

# Taking Flight with Tailwind CSS

Oliver Davies (@opdavies)

<https://opdavi.es/dcg>



# What is utility-first CSS?

- A different way to write CSS.
- Instead of writing CSS in separate files, you work primarily in HTML.
- Small CSS classes with a single responsibility.
- Classes are named by what they do, not where they are used.



# The traditional CSS approach

```
1 h1 {  
2   font-size: 3rem;  
3   font-weight: bold;  
4   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */  
5   padding: .5rem 0 2rem;  
6 }
```

```
1 h1 {
2   font-size: 3rem;
3   font-weight: bold;
4   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
5   padding: .5rem 0 2rem;
6 }
7
8 .card {
9   padding: 2rem;
10 }
11
12 .card p {
13   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
14   font-size: 3rem;
15   font-weight: bold;
16 }
```

```
1 h1 {
2   font-size: 3rem;
3   font-weight: bold;
4   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
5   padding: .5rem 0 2rem;
6 }
7
8 .card {
9   padding: 2rem;
10 }
11
12 .card p {
13   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
14   font-size: 3rem;
15   font-weight: bold;
16 }
```

```
1 h1 {
2   font-size: 3rem;
3   font-weight: bold;
4   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
5   padding: .5rem 0 2rem;
6 }
7
8 .card {
9   padding: 2rem;
10 }
11
12 .card p {
13   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
14   font-size: 3rem;
15   font-weight: bold;
16 }
```

```
1 h1 {
2   font-size: 3rem;
3   font-weight: bold;
4   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
5   padding: .5rem 0 2rem;
6 }
7
8 .card {
9   padding: 2rem;
10 }
11
12 .card p {
13   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
14   font-size: 3rem;
15   font-weight: bold;
16 }
```



```
1 h1 {
2   font-size: 3rem;
3   font-weight: bold;
4   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
5   padding: .5rem 0 2rem;
6 }
7
8 .card {
9   padding: 2rem;
10 }
11
12 .card p {
13   color: #020617; /* Dark grey */
14   font-size: 3rem;
15   font-weight: bold;
16 }
```

# The utility-first CSS approach

```
1 .font-bold {  
2   font-weight: bold;  
3 }  
4  
5 .text-slate-900 {  
6   color: #020617;  
7 }  
8  
9 .text-5xl {  
10  text-size: 3rem;  
11 }  
12  
13 .flex {  
14   display: flex;  
15 }
```

```
1 .font-bold {  
2   font-weight: bold;  
3 }  
4  
5 .text-slate-900 {  
6   color: #020617;  
7 }  
8  
9 .text-5xl {  
10  text-size: 3rem;  
11 }  
12  
13 .flex {  
14  display: flex;  
15 }
```

```
1 .font-bold {  
2   font-weight: bold;  
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4  
5 .text-slate-900 {  
6   color: #020617;  
7 }  
8  
9 .text-5xl {  
10  text-size: 3rem;  
11 }  
12  
13 .flex {  
14  display: flex;  
15 }
```

```
1 .font-bold {  
2   font-weight: bold;  
3 }  
4  
5 .text-slate-900 {  
6   color: #020617;  
7 }  
8  
9 .text-5xl {  
10  text-size: 3rem;  
11 }  
12  
13 .flex {  
14   display: flex;  
15 }
```

```
1 .font-bold {  
2   font-weight: bold;  
3 }  
4  
5 .text-slate-900 {  
6   color: #020617;  
7 }  
8  
9 .text-5xl {  
10  text-size: 3rem;  
11 }  
12  
13 .flex {  
14   display: flex;  
15 }
```

