
PFNP: THE BASICS

 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

PROGRAMMING FOR NON-PROGRAMMERS

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Front-End Web Developer

AGENDA

Intros / Icebreaker

What is Programming?

Thinking Programmatically

The Web Development Process

How the Web Works

HTML, CSS, JavaScript Primers

Code Examples

Personal Website



JOE BLISS

Joe Bliss is a Freelance Front-End Web Developer who has worked with Bloomberg, American Express, Sports Illustrated. His expertise is in HTML, CSS, and Javascript, and has been building websites since Geocities weren't just ironic.

He has taught many courses at GA, where he is currently working as a Front-End Assessment Editor.

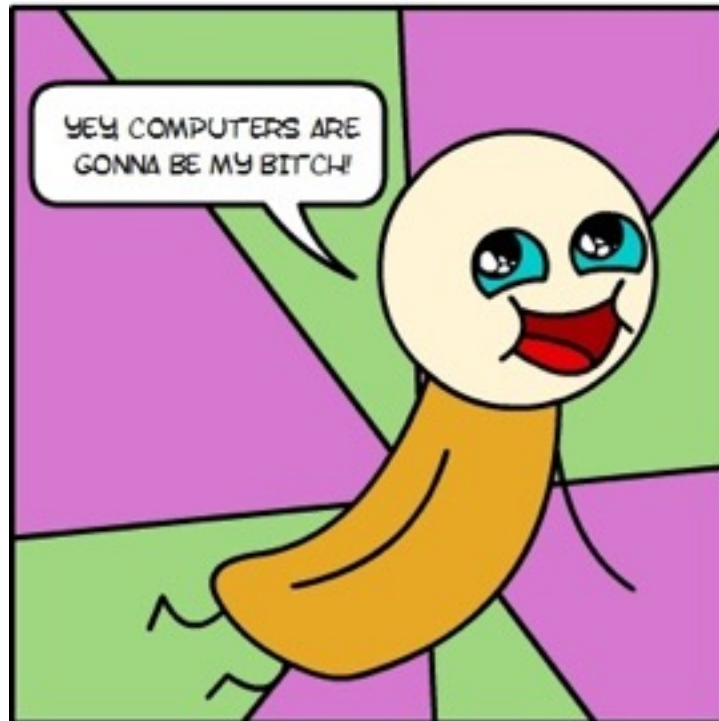
ICEBREAKER

- Your name.
- What you do.
- Your goal in taking this class.
- Your “Jam” song.



When I decided to take Computer Science as a second major

PRECONCEPTIONS



REALITY



THIS STUFF IS HARD

My goal is to give you a baseline of understanding to empower you and allow you to communicate better with your team.

PARKING LOT



WHAT IS PROGRAMMING?

WHAT IS PROGRAMMING?

In your own words.

WHAT IS A PROGRAM?

You've probably already written a program before without knowing it! If you've ever written a formula or macro in Excel, you've written a program!

A program is a set of instructions that a person writes to tell a computer how to carry-out a task.

Programming is the task of writing those instructions.

WHAT IS A COMPUTER?

"An electronic device for storing and processing data [...] according to instructions given to it [...]" (Wikipedia.org)

- Laptop, Desktop
- Phone, Tablet
- Watch, Fitbit, Calculator
- Thermostat, calculator, microwave, smart toaster, etc. etc. etc.



