**CSS Frameworks**

“When it comes to building websites, developers and code-savvy designers are often on tight deadlines. CSS frameworks are sets of code that give you a head start when turning prototypes into working products — or testing hi-fi prototypes in real-world situations.” (Gremillion). It is a developer’s job to build good looking and enjoyable web applications. CSS frameworks exist to help streamline that process by providing a pre-made set of styles that allow in theory a developer to work faster and not have to make everything from scratch. CSS frameworks, like almost every tool in IT have pros and cons. Many developers state that “these external tools can mean an extra effort for the frontend developers instead of being truly helpful.” (Rodriguez). Another issue is that the vast majority of frameworks lack support for IE8. While IE8 usage is pretty low it is still used heavily in parts of china. CSS frameworks can also cause code bloat by including unused code and will almost always be more to download than from scratch sites. Finally, there is platform dependence. “Once designers adopt a framework, they often find themselves adhering to its standards no matter what. To an extent, their mindsets influences designers’ work.” (Gremillion). Despite these flaws there are also several major benefits to using a CSS framework. First, it provides faster layouts. CSS frameworks help get people off to a good start with pre-built, thoroughly-tested code. That means designers and developers don’t have to start writing code from scratch for every new project, saving time and effort. “With robust, responsive grid systems, arranging (and rearranging) elements is as easy as changing a few class attributes in HTML. Looking ahead, both frameworks will soon support Flexbox for next-generation layouts.” (Gremillion). Secondly, CSS frameworks make interactive objects easy. They allow designers to build widgets and add-ins like tooltips, nav drawers and modals with simple plug and play jQuery components.

# Works Cited

Gremillion, Ben. *Are Design Frameworks A Waste of Time?* 27 March 2017. Web. 27 Nov 2017.

Rodriguez, Estibaliz. *Do you really need a CSS framework*. 14 Feb 2018. web. 27 Nov 2018.