

# What is Bootstrap?

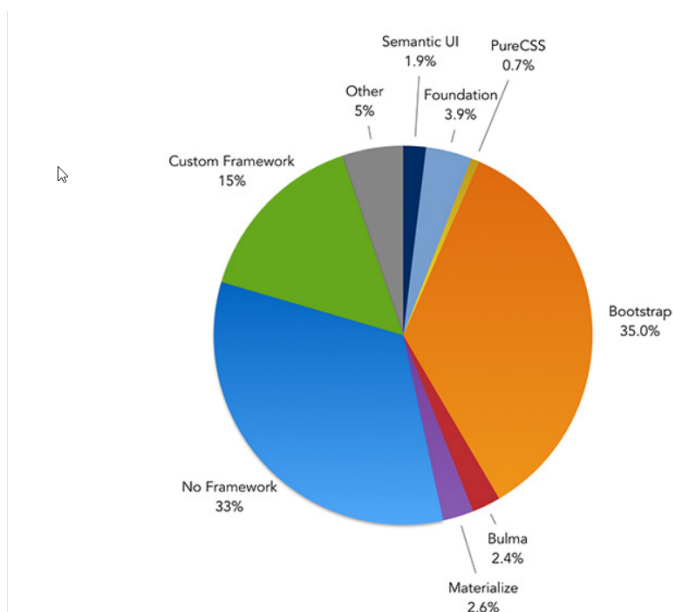
Lesson Time: 20 Minutes

The next tool we are going to look at that will make our lives better is Bootstrap. If you hated the CSS portions of this course, you will probably love Bootstrap.

Bootstrap is a CSS framework. In our CSS lessons, we mentioned there are free CSS templates you can use to give yourself a starting point. Bootstrap is a collection of some seriously nice CSS code that will make just about any site look great. Bootstrap 4 is the latest version.

One of the best things about Bootstrap is that it's geared toward making responsive sites, which can save on a lot of extra work in CSS trying to make pages look great on mobile. In fact, the only downside to Bootstrap is that it can make your site look a little generic, like every other Bootstrap site in the world.

Bootstrap is not the only CSS framework out there, but it is the most widely used. In a 2018 survey of CSS developers, 35% said they use Bootstrap, while 33% said they use no framework. Other frameworks like Materialize, Foundation, and PureCSS make up a small portion of the rest.



# What is a framework?

Lesson Time: 20 Minutes

**Just follow the plan and everything will be fine.**

We said Bootstrap is a framework. What is a framework, and how is it different from a library?

Let's revisit our definition of a library. "A library is a collection of pre-written code that helps you perform a task." A framework is a collection of libraries that provide **a standard way** of building and deploying applications.

The key words to focus on here is " a standard way of building". When you decide to use a framework, you could be saving yourself months of work, maybe even years of work in some cases, just by adopting it.

However, the price of using a framework is that you give up a certain amount of control over the project to use it. You will create your app to fit the model of the framework. A framework dictates how you will write your code.

Another programmer put it this way:

"Your code uses a library to get a job done, but a framework uses your code to get *the* job done."

So, what this boils down to is a framework gives us a plan, or a blueprint, for how to build software. Learn the framework, follow its rules, and your app will work. You give up a certain amount of design control by following the framework, and for most of us, that's a good thing.

The bottom line, frameworks save us time, make developing easier, and save us from making bad decisions. In this case, Bootstrap saves us from some ugly looking CSS.

# Adding Bootstrap

Lesson Time: 20 Minutes

Adding Bootstrap to your pages is easy.

First we go out to the bootstrap site and download the bootstrap .css files  
<https://getbootstrap.com/docs/4.3/getting-started/download/>

Then, like any other CSS stylesheets, we link them in the <head> of our HTML.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href=path_to_bootstrap.css>  
  <script src="path_to_bootstrap.js"></script>
```

Lastly, it's recommended to go ahead and add on jQuery and another library called Popper.js as well as bootstrap expects those libraries to be available for some of its functionality to work.

```
<script src="path_to_jquery.js"></script>
```

```
<script src="path_to_popper.js"></script>
```

Key Terms	
Lesson Files	
Additional Resources	
Further Learning	