

Stop using Bootstrap PLZ!

{codemotion}

November 25th 2016



Who am I?



Davide Di Pumpo

- Creative Technologist
- Digital Architect at **Objectway**
- Co-organizer **Milano Frontend**
- **MakhBeth** on: [Twitter](#), [Github](#), [Internet](#)
- I like Cats, Drink, Comics and Videogames...

Let's start Meaow!



Prologue

Survey Time!!!

Do you use Bootstrap?

Do you use it because it's simple?

Do you use it because it's fast?

Do you like sushi?



Some of you, will hate me!



Why do I do that?

Do you remember the sushi slide from earlier?



Chapter 01

Old Wide Web



Or not so old?

It was only 5 years ago

There were nightmares out there!



Twitter blueprint and so on

Does Twitter use Twitter Bootstrap?

“

Internally, we use it in a lot of applications. On Twitter.com, you can find bits and pieces in our dropdown menus, forms, and buttons.

”

Mark Otto, creator of Bootstrap

Chapter 02

Me and the Bootstrap

Love!



But I had a lover

Sass

Maybe two...



But this one ended all:

FLEXBOX

Why not only be friends?



And I started to question myself

Chapter 3

Javascript

“Bootstrap's plugins don't fall back particularly gracefully when JavaScript is disabled”

Bootstrap Documentation

Beautiful enhancement? What?

Everyone uses JavaScript today!

less ~1%

More than Explorer 9 or 10 BTW...

Source StatCounter

jQuery?

Angular, React, Vue?

Where's the loan?



- Javascript Fallback
- Avoid jQuery or use inside js frameworks

Chapter 4

CSS

Heavy?

We start with 142.6KB or 20.8KB gzipped

Useless classes

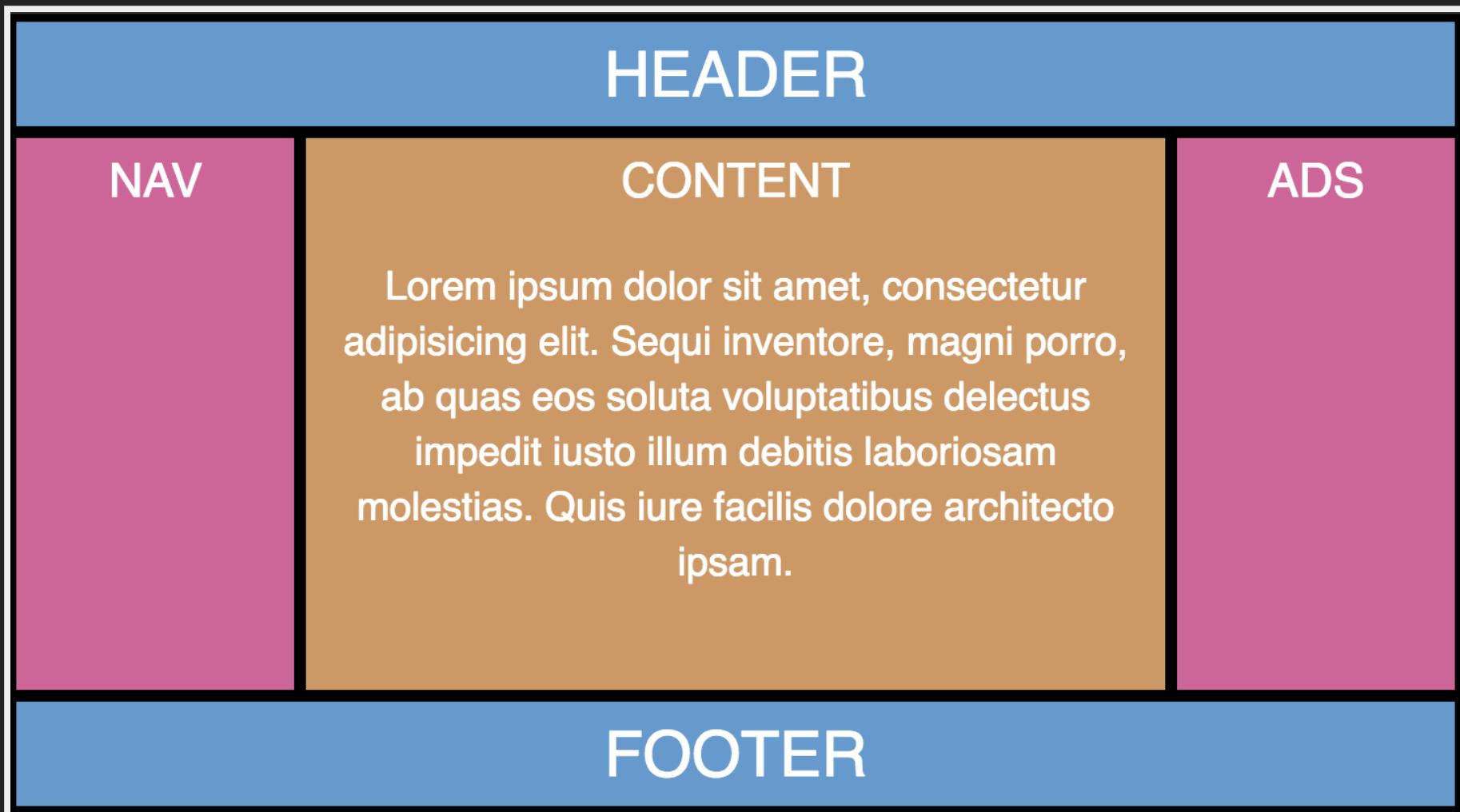
.col-xs-1?

