

# **CRAFTING RICH EXPERIENCES**

**with progressive enhancement**

**progressive enhancement**



**TECHNOLOGICAL  
RESTRICTIONS**





**MCM LXXVII**

**MCMMLXXVII**

**(that's 1977)**







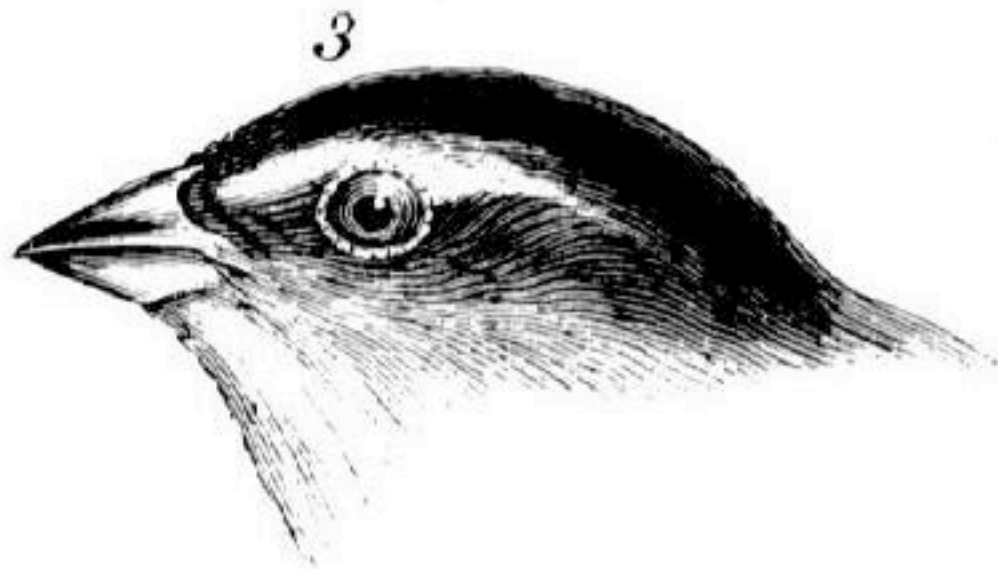
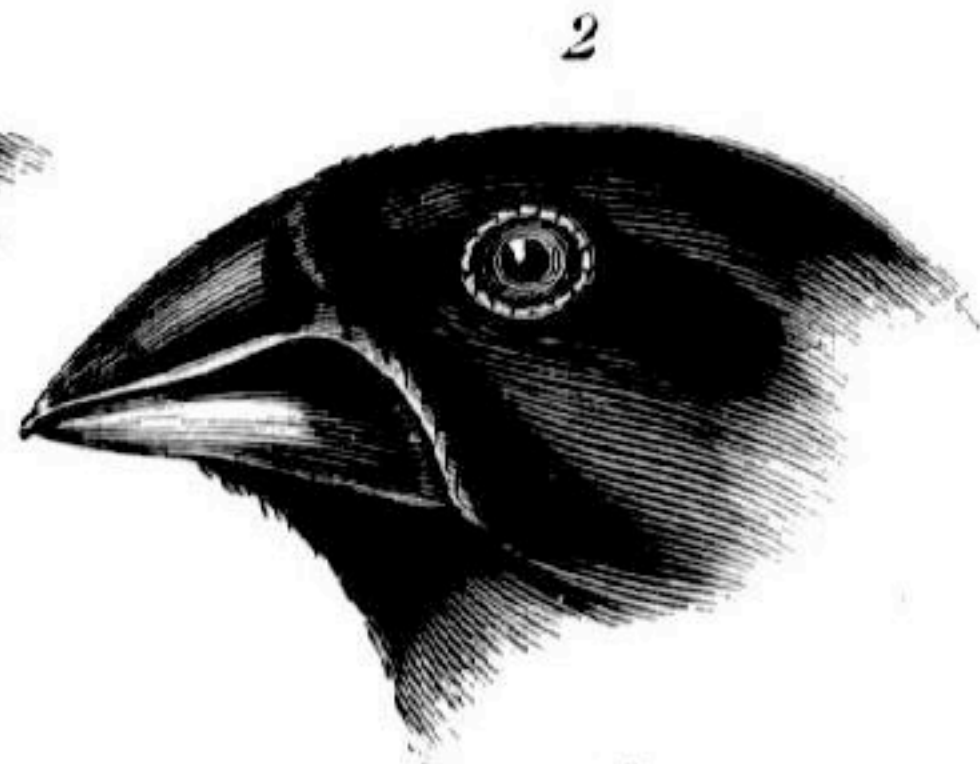
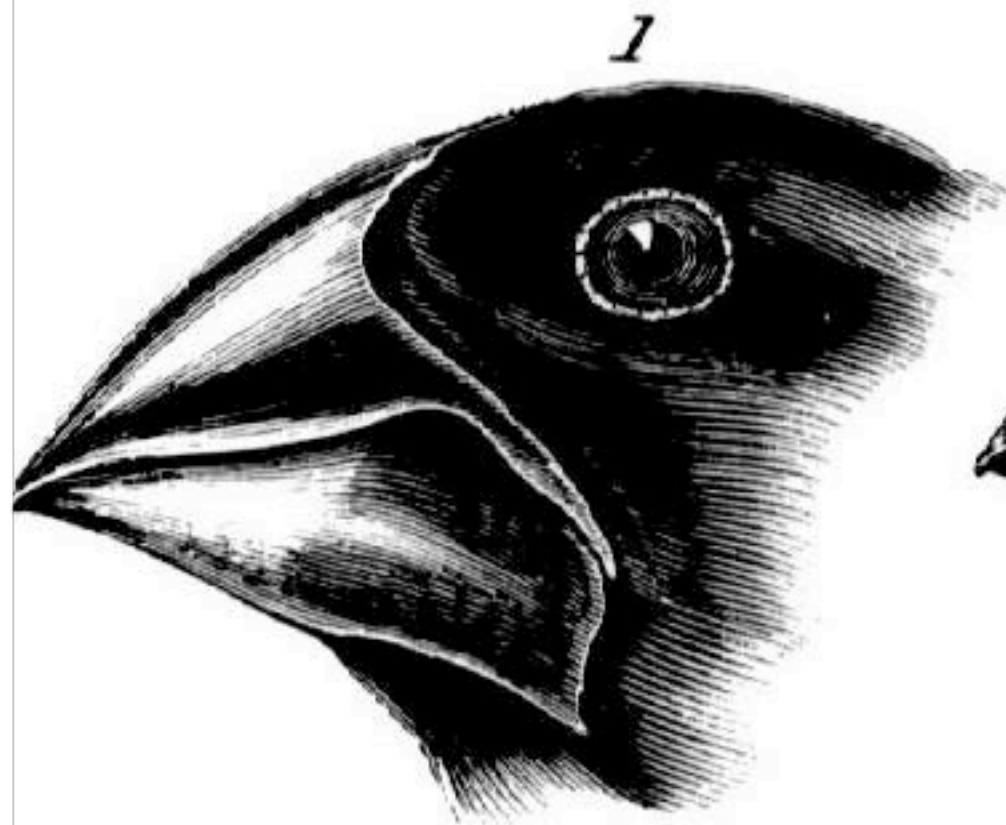