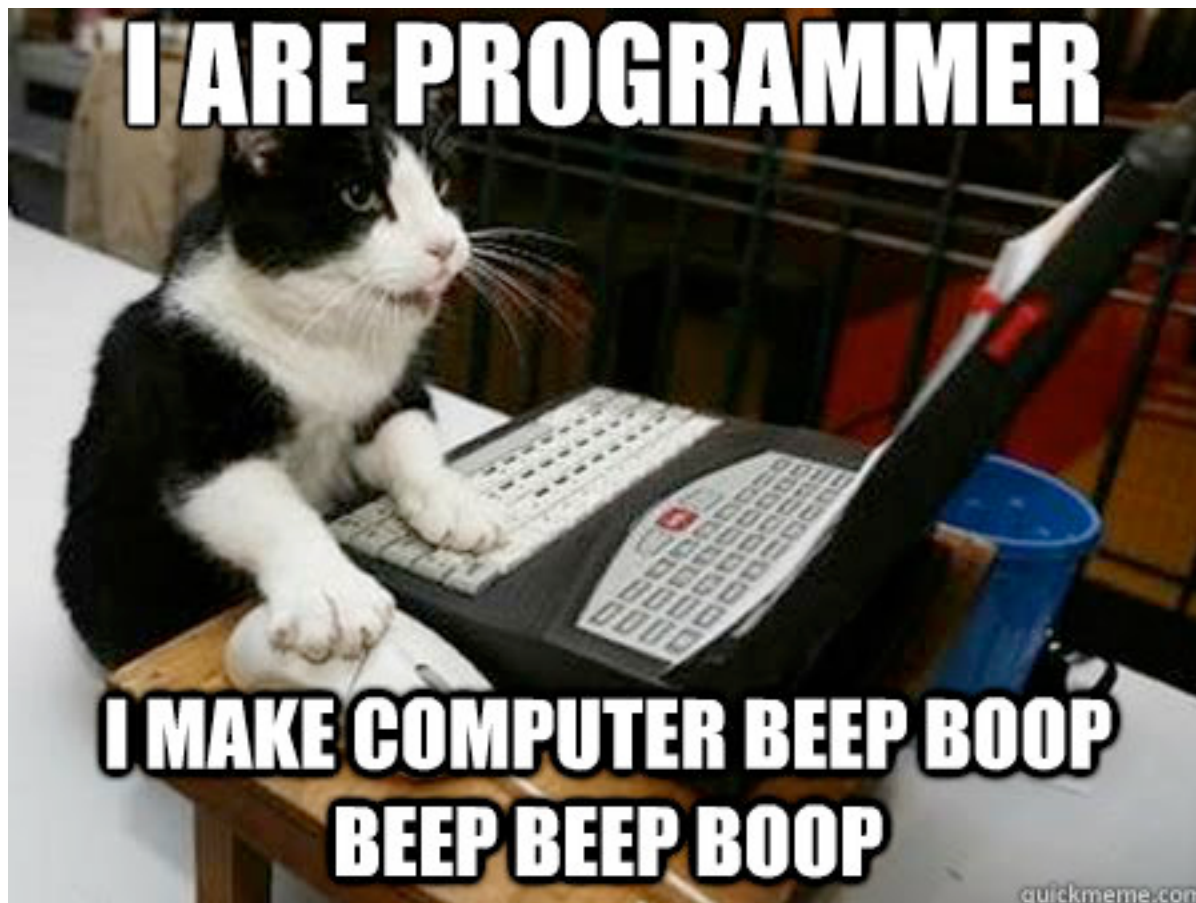
BECOMING A PROGRAMMER

So, pretty much any electronic device is a computer these days. To get these computers to do what we want, we give them sets of instructions in languages the computer understands. I.e. We program them.

To program them, though, we must first learn to think like the computer thinks.

THINKING PROGRAMMATICALLY

THINK LIKE A COMPUTER



CLOSE YOUR LAPTOPS

Seriously.

LAB TIME

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

You have to be speaking the same language.

You have to know what's pre-defined in the language.

Steps execute sequentially.

Steps must be small, granular.

The computer will do **ONLY** and **EXACTLY** what you tell it to do.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

When we are working on a computer, though, these commands aren't written-out in English. They are written in a Programming Language. Programming languages take many different forms.

NAME A FEW PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES



TO NAME A FEW ...

RUBY RUBY ON RAILS PHP JAVA JAVASCRIPT HTML CSS
C++ C# OBJECTIVE C PYTHON C JQUERY NODE
BACKBONE ANGULAR EMBER R DJANGO SINATRA
PADRINO SCALA ERLANG HASKELL ASSEMBLY PERL SQL
FORTRAN PASCAL PROCESSING SCRATCH HEROKU
MONGO-DB MYSQL SMALLTALK LISP J2EE XSLT OCTAVE

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY?

Because they all do different things!

Interactive, Rich Websites -> HTML, CSS, JavaScript

Enterprise applications -> Java

Mobile Apps -> Objective-C, Swift, Java

Web Apps -> PHP, Ruby

Data Science -> Python

SO HOW DO YOU CHOOSE?

It depends on a number of factors:

- What you are trying to make.
- What languages you already know or can easily get up-to-speed on.
- The current “Technology Stack” at your company.
- Third-party integrations.
- Security concerns.
- Open-source.

SO HOW DO YOU CHOOSE?

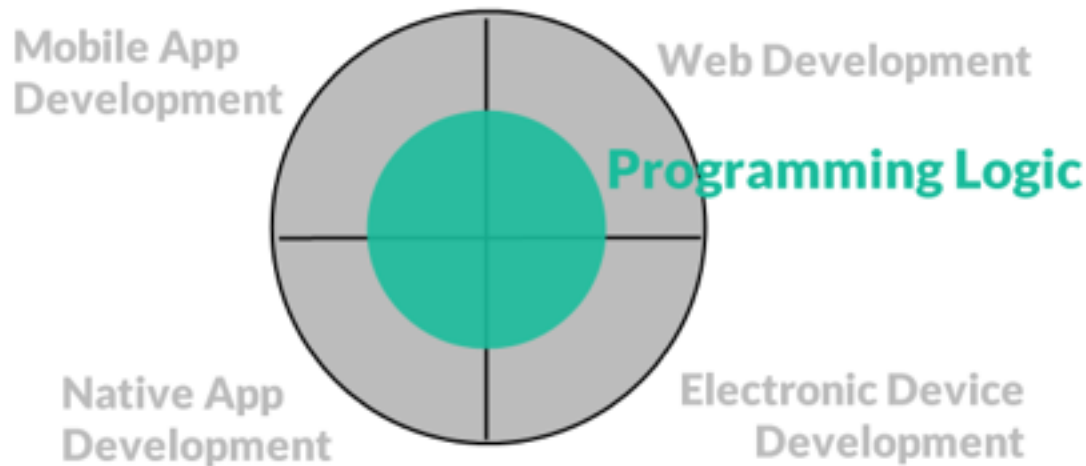
“You wouldn’t spend months brushing up on Mandarin before a trip to Germany”

A helpful (and not totally SWF) guide:

<http://www.wfplsiu.com/>

PROGRAMMING LOGIC

At the core of each of these, though, is the same Programming Logic - Data Types, Data Structures, Variables, Conditionals, Loops, Functions.



