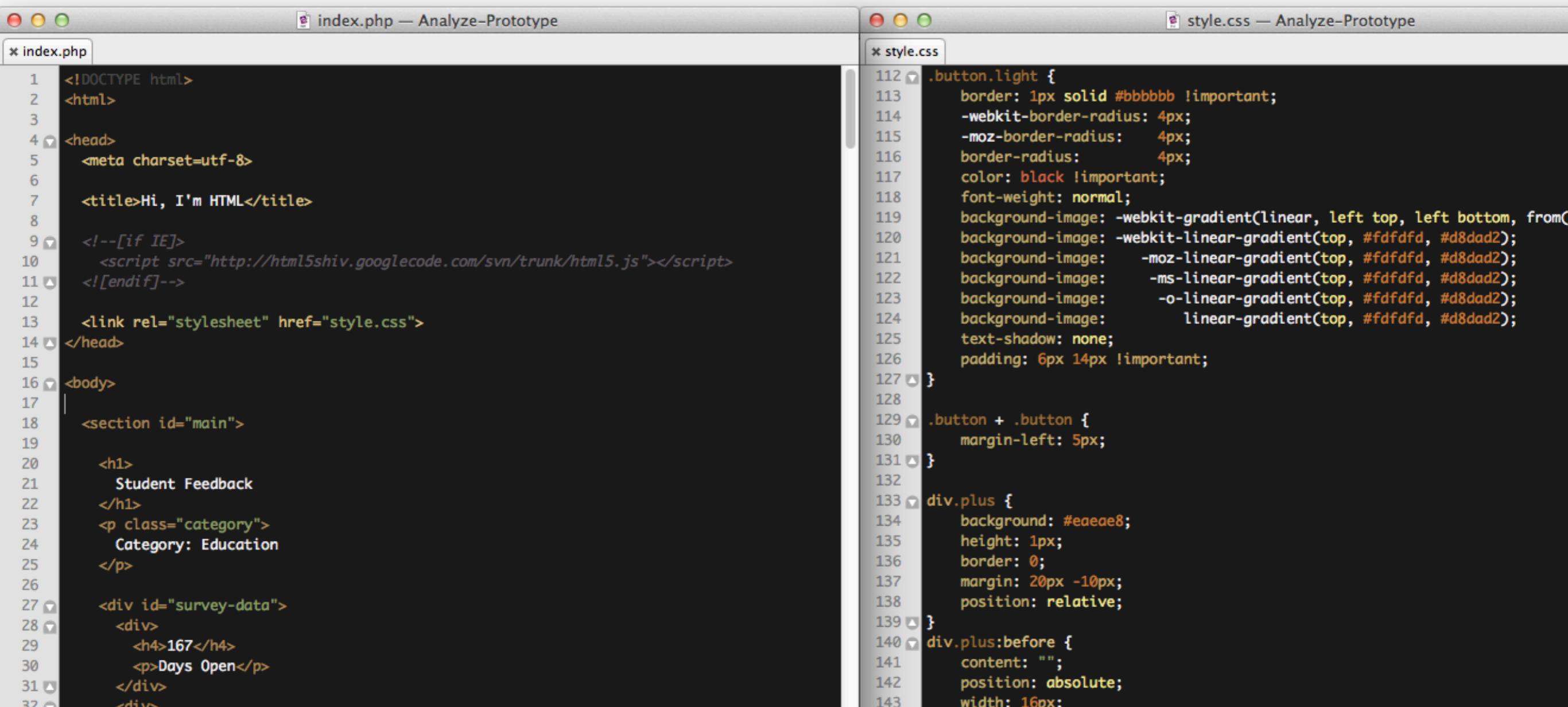


WRITE BETTER HTML BY WRITING BETTER CSS



The image shows two side-by-side code editors. The left editor, titled 'index.php — Analyze—Prototype', contains PHP code with some JavaScript and CSS included. The right editor, titled 'style.css — Analyze—Prototype', contains CSS code for styling buttons and a plus sign icon.

```
index.php
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3
4 <head>
5   <meta charset=utf-8>
6
7   <title>Hi, I'm HTML</title>
8
9   <!--[if IE]>
10    <script src="http://html5shiv.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/html5.js"></script>
11  <![endif]-->
12
13  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
14 </head>
15
16 <body>
17
18 <section id="main">
19
20   <h1>
21     Student Feedback
22   </h1>
23   <p class="category">
24     Category: Education
25   </p>
26
27 <div id="survey-data">
28   <div>
29     <h4>167</h4>
30     <p>Days Open</p>
31   </div>
32 </div>
```

```
style.css
112 .button.light {
113   border: 1px solid #bbbbbb !important;
114   -webkit-border-radius: 4px;
115   -moz-border-radius: 4px;
116   border-radius: 4px;
117   color: black !important;
118   font-weight: normal;
119   background-image: -webkit-gradient(linear, left top, left bottom, from(
120     #d8dad2), to(#fdfdfd));
121   background-image: -webkit-linear-gradient(top, #fdfdfd, #d8dad2);
122   background-image: -moz-linear-gradient(top, #fdfdfd, #d8dad2);
123   background-image: -ms-linear-gradient(top, #fdfdfd, #d8dad2);
124   background-image: -o-linear-gradient(top, #fdfdfd, #d8dad2);
125   background-image: linear-gradient(top, #fdfdfd, #d8dad2);
126   text-shadow: none;
127   padding: 6px 14px !important;
128 }
129 .button + .button {
130   margin-left: 5px;
131 }
132
133 div.plus {
134   background: #eaeae8;
135   height: 1px;
136   border: 0;
137   margin: 20px -10px;
138   position: relative;
139 }
140 div.plus:before {
141   content: "";
142   position: absolute;
143   width: 16px;
```

THE ROYAL WE

Chris Coyier @chriscvoyier



BETTER?

- 1 Less of it // Speed
- 2 More Semantic // Maintainability
- 3 More Accessible // SEO
- 4 Futureproof // Happy People

123

1

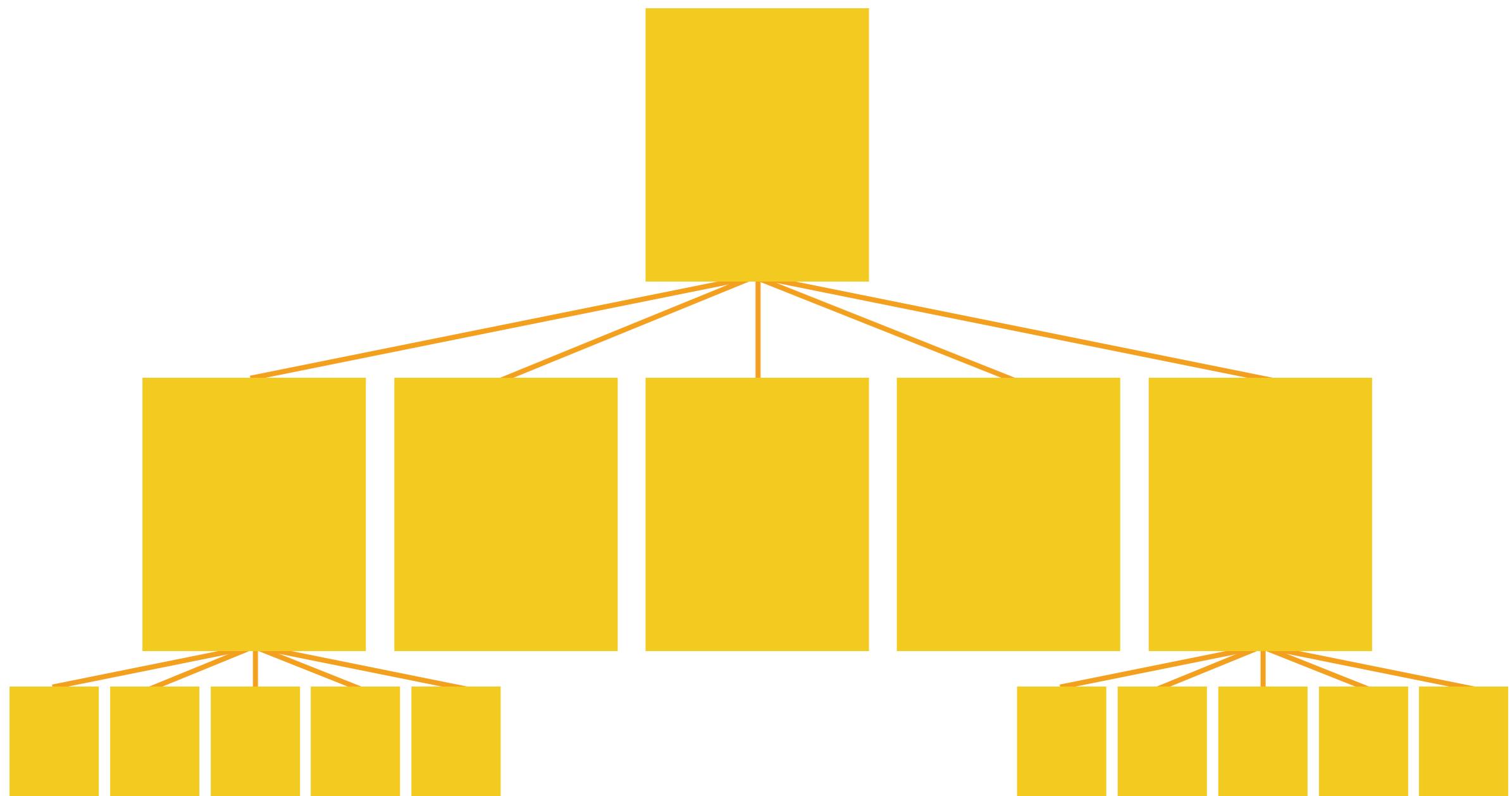
HOW WUFOO DOES CSS



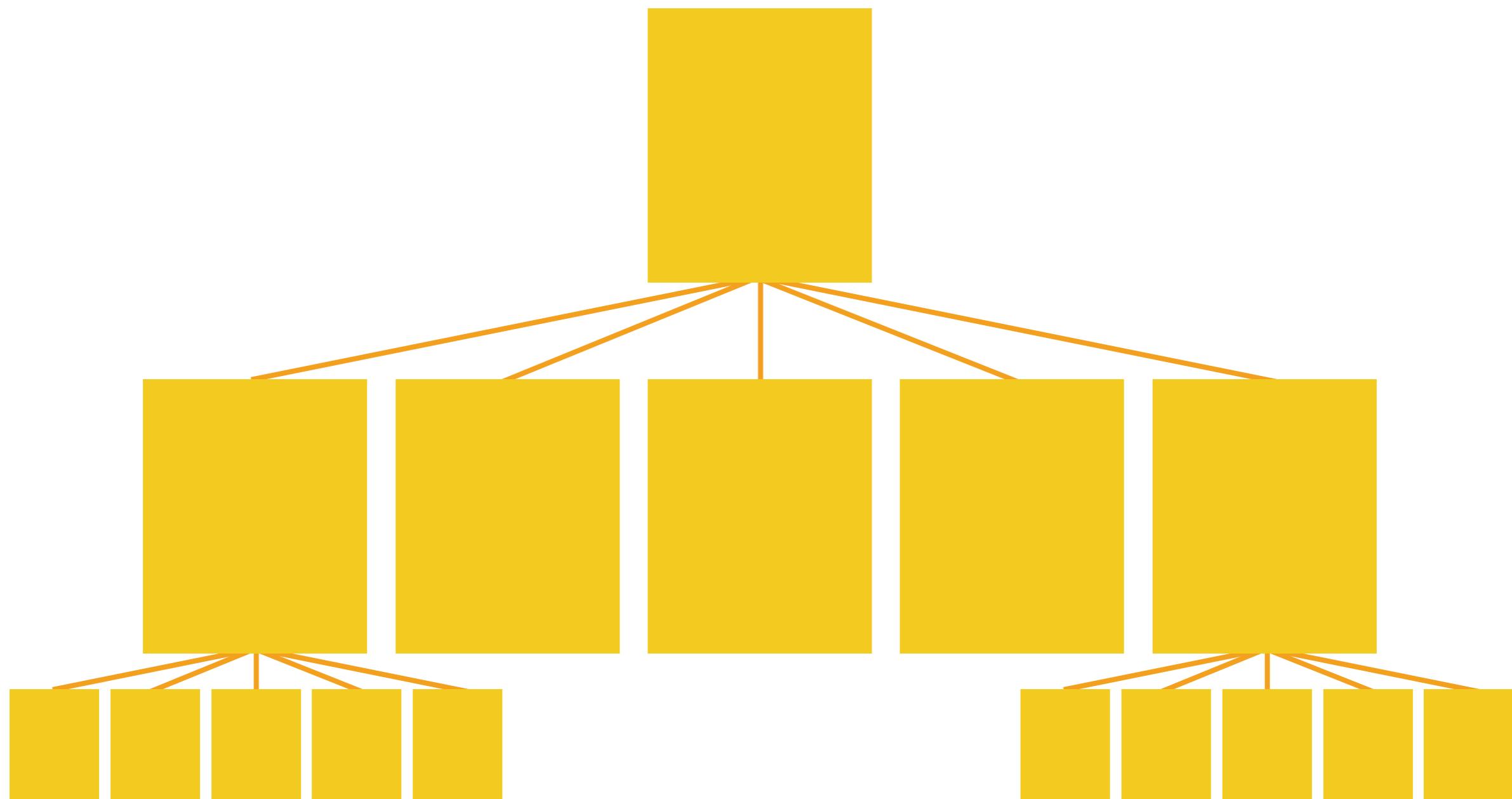
“RULES”