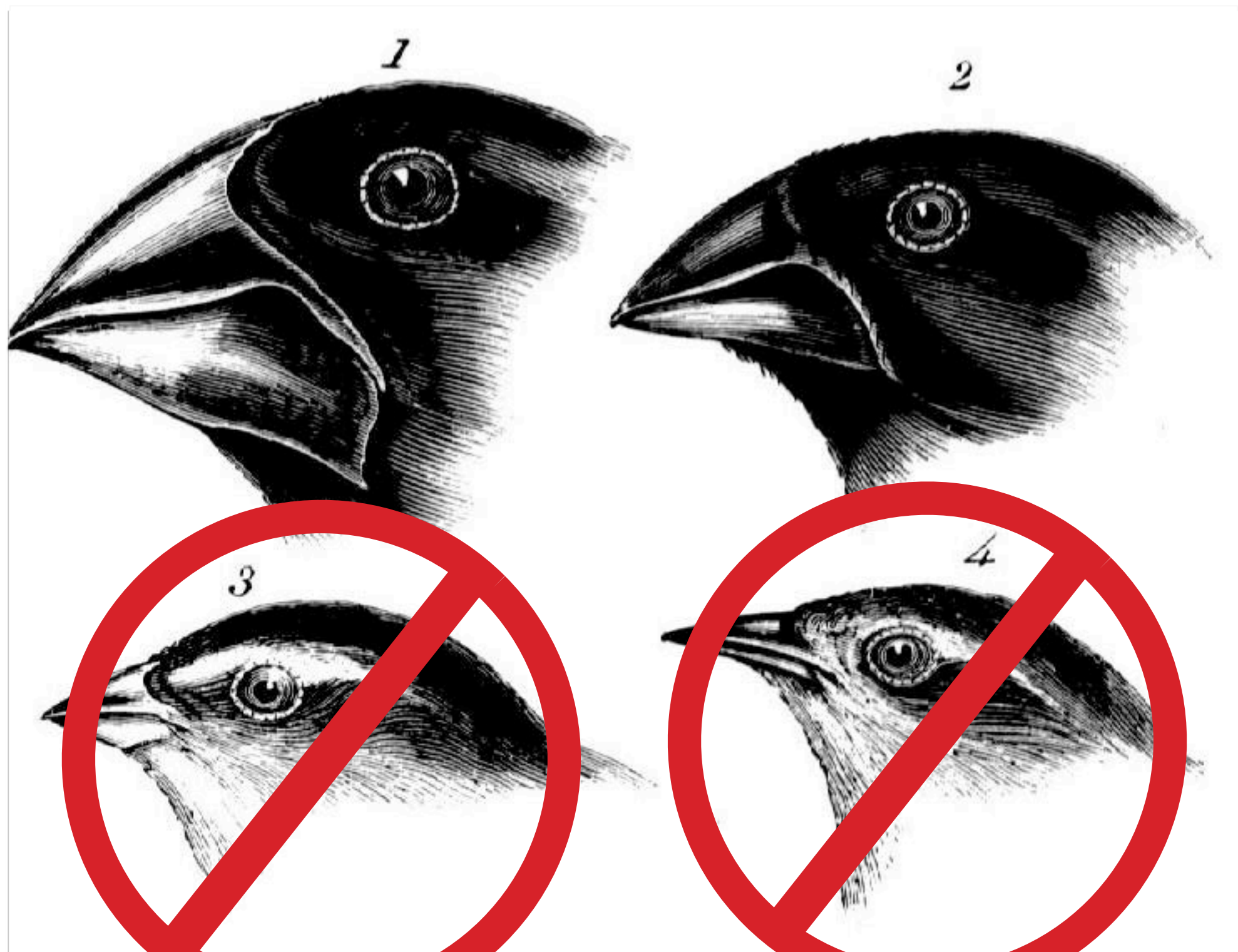






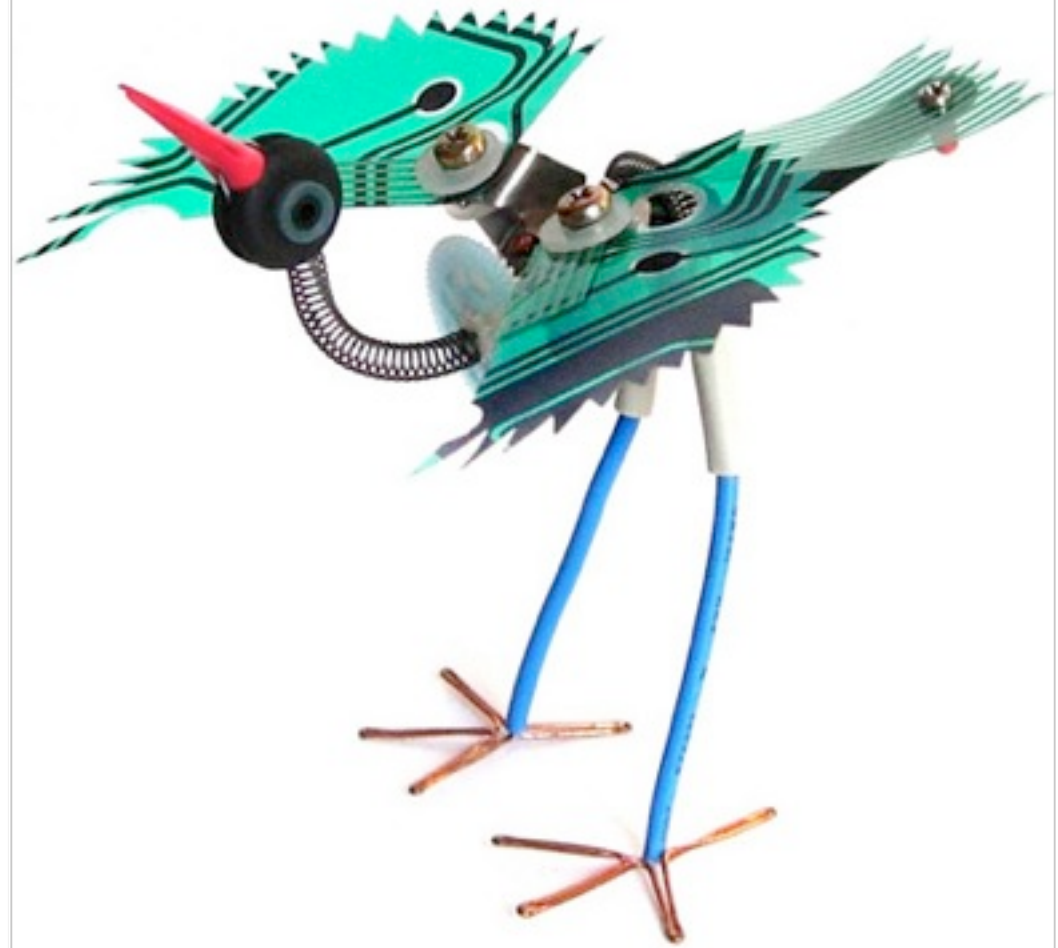








HTML



CSS

# **fault tolerance**

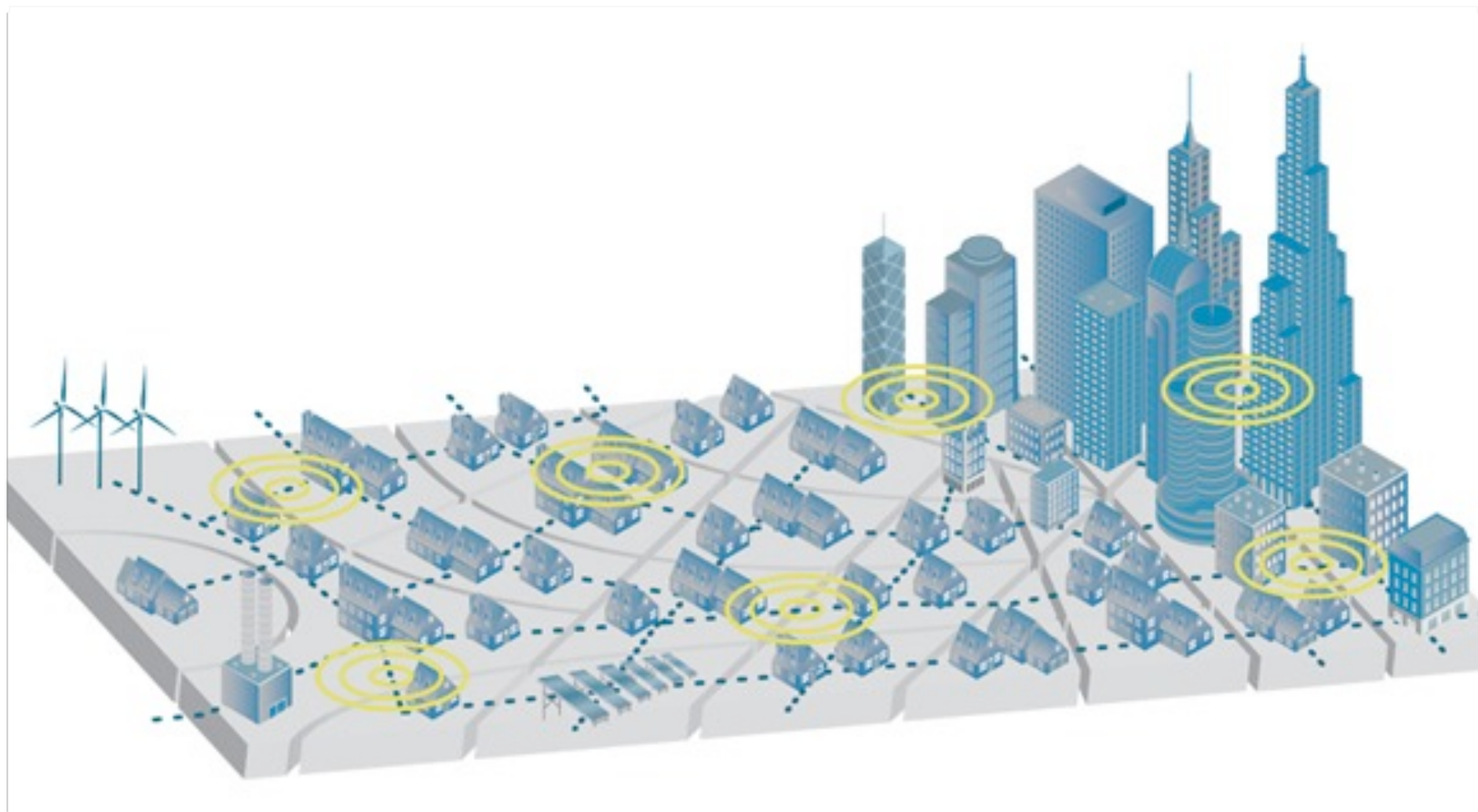
*n.* a system's ability to continue to operate when it encounters and unexpected error.











**BROWSERS  
IGNORE WHAT  
THEY DON'T  
UNDERSTAND**

# GRACEFUL DEGRADATION

# MODERN BROWSERS

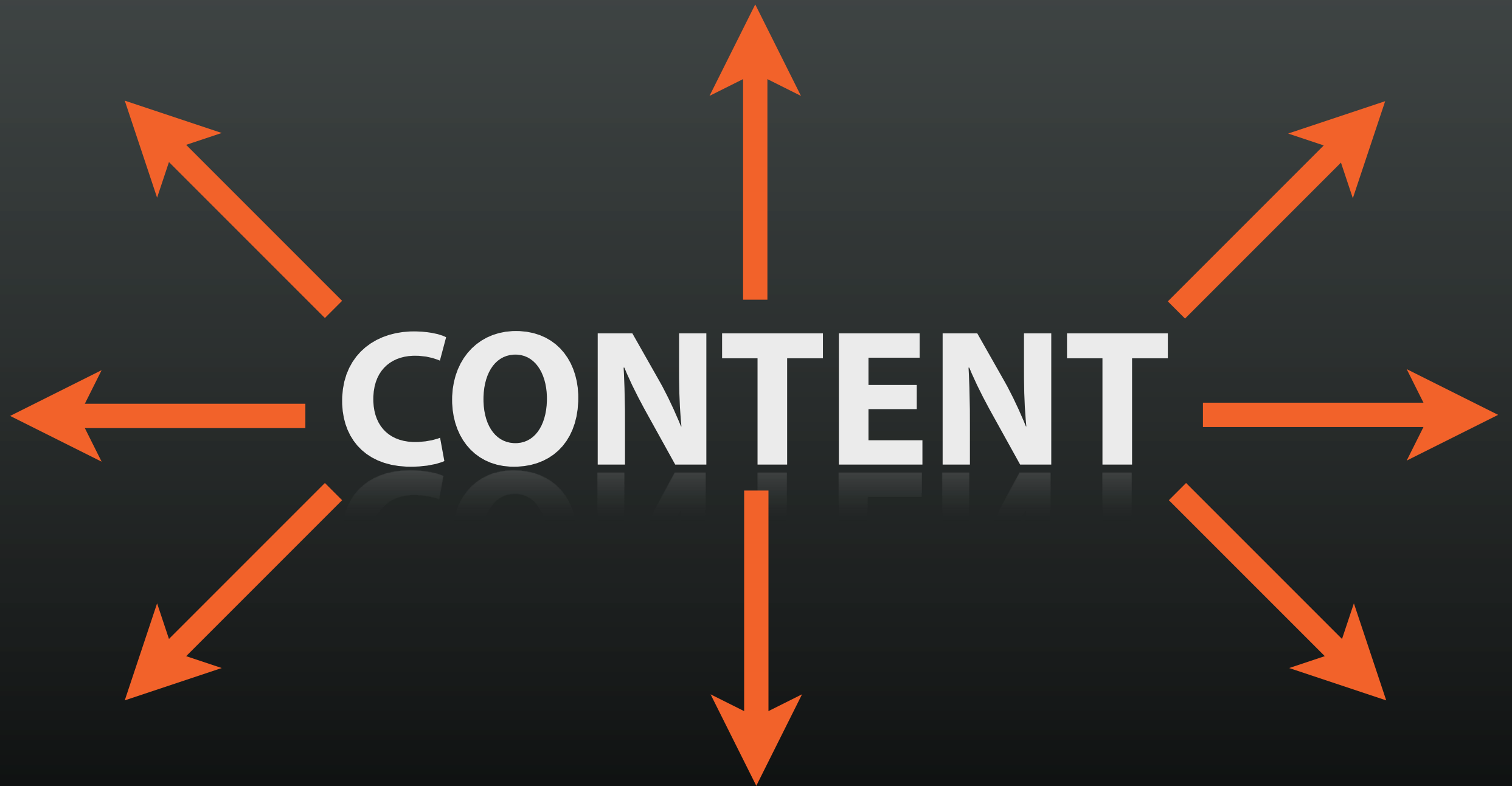


OLDER BROWSERS



# PROGRESSIVE ENHANCEMENT







**ACCESSIBILITY**

***“SPECIAL NEEDS”***

**“SPECIAL NEEDS”  
CAN BE  
CONTEXTUAL**



YOU MUST BE THIS TALL  
TO RIDE WITH AN ADULT







A diagram consisting of two concentric circles. The outer circle is light blue and contains the text "GRACEFUL DEGRADATION". The inner circle is orange and contains the text "PROGRESSIVE ENHANCEMENT".

