

Compare useEffect, useEffectEvent and useLayoutEffect in React

In this article, let's explore React's data fetching hooks - `useEffect`, `useLayoutEffect`, and `useEffectEvent` - comparing their functionalities for efficient application deployment.

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React hooks provide an efficient way to manage side effects in React components. 3 of the most popular hooks are `useEffect`, `useLayoutEffect`, and `useEffectEvent`. Each hook has its own usage, let's compare them together to make the right choice when you program React!

useEffect

`useEffect` is a basic hook in React that allows you to implement side effects like DOM editing, asynchronous operations, and data fetching in functional components. This hook is a function with two arguments: effect function and dependency array.

The effect function contains the code that implements the secondary effect, and the dependency array determines when the effect runs. If the dependency array is empty, the effect function runs only once on the initial rendering of the component. Otherwise, the effect function runs whenever the value in the dependent array changes.

Here's an example of using the `useEffect` hook to fetch data:

```
import React from "react"; function App() { const [data, setData] = React.useSta
```

```
) .then((response) => response.json()) .then((data) => setData(data));
```

This code demonstrates an App component that fetches data from an external API using the **useEffect** hook. **useEffect**'s **Effect function** fetches sample data from the JSONPlaceholder API. It then parses the JSON response and sets the retrieved data to data.

With data state, the **App** component displays the **title** attribute of each item in the state.

Characteristics of the **useEffect** hook

1. 'Friendly' to asynchronous operation, making data fetching more convenient.
2. Run after rendering the component, making sure the hook doesn't block the UI.
3. Implement cleanup by returning a function.

useLayoutEffect

useLayoutEffect is similar to the **useEffect** hook but runs synchronously after all DOM mutations. This means it runs before the browser can cover the screen, making it suitable for tasks that require precise control over DOM layout and style, such as measuring an element's size, resizing it, or animate its position.

Here's an example of using the **useLayoutEffect** hook to change the width of a button element:

```
import React from "react"; function App() { const button = React.useRef(); React.  
Click Me ); } export default App;
```

The above code block increases the width of the button element to 12 pixels using the **useLayoutEffect** hook. This ensures that the button width increases before the button appears on the screen.

Outstanding features of the **useLayoutEffect** hook

1. Synchronous implementation, capable of blocking the UI if operations within it are heavy.
2. Best choice for reading and writing data directly to the DOM.

useEffectEvent

useEffectEvent is a React hook that solves the dependencies of the **useEffect** hook. If you're familiar with **useEffect**, you should know that its array of dependencies can be complex. Sometimes you have to put more values in the dependency array than is absolutely necessary.

For example:

```
import React from "react"; function App() { const connect = (url) => { // logic
```

This code shows the **App** component that manages connections to external services. The **connect** function connects to a specific URL, while the **logConnection** function records the connection details. Finally, the **onConnected** function calls **logConnection** to log a successful connection message when the device connects.

The **useEffect** hook calls the connect function, then sets up an **onConnected** callback function to run when the device fires the **onConnected** event . This callback logs a connection message. It returns a cleanup function that fires when the component is unmounted. The cleanup function is responsible for disconnecting that device.

The dependency array has a url variable and an **onConnected** function . The App component will create an **onConnected** function on each render. This will cause the **useEffect** function to run on a loop that continuously renders the **App** component .

There are many ways to handle the problem of repeating **useEffect**. However, the most efficient way to do this without adding unnecessary values to the dependency array is via the **useEffectEvent** hook.

```
import React from "react"; function App() { const connect = (url) => { // logic
```

By wrapping the **onConnected** function with the **useEffectEvent** hook, the **useEffectEvent** hook can always read the latest value of the message **and** loginOptions **parameters** before passing it to the **useEffect** hook. This means **useEffect** does not need to rely on the **onConnected** function or the value passed to it.

useEffectEvent is useful when you want **useEffect** to depend on a specific value, although this effect fires an event that requires other values that you don't want as dependencies in **useEffect**.

Features of the **useEffectEvent** hook

1. Best suited for event-driven application effects.
2. The **useEffectEvent** hook does not work with event handlers like **onClick**, **onChange**...

In summary, each of the above fetch hooks is suitable for different situations:

1. **Fetch data** : **useEffect** is a great choice.
2. **Direct DOM manipulation** : If you need to make synchronous changes to the DOM before repainting, choose **useLayoutEffect**.
3. **Lightweight operations** : For operations that don't risk blocking the user interface, you can feel free to use **useEffect**.
4. **Event-driven side effects** : Use the **useEffectEvent** hook to encapsulate events and the **useEffect** hook to run side effects.

ReactJS hooks open up a world of possibilities, and understanding the differences between **useEffect**, **useLayoutEffect**, and **useEffectEvent** hooks can significantly impact how you handle side effects and DOM manipulation.

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