



Building Multiplayer Games with Phoenix and Phaser

Created by [Keith Salisbury / @ktec](#)



Fun Stack

The fun way to build scalable social games

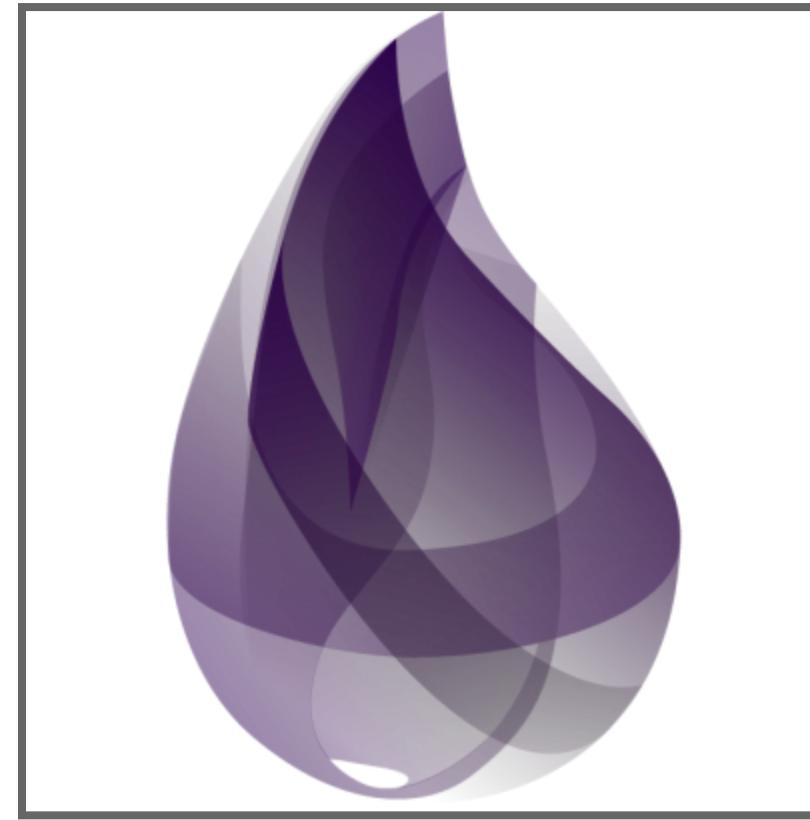


Designed for
web, desktop,
mobile with
amazing tutorials
and great
documentation

Phoenix Framework

Productive. Reliable. Fast

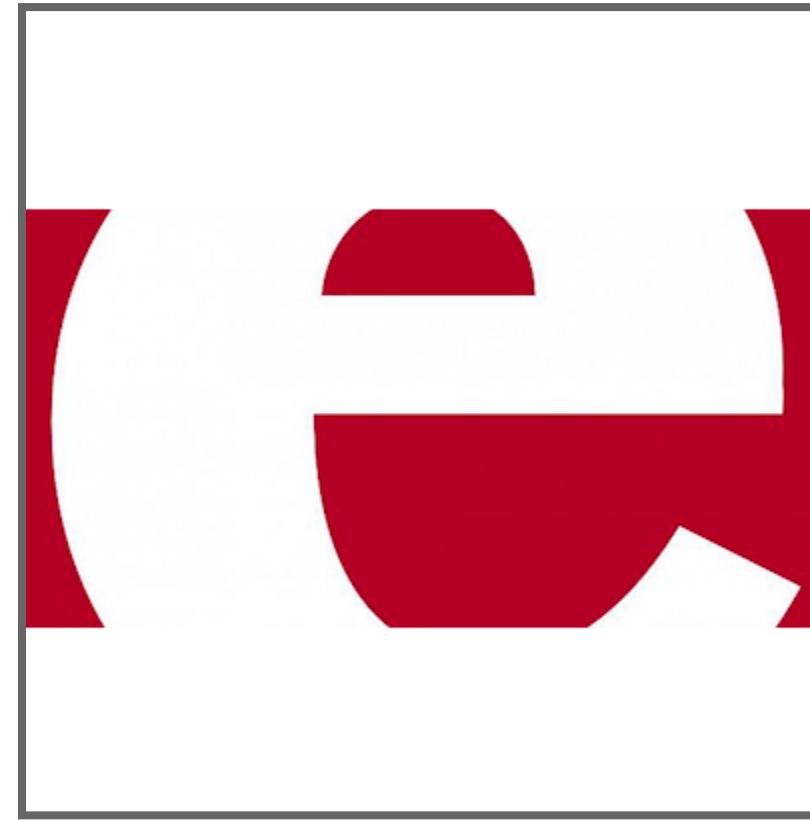
A productive web framework that does not compromise **speed** and maintainability



Elixir

dynamic, functional, meta-programming aware

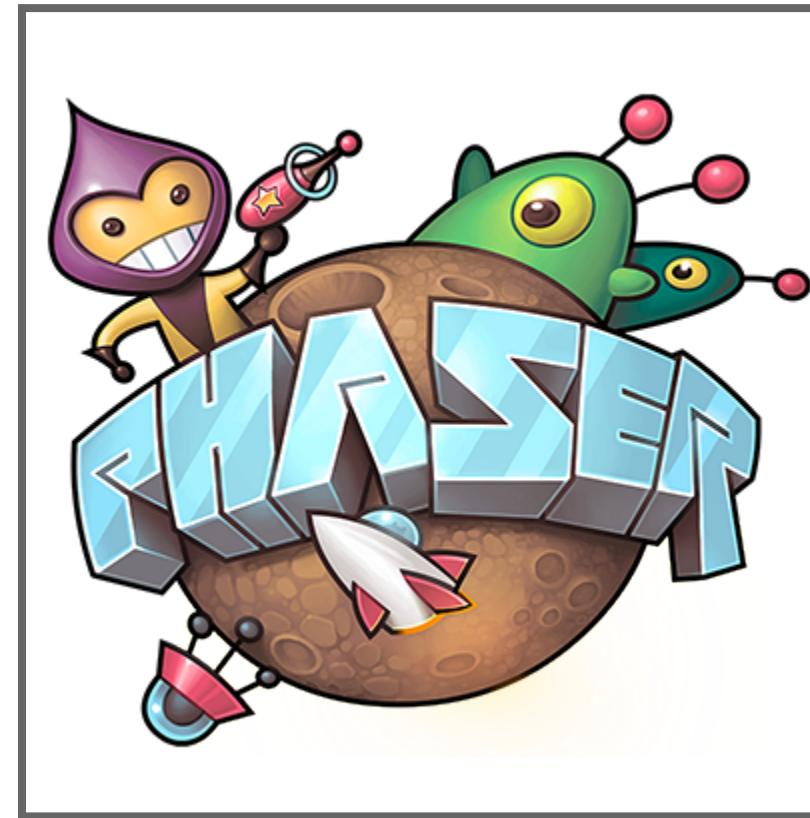
designed for building scalable and maintainable applications



Erlang

low-latency, distributed and fault-tolerant

build massively scalable soft real-time systems with requirements on high availability



**Designed for
web, desktop,
mobile with
amazing tutorials
and great
documentation**

Phaser Game Framework

The fun, fast and free HTML5 Game Framework



Pixi Rendering Engine

Super [fast](#) HTML 5 2D rendering engine that uses webGL with canvas fallback



HTML5

Offline Storage, Device Access, **Web Sockets**

Multimedia, Graphics and Effects, Web Workers, CSS3

Features

Phoenix

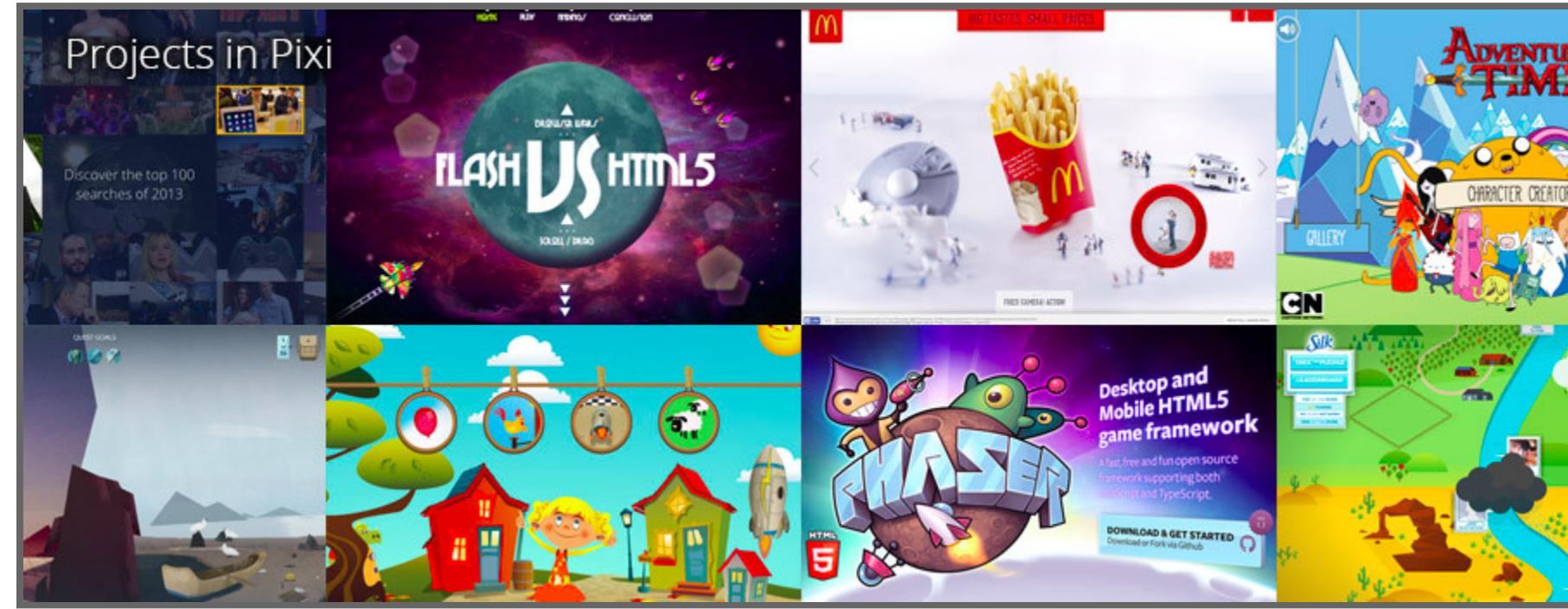
easy - scalable - fast - friendly - channels - ES6/7 ready

