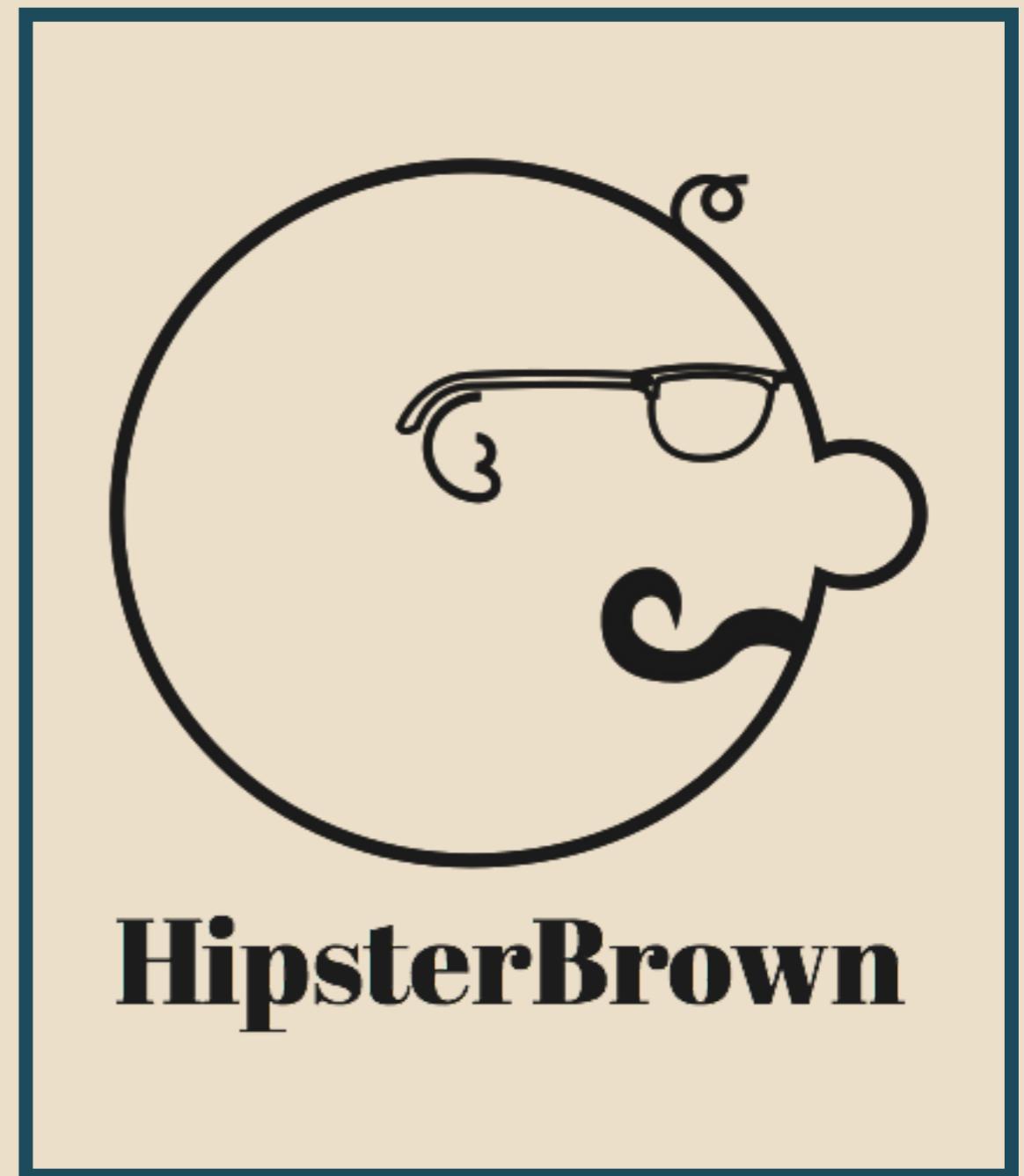


Figuring Out Front-End Driven Apps

A Guide to Making Awesome Web Apps as a Front-End Dev

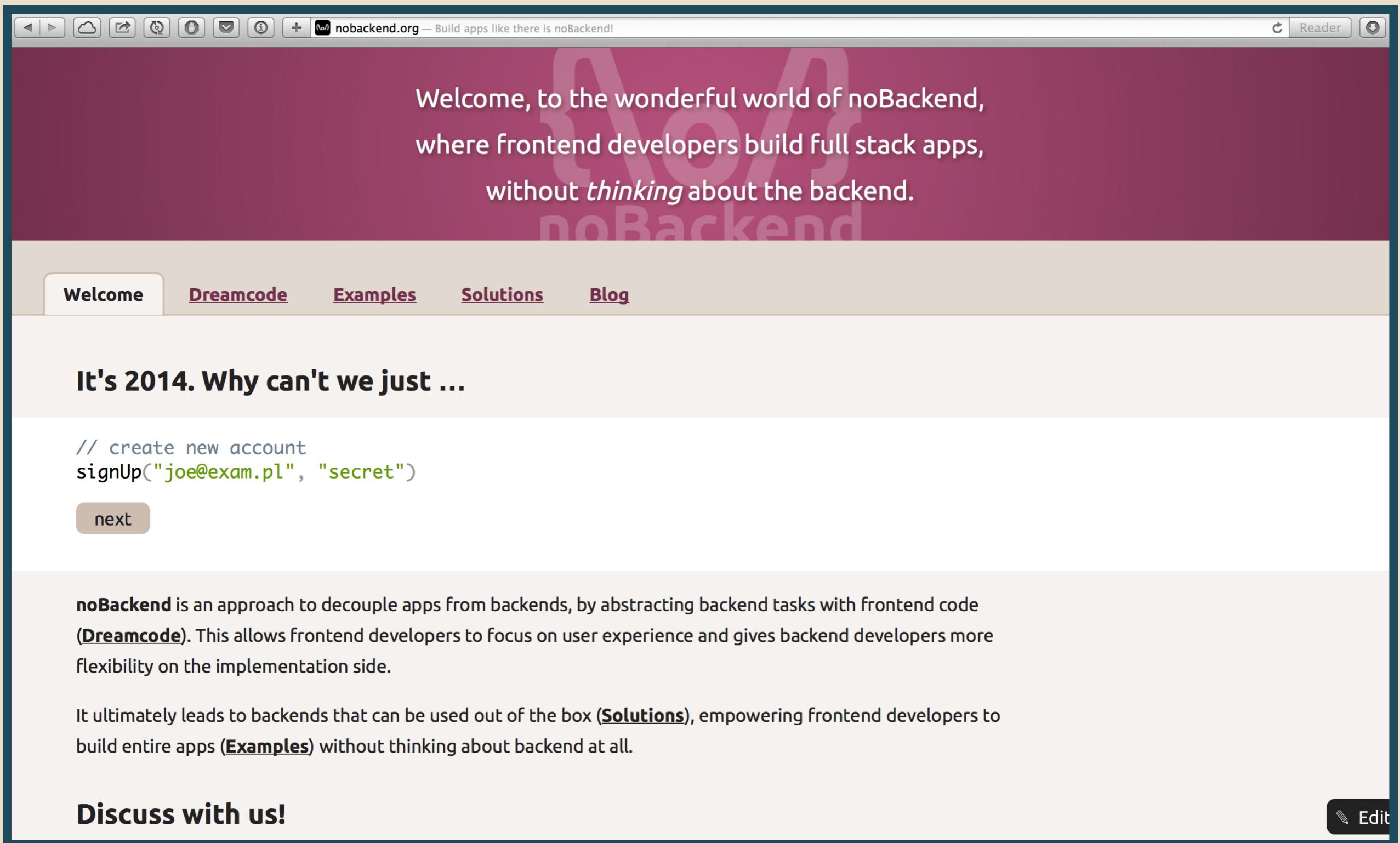
Who Am I?

- Nick Hehr, a.k.a HipsterBrown
- Product Designer & Front-End Developer
- Idea Fanatic
- Workflow Nut
- App n00b
- Forever Learner



What are FDAs?

noBackend



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the noBackend.org website. The title bar reads "nobackend.org — Build apps like there is noBackend!". The main content area has a maroon background with white text. It features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the word "noBackend". The text reads: "Welcome, to the wonderful world of noBackend, where frontend developers build full stack apps, without *thinking* about the backend." Below this, a navigation bar contains links: "Welcome" (highlighted), "Dreamcode", "Examples", "Solutions", and "Blog". A section titled "It's 2014. Why can't we just ..." contains some code snippets and a "next" button. A detailed description of the noBackend approach follows, along with a note about its benefits. At the bottom, there's a "Discuss with us!" button and an "Edit" button.

