A declarative web?

Jeremy Keith recently published [Declarative design](#) on his blog.

The premise of the post is that there are two divergent ways to think about web design and building web content, ecapsulated by these two diametically opposed statements:

CSS is broken and I want my tools to work around the way CSS has been designed.

and

CSS is awesome and I want my tools to amplify the way that CSS had been designed.

And that which of these statements resonates with you will influence the tools that you choose and the comfort you feel when you use tools that don't fit your paradigm.

This post will explore the idea of declarative web design and how it can be used to build web content and contrast it with a more imperative design paradigm represented by CSS in JS and Tailwind CSS in particular.

Where we are now

CSS is not easy to learn well. We can write CSS that looks good but it's hard to write CSS that looks good, doesn't break when we make changes to other parts of the stylesheet and performs well.

One solution: Imperative CSS

CSS in JS

> Primarily, CSS-in-JS boosts my confidence. I can add, change and delete CSS without any unexpected consequences. My changes to the styling of a component will not affect anything else. If I delete a component, I delete its CSS too. No more

> append-only stylesheets! ✨
>
> [Why I Write CSS in JavaScript](#)

Tailwind CSS

New thinking about design?

- [Intrinsic web design](#) — Jenn Simmons
- [Every Layout](#) — Heydon Pickering & Andy Bell
- [Utopia](#) — James Gilyead & Trys Mudford

Further reading

- [Declarative design](#)
- CSS in JS
  - [An Introduction to CSS-in-JS: Examples, Pros, and Cons](#)
  - [A Thorough Analysis of CSS-in-JS](#)
- Examples of imperative design
  - [Bootstrap](#)
  - [Foundation](#) — on life support?
  - [Tailwind CSS](#)
- New design thinking or is it new thinking about design?
  - [Intrinsic web design](#) — Jenn Simmons
  - [Every Layout](#) — Heydon Pickering & Andy Bell
  - [Utopia](#) — James Gilyead & Trys Mudford
- Standing on the shoulders of giants
  - [The Dao of Web Design](#) — John Allsopp
  - [Responsive Web Design](#) — Ethan Marcotte
  - [The Web's Grain](#) — Frank Chimero
  - [What Screens Want](#) — Frank Chimero