What about Uncss?

Based on float...



What about vertical alignment? Holy Grail layout?



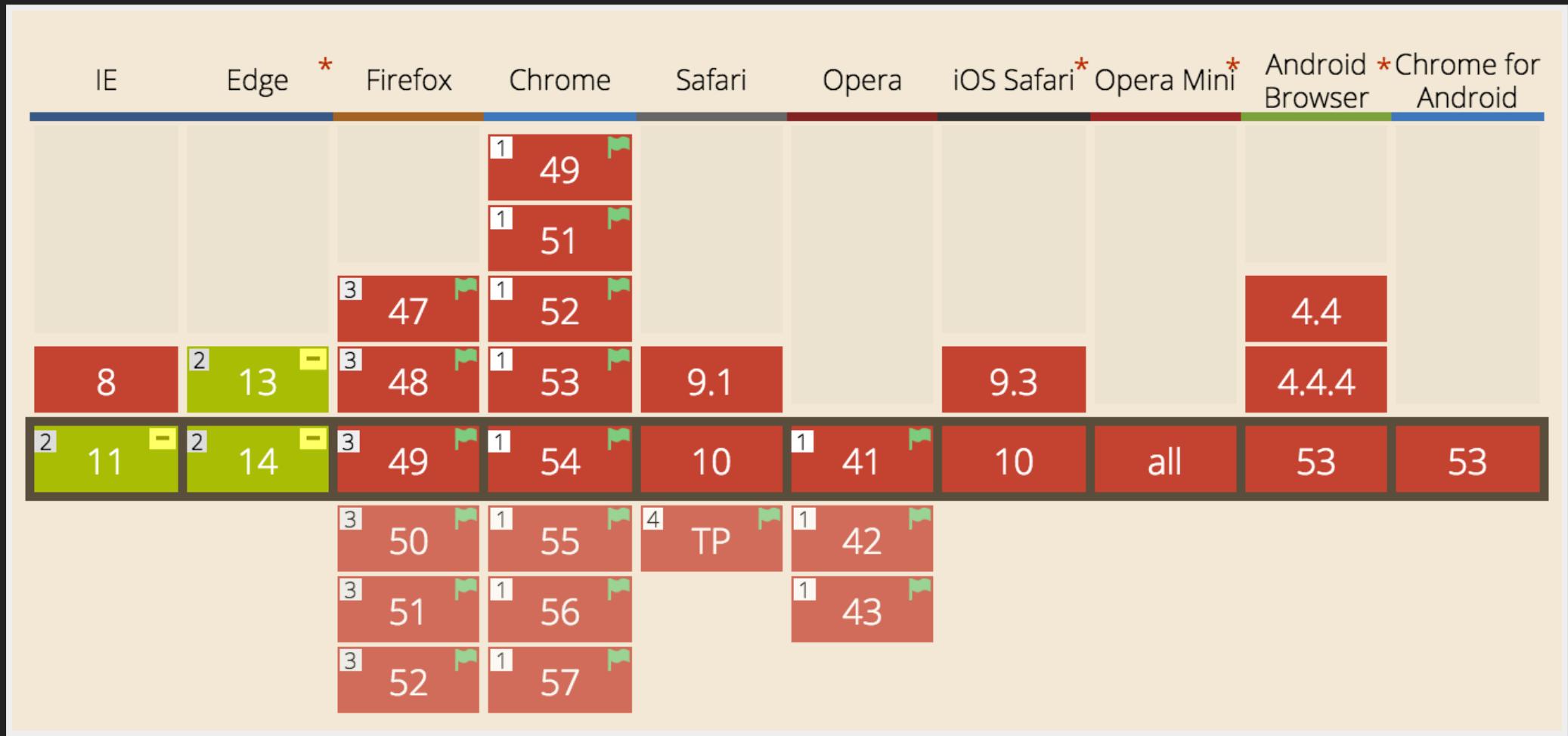
Even `display: table;` is better

Seriously...

Ok, there is an alpha with flexbox option...

But it doesn't have fallbacks...

And CSS Grid is getting close...



Media queries

*4 breakpoints, based on
DEVICE?*

Specificity

```
.panel > .table-responsive:first-child > .table:  
  border-top-right-radius: 3px;  
}
```

Where's the loan?



- Override
- Optimization
- Customization

Chapter 5

HTML

Do you have a problem with that?

```
<div class="col-sm-6 col-md-5  
col-md-offset-2 col-lg-6 col-lg-offset-0">
```

Bootstrap documentation

Separation of concerns

W3C

Do you remember: CSS Zen Garden?

Where's the loan?



- Difficulties to reuse code
- Difficulties to temify / redesign
- Debug with meaningless classes
- Specificity nightmares ! important

Chapter 6

Preprocessor

Using Bootstrap via a preprocessor is a lot better

```
