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UNIVERSITY**

*Forward thinking. World ready.*

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# Front-end development I

## 1

Introduction to front-end web development

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# Agenda

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1. Web design and development
2. Front-end development
3. Designing web interfaces
4. Inspecting and debugging



# Web design and development



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# The web in 1990





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# Google in 1997



Search the web using Google!

10 results



Google Search

I'm feeling lucky

*Index contains ~25 million pages (soon to be much bigger)*

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# The web in 1999 (1/2)

- Mostly static pages
- Predominance of text
- No separation between content and appearance





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# The web in 1999 (2/2)

- Portals were the “Yellow pages” of the web
- Sites required manual indexing into web pages







# The web today



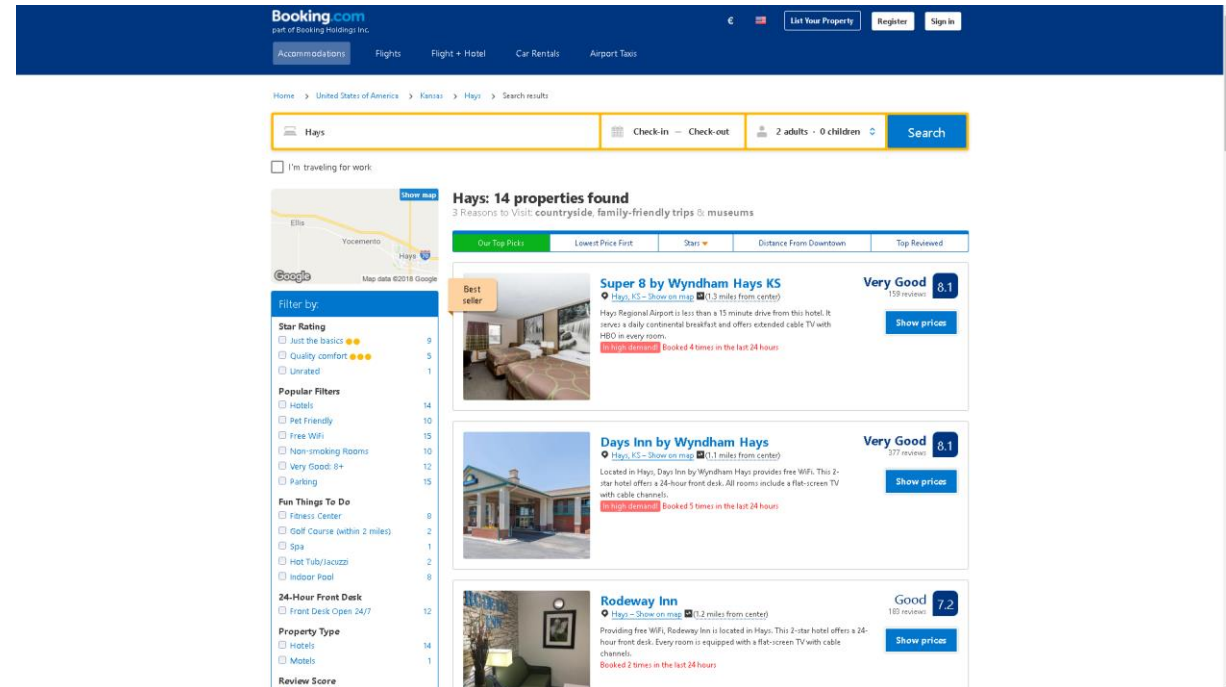




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# The web today

- Mostly visual
- Dichotomy between appearance and content
- Interactive web applications



# Convergence between web and app design

- This is an amazing time for web developers
- Web technologies and interfaces are being utilized for cross-device app development
- Constant rise of attention to front-end



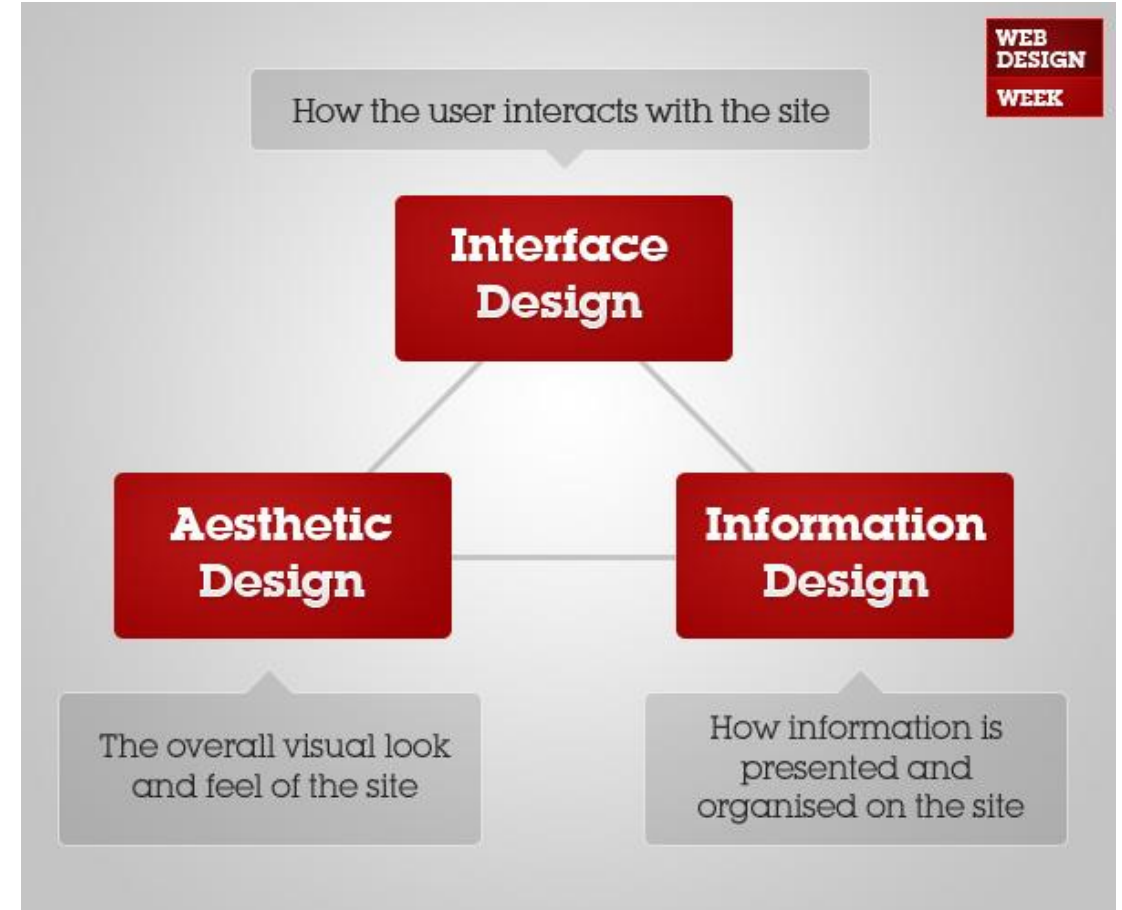
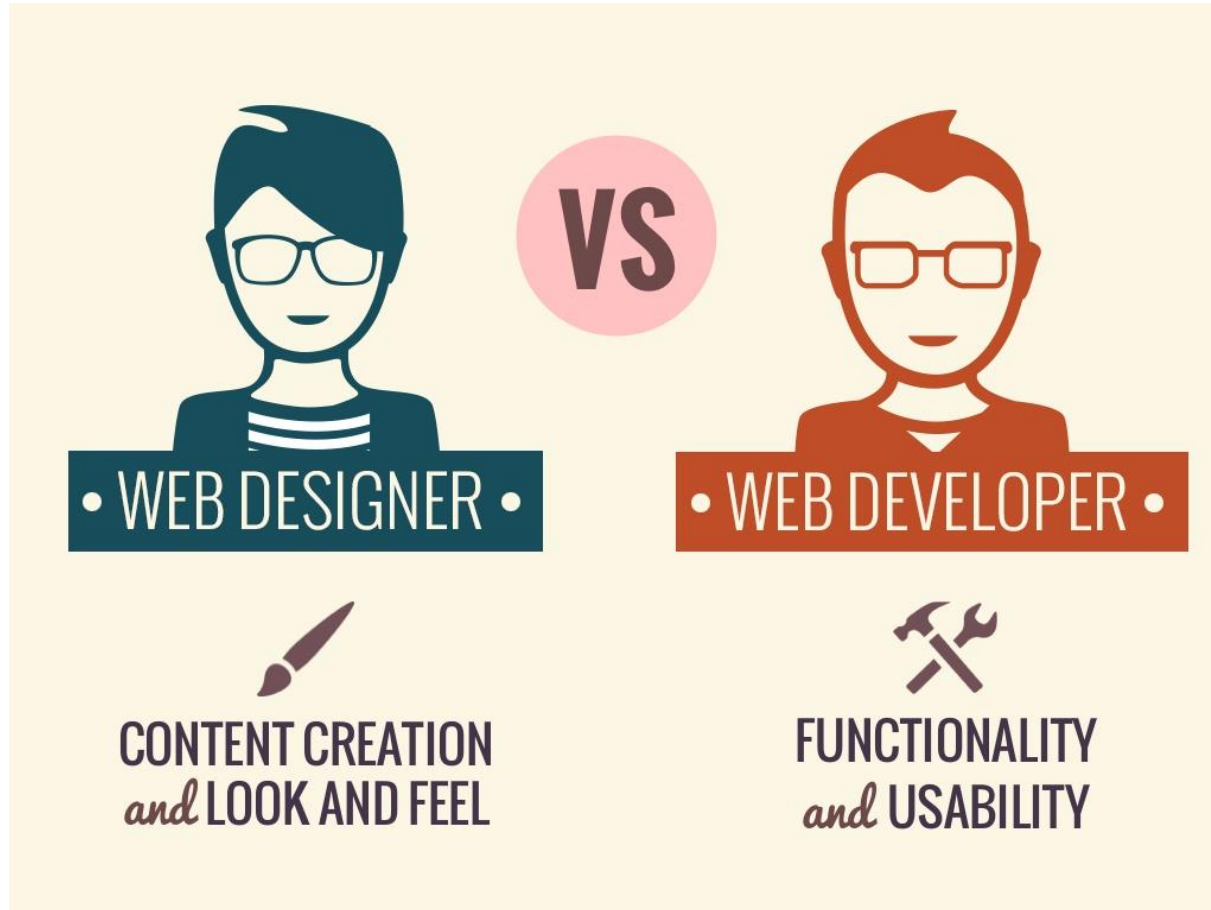