Elixir

syntax - metaprogramming - macros - tooling

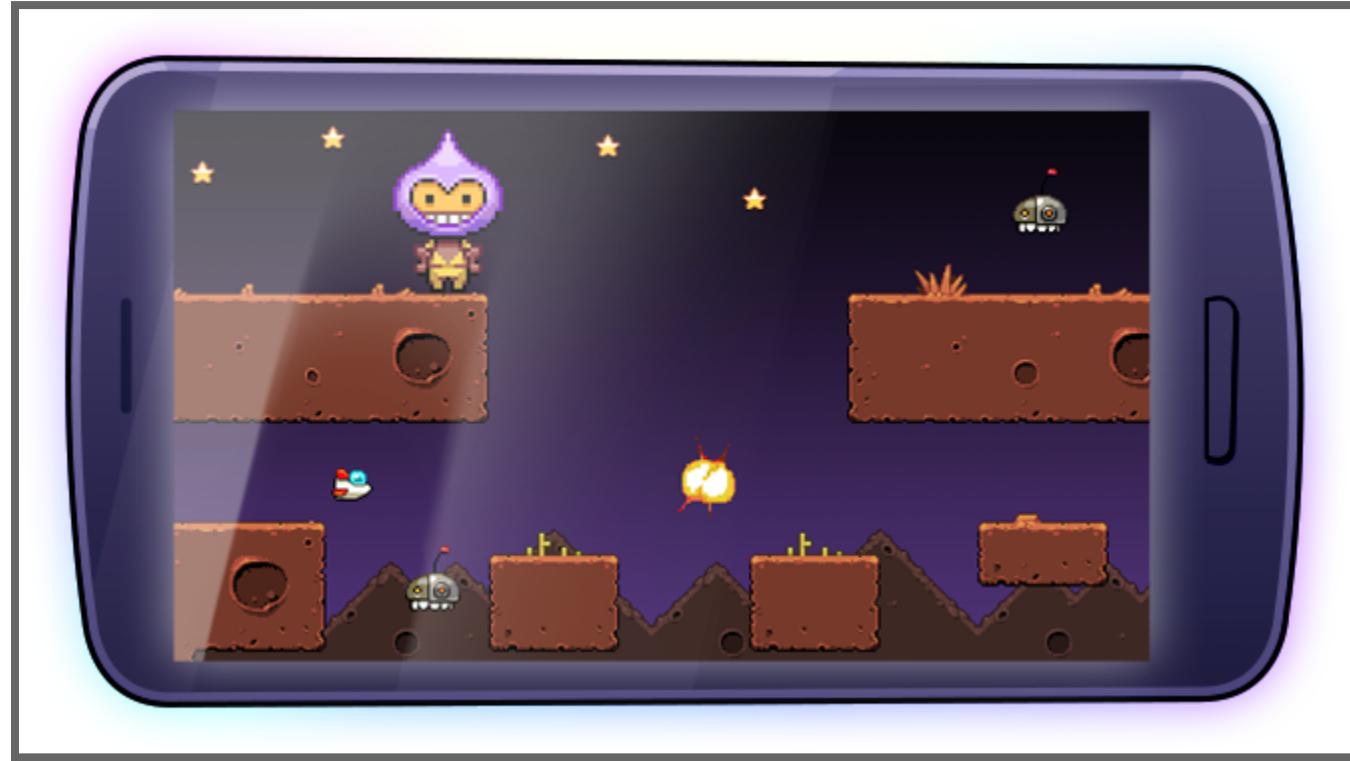
Erlang/OTP

semantics - fault tolerant - scalable - distributed



Pixi

ultra fast - multi platform - multi touch - sprite sheet
asset loader - auto-detect (webgl or canvas) - rich text



Phaser

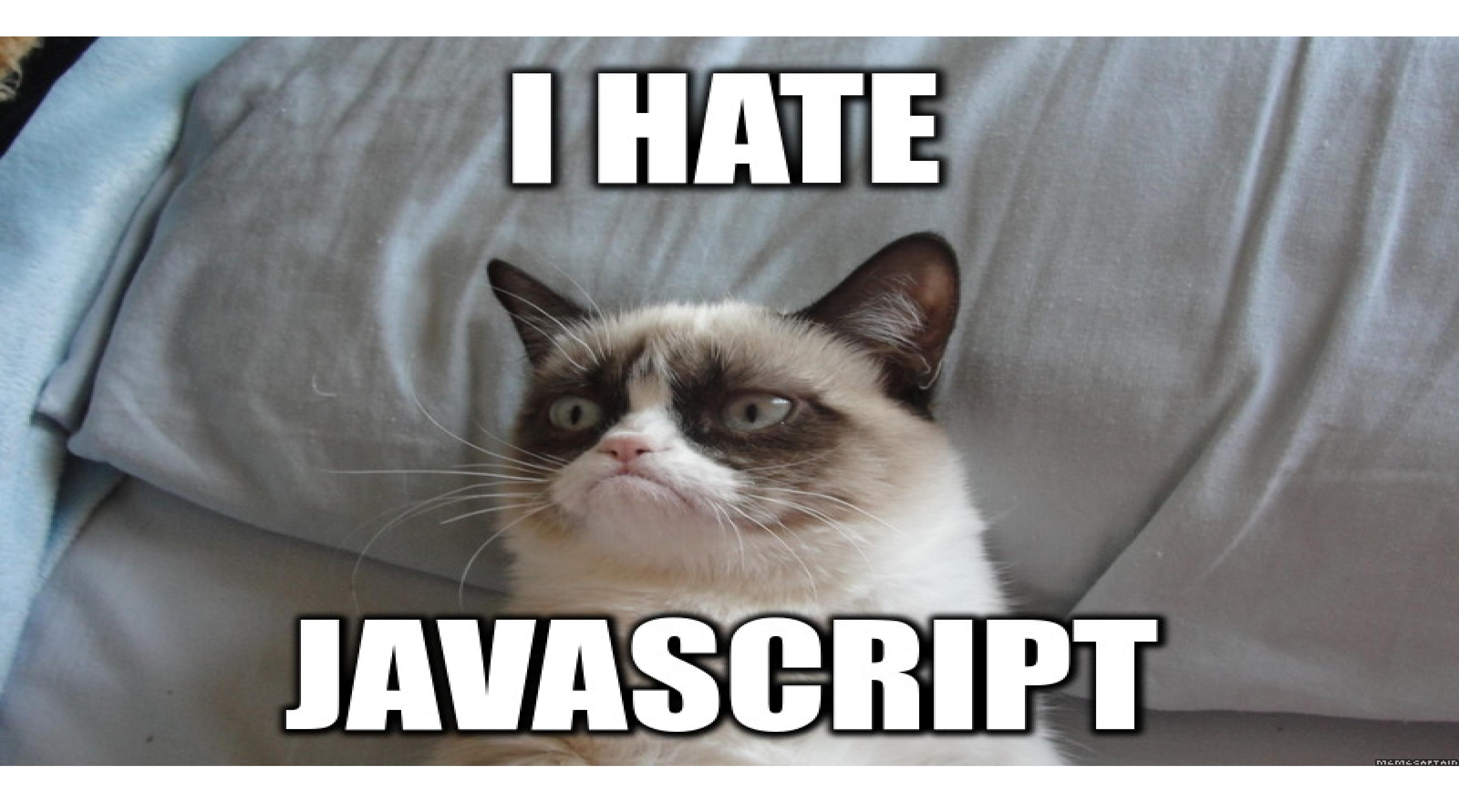
preload - physics - groups - [sprites](#) - camera

particles - input - [sound](#) - tile maps - scale manager

Pointless Social Stats

Anyway...

Lets see some code



I HATE

JAVASCRIPT



Hello World

- Create Phoenix project
- Install Phaser
- Create a game
- Update the HTML page
- Start the server
- Create a game state
- Add text "Hello world"
- Make it draggable

Create a new Phoenix project...

```
$ mix phoenix.new demo  
...  
$ cd demo
```

Install Phaser...

```
$ mkdir web/static/vendor/js/phaser  
$ curl -L -o web/static/vendor/js/phaser/phaser  
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/photonstorm/p
```

* Use vendor so Brunch doesn't pre-compile

Create a Game class...

```
export class Game extends Phaser.Game {  
  
    // Initialize Phaser  
    constructor(width, height, container) {  
        super(width, height, Phaser.AUTO, container)  
    }  
  
}
```

web/static/js/Game.js

Create new Game instance...