Welcome, to the wonderful world of noBackend,
where frontend developers build full stack apps,
without *thinking* about the backend.

Welcome [Dreamcode](#) [Examples](#) [Solutions](#) [Blog](#)

It's 2014. Why can't we just ...

```
// create new account
signUp("joe@example.com", "secret")
```

[next](#)

noBackend is an approach to decouple apps from backends, by abstracting backend tasks with frontend code ([Dreamcode](#)). This allows frontend developers to focus on user experience and gives backend developers more flexibility on the implementation side.

It ultimately leads to backends that can be used out of the box ([Solutions](#)), empowering frontend developers to build entire apps ([Examples](#)) without thinking about backend at all.

Discuss with us! [Edit](#)

Static Web Apps

The screenshot shows the homepage of www.staticapps.org. The page has a yellow wavy background. At the top, there's a navigation bar with various icons and the URL. Below it, the title "A FIELD GUIDE TO STATIC APPS" is displayed, with "STATIC APPS" in large bold letters. A central graphic features a lightning bolt icon inside a dark diamond shape. Social sharing buttons for Twitter ("Tweet 153") and GitHub ("Star 200") are present. A descriptive paragraph explains what static web applications are and why they're useful. There are two call-to-action boxes: one for email subscription and another for defining static web apps. The bottom section is partially visible.

A FIELD GUIDE TO
STATIC APPS

[Twitter Tweet 153](#) [GitHub Star 200](#)

Static Web Applications run independently of the need for server-side dynamic processing. Static web architecture eases common web development headaches without introducing additional complexity. This guide will introduce you to the world of static web applications and offer solutions to common challenges encountered while building them. Welcome!

Subscribe for fresh content every week!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

DEFINING STATIC WEB APPS >
Static web applications are delivered to a user's browser without any server-side processing, but that doesn't mean they're any less capable.

WHY BUILD STATIC WEB APPS? >

"[FDAs] run independently of the need for server-side dynamic processing. Static web architecture eases common web development headaches without introducing additional complexity."

– [StaticApps.org](#)

Traits of an FDA

- Servers gives over all static pages at once, very similar to a JavaScript SPA
- All templating and content generated on the front-end with JavaScript connected to data services
- May use some form of Backend as a Service, BaaS, like Firebase, Parse, or Hoodie

Why are they awesome?

No need for “custom” backend



No need for “custom” backend

- How many times is the backend actually custom from every other backend out there?
- Needs user signup/login - **not custom**
- Needs data store - **not custom**
- Needs chat functionality - **not custom**
- Needs email support - **not custom**