# Front-end development



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# Web design and development

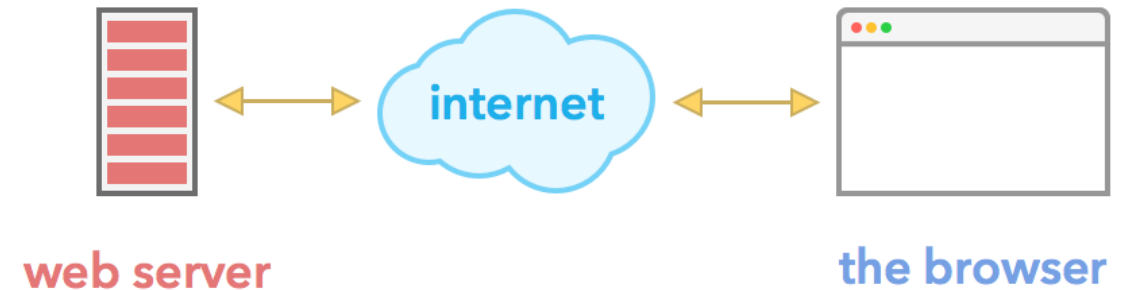




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# Two components of any web application

- Any website and application has are two sides
  - the server-side: where information is centrally stored, retrieved from, and processed
  - the client-side: users' computers
- Both play a crucial role
  - the server-side focuses on information and processing (the engine)
  - the client-side is what the user sees and interacts with (the user interface)

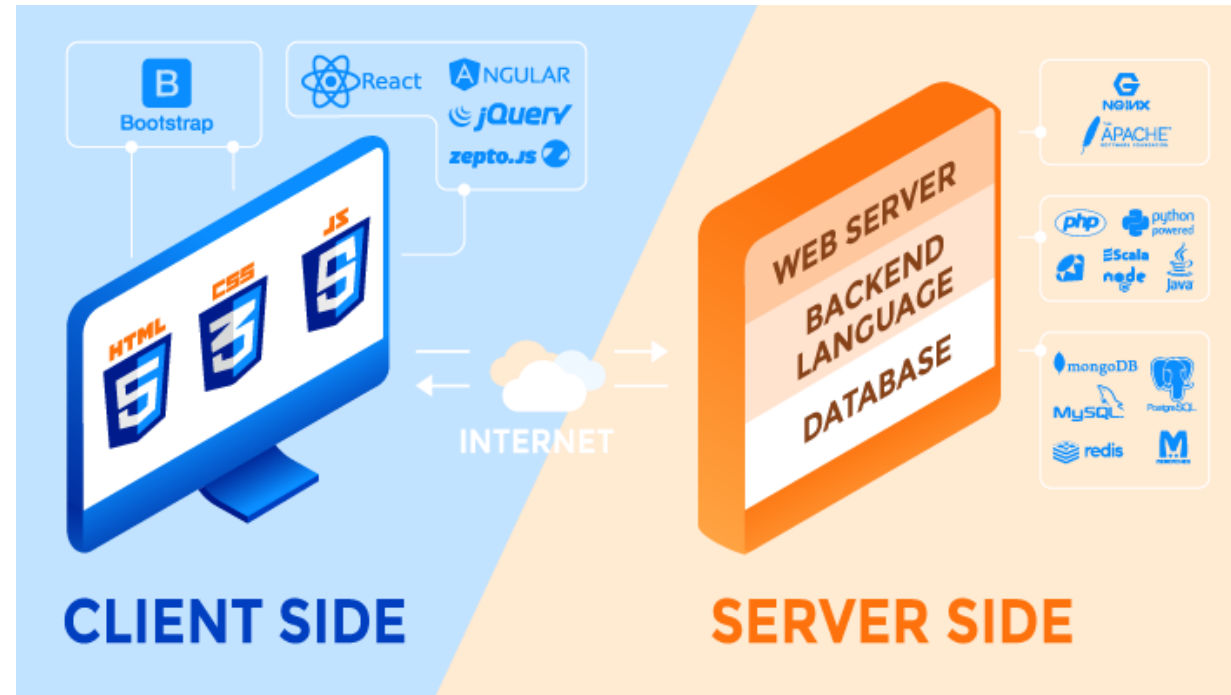




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# Technologies for client and server side

- As client- and server-side have different roles, they rely on different technology and languages
  - client-side: structure of a website, layout, interface, content, and interaction
  - server-side: centralized information processing (databases), performance optimization
- However, client-side languages are processed at the server-side
- In this course, we will focus on client-side languages







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# Front-end technology

- The client-side is often referred to as the “front end”, because it is the front-line of interaction
- Front-end technology has some limitations but it is very powerful and fun
  - <https://html5demos.com>
  - <https://experiments.withgoogle.com/collection/chrome>

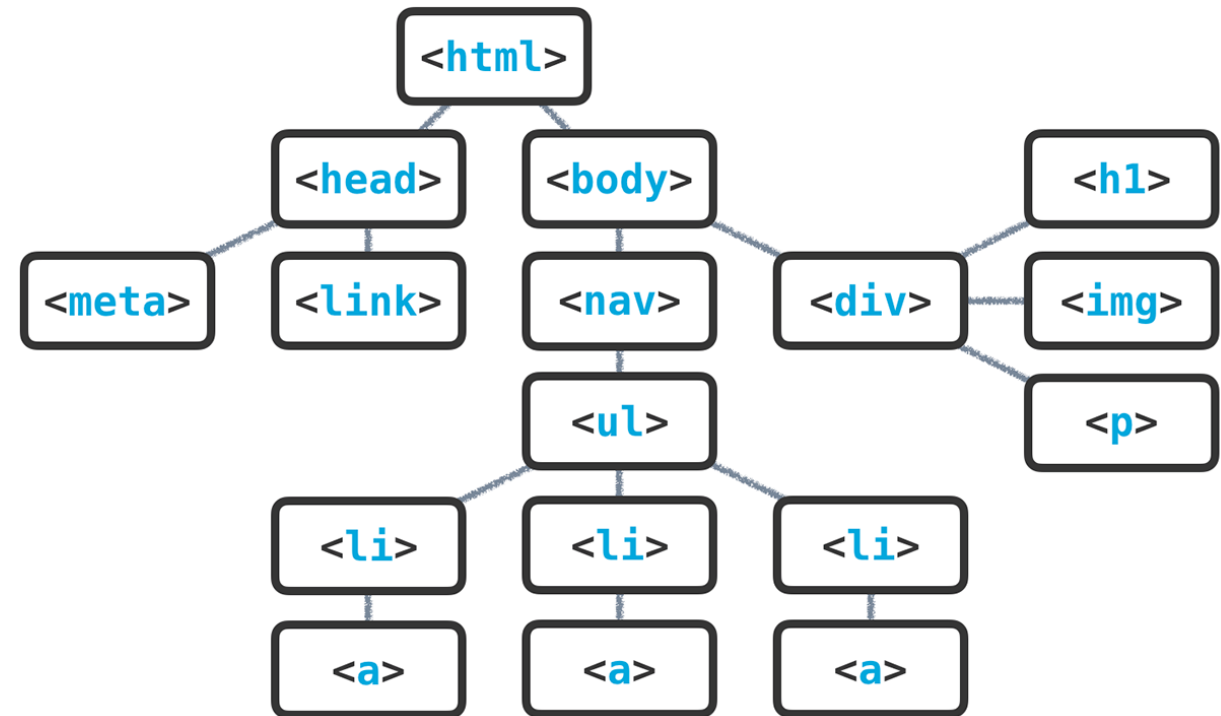




# HTML

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- Acronym of HyperText Mark-up Language
- Mark-up language
  - not a programming language
  - uses metadata (tags) to annotate content
- The structure and layout of
  - the website (hyperlinks)
  - the page (HTML DOM)
  - information (HTML content tags)
- Webpages are organized into a tree

