Comp 322/422 - Software Development for Wireless and Mobile Devices

Fall Semester 2019 - Week 9

Dr Nick Hayward

Course total = 25%

- begin development of a mobile application from scratch
 - NOT a responsive website viewed on a mobile device
 - must apply technologies taught up to and including DEV week, e.g.
 Apache Cordova, React Native, &c.
 - combine technologies taught to fit your mobile app...
- can be platform agnostic (cross-platform) or specific targeted OS, e.g.
 - cross-platform app that builds for Android and iOS
 - targeted build for Android or iOS
 - consider choice, and explain why?
- outline concept, research conducted to date
- consider applicable design patterns
- are you using any sensors etc?
- how, why?
- prototyping
- demo current prototypes
- any working tests or models etc
- anything else to help explain your mobile app...

DEV week assessment will include the following:

- brief presentation or demonstration of current project work
 - ~ 10 minutes per group
 - analysis of work conducted so far
 e.g. during semester & DEV week
 - presentation and demonstration...
 outline mobile app
 - show prototypes and designs
 - explain what does & does not work
 - o ...

flex and CSS inspired

- UI structure in React Native is achieved using Flexbox
 - originally defined for web development
- currently used to help with UI layout patterns and designs
- Flexbox usage slightly different for React Native
- no CSS syntax for styles
- React Native styles are written, manipulated, and contained in JavaScript
- benefits of component structure to store and abstract our UI layouts and styles

intro

Flexbox works the same way in React Native as it does in CSS on the web, with a few exceptions. The defaults are different, with flexDirection defaulting to column instead of row, and the flex parameter only supporting a single number.

- React Native uses the *flexbox* algorithm
- specify layout and design for its components, and their children
- benefit of *flexbox* layouts
- adaptation to multiple screen sizes, aspect ratios, and orientations...
- for React Native, there tends to be three predominant uses
 - alignItems
 - flexDirection
 - justifyContent

flexDirection

- by defining a component's flexDirection
 - setting organisational pattern for its subsequent children
 - might be set to a horizontal row or a vertical column
- by default, flexDirection will be set to a column
 - change to row

```
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
   container: {
     flex: 1,
     flexDirection: 'row',
   },
});
```

- a View with the style for container
 - will use all of the available screen space
 - and render its child components in a row pattern
 - cascading from row to row...

justifyContent

- then update this style to define how child components start to fill each row
 - setting their justifyContent value
- options include
 - flex-start
 - flex-end
 - space-around
 - space-between

```
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
   container: {
     flex: 1,
     flexDirection: 'row',
     justifyContent: 'flex-end'
   },
});
```

alignItems

- align items offers a simple, complementary option to flexDirection
- if the direction for the primary axis, set using flexDirection, is column
- alignItems will define the secondary axis as row
- options include
 - flex-start
 - flex-end
 - center
 - stretch
- caveat to using the stretch value
 - need to ensure no fixed dimensions set for any children of flex component

```
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
  container: {
    flex: 1,
    flexDirection: 'column',
    justifyContent: 'flex-start',
    alignItems: 'stretch',
  },
});
```

more layout options

- further options may be specified as props
- add to a given component or stylesheet ...
- full details can be found at the following URL,
 - Layout Props

basic flex usage - part l

```
. . .
export default class BasicFlexApp extends Component {
 render() {
   return (
     <View style={styles.container}>
       <View style={styles.col}>
         <Text>
           Welcome to Flex layouts!
         </Text>
         <Text>
            a few basic tests...
         </Text>
        </View>
       <View style={styles.col}>
         <Text>
           {instructions}
         </Text>
        </View>
      </View>
    );
 }
}
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
 container: {
   flex: 1,
   flexDirection: 'row',
   justifyContent: 'space-around',
   alignItems: 'center',
   backgroundColor: 'darkseagreen',
 },
 col: {
   flexDirection: 'column',
   backgroundColor: 'paleturquoise',
 },
});
```