**GRACEFUL DEGRADATION**

**PROGRESSIVE  
ENHANCEMENT**

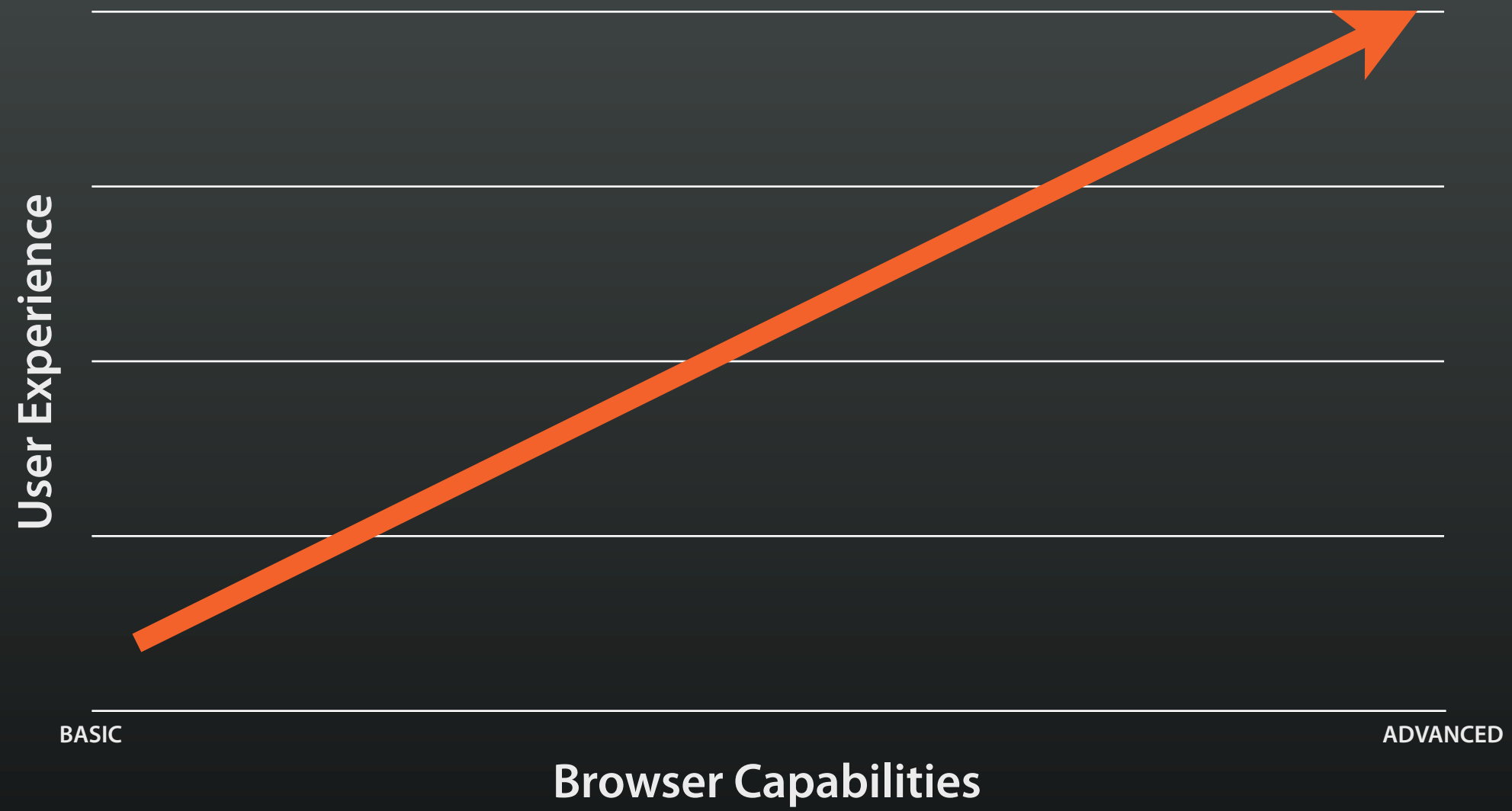


**OOOH, SHINY!**

**PROGRESSIVE  
ENHANCEMENT  
ISN'T ABOUT  
BROWSERS**

**BROWSERS AND  
TECHNOLOGIES  
COME AND GO**

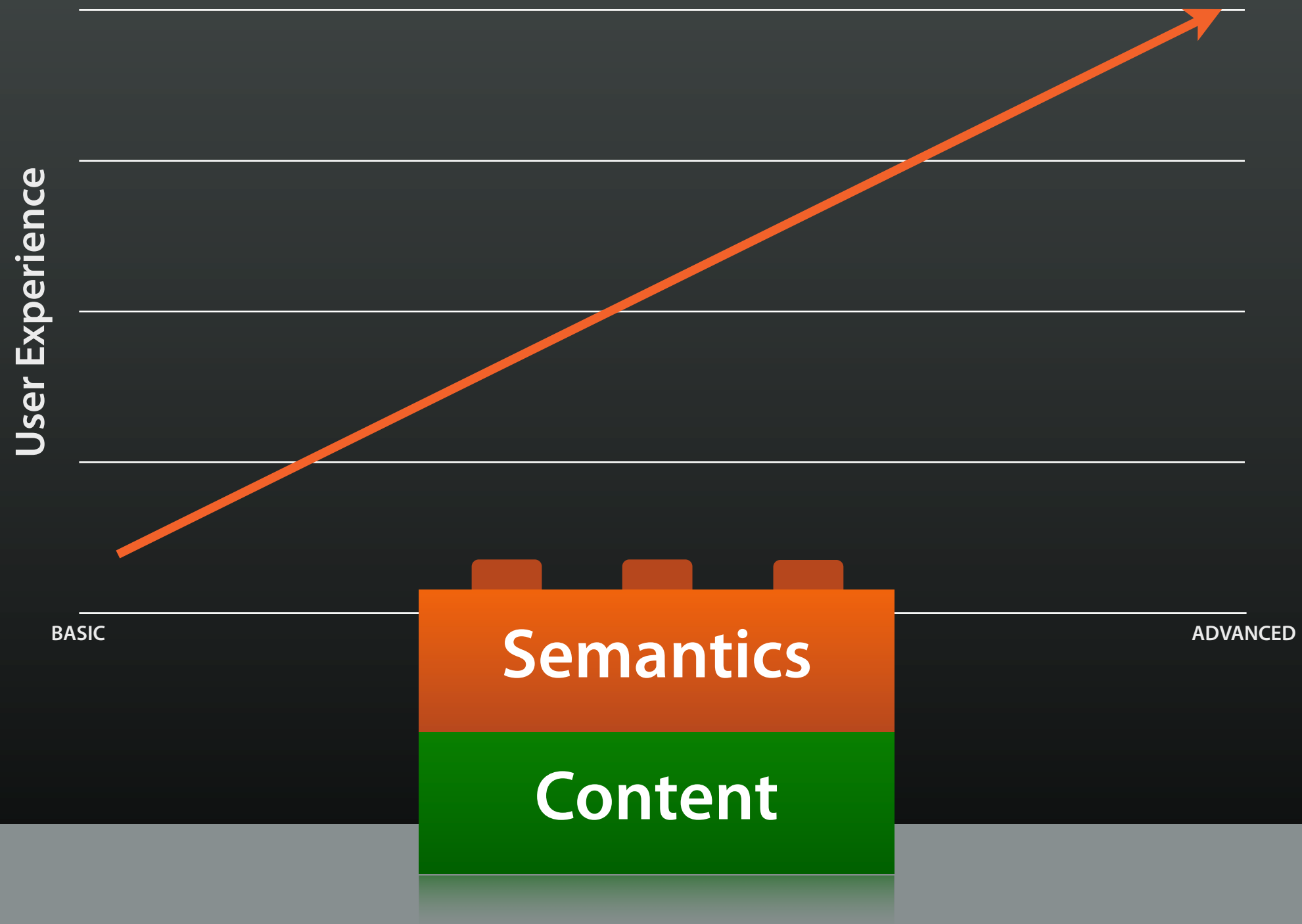
**DON'T LOSE  
SIGHT OF  
YOUR **USERS****