.author-nameLast {  
  @extend .col-md-4;  
}  
or
```

```
.author-nameLast {  
  @include make-md-column( 4 );  
}
```

But...

@extend

“

Extending is invisible. Extending doesn't necessarily help file weight, contrary to the saying. Extending doesn't work across media queries. Extending is not flexible. Mixins have absolutely no drawback.

”

Hugo Giraudel

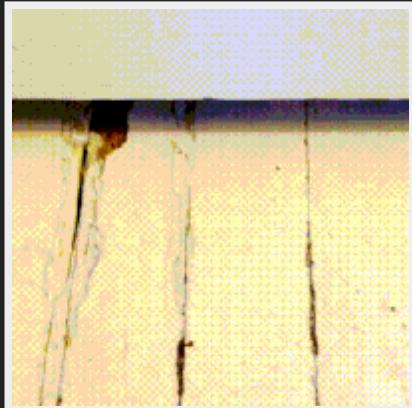
@mixins

```
.author-nameLast {  
  @include make-xs-column( 12 );  
  @include make-sm-column( 6 );  
  @include make-md-column( 4 );  
  @include make-lg-column( 3 );  
}
```

```
// Pagination
@mixin pagination-size($padding-vertical, $padding-horizontal, $font-size, $line-height) {
  > li {
    > a,
    > span {
      padding: $padding-vertical $padding-horizontal;
      font-size: $font-size;
      line-height: $line-height;
    }
    &:first-child {
      > a,
      > span {
        @include border-left-radius($border-radius);
      }
    }
  }
}
```



Where's the loan?