PROGRAMMING LOGIC

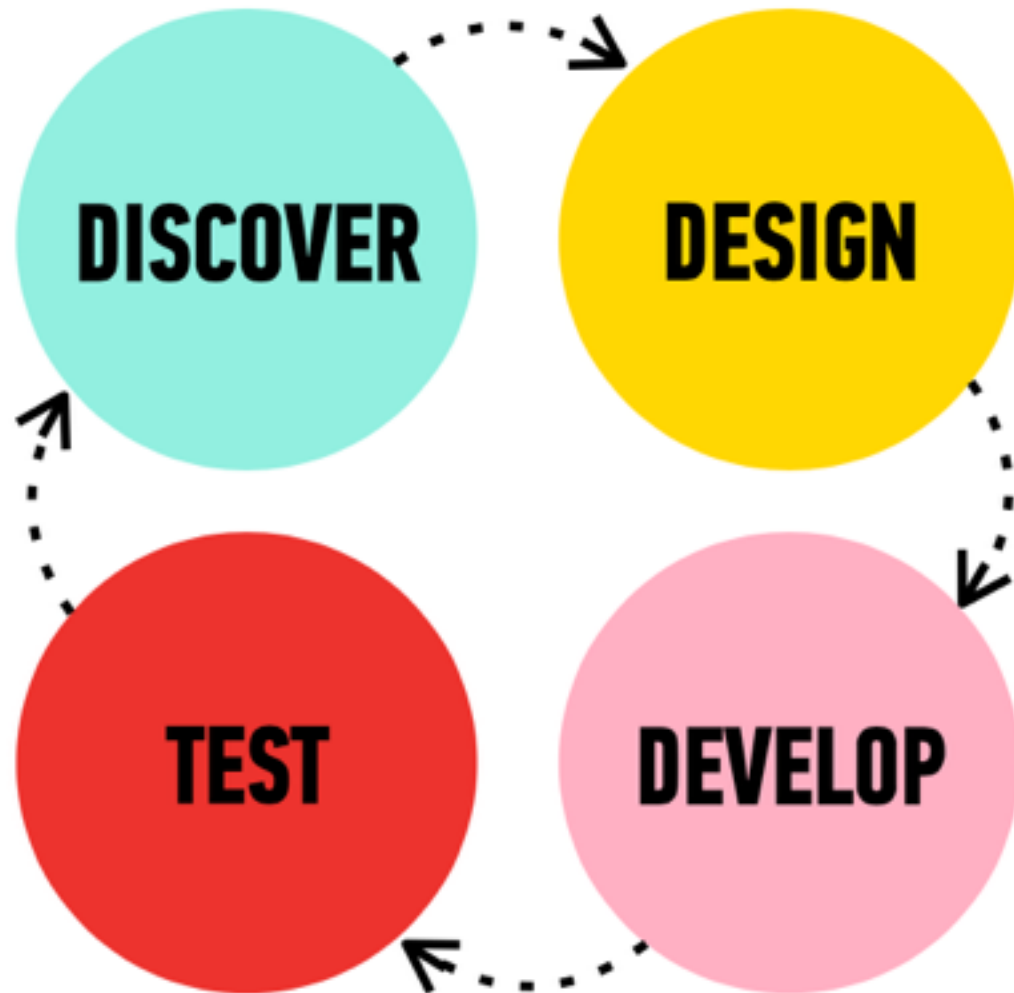
Play the following game based on FROZEN:
<http://studio.code.org/s/frozen/stage/1/puzzle/1>



LAB TIME

Code got you down? Let it go!

THE WEB DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS...



**Business
Managers**



**Product
Managers**



Designers



Marketers



Programmers



Users

COMMUNICATION EXERCISE

LAB TIME

TAKEAWAYS

Requirements are extremely important.

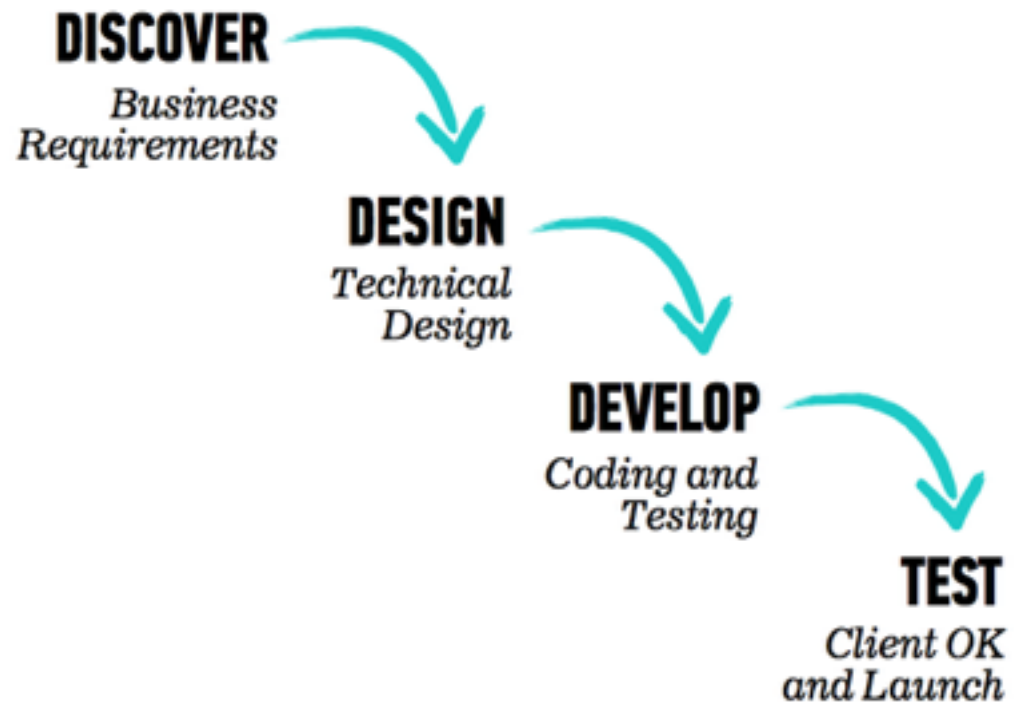
Documentation is extremely important.

Before you start Design / Development, it is important that everyone is on the same page.