Image - React Native - Flex Basics



Image - React Native - Flex Basics - List View



Image - React Native - Flex Basics - Scroll View



Image - React Native - Styles

text input



text input with keyboard

	3:43
Basic Text Input	
enter a favourite quotation	
Android tester	
the unexamined life is not worth living	
Im I we 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	•
$q^{1}w^{2}e^{3}r^{4}t^{5}y^{6}u^{7}i^{8}o^{9}$	р
as dfghjkl	
🛧 z x c v b n m 🜑	×
?123 , 😳 . 🗸	
• •	
<u>React Native Styles - Text Input</u>	

basic styling

- similar to CSS usage with standard client-side apps
 - styles are defined and set for colour, size, background colour...
- property names for these styles specified using a camelCase pattern. e.g.

fontWeight	
fontSize	
backgroundColor	

- styles may be set using a plain JavaScript variable
- acts as a container for multiple styles
- using StyleSheet.create()
- we can pass an object defining multiple custom style properties
- properties include name/value pairs
- the value is set as an object with the defined styles, e.g.

```
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
    headermain: {
        fontWeight: 'bold',
        fontSize: 25,
        color: 'green',
    },
});
```

style usage

- to add a style to a component
 - set value of the style prop to a standard JavaScript object, e.g.

<Text style={styles.headermain}>Main Header</Text>

- in this example,
 - simply using the property from the *styles* object
 - this will add the required style values for the defined prop

Platform specific styles

```
import { Platform, StyleSheet } from 'react-native';
const styles = StyleSheet.create({
 container: {
   flex: 1,
  justifyContent: 'center',
   alignItems: 'center',
   backgroundColor: '#F5FCFF',
 },
 welcome: {
   ...Platform.select({
     ios: {
      fontFamily: 'Arial',
      color: 'cadetblue',
     },
     android: {
      fontFamily: 'Roboto',
       color: 'green',
     },
   }),
   textAlign: 'center',
   margin: 10,
   fontSize: 20,
 },
});
```

Style inheritance - part l

- React Native documentation suggests a preferred pattern for setting parent styles
 - styles may then be inherited for children
- pattern uses nested components with a custom parent defined with abstracted styles
- child component may then inherit such styles
- or override with specific component-level styles

```
class MyAppText extends Component {
   render() {
      return (
         <Text>
         {this.props.children}
         </Text>
        );
   }
}
```

- e.g. a parent component is created for an app's rendering of basic text
- this will simply return any child text as a default Text component
- we may also create custom styles to add to this new component



Style inheritance - part 2

usage may then be as follows,

```
<MyAppText style={styles.textdefault}>
some app text...
<Text style={styles.welcome}>Welcome to Styles!</Text>
</MyAppText>
```

- the child text in the MyAppText component
 - initially styled with the textdefault styles
- we may then override or supplement these styles
 - e.g. with specific styles on a given child component

```
welcome: {
    ...Platform.select({
        ios: {
            fontFamily: 'Arial',
            color: 'blue',
        },
        android: {
            fontFamily: 'Roboto',
            color: 'green',
        },
    }),
    fontSize: 25,
    textAlign: 'auto',
    backgroundColor: '#ddd',
}
```

basic styles



Image - React Native - Styles

basic buttons



basic touchable



basic touchable with alert



intro

- React and React Native manage data using either props or state
- props are set by the parent, and remain immutable for a component's lifetime
- if we need to modify data whilst an app is running, we can use state
- React has a distinct pattern to state usage
 - state should be initialised in the constructor for a component &c.
 - setState may then be used to modify and update state

general usage

- use state to manage data within an app
 - from basic UI updates to data from a remote DB or API
- as the data is updated
 - we can modify state within our app
- state may be managed within a React Native app
 - or by using containers such as Redux, MobX...
- Redux and MobX are predominantly used with React based apps
 - standalone libraries for state management
- by introducing a container such as *Redux*
 - circumvent direct management of state with setState
 - state updates rely upon Redux management.

