React

- Framework for building complex web user interfaces
- Enables apps to be built **declaratively**, efficiently rendering and updating HTML based on changes in app state
- Breaks up complex apps into encapsulated **components** written in JS rather than HTML that reduce dependencies and encourage reuse
- Interops well with other frontend web technologies
- Can also be used to build native mobile apps
Embedding HTML in Javascript

```
return <div>Hello {this.props.name}</div>;
```

- HTML embedded in JavaScript
- HTML can be used as an expression
- HTML is checked for correct syntax
- Can use `{ expr }` to evaluate an expression and return a value
  - e.g., `{ 5 + 2 }, { foo() }`
- Output of expression is HTML
Hello world example

```
class HelloMessage extends React.Component {
  render() {
    return (
      <div>
        Hello world!
      </div>
    );
  }
}

ReactDOM.render(<HelloMessage />, mountNode);
```

“Declare a HelloMessage component”
Declares a new component with the provided functions.

“Return the following HTML whenever the component is rendered”
Render generates the HTML for the component. The HTML is dynamically generated by the library.

“Render HelloMessage and insert in mountNode”
Instantiates component, replaces mountNode innerHTML with rendered HTML. Second parameter should always be a DOM element.
Properties

```
class HelloMessage extends React.Component {
    render() {
        return (
            <div>
                Hello {this.props.name}
            </div>
        );
    }
}
```

```
ReactDOM.render(<HelloMessage name="John" />, mountNode);
```

“Read this.props.name and output the value”

Evaluates the expression to a value.

“Set the name property of HelloMessage to John”

Components have a this.props collection that contains a set of properties instantiated for each component.
State

- Can update state
- `this.setState(OBJ)`
- Triggers call to `render()` to generate new HTML for new state

```javascript
class Timer extends React.Component {
  constructor(props) {
    super(props);
    this.state = { seconds: 0 };
  }

  tick() {
    this.setState(prevState => ({
      seconds: prevState.seconds + 1
    }));
  }

  componentDidMount() {
    this.interval = setInterval(() => this.tick(), 1000);
  }

  componentWillUnmount() {
    clearInterval(this.interval);
  }

  render() {
    return (  
      <div>
        Seconds: {this.state.seconds}
      </div>
    );
  }
}

ReactDOM.render(<Timer />, mountNode);
```
Working with state

- Constructor should initialize state of object
  
  ```javascript
  constructor(props) {
    super(props);
    this.state = {date: new Date()};
  }
  ```

- Use `this.setState` to update state
  
  ```javascript
  this.setState({
    date: new Date()
  });
  ```

- Doing this will (asynchronously) eventually result in render being invoked
  
  - Multiple state updates may be batched together and result in a single render call
Nesting components

- UI is often composed of nested components
- Parent *owns* instance of child
  - Occurs whenever component instantiates other component in render function
  - Parent configures child by passing in properties through attributes

```javascript
render() {
    return (
        <div>
            <PagePic pagename={this.props.pagename} />
            <PageLink pagename={this.props.pagename} />
        </div>
    );
}
```

- Establishes ownership by creating in render function.
- Sets pagename property of child to value of pagename property of parent
Component lifecycle

[component created]
constructor(…)
render()
componentDidMount()

[component is being destroyed]
componentWillUnmount()
Babel

React components usually written in an extension of JavaScript called JSX

Using JSX requires a transpiler

Takes JSX and outputs traditional Javascript (a.k.a ES5)

Can use directly in web page or through build process

https://babeljs.io/
Status

❖ Open source, created and maintained by Facebook
❖ Initially released in 2013
❖ Actively maintained and updated
  ❖ Newest release focus on performance
❖ Used widely by popular websites
  ❖ e.g., Facebook, Airbnb, Uber, Netflix, Twitter, Pinterest, Reddit
❖ Wide variety of related frameworks that build on top of it
Competitors

❖ Other frontend JS frameworks
  ❖ Angular, Vue.js, ember.js

❖ Traditional server side frameworks
  ❖ PHP, JSP, ASP, Ruby on Rails, Django, ...
Summary

❖ Organizes web apps into encapsulated components
  ❖ Easier to reuse, test, debug, change, ...
❖ Does the work in figuring out what HTML changes need to be made
  ❖ Only need to be able to construct HTML from app state
❖ Embeds HTML in code rather than code in HTML
❖ Use of JSX requires either a build a process for frontend (usually) or added runtime overhead