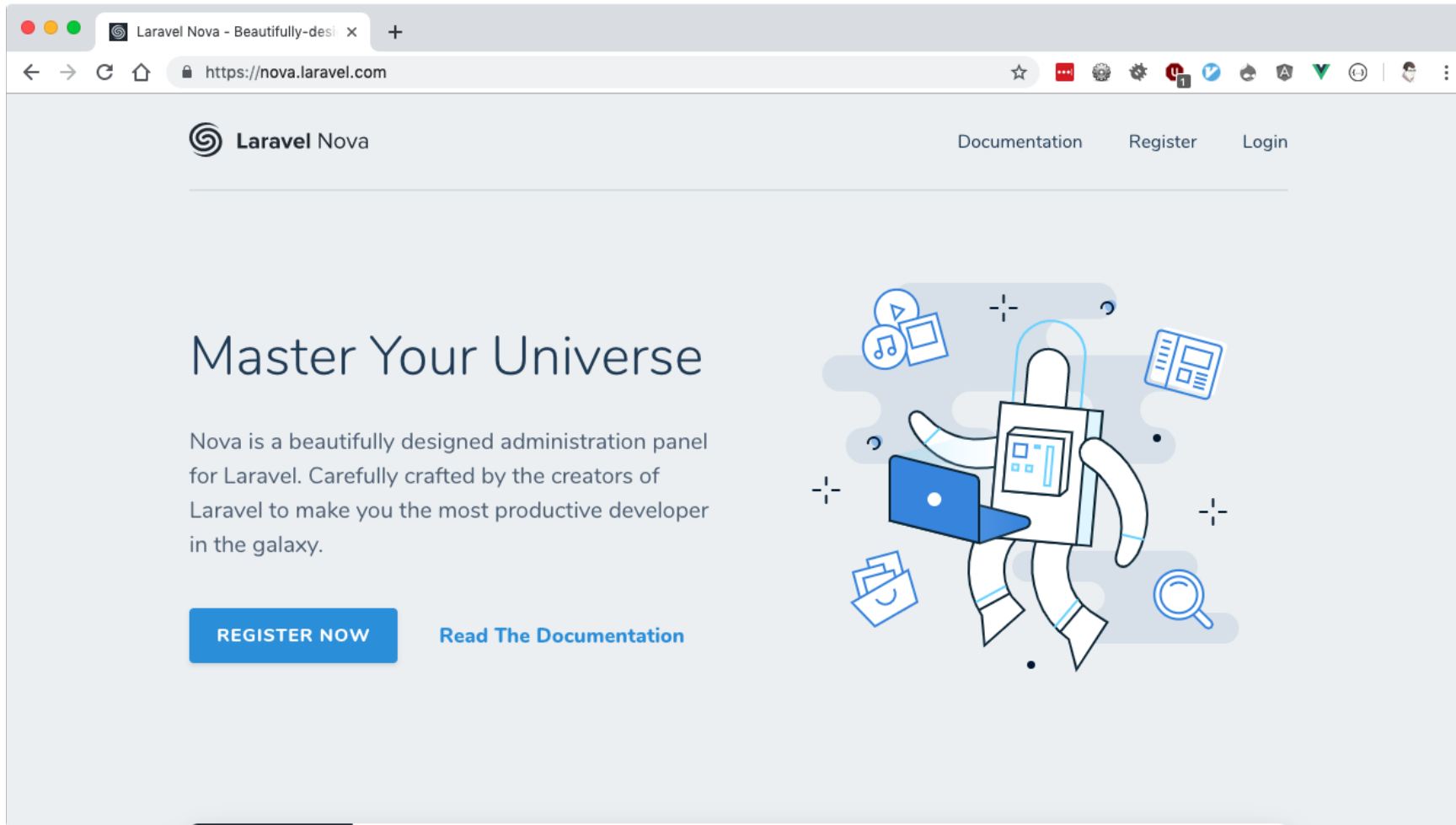
# What problems does this solve?