state usage - example

- basic example of state usage and maintenance
 - may set a static message using props
 - then update a notification using state

```
// import React, Component module as Component from base React
import React, { Component } from 'react';
// import Text as Text &c. from React Native
import { AppRegistry, Text, View } from 'react-native';
// abstracted component for rendering *tape* text
class Tape extends Component {
  // instantiate object - expects props parameter, e.g. text & value
 constructor(props) {
    // calls parent class' constructor with `props` provided - i.e. uses Component to setup props
    super(props);
    // set initial state - e.g. text is shown
   this.state = { showText: true };
    // set timer for tape output
   setInterval(() => {
      // update state - pass `updater` and use callback (optional for setState)
      // `updater` prevState is used to set state based on previous state
     this.setState(prevState => {
       // setState callback - guaranteed to fire after update applied
        return { showText: !prevState.showText };
     });
    }, 1500);
  }
  // call render function on object
  render() {
    // set display boolean - showText if true, else output blank...
   let display = this.state.showText ? this.props.text : ' ';
   return (
      // output text component with text from props or blank...
      <Text>{display}</Text>
   );
  }
}
```

state usage - example outline - part l

- define the required imports for React and React Native
 - including existing components we need for this basic app
 - import AppRegistry, Text, View components
- define our required custom components
 - one abstracted for broader re-use
 - another for use in the current specific app
- Tape class is an abstracted component
 - used for rendering passed text with a timer
 - constructor instantiates an object with passed props
 - e.g. passed text for rendering
- in the Tape class constructor
 - super is used to call parent class' constructor with props provided
 - i.e. uses Component to setup props
- then set the initial state on the instantiated object
 - default to true for this component

state usage - example outline - part 2

- call the JS function setInterval() to create a basic timer
- creates the simple UI animation delay is set to 1500 milliseconds
- main focus of this function is to modify state
 - this may trigger an update
- call setState on the current object
 - function is called with a passed updater and a callback
- prevState is available for the setState function
- used to set state based on previous known state
- state itself may not necessarily be triggered immediately
- React may delay an update until it has a worthwhile queue
- we can call an immediate callback as this setState is registered
- we simply change the boolean value for showText
- e.g. false to true, true to false
- then call the render() function on the current object
- outputting text passed using props
- simply check the boolean value in state
- then render a text component with props text or a blank space

basic usage

		State Off	State On		
$\circ \bullet \circ$	iPhone 6 – iOS 10.3 (14E8301)		\bigcirc	iPhone 6 – iOS 10.3 (14E8301)	1
Carrier ᅙ	9:06 AM		Carrier 🗢	9:06 AM	-
				welcome to the test state app!	

Chrome DevTools

- debugging mobile may become problematic, time consuming...
- React Native's JavaScript event loop
 - may be connected to Chrome's DevTools
 - DevTools is a quick and useful debugging option
- use key combinations to show dev menu in simulator
 - Windows IO = Ctrl+D
 - OS X = Cmd+D
- various options for testing &c.

iOS simulator options



Image - React Native - Chrome DevTools

developer tools

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React Native JS	S code runs as a web wo	rker inside this tab.		
	o open Developer Tools. I bugging experience.	Enable <u>Pause On Cau</u>	ight Excepti	ions
inspect the Rea	nstall <u>the standalone vers</u> act component hierarchy, ger session #10002 active	their props, and state		
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	ion BasicAppComponents ({	index.bundle?platfor&	minify=false:1	4776
<pre>initialProps }; rootTag = 1; })</pre>	-			
Running applicati {"rootTag":1,"ini performance optim	<pre>ion "BasicAppComponents" with a itialProps":{}}DEV === t mizations are OFF</pre>	appParams: rue, development-level warr	<u>infoLog.j</u> ning are ON,	<u>s:17</u>
	ion "BasicAppComponents" with tTag":1,"initialProps":{}}[optimizations are OFF		<u>minify=false:1</u> t–level warning	<u>4927</u> g are
appParams: {"root				

