

Hi, I'm Kathleen. Glad to see so many of you at the first ever Boston Tech Ladies Meetup!

So... Origin Stories. We all have them. A story about how we got from one place in our life to another, and they're generally an interesting and winding road.

I've been in the industry ...for a while (dinosaur). I remember when interactive was called multimedia, UX wasn't even a term, and the web was a bunch of blue links on a page. Here's some backstory. <click> (umass)

- UMASS Amherst, Mechanical Engineering major, <click>
- Math/Physics major, semester off, <click>
- BDIC. Multimedia Development. Hop on that train.
- Traditional, 2d and 3d computer animation, education classes, video internship and voila! Make your own major, yo.
- Back then we had some pretty cool tech. <click> (Amiga)

Like... the Amiga. <click> (quadra 700)

We Had  
Really  
Cool Tech

We Had  
Really  
Cool Tech



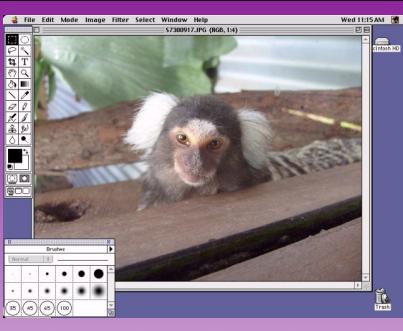
And the Macintosh Quadra 700. And rad software like... <click> (disney animation studio)

We Had  
Really  
Cool Tech



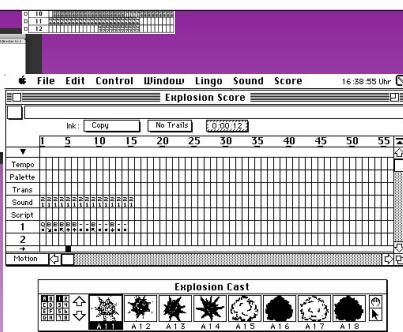
Disney's Animation Studio <click> (photoshop 2.5)

We Had  
Really  
Cool Tech



Photoshop 2.5, <click> (director)

We Had  
Really  
Cool Tech



Macromind Director <click> (infini-d)



Infini-D. And we stored our files... <click> (box of discs)



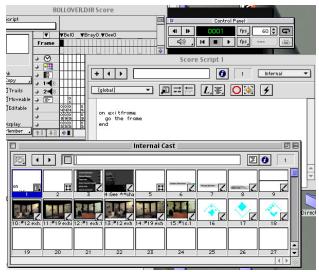
...like this. <click> (recessions, rise of contractor)



After graduating, I got a stint at a consulting company because... Bush war economy 90s recession, so nobody's hiring FT. You had to do the temp to perm thing to get your foot in the door. <click> (BBG gig)



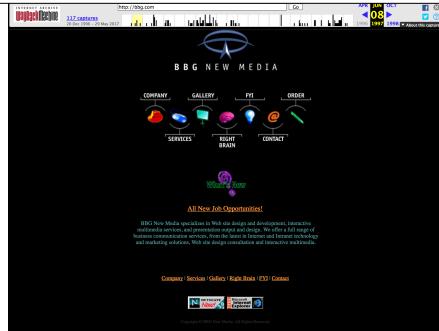
A year later, I got a role as a Multimedia Producer at BBG New Media. Those days, we did things like... <click> (sales pitch cd-rom)



...interactive sales pitches on CD ROMs. Using Director. Then... <click> (flash)



...Flash was released. Then, we started making sites look a little bit better than blue links on a page(csc site). Using HTML4. Like this... <click> (bbg site)



...And maybe some CSS1 if possible. <click> (baby web)

THE BABY WEB

The internet was in its infancy at the time, so if we had any questions, we had to refer... <click> (books)

What Google?