THE WATERFALL APPROACH



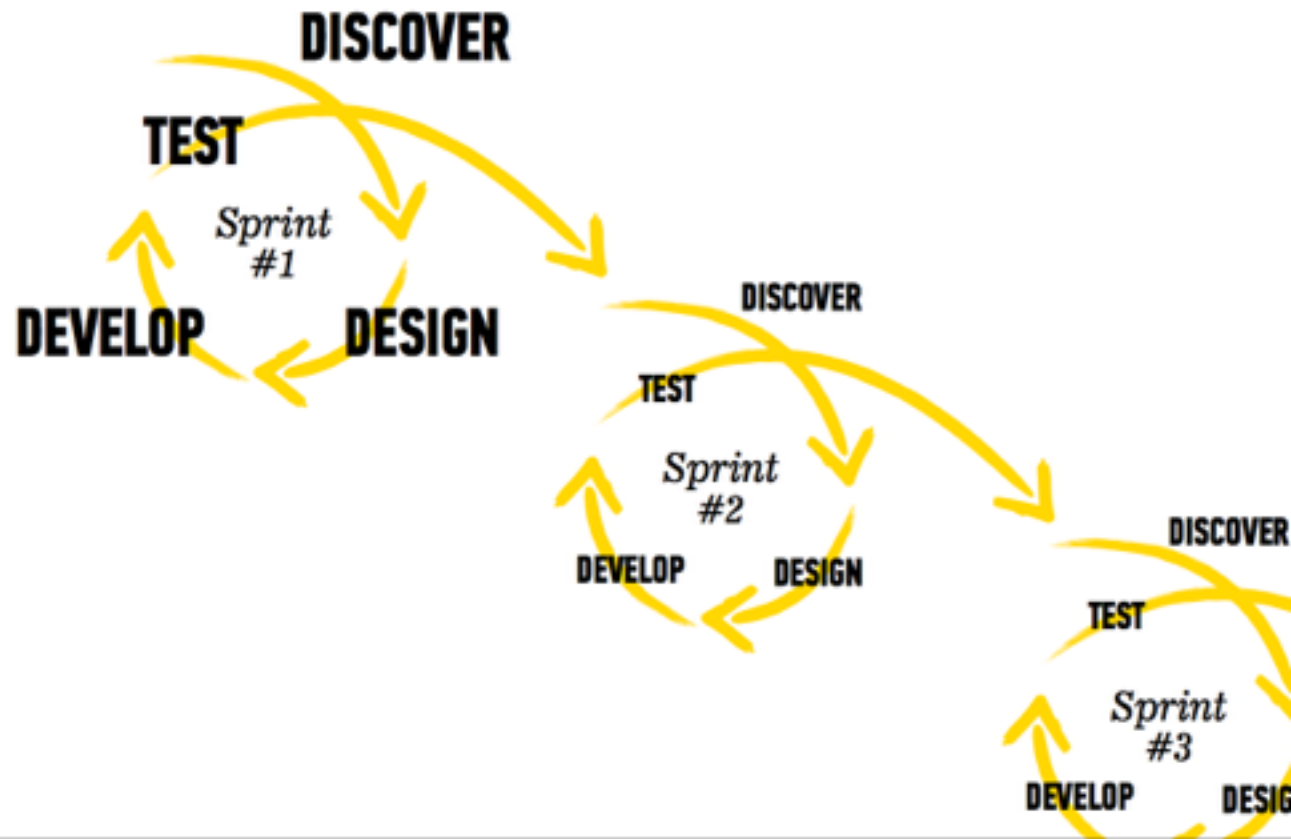
WATERFALL
Sequential



THE AGILE APPROACH



AGILE
Iterative



A COMPARISON



- › One chance to get the product right
- › Less opportunity for feedback
- › Less communication between different groups
- › Following a plan
- › Creates needless complexity