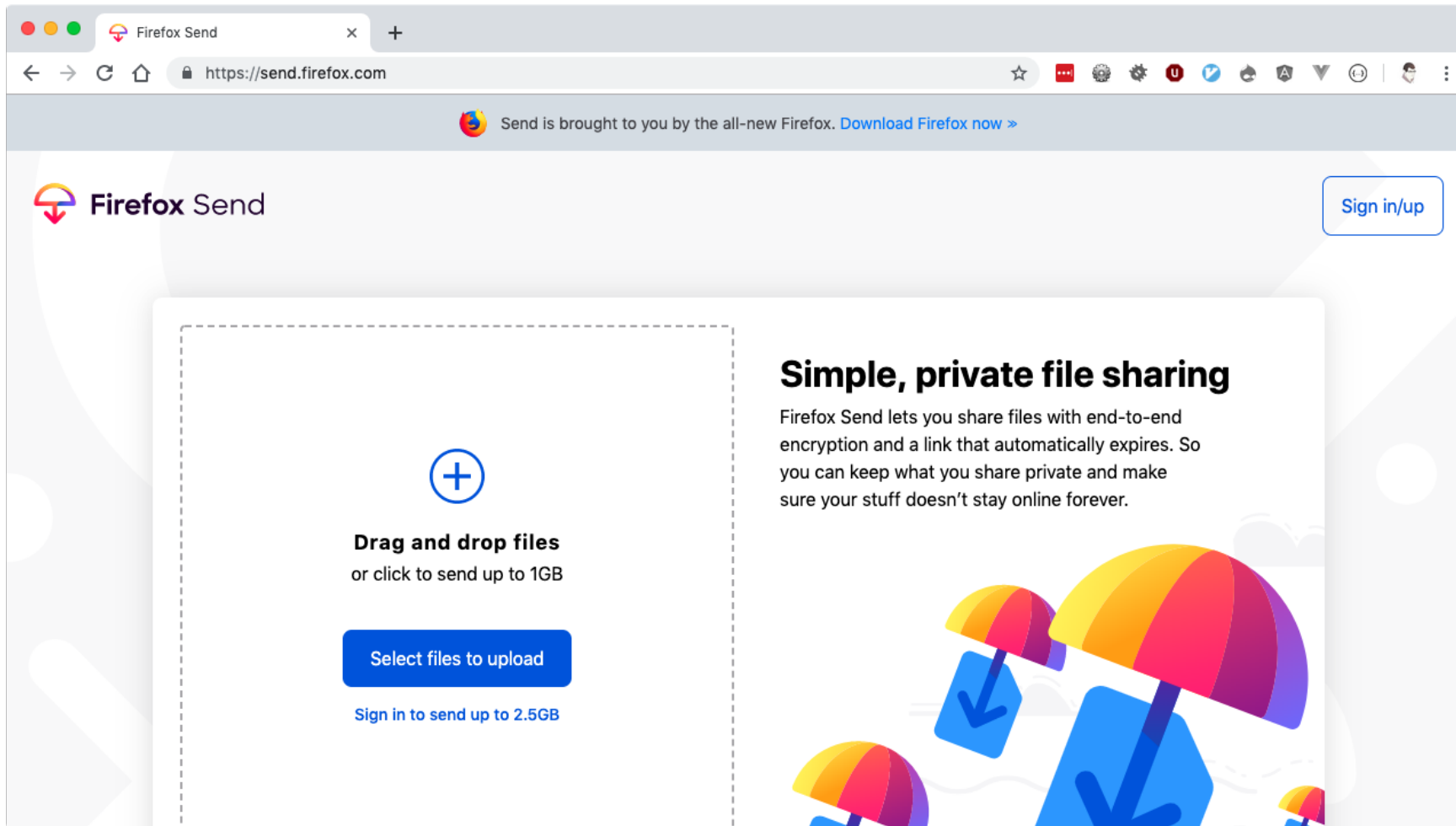
- You don't waste time and energy inventing class names.
- No switching between CSS and HTML files.
- Your CSS stops growing.
- Reusability.
- Making changes feels (and is) safer.