- Only 2 CSS files per page (Global + Site Section)
- These 2 are made from combined smaller files (like design patterns or site sub sections)
 - Versioned in production (dynamic.13432.css)
Timestamped in development (dynamic.css?time=xxx)
 - No inline styles or <style> blocks
 - Reuse everything (e.g. table.css)
 - Work in chunks (e.g. print.css)

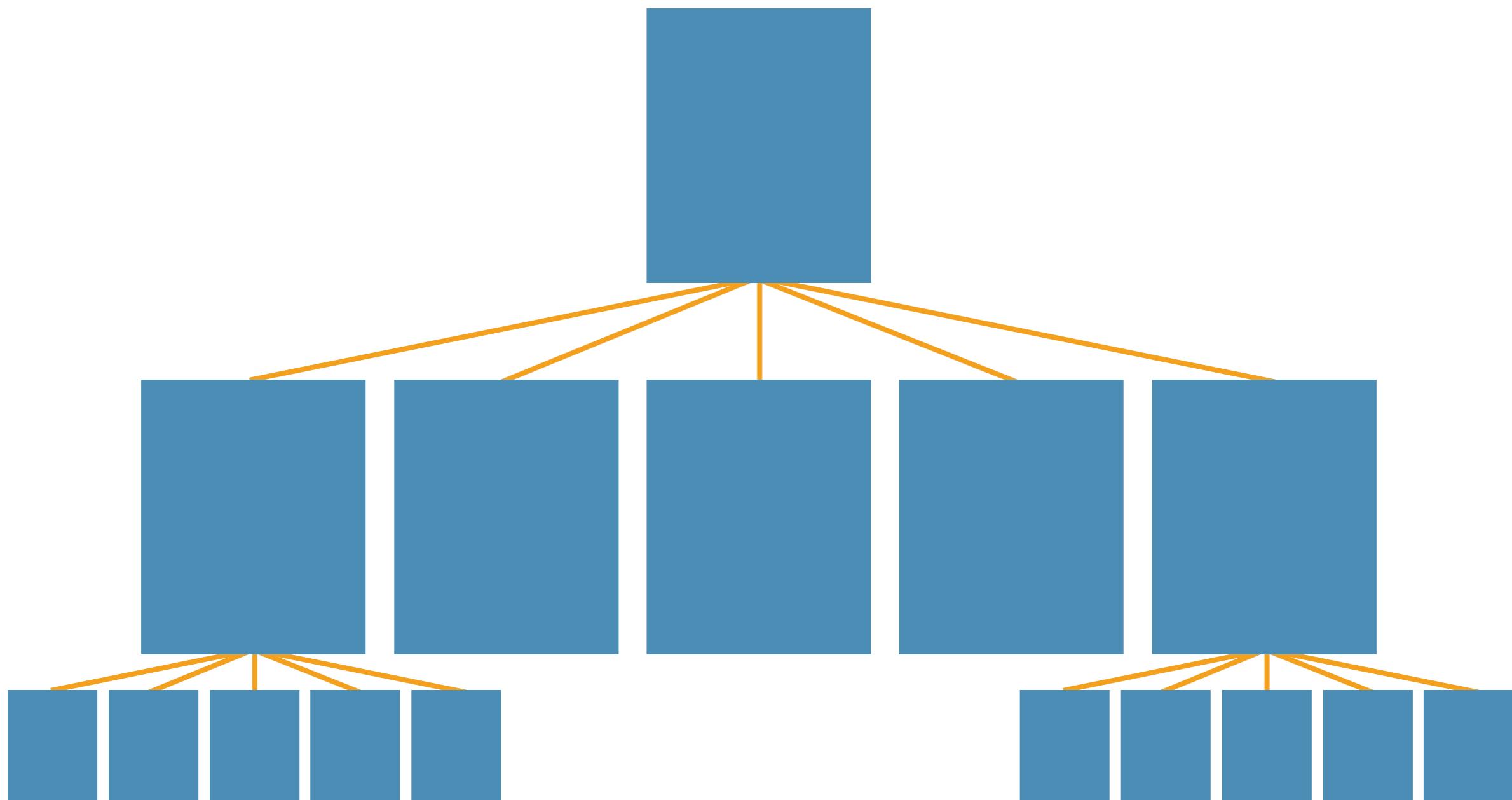
SIMPLIFIED SITE STRUCTURE



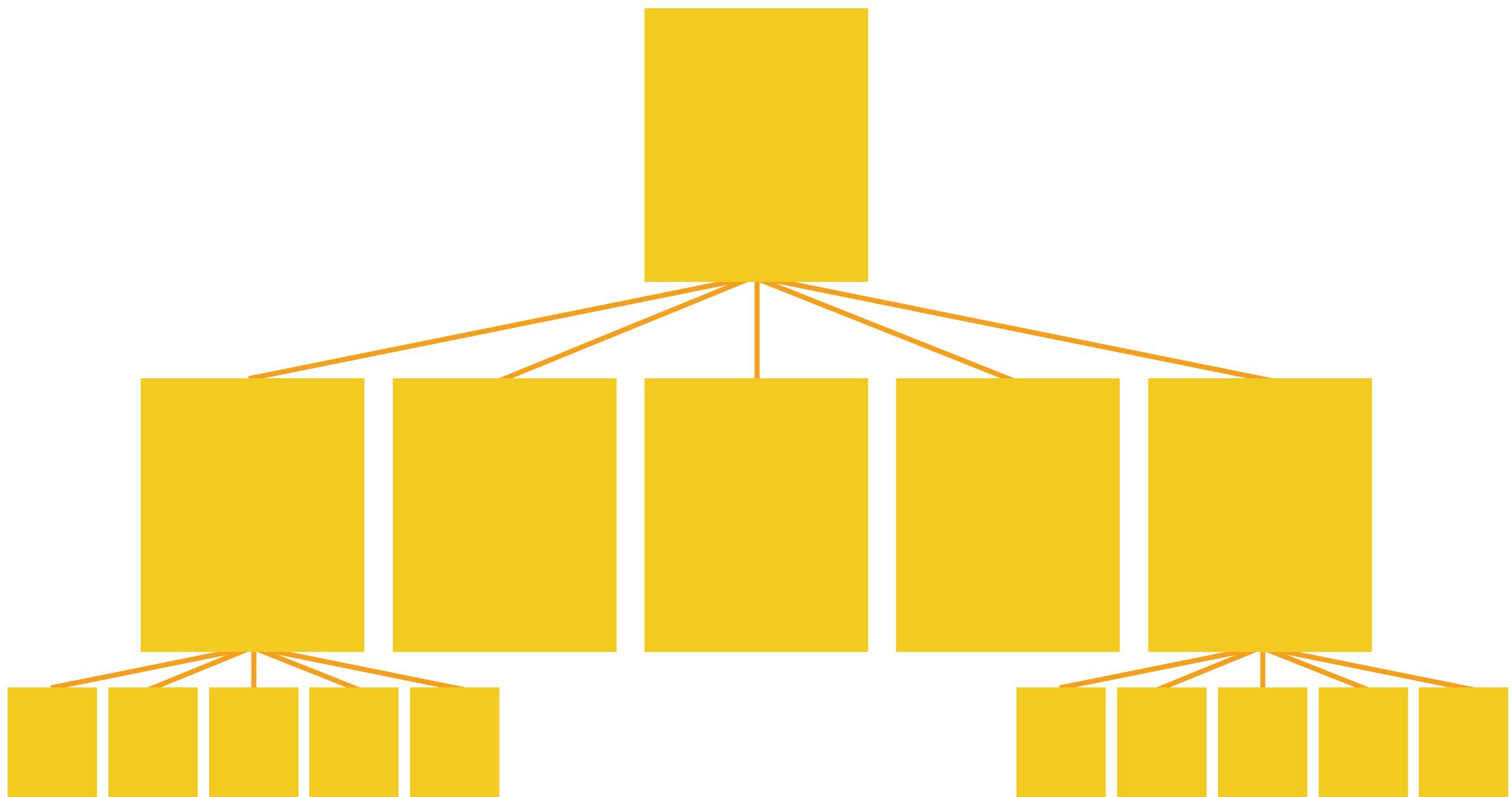
GLOBAL CSS



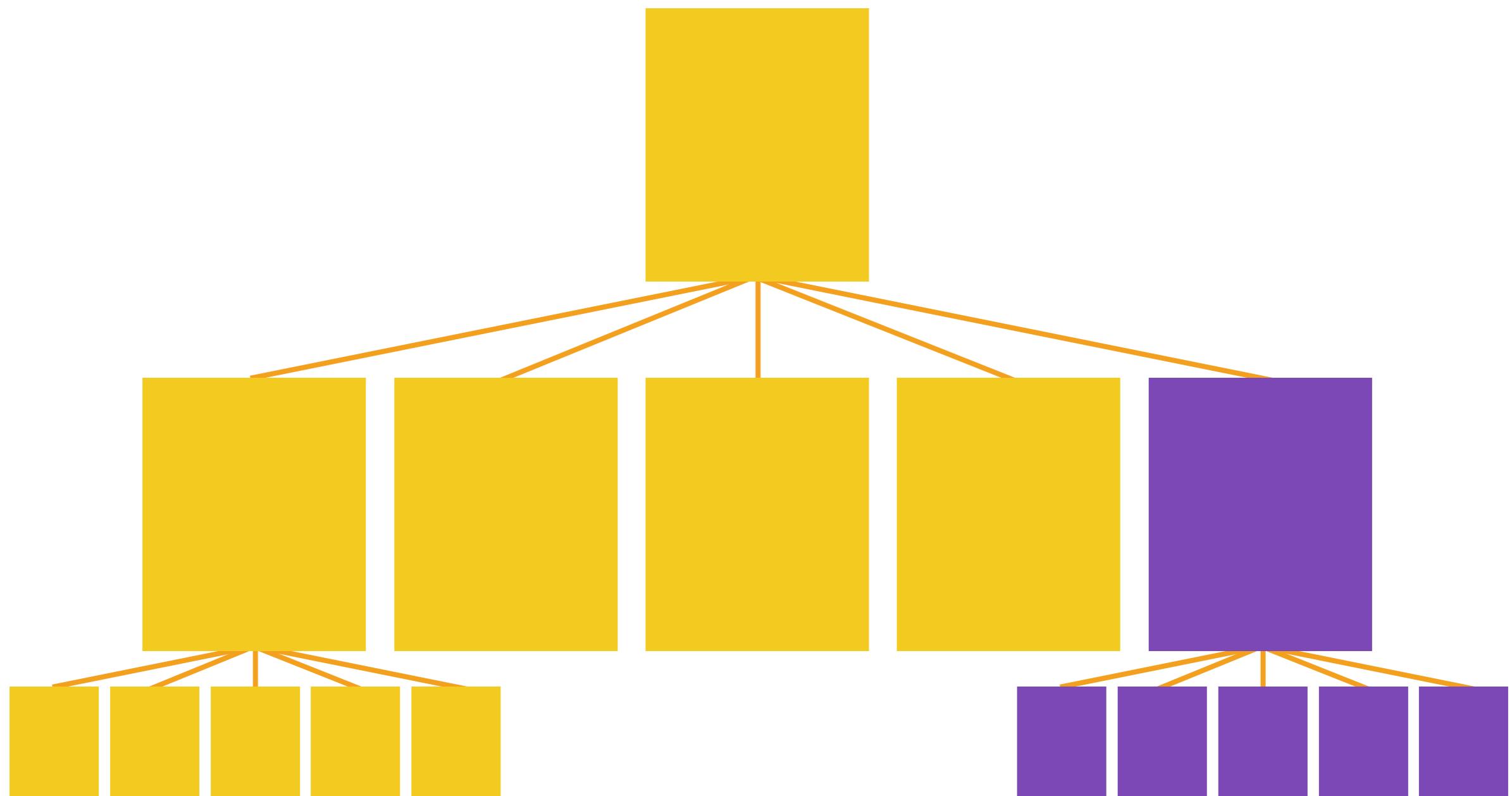
GLOBAL CSS



SITE SECTION CSS



SITE SECTION CSS



WUFOO → Online Form Builder



Login!

