This post is about the Mitt Romney web font problem. You, probably never heard of it, so let's start with figuring out what happened. When I started reading, it sounded like a joke, I was thinking: "A few extra milliseconds of loading wouldn't really change anything". Well, fun fact, it is.

The problem occurred because of the usage of multiple weights and styles of the same typeface together. Down below I provided two samples, so you can see the difference. The left one is a loading version of the webpage's header and the right one is a loaded version of the header.

My next question was: "Why did it happen?". Well, each web font incurs its own separate flash of invisible text, which leads to the point that by combining two web fonts together in a single headline, the FOIT has created a race condition that alters the integrity of the content. Interesting fact, but this problem would've never acquired if they would've used one font for the entire sign, so sometimes less is more.

Another interesting fact is that I would highly doubt that this problem would've been so dramatic 20 years ago. The internet was a lot slower and the people's mindset was different. I still remember times when I was leaving my computer on, for the entire night, to download any game, however, nowadays it takes an hour in the worst-case scenario. With the dramatic change in the speed of the internet, the habits of using the internet have changed as well. Years ago, you would be trying to read one article multiple times trying to find an answer for the question, or at least some hints, even if the webpage looked badly put together or was just hard to read. Nowadays, there are many similar articles and notes out there, that most of the time it's easier to skim through the webpage for a few seconds and then figure out if you would like to read it or not. If not, you usually don't even wait till the page is loaded, you just go to the next one.

A few weeks ago, I had a similar issue, I used the fonts from the internet, which had an issue with loading. That's why I ended up adding the web-safe fonts as the second option in the CSS file. In case of failure to load both fonts, I added the third option as serif/sans-serif. It's a lot smaller problem, but even on this scale, we can see that it's important to have an option in case of failure. In my opinion, the best way to solve the Mitt Romney web font problem is to load the text with the web-safe fonts first, and then, after loading a page, switch to the desired ones. It'll make text loading faster and decrease the chance of failure. If switching failed, it going to be fine, but won't look as good as it could've been.