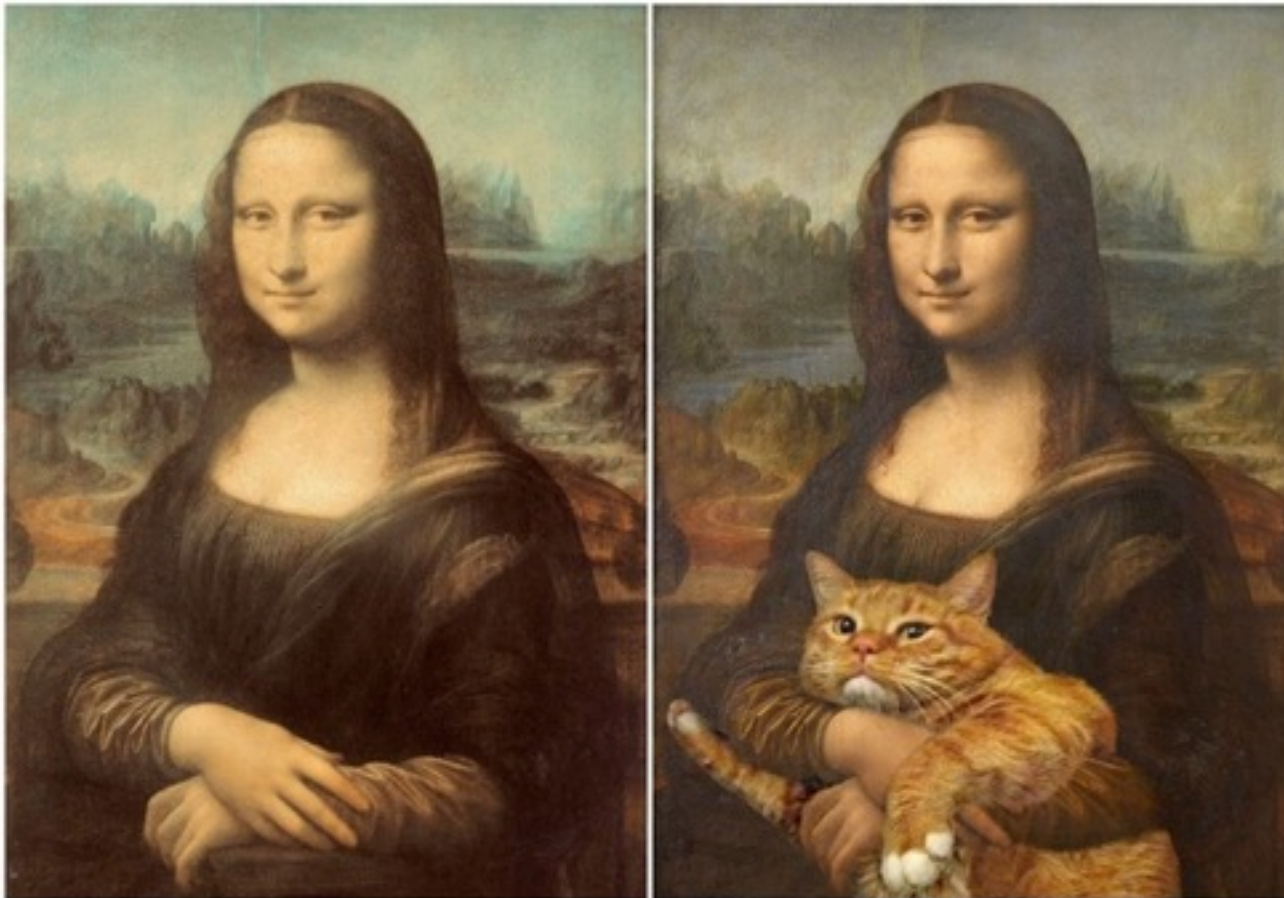


- › Many chances to get the product right
- › More opportunity for feedback
- › More communication between different groups
- › Responding to change
- › Complexity presents itself early