...to these. And we had one or two browsers, my favorite was...<click> (netscape)



...this (netscape logo). Three years out of college, I got a tad weary of 60+ hour workweeks and watching my fellow male coworkers get the promotions. So... <click> (freelancing)

ENTER... FREELANCING

Enter freelancing <click> (jhancock)

Neolithic Web Development

TECH LADIES

First gig, web dev. Here. Doing this. (jhancock site). Target browser: IE 3. Which meant, no fancy just-released CSS2 or Netscape. So we had to use tables and spacer gifs to make our sites work. And some javascript rollovers.

Which kinda felt... <click> (kitten shoes)



Neolithic Web Development



...like this: (kitten shoes)  
<click> (seattle interactions)



- It was a fun gig, but I moved to Seattle 8 months later and existed on projects like banner ads, more interactive pieces heavy on the visual design and motion graphics.
- Pretty much missed all of the HTML4 and CSS2 days. Kinda bummed, yet, kind of not considering all those growing pains.  
During that time I **did** make some nods towards personal marketing...  
<click> (under construction site)

Hanging Out  
The Shingle

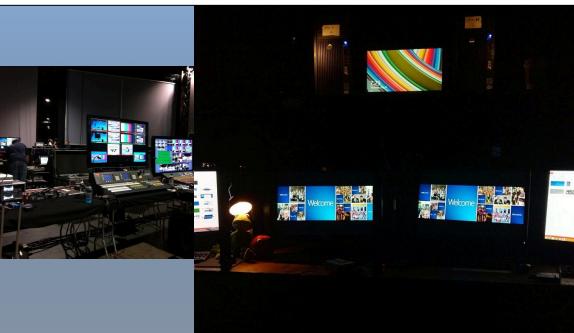
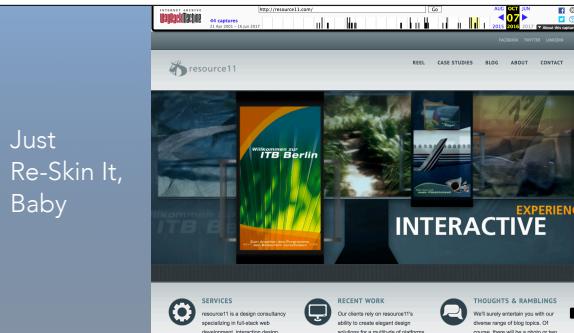
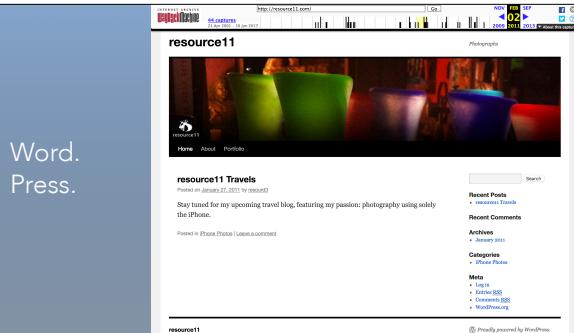


Like this masterpiece <click> (flash)

The Flash Site



which, of course, had to become a flash site. Because... trendy. <click> (wordpress)



And then... Word. Press. <click> (re-skin)

- And reskinning the damn theme, to avoid any sort of painful layout work.  
Like many freelancers, pigeonholing can tend to happen.
- Eventually I got lots of gigs creating presentations, and occasionally working in cool environments like this <click> (backstage photo)

for events like this <click> (EPG stage shot)



...and I was starting to feel like this (homer monkey)



...and I was starting to feel like this (homer monkey)  
<click> (web design to the rescue)



So I took a web design certification course in 2013 at the University of Washington to get back up to speed. Got a basic understanding of this fancy new field called UX, along with more modern web dev techniques. <click> (wandersox)



I ended up designing something like this (wandersox), but I created a pretty ambitious site design and didn't build out more than a few pages. And got mired in a serious case of div-itis. It was my first foray into CSS and if you're new to CSS... making layouts to your liking is... <click> (homer blinds)