WUFOO

Making forms easy + fast + fun.

Sign Up for Free!

Tour

A collage of four different Wufoo form templates. The top-left form is titled 'Mortgage Application' with a dropdown menu showing 'Home Loan'. The top-right form is titled 'Buy a T-Shirt!' with a dropdown menu showing 'Robot Shirt' and a color selector set to 'Black'. The bottom-left form is titled 'Customer Satisfaction Survey' with a question about usage duration and satisfaction levels. The bottom-right form is titled 'Workshop Registration' with fields for Name, Title, Address, Street Address, and Message.

[Home](#) • [About](#) • [FAQ](#) • [Features](#) • [Examples](#) • [Partners](#) • [Clients](#) • [Pricing](#)

What is Wufoo?

Wufoo strives to be the easiest way to collect information over the Internet.

Our [HTML form builder](#) helps you create contact

Why us?

Here's the top 10 reasons you should use Wufoo to collect information online.

The Gallery

View and customize over 80 templates and themes from our form gallery.

Latest News

- Use over 150 Fonts on Your Forms with our New Font Picker
- International Merchant Support

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

```
<head>
```

```
{autoVersion}/css/global/dynamic.css{/autoVersion}  
{autoVersion}/css/landing/dynamic.css{/autoVersion}
```

1

Smarty function (could be any server side language)

.htaccess

AddHandler application/x-httpd-php .php .html .xml .css .js



/css/global/dynamic.css

```
<?php
require_once($GLOBALS['root'].'/library/services/
AutoVersion.php');

$fileArray = array(
    '/css/global/structure.css',
    '/css/global/buttons.css',
    '/css/global/lightbox.css',
    '/css/global/form.css'
);

$av = new AutoVersion();
$av->fly($dynamicURL,$fileArray);
?>
```

/css/landing/dynamic.css

```
<?php
require_once($GLOBALS['root'].'/library/services/
AutoVersion.php');

$fileArray = array(
    '/css/landing/structure.css',
    '/css/landing/table.css',
    '/css/landing/else.css',
    '/css/landing/signup.css',
    '/css/landing/tour.css'
);

$av = new AutoVersion();
$av->fly($dynamicURL,$fileArray);
?>
```

AutoVersion function

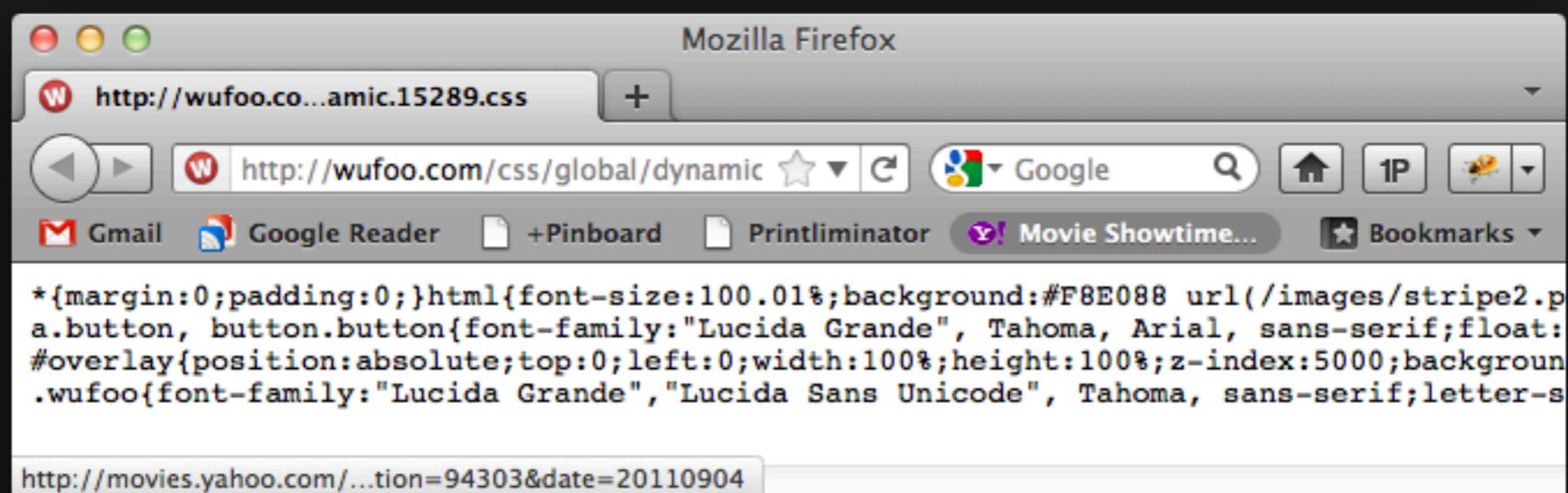
- 1) Fetches all files
- 2) Combines together
- 3) Minifies
- 4) Adds version number

```
6
7 class AutoVersion{
8
9     const WUFOO_VERSION_FILE = 23352; // Latest SVN Revision #
10
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

