Get Rid of HTML Tables for Better Mobile Web Applications

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Assumptions

- Are a .NET Developer
- Are familiar with…
  - MVC
  - HTML
  - CSS
  - Bootstrap

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Agenda

- See examples of HTML tables
- Eliminate table columns
- Alternate views of tables using CSS
- Switch view based on device detection
  - Using a simple device detection scheme

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Tables on Small Devices

- Can't fit large # of columns on screen
- Forces user to scroll horizontally
- User may not know then can scroll horizontally

Options

- Do nothing
- Scale table very small
- Generate a PDF
- Display as a pie chart
- Reduce number of columns
- Don't use tables, use CSS instead
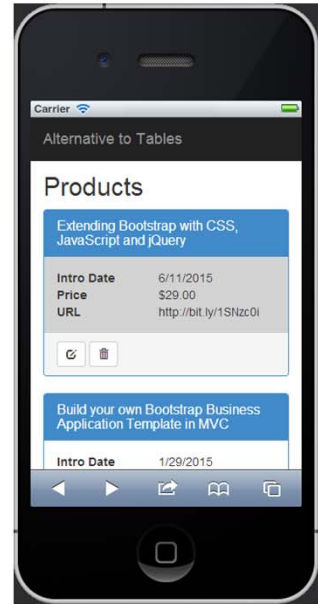
Demo

- Using HTML tables

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Use Bootstrap

- Eliminate HTML tables
- Use Bootstrap classes
  - Panels
  - List groups
  - Collapsing accordions
  - Carousel

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Panel

- Use panel classes
- One record per panel
  - Header for most important info
  - Body for secondary info
  - Footer for actions

Demo

- Bootstrap Panel Classes

List Group

- Use list-group classes
- One record per list-group-item
- Structure however you want
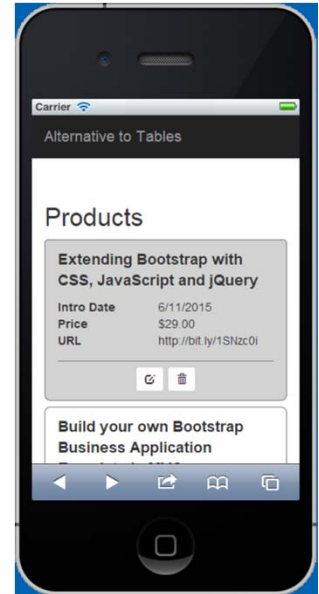
Demo

- Bootstrap List Group Classes

Carousel

- Use Bootstrap carousel classes
- Presents single record
- Use arrow buttons to navigate
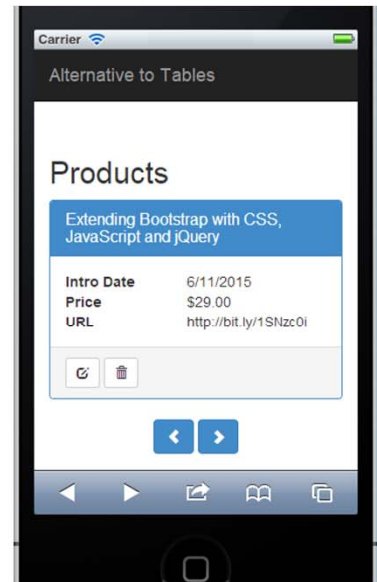
Demo

- Bootstrap Carousel

Collapsible Panels

- Use panel-group
- Use collapse data toggle
- Presents more info on page initially
- User can drill down
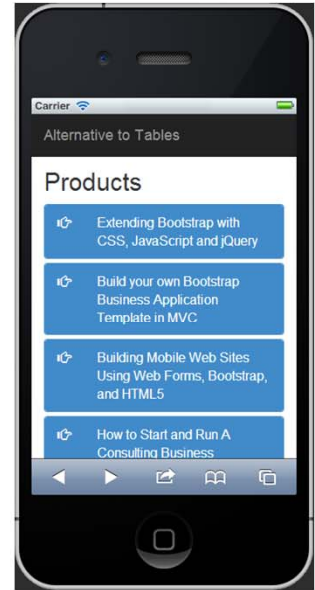
Demo

- Collapsible Panels

Detect Browser

- Lots of ways to check
- None are 100% reliable
- Offer users a "switch mode" link
- Resources listed in Readme.txt

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Demo

- Detect Browser

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Summary

- HTML tables are not ideal for mobile display
- Can get creative with CSS
- Bootstrap has a lot of good alternatives

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Thank You

- Check out my Pluralsight videos
  - Basics of Unit Testing for C# Developers
  - Building Business Components using Angular
  - The Journey from MVC to Angular
  - Build an HTML Helper Library for ASP.NET MVC 5
  - Consolidating MVC Views using Single Page Techniques
  - Extending Bootstrap with CSS, JavaScript and jQuery
  - Build your own Bootstrap Business Application Template in MVC
  - Building Mobile Web Sites Using Web Forms, Bootstrap, and HTML5
  - How to Start and Run A Consulting Business
  - The Many Approaches to XML Processing in .NET Applications
  - WPF for the Business Programmer
  - WPF for the Visual Basic Programmer - Part 1 & Part 2
- www.pluralsight.com - Search for Paul Sheriff

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Sample Code

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