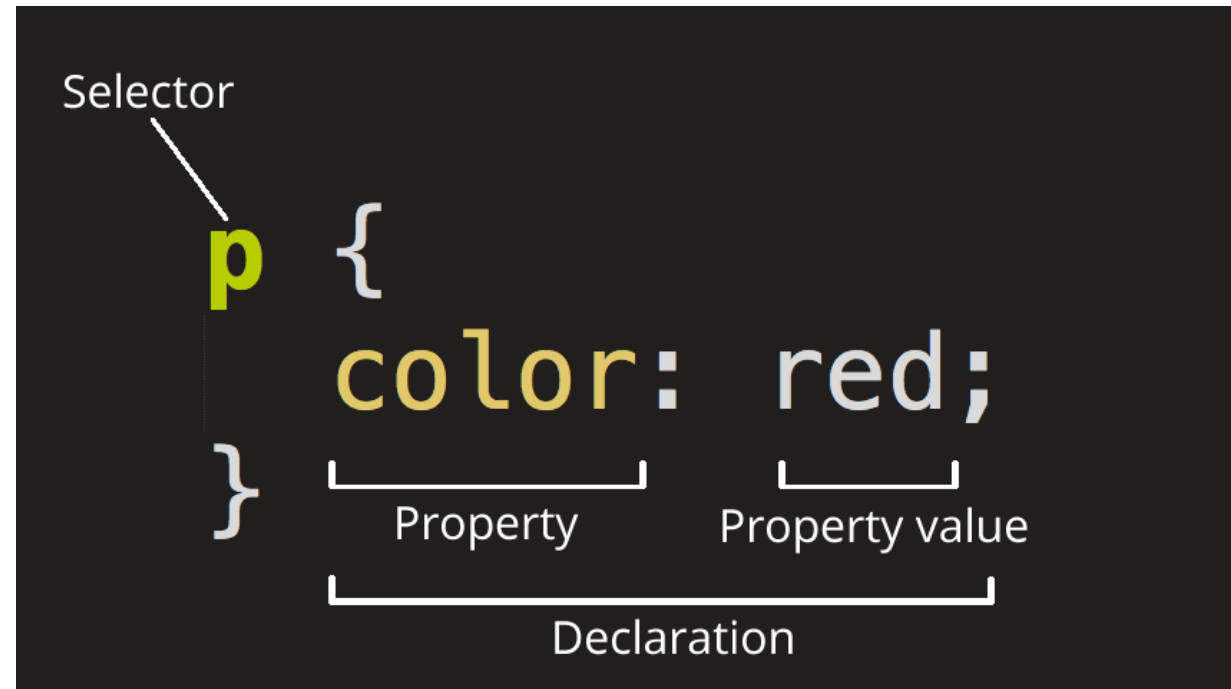




# CSS

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- Acronym of Cascading Style Sheets
  - multiple styles can be applied and they have a “cascade” effect
  - the top styles are overridden or modified by the styles at the bottom
- CSS modifies the style and appearance of your page
  - color
  - size
  - position
  - the “form” of content
- CSS is an add-on

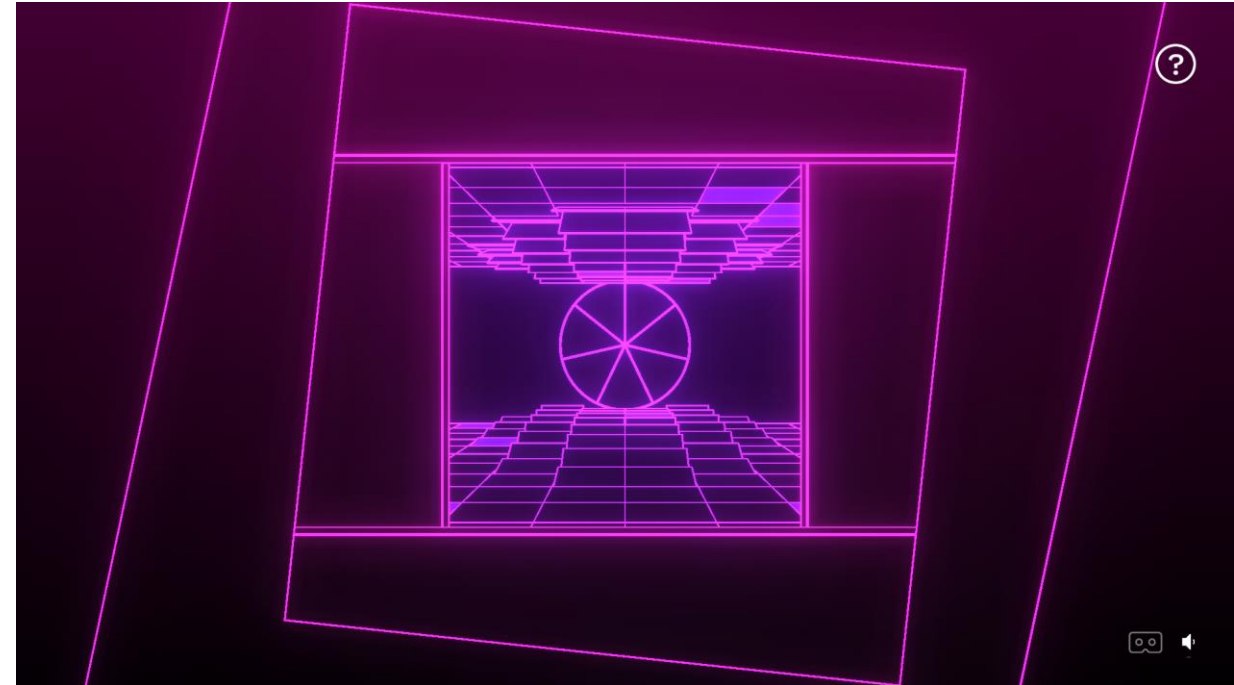




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# Javascript

- A high-level, interpreted programming language that:
  - adds behavior to the page
  - can capture and respond to events
  - manipulates the DOM
  - can interact with hardware features of the client host (via the browser)
- Javascript is an add-on
- Javascript can take the webpage experience to a new level
  - <https://demos.littleworkshop.fr/track>





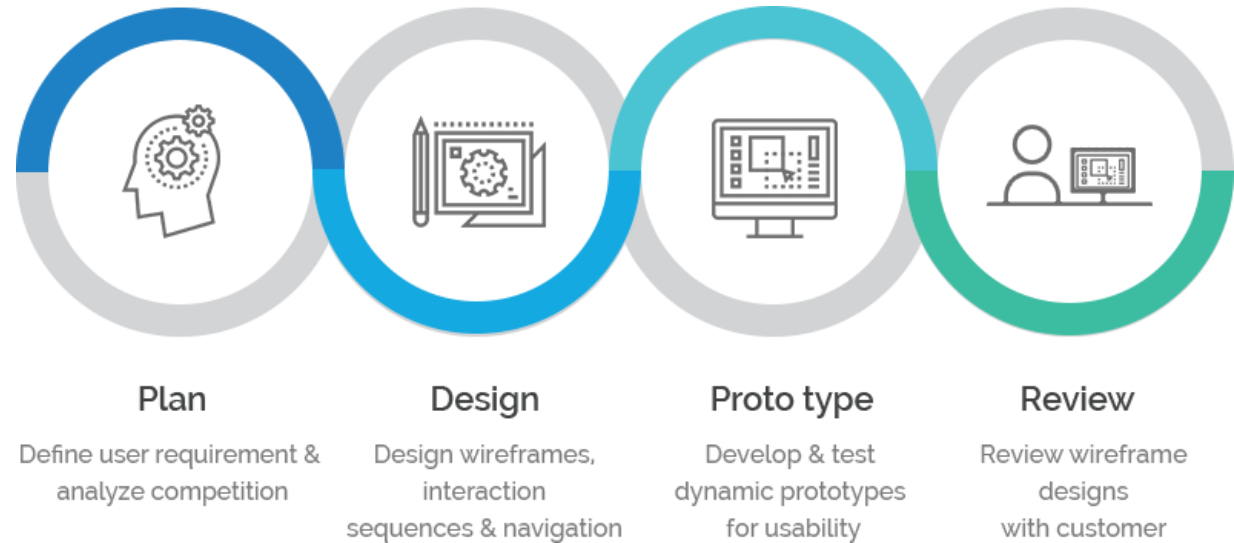
# Designing web interfaces



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# An iterative process

- Designing websites is very similar to any other product design process
  - iterative
  - first step is planning
- Technology is just an implementation tool