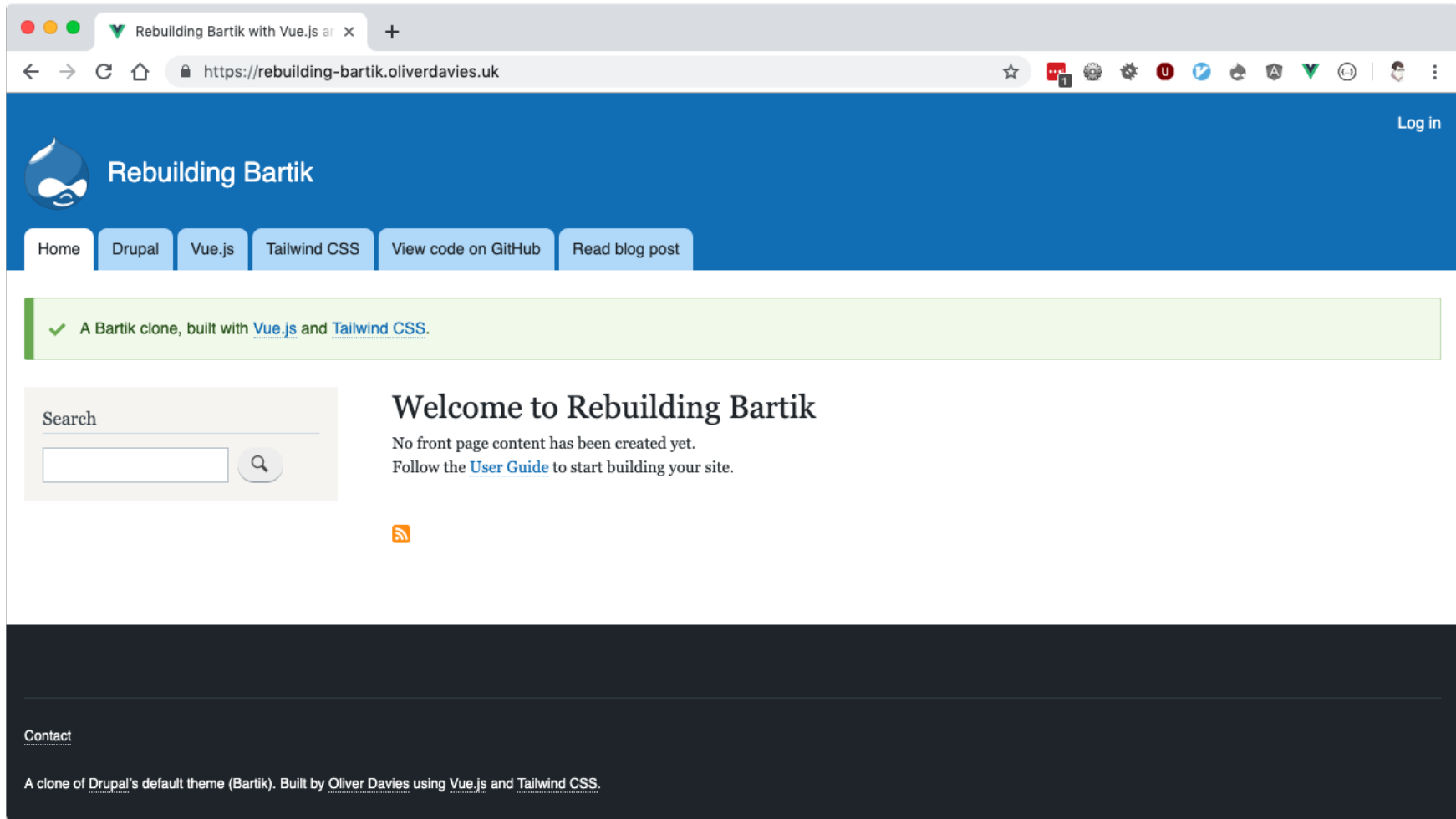




# Examples







# What is Tailwind CSS?

**Tailwind CSS is a highly  
customisable, low-level CSS  
framework**



# CSS utility class generator



- Text/border/background colours
- Font size/family/weight
- Alignment
- Padding/margin/negative margin
- Flexbox
- Positioning
- Lists
- z-index
- Opacity





- Screenreader visibility
- Placeholder colour
- first-child, last-child, nth-child
- CSS Grid
- Transition
- Transform
- Spacing / Divide
- Focus ring
- Text clamping



block inline flex grid

text-sm text-base text-lg  
text-xl text-2xl



text-blue-50 text-blue-100  
text-blue-200 text-blue-300  
text-blue-400 text-blue-500