HOW THE WEB WORKS

HOW THE INTERNET WORKS

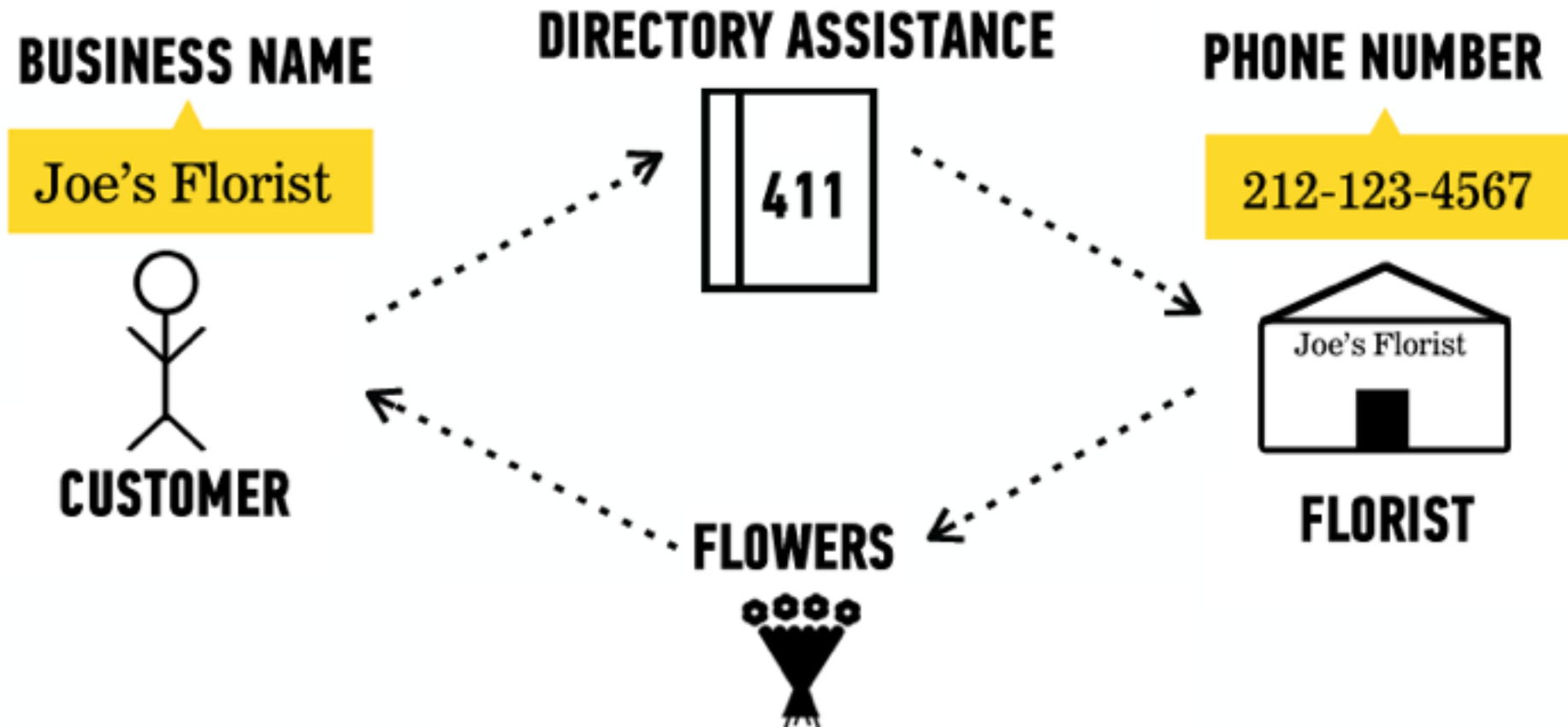
EATLIVER.COM



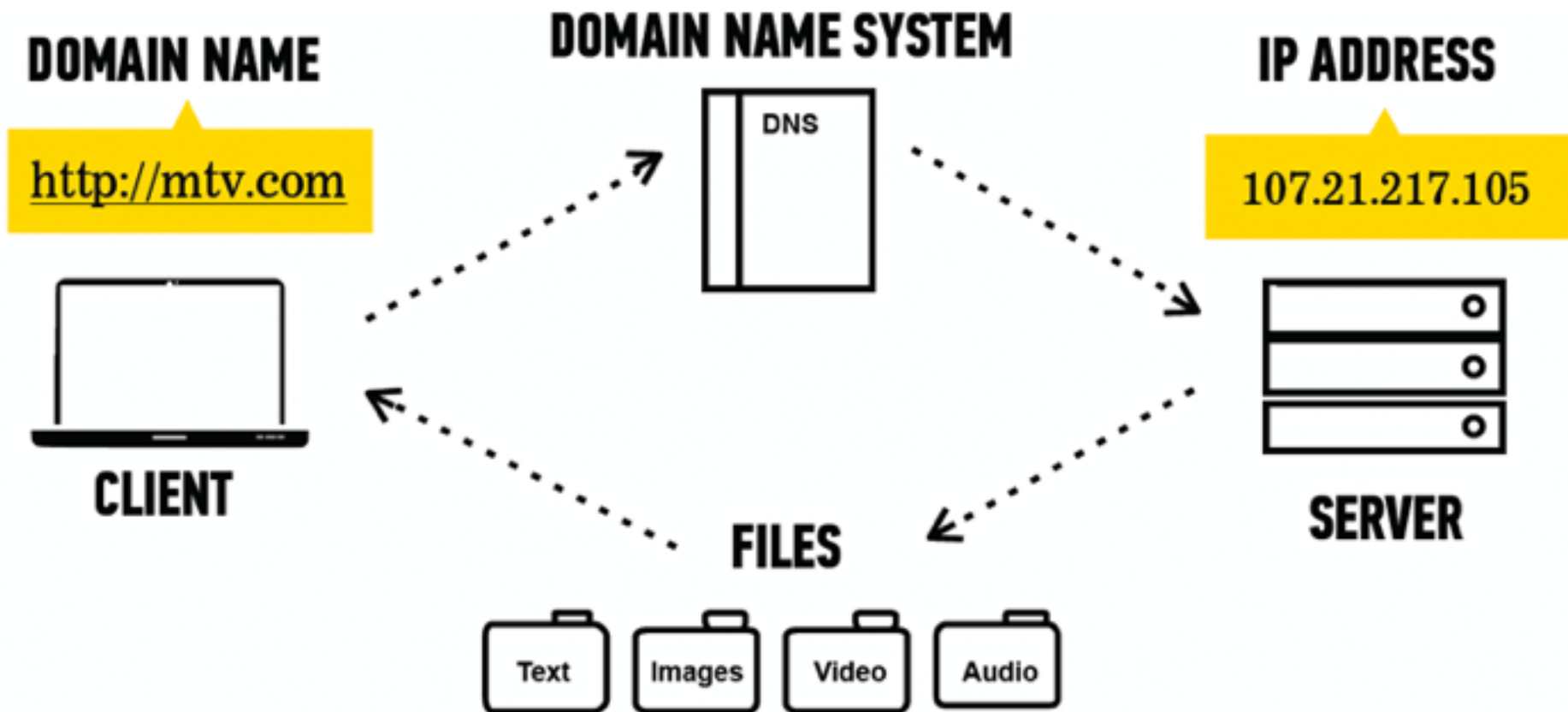
Like 0 Tweet 2 +1 0

Like 446k Tweet 5,763 +1 184

HOW THE WEB WORKS: AN ANALOGY



HOW THE WEB WORKS



WHAT GETS SENT BACK?

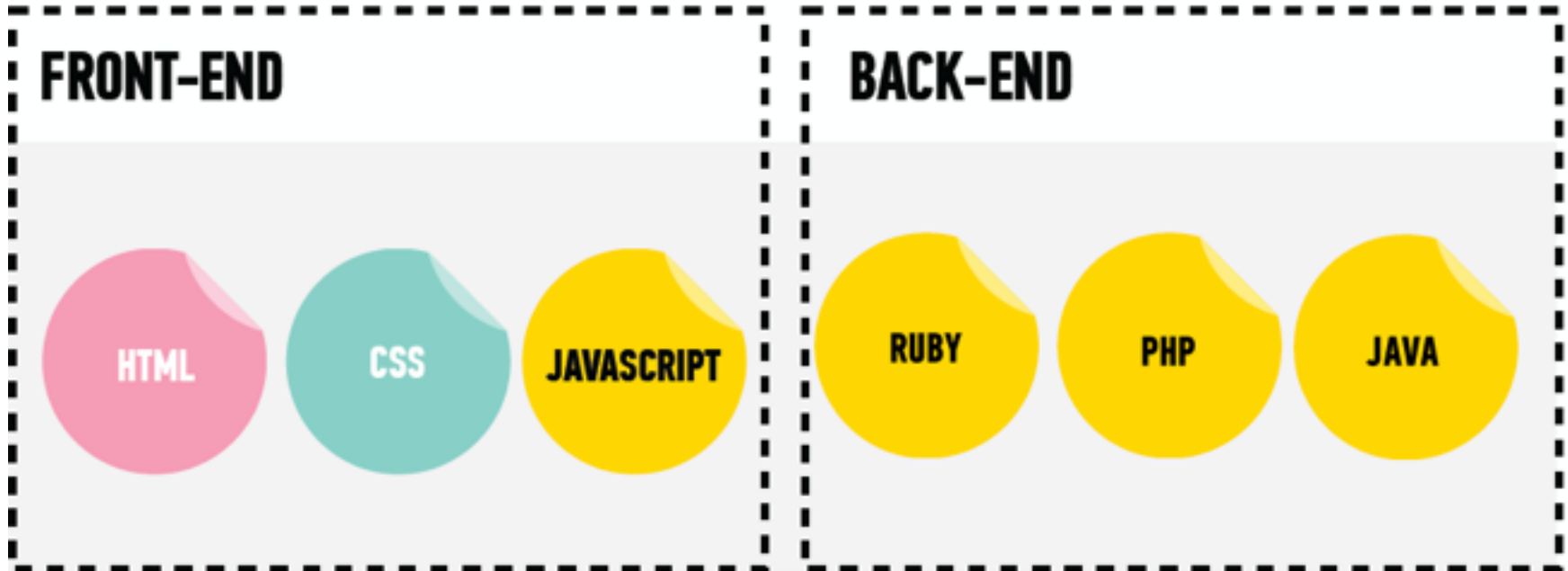


HTML = CONTENT / STRUCTURE

CSS = STYLE / DESIGN

JAVASCRIPT = BEHAVIOR / INTERACTION

FRONT-END VERSUS BACK-END



HTML PRIMER

I'M GONNA POP SOME TAGS ...