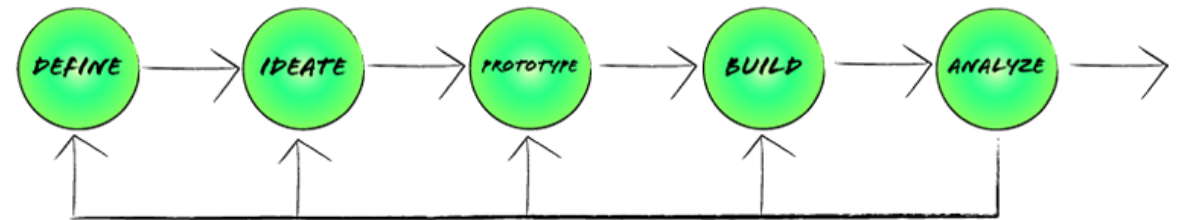




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# An additive process

- Web technology enables additive and progressive design and implementation
  - planning the structure of the website
  - designing the layout of the page
  - applying styles
  - implementing interactive behavior
- Typically, but not strictly top-down

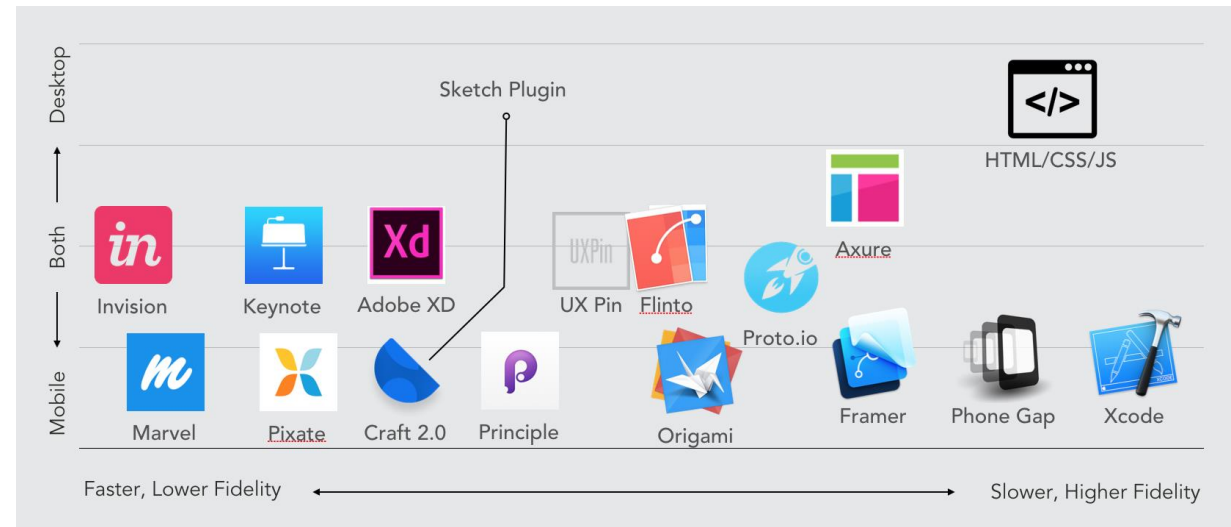




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# Prototyping is essential

- Always start with paper
  - define the structure of what you want to build
  - sketch a layout
  - start implementing the basic building blocks
  - style them with CSS
- Alternatively, you can use prototyping tools





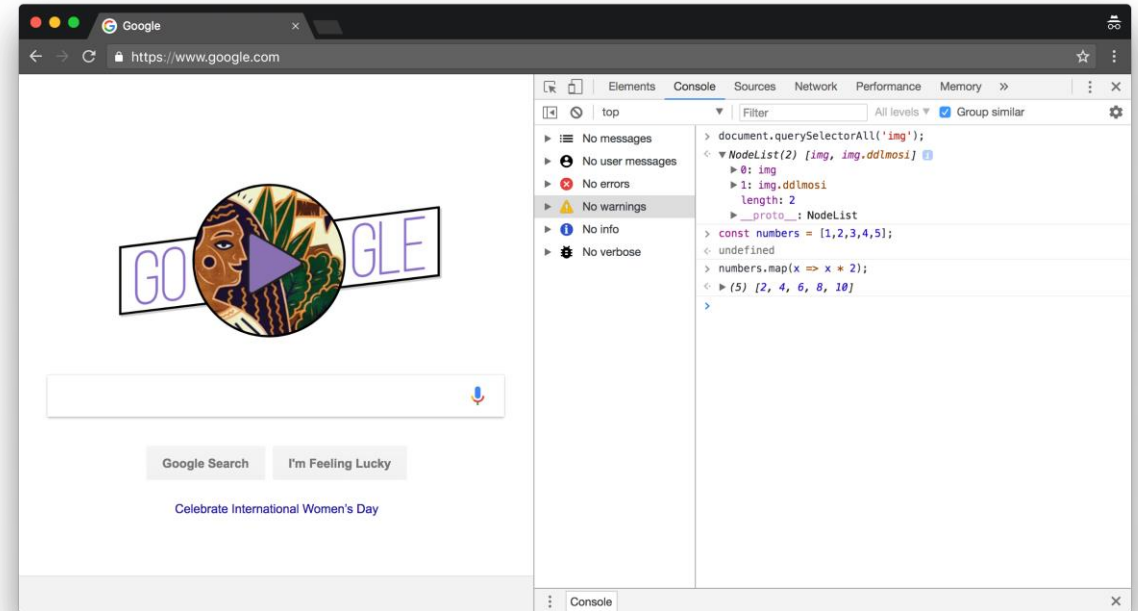
# Inspecting and debugging



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# The Google Chrome developer console

- Chrome DevTools is a set of web developer tools built directly into the Google Chrome browser
  - Click **CTRL+SHIFT+J** to open
- DevTools can help you diagnose problems quickly, which ultimately helps you build better websites, faster
- Learn more
  - <https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/>





# Features of Chrome devtools

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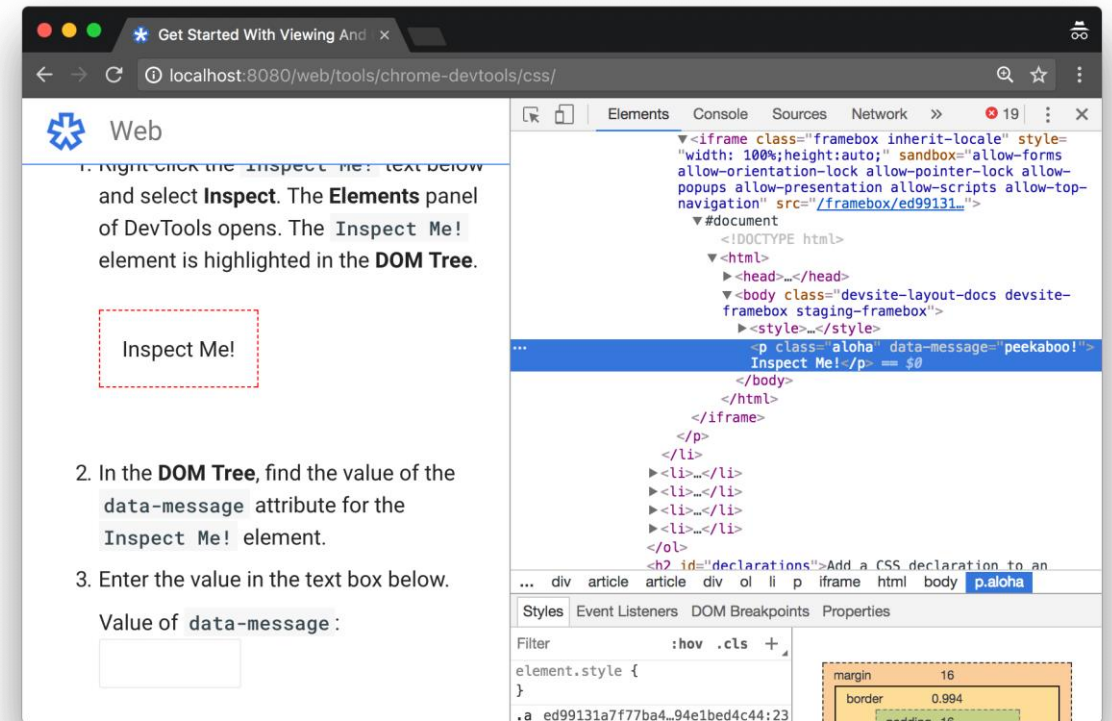
- Google Chrome devtools are great for learning, in addition to debugging:
  - HTML: you can view and change the structure of the page
  - CSS: you can view and modify page styles on the fly
  - Javascript: you can run and debug your code
- Moreover, they enable optimizing website speed
  - the audits panel provides quantitative reports of your site speed, as well as concrete tips on how to improve it