# Installation and Usage

```
npm install --save-dev  
tailwindcss
```



```
npx tailwind  
--content index.html  
--output build/tailwind.css
```



# Interaction states



hover, focus, active, disabled,  
visited, focus-within,  
first-child, last-child

[state][separator][class]



hover:text-red-500

focus:text-red-500

# Interaction states in CSS

```
1 .text-red-500 {  
2   color: #f56565;  
3 }  
4  
5 .hover\:text-red-500:hover {  
6   color: #f56565;  
7 }  
8  
9 .focus\:text-red-500:focus {  
10  color: #f56565;  
11 }
```

# Interaction states in CSS

```
1 .text-red-500 {  
2   color: #f56565;  
3 }  
4  
5 .hover\:text-red-500:hover {  
6   color: #f56565;  
7 }  
8  
9 .focus\:text-red-500:focus {  
10  color: #f56565;  
11 }
```

# Interaction states in CSS

```
1 .text-red-500 {  
2   color: #f56565;  
3 }  
4  
5 .hover\:text-red-500:hover {  
6   color: #f56565;  
7 }  
8  
9 .focus\:text-red-500:focus {  
10  color: #f56565;  
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# Interaction states in CSS

```
1 .text-red-500 {  
2   color: #f56565;  
3 }  
4  
5 .hover\:text-red-500:hover {  
6   color: #f56565;  
7 }  
8  
9 .focus\:text-red-500:focus {  
10   color: #f56565;  
11 }
```

# Interaction states in HTML

```
1 <a
2   href="#"
3   class="text-red-500 hover:text-red-800"
4 >
5   Read more
6 </a>
```



# Interaction states in HTML

```
1 <a
2   href="#"
3   class="text-red-500 hover:text-red-800"
4 >
5   Read more
6 </a>
```

# Responsive



[screen][separator][class]

# Screens (aka breakpoints)

```
1 // defaultConfig.stub.js
2
3 screens: {
4   sm: '640px',
5   md: '768px',
6   lg: '1024px',
7   xl: '1280px',
8 },
```

md:flex

md: hover: bg-red-500

# Responsive classes in CSS

```
1 .block {  
2     display: block;  
3 }  
4  
5 @media (min-width: 640px) {  
6     .sm\:block {  
7         display: block;  
8     }  
9 }
```

# Responsive classes in CSS

```
1 .block {  
2     display: block;  
3 }  
4  
5 @media (min-width: 640px) {  
6     .sm\:block {  
7         display: block;  
8     }  
9 }
```

# Responsive classes in CSS

```
1 .block {  
2     display: block;  
3 }  
4  
5 @media (min-width: 640px) {  
6     .sm\:block {  
7         display: block;  
8     }  
9 }
```



# Responsive classes in HTML

```
1 <div class="block md:flex">
2   <div class="w-full md:w-1/2">
3     Column 1
4   </div>
5
6   <div class="w-full md:w-1/2">
7     Column 2
8   </div>
9 </div>
```

# Responsive classes in HTML

```
1 <div class="block md:flex">
2   <div class="w-full md:w-1/2">
3     Column 1
4   </div>
5
6   <div class="w-full md:w-1/2">
7     Column 2
8   </div>
9 </div>
```

# Responsive classes in HTML

```
1 <div class="block md:flex">
2   <div class="w-full md:w-1/2">
3     Column 1
4   </div>
5
6   <div class="w-full md:w-1/2">
7     Column 2
8   </div>
9 </div>
```

# Arbitrary values

w-[23px] md:w-[250px]  
text-[#abc123]

```
grid-cols-[fit-content(theme(sp  
acing.32))]
```

```
lg:[&:nth-child(3)]:hover  
:underline
```

# How I deal with repetition?



**Avoid repetition by extracting  
components**

# Loops

```
1 {% for item in navItems %}
2   <a
3     class="block py-3 px-4 text-sm text-gray-800"
4     href="{{ item.url }}"
5   >
6     {{ item.title }}
7   </a>
8 {% endfor %}
```

# Loops

