4-30
\bigcirc	But we use proptypes!	1-4-31
A	Not good enough.	1-4-32
	 Here's the sales pitch: Setting up TS is super easy (nowadays) Benefits even before adding any types Can gradually introduce types The React model plays really well with strong typing 	1-4-33
	Strongly consider TypeScript !	1-4-34
	If you don't - avoid this pattern:	1-4-35
	<mycomponent {props}=""></mycomponent>	

(in fact, avoid it anyway)

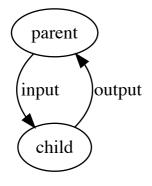
1-5. Component communication

App synapses

A React app is a **pyramid of components**:



This makes **component communication** a central piece of the 1-5-2 puzzle.



Here's an Angular component (yuck):

```
@Component({
   selector: "combat"
   // ...other view stuff
})
export class CombatComponent {
   @Input() arenaId: string;
   @Output() outcome = new EventEmitter();
   // implementation
}
```

Can you spot the inputs and outputs?

1-5-1

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1-5-3

<combat (outcome)="handleOutcome(\$event)" [arenaId]="aId" />

We can again identify inputs and outputs

Here we're using a React version :	1-5-5
<combat arenaid="{aId}" onoutcome="{handleOutcome}"></combat>	
Distinguishing is still ok-ish since we use good names .	
Otherwise it can be harder:	1-5-6
<item data="{item}" select="{register}"></item>	
Is select an input or output ?	
<pre>One possible solution - group outputs into a single prop! interface BattleActions { goToHistory: (step: number) => void; goToBattleControls: () => void; dolotof(urrentSection: () => unid;</pre>	1-5-7
<pre>deleteCurrentSession: () => void; } type BattleProps = { actions: BattleActions; // < all outputs grouped here session: AlgolSession; battle: AlgolBattle; };</pre>	
<pre>export const Battle: FunctionComponent<battleprops> = props => { // };</battleprops></pre>	

Now the **distinction is clear**:

<Battle session={session} battle={battle} actions={actions}>

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1-5-8

In a **smart parent** it is very common to be passing **different actions to different children**, but the grouping pattern allows us to safely cheat!

```
return (
    <Fragment>
        <Breadcrumbs actions={actions} ... />
        <Board actions={actions} ... />
        <Controls actions={actions} ... />
        </Fragment>
)
```

(if we're using a typing solution, that is)

If you **don't like the grouping pattern**, then consider 1-5-10 **checking output names in the linter**:

```
{
    "rules": {
        "react/jsx-handler-names": "error"
    }
}
```

This enforces:

<MyComponent onChange={this.handleChange} />

Make it easy to identify outputs

1-6. Dependencies

Brain implants

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1-5-11

Here's an Angular component again:

```
@Component({
   selector: "combat"
   // ...other view stuff
})
export class CombatComponent {
   constructor(private battleService: BattleService) {}
  @Input() arenaId: string;
  @Output() outcome = new EventEmitter();
   // implementation
}
```

Can you spot the **dependency**?

	In React , which doesn't have a dependency injection system , we are probably importing the dependency :	1-6-2
	<pre>import { BattleService } from "/services";</pre>	
	<pre>const Combat = props => { // implemented using BattleService };</pre>	
	In a Jest unit test we can mock the imported dependencies if needed. But in a Storybook we can't ! At least not easily.	1-6-3
	This is one of many reasons for having a central dependency strategy . Which we can accomplish via the Context API!	1-6-4
\bigcirc	Context ? Hold on. Isn't that just for library authors ?	1-6-5
(A)	So people like me have said. For which I'm sorry !	1-6-6
	I think of Context as a streamlined DI system (that blows Angular's out of the water).	

If we have a typesystem we define an **interface for our dependencies**:

```
interface Dependencies {
  battleService: BattleService;
  localStorage: LocalStorage;
  // ... and more
}
```

```
We make a dummy version with the same shape that only 1-6-8 logs to console:
```

```
const dummyDeps: Dependencies = {
   battleService: dummyBattleService,
   localStorage: dummyLocalStorage
   // ...and more
};
```

```
The dependency context is then created using the dummy as 1-6-9 default:
```

```
const DependencyContext = React.createContext(dummyDeps);
DependencyContext.displayName = "DependencyContext";
```

```
In consumers we access the deps via useContext: 1-6-10
```

```
const CombatComponent = props => {
  const { battleService } = useContext(DependencyContext);
  // ...do stuff with battleService
};
```

```
Btw, consuming contexts is butt ugly in class components. 1-6-11
Go hooks!
```

```
const App = props => (
    <DependencyContext.Provider value={realDeps}>
        <Main />
        </DependencyContext.Provider>
);
```

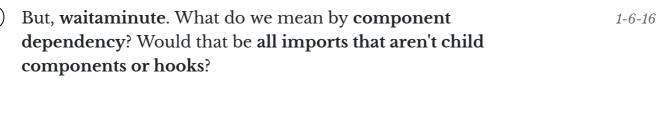
Storybook scenarios will work out of the box since they'll use 1-6-13 the **dummy dependencies**.