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# HTML: the elements tab

- The elements tab shows the structure of the HTML page
  - you can interact with and modify any element, and see a live preview
  - this is excellent for understanding the structure of a website, or for applying design changes before actually modifying the HTML markup
- You can iterate on the layout and design of your site by freely manipulating the DOM and CSS



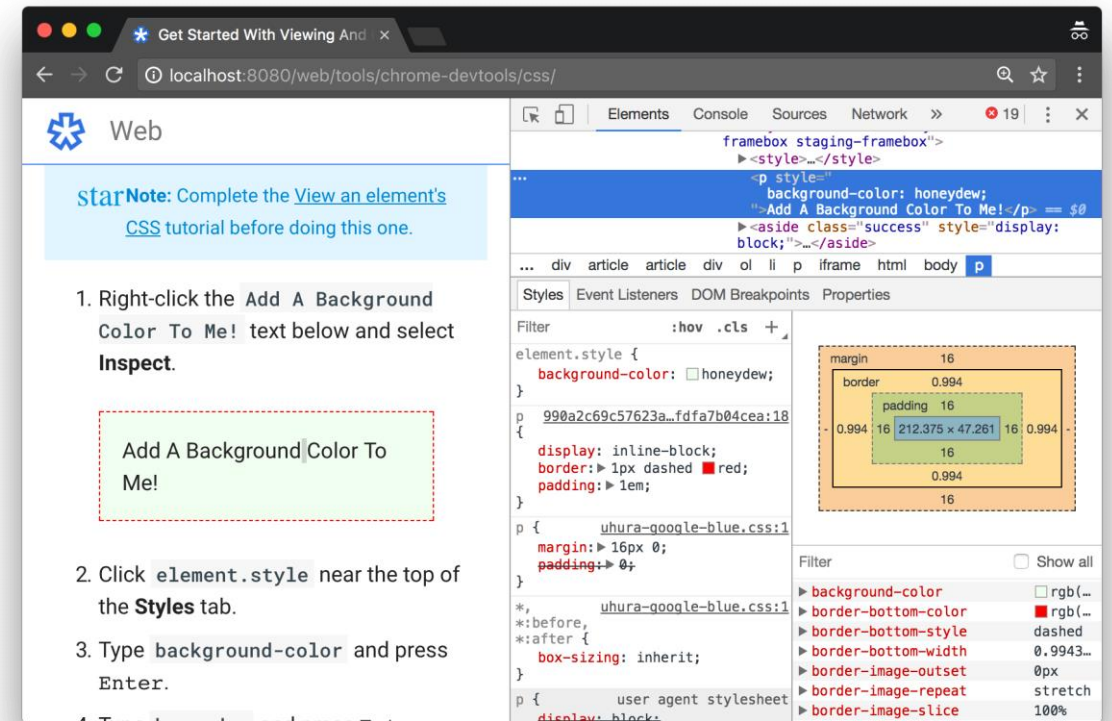




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# Viewing and changing CSS

- The elements tab also shows all the CSS styles applied to the elements:
  - you can add, modify, disable and remove styles on the fly
- Useful for testing changes to the design before actually coding

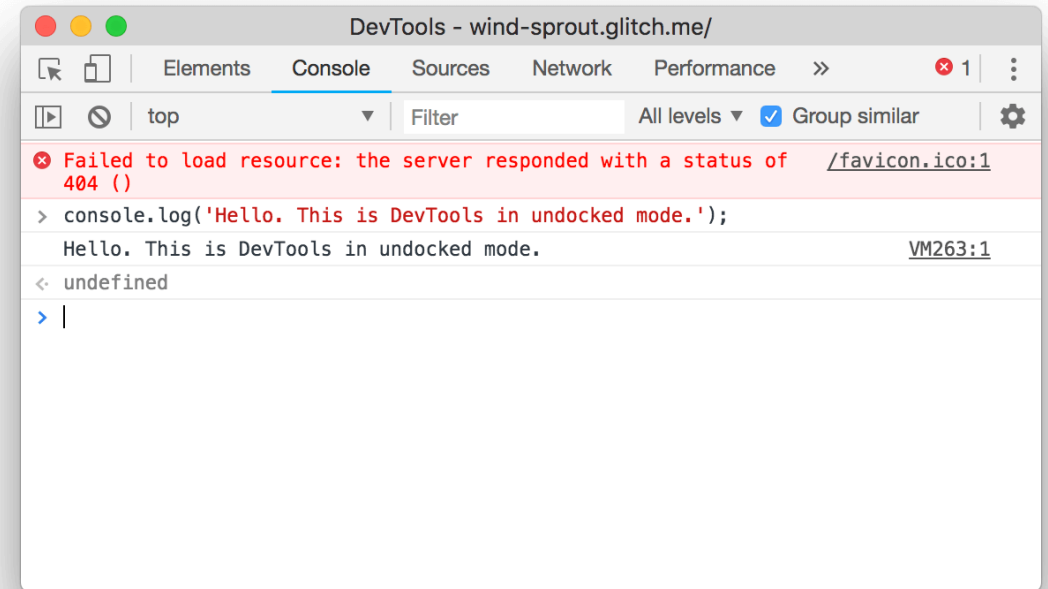




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# Javascript: the console panel

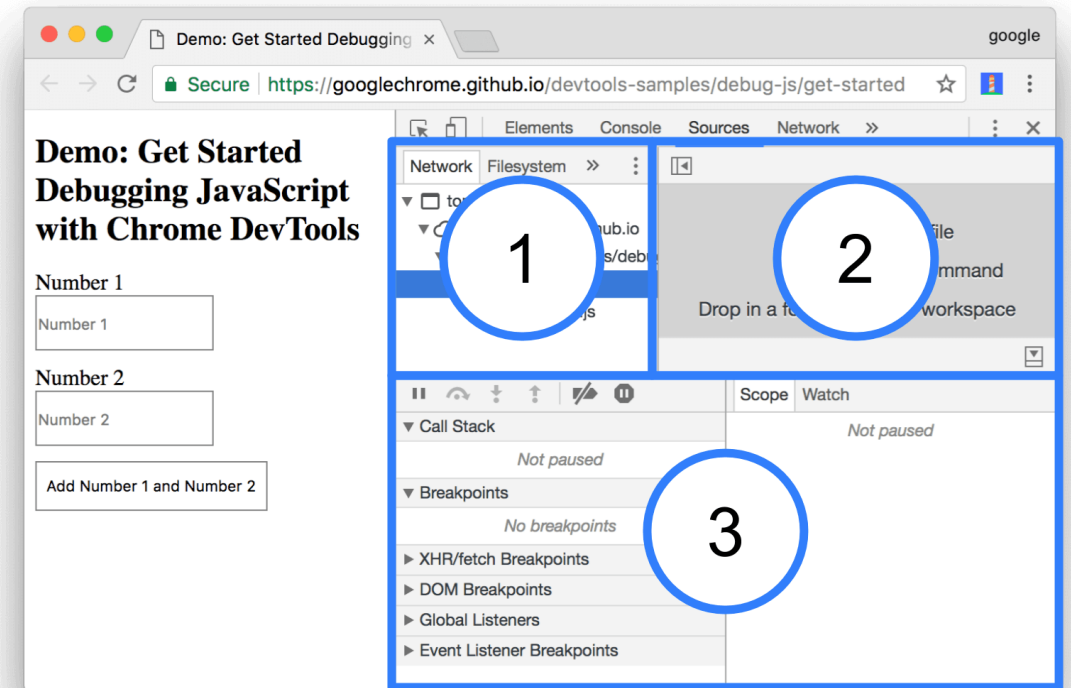
- The console panel logs diagnostic information during development or interact with the JavaScript on the page
- You can see errors and debug your code





# Javascript: the sources panel

- The 3 parts of the Sources panel UI
  - The File Navigator pane
    - every file that the page requests is listed here
  - The Code Editor pane
    - after selecting a file in the File Navigator pane, the contents of that file are displayed here
  - The JavaScript Debugging pane
    - various tools for inspecting the page's JavaScript. If your DevTools window is wide, this pane is displayed to the right of the Code Editor pane