```
1 {% for item in navItems %}  
2     <a  
3         class="block py-3 px-4 text-sm text-gray-800"  
4         href="{{ item.url }}"  
5     >  
6         {{ item.title }}  
7     </a>  
8 {% endfor %}
```

# Loops

```
1 {% for item in navItems %}
2   <a
3     class="block py-3 px-4 text-sm text-gray-800"
4     href="{{ item.url }}"
5   >
6     {{ item.title }}
7   </a>
8 {% endfor %}
```

# Loops

```
1 {navItems.map(item => (  
2   <a  
3     class="block py-3 px-4 text-sm text-gray-800"  
4     href={item.url}  
5   >  
6     {item.title}  
7   </a>  
8 )})}
```

# Loops

```
1 {navItems.map(item => (  
2   <a  
3     class="block py-3 px-4 text-sm text-gray-800"  
4     href={item.url}  
5   >  
6     {item.title}  
7   </a>  
8 )})}
```

# Loops

```
1 {navItems.map(item => (  
2   <a  
3     class="block py-3 px-4 text-sm text-gray-800"  
4     href={item.url}  
5   >  
6     {item.title}  
7   </a>  
8 )})}
```

# Includes

```
1 <h2>Adults</h2>
2
3 {% include 'class-list' with {
4     classes: page.classes,
5     type: 'adults',
6 } %}
7
8 <h2>Kids</h2>
9
10 {% include 'class-list' with {
11     classes: page.classes,
12     type: 'kids',
13 } %}
```





# Includes

```
1 <h2>Adults</h2>
2
3 <ClassList classes={classes} type="kids" />
4
5 <h2>Kids</h2>
6
7 <ClassList classes={classes} type="adults" />
```

# **Keeping Things Small: Controlling the file size**

# Just in Time (JIT mode)



# Content

Tell Tailwind where it should look for utility classes.

```
1 // tailwind.config.js
2
3 module.exports = {
4   content: ['./templates/**/*.twig'],
5   // ...
6 }
```



# Customising Tailwind

```
npx tailwind init
```

# tailwind.config.js

```
1 /** @type {import('tailwindcss').Config} */
2 module.exports = {
3   content: [],
4   theme: {
5     extend: {},
6   },
7   plugins: [],
8 }
```

# Overriding configuration

```
1 /** @type {import('tailwindcss').Config} */
2 module.exports = {
3   content: [],
4   theme: {
5     colors: {
6       inherit: 'inherit'
7     },
8     extend: {},
9   },
10  plugins: [],
11 }
```





# Extending configuration

```
1 /** @type {import('tailwindcss').Config} */
2 module.exports = {
3   content: [],
4   theme: {
5     extend: {
6       colors: {
7         inherit: 'inherit'
8       }
9     },
10  },
11  plugins: [],
12 }
```



```
npx tailwind init --full
```

# Adding Tailwind to your CSS

# Including Tailwind

```
1 /* src/css/tailwind.pcss */  
2  
3 @tailwind base;  
4  
5 @tailwind components;  
6  
7 @tailwind utilities;
```

# Adding your own classes

```
1  /* src/css/tailwind.pcss */
2
3  @tailwind base;
4  /* Custom base styles */
5
6  @tailwind components;
7  /* Custom components */
8
9  @tailwind utilities;
10 /* Custom utilities */
```

# Adding your own classes

```
1 /* src/css/tailwind.pcss */
2
3 @tailwind base;
4 /* Custom base styles */
5
6 @tailwind components;
7 /* Custom components */
8
9 @tailwind utilities;
10 /* Custom utilities */
```

# Adding your own classes

```
1 /* src/css/tailwind.pcss */
2
3 @tailwind base;
4 /* Custom base styles */
5
6 @tailwind components;
7 /* Custom components */
8
9 @tailwind utilities;
10 /* Custom utilities */
```

# Adding your own classes

