PRPL Pattern

What is PRPL?

PRPL is a website architecture developed by Google for building websites and apps that work exceptionally well on smartphones and other devices with unreliable network connections.

https://developers.google.com/web/fundamentals/performance/prpl-pattern/

PRPL stands for:

- Push critical resources for the initial URL route using <link preload> and HTTP/2.
- Render initial route.
- Pre-cache remaining routes.
- Lazy-load and create remaining routes on demand.

Note HTTP/2 Server Push is a developing server technology and not available on most hosts just yet.

Gatsby and PRPL

Gatsby follows the PRPL architectural pattern. Gatsby sites render a static HTML version of the initial route and then load the code bundle for the page. Then immediately starts pre-caching resources for pages linked to from the initial route. When a user clicks on a link, Gatsby creates the new page on demand on the client.

This issue written at the start of Gatsby's 1.0 work provides further background on how Gatsby works to guarantee high performance.

https://github.com/gatsbyjs/gatsby/issues/431

This blog post also covers how we think about performance — Web Performance 101—also, why is Gatsby so fast?