inspector



a React approach to development - part I

unidirectional data flow

- a key concept that React introduced for UI development
- the UI of an application is now a function of the state of the application
- instead of the need to update the UI directly we can now modify state
 - unlike tradition UI development
- e.g. in JavaScript we add an eventListener to an element
- check for user interaction &c.
- update the UI directly
- with React we record the event in the UI
- then update the state of the component
- React with then propagate this change to the UI
- it's the change in state that causes components to be updated

a React approach to development - part 2

- components play a crucial role in React development
- dividing the logic and structure of our UI into reusable components
- inherently easier to test and reuse a given component across an application
- DRY, or Don't Repeat Yourself
- becomes key for how we conceive and use components
- React components also inherently create a declarative pattern and structure
- helps with development of these apps
- useful feedback for the layout and development of an app
- tree-like data structure of component usage
- code inherently becomes easier to read...

React JavaScript Library

data flow


structural considerations



structural considerations

- a separate Native modules thread
 - used to access and process Native API requests...
- e.g. access a device's camera, photos, geolocation, gestures...
- JavaScript layer also has a runtime thread
 - a JavaScript event loop
- complex calculations can become expensive in the JavaScript layer
- many, consistent UI updates will also become expensive and drag on perfomance

getting started - part I

- many different options for using React
- create a new app using React
- e.g. Create React App GitHub
- add React to an existing app
 - e.g. using NPM to install React and dependencies

```
npm init
npm install --save react react-dom
```

import React into a project using the standard Node import options, e.g.

```
import React from 'react';
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';
```

getting started - part 2

- for earlier versions of React and JSX
 - pre-compile JSX into JavaScript before deploying our application
 - used React's JSXTransformer option to compile and monitor JSX for dev projects
- as React has evolved over the last year
 - still use this underlying concept
 - Babel in-browser JSX transformer for explicit ES6 support (if required...)
- Babel will add a check to our app to allow us to use JSX syntax
- React code then understood by the browser
- dynamic transformation works well for most test scenarios
- preferable to pre-compile for production apps
- should help to make an app faster for production usage

JSX - intro

- JSX stands for JavaScript XML
 - follows an XML familiar syntax for developing markup within React components
- JSX is not compulsory within React
 - might be omitted due to compile requirements for an app
- JSX may be useful for an app
 - it makes components easier to read and understand
 - its structure is more succinct and less verbose
- A few defining characteristics of JSX
 - each JSX node maps to a function in JavaScript
 - JSX does not require a runtime library
 - JSX does not supplement or modify the underlying semantics of JavaScript

JSX intro and usage

- Facebook considers JSX as a XML-like extension to ECMAScript
 - without any defined semantics
 - NOT intended to be implemented by engines or browsers
 - not a proposal to incorporate JSX into the ECMAScript spec itself
 - used to transform syntax into standard ECMAScript
- for React Native
 - these JavaScript objects are passed to the React Native Bridge
 - then translated into native components.
- e.g. a standard <Text> component in JSX may be written as follows

```
<Text style={styles.description}>
A test React Native app...
</Text>
```

JSX will then be transpiled by the React Native bridge into the following JavaScript

```
React.createElement(
  Text,
  { style: styles.welcome },
  "A test React Native app..."
);
```

JSX hierarchies

- benefit of JSX with React Native is its use with hierarchies
 - such as a standard <View> and nested <Text> component structure

```
<View style={styles.container}>
<Text style={styles.description}>
A test React Native app...
</Text>
</View>
```

transpiled into the following JavaScript

```
React.createElement(
   View,
   null,
   React.createElement(
   Text,
   { style: styles.welcome },
   "A test React Native app..."
  )
);
```

JSX children

- a primary feature of JSX with React Native
 - option to pass children to a React component
 - enables effective component composition
- seen regularly with hierarchy composition
 - e.g. hierarchy of <View> and <Text>

```
<View style={styles.container}>
<Text style={styles.description}>
A test React Native app...
</Text>
</View>
```

we may create a simple component and encapsulate this structure

```
class Container extends Component {
   render() {
     return (
        <View style={styles.container}>{ this.props.children }</View>
     )
   }
}
```

