

## Project 4 Tool

### Prompt

Make a tool for yourself. This tool should make an external data source functional in a way the source didn't originally expect. In other words, it should render a dead website alive.

### Examples

*Craigslist-Assisted Readymade* by Adriana Ramić, 2011

"Randomly chooses an American region and 3 of its free items every 8 seconds."

*Dataman* by Linked by Air for 2x4, 2007

"Dataman is a lifesize 3D rendering of two walking runway models projected onto glass in Prada's Los Angeles store. In keeping with the store's themes of celebrity culture and narcissism, each day's celebrity news headlines appear as a realtime 'event garment' on the 3D renderings."

*Two Headlines* by Darius Kazemi, 2013

"Mashes two headlines about different things together. Updates hourly."

## Means

You will do this by creating and then using your own bespoke API. API, or application program interface, is a set of tools that allow programmers to use specific data sources. For example, Twitter, Instagram, Dropbox, Google Maps all have APIs that make it easy for programmers to make their own applications using their data. For the purposes of this project, we will use a new service called Kimono Labs ([kimonolabs.com](http://kimonolabs.com)) that easily lets users create their own APIs and then integrate them with existing HTML, CSS, and jQuery.

### Step 1. Sketching

While it is important that this project “works”, it is first important to have a good idea and to sketch it out before fully programming so that you can communicate your idea to the class. Please make an InDesign sketch of your website before programming it completely. Show a thorough sketch on Class 12 (Monday, April 20th).

### Step 2. Programming

Create your own custom API on [kimonolabs.com](http://kimonolabs.com). During Class 11 (Monday, April 13th), I will show a demo on how to do this.

### Step 3. Presenting

When it is time to present your project on Class 14 (Monday, May 5th), please have both your programmed piece and a backup plan. Most likely, this backup plan will be a non-dynamic HTML/CSS page that shows your design intent. (Or, if the code simply isn't working your way, you should show a thoughtful PDF or Keynote presentation.) As Dan Michaelson of Linked by Air said, “It’s a natural part of this kind of work that there is a gap between implementation and aspiration. It’s important to show that gap in a beautiful, compelling way that can inspire others to understand where the project is going, or lead them to that destination. Practice showing this presentation so that it is smooth.”