- Add a break point
- Too much DOM

Chapter 7

Design

HEY LOOK, IT'S EVERY BOOTSTRAP WEBSITE EVER

EVERY BOOTSTRAP WEBSITE EVER

Take a look around at the same fucking bootstrap page you've seen ten million times before! Featuring all the same things as those pages!

THIS BUTTON MAKES THE PAGE SCROLL

“

So, yeah, there's a reason why a lot of websites look like this. Because it works.

”



Burger button can HALVE conversion rate! [Source](#)

Tab row

Navigation drawer

BEFORE

AFTER

engagement time halved: weekly frequency & daily frequency down; time spent in app down.

Source: <http://tnw.to/d4eh7>

LUHEW
IDEATION + DESIGN

BEFORE

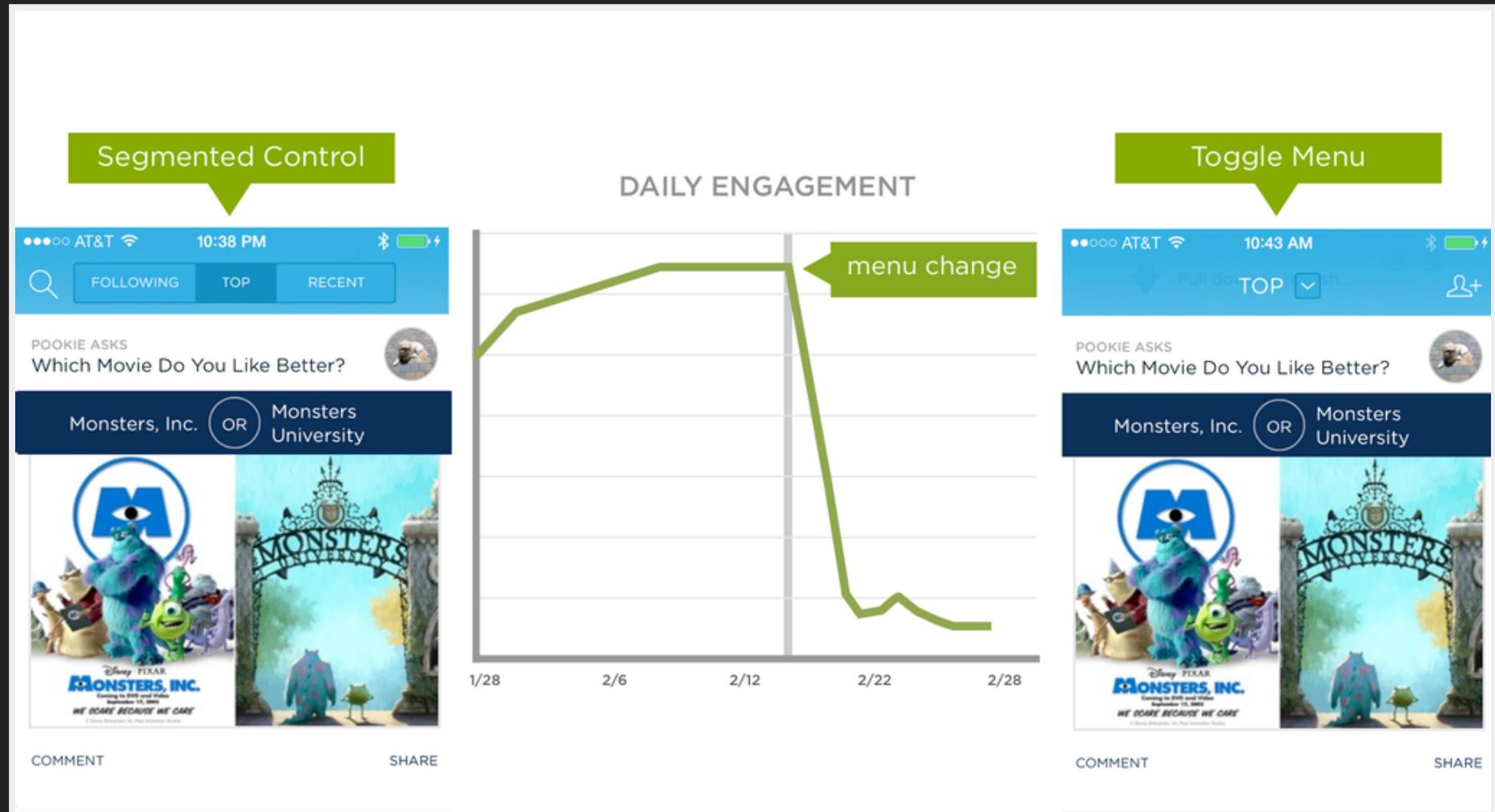
Hamburger menu

AFTER

Tab bar

number of sessions more than doubled; session time increased 70%; 65% increase in daily active users.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1yauGB4>



Hamburger menu

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the Facebook mobile app. On the left, labeled 'BEFORE', the top navigation bar includes a 'Hamburger menu' icon (three horizontal lines) and several other icons (people, message, globe). Below