

Introduction to Bootstrap 3

Sections in this chapter:

1. What is Bootstrap?
2. Bootstrap versions
3. Download and include Bootstrap 3
4. The Bootstrap package

3-1. What is Bootstrap?

Bootstrap is a **front-end framework** used to develop responsive and adaptive web design.

3-1-1

It was released by **Twitter in August 2011** and is an **open source** project, hosted on GitHub.

3-1-2

The idea is to add **Bootstrap CSS** and **Bootstrap JavaScript** to your page and then **apply classes** to make your site responsive.

3-1-3

EC Frontend, Bootstrap, Responsive design, it offers **re-usable components** and **wide browser compatibility**.

It is easy to use, quick to learn and has great [documentation](#).

3-1-5

3-2. Bootstrap versions

The official version is **Bootstrap 3** and that is the one we will use in this course.

3-2-1

Version 4 of Bootstrap is out but in **beta**.

3-2-3

A beta version is a program/product that is still under development but is largely stable and meets the majority of the requirements. The beta version can still contain bugs but is released for external users to test.

The common version states until a product is final: Pre-alpha -> Alpha -> Beta -> Release Candidate -> Final Release

As in previous version updates, version 4 will include **changes** and **new features** as well as **removed ones**.

3-2-4

This means that not everything you're used to in the current version will be available in next one.

Bootstrap 3 will continue being used though, due to the **migrating process** to a newer version.

3-2-5

Not everyone will switch to the new version right away while the older one still is available.

3-3. Download and include Bootstrap 3

To download Bootstrap 3, go to [The official website](#).

3-3-1

There are different ways to download Bootstrap, all listed on the download page.

3-3-2

For example, we can download **actual files** or using **CDN**.

3-3-4

CDN is short for **Content Delivery Network**.

It is a server that hosts sources in form of links for you to include to your page.

Bootstrap 4 Beta

3-3-5

Bootstrap 4 is also available to download, if you want to try it out, go to [Bootstrap 4 download page](#).

Including Bootstrap

3-3-6

We need to **include Bootstrap** to our page, done in the head element of our HTML document.

```
<head>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="path/bootstrap.min.css">
  <script src="path/jquery-{version}.min.js"></script>
  <script src="path/bootstrap.min.js"></script>
</head>
```

If we include Bootstrap JavaScript file we also have to include jQuery.

Custom stylesheet

3-3-7

If you are using **custom stylesheets** in your page make sure to include them **after** Bootstrap.

```
<head>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="path/bootstrap.min.css">
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="path/custom-style.css">
</head>
```

The reason we want to include Bootstrap before our own stylesheets is to have the ability to overwrite the classes from the framework without using !important.

3-3-8

You can customize the style with your own classes and/or modify the Bootstrap ones as you need.

3-3-9

We'll cover how to do this in later chapter.

Bootstrap theme

3-3-10

Bootstrap comes with a **built-in theme** that you can include to get the Bootstrap look, but this is optional.

This is also available at the [The official website](#).

But as we said, you can easily use your own CSS on top of Bootstrap to get your own style for your page.

Q So when should we use CDN version of bootstrap vs downloading the compiled and minified files locally?

3-3-11

A Well, this is completely up to you, but there are things that can be considered.

3-3-12

When using the CDN you always take a risk of **loosing the usability** of the files/links we include.

3-3-13

If the CDN server goes down or lack of internet connection, the files won't be able to load and Bootstrap won't work.

If you are downloading the files locally and put them on your own server, it means that the files will always be available as long as your server is up and running.

3-3-14

3-4. The Bootstrap package

What the Bootstrap package is all about:

3-4-1

- Responsive grid system
- Components
- Plugins
- Helper classes

Note: This chapter is just a quick overview of the different parts. Each part will be discussed in details later on.

Responsive grid system

3-4-2

The **responsive mobile first grid system** is the core behind Bootstrap 3.

It allows you to layout your page in a **responsive 12-column system**.

The **grid system** makes it easy to create responsive web design that adapts to any device and screen size.

3-4-3

Components

3-4-4

The **components** are our main building blocks.

Bootstrap defines **classes** you apply for different purposes.

3-4-5

Breadcrumbs for example:

3-4-6

```
<ol class="breadcrumb">
  <li><a href="#">One</a></li>
  <li><a href="#">Two</a></li>
  <li class="active">Three</li>
</ol>
```

One / Two / Three

By applying the breadcrumb class we'll get the Bootstrap styled version of breadcrumbs.

Behavioral components

3-4-7

It also includes some JavaScript-powered **behavioral components**, such as tooltips and alerts.

```
<button class="btn btn-default" data-toggle="tooltip" title="TOOLTIP!">
  Hover me before click!
</button>
```


Helper classes

3-4-8

Finally, Bootstrap contains a bunch of **helper classes**. These are ready-made solutions for common needs.

```
<div class="pull-right bg-success">  
  <h4>I will float right and have green background color</h4>  
</div>
```

I will float right and have green background color

Throughout all these various things, the core idea is the same: Bootstrap **defines a bunch of CSS classes**.

3-4-9

It is a super-useful tool that many web developers refuse to work without.

Examples and inspiration

3-4-10

There is plenty of sites that uses Bootstrap, on the [Bootstrap expo site](#) a lot of examples are listed.

Bootstrap Official website itself also has a lot of [templates and examples](#) of Bootstrap's components.

3-4-11