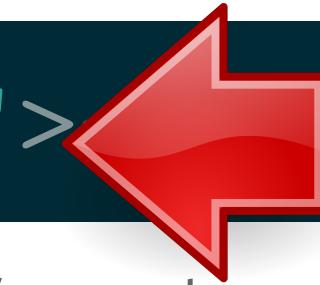
```
// Import dependencies
import {Game} from "./Game"

// Lets go!
new Game(700, 450, "phaser")
```

web/static/js/app.js

Set up the page template...

```
<div id="phaser"><v>
```

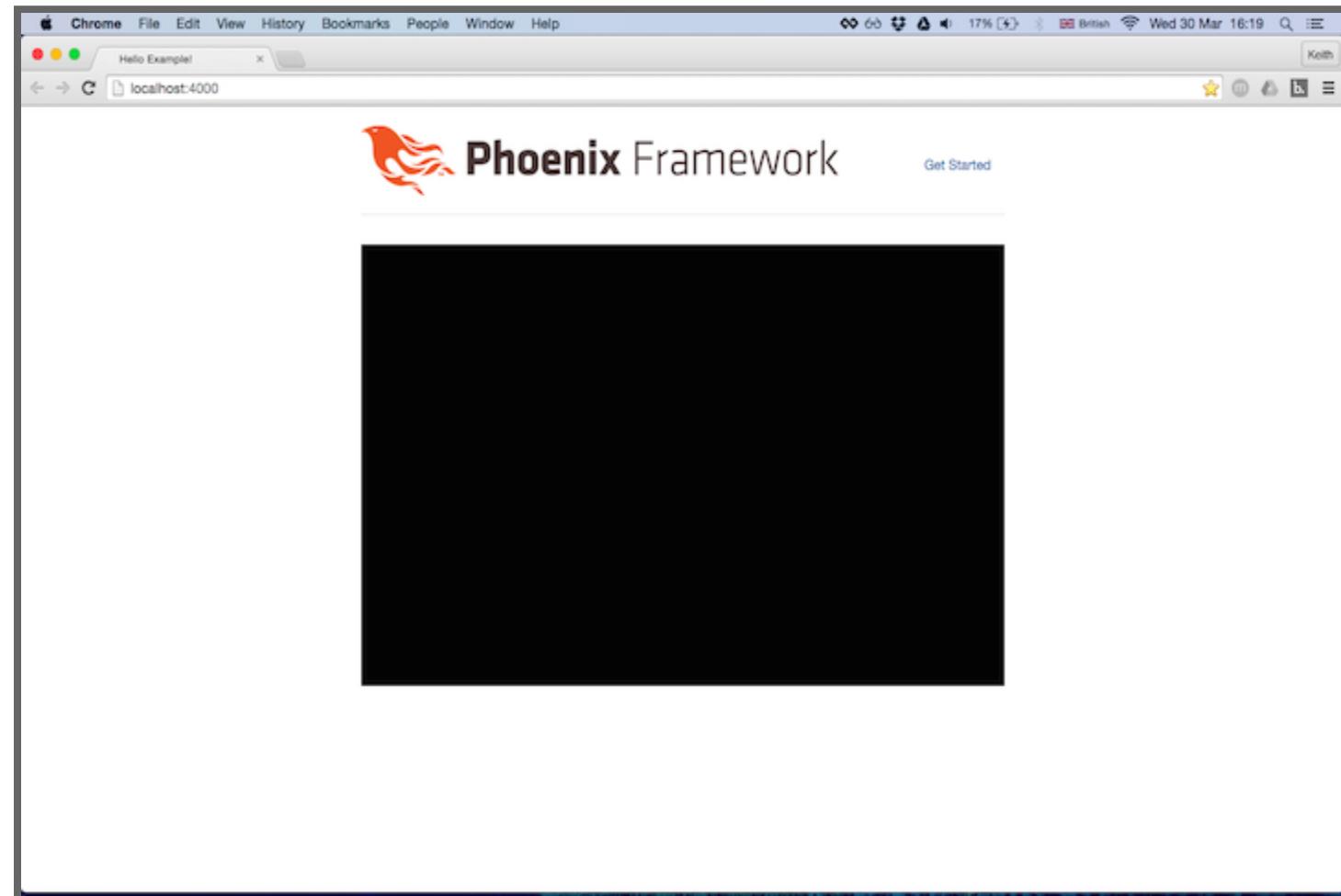


web/templates/page/index.html.eex

Start up the server...

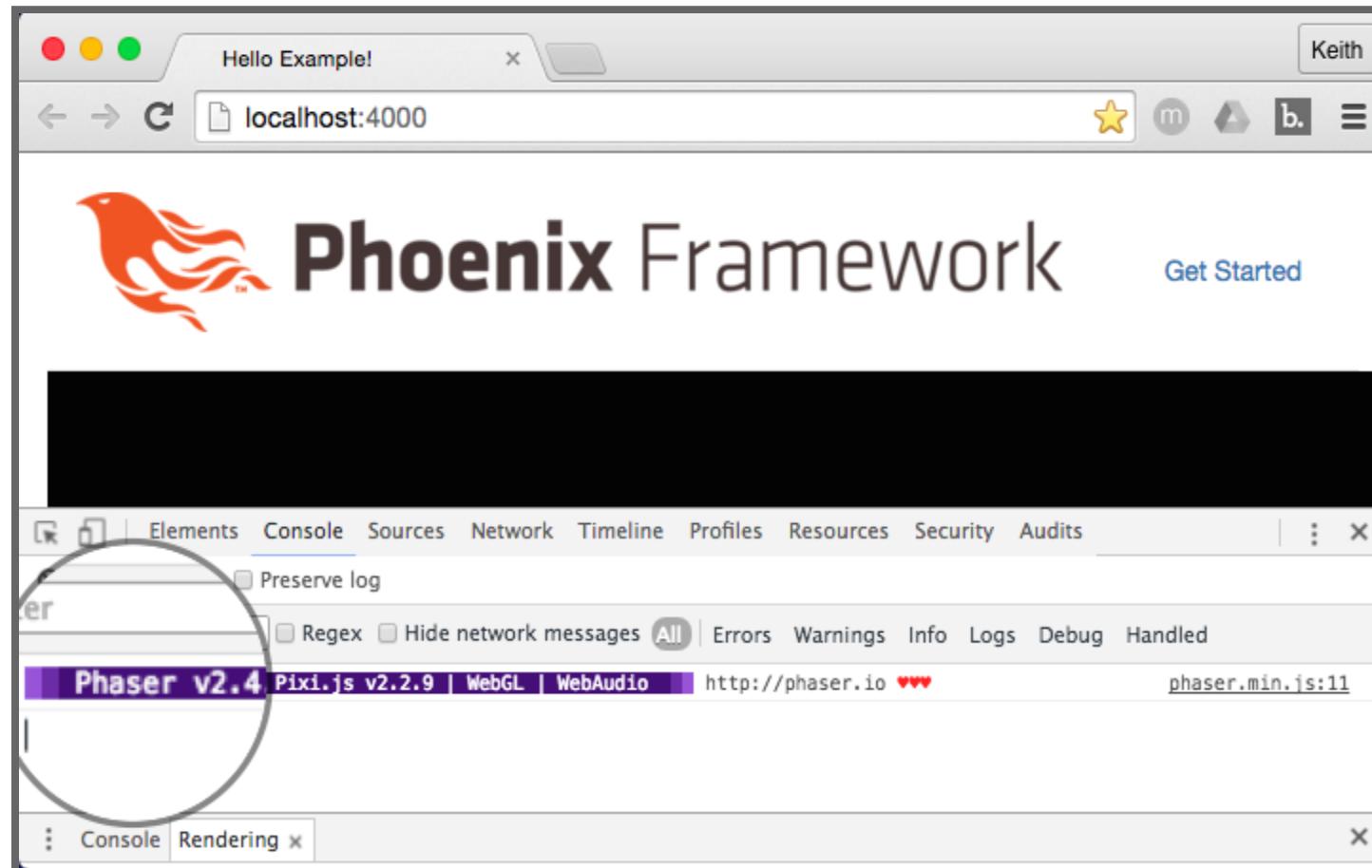
```
$ iex -S mix phoenix.server
```

Boom!