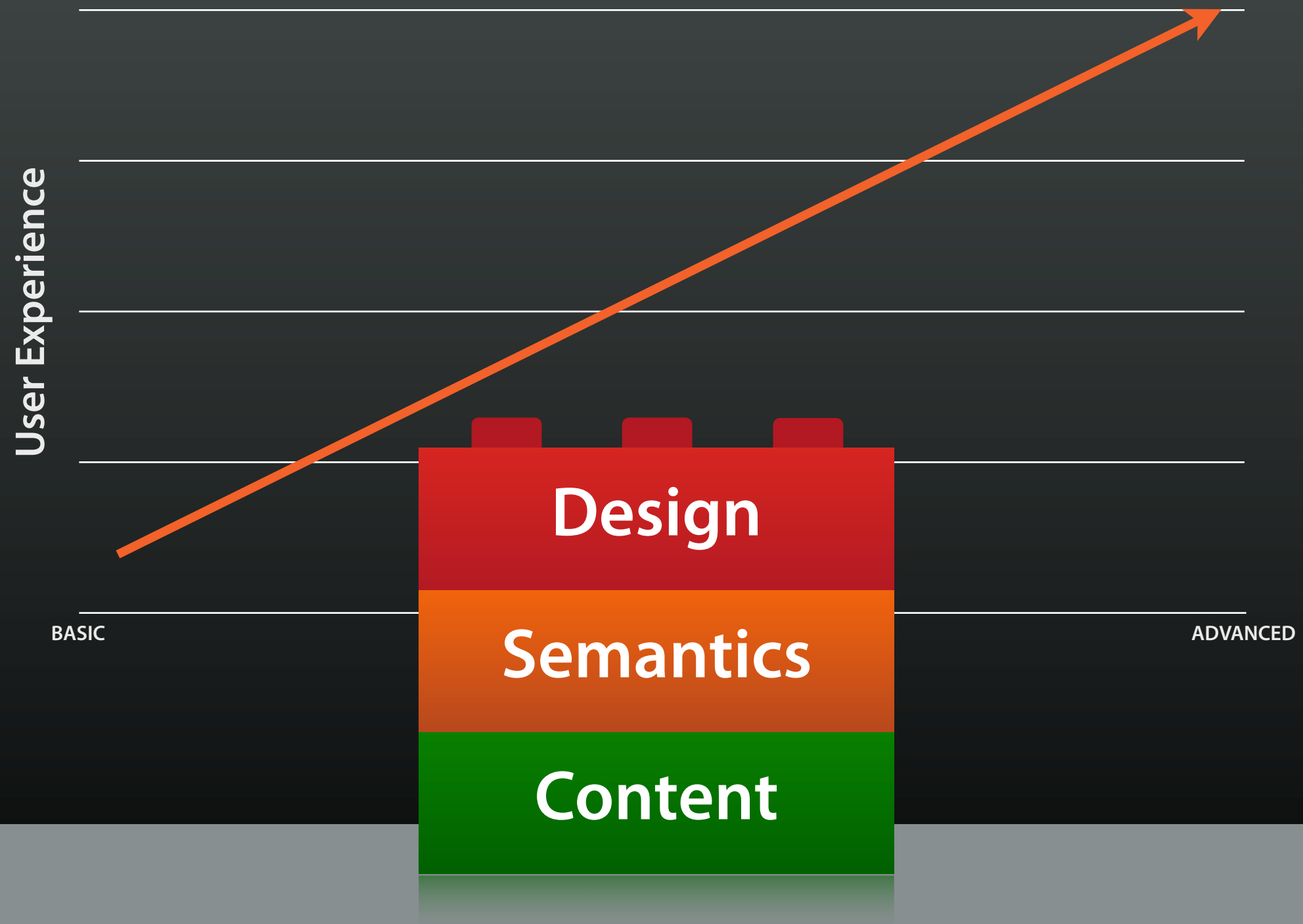


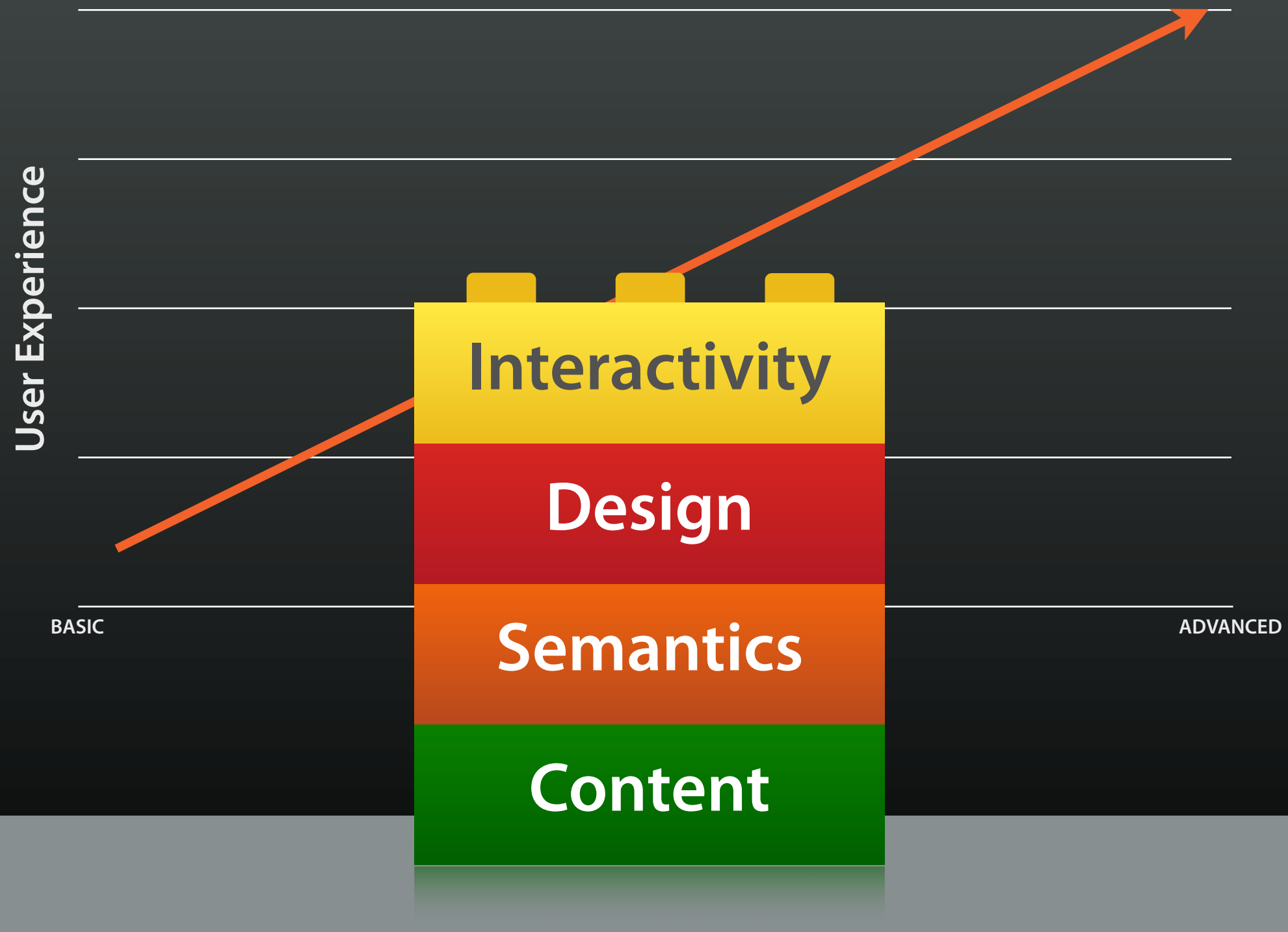
Browser Capabilities

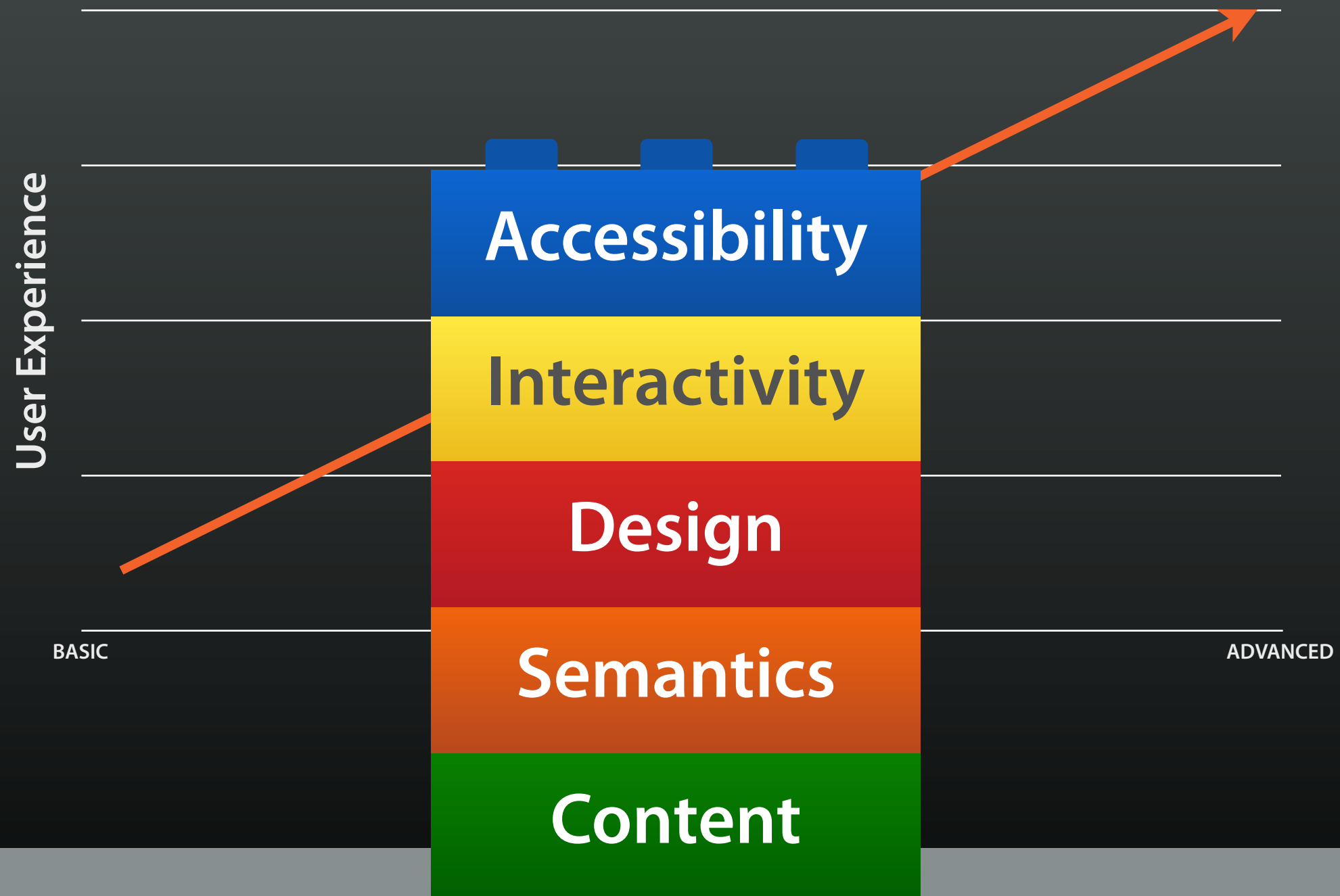
Content

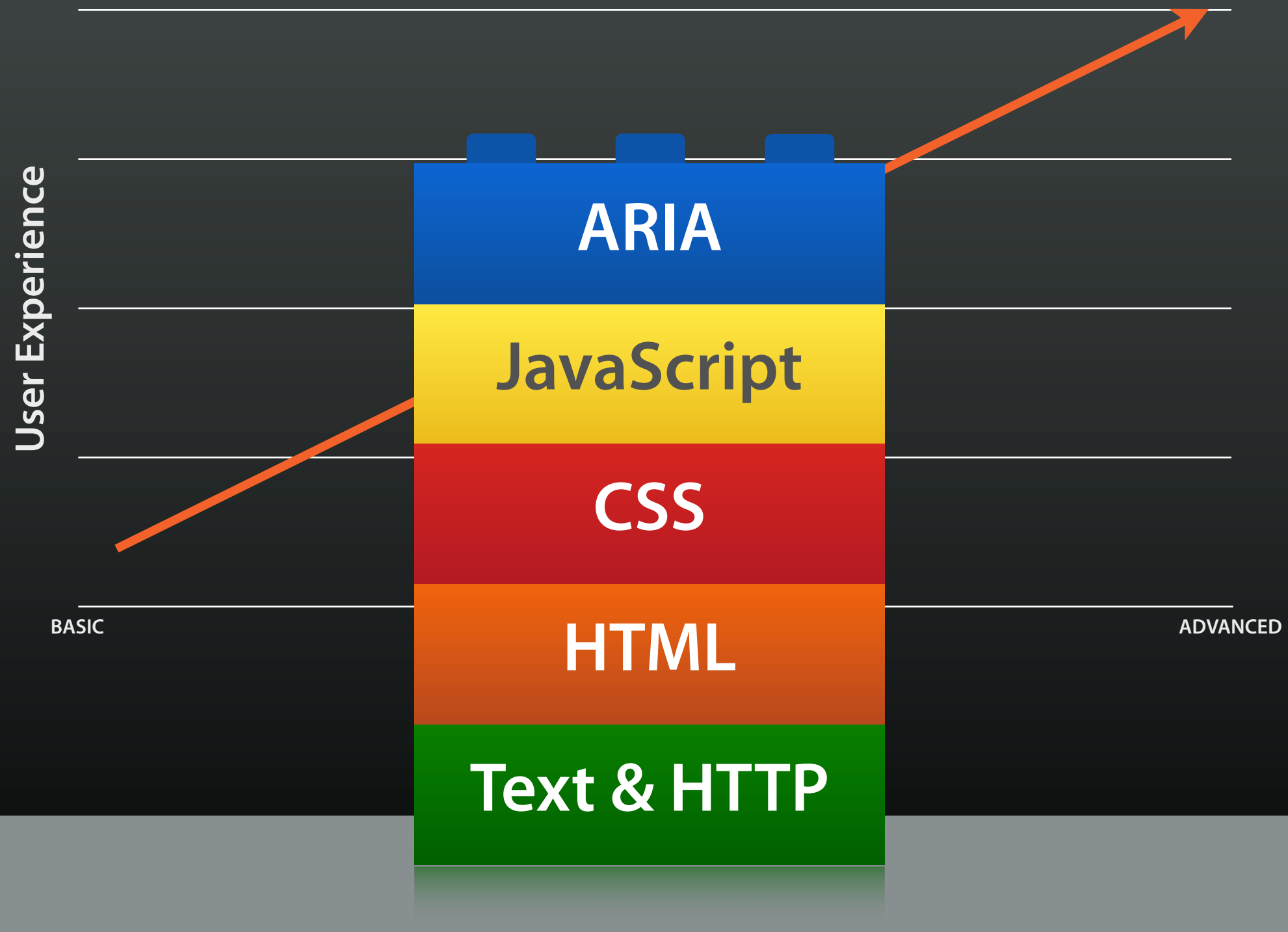






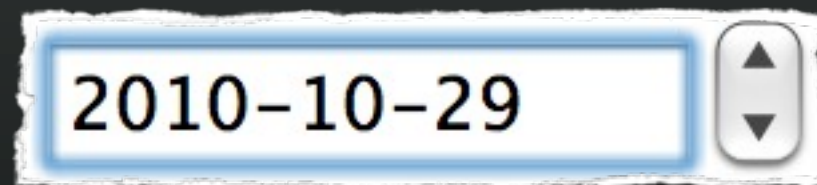






**FOR EXAMPLE**

```
<input type="date" name="dob" />
```

A date input field with a white background and a blue border. It contains the text "2010-10-29". To the right of the text is a small, light gray button with two black arrows, one pointing up and one pointing down, indicating a calendar picker.An empty date input field with a white background and a blue border. It is currently empty.



```
<video poster="poster.png">
  <source src="video.m4v" />
  <source src="video.webm" />
  <source src="video.ogv" />
  
  <ul>
    <li><a href="video.m4v">Download MP4</a></li>
    <li><a href="video.webm">Download WebM</a></li>
    <li><a href="video.ogv">Download Ogg</a></li>
  </ul>
</video>
```

```
<header role="banner">
  <h1></h1>
  <nav role="navigation">
    <ol>
      <li><a href="#details">Details</a></li>
      <li><a href="#schedule">Schedule</a></li>
      <li><a href="#instructors">Instructors</a></li>
      <li><a href="#lodging">Lodging</a></li>
      <li><a href="#location">Location</a></li>
    </ol>
  </nav>
</header>
```

```
p {  
  color: #ccc;  
  color: rgba( 0, 0, 0, .5 );  
}
```

```
html[lang] p {  
  color: #ccc;  
  color: rgba( 0, 0, 0, .5 );  
}
```

# CSS ZEN GARDEN

CHOOSING THE RIGHT "BOX MODEL"