```
<head>
```

```
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/global/dynamic.1234.css">
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/landing/dynamic.1234.css">
```

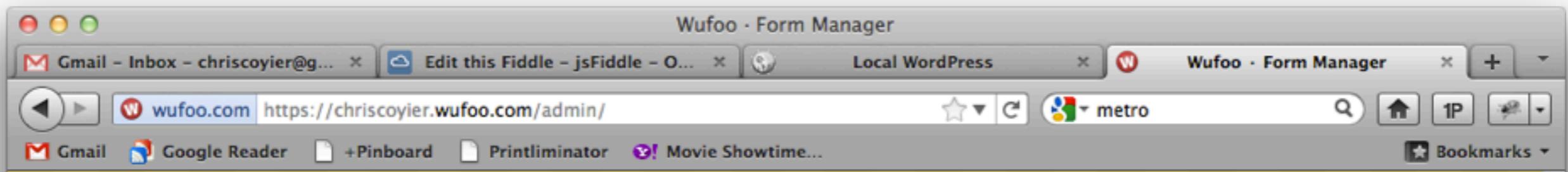


global/dynamic.css

- **Loaded on every page of site**
- **Put as much as practical in here. User only loads this file once, so maximizes use of browser cache.**
- **Common design patterns are in here
(buttons.css, lightbox.css, forms.css)**

area/dynamic.css

- **Loaded in specific area of site**
- **Less common design patterns in here
(graph.css, calendar.css, table.css)**



Wufoo

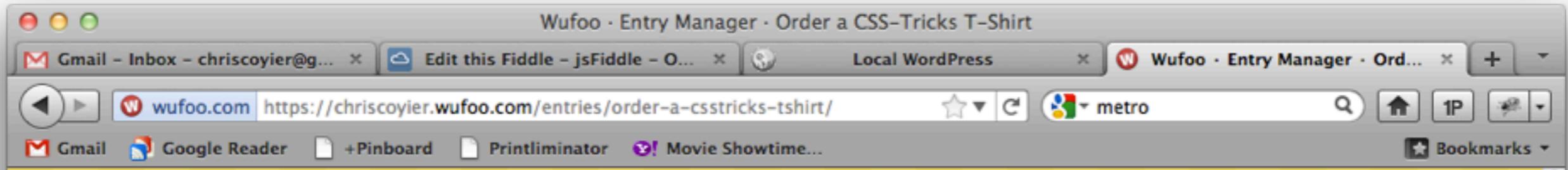
Form Manager
O, what men dare do!

Filter Sort By : Date Created Date Edited Entries Today

Form Name	Theme	Status
Untitled Form	Default Theme	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Order a CSS-Tricks T-Shirt	CSS-Tricks	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(On) T-Shirt Form	Default Theme	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CSS-Tricks Giveaway	Default Theme	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contact Form Copy	Default Theme	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

global
</css/global/structure.css>
</css/global/buttons.css>
</css/global/lightbox.css>
</css/global/form.css>

area
</css/admin/manager.css>



Wufoo

Forms

Reports

Themes

Users

Account

Help

Logout

Order a CSS-Tricks T-Shirt

#142

How many?

2

T-Shirt #1 Size *

M

T-Shirt #1 Color

Sand

T-Shirt #2 Size *

M

T-Shirt #2 Color

Gray

T-Shirt #3 Size *

T-Shirt #3 Color

T-Shirt #4 Size *

T-Shirt #4 Color

global

/css/global/structure.css

/css/global/buttons.css

/css/global/lightbox.css

/css/global/form.css

area

/css/widgets/datagrid.css

/css/global/filter.css

/css/global/calendar.css

/css/global/quicksearch.css

/css/entries/structure.css

/css/entries/print.css

Gmail - Inbox - chriscoyier@g... Edit this Fiddle - jsFiddle - O... Local WordPress Wufoo Docs - Documentation

http://wufoo.com/docs/ metro

Gmail Google Reader +Pinboard Printliminator Movie Showtime... Bookmarks

Wufoo → Docs



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General Info

[FAQs](#)[Video Tour](#)[Terminology](#)

Accounts

[Login](#)[Account Manager](#)[User Management](#)[Activity Log](#)

global

/css/global/structure.css

/css/global/buttons.css

/css/global/lightbox.css

/css/global/form.css

Don't worry. We're here to help.

Try searching our [Documentation](#) on the left or asking some friends in the [The Forums](#). If you can't find what you're looking for, you can always [Ask Support](#).

General Questions

1. What is Wufoo?
2. How secure is Wufoo?
3. Who are the people behind Wufoo?
4. Is Wufoo right for me?

Billing & Accounts

1. How do I cancel my account?
2. What if I exceed my entry limit?
3. What types of payment do you accept?
4. How do I view my invoices?

area

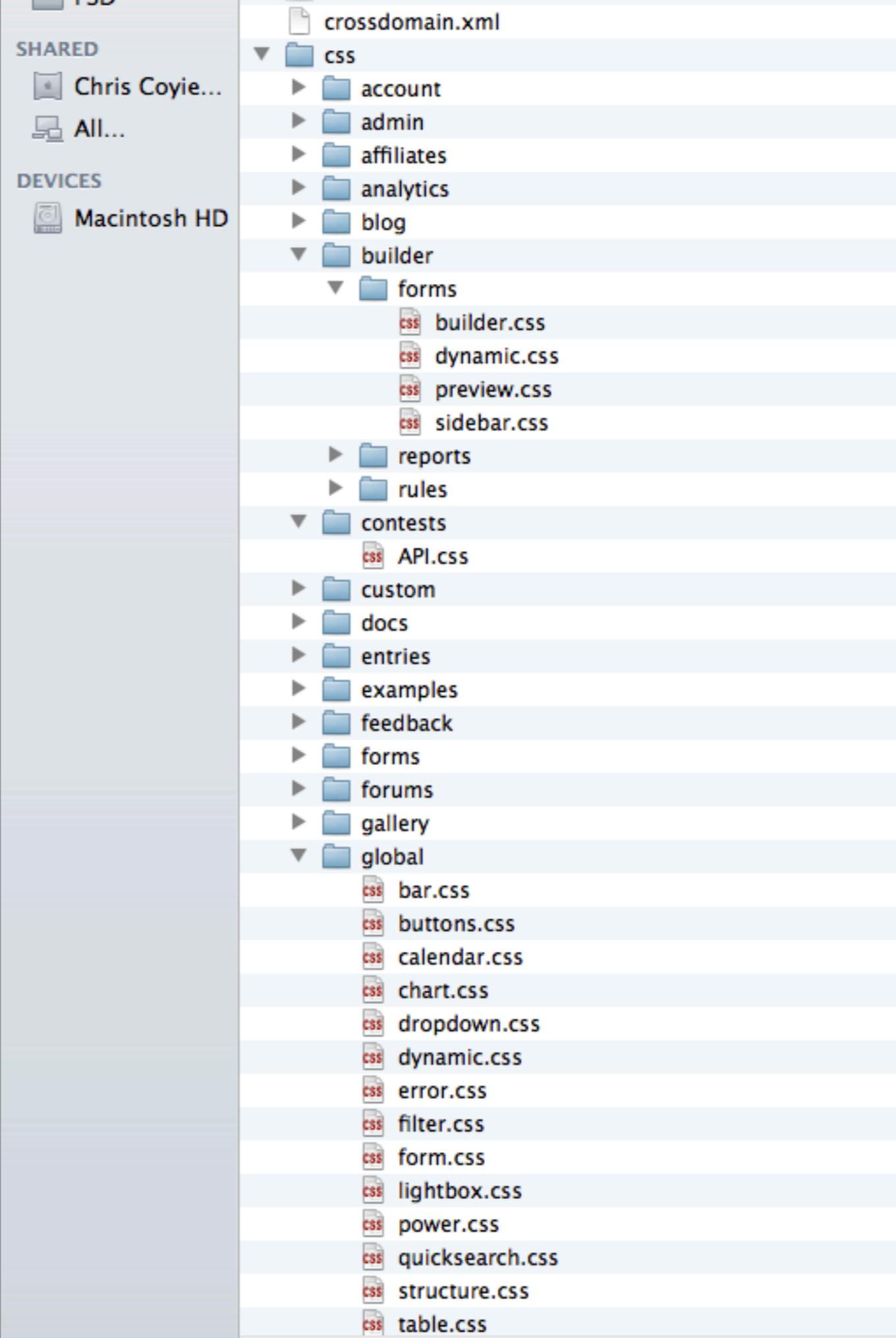
/css/docs/docs.css

/css/global/table.css

2. Can I print a report/graph?
3. How can I access the files uploaded through my forms?
4. Why is all of the data being exported even if it is not visible in the report?
5. How do I export my data?

ALL
CSS
is in /css/

organized by site section



2

DON'T OVER
THINK IT



Good thinking
Well intentioned

BIG FANCY STYLE GUIDE

- Primary color #BADA55 / Secondary color #FOO
- Headers should be 20px from navigation and 15px from following content
- Logo should have 30px of padding around it
- Links should have 1px dotted bottom borders

that's what GLOBAL.CSS is for



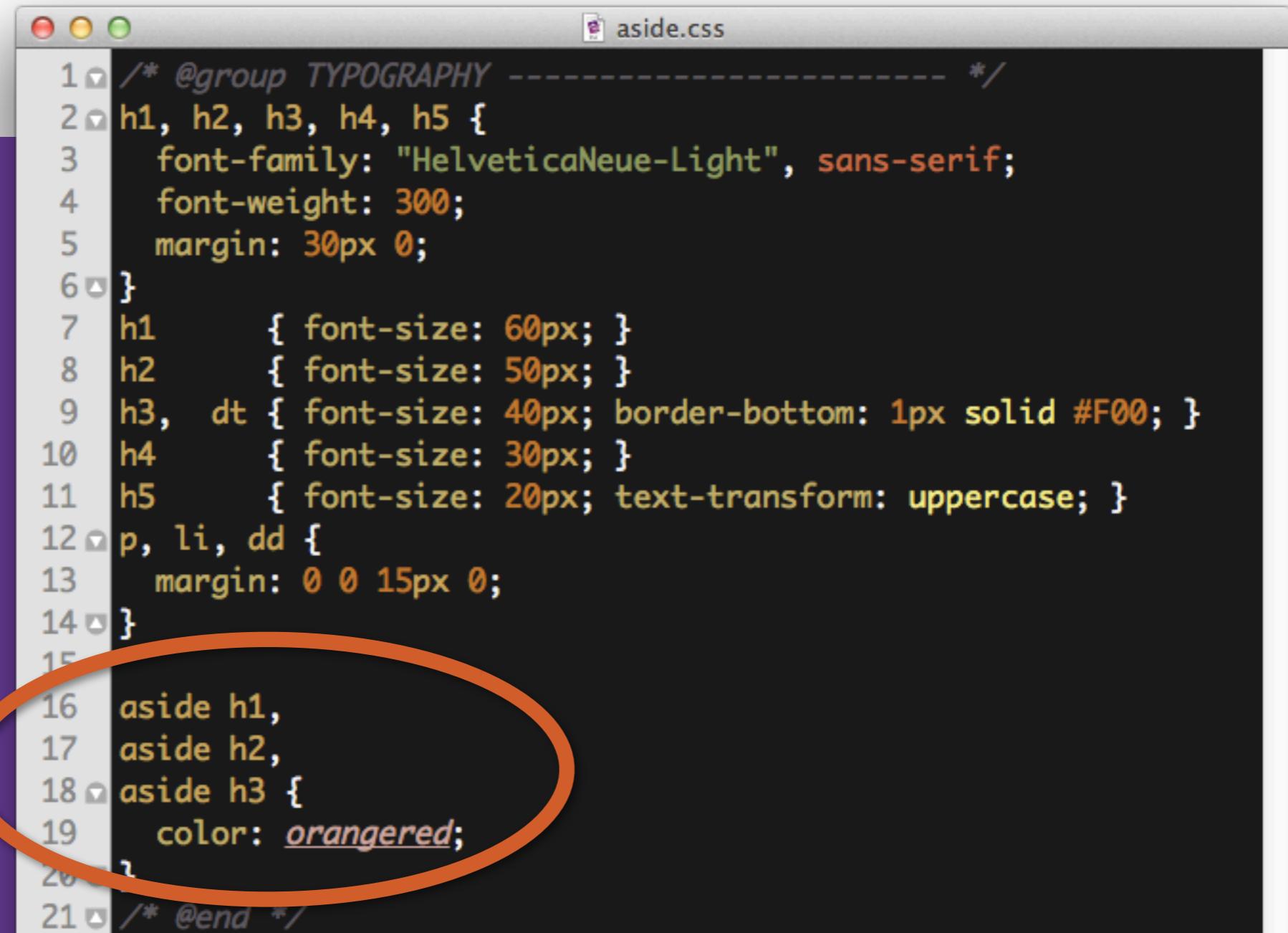
A screenshot of a Mac OS X application window titled "global.css". The window contains 16 lines of CSS code. Lines 1 through 4 define color variables. Lines 6 through 8 import the "normalize.css" file. Lines 10 through 16 define global styles for the html and body elements.

```
1  /*
2   * Primary: #BADA55
3   * Secondary: #F00
4   */
5
6  /* @group NORMALIZE ----- */
7  @import url("normalize.css");
8  /* @end */
9
10 /* @group STRUCTURE ----- */
11 html {
12   background: #BADA55;
13 }
14 body {
15   font: 16px/1.6 Sans-Serif;
16 }
```

NEED TO DEVIATE?

Really? Do you?

BY
SECTION



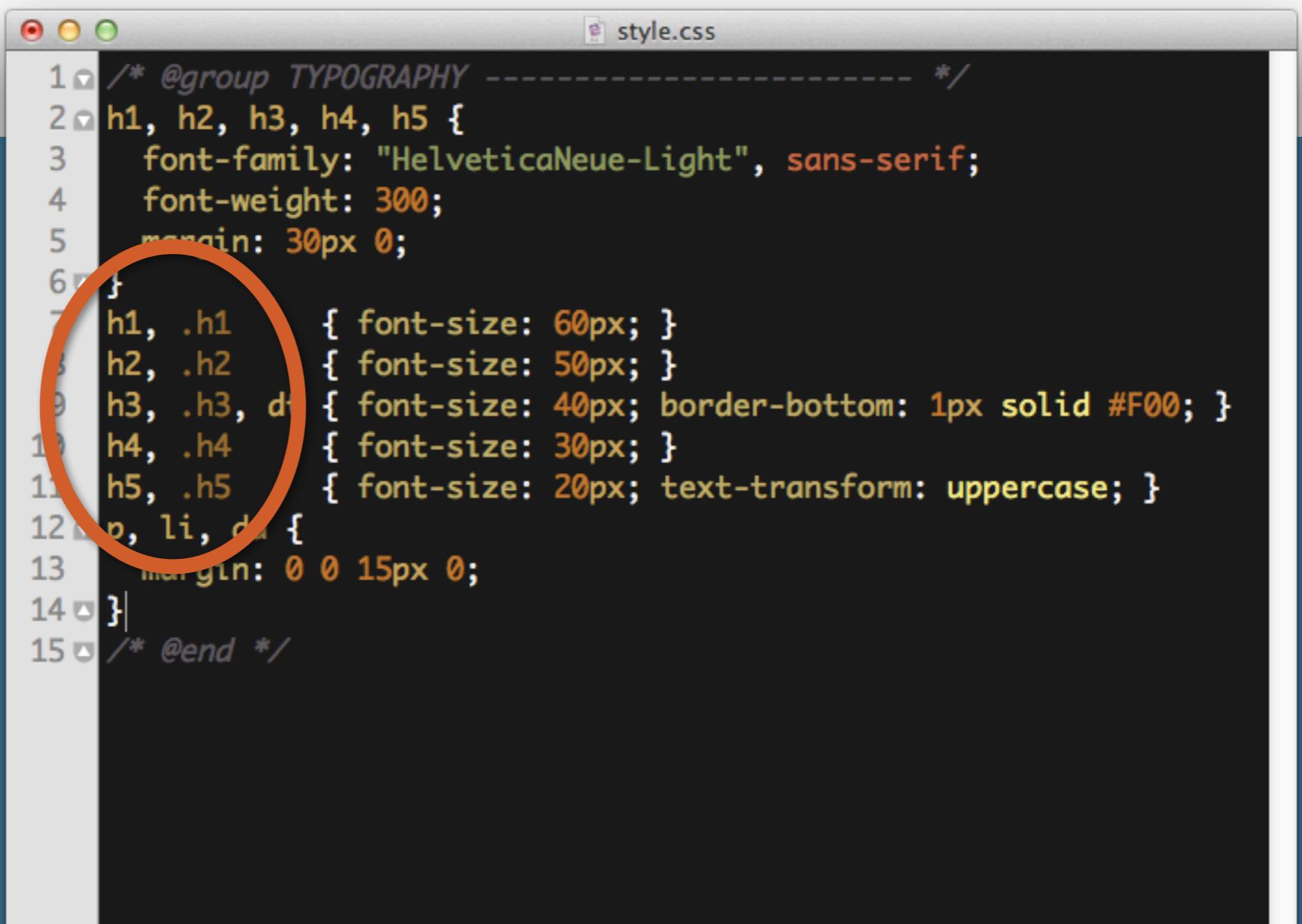
```
/* @group TYPOGRAPHY ----- */
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5 {
    font-family: "HelveticaNeue-Light", sans-serif;
    font-weight: 300;
    margin: 30px 0;
}
h1      { font-size: 60px; }
h2      { font-size: 50px; }
h3, dt { font-size: 40px; border-bottom: 1px solid #F00; }
h4      { font-size: 30px; }
h5      { font-size: 20px; text-transform: uppercase; }
p, li, dd {
    margin: 0 0 15px 0;
}