```
1 /* src/css/tailwind.pcss */
2
3 @tailwind base;
4 /* Custom base styles */
5
6 @tailwind components;
7 /* Custom components */
8
9 @tailwind utilities;
10 /* Custom utilities */
```



# Adding your own classes (with layers)

```
1  /* src/css/tailwind.pcss */
2
3  @tailwind base;
4  @tailwind components;
5  @tailwind utilities;
6
7  @layer components {
8    /* Custom components */
9  }
```



# Adding your own classes (with layers)

```
1 /* src/css/tailwind.pcss */
2
3 @tailwind base;
4 @tailwind components;
5 @tailwind utilities;
6
7 @layer components {
8     /* Custom components */
9 }
```

# Adding your own classes (with layers)

```
1 /* src/css/tailwind.pcss */
2
3 @tailwind base;
4 @tailwind components;
5 @tailwind utilities;
6
7 @layer components {
8     /* Custom components */
9 }
```

```
npx tailwind  
--input src/css/tailwind.pcss  
--output dist/tailwind.css
```



# Extending Tailwind CSS with Plugins

```
npm install --save-dev  
tailwindcss-list-reset
```

# Adding a plugin

```
1 // tailwind.config.js
2
3 module.exports = {
4   theme: {
5     extend: {},
6   },
7   plugins: [
8     require('tailwindcss-list-reset')(),
9   ],
10  variants: {},
11 }
```

# Adding a plugin

```
1 // tailwind.config.js
2
3 module.exports = {
4   theme: {
5     extend: {},
6   },
7   plugins: [
8     require('tailwindcss-list-reset')(),
9   ],
10  variants: {},
11 }
```



# Generated CSS

```
1 .list-reset {  
2   list-style: none;  
3   padding: 0;  
4 }
```

# Writing plugins

```
1 const plugin = require("tailwindcss/plugin");  
2
```



# Writing plugins

```
1 const plugin = require("tailwindcss/plugin");  
2  
3 module.exports = plugin(function({ addUtilities }) {  
4  
5 })  
6
```

# Writing plugins

```
1 const plugin = require("tailwindcss/plugin");
2
3 module.exports = plugin(function({ addUtilities }) {
4   addUtilities({
5     '.list-reset': {
6       listStyle: 'none',
7       padding: 0,
8     },
9   })
10 })
11
```

# Writing plugins

Adding child and child-hover variants:

```
1 const plugin = require('tailwindcss/plugin');  
2  
3 module.exports = plugin(({ addVariant }) => {  
4   addVariant('child', '& > *');  
5   addVariant('child-hover', '& > *:hover');  
6 });
```

# Writing plugins

Adding a hocus variant:

```
1 const plugin = require('tailwindcss/plugin');  
2  
3 module.exports = plugin(({ addVariant }) => {  
4   addVariant('hocus', ['&:hover', '&:focus']);  
5 });
```

# **Adding Tailwind CSS to an existing project**

# Disabling the reset styles

```
1  /** @type {import('tailwindcss').Config} */
2  module.exports = {
3    content: [],
4    theme: {
5      extend: {},
6    },
7    corePlugins: {
8      preflight: false,
9    },
10   plugins: [],
11 }
```



# Prefixing class names

Turn classes like `flex` into `tw-flex`.

```
1  /** @type {import('tailwindcss').Config} */
2  module.exports = {
3    prefix: "tw-",
4    content: [],
5    theme: {
6      extend: {},
7    },
8    plugins: [],
9  }
```

# !important

```
1  /** @type {import('tailwindcss').Config} */
2  module.exports = {
3    important: true,
4    content: [],
5    theme: {
6      extend: {},
7    },
8    plugins: [],
9  }
```

# !important