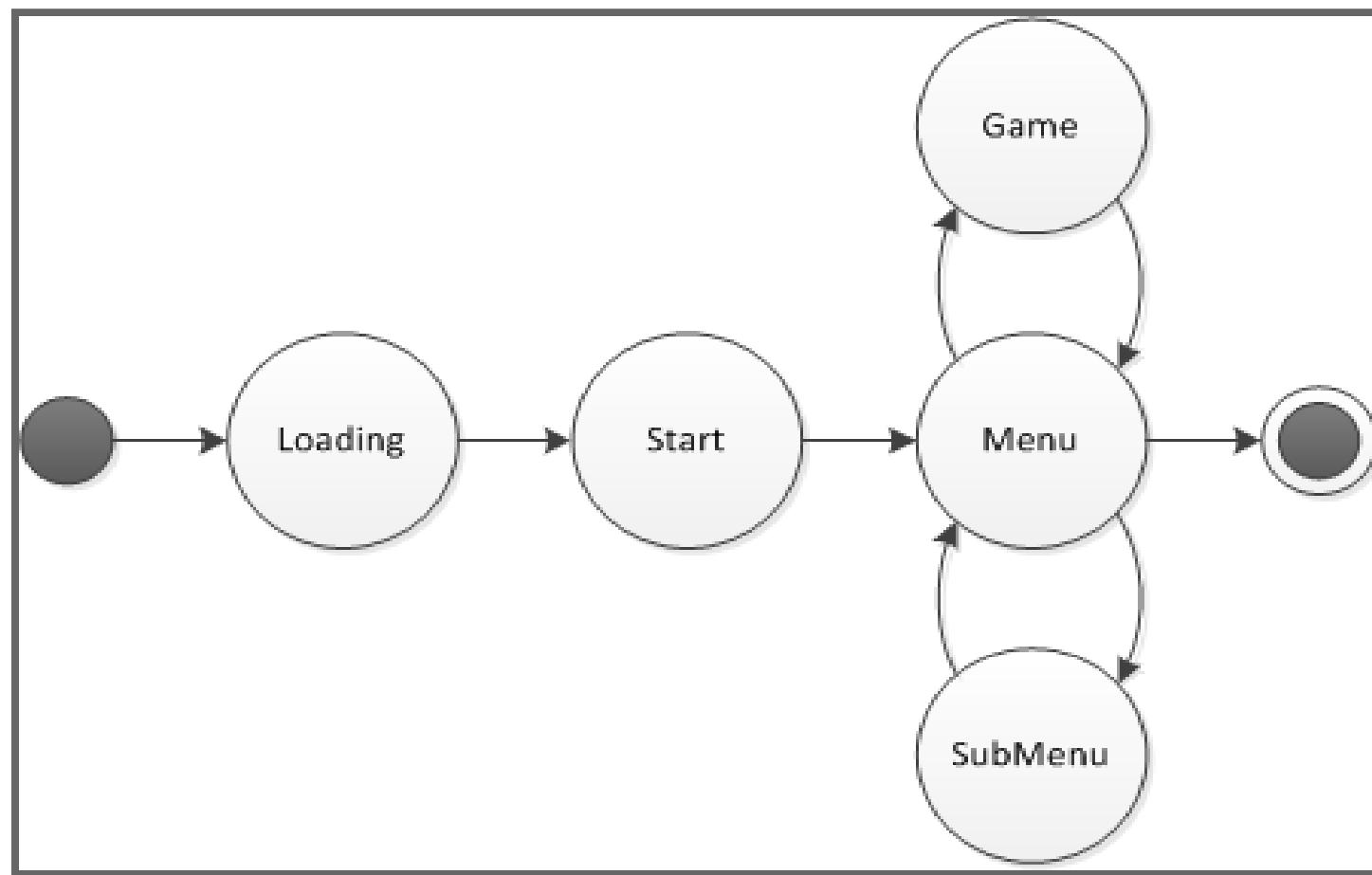
But wait?

Open the console



Where's my "Hello world"?

Game States



Using states allows you to break your game up into smaller pieces that can handle different mechanics of the game, such as a menu.

Create states directory

```
$ mkdir web/static/js/states
```

Create a new "State"

```
import { createLabel } from "../common/labels"

export class Lobby extends Phaser.State {
  create() {
    const label = createLabel(this, "Hello world")
    label.anchor.setTo(0.5)
  }
}
```

web/static/js/states/[Lobby.js](#)

Nothing up my sleeves

```
const DEFAULT_STYLE = {font: "65px Arial", fill: "#ffffff" }

// createLabel :: State -> String -> Object -> Sprite
export const createLabel = (state, message, style = DEFAULT_STYLE)

  const {centerX, centerY} = state.world
  return state.add.text(centerX, centerY, message, style)

}
```

web/static/js/common/[labels.js](#)

Update the Game class

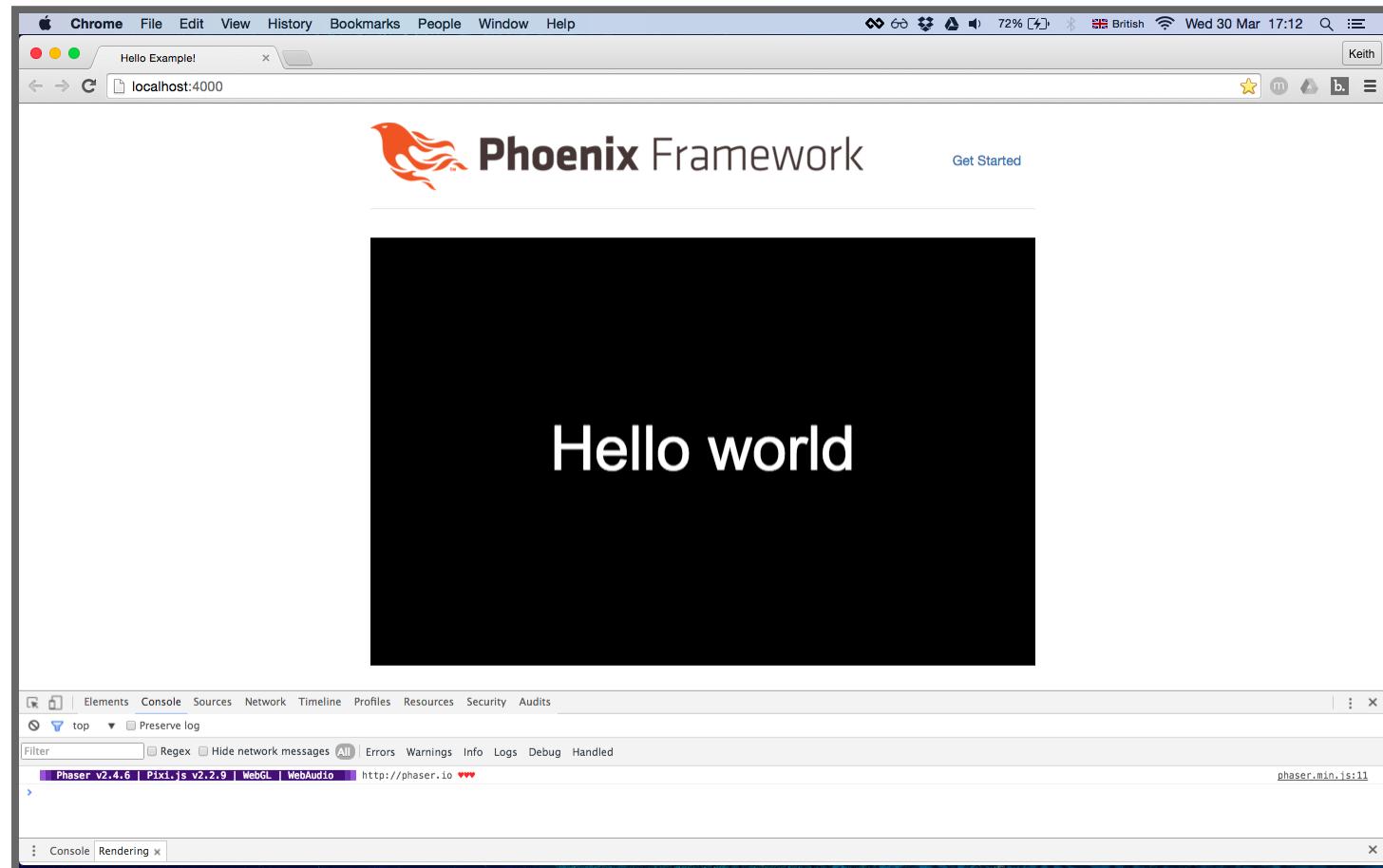
```
import {Lobby} from "./states/Lobby"

export class Game extends Phaser.Game {
    constructor(width, height, container) {
        super(width, height, Phaser.AUTO, container)

        this.state.add("lobby", Lobby, false)

        this.state.start("lobby")
    }
}
```

Yay!



But wait?

We *can* do better

Lets make the text draggable

```
export class Lobby extends Phaser.State {  
    create() {  
        const label = createLabel(this, "Hello world")  
        label.anchor.setTo(0.5)  
        label.inputEnabled = true  
        label.input.enableDrag()  
    }  
}
```

web/static/js/states/Lobby.js

Hello Demo!

Keith

localhost:4000



Phoenix Framework

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Hello world

[Elements](#) [Console](#) [Sources](#) [Network](#) [Timeline](#) [Profiles](#) [Resources](#) [Security](#) [Audits](#)top Preserve logFilter Regex Hide network messages All Errors Warnings Info Logs Debug Handled

Phaser v2.4.7 | Pixi.js v2.2.9 | WebGL | WebAudio http://phaser.io ❤️

phaser.js:35027

>

Console



Whats next?

Synchronised text?