• then reuse this component as necessary

```
<Container>
<Text style={styles.description}>
A test React Native app...
</Text>
</Container>
```

React Native

JSX props and children

- seen example usage of props with styles, data, and now children
- as we pass a standard prop, such as style
- passing a property to the defined React component
- property is accessible inside this component using the standard syntax

this.props.propName

- as we define a component
 - children is default prop React passes to this component for the hierarchy
 - becomes the component reference for any children in this hierarchy

this.props.children

JSX - benefits

- why use JSX, in particular when it simply maps to JavaScript functions?
- many of the inherent benefits of JSX become more apparent
- as an application, and its code base, grows and becomes more complex
- benefits can include
 - a sense of familiarity easier with experience of XML and DOM manipulation
 - eg: React components capture all possible representations of the DOM
 - JSX transforms an application's JavaScript code into semantic, meaningful markup
 - permits declaration of component structure and information flow using a similar syntax to HTML
 - permits use of pre-defined HTML5 tag names and custom components
 - easy to visualise code and components
 - considered easier to understand and debug
 - ease of abstraction due to JSX transpiler
 - abstracts process of converting markup to JavaScript
 - unity of concerns
 - no need for separation of view and templates
 - React encourages discrete component for each concern within an application
 - encapsulates the logic and markup in one definition

JSX - composite components

example React component might allow us to output a custom heading

```
class OutputHeading extends Component {
  render() {
    return (
        // render passed props `output` value, pass heading size...
        <Text style={this.props.style}>{this.props.output}</Text>
    );
  }
}
```

- currently return a standard Text component
- now update this example to work with dynamic values
- JSX considers values dynamic if they are placed between curly brackets { . . }
 - treated as JavaScript context

<OutputHeading output='Component Heading Tester' style={styles.heading3} />

JSX - conditionals

- a component's markup and its logic are inherently linked in React
- this naturally includes conditionals, loops...
- adding if statements directly to JSX will create invalid JavaScript

I. ternary operator

```
...
this.state.isComplete ? 'is-complete' : ''
...
```

2. variable

3. function call

```
getIsComplete: function() {
   return this.state.isComplete ? 'is-complete' : '';
},
render() {
   return (
      <Test complete={this.getIsComplete()}>...</Test>
   );
}
```

- to handle React's lack of output for *null* or *false* values
 - use a boolean value and follow it with the desired output

JSX - special considerations for attributes - part I

- in JSX, there are special considerations for attribute
 - key
 - ref

I. key

- an optional unique identifier that remains consistent throughout render passes
- informs React so it can more efficiently select when to reuse or destroy a component
- helps improve the rendering performance of the application.
- eg: if two elements already in the DOM/View need to switch position
 - React is able to match the keys and move them
 - does not require unnecessary re-rendering of the complete DOM/View

JSX - special considerations for attributes - part 2

2.ref

- ref permits parent components to easily maintain a reference to child components
- available outside of the render function
- to use ref, simply set the attribute to the desired reference name

```
render() {
  return (
        <TextInput ref='myInput' ... />
 );
}
```

- able to access this ref using the defined this.refs.myInput
- access anywhere in the component
- object accessed through this ref known as a backing instance
- **NB:** not the actual DOM/View
- a description of the component React uses to create the view when necessary

data flow

- data flows in one direction in React
- namely from parent to child
- helps to make components nice and simple, and predictable as well
- components take props from the parent, and then render
- if a *prop* has been changed, for whatever reason
- React will update the component tree for that change
- then re-render any components that used that property
- Internal state also exists for each component
 - state should only be updated within the component itself
- we can think of data flow in React
 - in terms of props and state

basic data flow with FlatList

Carrier ᅙ	5:08 PM	
	sical Authors	
example data f	flow with FlatList	
Select a cate	gory	
Greek		
Roman		
<u>React Nativ</u>	ve - Basic Data Flow	