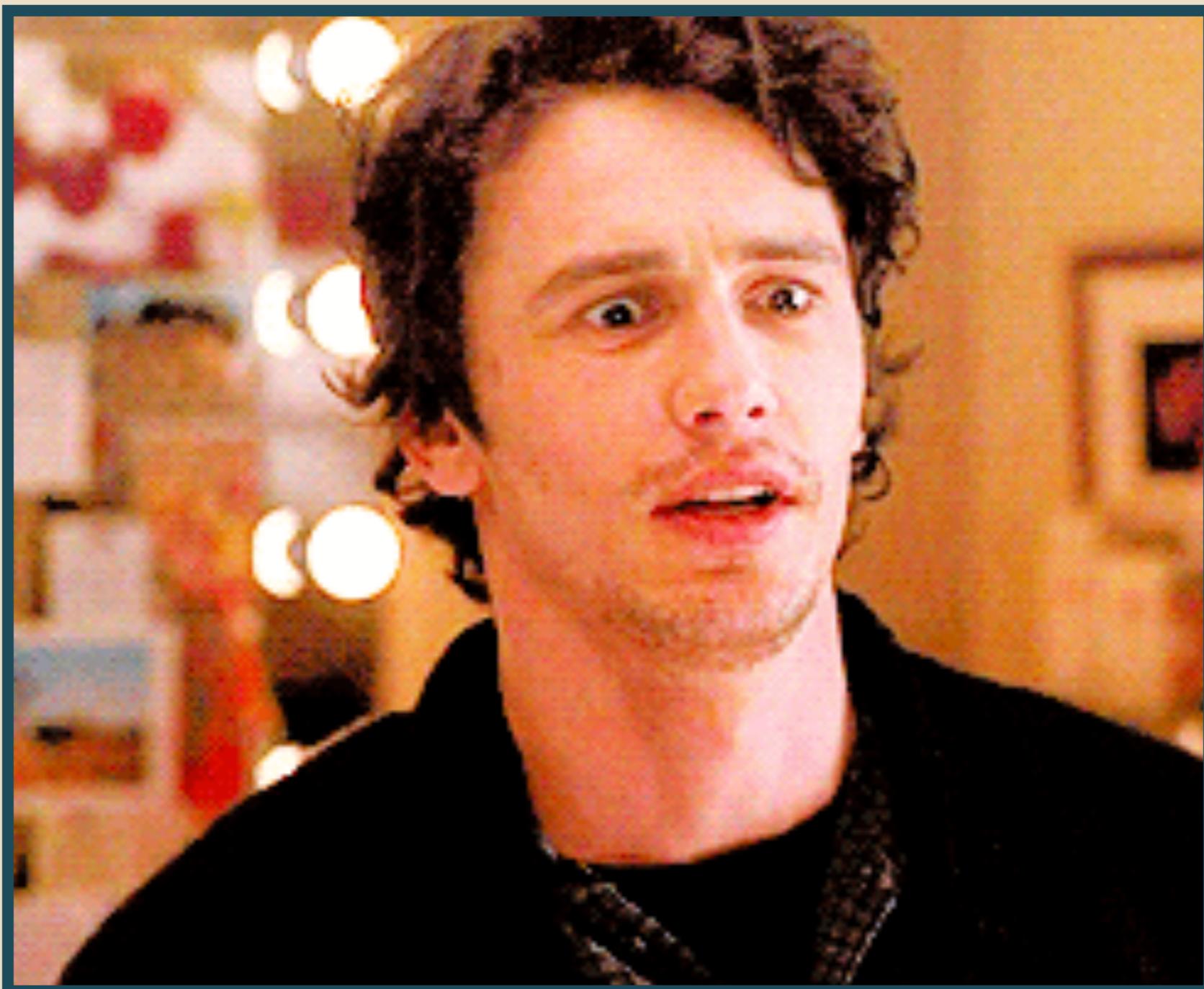
Easier local development



Easier local development

- No debate over which backend language to use
- No need to install a local database to sync with production db later
- Use static files and create servers with local workflow tools like Grunt/Gulp/Brunch/Broccoli

Rapid Prototyping



Rapid Prototyping

- Create awesome, polished UIs with CSS/SCSS/Less frameworks like Foundation or Bootstrap
- Organize your code and get functionality working right away with JS frameworks like Ember, Angular, or Backbone.
- Host anywhere that serves static files, a.k.a everywhere.

Separation of Concerns



Separation of Concerns

- The FDA is just one interface for your users to interact with.
- The decouple BaaS and other external data services can be served to other mediums.
- Create mobile or desktop apps from the same data

How to get started with FDAs

Learn about APIs

www.codecademy.com/tracks/apis — APIs | Codecademy Online Tutorials

Codecademy Learn Teach

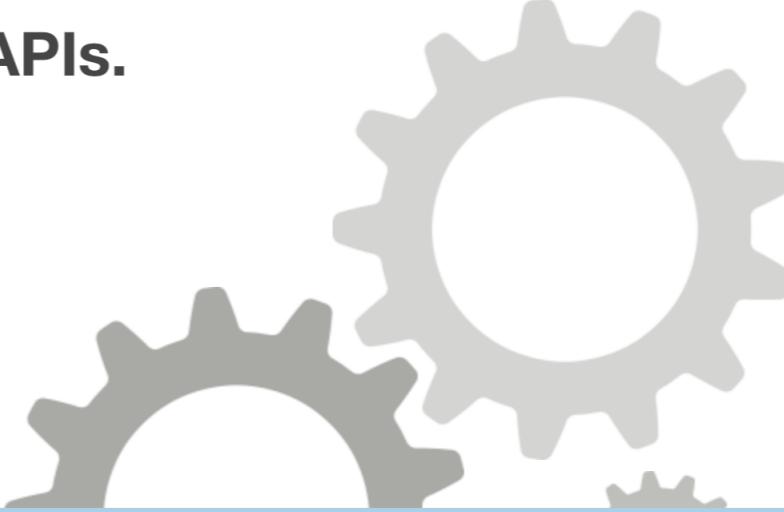
0 points today
0 day streak Me

Build real-life apps with APIs.

