Bulma - A Stylish CSS Framework

Nowadays there are a wide diversity of CSS frameworks offered in the market based on responsive web design technology. In this situation to choose the right framework becomes very crucial for a developer. Bootstrap, semantic UI and Foundation had captured the market since long and it has become increasingly difficult for someone like Bulma to gain popularity at its initial stages. So using state of the art flexbox technology, Bulma has all credibility to become the show stopper.

Bulma is a very beautiful, stylish and light weighted (about 21kb minified and zipped) framework. Features of Bulma which makes it a considerable CSS framework: -

• Modern Built with Flexbox

• Modular Just import what you need

• 100% Responsive Designed for mobile first

• Free Open source

Bulma CSS framework is based on flexbox with incredible features like the simple grid system, flexible navbar, versatile media object and so on. Flexbox is based on a distribution of space along a single column or row which helps it to achieve flexible layout, for example, is-one-third, is-one-quarter.

Another advantage of using Bulma is its modularity concept since the whole module is divided into a number of sass files which can be imported individually depending on the requirement, this makes customisation very simple and easy. As the code is divided into separate sass files it allows us to customise each and every part of the app and helps us to achieve the result or design we want.

Bulma Syntax:

Bulma uses is- keyword to modify, for example if we want different size we can use is-small | is-medium | is-large. There are innumerous features in Bulma that make it a convincing framework to use. Let’s have a look at its few fabulous new features:

1) Modifier: We can style most of the Bulma element by using Modifier class either is- or has-, for example:

If we want to provide colour to a button as per the requirement we can give

is-primary | is-link | is-info | is-success | is-warning | is-danger.

In the same way, we can style size, state, hide and show as per viewport and alignment of text.

2) Layout: In Bulma, we don’t have to write much custom CSS as it itself provides a lot of layout components in which section, hero and level are the important ones.

# section:

We can call it as a container which divides your page into sections. We can use a modifier in section to change the space between two sections. For example, we can use is-medium or is-large to change the space.

#hero:

Hero is used to showcasing something like a banner. We can provide 7 different colour with modifier in hero section based on the styling

Modifier Colour

is-primary

is-info

is-success

is-warning

is-danger

is-light

is-dark

#level:

Level works almost like a float but in a simple way, we can put any element left or right inside the level container by using modifier level-left and level-right.

Centre alignment is a default. In the level-item we can insert whatever we want, so we can structure level as:

<div class= “level”>

<div class=” level-left/level-right”> // skip if you want central alignment

<div class=” level-item”>Anything we want</div>

</div>

In mobile level is by default vertical but if we want it horizontal use is-mobile modifier in a level container.

3) Component:

Bulma provides a number of components such as: -

Cards: card component comprises of many elements which we can use to make it decorative such as card-header | card-header-title | card-header-icon | card-image |card-content | card-footer | card-footer-item

Dropdowns: Bulma provides easy and interactive dropdown menu, we can structure it as:

<div class= “dropdown”> // container

<div class=” dropdown-trigger”> // Button Container

Your button goes here

</div>

<div class="dropdown-menu" id="dropdown-menu" role="menu">// menu container that toggle

<div class="dropdown-content">

Menu Items goes here

</div>

</div>

</div>

Navbar: Navbar can be fixed at the top or at the bottom in Bulma. A responsive navbar which supports logo images, links, buttons, dropdowns and a new feature called dropup. There are many components in Navbar which are very useful and reduces lots of effort of coding. Let’s have a look at the few of the components which are very useful

navbar-brand: Container for the logo, always visible

navbar-burger: Responsive menu icon which toggles navbar menu on touch devices

navbar-link: Provides an arrow which indicates the submenus

navbar-dropdown: Creates dropdown menu

navbar-divider: Provides the line to separate menu items

Panels: By using only a few components we can create a nice Panel. Inside the panel component, we can use panel-heading, panel-tabs and panel-block.

Tabs: Tabs are simple responsive horizontal navigation feature of Bulma which can be created by using a single component called tab.

4) Extension: Apart from the build in features, Bulma also provides some beautiful and useful extended components like:

Pricing Tables: We can display pricing table

Install it with NPM using

npm i bulma-pricingtable

Cool Checkboxes: We can have cool CSS based Checkboxes in Bulma

Install it with NPM using

npm install cool-checkboxes-for-bulma.io

Calendar: Calendars can directly be used on the page or on modal as date picker

Install it with NPM using

npm install bulma-calendar

Timeline: We can display Timeline

Install it with NPM using

npm install bulma-timeline

Free Open source:

To get started with Bulma we just need to add CSS file from CDN:

https://cdnjs.com/libraries/bulma

Or to install with NPM:

npm install bulma

To conclude, Bulma is a good multipurpose CSS framework build with lots of features and components which can be implemented, customised and reused easily.