aside h1,
aside h2,
aside h3 {
    color: orangered;
}
/* @end */
```

NEED TO DEVIATE?

Really? Do you?

STYLE
ONLY

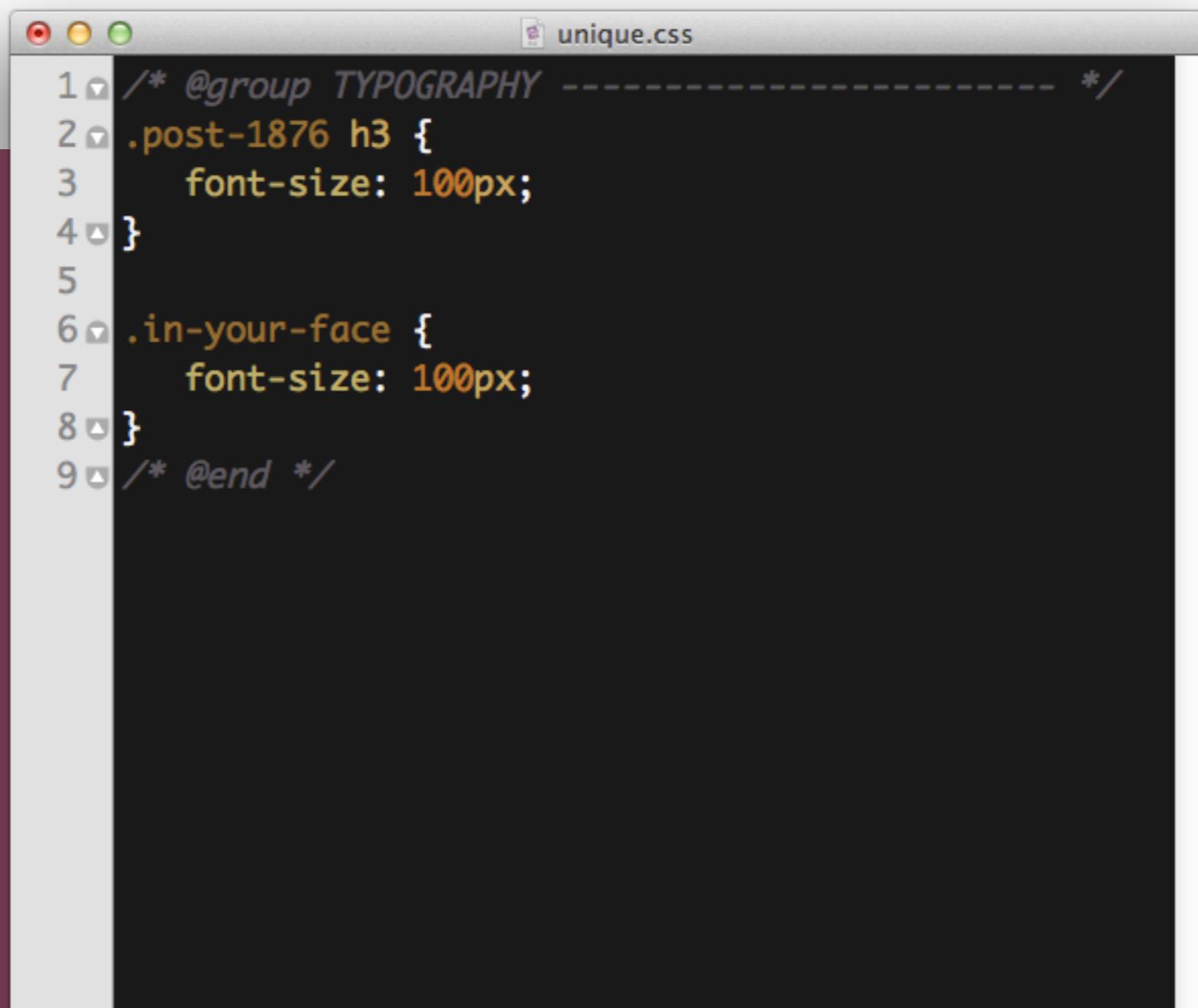


```
/* @group TYPOGRAPHY ----- */
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5 {
    font-family: "HelveticaNeue-Light", sans-serif;
    font-weight: 300;
    margin: 30px 0;
}
h1, .h1 { font-size: 60px; }
h2, .h2 { font-size: 50px; }
h3, .h3, dt { font-size: 40px; border-bottom: 1px solid #F00; }
h4, .h4 { font-size: 30px; }
h5, .h5 { font-size: 20px; text-transform: uppercase; }
p, li, dl {
    margin: 0 0 15px 0;
}
/* @end */
```

NEED TO DEVIATE?

Really? Do you?

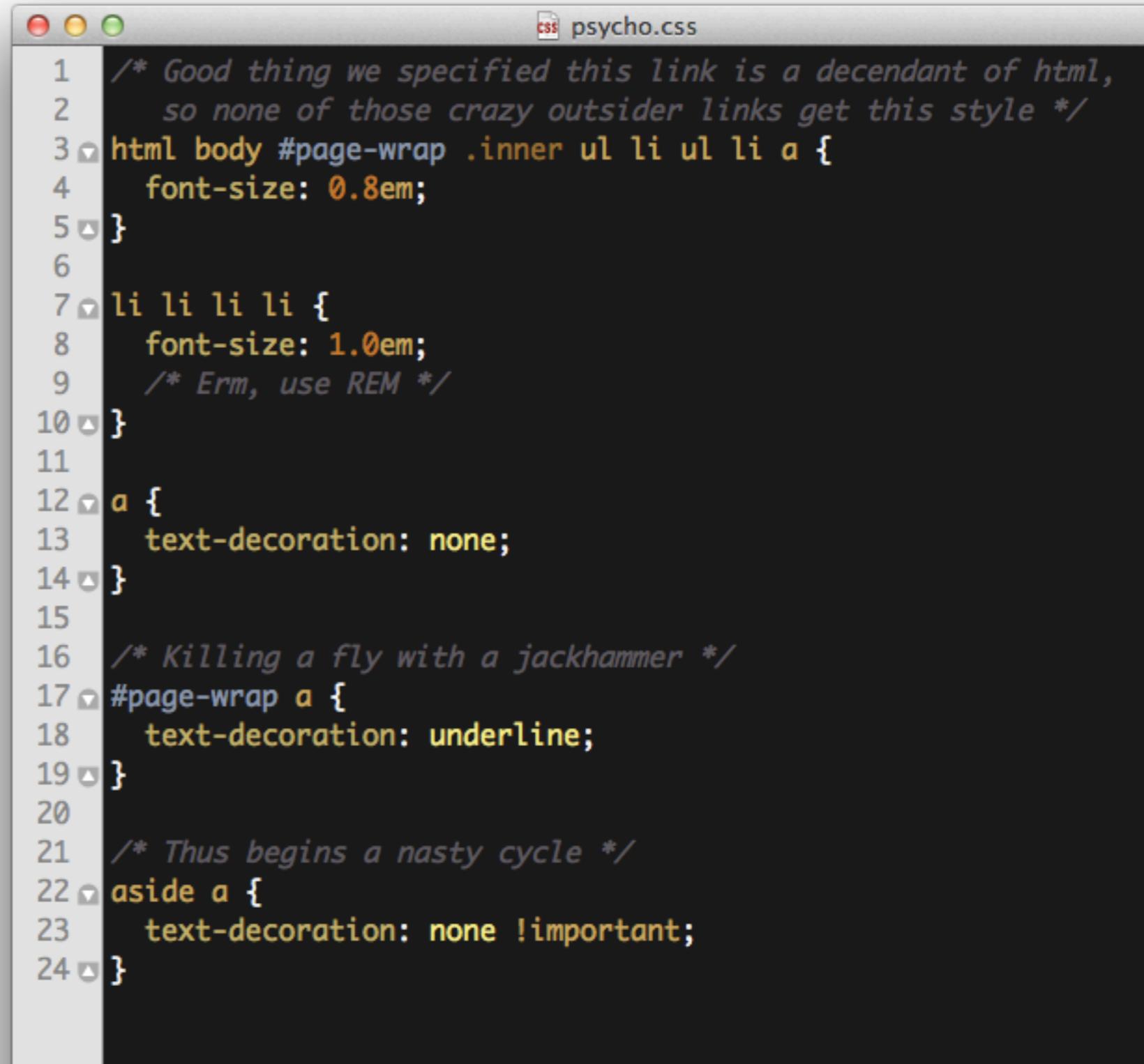
TOTALLY
UNIQUE



A screenshot of a Mac OS X application window titled "unique.css". The window contains the following CSS code:

```
1 /* @group TYPOGRAPHY ----- */
2 .post-1876 h3 {
3     font-size: 100px;
4 }
5
6 .in-your-face {
7     font-size: 100px;
8 }
9 /* @end */
```

DON'T OVER THINK IT



The image shows a screenshot of a code editor window titled "psycho.css". The code is written in CSS and contains the following rules:

```
/* Good thing we specified this link is a descendant of html,
   so none of those crazy outsider links get this style */
html body #page-wrap .inner ul li ul li a {
    font-size: 0.8em;
}

li li li li {
    font-size: 1.0em;
    /* Erm, use REM */
}

a {
    text-decoration: none;
}

/* Killing a fly with a jackhammer */
#page-wrap a {
    text-decoration: underline;
}

/* Thus begins a nasty cycle */
aside a {
    text-decoration: none !important;
}
```

The code editor interface includes a status bar at the bottom with the following information: Line: 10 Column: 2, CSS, Tab Size: 2, and CSS: li li li li.

3

PSEUDO ELEMENTS

pseudo class
selectors

:visited :hover :active :link

:first-child :last-child :nth-child() :nth-of-type()

:enabled :disabled :checked :indeterminate

:focus :target :root :lang()

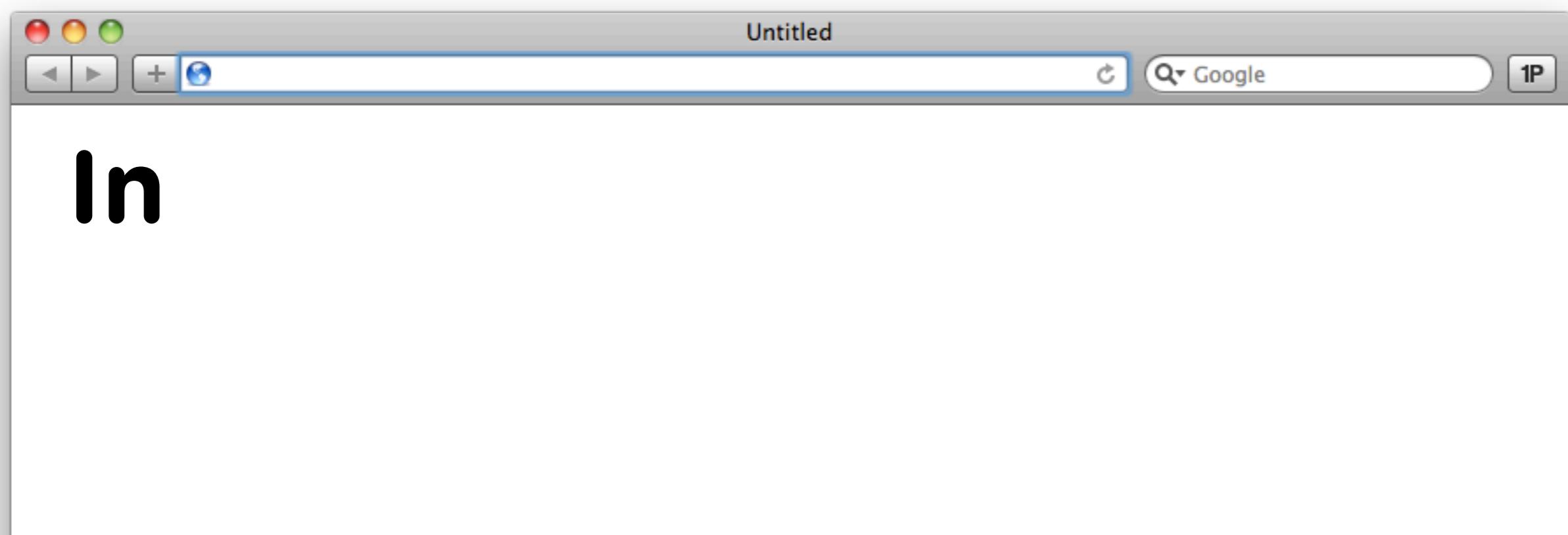
.before
.after

HTML

```
<div>In</div>
```

css

```
div:before {  
    content: "Robots ";  
}
```



HTML

```
<div>In</div>
```

CSS

```
div:before {  
    content: "Robots ";  
}  
  
div:after {  
    content: " Disguise";  
}
```





So what's with the different name?

Pseudo *selectors* select elements that **already exist** (perhaps in different states).

Pseudo *elements* create new content that **doesn't exist (yet)**.

"before
..after

::first-line ::first-letter

.before
.after

:first-line :first-letter

HTML