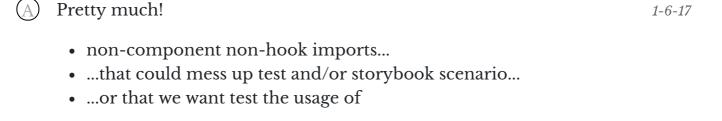
For **tests involving deps** we wrap the component with a 1-6-14 provider of our mocks.

```
const result = (
    <DependencyContext.Provider value={mockDeps}>
        <SomeComponent other={stuff} />
        </DependencyContext.Provider>
);
```

An additional benefit of this pattern is to **clearly identify and** 1-6-15 **catalog all dependencies**, and just having that discussion often means better organisation.

1	
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_ V	\mathcal{Y}





But if **2nd and 3rd points are void**, then just import the 1-6-18 damn thing.

If no one cares then no one cares!

(although there's something satisfying about having all imports from other top-level folders come via the context)	1-6-19
Provide dependencies in an organised manner	1-6-20
1-7. State management	
O Nothing to say except use Redux , right?	1-7-1
Redux	
A It depends , of course:	1-7-2
Doesn't need Your app Needs Redux Your app Needs	
Where is the line?	
Past me:	1-7-3
If you know Redux you benefit even for small apps	
Current me:	1-7-4
You very likely don't need Redux	

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Dan Abra @dan_abrYou Might Not N	
	You Might Not Need Redux People often choose Redux before they need it. "What if our app doesn't scale without it?" Later, developers frown at the indirection Redux medium.com
359 10:31 PM	1 - Sep 19, 2016
209 people are	e talking about this

Complexity ≠



	Redux shines if	1-7-7
	 you have complex state that is used in multiple places 	
	Think hard before adopting Redux	1-7-8
	So what are we supposed to do then? After all, React is just a view layer thing?	1-7-9
\bigcirc	React's state management - especially through hooks and context - is more than enough for most apps!	1-7-10

1-7-6

The gist:

1-7-12

- keep local state local
- if a cousin needs the same state, hoist to common ancestor
- don't be afraid to propdrill a generation or two
- if that gets out of hand, use context

For **common ancestor** state keepers, a good pattern is to make **state hooks**:

```
useMyState = () => {
  const [state, dispatch] = useReducer(reducer, initialState);
  const actions = useMemo(
    () => ({
        // ...obj with methods calling dispatch
     }),
     [dispatch]
  );
  return [state, actions];
};
```

Consumed like this:

```
const SmartComponent = () => {
  const [state, actions] = useMyState();
  // render passing (selected) state and actions to children
};
```

Strategically place the state in the pyramid

This scales way better than past me could possibly imagine!

1-8. Error handling

Making things behave

Sometimes, there are bugs.

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1-7-13

1-7-14

(a) Render errors
 (b) Non-render errors
 (c) Error metadata

a	If an error is throw during render in React, we get a white page of death .	1-8-3
	 We can catch them using Error boundaries! Probably definitely at the top of the pyramid maybe at other strategic points 	1-8-4
	<pre>There's no hook yet for this (boo!). class ErrorBoundary extends React.Component { state = { error: null } static getDerivedStateFromError(error) {</pre>	1-8-5
	<pre>return { error }; } render() { return this.state.error ? <errordisplay error="{this.state.error}"> : this.props.children } }</errordisplay></pre>	

The ErrorDisplay can just be an apologetic message, or a UI 1-8-6 to submit a bug report.

Often it will also report to Sentry or a similar service.



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T	But non-render errors need a different strategy!	1-8-
]	These are typically	
	 event handlers useEffect calls 	
	A powerful pattern is to have the top-level Error Boundary provide a setter through a context:	1-8-
	<pre>report = (error) => this.setState({ error }), render() { if (this.state.error) { return <errordisplay error="{this.state.error}"> } return (<errorcontext.provider value="{this.report}"> { this.props.children } </errorcontext.provider>) }</errordisplay></pre>	
	Now careful children can use that in dangerous handlers calls:	1-8-1
C	calls:	
	<pre>const CarefulComp = props => { const report = useContext(ErrorContext);</pre>	

Bah. My silly teammates will forget to do that, or they can't
 1-8-11
 be bothered!

(A)

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1-8-7

```
const Button = props => {
  const { onClick, text } = props;
  const report = useContext(ErrorContext);
  const handler = useCallback(e => {
    try {
        onClick(e);
      } catch (error) {
        report(error);
      }
   });
  return <button onClick={handler}>{text}</button>;
};
```

```
For useEffect calls you can make an autoreporting version! 1-8-14
```

```
const useDangerousEffect = effect => {
  const report = useContext(ErrorContext);
  try {
    useEffect(effect);
  } catch (error) {
    report(error);
  }
};
```

(c)

	Provide an error reporter , and hook it into the boundary!	1-8-15
)	A nice pattern compatible with this is to decorate your errors !	1-8-16

You don't need inheritance for this, just add stuff directly onto the error!