Because 



Phoenix Channels

Multiplexed on HTML5 WebSockets

Built in

Asynchronous

Create a new Phoenix channel

```
$ mix phoenix.gen.channel Lobby games
* creating web/channels/lobby_channel.ex
* creating test/channels/lobby_channel_test.exs
```

Add the channel to your `web/channels/user_socket.ex` handler, for
channel "games:lobby", Demo.LobbyChannel

Phoenix creates this...

```
defmodule Demo.LobbyChannel do
  use Demo.Web, :channel

  def join("games:lobby", payload, socket) do
    if authorized?(payload) do
      {:ok, socket}
    else
      {:error, %{reason: "unauthorized"}}
    end
  end

  def handle_in("shout", payload, socket) do
    broadcast socket, "shout", payload
    {:noreply, socket}
  end
  ...
end
```

Add the channel to the UserSocket

```
defmodule Demo.UserSocket do
  use Phoenix.Socket

  ## Channels
  channel "games:lobby", Demo.LobbyChannel
  ...
```

web/channels/user_socket.ex

Pass the socket to the game

```
// Import dependencies
import {Game} from "./Game"
import {Socket} from "phoenix"

const socket = new Socket("/socket", {})
const game = new Game(700, 450, "phaser")

// Lets go!
game.start(socket)
```

web/static/app.js

Connect the socket

```
export class Game extends Phaser.Game {  
  constructor(width, height, container) {  
    super(width, height, Phaser.AUTO, container, null)  
  
    // set up game states  
    this.state.add("lobby", Lobby, false)  
  }  
  
  start(socket) {  
    socket.connect()  
  }  
}
```

web/static/js/Game.js

Create the channel

```
import {joinChannel} from "./common/channels"

export class Game extends Phaser.Game {
    ...
    start(socket) {
        socket.connect()

        // create and join the lobby channel
        const channel = socket.channel("games:lobby", {})

        joinChannel(channel, () => {
            console.log("Joined successfully")
            // start the lobby [name, clearWorld, clearCache, ...stateIni
            this.state.start("lobby", true, false, channel)
        })
    }
}
```

Log the channel reference

```
export class Lobby extends Phaser.State {  
    init(...args) {  
        const [channel] = args  
        console.log(channel)  
    }  
}
```

web/static/js/Lobby.js

Inside channels.js

```
// joinChannel :: Channel -> Channel
export const joinChannel = (channel, success, failure, timeout) =>
  channel
    .join()
    .receive("ok", success || joinOk)
    .receive("error", failure || joinError)
    .receive("timeout", timeout || joinTimeout)
  return channel
}

// joinOk :: Response -> Console
const joinOk = (response) => console.log(`Joined successfully`, res)

// joinError :: Response -> Console
const joinError = (response) => console.log(`Failed to join channel`)

// joinError :: Null -> Console
const joinTimeout = () => console.log("Networking issue. Still waitin
```

Hello Demo!

Keith

localhost:4000



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Hello world

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Phaser v2.4.7 | Pixi.js v2.2.9 | WebGL | WebAudio http://phaser.io ❤️

phaser.js:35027

Joined successfully

channels.js:7

▶ Channel {state: "joined", topic: "games:lobby", params: Object, socket: Socket, bindings: Array[3]...}

Lobby.js:6

>

Console

X

**Ok nearly there
lets send the position when we stop dragging**

Store the channel reference

```
export class Lobby extends Phaser.State {  
    init(...options) {  
        const [channel] = options  
        this.channel = channel  
    }  
}
```

web/static/js/Lobby.js

Make the label sync

```
import { createSyncLabel } from "../common/sync_labels"

export class Lobby extends Phaser.State {
    ...
    create() {
        const label = createSyncLabel(this,
            "Hello world",
            this.channel)
    }
}
```

web/static/js/Lobby.js

And here's the sync label

```
import { createLabel } from "./labels"
import { syncPosition } from "./sync"

export const createSyncLabel = (state, message, channel) => {
  const label = createLabel(state, message)
  label.anchor.setTo(0.5)
  label.inputEnabled = true
  label.input.enableDrag()

  // send message on drag stop [sprite, channel, event]
  syncPosition(label, channel, label.events.onDragStop)

  return label
}
```

web/static/js/common/sync_labels.js

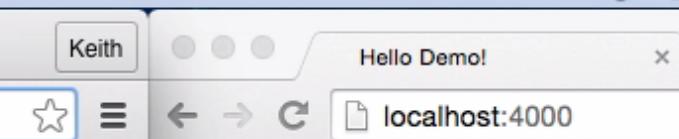
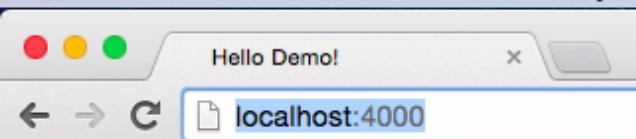
And finally the sync position

```
// syncPosition :: Sprite -> Channel -> Event -> Function -> Event
export const syncPosition = (sprite, channel, event) => {
  event.add(sprite => sendPosition(sprite, channel))
}

// sendPosition :: Sprite -> Channel -> String
export const sendPosition = (sprite, channel) => {
  console.log(serializePosition(sprite))
}

// serializePosition :: Sprite -> Object
export const serializePosition = ({x, y}) => Object.assign({x, y})
```

web/static/js/common-sync.js



Phoenix Framework

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Phoenix Framework

[Get Started](#)

Hello world

Hello world

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top ▾ Preserve log

top ▾ Preserve log

Filter Regex Hide network messages All Errors Warnings Info Logs Debug Handled

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Phaser v2.4.7 | Pixi.js v2.2.9 | WebGL | WebAudio | http://phaser.io ❤️ phaser.js:35027

Joined successfully

Joined successfully

>

>

Console

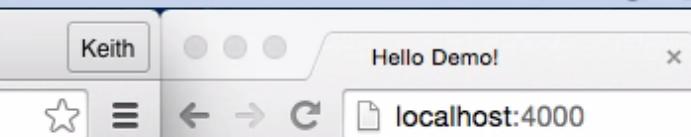
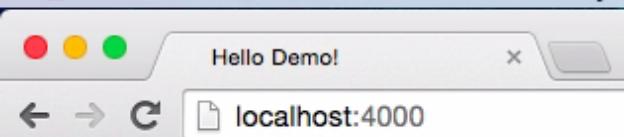
Console

We're ready to
SEND the message

Send the message

```
// sendPosition :: Sprite -> Channel -> Push
export const sendPosition = (sprite, channel) => {
  const message = serializePosition(sprite)
  console.log("Sending message", message)
  channel.push("shout", message)
}
```

web/static/js/common/sync.js



Phoenix Framework

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Hello world

Phoenix Framework

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Hello world

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Console

Console

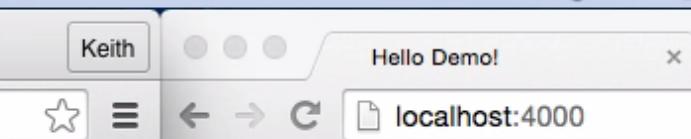
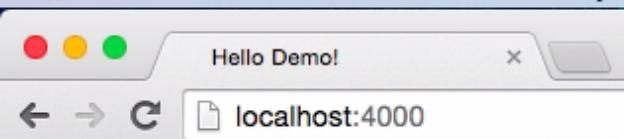
We're ready to
RECEIVE the message

Receive the message

```
// syncPosition :: Sprite -> Channel -> Event -> Function -> Event
export const syncPosition = (sprite, channel, event) => {
  event.add(sprite => sendPosition(sprite, channel))
  receivePosition(sprite, channel)
}

// receivePosition = Sprite -> Channel -> Push
export const receivePosition = (sprite, channel) => {
  channel.on("shout", (message) => {
    console.log("Received message", message)
  })
}
```

web/static/js/common/sync.js



Phoenix Framework

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Hello world

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Phaser v2.4.7 | Pixi.js v2.2.9 | WebGL | WebAudio | http://phaser.io ❤️ phaser.js:35027
Joined successfully channels.js:7

Console

Console

Remember this?

```
defmodule Demo.LobbyChannel do
  ...
  def handle_in("shout", payload, socket) do
    broadcast socket, "shout", payload
    {:noreply, socket}
  end
  ...
end
```

web/channels/lobby_channel.ex

broadcast_from

Lets make a position handler

```
defmodule Demo.LobbyChannel do
  ...
  # broadcast position data to everyone else
  def handle_in("position", payload, socket) do
    broadcast_from socket, "position", payload
    {:noreply, socket}
  end
  ...
end
```