...tricky (homer blinds)

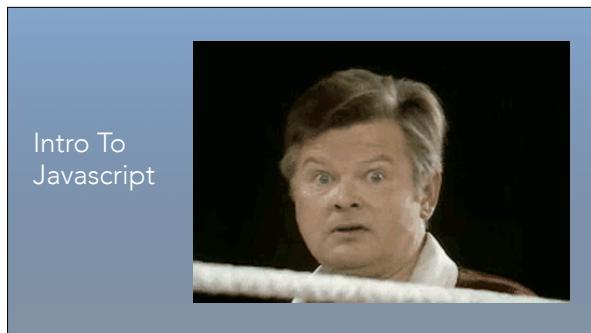
Fast forward a year, a fellow bike racing friend of mine, Marcy Sutton, encouraged me to go to a Girl Develop It workshop she was teaching. <click> (GDI Seattle)



So... Intro to jQuery it was. And Intro to Sass. Then back to Intro to HTML/CSS. And RWD. Aaaaaand Intro to Javascript. All in 6 months.

Admittedly, I got a bit into the weeds with Intro to Javascript....

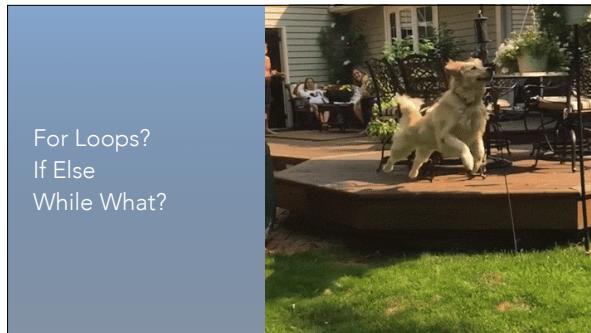
Because for loops syntax were like... [\(click\)](#) (benny hill)



Intro To Javascript

(benny hill wtf)

...and figuring out logic syntax was like... [\(click\)](#) (dog ball)



For Loops?  
If Else  
While What?

However. Marcy always encouraged to keep at it...

.... to keep at it, [\(click\)](#) (just keep swimming)



...So I did. (dory) [\(click\)](#) (move to boston)



Gdi Boston  
And More  
Groupiedom



Then... I moved back home to Boston. And immediately joined. GDI's Boston chapter. And dove into Intermediate HTML/CSS, and Intro to Git, and Intro to Java... while taking Intro to Javascript.

And I definitely did this... <click> (natalie portman swan)



Gdi Boston  
And More  
Groupiedom



...during that first intro to Java class that was held almost at the same time as the Intro to Javascript class.

But! There was that one moment in Javascript when... <click> (sloth)



Gdi Boston  
And More  
Groupiedom



(sloth) it all started to click

And then I finally started to love the language... <click> (jungle book dance)



Gdi Boston  
And More  
Groupiedom



...(jungle book dance)

Which prompted me to sign up for ... <click> (GA wdi)



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly's Web Development Immersive program.

And that's pretty much 12 weeks of... <click> (firehose)

...in terms of coding.

Which eventually led me to getting hired... <click> (mit/bb8)



...as a UI/UX Engineer at MIT... <click> (couldn't get away, more GDI yo)



- Of course I couldn't get away from GDI, so...
- I volunteered to TA HTML/CSS, while taking some more Git classes.
- And Angular! ...more TAing. Intro to UX? More Javascript? React? Or ES6? ...more React?
- The list goes on, and the journey continues. <click> (most important part - community charging amazons)

MOAR WORKSHOPS...

Because...  
The Community



TECH LADIES

But the most important part of this journey, is the women in all these communities, supporting each other. Leading the charge for our success in tech.

And that's awesome, because we all need ... <click> (rad origin story)

...a rad origin story (ww shield) Thank you



TECH LADIES

THANK YOU.

TECH LADIES