basic data flow with FlatList - example

```
// custom abstracted component - expects props for list data...
class ListClassics extends Component {
 render() {
   return (
     <FlatList
       data={this.props.data}
        renderItem={({item}) => <Text style={styles.listItem}>{item.key}</Text>}
      />
   );
 }
}
// default component - use View container, render list &c. with passed props...
export default class DataFlow extends Component {
 render() {
   let classics = [{ key: 'Greek'}, {key: 'Roman'}];
    return (
     <View style={styles.container}>
       <View style={styles.headingBox}>
         <Text style={styles.heading1}>
            {intro.heading}
         </Text>
          <Text style={styles.content}>
            {intro.description}
          </Text>
        </View>
        <View style={styles.listBox}>
          <ListClassics data={classics} />
        </View>
      </View>
    );
  }
}
```

data flow - props - part l

- props can hold any data and are passed to a component for usage
- set props on a component during instantiation

```
let classics = [{ key: 'Greek'}, {key: 'Roman'}];
<ListClassics classics={classics}/>
```

also use the setProps method on a given instance of a component

```
var ListClassics = React.createClass({
  render: function() {
    return (
        className="classic">{this.props.classics}
    );
    );
  }
});
var classics = [{ key: 'Greek'}];
var listClassics = React.render (
    <ListClassics/>,
    document.getElementById('example')
);
listClassics.setProps({ classics: classics });
```

React Native

data flow - setNativeProps

- React Native has a similar option called setNativeProps
- React.js may directly manipulate a DOM node
- likewise, we may need to directly modify or maniupulate a mobile app
- React Native documentation recommend such usage as follows,

Use setNativeProps when frequent re-rendering creates a performance bottleneck

- not recommended for frequent use
- we may need to use it for
- regular animation updates
- form management
- graphics...
- use with care

data flow - setNativeProps example

define function for clearTextInput

```
clearTextInput = () => {
    this._textInput.setNativeProps({text: ''});
}
```

call clearTextInput() function on touch press

```
<Button

onPress={this.clearTextInput}

title='Tap to clear text'

color='#585459'

/>
```

add TextInput component and define reference

```
<TextInput

//arrow function call to set value to current component...

ref={component => this._textInput = component}

style={styles.textInput}

placeholder={this.state.quoteInput}

onChangeText={(quoteText) => this.setState({quoteText})}

selectionColor='#585459'

/>
```

setNativeProps example - default

Ca	rrier ᅙ	6:16 PM	
		Set Native Props	
	directly r	nodify	
	enter a	favourite quotation	
		Tap to clear text	
	the unex	amined life is not worth li	ving
	<u>React N</u>	lative - setNativeProps - default	

setNativeProps example - add quote

Ca	arrier ᅙ	6:16 PM	
		et Native Props	
	directly mo	odify	
	Genius is	1% inspiration,	
		Tap to clear text	
	Genius is 1	1% inspiration,	
	<u>React Nativ</u>	<u>e - setNativeProps - add quo</u>	te

setNativeProps example - clear text input

Carrier ᅙ	6:17 PM	
S	Set Native Props	
directly m	nodify	
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	Tap to clear text	
Genius is	1% inspiration,	
<u>React Native</u>	- setNativeProps - clear text i	input

lots of extra notes on course website and GitHub Notes repository,

https://github.com/csteach422/notes/

including,

- Cordova
- CSS
- Data store incl. MongoDB and updates with Firebase
- design
- HTML & HTML5
- JS incl. intro, core, logic, async...
- JS patterns
- React Native
- various incl. Git & Heroku, Heroku & MongoDB

plus more notes will be added on Cordova, React Native, data stores, API usage...

...& see source code examples in the course's **source** repository on GitHub,

https://github.com/csteach422/source/

References

- Cordova API docs
 - config.xml
 - Globalization
 - Hooks
 - Merges
 - Network Information
- React Native
 - MDN super
 - React JS Component Lifecycle
 - React JS componentDidUpdate
 - React JS shouldComponentUpdate
 - React Native Layout Props