the bar is a news feed post about a football game. At the bottom is a standard footer with 'Like', 'Comment', and 'Share' buttons. A red arrow points from the text 'Hamburger menu' to the Hamburger icon. A green circle labeled 'BEFORE' is overlaid on the top-left area. On the right, labeled 'AFTER', the top navigation bar has been simplified, removing the Hamburger menu icon. The news feed post remains the same. At the bottom, a new tab bar has been added, featuring five items: 'News Feed' (selected), 'Requests' (with a red notification badge '1'), 'Messenger' (with a red notification badge '1'), 'Notifications' (with a red notification badge '6'), and 'More'. A red arrow points from the text 'Tab bar' to the 'Requests' button. A green circle labeled 'AFTER' is overlaid on the top-right area.

For Bears on #MNF tonight: 348 Pass
yds, career-high 4 TD, Rush TD in
dominant 45-28 win over Cowboys.

46.9K Likes 1.6K Comments

Like Comment Share

News Feed Requests Messenger Notifications More

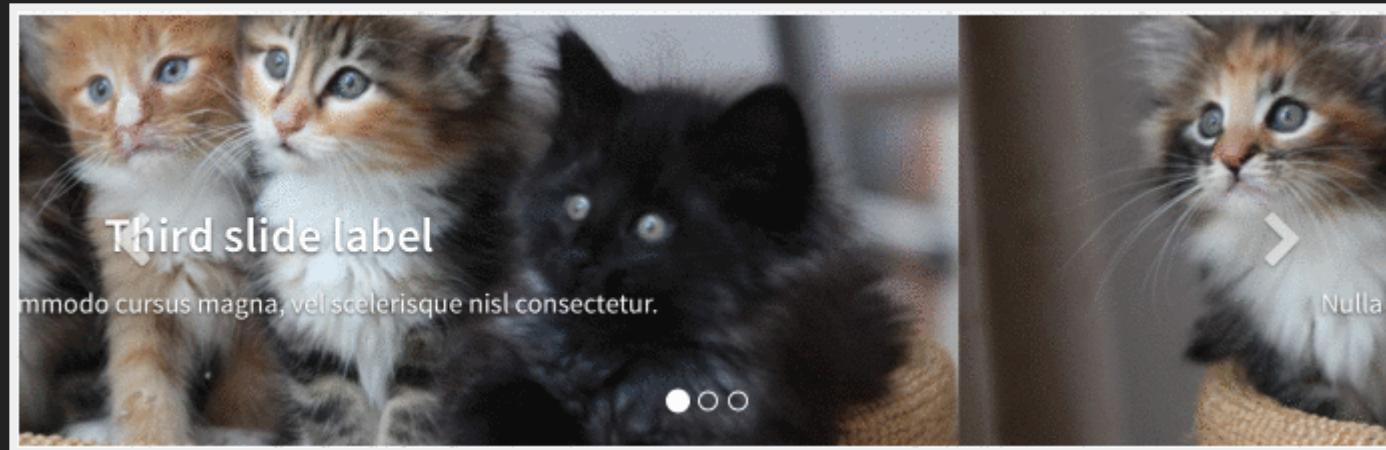
Tab bar

better on:
engagement,
satisfaction,
revenue, speed &
perception of speed
metrics.