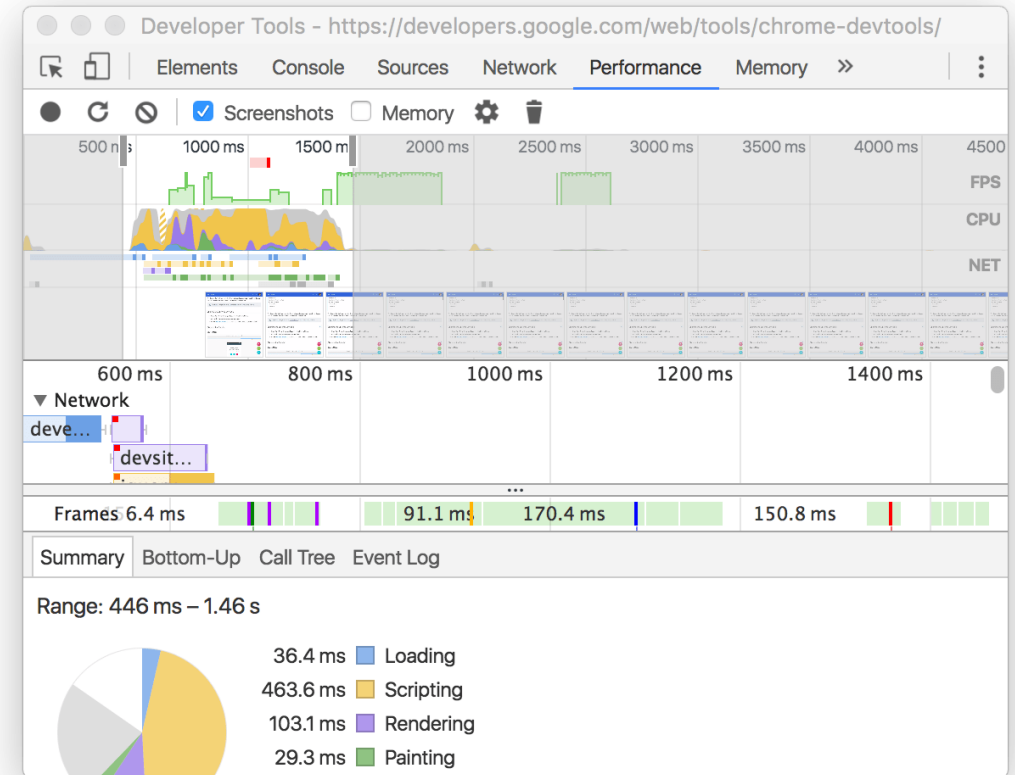




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# Performance: the audit panel

- Using the audit and performance panel you can improve the runtime performance of your page by recording and exploring the various events that happen during the lifecycle of a site

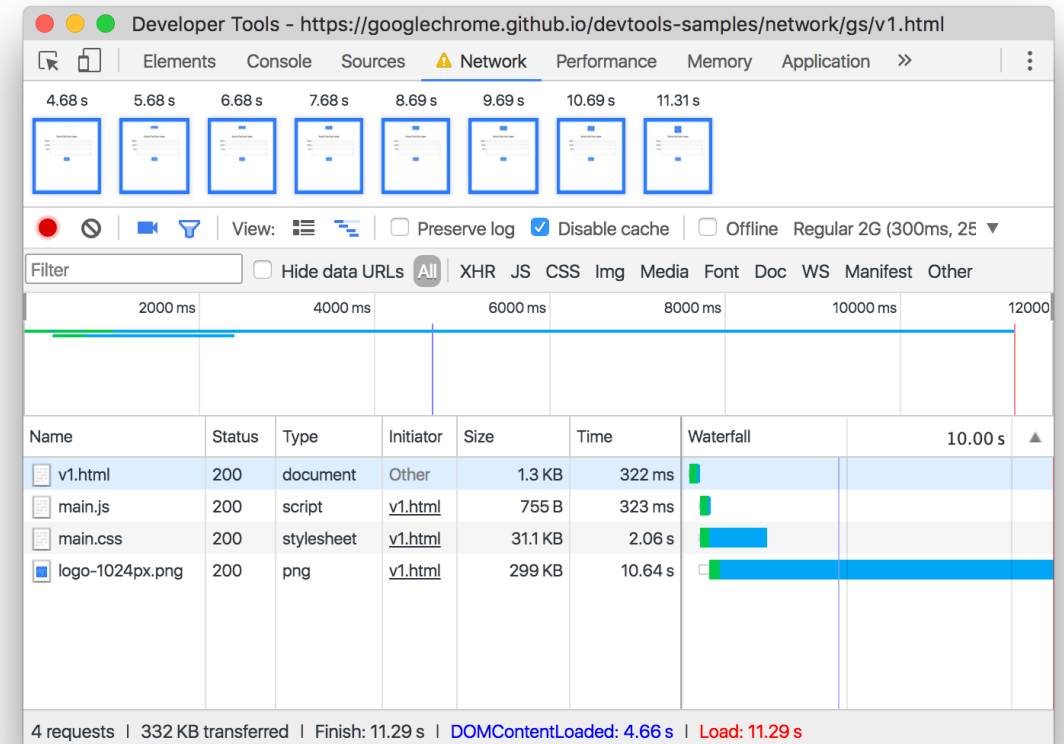




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# Performance: the network panel

- With the network panel you can optimize page load performance and debug request issues
- This is extremely useful for Ajax code

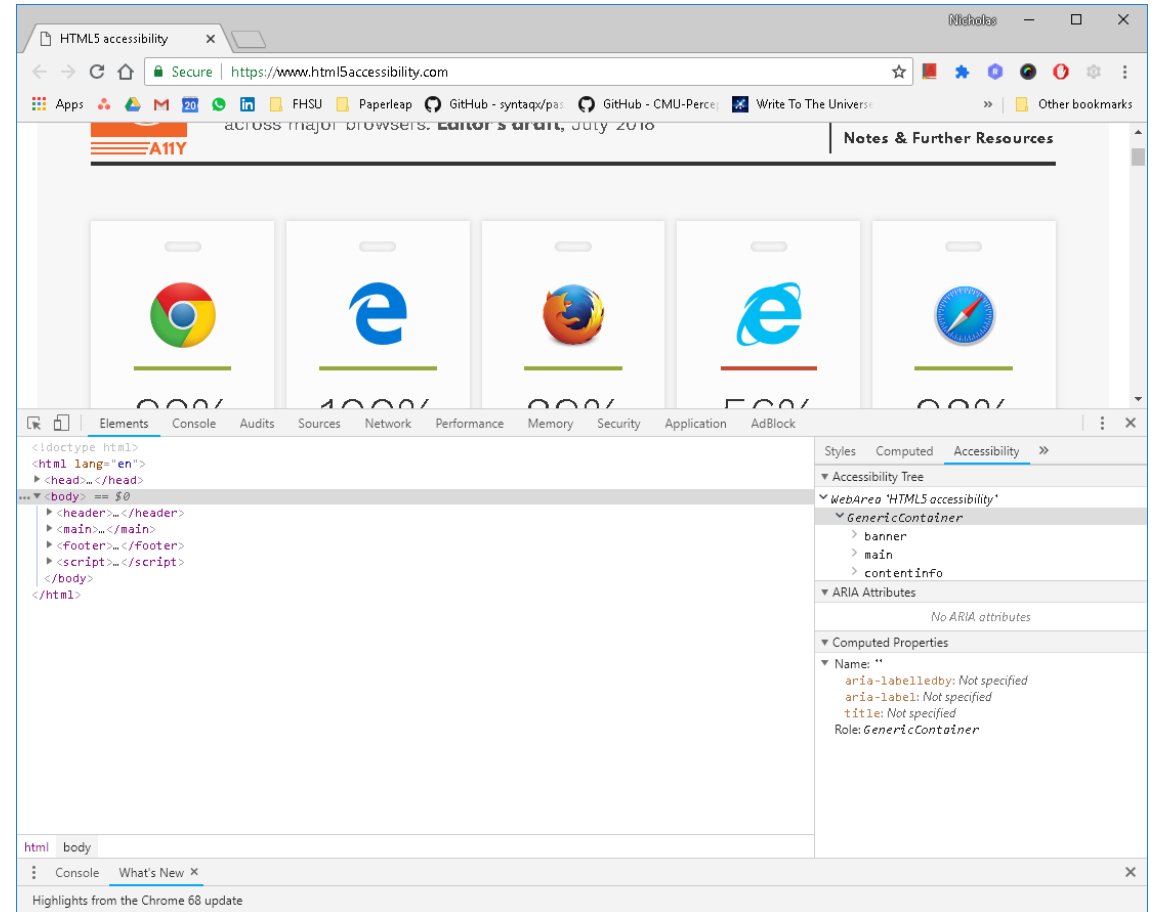




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# Accessibility

- The accessibility tab in the elements panel helps you navigate items as in a screen reader and check their accessibility readiness







