

The Team

Client

Project Manager

Designer

Front-End Developer

Back-End Developer

Also could include any number of the following (and more):

Copy Writer

Business Analysts

UX Designer

Information Architect

Interaction Designer

Art Director

SEO Specialist

The Steps

Plan

Design

Develop

Test

Plan (Front-End Development)

What browsers are you going to support / test against? Who will be doing this testing? Developers? Business Analysts? Will it be automated?

Are you going to normalize or reset your CSS?

Are you going to use any Front-End Frameworks or Grid Systems?

- Bootstrap

- Foundation
- Flat UI
- 960 Grid

Are you pre-processing your CSS?

- LESS
- SASS

Are you using jQuery? Are you downloading it or allowing Google CDN to host it?

Are you using other Javascript library / framework?

- Angular.js
- Backbone.js
- Prototype
- MooTools

Are you creating a Style Guide?

Just like a company probably has a Style Guide explaining how much white space should surround a logo, which typefaces and colors a brand uses, when it's appropriate to use them, etc. they also have a style guide for how code should be written.

How are you going to indent your code, what naming conventions are you going to use. Do you prefer more classes or more id's? How should you order your CSS selectors?

Example of Google's Style Guide:

<http://google-styleguide.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/htmlcssguide.xml>

How are you handling Version Control? How are you tracking changes to the code / multiple people having their hands in the same files?

- Git
- Subversion (SVN for short)
- CVS

Are you going to have a separate Live and Development site?

Are you going to make your site responsive?

Are you going to have an entirely separate mobile site?

Are you embedding fonts? Where are they coming from? Google? Fonts.com? Loaded locally via FontSquirrel, etc?

Project Plan: Created by the Project Manager. List of times, expectations, deliverables, dependencies. A living document over the course of the project that tracks everyone and keeps group on task / on time.

Design

Designer will supply you a Design document, most likely and ideally a layered PSD that you will slice-up using Photoshop (You may see all SORTS of stuff, though - Illustrator, InDesign, PDF). Also, they may have pre-processed and delivered certain image assets. Your project manager may have delivered other media assets. You will probably have a discussion on best-practices, types of files needed, who is responsible for what.

Also, as you move forward, there reaches a point that it makes more sense to make changes “on-the-fly” versus having the Designer make a change in the PSD and then passing it over when the Developer could have, for example, just added 2 pixels.

More Designers are becoming familiar with code and more Developers are becoming familiar with Design, so this line is beginning to blur. You will also find people are looking for “Unicorns” – the person who is a true hybrid Designer / Front-End Developer.

Develop

Configuration

Identify / Purchase / Configure Server

Purchase Domain

Point Domain to Server

Create User Account for FTP

BUILD! (What we’ve been doing for the past 10 weeks ...)

Test

Look at your site on as many different devices as possible, ensuring that all layout is acceptable / all animations and interactions work. Or, at the very least

I generally QA using a combination of:

Browser Shots - <http://browsershots.org/>

Safari's Developer Tools - Change the "User Agent" to emulate Mobile Safari

Virtual Box (for all Windows testing) - <https://www.virtualbox.org/>

Where you have a problem you can't solve, add a "hack":

<http://css-tricks.com/snippets/css/browser-specific-hacks/>

<http://browserhacks.com/>

To target IE specifically, use an IE stylesheet:

Target all IE:

```
<!--[if IE]>  
  <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="all-ie-only.css" /> <![endif]-->
```

Target IE 7 and below:

```
<!--[if lte IE 7]>  
  <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="ie7-and-down.css" />  
<![endif]-->
```

More stuff: <http://css-tricks.com/how-to-create-an-ie-only-stylesheet/>

Make mobile devices stick to their native width so your media queries are actually used:

```
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
```

Add the HTML5shiv

Ensures that older (i.e. IE) browsers view HTML5 elements as proper HTML elements.

<http://code.google.com/p/html5shiv/>

Finishing Touches

Add Meta Information (keywords, description, author, copyright)

Add Google Analytics Code

Minify CSS and JS to decrease load time

Ensure Images are ONLY AS LARGE as you need them to be

SLEEP