Source: <http://j.mp/1bBj6D3>

LUHEW
IDEATION + DESIGN

What about carousels?



“

1% clicked a feature. Of those, 89% were in the first position. 1% of clicks for the most significant object on the home page?

”

Source

Yeah, but I can change every single aspect of
Bootstrap!

Ok, what about using something less bloated?



© London Media

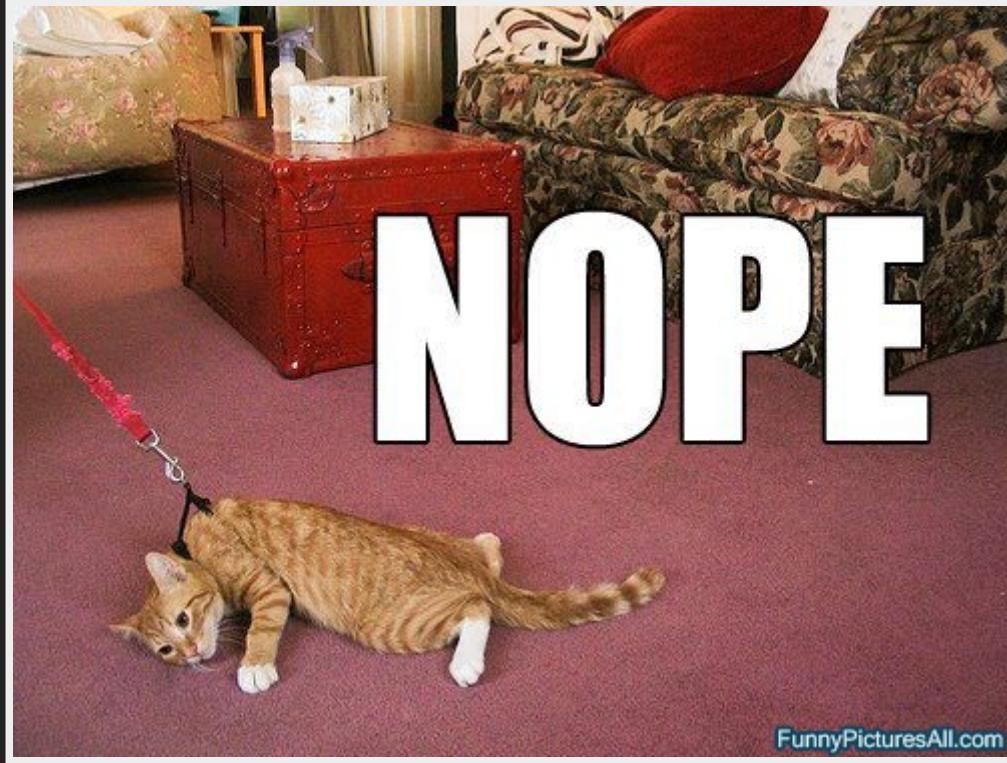
Where's the loan?



- Understand what patterns don't work for you
- Try to escape Bootstrap patterns

Chapter 8

Accessibility



Seriously, Bootstrap improved a lot in accessibility, and alpha 4 is
a lot better. But...

Please use **THIS!**

and read about colors!

Where's the loan?



- Make it accessible

Chapter 9

Remind me why I use Bootstrap

or how to avoid false myths.



It's fast
Says who?

Let's say it's fast for developers

Technical debt

"a concept in programming that reflects the extra development work that arises when code that is easy to implement in the short run is used instead of applying the best overall solution"

Wikipedia

*It's a sort of
standard*

*Yeah, like Flash, table
websites, Geocities...*

*Yeah, a lot of job proposals have
Bootstrap as requirement*

Do you really want to work to fix messy Bootstrap implementation?