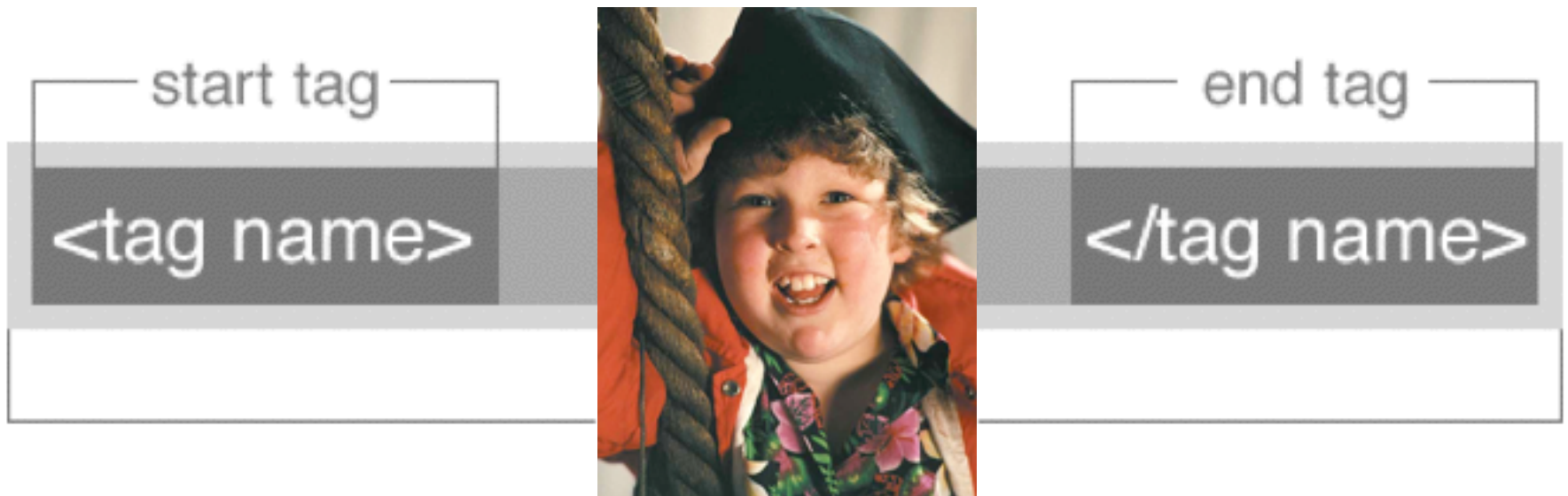
I'M GONNA POP SOME TAGS ...

We use code called “tags” to group content into different chunks.

`<p>Hello!</p>`

There generally is an opening tag “`<sometag>`” and a closing tag “`</sometag>`” wrapping the chunk of content.

GROUP “CHUNK”S OF CONTENT



HEADING ELEMENTS

Heading Elements

`<h1>Largest Heading</h1>`

`<h2> ... </h2>`

`<h3> ... </h3>`

`<h4> ...</h4>`

`<h5> ... </h5>`

`<h6>Smallest Heading</h6>`

HEADING ELEMENTS

Heading tags `<h1>` through `<h6>` are meant to be used for text that you want to appear as a title or headline on your webpage. Think of the way that headlines look in a newspaper or an online news website.

PARA-NORMAL ACTIVITY

`<p>`This is a paragraph.`</p>`

One of our bread-and-butter tags. The `<p>` tag gives us paragraphs of wrapping content.

Think of it as a paragraph of content in a book, article or word processing program.

LISTS – UNORDERED LIST

First Item

Second Item

Third Item

**OMG! **

Images are placed using the `` tag.

The `` doesn't wrap content, so it doesn't close!

The `img` tag requires a `src` attribute, which tells the browser where to find the image to be placed.

```

```

** CONTINUED**

They can be linked relative to a local file or to an absolute address on the internet:

`` - Relative

`` - Absolute

CSS PRIMER

CSS SYNTAX

```
p { color: black; }
```

This CSS statement turns the text of every paragraph - `<p>` - on our page black.

CSS SYNTAX

The diagram illustrates the components of a CSS rule. The text `p { color: black; }` is shown. Above the `p` is a red bracket labeled *selector*. Above the `color` is a red bracket labeled *property*. Above the `black` is a red bracket labeled *value*. A large red bracket below the `color: black;` is labeled *declaration*.

We refer to what we are changing as a “selector”, what we are changing about it as the “property”, and what we are changing that property to as the “value”.
property: value; pairs are referred to as a “declaration”.

CSS SYNTAX

The diagram illustrates the components of a CSS rule using the example `p { color: black; }`. Red curly braces are used to group parts of the code, with red italicized labels above or below them. A brace under `p` is labeled *selector*. A brace under `color` is labeled *property*. A brace under `black` is labeled *value*. A brace under `color: black;` is labeled *declaration*. A large brace under the entire `p { color: black; }` is labeled *rule*.

```
p { color: black; }
```

The entire block of CSS is referred-to as a “CSS rule”. Your CSS files will have many CSS rules.