## the road to enlightenment

Littering a dark and dreary road lay the past relics of browser-specific tags, incompatible DOMs, and broken CSS support.

Today, we must clear the mind of past practices. Web enlightenment has been achieved thanks to the tireless efforts of folk like the W3C, WAP and the major browser creators.

The css Zen Garden invites you to relax and meditate on the important lessons of the masters. Begin to see with clarity. Learn to use the (yet to be) time-honored techniques in new and invigorating fashion. Become one with the web.



A demonstration of what can be accomplished visually through CSS based design. Select any style sheet from the list to load it into this page.

Download the sample [html file](#) and [css file](#).

## SO WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

There is clearly a need for CSS to be taken seriously by graphic artists. The Zen Garden aims to excite, inspire, and encourage participation. To begin, view some of the existing designs in the list. Clicking on any one will load the style sheet into this very page. The code remains the same, the only thing that has changed is the external [css file](#). Yes, really.

CSS allows complete and total control over the style of a hypertext document. The only way this can be illustrated in a way that gets people excited is by demonstrating what it can truly be, once the reins are placed in the hands of those able to create beauty from structure. To date, most examples of neat tricks and hacks have been demonstrated by structurists and coders. Designers have yet to make their mark. This needs to change.

## PARTICIPATION

Graphic artists only please. You are modifying this page, so strong CSS skills are necessary, but the example files are commented well enough that even CSS novices can use them as starting points. Please see the [CSS Resource Guide](#) for advanced tutorials and tips on working with CSS.

You may modify the style sheet in any way you wish, but not the HTML. This may seem daunting at first if you've never worked this way before, but follow the listed links to learn more, and use the sample files as a guide.

Download the sample [html file](#) and [css file](#) to work on a copy locally. Once you have completed your masterpiece (and please, don't submit half-finished work) upload your [css file](#) to a web server under your control. [Send us a link](#) to the file and if we choose to use it, we will spider the associated images. Final submissions will be placed on our server.

## BENEFITS

Why participate? For recognition, inspiration, and a resource we can all refer to when making the case for CSS-based design. This is sorely needed, even today. More and more major sites are taking the leap, but not enough have. One day this gallery will be a historical curiosity; that day is not today.

## REQUIREMENTS

We would like to see as much CSS1 as possible. CSS2 should be limited to widely-supported elements only. The css Zen Garden is about functional, practical CSS and not the latest bleeding-edge tricks viewable by 2% of the browsing public. The only real requirement we have is that your CSS validates.