Want to write apps and build websites that can text your phone, pull in YouTube videos, or connect to Facebook and Twitter?

Start doing all this and more with Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

[Tweet](#) 100K+ [Like](#) Share 189k



You could learn how to...

<p> Search for top videos on YouTube JavaScript</p>	<p> Start accessing Twitter data from users, Tweets, and timelines Ruby</p>
<p> Store and share your content in the cloud Ruby</p>	<p> Remember everything, communicate effectively, and get things done Ruby</p>
<p> Save, open, share, and search files on SkyDrive in your web app JavaScript</p>	<p> Get access to the awesome products on gilt.com JavaScript</p>

Commercial BaaS

The screenshot shows the official Firebase website at www.firebaseio.com. The header includes navigation links for Overview, Getting Started, Pricing, Docs & API, Login, and a prominent blue "SIGN UP FREE" button. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "Build Realtime Apps" and "A powerful API to store and sync data in realtime." Below the banner are two device mockups: a desktop computer displaying a social feed with a picture of a mountain landscape and a mobile phone showing a similar feed with a message from a user named Sara. At the bottom, a section titled "The Realtime Application Platform" describes the service's capabilities and encourages users to "Save time. Delight your users." with a "Sign Up Free" button.

www.firebaseio.com

Firebase

OVERVIEW GETTING STARTED PRICING DOCS & API LOGIN **SIGN UP FREE**

Build Realtime Apps

A powerful API to store and sync data in realtime.

The Realtime Application Platform

Our powerful API stores and synchronizes data in milliseconds. Build realtime mobile and web apps in minutes using client-side code.

Save time. Delight your users.

Sign Up Free

Commercial BaaS

The screenshot shows the homepage of parse.com. At the top, there's a dark header bar with various browser icons and the URL "https://parse.com — Parse". Below the header, the word "Parse" is displayed in a large white font. A navigation menu includes links for "Products", "Customers", "Pricing", "Docs", "Help", and "Blog", along with "Log In" and "Sign Up" buttons.

The main content area features a large smartphone displaying a blue screen with the word "Parse" and a view of clouds from above. To the left of the phone, the text "The complete mobile app platform" is written, followed by a paragraph about creating unique apps. There are also "Power your app using Parse", "Try it for free", and "No credit card required" buttons.

At the bottom, there's a white callout box containing a small icon of a computer monitor and the text "Everything you need to create beautiful apps" and "Focus on creating a great user experience and forget".

Parse

Products Customers Pricing Docs Help Blog Log In Sign Up

The complete mobile app platform

Focus on creating unique & engaging apps on any platform. We take care of everything else your app needs, from the core of your app to analytics and push notifications.

Power your app using Parse Try it for free No credit card required

Everything you need to create beautiful apps

Focus on creating a great user experience and forget

Open Source BaaS

hood.ie — Hoodie – Very fast web app development

THIS WEEK OF HOODIE DEVELOPMENT IS SPONSORED BY THE HOODIE FIRM – SPONSOR US!

HOODIE

VERY FAST APP DEVELOPMENT

We want to enable you to build complete web apps in days, without having to worry about backends, databases or servers, all with an open-source library that's as simple to use as jQuery.

That's why we're making Hoodie.

Hoodie is an **Offline First** and **noBackend** architecture for frontend-only web apps on the **web** and on **iOS**.

Stay in Touch **Subscribe**

People really seem to like it:

It took less than 15 minutes for a person with no experience in any part of the stack to take an existing single user app and make it a multi-user application with

♥ Hoodie - a fast offline-first architecture for webapps. Super-simple user management & storage. Great for mobile.

Commercial vs Open Source

- More mature
- Super slick admin interface
- Plugins for popular frameworks
- Tools for easy login with third-party services

- FREE!!
- Opportunity to shape the future of the product
- Create your own plugins for others
- Start using it before it's cool

Why Firebase?

- Great quick start guides and docs
- Focus on syncing and usability
- Tools for easy integration with JS frameworks like Ember, Angular, & Backbone
- ~~Not owned by Facebook...~~

Why Hoodie?

- Focus on the future of the web, i.e. Offline-First and easy syncing
- Uses localStorage, CouchDB, and Node.js for super fast, “realtime” apps
- Great command line tool for local development
- Easy AppKit-type Getting Started app
- Super cool team working on it

Live Coding!