

Learning NextJS. Introduction

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Target Audience

The NextJS adepts, wishing to follow modern trends in full-stack Web apps development

Magic formula:

NextJS > = ReactJS (front-end) + NodeJS (back-end)

Why NextJS? Key Benefits

- "All in one": both front-end and back-end comprise a full-stack NextJS app
- Moving away from the ReactJS monolithic architecture: there are (default) server components and client components (executed in the browser), static & dynamic rendering, all that gives one an advantage in terms of SEO website promotion
- Intuitive hierarchy of site pages based on server folders structure
- Well-developed authentication and authorization mechanisms
- Advanced error handling and data validation methods
- Server Actions: secure methods of interaction between client and server components (via a hidden POST request) for CUD DB operations
- Wide range of connectors to databases of various types
- The last but not the least: inherited features and capabilities of JS, TypeScript, ReactJS, NodeJS, axios *etc*.

Key Sections of the NextJS Course

The present training consists of two parts:

- NextJS Basics
- Advanced topics

The first part is based on an adapted version of the official course:

https://nextis.org/learn/dashboard-app

The second part is dedicated to more advanced topics like:

- Localization of NextJS apps to different languages
- Styling NextJS apps with Material Design (MUI)
- Connecting NextJS apps to various DBs like MySQL, Prisma etc.
- Uploading NextJS apps to a host Web server and/or Github or GitLab

Review of Part 1, NextJS Basics

1	Getting Started	NextJS at a first glance
2	CSS Styling	Variants of styling NextJS apps
3	Optimizing Fonts & Images	How to optimize fonts and images
4	Creating Layouts & Pages	Creating Layouts & Pages files within a server folders structure
5	Navigation Between Pages	How to move between NextJS pages
6	Setting up DB	Configuring a local Postgres DB

Review of Part 1, NextJS Basics (cont.)

7	Fetching Data	Retrieving data from the local Postgres DB using pg (instead of vercel/postgres, as officially recommended)
8	Static & Dynamic Rendering	Learning Static & Dynamic Rendering basics
9	Streaming	The dynamic loading of components with loading.tsx, Suspense and Skeletons
10	Partial Pre-Rendering	Discussing the prospective approach of partial pre-rendering of slow components
11	Search & Pagination	Implementing data search and page-by-page data output

Review of Part 1. NextJS Basics (cont.)

12	Server Actions (for create / update / delete DB records in a protected mode)	Calling server-side functions (aka server actions) from a client component via a hidden secure POST request instead of ordinary REST API calls
13	Handling Errors	Error-handling with (error.tsx, notFound, 404.tsx) NextJS tools or try/catch
14	Improving Accessibility	How to make the client interface user-friendly and validate user inputs
15	Adding Authentication	Implementing user authentication using NextAuth.js, Middleware and the useActionState hook

Review of Part 1. NextJS Basics (end)

16	Adding Metadata	Configuring Metadata with NextJS methods that is rather critical in the effective SEO promotion sense
17	Next Steps	Useful NextJS links: docs, templates and repository

In practical terms, you get a good starting template for a point of sale accounting or online store with user authentication and the ability to monitor statistics, search, create, update and delete client invoices with a connection to a local Postgres DB

See you at the next session -1. Getting Started / NextJS at a First Glance

The presentation is available for download here:

https://dmpsy.club/references/NextJS/lesson 000 introduction eng.pdf