For example, make the Button **watermark the error** with an id:

```
const Button = props => {
  const { onClick, text, buttonId } = props;
  const report = useContext(ErrorContext);
  const handler = useCallback(e => {
    try {
        onClick(e);
     } catch (error) {
        error.buttonId = buttonId;
        report(error);
     }
  });
  return <button onClick={handler}>{text}</button>;
};
```

This goes for **non-react logic** too. Provide good contexts to 1-8-18 your errors!

```
try {
  dangerousThing();
} catch (err) {
  err.meta = usefulStuffForDebugging;
  throw err;
}
```

Decorate your errors for debugging bliss

1-9. Testing

BDD, TDD, TBD?

First off - Jest is awesome.

You should have a very good reason for not using it.

1-9-1

1-8-19

\bigcirc	Past me:	1-9-3
	Of course! We shallow render to focus on the current unit.	
\bigcirc	Current me:	1-9-4
	Hell no! The shallow renderer is very different from the actual render cycle.	
	Also have to jump through hoops to make it work with hooks .	
	The React Testing library is pretty sweet!	1-9-5
	But it might be enough to just use react-test-renderer directly.	
	Main point being: the more your tests resemble actual use , the better.	1-9-6
\bigcirc	But, that means rendering the full tree ! What if my component has unruly children ?	1-9-7
	You know, the problem that shallow rendering so elegantly solves?	
	If a child misbehaves, just mock it :	1-9-8
	<pre>import { MyComponent } from "./MyComponent"; import { AnotherComponent } from "/AnotherComponent"; jest.mock("/AnotherComponent", () => ({ AnotherComponent: () => <div></div> }));</pre>	
	<pre>// now test MyComponent without AnotherComponent messing things up</pre>	

Jest mocking is a game changer.

On the same subject - is this a good **Redux test**?

```
describe('the Notification reducer', () => {
  test('handles addNotification correctly', () => {
    const initialState = { ... }
    const action = { ... }
    const result = notificationReducer(initialState, action)
    expect(result).toMatchSomeExpectation()
  })
})
```

A) Nope!

1-9-10

1-9-11

- Fake state (and action), risk testing nonexisting scenarios
- Testing **implementation detail** (the app never calls the reducer)

Here's a **better version**:

```
describe('the Notification reducer', () => {
  test('handles addNotification correctly', () => {
    const store = newTestStore()
    store.dispatch(someAction()) // These two actions are just...
    store.dispatch(anotherAction()) // ...to build initial state
    store.dispatch(addNotification({ ... }))
    const result = store.getState()
    expect(result).toMatchSomeExpectation()
  })
})
```

The API surface of the Redux layer is the store, so that's what 1-9-12 we should test!

Have your tests match reality as closely as possib	le. 1-9-13

```
describe("the GameList component", () => {
  test("renderes full list correctly", () => {
    const output = ReactTestRenderer.create(
        <GameList list={allGames} />
    ).toJSON();
    expect(output).toMatchSnapshot();
  });
  test("renders ok with empty list", () => {
    const output = ReactTestRenderer.create(<GameList list={[]} />).toJSON();
    expect(output).toMatchSnapshot();
  });
});
```



1-9-15

1-9-16

(A) Past me:

Yes, very.

Isn't this dumb?

A)	Current me:	1-9-17	
	Nope! Same thing as checking stuff in the output manually, only		
	way easier and covers more.		

Also developers must actively update snapshots, and render changes shows in git diff.

\bigcirc	You now how Dan Abramov is always right , right?	1-9-18
		1-9-19
	Dan Abramov @dan_abramov	
	Unpopular opinion: component unit testing is overrated.	
	324 9:43 PM - Jul 24, 2016	
	155 people are talking about this	

And remember, domain logic should be a separate top-level concern and not live in the component anyway.	1-9-20
Use snapshot testing , and maybe nothing else !	1-9-21
1-10. Wrapping up	
http://edument.se Code EduReact for 30% off our React courses	1-10-2
david@krawaller.se Don't be a stranger!	1-10-3
We 🧡 feedback!	1-10-4

https://edument.typeform.com/to/FKWQbU



External links

- 1-2-7 Fun fun functions Straight-line code over functions: https://youtu.be/Bks59AaHelc
- 1-2-14 Yeoman: https://yeoman.io/
- 1-4-2 Babel: https://babeljs.io/
- 1-4-10 NextJS: https://nextjs.org/
- 1-4-14 StorybookJS: https://storybook.js.org/
- 1-4-29 Flow: https://flow.org/
- 1-4-31 proptypes: https://reactjs.org/docs/typechecking-with-proptypes.html
- 1-7-5 September 19, 2016: https://twitter.com/dan_abramov/status/777983404914671616?

ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

- 1-8-6 Sentry: https://sentry.io/
- 1-9-1 Jest: https://jestjs.io/en/
- 1-9-5 React Testing library: https://testing-library.com/docs/react-testing-library/intro
- 1-9-19 July 24, 2016: https://twitter.com/dan_abramov/status/757315414284201985?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw