Unlocking the Mystery of React's Re-Rendering





Raise your Hand How many of you think of Performance from the beginning?

AFTER-THOUGHT

A lot of us think of performance as an after-thought once it becomes a bottleneck



or when our app is slow or we find a complain in the App Store



HI, I'M ANKITAI



Ankita Kulkarni

Educator | Senior Engineering Leader |
Developer



SLIDES & MORE ...





Slides and code snippets at: bit.ly/reactrally23



Why does Performance matter?



Your users of the app won't care about which library/framework we use, They care about how fast it loads

You are committing a crime in the tech worlwhen your app does not have dark mode



Let us build a Dark Mode App



Dark/Light

Toggle dark mode

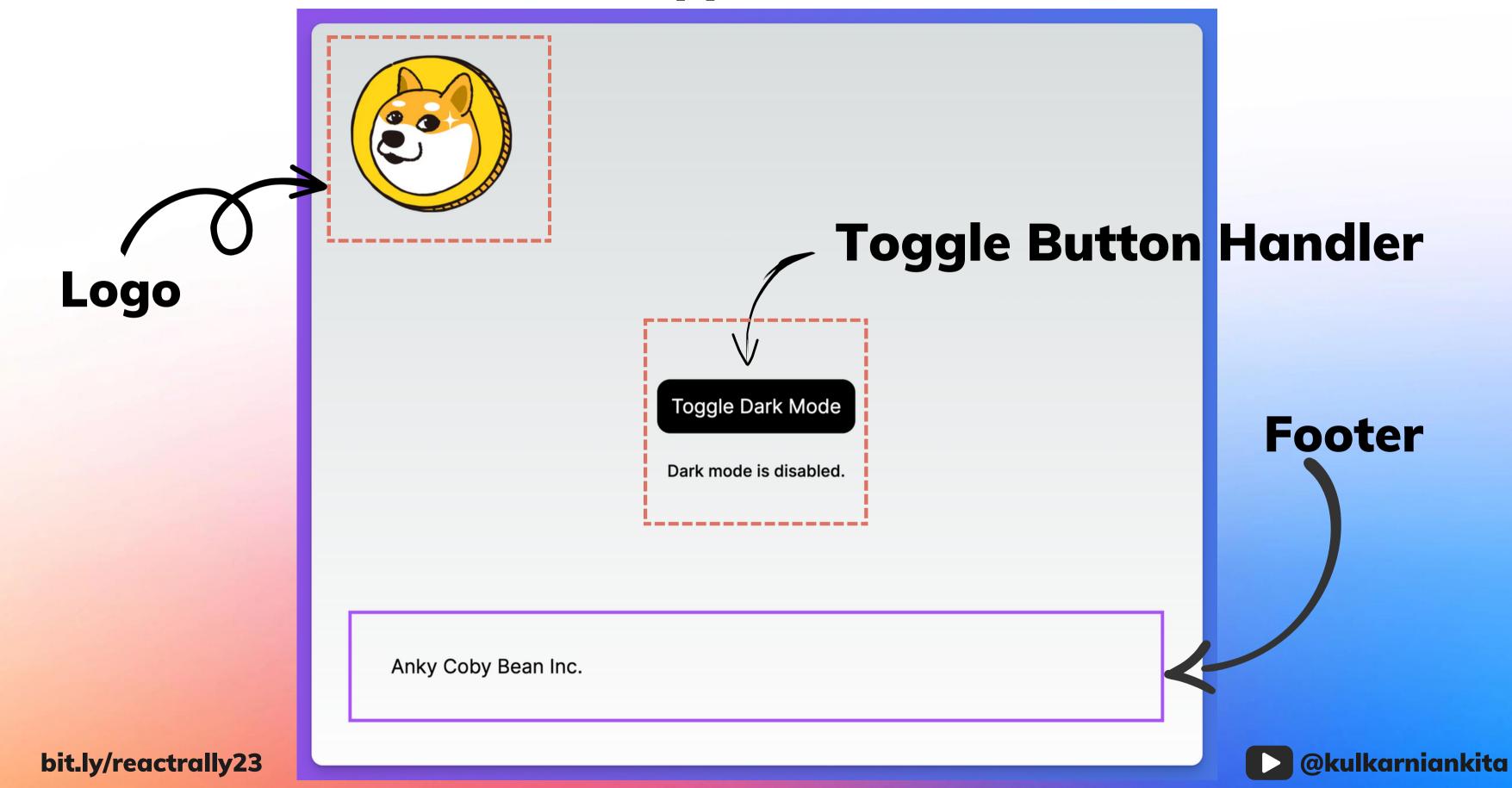




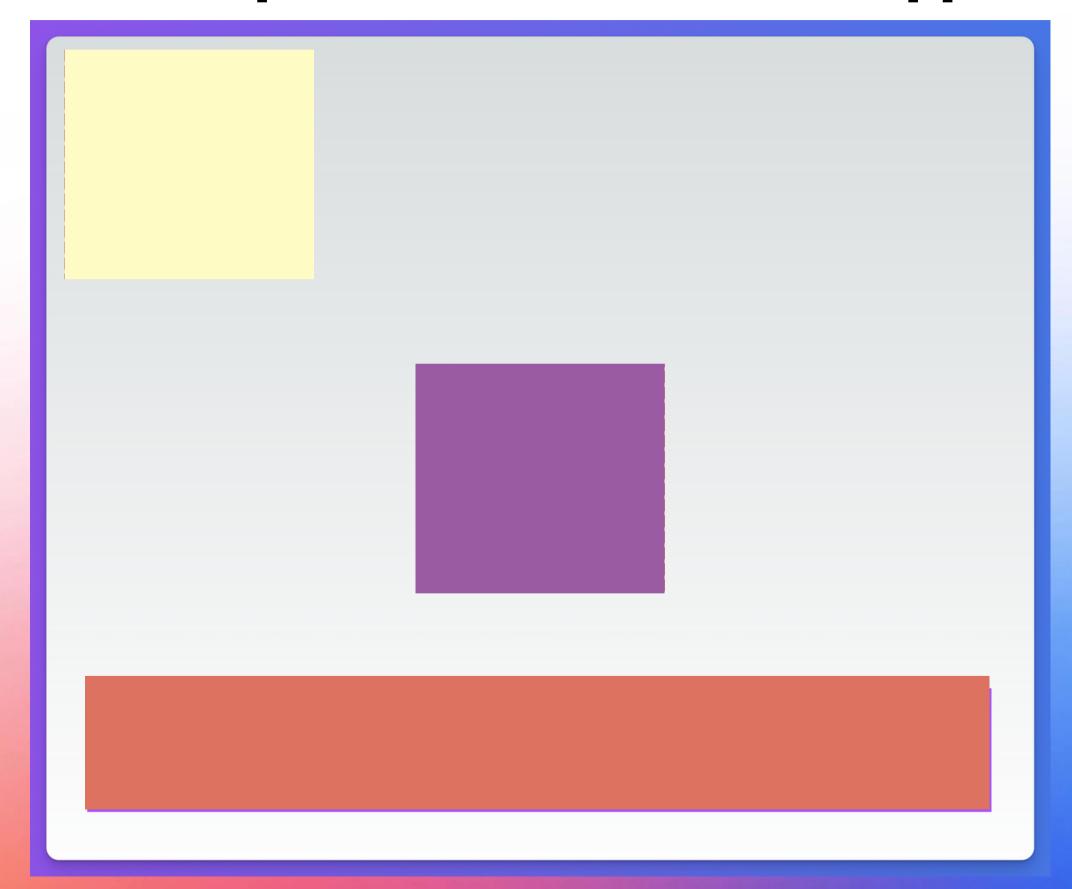
Dark/Light

Toggle dark mode

Let's review the Dark mode app



React captures a Snapshot of the darkMode app UI 🤔





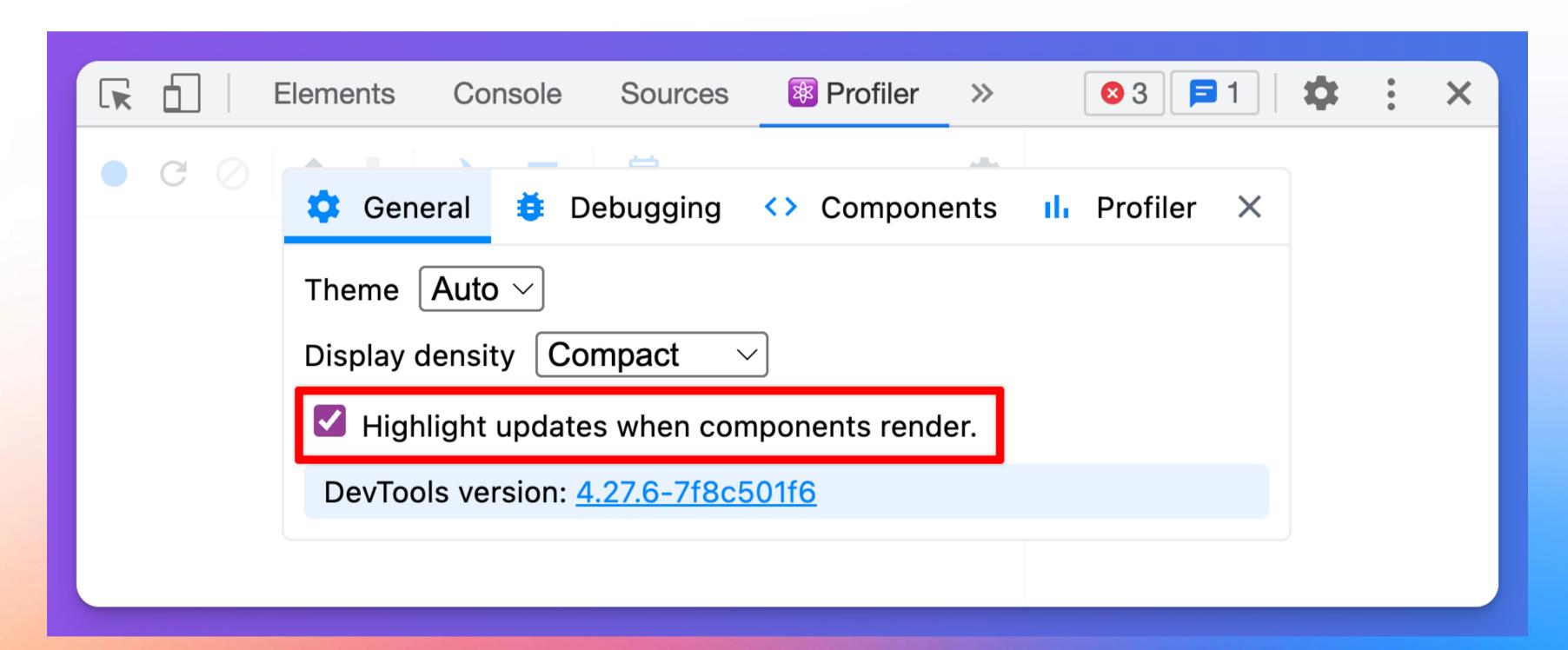
Think of it like a photographer



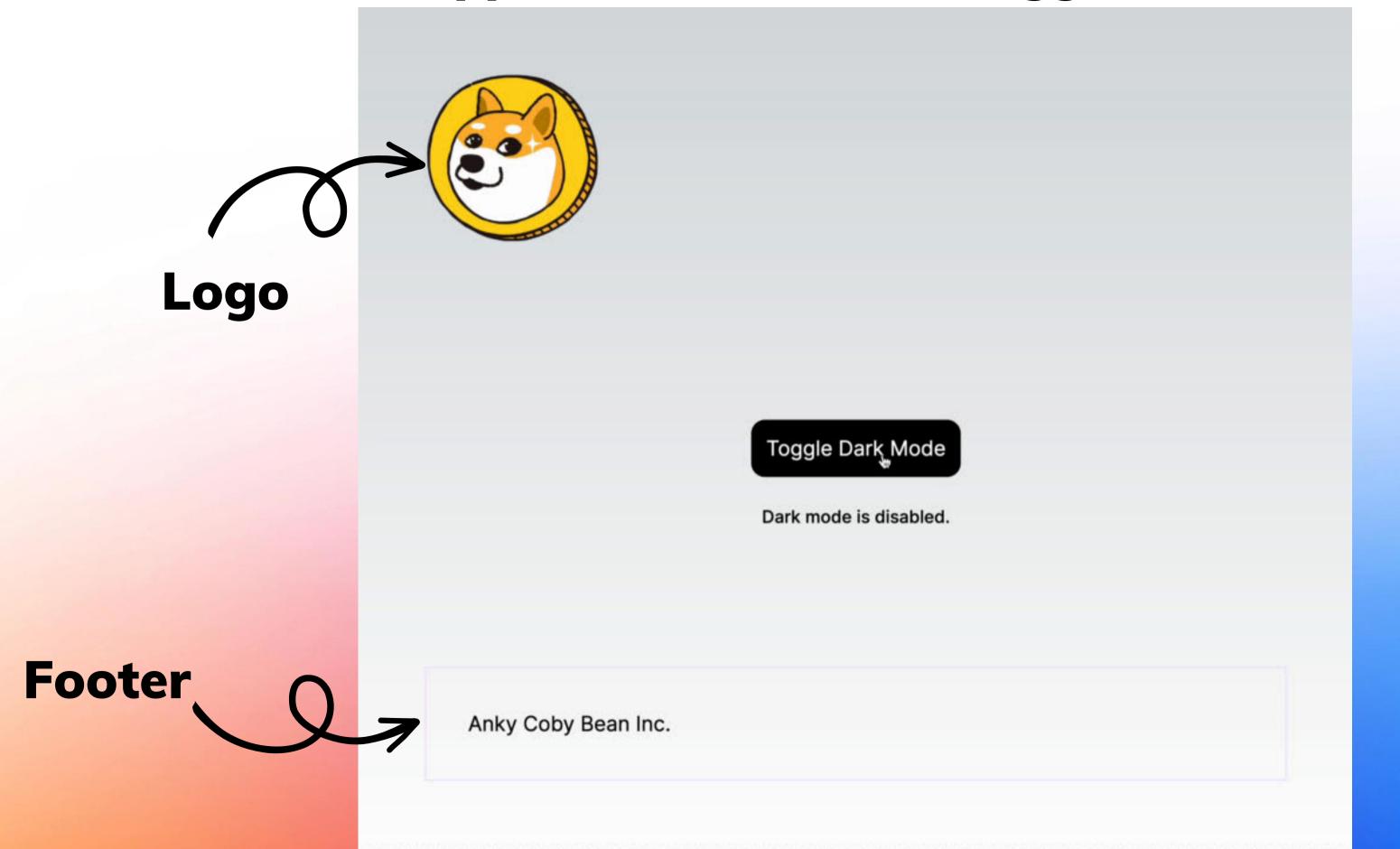




Enable updates in Component Re-renders



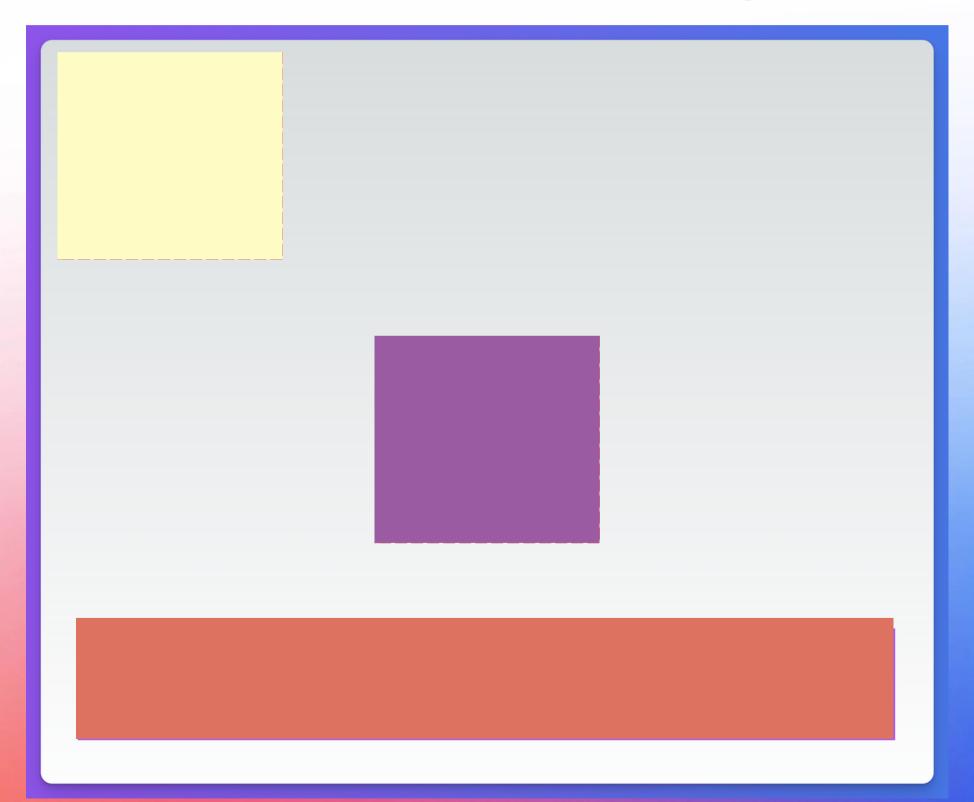
What happens when we click Toggle Dark Mode?



Code

```
import { useState } from 'react';
import Logo from '@/components/logo';
import Footer from '@/components/footer';
export default function Home() {
  const [darkMode, setDarkMode] = useState(false);
  return (
    <main className={ `${darkMode ? 'dark' : ''}`}>
      <Logo />
      <br/>
onClick={() \Rightarrow setDarkMode(!darkMode)}>
         Toggle Dark Mode
     </button>
      Dark mode is {darkMode ? 'enabled' : 'disabled'}.
      <Footer />
    </main>
```

React re-captures Snapshot of this UI as the state darkMode has changed





What is Re-rendering?

Keeping Ulinsync



Application state

Our Goal with Re-rendering

REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WORK



REDUCE THE NUMBER OF RE-RENDERS

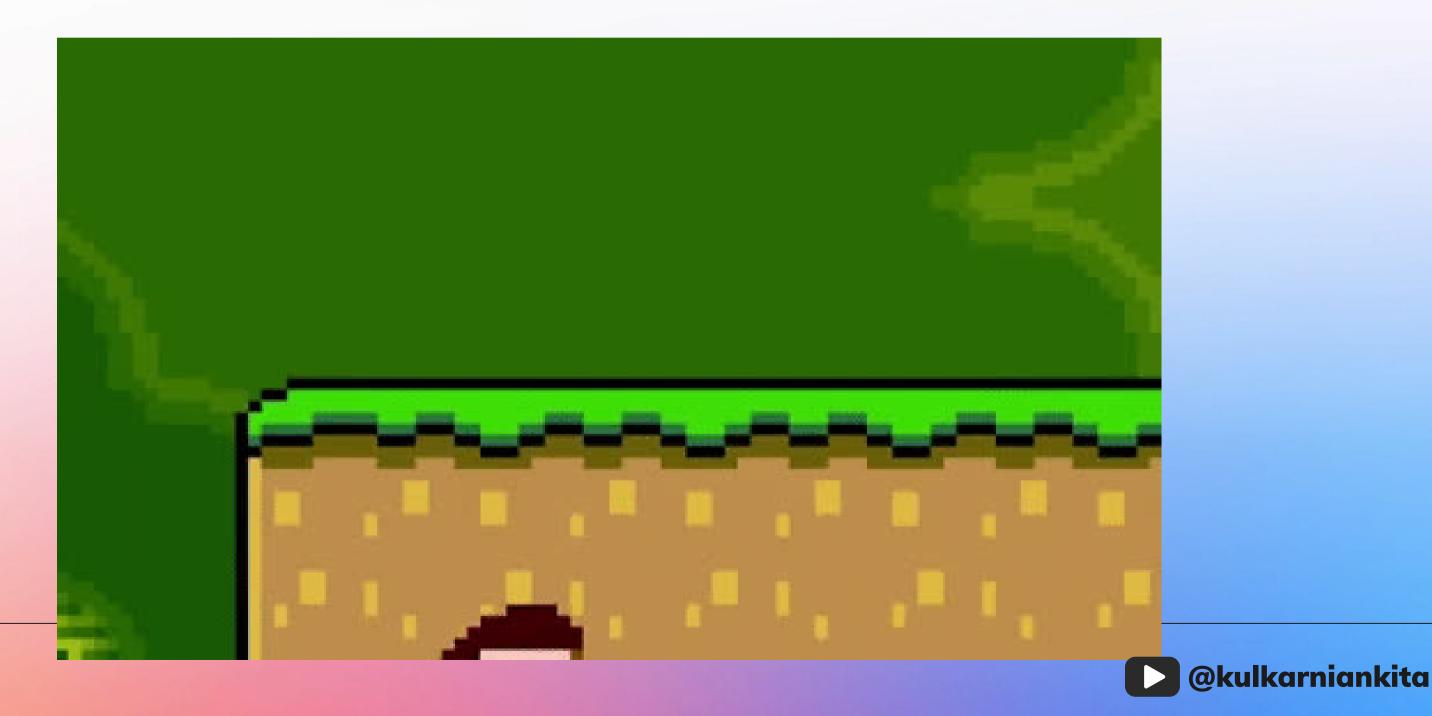


COMMON MISCONCEPTION 00

Component re-renders due to prop changes



When a component re-renders, it re-renders all of it's children



We don't want React to re-render when it's <u>not</u> needed

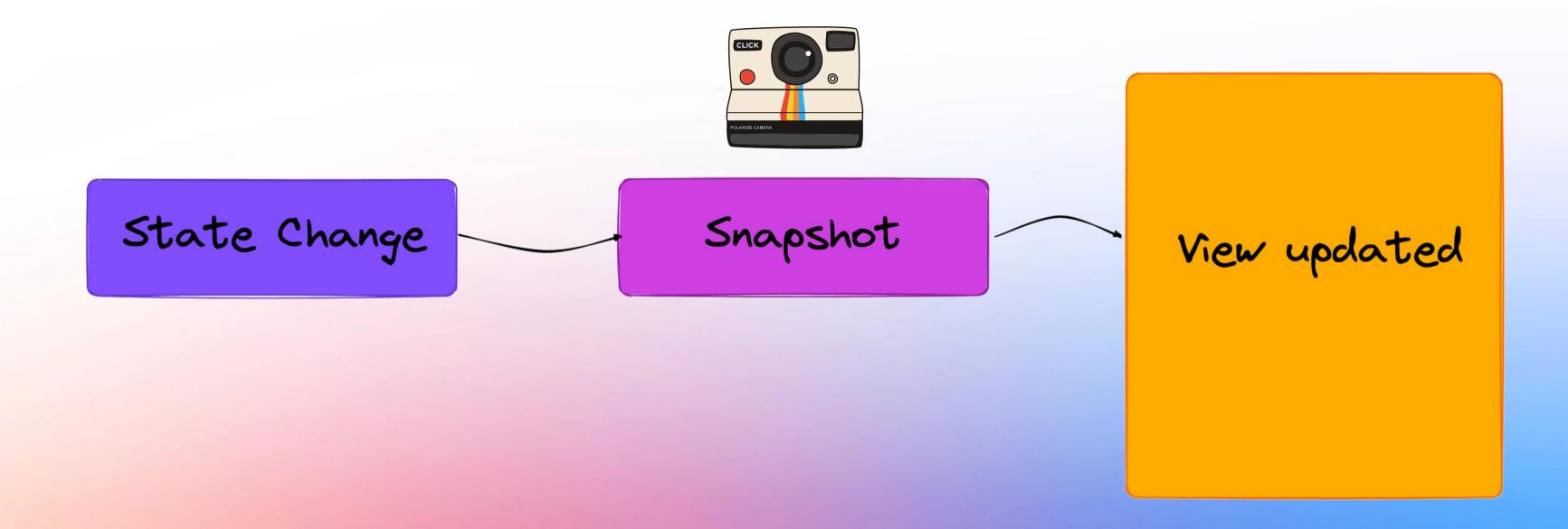


Why does this happen?





How does React work?



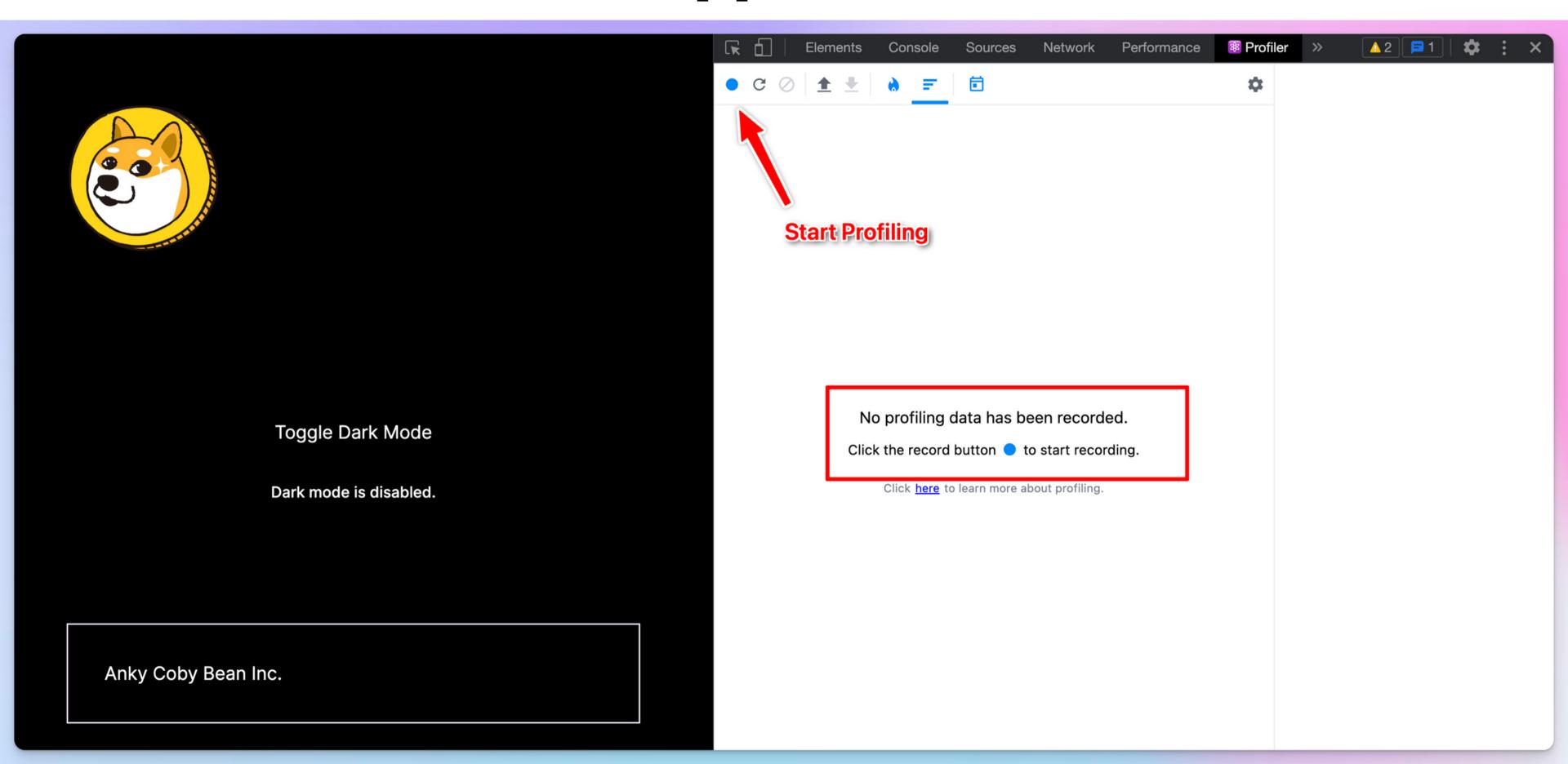


React's UI + React State

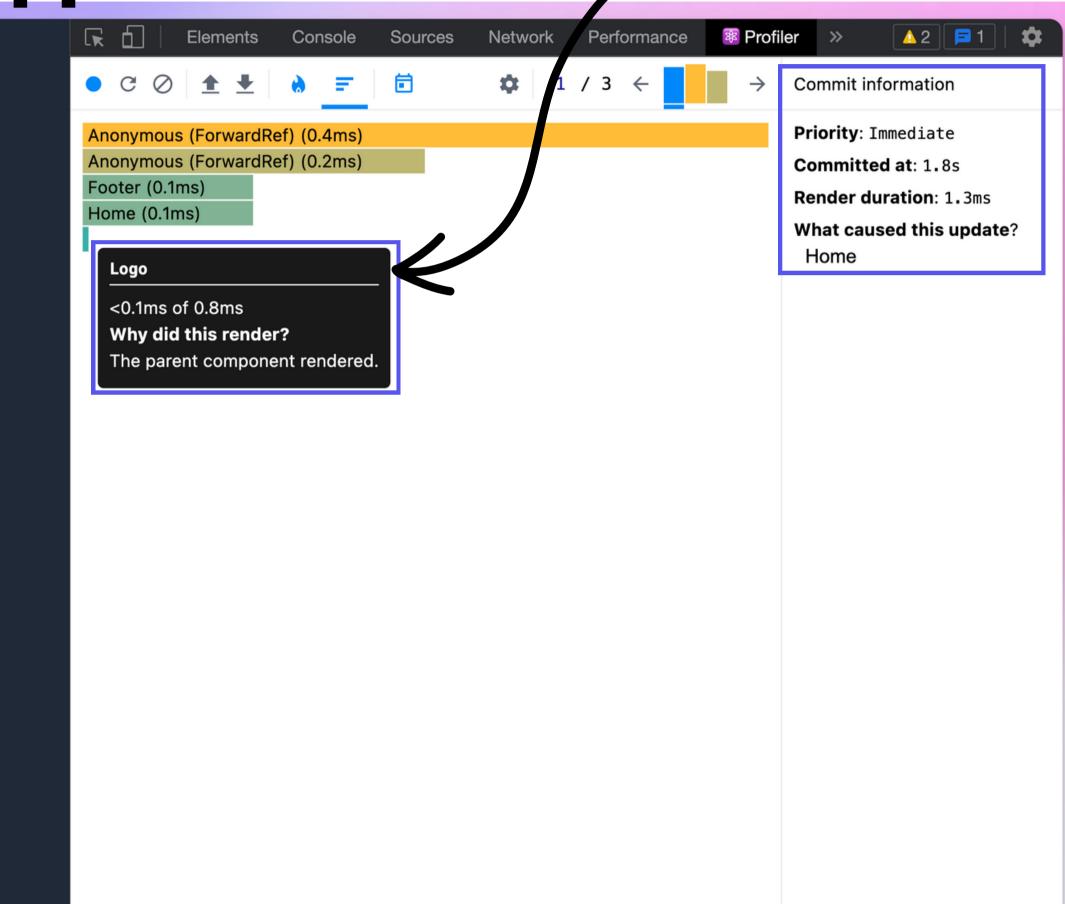




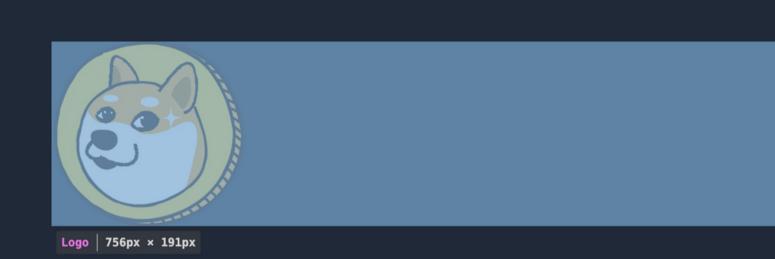
Let's Profile our lil app



Let's Profile our lil app



Clicking Logo



Toggle Dark Mode

Dark mode is enabled.

Anky Coby Bean Inc.

How do we solve for this?

Let's wrap Logo & Footer in memo

```
import Image from 'next/image';
import React, { memo } from 'react';
const Logo = () \Rightarrow {
  return (
    <div className="hover:cursor-pointer">
      <Image alt="doge" src="/doge.webp" width={'200'} height={'200'} />
    </div>
export default memo(Logo);
```

Introducing Memoization



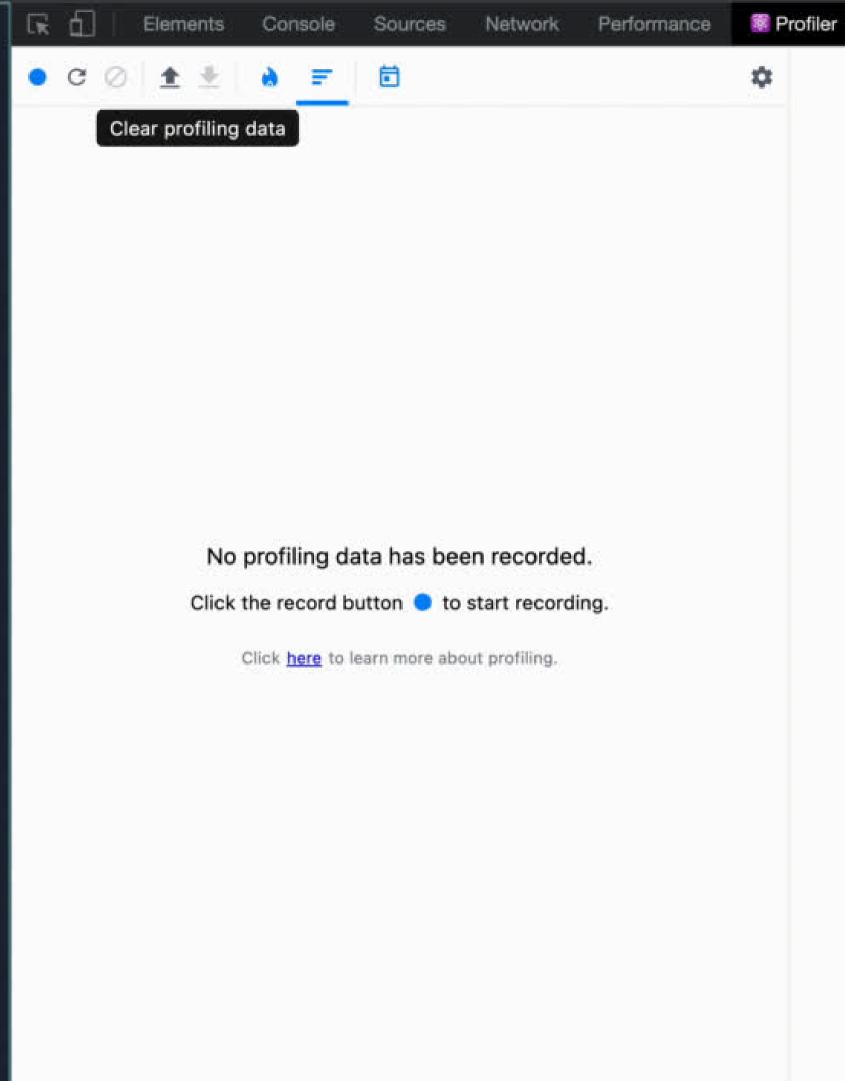
Let's Profile our lil app again



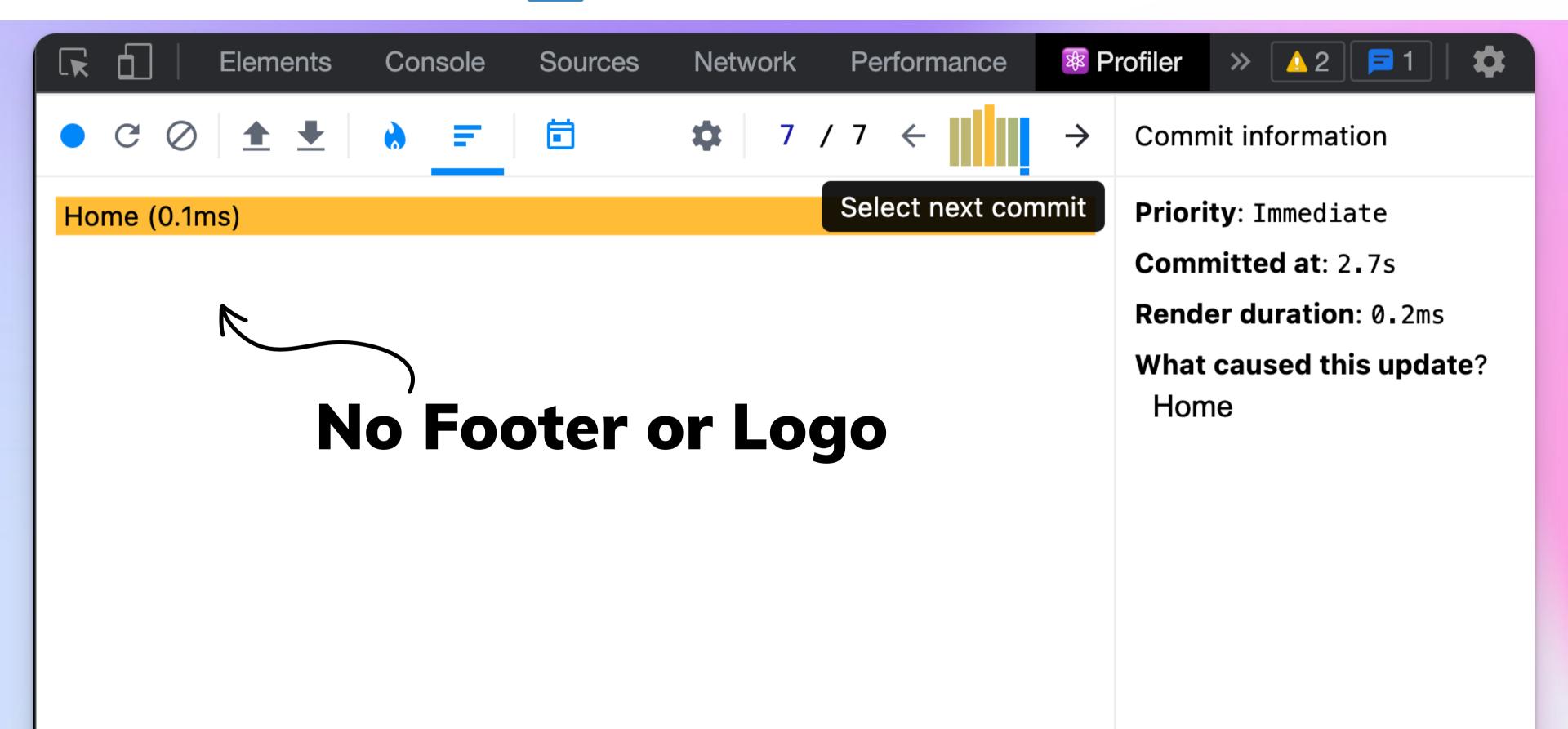
Toggle Dark Mode

Dark mode is enabled.

Anky Coby Bean Inc.



If we review it



Dark Mode Code

```
import { useState } from 'react';
import Logo from '@/components/logo';
import Footer from '@/components/footer';
export default function Home() {
  const [darkMode, setDarkMode] = useState(false);
  return (
    <main className={`${darkMode ? 'dark' : ''}`}>
      <Logo />
      <button onClick={() \Rightarrow setDarkMode(!darkMode)}>
         Toggle Dark Mode
      </button>
      Dark mode is {darkMode ? 'enabled' : 'disabled'}.
      <Footer />
    </main>
```

Let's move Dark Mode logic outside



useDarkMode hook

```
import { useCallback, useState } from 'react';
   const useDarkMode = () \Rightarrow {
     const [darkMode, setDarkMode] = useState(false);
5
     const handleToggle = useCallback(() \Rightarrow setDarkMode(!darkMode), [darkMode]);
6
     return [darkMode, handleToggle];
   };
9
10
   export default useDarkMode;
```

useCallback

CACHES FUNCTIONS

RETURNS CACHED FUNCTION

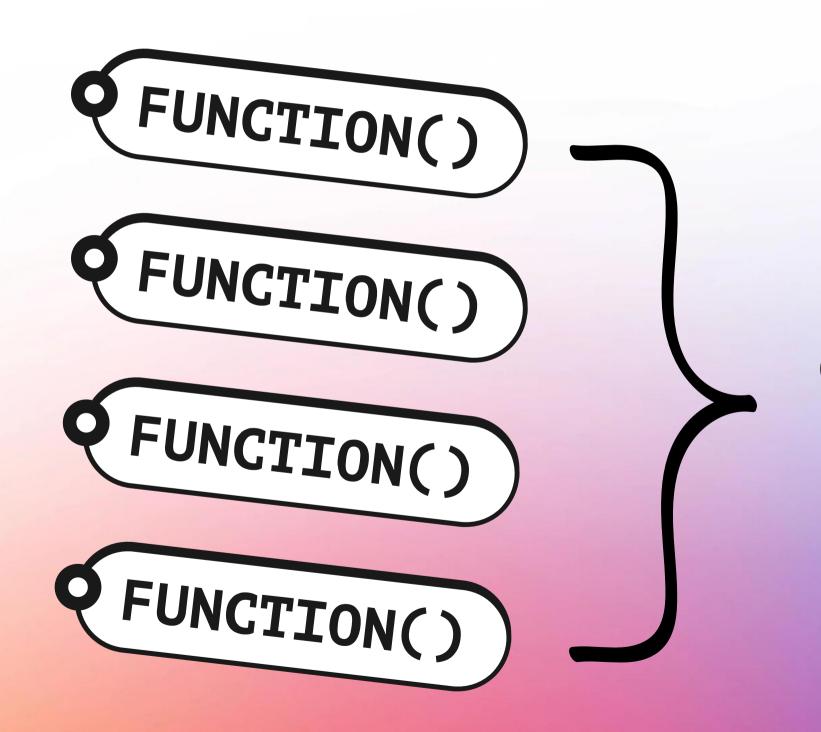


DEPENDANCY ARRAY PURGES CACHE

useDarkMode hook

```
import { useCallback, useState } from 'react';
   const useDarkMode = () \Rightarrow {
     const [darkMode, setDarkMode] = useState(false);
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     const handleToggle = useCallback(() \Rightarrow setDarkMode(!darkMode), [darkMode]);
6
     return [darkMode, handleToggle];
   };
9
10
   export default useDarkMode;
```

useCallback: dependancies change



same function, different copies



useMemo

CACHES THINGS

RETURNS CACHED VALUE



DEPENDANCY
ARRAY
PURGES CACHE



useMemo

Sets colour to blue on initiatialization

This fn increment the sum by 1, 100000000 time

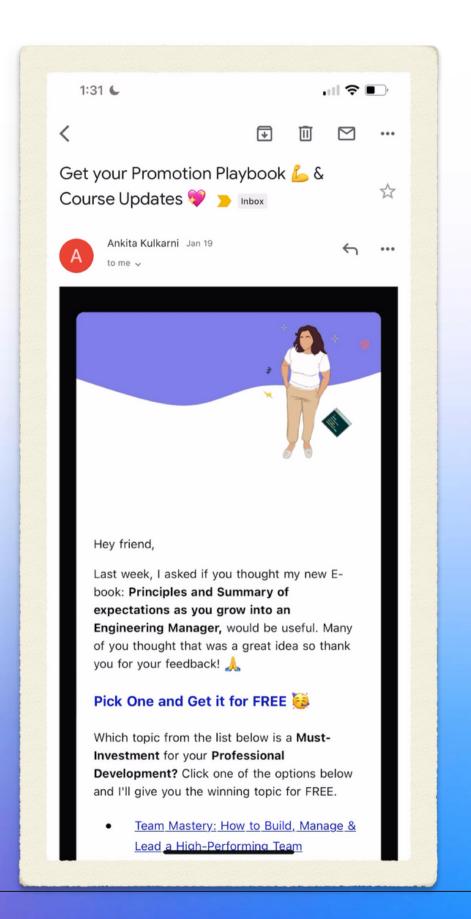
```
import React, { useState, useMemo } from 'react';
function App() {
  const [color, setColor] = useState('blue');
  const expensiveComputation = useMemo(()) \Rightarrow \{
    console.log('Expensive computation running...');
    let sum = 0;
    for (let i = 0; i < 100000000; i++) {
      sum += i;
                                              With useMemo, this fn
    return sum;
  }, [color]);
                                               would run only when
                                                state color changes
  return (
    <div>
      <h2>Color: {color}</h2>
      <h3>Expensive Computation: {expensiveComputation} </h3>
      <br/>
<br/>
onClick={() \Rightarrow setColor(color == 'blue' ? 'red' : 'blue')}>
        Change Color
      </button>
    </div>
  );
export default App;
```

Without useMemo, this fn would run every time

Weekly Newsletter

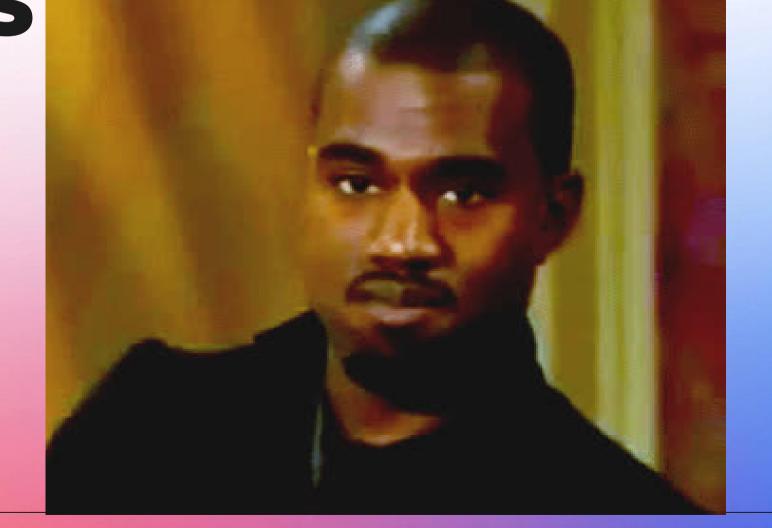
Grab your weekly
Frontend or Leadership
Snacks

kulkarniankita.com/newsletter





I'm not proposing to use useCallback & useMemo like hot cakes





Performance Tips





Test it on every device and network

A lot of us have high-speed internet but that doesn't represent our users



Things to focus on

01

Test on low-end devices

Try using older devices not just iphones

02

Test on slower networks and Throttle

03

Profile your app on Prod mode, not just dev mode

Dev mode doesn't represent real use case



Don't try to fix what's not broken





Again, Let's remember our Goal with Re-rendering

REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WORK



REDUCE THE NUMBER OF RE-RENDERS



Should you use useMemo & useCallback everywhere?



Should you use useMemo & useCallback

everywhere?

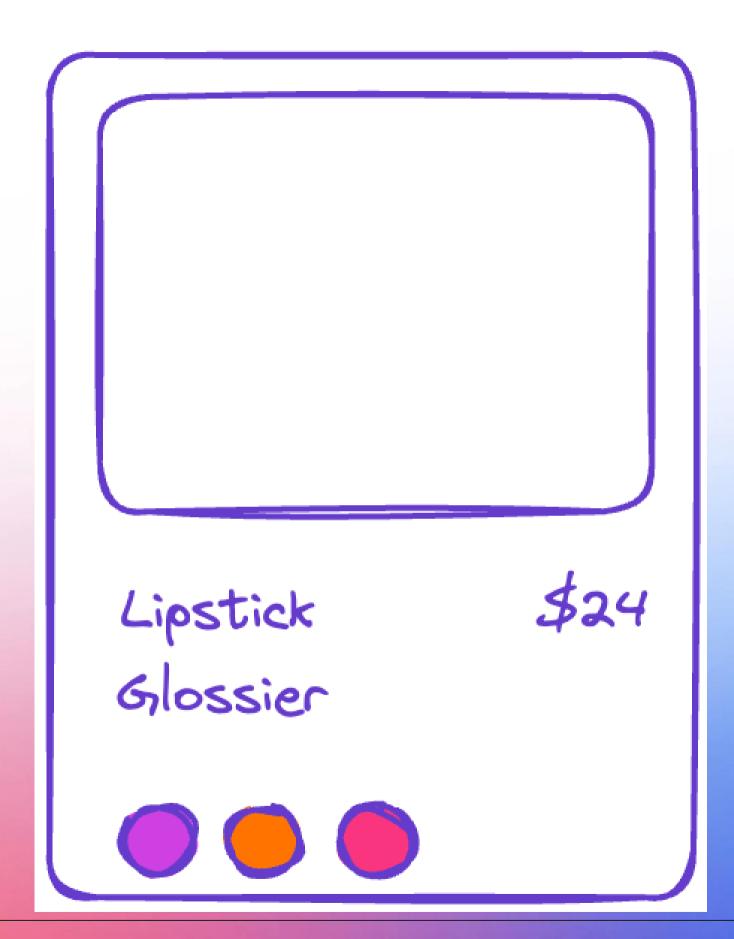




How do we do this for Apps with hundreds of Components?

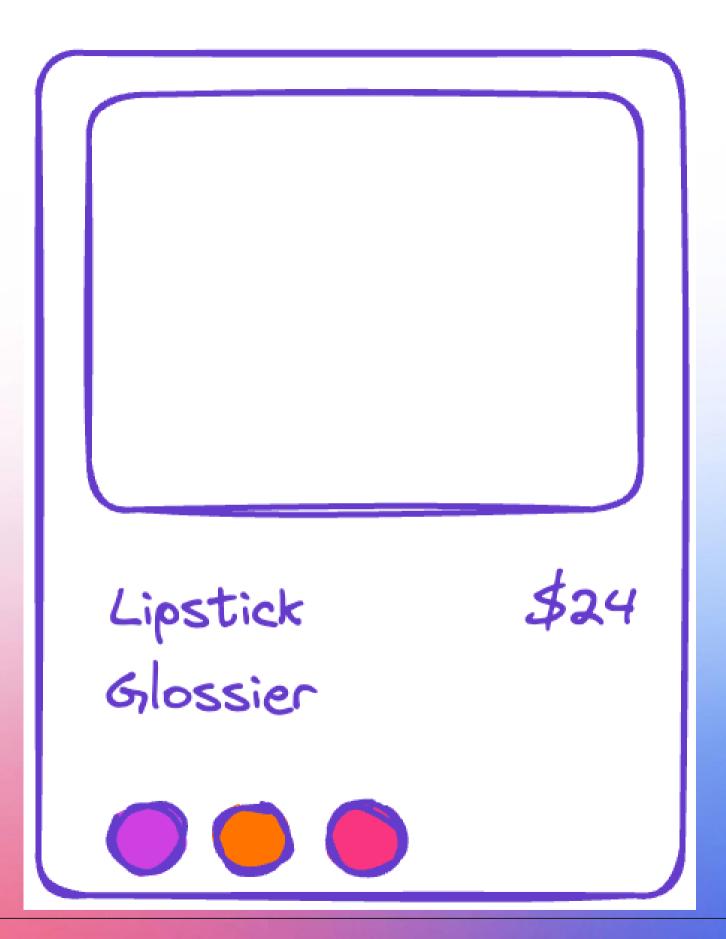


Complex Component



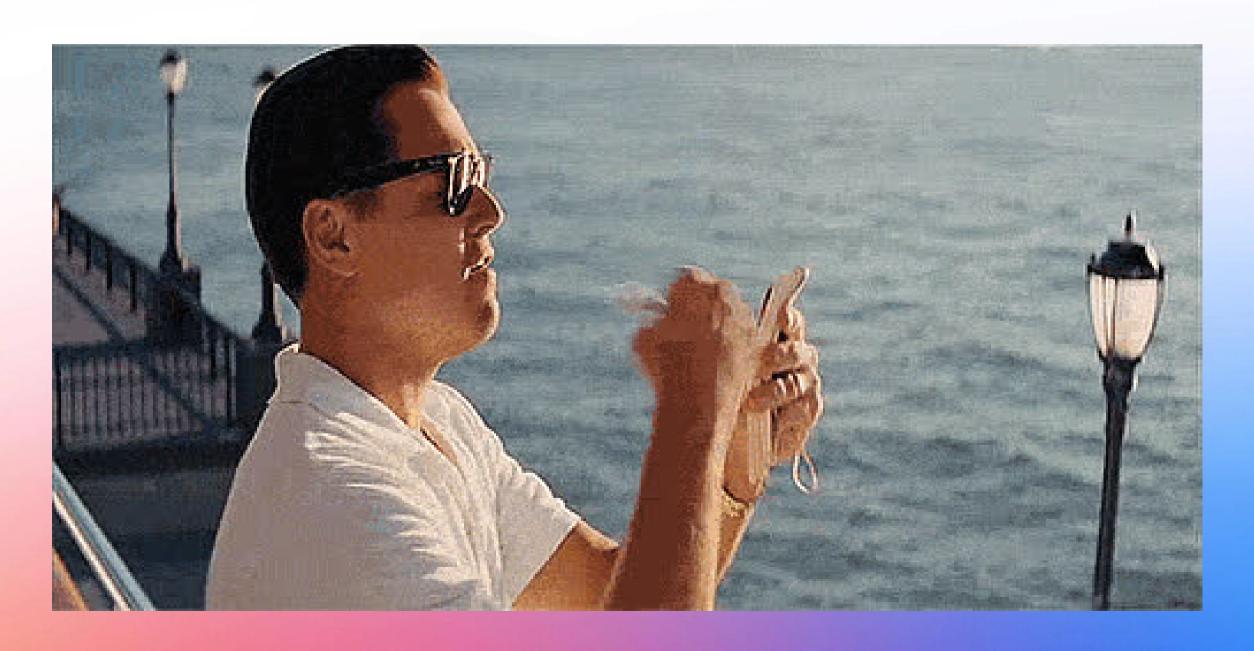


Do you want to wrap every fn in useCallback or useMemo?





It will be really expensive





Lighthouse doesn't fully represent performance +



FREE mini course on React Performance

bit.ly/reactperformance23





Thank you!

More resources at kulkarniankita.com



All my slides are at bit.ly/reactrally23