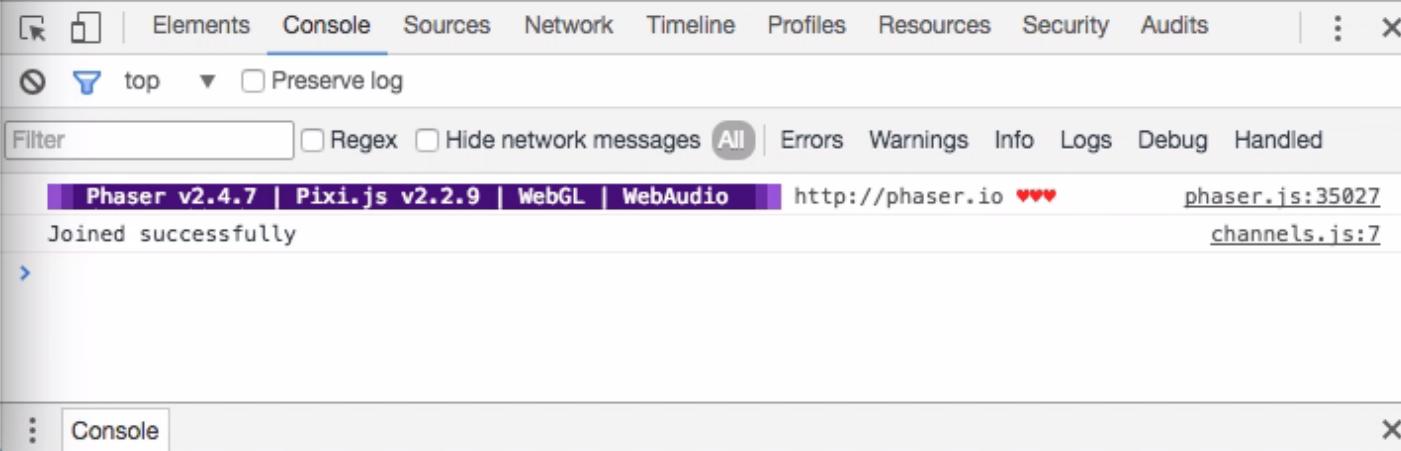
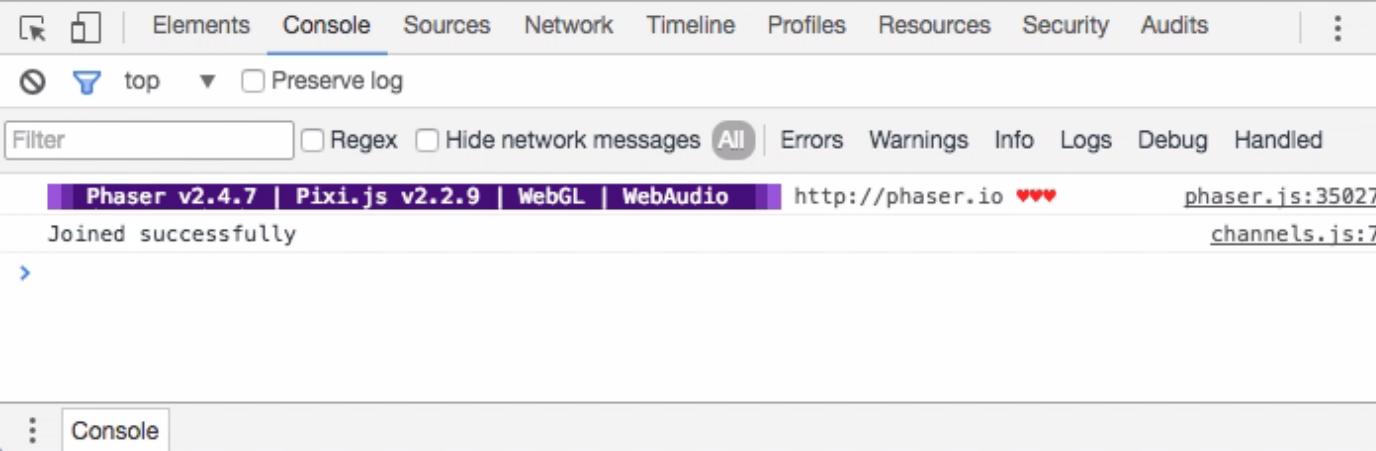
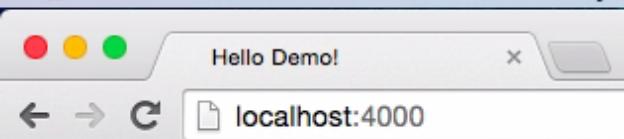
web/channels/lobby_channel.ex

Update the sync to use position

```
// sendPosition :: Sprite -> Channel -> Push
export const sendPosition = (sprite, channel) => {
  ...
  channel.push("position", message)
}

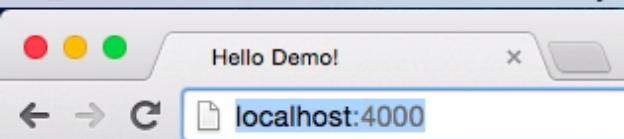
// receivePosition = Sprite -> Channel -> Push
export const receivePosition = (sprite, channel) => {
  ...
  channel.on("position", callback)
}
```

web/static/js/common/sync.js



Remember to restart your server

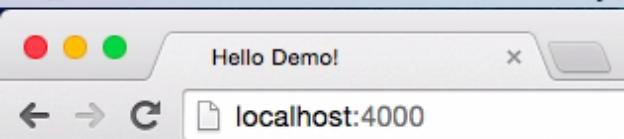
```
[error] GenServer #PID<0.413.0> terminating
** (FunctionClauseError) no function clause matching in Demo.LobbyC
  (demo) web/channels/lobby_channel.ex:20:
  Demo.GameChannel.handle_in("position", %{"x" => 249, "y" => 109}
  %Phoenix.Socket{assigns: %{}, channel: Demo.LobbyChannel, chann
  #PID<0.413.0>, endpoint: Demo.Endpoint, handler: Demo.UserSocker
  joined: true, pubsub_server: Demo.PubSub, ref: "10", serializer:
  Phoenix.Transports.WebSocketSerializer, topic: "games:lobby", t
  Phoenix.Transports.WebSocket, transport_name: :websocket, trans
  #PID<0.396.0>} )
```



Now finally we can update the sprite position!

```
// receivePosition = Sprite -> Channel -> Push
export const receivePosition = (sprite, channel) => {
  const callback = (message) => {
    console.log("Received message", message)
    const {x,y} = message
    sprite.position.setTo(x, y)
  }
  channel.on("position", callback)
}
```

web/static/js/common/sync.js



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Joined successfully channels.js:7

>

Console

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>

Console

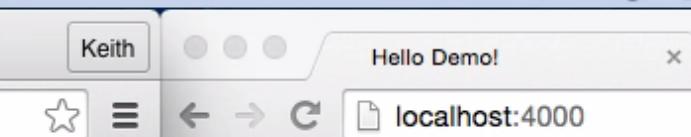
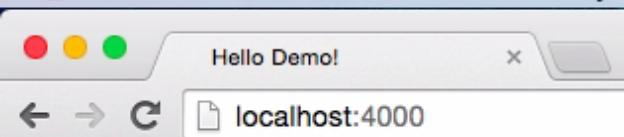
But wait?

We *can* do better

Use the onDragUpdate event

```
export const createSyncLabel = (state, message, channel) => {
  ...
  syncPosition(label, channel, label.events.onDragUpdate)
  return label
}
```

web/static/js/Lobby.js



Phoenix Framework

[Get Started](#)

Phoenix Framework

[Get Started](#)

Hello world

Hello world

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Filter Regex Hide network messages All Errors Warnings Info Logs Debug Handled

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Phaser v2.4.7 | Pixi.js v2.2.9 | WebGL | WebAudio | http://phaser.io ❤️ phaser.js:35027

Joined successfully

Joined successfully

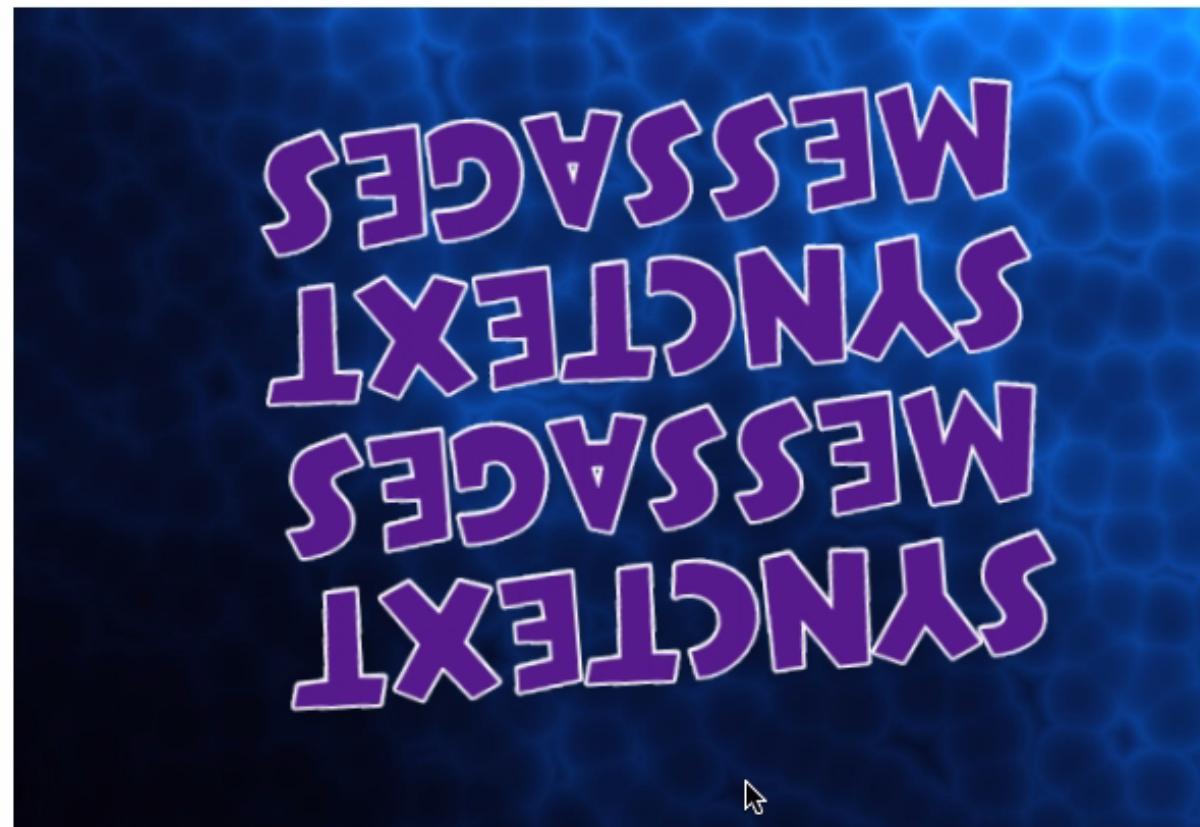
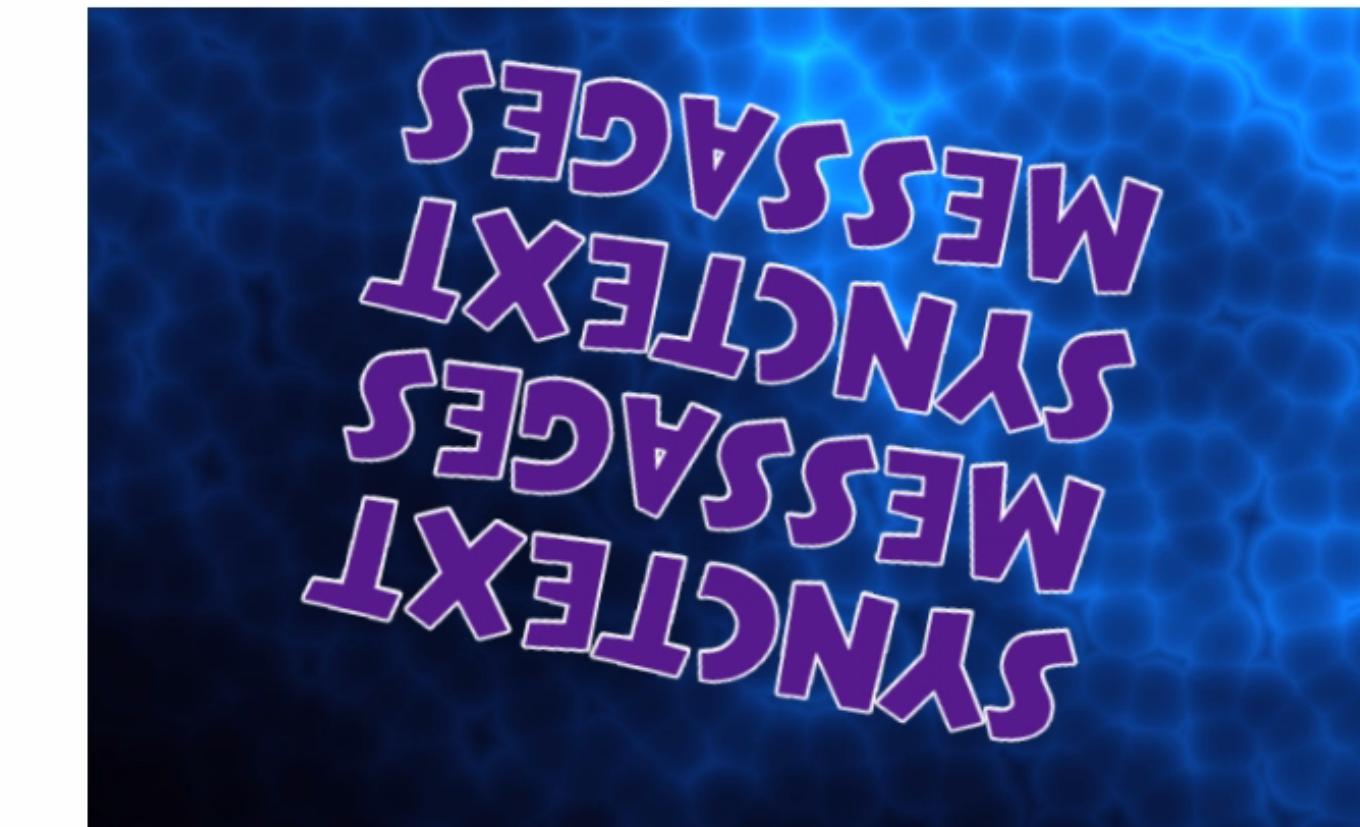
>