```
<div>In</div>
```

CSS

```
div:before {  
    content: "Robots ";  
}  
  
div:after {  
    content: " Disguise";  
}
```



Resulting
HTML
(sorta)

```
<div>  
  In  
</div>
```

Resulting
HTML
(sorta)

Robots
<div>
 In
</div>
Disguise

Not “before/after the element”...

Resulting
HTML
(sorta)

```
<div>
    Robots
    In
    Disguise
</div>
```

It's before/after the content inside.

Resulting
HTML
(sorta)

```
<div>
    <h1>Blah blah blah</h1>
    <p>More stuff</p>
    Nothing to see here.
</div>
```

Resulting
HTML
(sorta)

```
<div>
  Robots
    <h1>Blah blah blah</h1>
    <p>More stuff</p>
    Nothing to see here.
  Disguise
</div>
```

A man wearing a grey hooded robe and a grey cap is looking upwards and to his right with a thoughtful expression. He is positioned in front of a brown horse with a white blaze on its forehead. The background shows a stone wall and some foliage.

It's only a model...
(Not really in DOM)

CAMELOT!
CAMELOT!
CAMELOT!

Not for “no content” elements

```
  
<input type="email" name="email" />  
<br>
```



- Allows but shouldn't
- Styles as if was inside



- Checkboxes
- Radio Buttons

HTML

```
<a class="button" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">  
    
  Visit Our Form Gallery  
</a>
```

CSS

```
.button {  
  /* Awesome gradients and stuff */  
}  
.button img {  
  /* Probably some margin and stuff */  
}
```

a1t==www

equals

~~That's not important.~~

~~Screen readers don't need to see that.~~

a.l.t = " " "

equals

Then get that mothersucker
out of your **HTML**

HTML

```
<a class="button button-gallery" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">  
    Visit Our Form Gallery  
</a>
```

CSS

```
.button {  
    /* Awesome gradients and stuff */  
}  
.button-gallery:before {  
    content: url(/images/icon_gallery.png);  
}
```

 View Embedded Example

 See it in Action

 Learn More about Wufoo's Security Measures

 Learn more about Payments

 See Our Payment Form in Action

 Learn more about Logic

 Visit Our Form Gallery

 Learn More about User Management

 View Example Report

```
<a class="button" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">  
    
  Visit Our Form Gallery  
</a>
```

200 extra lines of HTML

200 places you aren't being semantic

200 places you need to change one-by-one

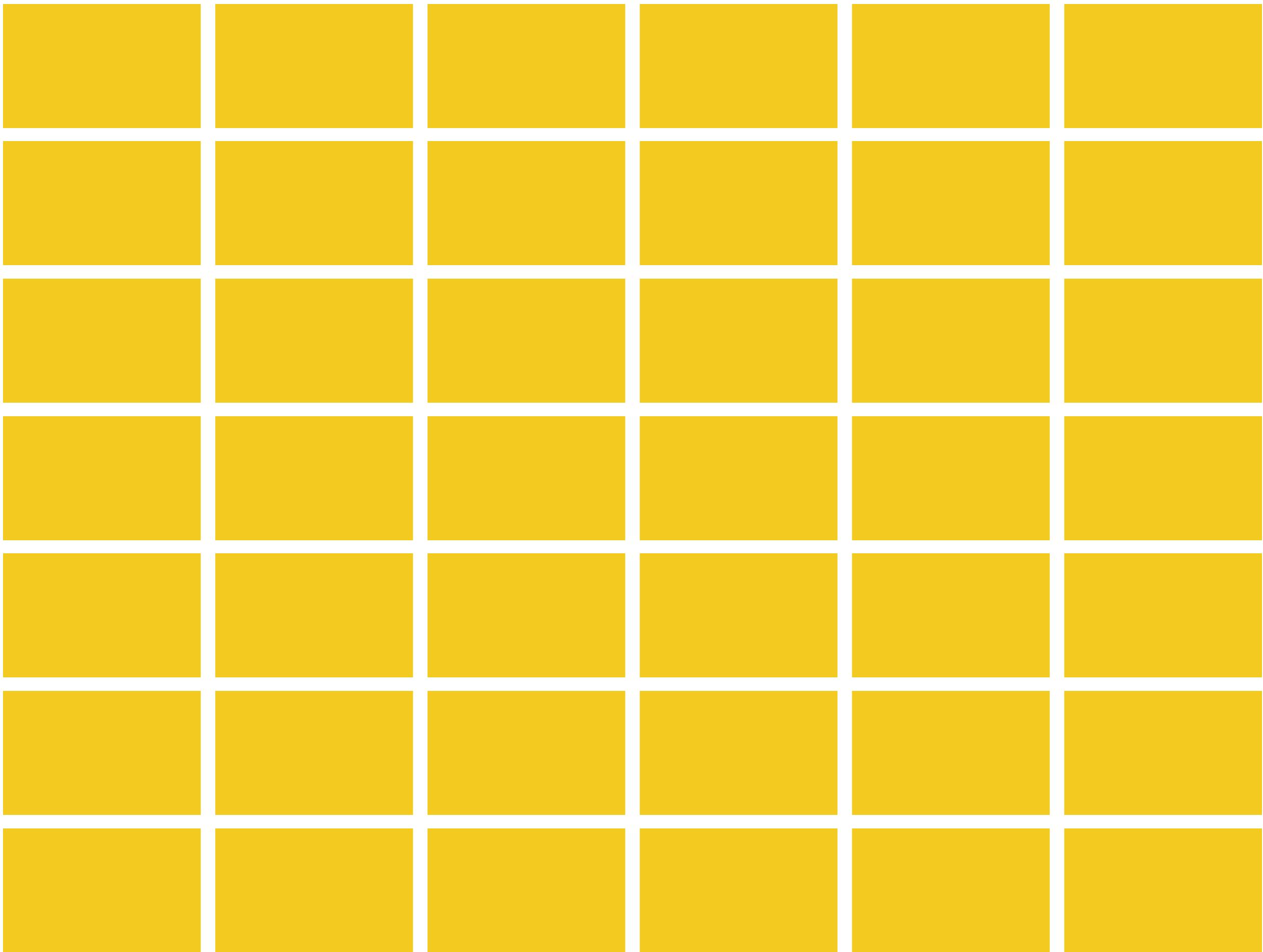
200 opportunities to be more efficient