```
1  /** @type {import('tailwindcss').Config} */
2  module.exports = {
3    important: "#app",
4    content: [],
5    theme: {
6      extend: {},
7    },
8    plugins: [],
9  }
```

**!important**

! flex

# Tailwind CSS in Drupal

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# Drupal™

## Download & Extend

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## Tailwind CSS Starter Kit

[View](#)[Version control](#)

**This is a starter kit/demo theme for using Tailwind CSS within Drupal.**

It contains a package.json file with the required dependencies, including Laravel Mix for compiling assets, and a preconfigured tailwind.js configuration file for compatibility with Drupal's default markup.

For demo purposes, you can add it to your site via Composer, or download it manually or using Drush, enable it and set it as your default theme. The compiled CSS is included within the project, so there's no need to run any commands - you can start using Tailwind classes straight away!

If you want to use it as a starter kit for your own theme, download it or clone the repo, rename the theme directory and any tailwindcss.\* files, customise the tailwind.js file for your project and start building!

[Click here to watch a demo](#) of the theme being installed, or try it on [simplytest.me](#).

Also, if you're interested in using Tailwind CSS with Drupal (using this theme or not), come and join us in #tailwindcss in the Drupal Slack!

*This theme is not endorsed or supported by Tailwind Labs.*



★ 50

### Maintainers



[opdavies](#)

### Issues for Tailwind CSS Starter Kit

To avoid duplicates, please search before submitting a new issue.

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All issues

8 open, 1 RTBC, 69 total

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History

Find file

Code

Update Tailwind CSS to v3.3.3

Oliver Davies authored 6 months ago

a4da1e68

Name	Last commit	Last update
dist	Update Tailwind CSS to v...	6 months ago
src	Issue #3163456 by behin...	2 years ago
templates	Re-order classes using R...	2 years ago
tools/development	Add Nix flake as an altern...	1 year ago
.gitignore	Commit compiled CSS	5 years ago
CHANGELOG.md	Add CHANGELOG.md	2 years ago
README.txt	Issue #3085759 by opdav...	3 years ago
flake.lock	Update Tailwind CSS to v...	6 months ago
flake.nix	Update Tailwind CSS to v...	6 months ago
logo.svg	Issue #3197081 by lhockl...	2 years ago
package.json	Issue #3257888 by opdav...	2 years ago

Star 7

Project information

For more information about this repository, visit the project page at <https://www.drupal.org/project/tailwindcss>

69 Commits

9 Branches

35 Tags

README

CHANGELOG

Created on


March 25, 2019

```
composer require  
drupal/tailwindcss:^5
```




```
php web/core/scripts/drupal  
  generate-theme my_theme  
  --starterkit tailwindcss
```

Uninstalled themes



**my\_theme 5.0.0-alpha3**


+ Install   ✓ Install and set as default



**Stark 10.2.3**

An intentionally plain theme with no styling to demonstrate default Drupal's HTML and CSS. Learn how to build a custom theme from Stark in the [Theming Guide](#).

+ Install   ✓ Install and set as default



**Tailwind CSS Starter Kit 5.0.0-alpha3**

A starter kit theme for Drupal 8/9 and Tailwind CSS.

+ Install   ✓ Install and set as default

^ Administration theme

Administration theme

Claro

Choose "Default theme" to always use the same theme as the rest of the site.

☒ Use the administration theme when editing or creating content  
Control which roles can "View the administration theme" on the [Permissions page](#).

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**Tailwind CSS** 🌟 @tailwindcss · Sep 9, 2020



Did you think Tailwind was a horrible idea until you actually built something with it?

Would love a quote (just reply!) for a project we're working on ❤️

💬 180

↻ 32

❤️ 554





**Paul Hennell • Dev**

@Hennell\_dev



I saw a talk on tailwind at a conference. Spent 15 minutes afterwards "discussing" with the presenter how it was horrible and against the neat way of CSS and so on. But promised to try it just once as he said it feels better than it looks.

He was right. It's so freeing.

7:47 PM · Sep 9, 2020



1



3



4





**Paul Hennell • Dev**

@Hennell\_dev



That speaker was [@opdavies](#). I take it all back Oliver - I do everything I can with tailwind now 😊

7:53 PM · Sep 9, 2020



# Thanks!

## References:

- <https://tailwindcss.com>
- <https://tailwindui.com>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/TailwindLabs>
- <https://www.protailwind.com>
- <https://drupal.org/project/tailwindcss>

## Me:

- <https://www.oliverdavies.uk>