CSS SYNTAX

rule {
 p {
 color: black; } *declaration*
 font-weight: bold; } *declaration*
 }

One selector can have multiple declarations (that is, property: value; pairs). This is still referred-to as a rule. It's common for each declaration to be on its own line.

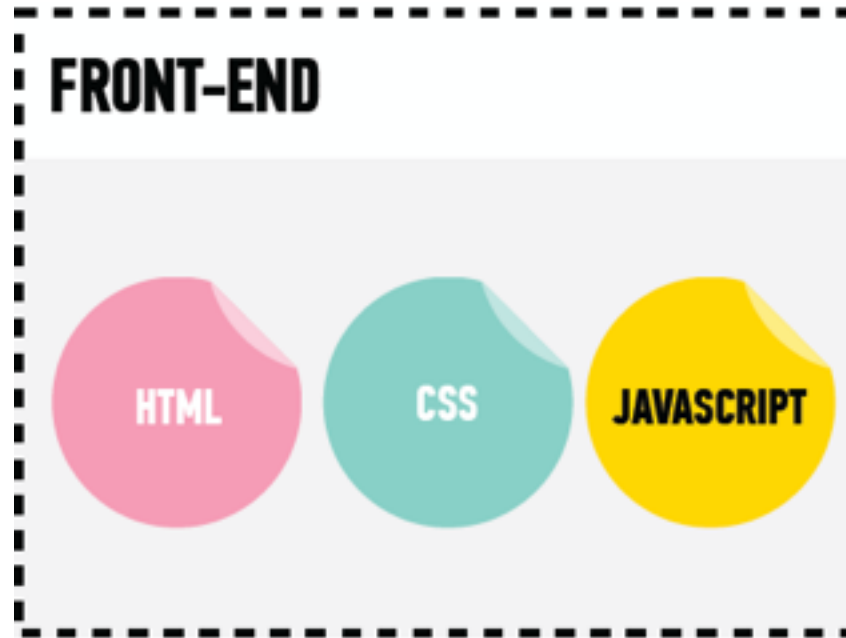
JAVASCRIPT PRIMER

HTML AND CSS AREN'T PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES!

SURPRISE!



WHERE DOES JAVASCRIPT FIT IN?



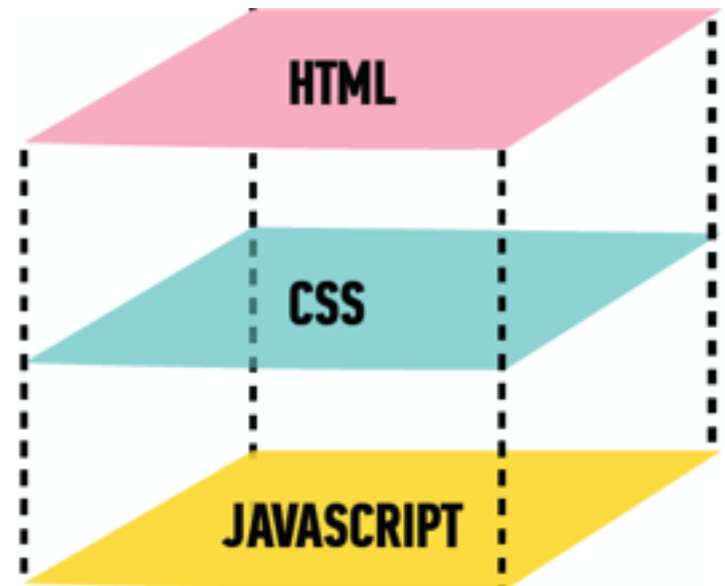
HOW IT DIFFERS FROM HTML AND CSS

HTML and CSS are used to define the initial state of our website.

JS is used to define how this state changes.

HTML and CSS are static.

JS is dynamic.



WHAT CAN WE DO WITH JAVASCRIPT?

Adding / Removing Elements

Changing CSS “on-the-fly”

Animating content

Detecting user interactions

Form validation

Loading dynamic content

Etc.

SYNTAX

Syntax: Spelling and grammar rules of a programming language.

Like with any language, there are formal rules around how to write it. This is the syntax.



(SOME) JAVASCRIPT SYNTAX

JavaScript statements end in semicolons: “;”

JavaScript is case-sensitive. Variables, function names, etc. must be consistent. `joeBliss()`; is not the same as `joebliss()`;

Javascript uses various keywords (i.e. `function`, `if`, `else`, `for`, `while`) or symbols (i.e. `()`, `{ }`, `[]`) to demarcate control flow.

CODEALONG – OUR FIRST JAVASCRIPT

Open up <http://codepen.io/pen/>

Type into the JS panel:

```
document.write("Hello, World!");
```

TYPES OF DATA – NUMBERS

Integers

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Floats (numbers with decimal points)

3.14159, 2.718281828459045

Can be Signed or Unsigned (- or +)

6, -8.2

We can perform arithmetic on number data types

TYPES OF DATA – STRINGS

Strings

- A sequence of characters enclosed in quotes, i.e. “I am a String”, “Hello!”, “Joe Bliss”
- Stores textual information
- Can be “double” or ‘single’ quoted

SCAVENGER HUNT: TRAFFIC LIGHT

SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS TRAFFIC LIGHT

And fix it!

<http://codepen.io/ga-joe/pen/ONeJwL>

CODE CHALLENGE: PERSONAL WEBSITE

CREATE A WEBSITE FOR YOURSELF WITH:

Your name

Your title

A photo

A blurb about yourself

A list of your interests

CODEALONG : COLOR SCHEME SWITCHER

LET'S MAKE YOUR COLOR SCHEME DYNAMIC WITH JAVASCRIPT!



AMA

Ask Me Anything

THANK YOU!

Joe Bliss

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