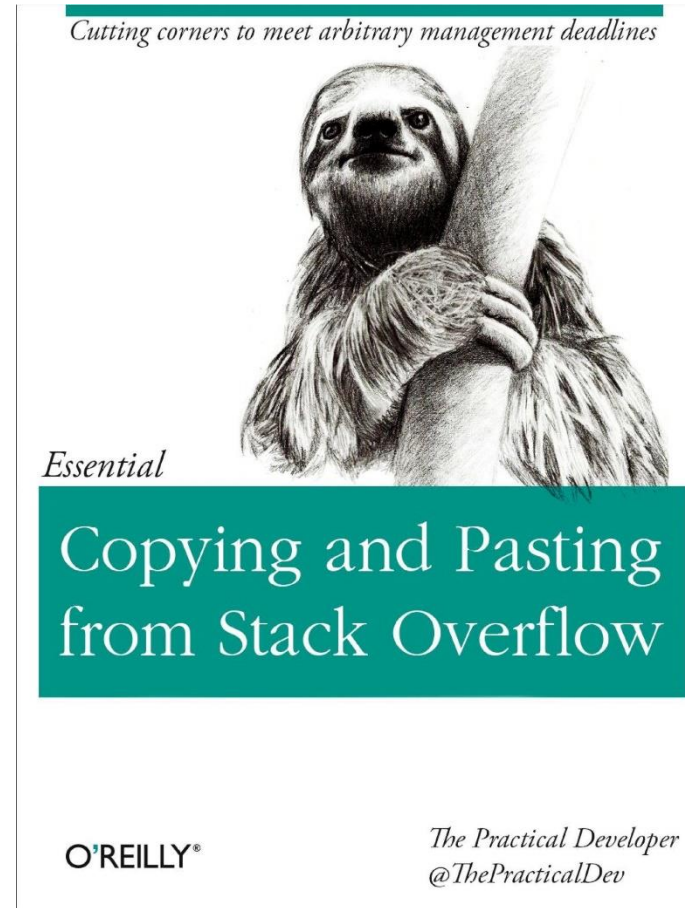
# Tools and resources



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# Stackoverflow

- Web development is vast
- It's hard to have all the answers and to know everything
- In addition to technology tutorials, rely on the wisdom of the crowd
  - <https://stackoverflow.com>

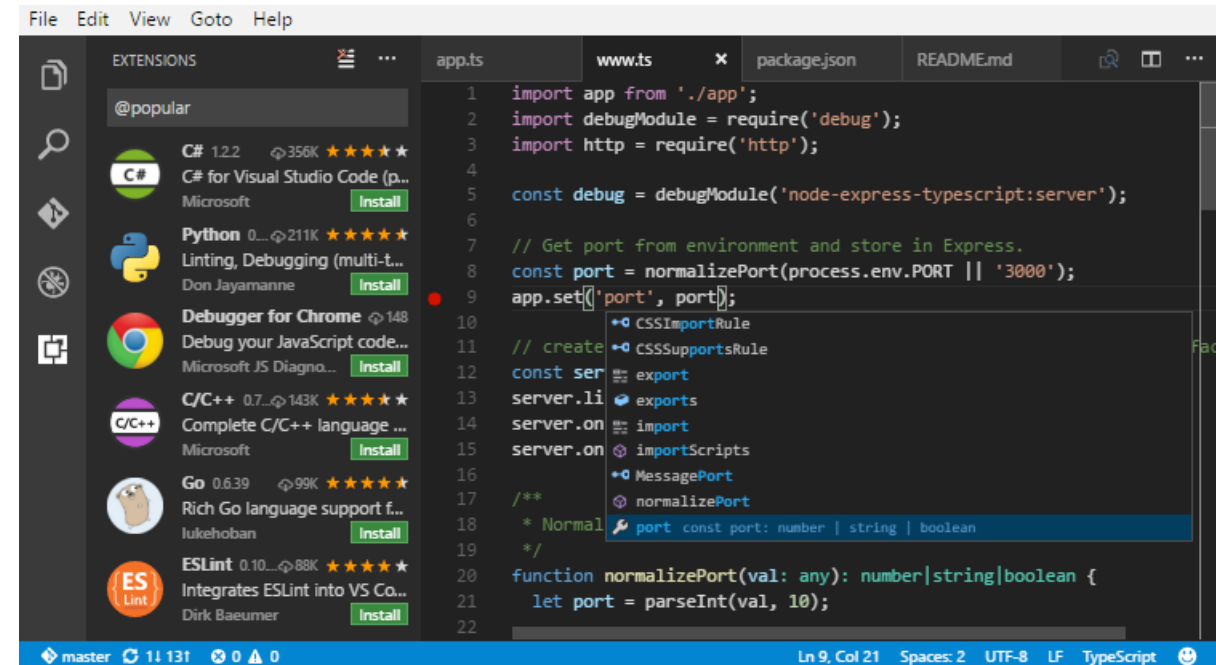




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# Visual Studio code

- There are several tools for creating web projects
  - Integrated Development Environments (Eclipse, Visual Studio)
  - Text editors (Notepad++, Sublime editor)
  - Online playgrounds
- Visual studio code is a hybrid solution
  - <https://code.visualstudio.com>

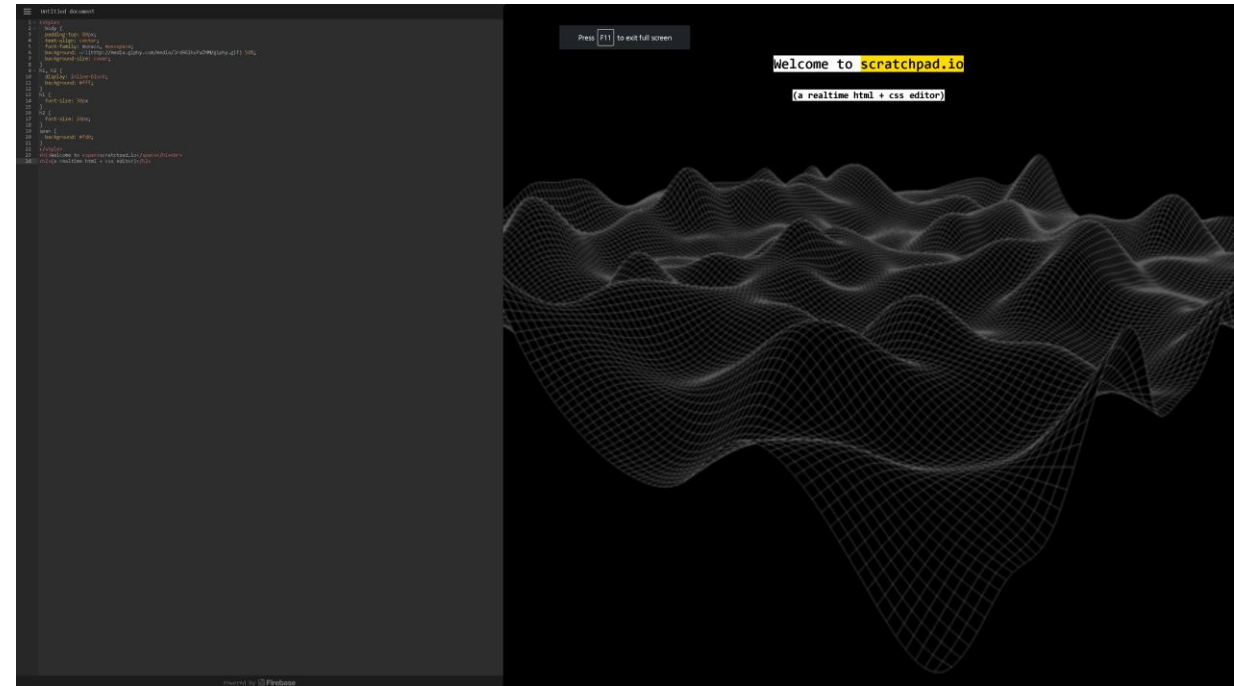




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# Scratchpad: HTML and CSS editor

- Scratchpad has is a convenient HTML and CSS editor with immediate preview
- Unfortunately, you cannot save your documents
- <http://scratchpad.io/>

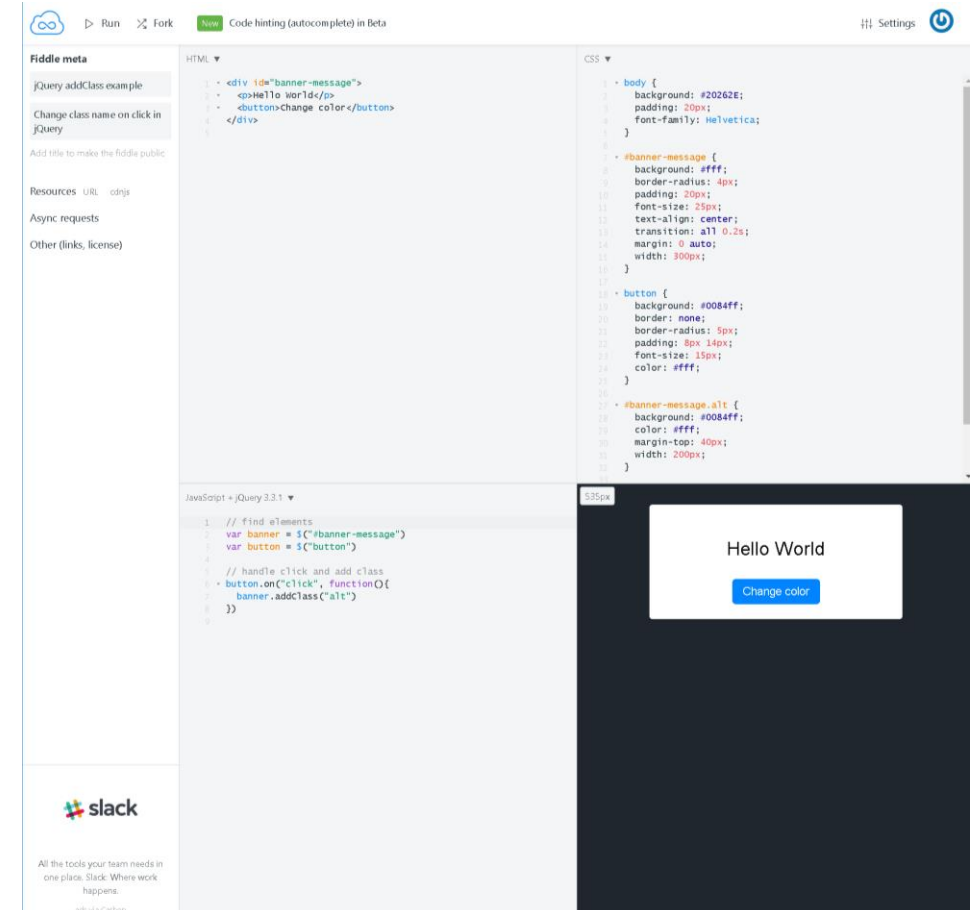




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# jsFiddle: an online editor