>

Console

Console

Lets add some juice!

[Get Started](#)[Get Started](#)

Clientside state problem

about:blank

Keith

Hello Demo!

Building multiplayer games

Keith

about:blank

localhost:4000

Get Started



Phoenix Framework

Hello world

Serverside State

Use a GenServer

But this is Erlang?

Lets use OTP

Supervision Trees

Identify each user using token

```
app.html.eex
5   <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible"
6     content="IE=edge">
7   <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
8     initial-scale=1">
9   <meta name="description" content="">
10  <meta name="author" content="">
11  <%= tag(:meta, name: "token", content: @token) %>
12
13  <title>Hello Demo!</title>
14  <link rel="stylesheet" href="<%=
15    static_path(@conn, "/css/app.css") %>">
16
17  </head>
18
19  <body>
20
21    app.js
22    import {Socket} from phoenix
23
24
25    const token =
26      document.head.querySelector("[name=token]").content
27    const socket = new Socket("/socket", {
28      params: {token: token},
29      // logger: (kind, msg, data) => {
30        // console.log(` ${kind}: ${msg} `, data)
31      //}
32    })
33
34    const game = new Game(700, 450, "phaser")
35
36    // Lets go!
37    game.start(socket)
```

localhost:4000

Phoenix Framework

Get Started

Hello world

Elements Console Sources Network Timeline

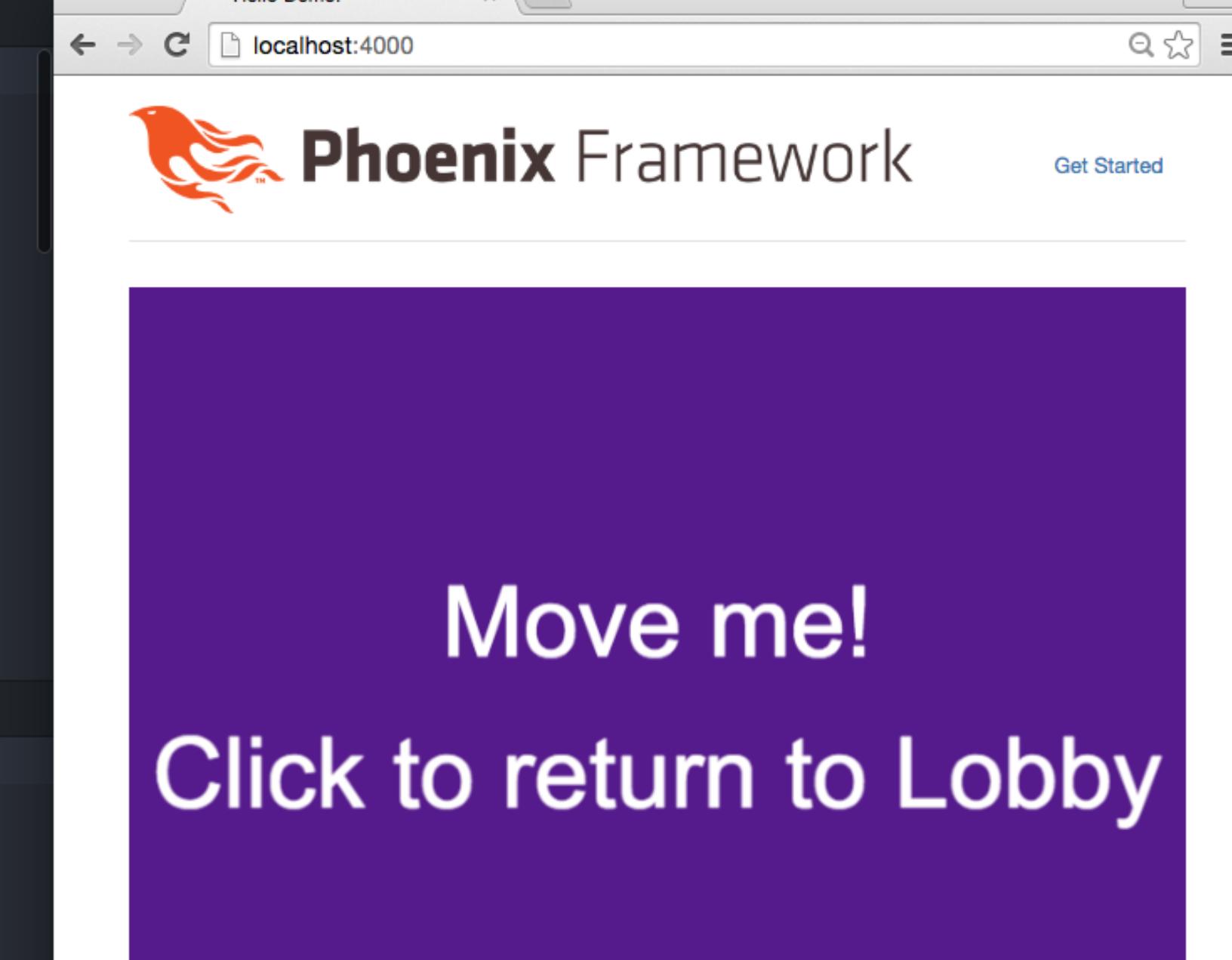
```
<meta name="description" content>
<meta name="author" content>
<meta content=
"g3QAAAACZAAEZF0YW0AAAAkM2FkZjh1ZWEtNTFjYy00YmZmLWI0M2EtNmY3ZmFm0
TZmYmE3ZAAGc2lnbmVkbgYAWDXUmlQB##48i6faB20WFFJ3ZJnsgzSr4nyco="
name="token">
<title>Hello Demo!</title>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/app.css">
</head>
...▼<body> == $0
▶<div class="container">...</div>
<!-- /container -->
```

