The Future of styling in VisualKarsys

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Current State

Modules we currently use for styling

Bootstrap 3 (End of Life July 2019)

- Bootstrap 3 Modal Component (ng2-bs3-modal)

Angular 11 (End of Life May 2022)

- Angular progress bar (angular-svg-round-progressbar)
- Material Design UI components for Angular applications (@angular/material)
- Angular animation module (@angular/animations)

Why we want a library for styling

Reasons

- Consistent styling across the site, no matter the developper's mood and year of implementation
- Faster/Simpler implementation of new features
- Maintainability of existing features

Caveats

- VISKAR requires unique styling, because it does many unique things
- Many developers from all backgrounds work on VISKAR for short/medium periods of time

The 3 kinds of styling libraries

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CSS Components

These libraries offer pre-built components and styles, as well as utility classes.

+ Faster development
- "Looks like every other website"
- Hard to customize
- Need custom CSS to fill the gaps

1) Bootstrap (5)
2) Bulma

CSS Utility-first

These libraries only offer utility classes that are non-opinionated.

+ Easy to enforce consistent look
+ Easy to make a unique style
- Need to create the components ourselves once
- Steeper learning curve

1) Tailwind CSS
2) Miligram

JS integrated

These libraries are integrated with the Javascript framework and do both style and structure for us.

+ Faster development
- Hard to customize
- Hard to have consistent look and integrate with other libraries

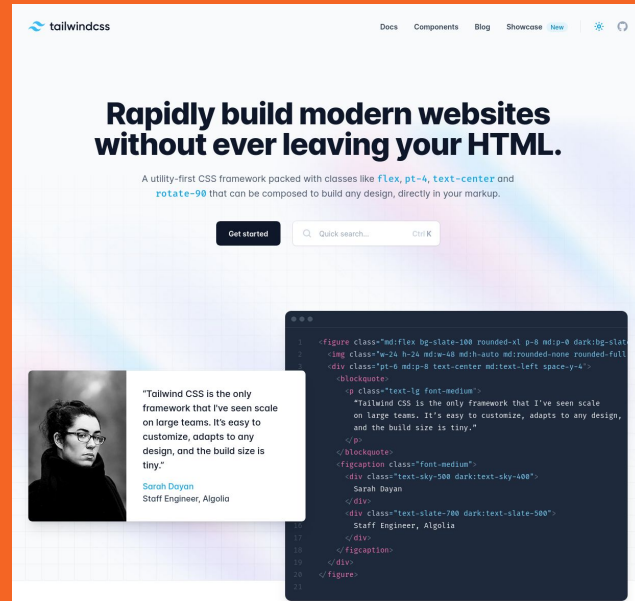1) Angular (Material, Animation, …)
2) Fondation

CSS Utility-first

Utility-first is the only kind of library that allows both unique styling and consistent styling, while making developing and maintaining easier

Tailwind CSS

Is the most mature and most used
Utility-first CSS Library today

It ranked first in many "2022 Top CSS Libraries"
(all kinds combined)

Tailwind CSS advantages

- Configure font sizes, margins sizes, shadows, etc in once place, then reuse easily everywhere
- Only the CSS we actually use ships
- If we need to write custom CSS, we can still use the utility classes and our config

Maybe for the future of VISKAR

- Easy to implement responsive design
- Easy to implement dark mode

It's possible to mix and match styling libraries, but for consistency, using a single one is a must

Thanks for reading

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