- jsFiddle is among the most popular online playgrounds for writing HTML, CSS and Javascript code
  - <https://jsfiddle.net>
- You can import libraries

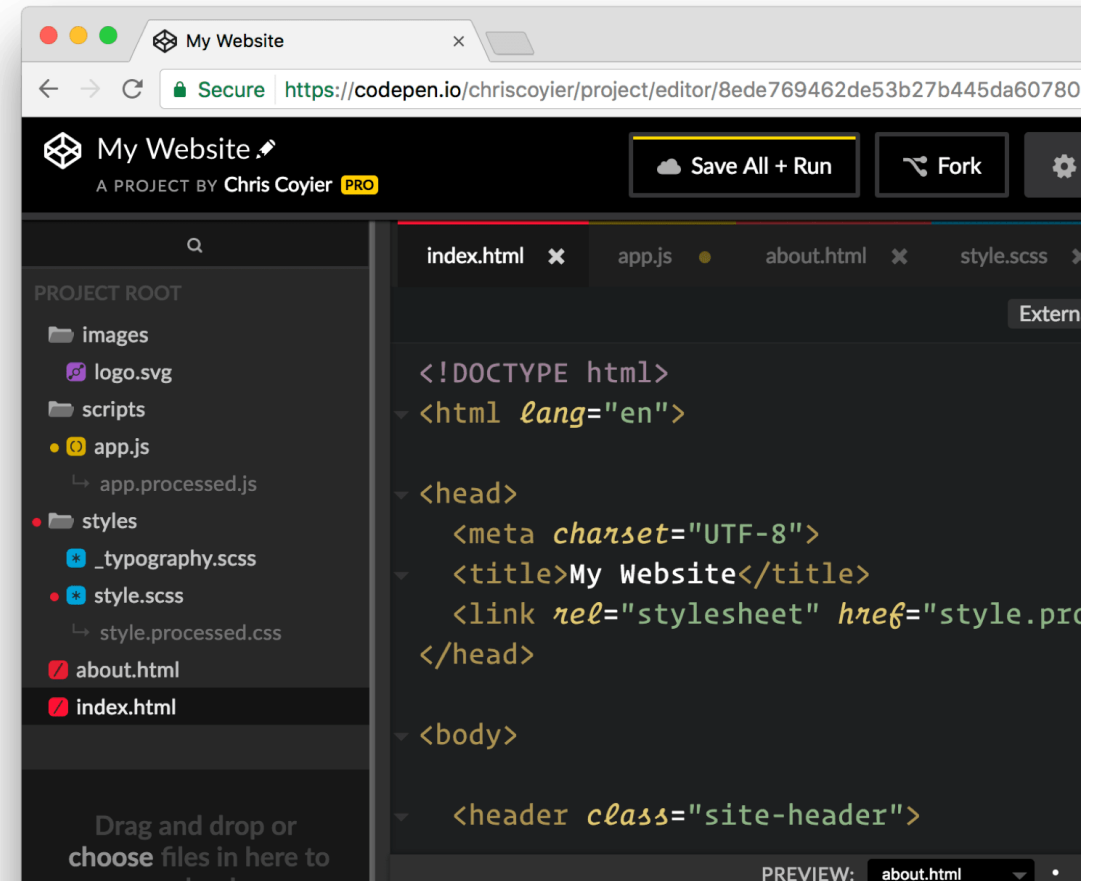




# Codepen

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- Codepen is another code playground
  - <https://codepen.io/>
- However, it has more advanced features for professional users (e.g., using multiple files)

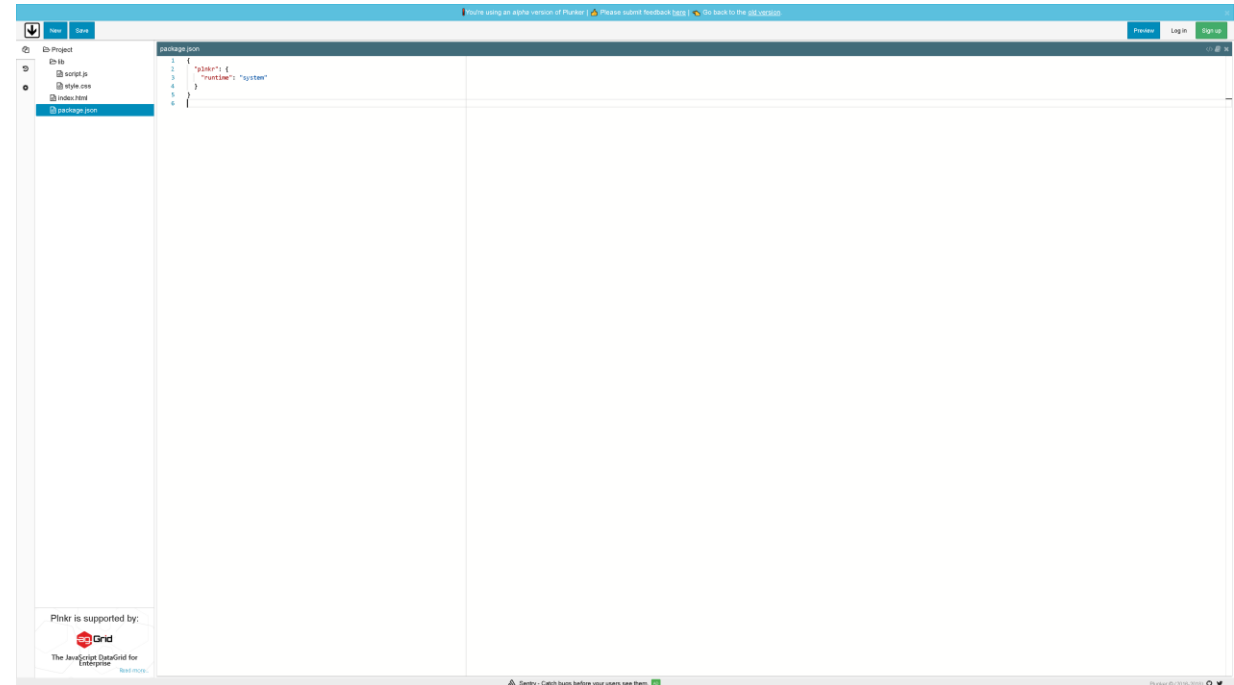




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# Plunker

- Plunker is a playground that helps you prototype faster
  - <https://next.plnkr.co>
- The main advantages are:
  - you can use multiple files, and create a full directory structure
  - you can download your project







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# Lipsum generator

- A reader will be distracted by the readable content of a page when looking at its layout
- Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500
- <https://www.lipsum.com/>

## *Where can I get some?*

There are many variations of passages of Lorem Ipsum available, but the majority have suffered alteration in some form, by injected humour, or randomised words which don't look even slightly believable. If you are going to use a passage of Lorem Ipsum, you need to be sure there isn't anything embarrassing hidden in the middle of text. All the Lorem Ipsum generators on the Internet tend to repeat predefined chunks as necessary, making this the first true generator on the Internet. It uses a dictionary of over 200 Latin words, combined with a handful of model sentence structures, to generate Lorem Ipsum which looks reasonable. The generated Lorem Ipsum is therefore always free from repetition, injected humour, or non-characteristic words etc.

☒ paragraphs  
☐ words  
☐ bytes  
☐ lists

☒ Start with 'Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet...'

Generate Lorem Ipsum



# Wrap-up



# In-class exercise

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- Go back in time!
- Select a major website (e.g., Airbnb, Booking, NPR, Pinterest, Tumblr, BBC)
- Redesign it to make it look as if it was 1997:
  - No CSS, no Javascript, no “fancy” items
- How would you proceed? The process matters more than the result