html body

Styles Event Listeners DOM Breakpoints Properties

Muliple channels and Game states

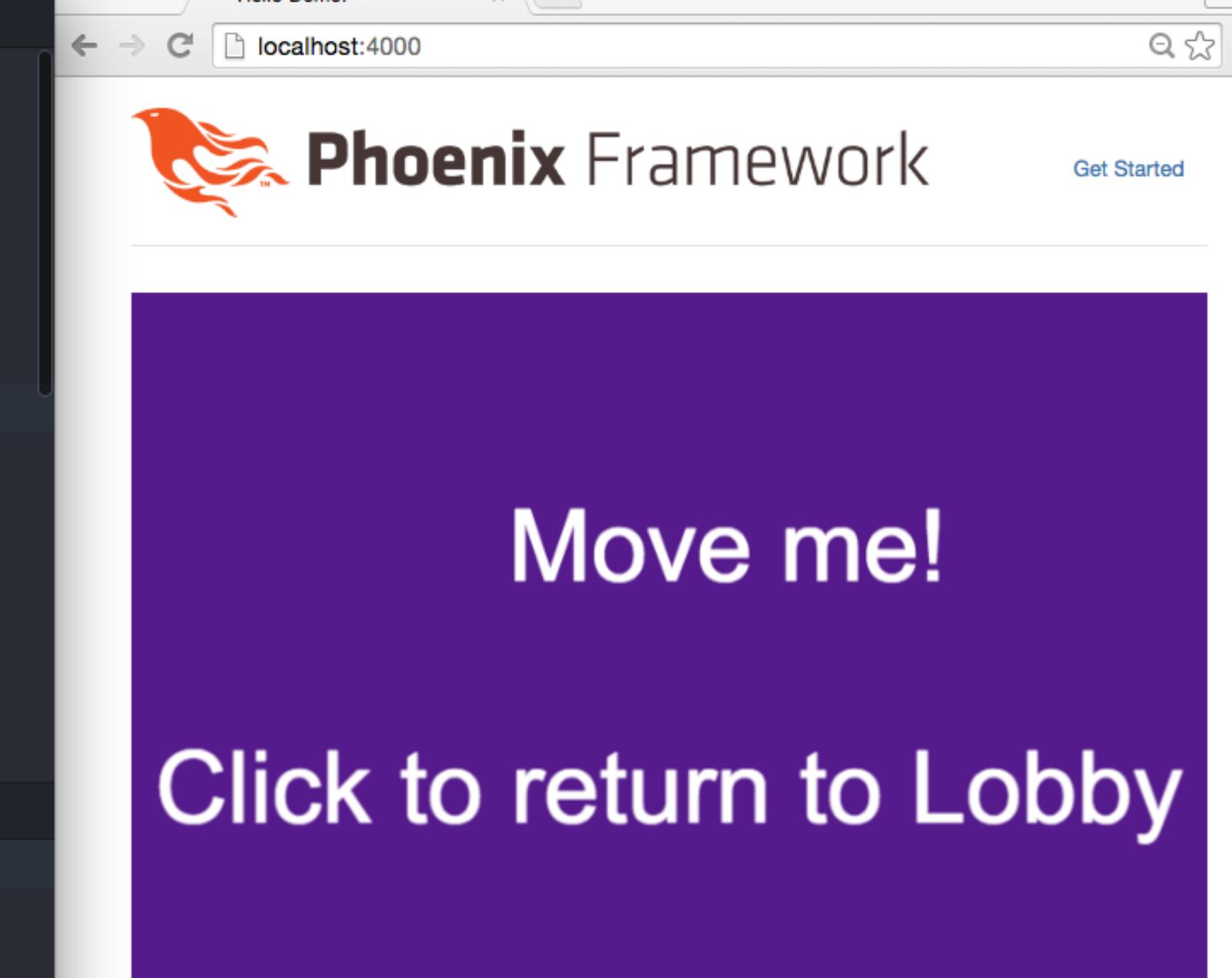
```
play_channel.ex
1 defmodule Demo.PlayChannel do
2   use Demo.Web, :channel
3   require Logger
4
5   def join("games:play", payload, socket) do
6     if authorized?(payload) do
7       Logger.debug "#{socket.assigns.user_id} joined
the Play channel"
8       {:ok, socket}
9     else
10      {:error, %{reason: "unauthorized"}}
11    end
12  end
13
```



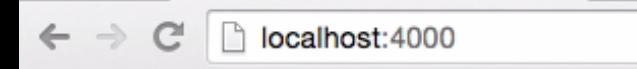
```
Play.js
1 import { createLabel } from "../common/labels"
2 import { createSyncLabel } from
"../common/sync_labels"
3 import { leaveChannel } from "../common/channels"
4
5 export class Play extends Phaser.State {
6   create(game) {
7     game.stage.backgroundColor = 0x551A8B
8
9     const label = createSyncLabel(this, "Move me!",
this.channel, "1")
10
11    const label2 = createLabel(this, "Click to return
12  
```

Dynamic Processes and Supervision Trees

```
player_supervisor.ex
1 defmodule Demo.PlayerSupervisor do
2   alias Demo.Player
3
4   def start_link do
5     import Supervisor.Spec, warn: false
6     children = [
7       worker(Player, [], [restart: :transient])
8     ]
9     opts = [strategy: :simple_one_for_one,
10        max_restart: 0, name: __MODULE__]
11     Supervisor.start_link(children, opts)
12   end
13
14   def start(id) do
15     Supervisor.start_child(__MODULE__, [[id]])
16   end
17
18 player.ex
19
20 defmodule Demo.Player do
21   use GenServer
22   alias Demo.{Endpoint, Randomise}
23
24   defmodule State do
25     defstruct id: nil,
26           position: %{x: 0, y: 0},
27           type: "square"
28   end
29
30   ## PUBLIC API ####
```



Rock Paper Scissors



Get Started



Get Started

github.com/ktec/phoenixphaserdemo

Message Flow



Even Elixir/Erlang/OTP is not that
fast

**Using broadcast_from! is not
enough**

So what to do?

One option is to have the server gather and send only one update,
and set a broadcast frequency for the node

```
def start_broadcasting do
  {:ok, _} = :timer.send_interval(200, :broadcast)
end

def handle_info(:broadcast, state) do
  # gather all the information the client needs here....
  broadcast_update(state)
  {:noreply, state}
end
```

Demos

rocks.globalkeith.com

dots.globalkeith.com

snake.globalkeith.com

Future

ElixirScript

```
defmodule Game do
  JS.import Menu, "./Elixir.Menu"

  def init() do
    game = JS.new Phaser.Game,
      [800, 600, Phaser.CANVAS, "phaser"]

    game.state.add("menu", %{
      "create" => &Menu.create/1,
      "update" => &Menu.update/1
    })
  end

  game.state.start("menu")
end
end
```

ElixirScript

```
def update(game) do
  Elixir.Enum.each(sprites, fn(sprite) ->
    JS.update(sprite, %{ "rotation" => sprite.rotation + 0.1 })
  end)
end

defp init() do
  Elixir.Agent.start(fn -> %{ "sprites" => [] } end, [name: __MODULE__])
end

defp sprites() do
  Elixir.Agent.get(__MODULE__, fn(x) -> x.sprites end)
end

defp add_sprite(sprite) do
  Elixir.Agent.update(__MODULE__, fn
    (x) -> %{ x | "sprites" => x.sprites ++ [sprite] }
  end)
end
```



Hello Hello!



Building multiplayer games

Keith

localhost:4000

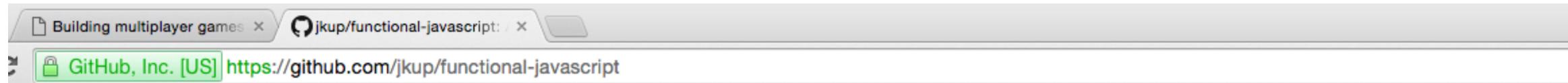


Phoenix Framework

[Get Started](#)

Hello
From
Elixirscript

Functional Javascript



Functional JavaScript Resources

This is a list of resources for functional programming in JavaScript. Please feel free to submit any of your own via pull request.

Videos

Free

- [Brian Lonsdorf - Hey Underscore, You're Doing It Wrong!](#)
- [David Nolen - Immutability: Putting The Dream Machine To Work](#)
- [John-David Dalton - Unorthodox Performance](#)
- [Jafar Husain - Asynchronous Programming at Netflix](#)
- [Brian Lonsdorf - Functional programming patterns for the non-mathematician](#)
- [Egghead.io - Asynchronous Programming: The End of The Loop](#)
- [James Coglan - Practical functional programming: pick two](#)
- [Mattias Petter Johansson - Functional Programming in Javascript](#)



Everything is a stream

ramda.js or kefir.js

Elm

Hex Package Generators

Phoenix Presence

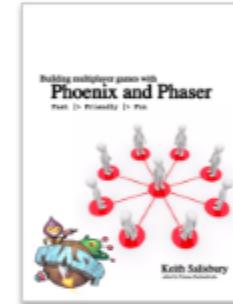
Explore Gamification

- Turn based games
- Winning/Losing
- Levels
- Challenges
- Virtual Goods
- Leaderboards
- Power/Energy
- High Scores
- Badges
- Authentication/Sign in
- Social sign in - Facebook/Twitter/Oauth
- Gestures on mobile (<http://hammerjs.github.io/>)

Phaser 3 aka Lazer



Store Read Write Support Blog



Building multiplayer games with Phoenix and Phaser

Overview

Getting Started

Upload Book Cover

Overview

Title: Building multiplayer games with Phoenix and Phaser

Authors: Keith Salisbury

Teaser Text: Phoenix and Phaser might sound like a cheesy pop band but get these two frameworks...

Categories: Functional Programming, Gaming, HTML5 and JavaScript

[Preview Book](#)

Thanks for Watching

Created by [Keith Salisbury](#) / [@ktec](#)