```
<html style="background: yellow;">
```

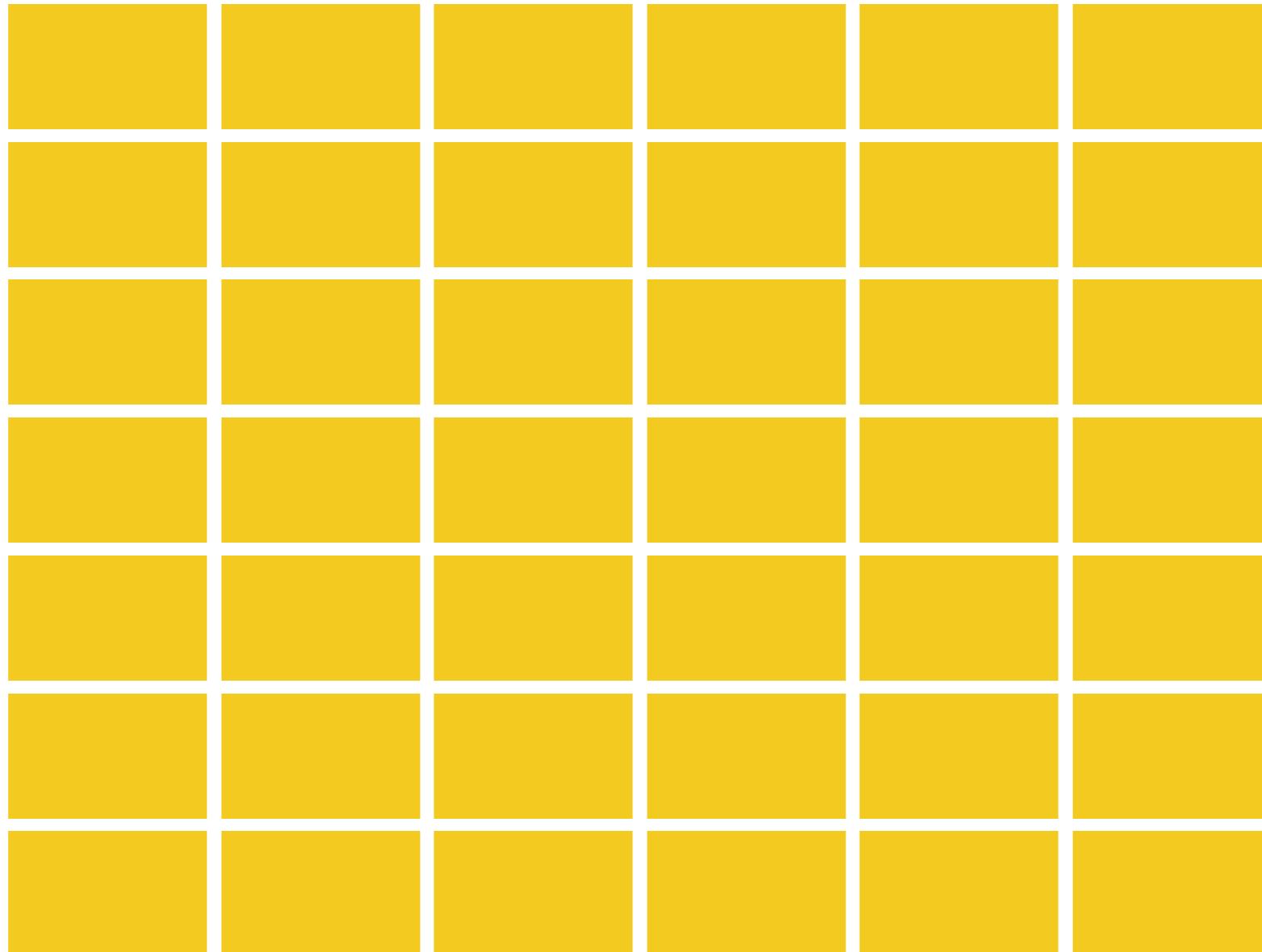


That's a website. It's abstract. Deal with it.



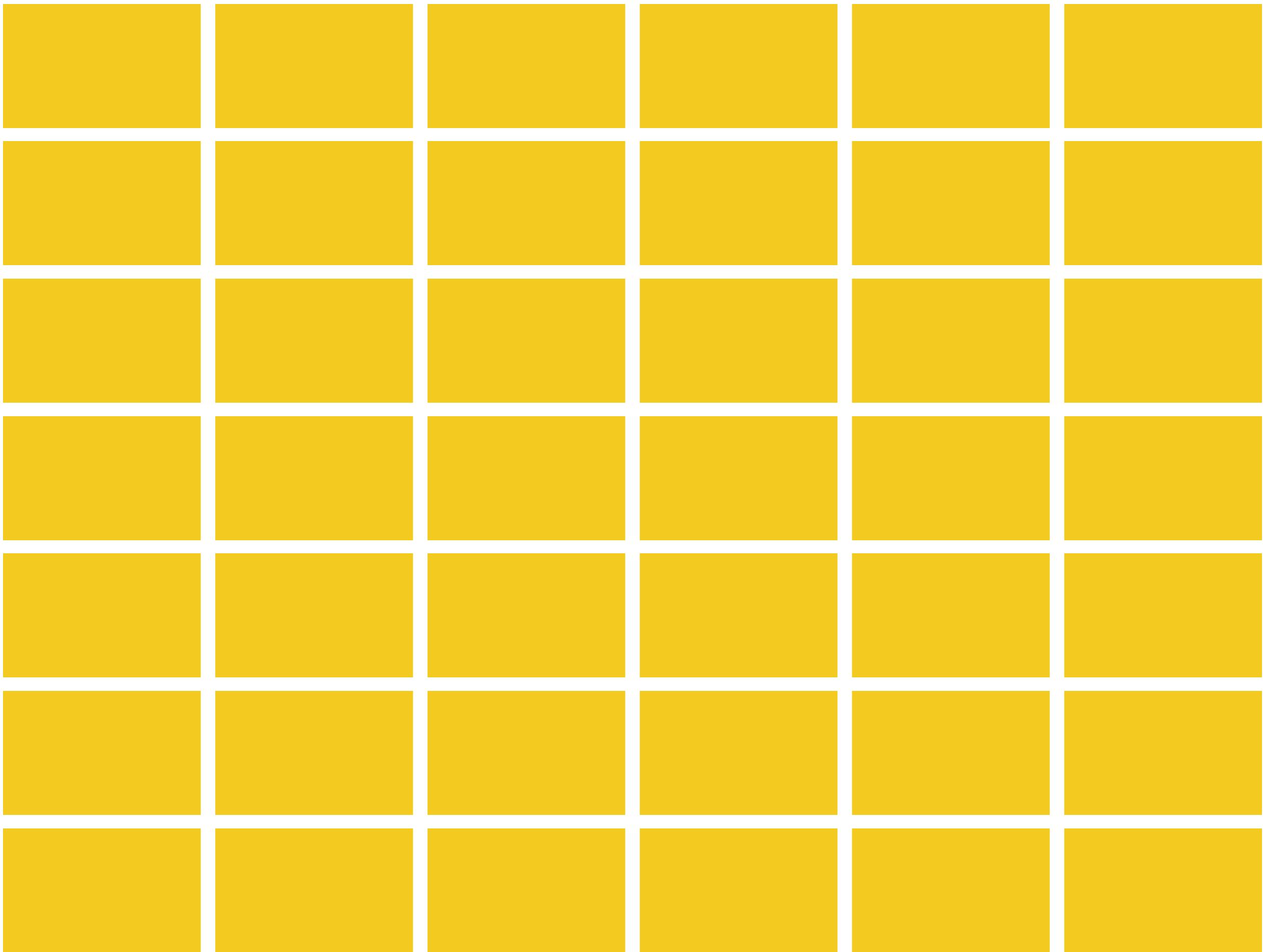


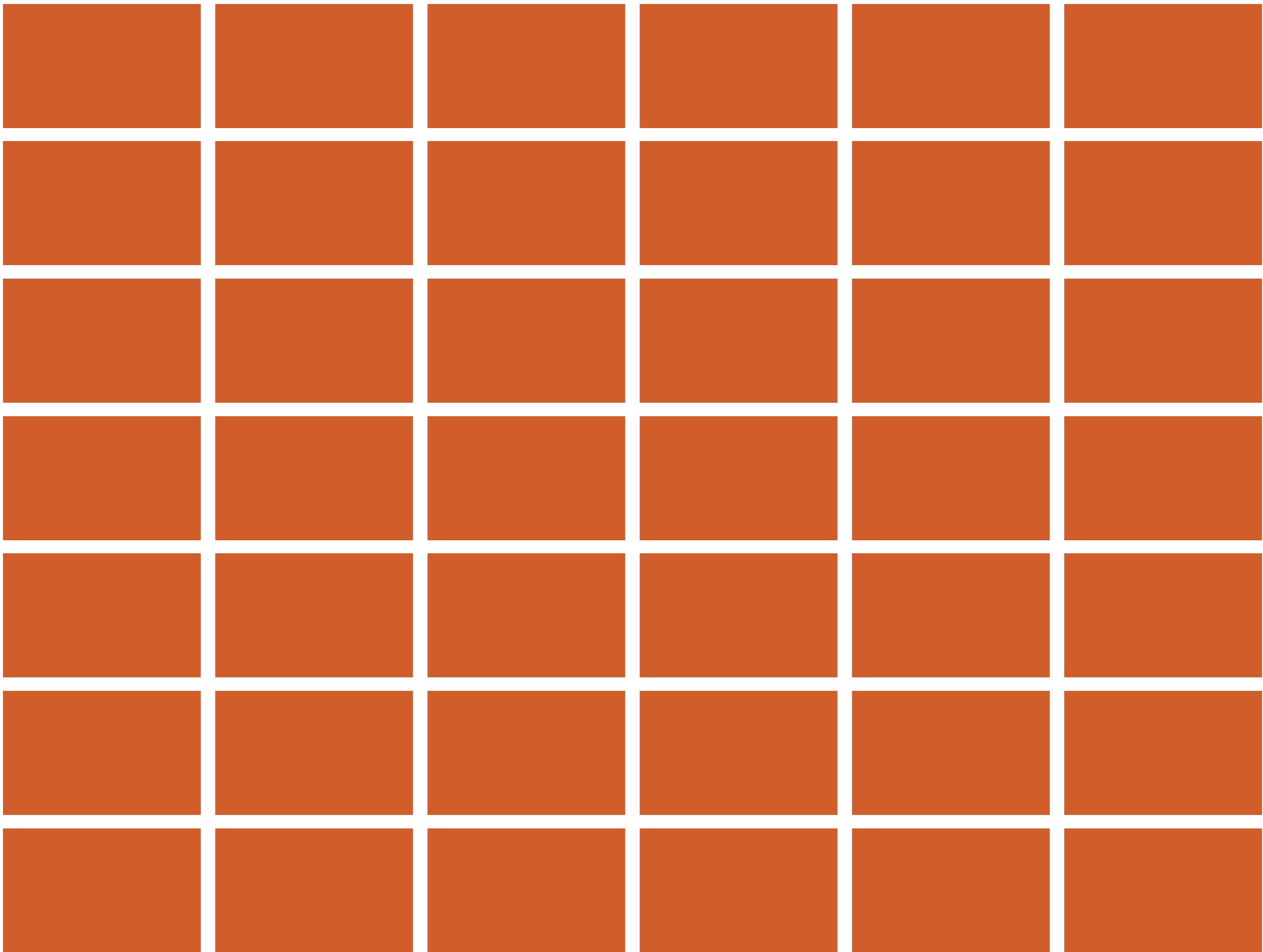
CSS



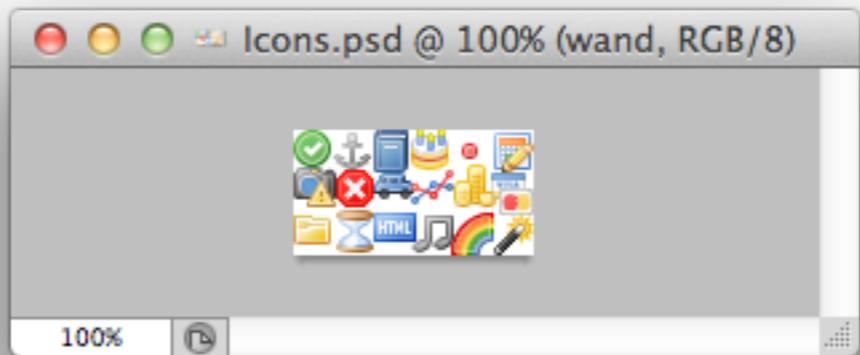
css

```
html {  
    background: red;  
}
```





Efficiency!

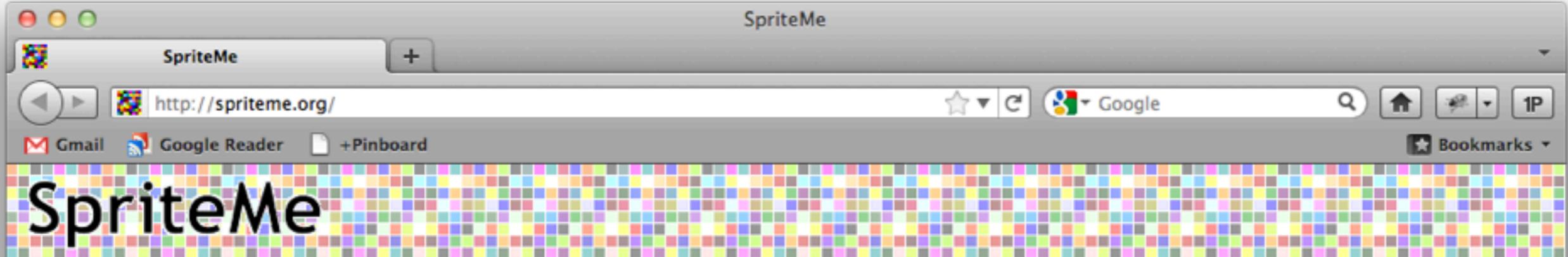


```
<a class="button button-gallery" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">  
  Visit Our Form Gallery  
</a>
```

x200

```
.button-gallery:before {  
  content: url(/images/icon_gallery.png);  
  content: "";  
  display: inline-block;  
  width: 16px;  
  height: 16px;  
  background-image: url(/images/sprite.png);  
  background-position: -32px -32px;  
}
```





Spriting made easy

Background images make pages look good, but also make them slower. Each background image is an extra HTTP request. There's a fix: combine background images into a [CSS sprite](#). But creating sprites is hard, requiring arcane knowledge and lots of trial and error. SpriteMe removes the hassles with the click of a button.

Try it on this page: [Run SpriteMe](#)

Installation

Install SpriteMe by dragging this link to your bookmark toolbar or right-click to add it to your favorites:

[SpriteMe](#) drag this link!

October 7 - Latest release now supports export CSS feature.

How to use it

Try the [SpriteMe demo](#) to see how SpriteMe:

- finds background images
- groups images into sprites
- generates the sprite
- recomputes CSS background-positions
- injects the sprite into the current page

spriteme.org

SpriteMe users have shared 17232 results with an average savings of 3 HTTP requests and ~7K of data.



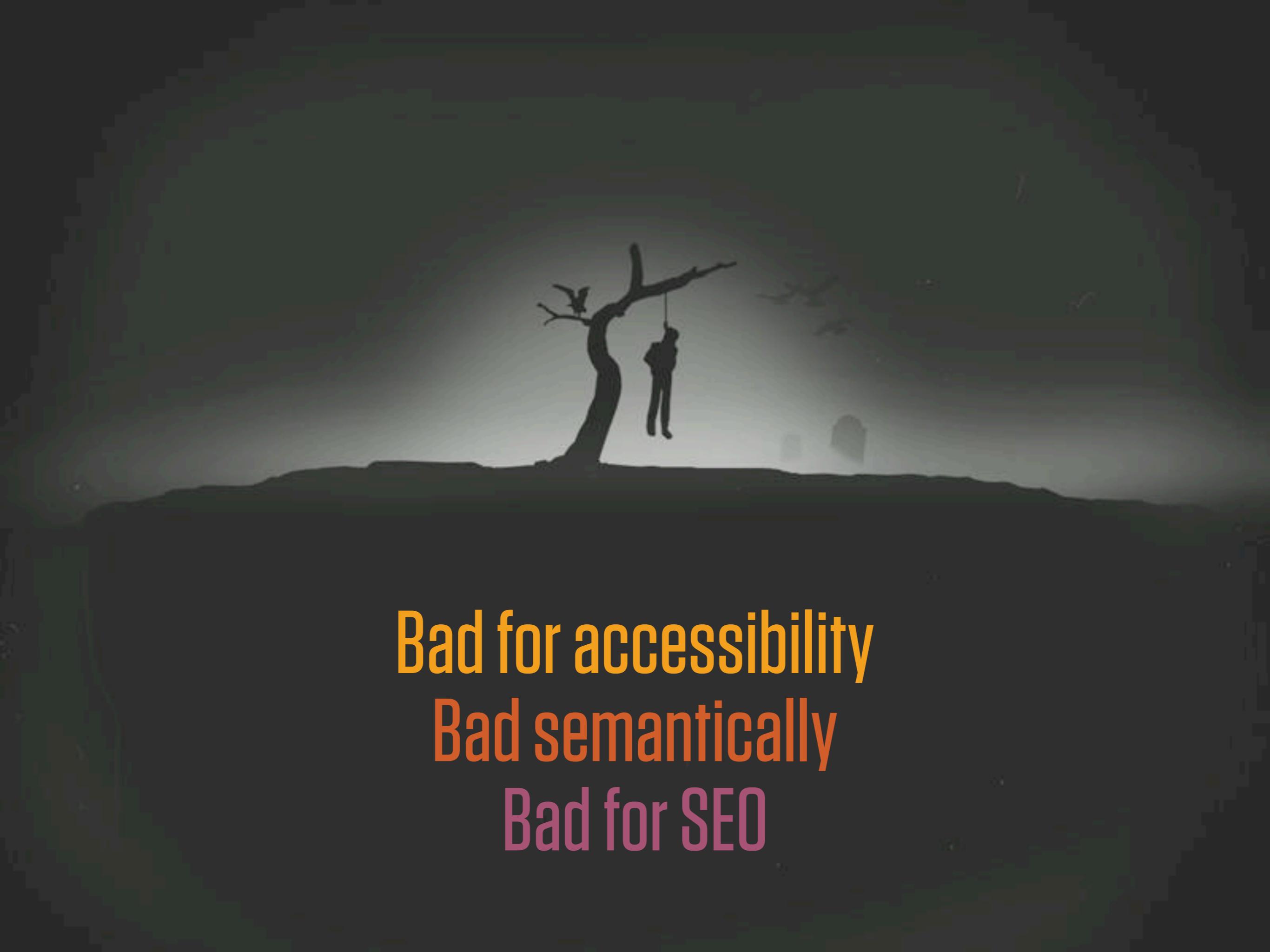
RABBLE RABBLE RABBLE!

HTML

```
<h1></h1>  
<h2></h2>
```

CSS

```
h1:before {  
    content: "Wufoo";  
}  
h2:before {  
    content: "Making forms easy + fast + fun";  
}
```

A dark, atmospheric illustration of a person standing on a bare tree branch. The person is silhouetted against a bright, cloudy sky. A small bird is perched on one of the branches. The scene is set against a dark, textured background.

Bad for accessibility
Bad semantically
Bad for SEO

SCREEN READERS

NVDA	doesn't read
Jaws	doesn't read
Window Eyes	doesn't read
VoiceOver (OS X)	does read

Testing (mostly) by Lucica Ibanescu
<http://cssgallery.info/testing-the-accessibility-of-the-css-generated-content/>

What can content be?