*It's a good
starting point
for interns*

Oh, come on...

Is it a good idea to learn CSS without seeing that?
Maybe you want them to learn an OOCSS anti pattern?

Chapter 10

Alternatives

GO Modular!



Adopt a methodology:

BEM

TCSS

Choose a grid:

Susy

Neat

SuperGigi

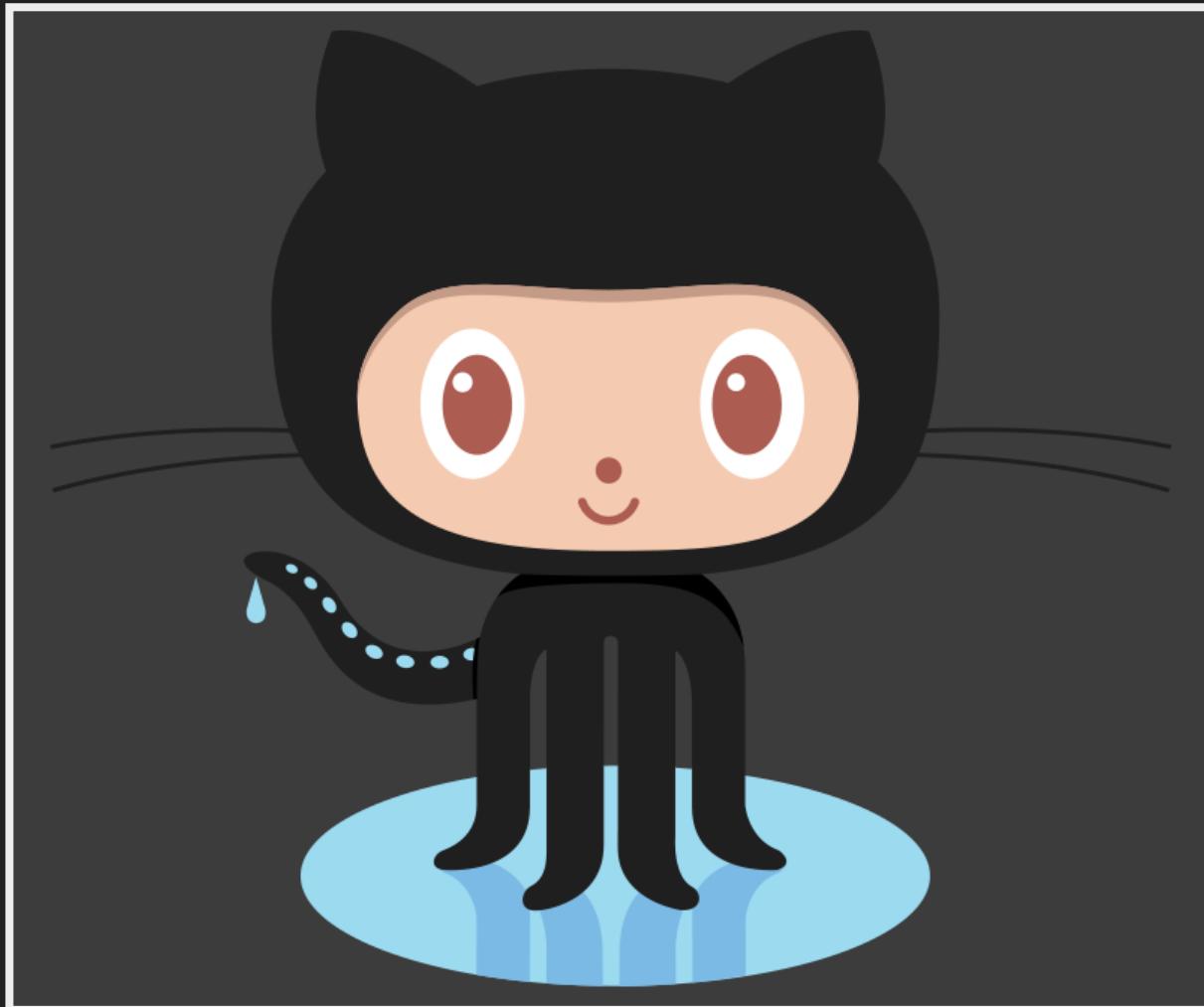
Do you need components?