Unfortunately, designing this way highlights the flaws in the various implementations of CSS. Different browsers display differently, even completely valid CSS at times, and this becomes maddening when a fix for one leads to breakage in another. View the [Resources](#) page for information on some of the fixes available. Full browser compliance is still sometimes a pipe dream, and we do not expect you to come up with pixel-perfect code across every platform. But do test in as many as you can. If your design doesn't work in at least IES+Win and Mozilla (run by over 90% of the population), chances are we won't accept it.

## SELECT A DESIGN

[Under the Sea](#) by Eric Stafl

[Make 'em Proud](#) by Michael McAdams and Scotty McFarland

[Refractor](#)

[Orchid Beauty](#) by Kevin Addison

[Download](#) by Justin Gray

[CSS Co. Ltd.](#) by Benjamin Kromm

[Sakura](#) by Tatsuya Uchida

[Kerbs Forest](#) by John Poltowinski

[A Walk in the Garden](#) by Simon Van Heusermeiren



## ARCHIVE

[List designs a](#)  
[View All Designs](#)

## RESOURCES

[View This Site's CSS](#)

[CSS Resource](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Submit a Design](#)

[Translations](#)

← IE6 & under

MOSe



```
#intro {  
    /* Basic Layout */  
}
```

```
/* ... */
```

```
body[id=css-zen-garden] #intro {  
    /* Advanced Layout */  
}
```



```
#intro {  
    /* Basic Layout */  
}
```

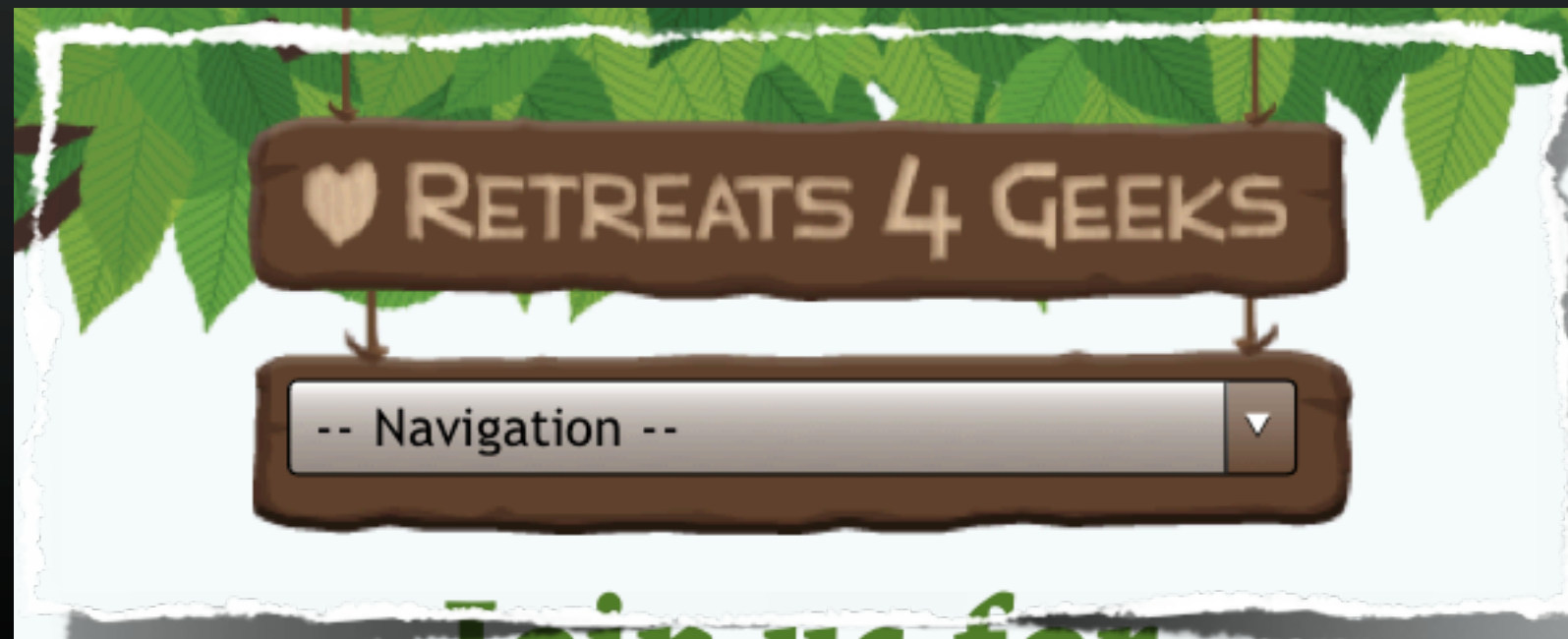
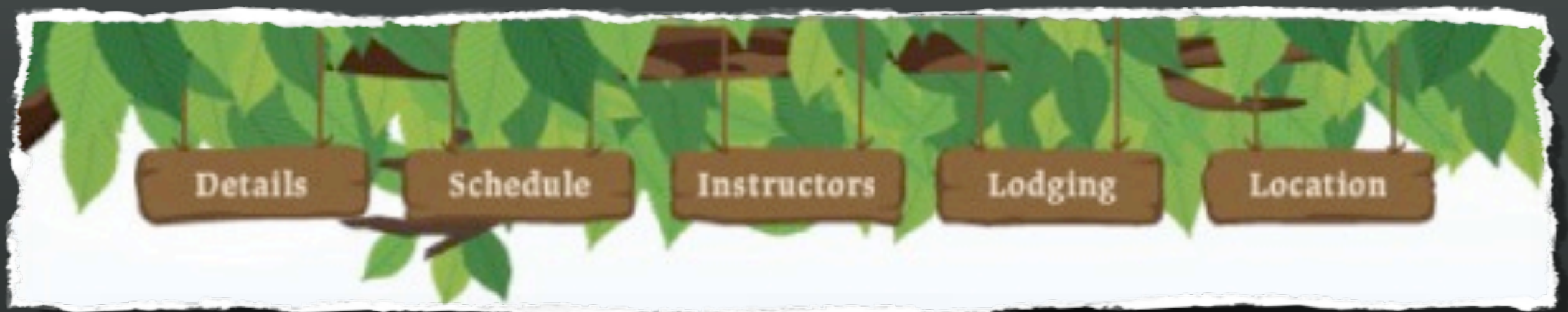
```
/* ... */
```

```
[foo],  
#intro {  
    /* Advanced Layout */  
}
```

```
@import 'not-for-IE7-or-below.css'  
    screen;
```

```
@media screen, print, refrigerator {  
    /* IE will get these rules */  
}
```

```
@media
  screen and (min-device-width:1024px)
    and (max-width:989px),
  screen and (max-device-width:480px),
  screen and (max-device-width:480px)
    and (orientation:landscape),
  screen and (min-device-width:481px)
    and (orientation:portrait) {
  /* Layout for narrower desktop (below 990px)
  or
  iPhone running iOS 3 (or equivalent)
  or
  iPhone running iOS 4 (or equivalent) in "landscape" view
  or
  iPad (or equivalent) in "portrait" view */
}
```



**ARIA**

**JavaScript**

**CSS**

**HTML**

**Text & HTTP**

# Crafting Rich Experiences with Progressive Enhancement

by Aaron Gustafson

More of the same:

<http://adaptivewebdesign.info>

<http://easy-designs.net>

<http://easy-reader.net>

<http://aaron-gustafson.com>

Slides available at

<http://slideshare.net/AaronGustafson>

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