```
.thing:before {  
    content: ?  
}
```

TEXT / STRING

content: "\$";

content: "\0022";

IMAGE

```
content: url(i/icon-smile.png);  
content: -webkit-linear-gradient(...);
```

Needs dimensions

Behaves like an

ATTRIBUTE

content: attr(href);

content: attr(data-city);

COUNTER

On list items



content: counter(li);

counter-increment: li;

counter-reset: li;



On list

NOTHING

content: "";

The word "HTML" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A thick, solid red line starts from the bottom-left corner of the letter "H" and slopes upwards towards the top-right corner of the letter "L".

content: "<h1>Nope</h1>";

TEXT / STRING

```
<div class="price">30</div>
<div class="price" lang="cn">100</div>
```

```
[lang='cn'] .price:before,
.price[lang='cn']:before {
  content: '\00a5';
}
```

COUNTER

```
ol {  
    counter-reset: li;  
}  
ol > li:before {  
    content: counter(li);  
    counter-increment: li;  
}
```

Styling ordered list numbers demo page

This is a demo document related to the article [Styling ordered list numbers](#).

- 1 List item one
- 2 The second item on the list
- 3 Number three is a bit longer, with some lorem ipsum for good measure:
 eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad
 aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit
 in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint
 occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt
 mollit anim id est laborum.
- 4 And here is number four.
- 5 List item five.
- 6 The sixth item on the list
 - 1 A nested ordered list
 - 2 A nested list
 - 3 A nested list
- 7 Number seven is a bit longer, with some lorem ipsum for good measure:
 eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad
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 occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt
 mollit anim id est laborum.
- 8 And here is number 8.
 - o A nested unordered list
 - o A nested list
 - o A nested list
- 9 List item 9.
- 10 The tenth and last item on the list

ATTRIBUTE

```
<a href="#" data-tooltip="is hot.">  
  Your mom  
</a>
```

```
a[data-tooltip] {  
  position: relative;  
}  
a[data-tooltip]:after {  
  content: attr(data-tooltip);  
  position: absolute;  
  /* Fancy styles */  
  opacity: 0;  
}  
a[data-tooltip]:hover:after {  
  opacity: 1;  
}
```

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COMBINING WITH MEDIA QUERIES

mobile portrait

Super team:

Chris Coyier
Elisabeth Moss
Amanda Righetti

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Super team:

[✉ Chris Coyier](#)
[✉ Elisabeth Moss](#)
[✉ Amanda Righetti](#)

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Super team:

Email: [Chris Coyier](#)
Email: [Elisabeth Moss](#)
Email: [Amanda Righetti](#)

Pellentesque habitant
malesuada fames ac tu-
feugiat vitae, ultricies
libero sit amet quam e-
est. Mauris placerat ele-
ullamcorper pharetra.

mobile landscape

tablet

Super team:

Chris Coyier (chriscoyier@gmail.com)
Elisabeth Moss (isuredo@likeher.com)
Amanda Righetti (marry@me.com)

Pellentesque habitant
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pharetra. Vestibulum e-
amet, wisi. Aenean fer-
nutrum orci sagittis te-

small monitor

Super team:

[✉ Chris Coyier](#) (chriscoyier@gmail.com)
[✉ Elisabeth Moss](#) (isuredo@likeher.com)
[✉ Amanda Righetti](#) (marry@me.com)

Pellentesque habitant
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elit eget tincidunt con-
dui. Donec non enim in
cursus faucibus, torto-
erat volutpat. Nam dui

large monitor

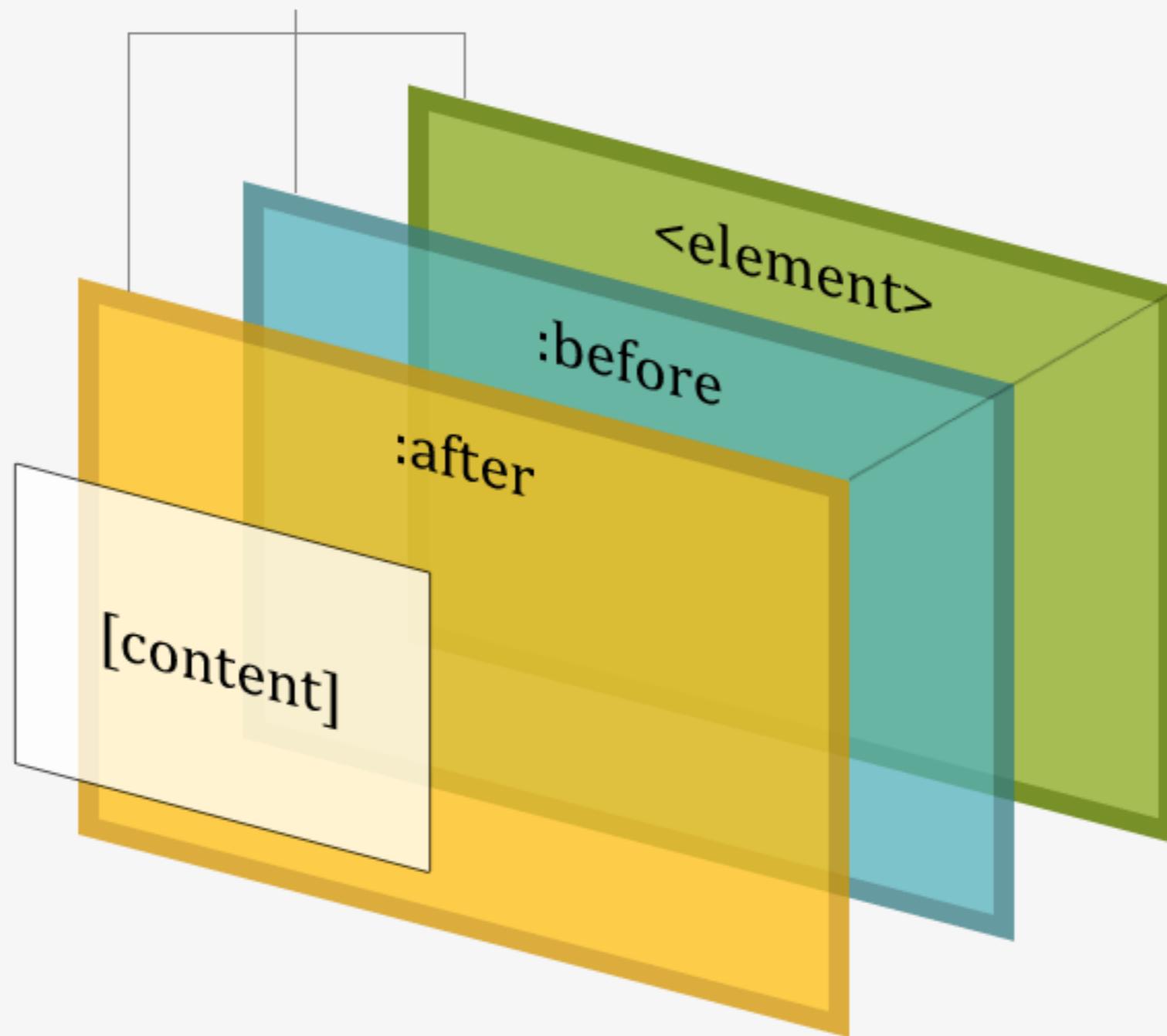
*You can't talk about Pseudo Elements
without talking about...*

Nicolas “Dr. Pseudo Element” Gallagher

<http://nicolasgallagher.com/>

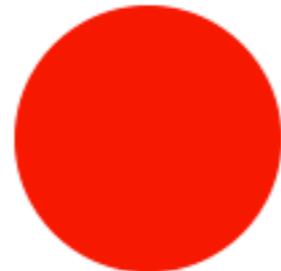
@necolas

Multiple boxes from one HTML element allow
for multiple backgrounds and borders



Shapes!

These are easy.



These are less easy.





```
.star {  
    width: 0;  
    height: 0;  
    border-left: 50px solid transparent;  
    border-right: 50px solid transparent;  
    border-bottom: 100px solid red;  
    position: relative;  
}  
.star:after {  
    width: 0;  
    height: 0;  
    border-left: 50px solid transparent;  
    border-right: 50px solid transparent;  
    border-top: 100px solid red;  
    position: absolute;  
    content: "";  
    top: 30px;  
    left: -50px;  
}
```

The Shapes of CSS

http://css-tricks.com/examples/ShapesOfCSS/

Google 1P

The *Shapes* of CSS

All of the below use only a single HTML element. Any kind of CSS goes, as long as it's supported in at least one browser.

Square



```
#square {  
    width: 100px;  
    height: 100px;  
    background: red;  
}
```

<http://css-tricks.com/examples/ShapesOfCSS/>

Fancy View Source

	Search		Home		Power
	Comment		Photo		Play
	Like		Video		Stop
	Add		Music		Pause
	Remove		Call		Play
	Delete		Call in progress		Stop
	Add		Tags		Pause
	Remove		RSS		Volume
	Delete		Email		Volume on
	Report		Profile		Mute
	Trash		File		Volume up
	Lock		Folder		Volume down
	Unlock		List view		Mic
	Update status		Permalink		Fast forward
	Retweet		History		Fast rewind
	Save		Tools		Next track
	Edit		MP3 Player		Previous track
	Download		Headphones		Repeat
	Forward		Ribbon		Expand
	Back		Views		Shrink
	Up		Location		Toggle video size
	Down		Info		Pop out
	Forward		Help		Enlarge
	Back		Pie chart		Full-screen
	Up		Success		Exit full-screen
	Down		Success (alt)		Eject
	Forward		Warning		

Remember, CSS **TWO** not THREE

Browser Support

CSS-Tricks
97%

85%

Other tech
92%



3.5+
3.0- positioning issues



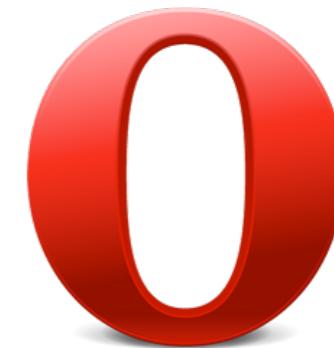
1+



9+
8 :: / :hover / z-index
7-



1.3+



6+

MORE

A Whole Bunch of Amazing S X

css-tricks.com/9516-pseudo-element-roundup/

css    

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Curated by Chris Coyier

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By Chris Coyier
On 6/13/2011
With 40 Comments

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Type

Gotham Condensed

Gotham Rounded

TUNGSTEN

Whitney

Thanks!

[http://bit.ly/???](http://bit.ly/)