Buttons

Typography

Refills

Github is a wonderful place



It's dangerous to go alone



Bonus track

Recap

- Javascript **Oh god no**
- CSS **Nope**
- HTML **Nope**
- Preprocessor **If you have**
- Design **Questionable**
- Accessibility **With plugin**

TDR

- Prototypes, internal tools/admin, uncle's website **YES!**
- Production website **NOPE!**

*A last reason to
avoid
Bootstrap?*

“

C'ha rotto er *****

”

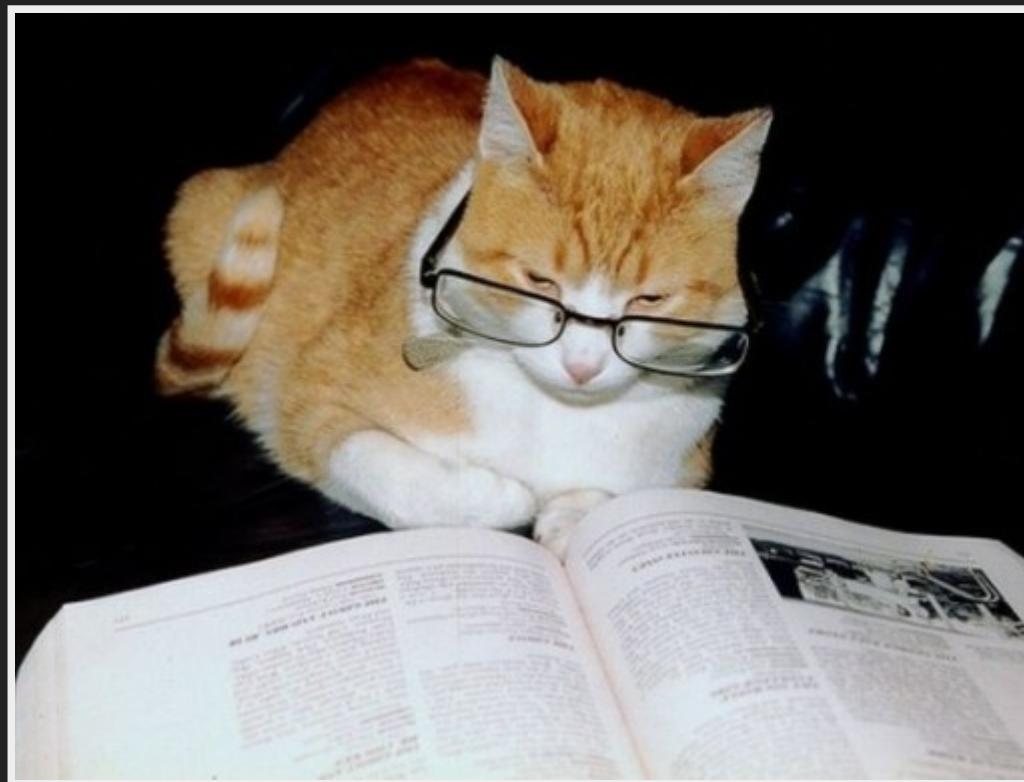
@dbertella

**THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING**

**PLEASE DON'T ASK HARD
QUESTIONS**

memegenerator.net

Insights and Bibliography



- Article: You don't need bootstrap
- Bootstrap Bankruptcy
- Stop embedding bootstrap classes
- Bootstrap an intervantion
- OOCSS is an anti-pattern
- Why we don't use Bootstrap
- Bootstrap you're doing it wrong
- Why don't you use Bootstrap?
- The hamburger menu doesn't work
- Should I use a carousel?
- Bootstrap accessibility issue