

Impersonation

01:16 Impersonation of celebs.

Tags: Celebrites Impersonation Forest Gump Shawn Cannery Seinfeld
Matrix Agent Smith Mr. Anderson

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mediaire CSS Workshop

Enhancing our Styling Practices for Maintainability & UX

Workshop Goals

- Review **CSS basics** and their application
- Understand how SCSS enhances CSS maintainability and discuss its downsides
- Explore **Tailwind CSS** as a utility-first alternative to traditional CSS
- Establish shared knowledge about maintainable styling and its importance



Source: ChatGPT



What is CSS?

Cascading Stylesheets: one of the 3 backbones of the web

- selective styling of HTML elements
- Before: styling directly in HTML → cumbersome, hard to maintain

 1 <H1>...</H1>

Benefits

- Separation of style and content
- Efficiency: Reusable stylesheets
- Customization & branding
- Improved UX & Accessibility



Why focus on Styling?

It just makes up a huge part of the frontend code.

- Consistency in design improves the overall user experience
- Maintainable and well-structured styles reduce time spent fixing issues and enhance productivity
- Adaptability to new technologies / products ensures scalability as the company grows

```
.analysis section {
 position: relative;
 padding: 2rem 2rem 4rem 2rem;
 border-bottom: 1px solid $thinLine;
 // TODO: make less hacky
 font-size: 0.9em:
 &:last-child {
   padding-bottom: 6rem;
   border-bottom: none;
 h2 {
   font-size: 24px;
   letter-spacing: 0.67px;
   margin-top: 0:
   font-weight: 500;
   // text-transform: capitalize;
 h2 + div {
   font-size: 16px;
   // color: $defaultTypeSemi;
   margin-bottom: lem:
  .unit {
   text-transform: none !important:
  .top {
   text-align: right:
   margin-bottom: 0;
   img {
     width: 60%;
     max-width: 100%;
     margin-top: 3em;
```

Part 1

CSS Basics

The CSS Box Model

Every element is a rectangular box made of:

Content: The text or image inside the box.

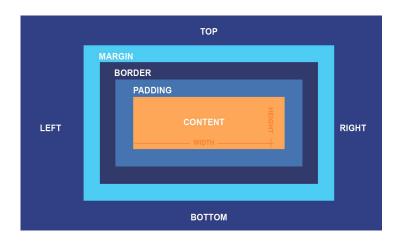
Padding: Space between the content and the border.

Border: Surrounds the padding (optional).

Margin: Space outside the border, separating the box

from others.

box-sizing CSS property: determines how total width/height of the box is calculated (includes padding/border or not)



CSS Rules

CSS is a rule-based language for styling HTML. **Rules** consist of:

Selector: Targets an element or group of elements (e.g. via ID or class)

Declaration: Maps a **property** to a value, changing the element's styling

Property: keyword that can take on a range of values (e.g. color)

Note: Sometimes rule & selector are used as synonyms.

```
Selector

Color: red;

Property Property value

Declaration
```

Α											
	abs()		anchor-name		animation-range		 	•	border-inline	•	border-width
	accent-color		anchor-scope		animation-range-end		block-size	•	border-inline-color	•	bottom
	acos()		anchor-size()		animation-range-start		blur()		border-inline-end	•	@bottom-left-corner
	:active		<angle></angle>		animation-timeline		border	•	border-inline-end-color	•	box-decoration-break
	additive-symbols (@counter-		<angle-percentage></angle-percentage>		animation-timing-function		border-block		border-inline-end-style	•	box-shadow
	style)		animation		<u>@annotation</u>		border-block-color		border-inline-end-width	•	box-sizing
•	::after (:after)		animation-composition		:any-link		border-block-end		border-inline-start	•	break-after
•	align-content		animation-delay		appearance		border-block-end-color	•	border-inline-start-color	•	break-before
•	align-items		animation-direction		ascent-override (@font-face)		border-block-end-style	•	border-inline-start-style		break-inside
•	align-self		animation-duration		asin()		border-block-end-width	•	border-inline-start-width	•	<pre>brightness()</pre>
•	align-tracks		animation-fill-mode		aspect-ratio	•	border-block-start				
*	all		animation-iteration-count		atan()	С					
*	<an-plus-b></an-plus-b>		animation-name		atan2()		calc()		column-qap		contrast()
*	anchor()		animation-play-state		attr()		calc-size()				cos()
							caption-side		column-rule-color		<counter></counter>
В							caret		column-rule-style		counter-increment
	::backdrop		border-block-start-color		border-inline-style		caret-color		column-rule-width		counter-reset
	backdrop-filter		border-block-start-style		border-inline-width		caret-shape		column-span		counter-set
	backface-visibility		border-block-start-width		border-left		@character-variant		column-width		@counter-style
	background		border-block-style		border-left-color		@charset		columns		counters()
	background-attachment		border-block-width		border-left-style		checked		conic-gradient()		cross-fade()
	background-blend-mode		border-bottom		border-left-width		circle()		contain		cubic-bezier()
	background-clip		border-bottom-color		border-radius		clamp()		contain-intrinsic-block-size		::cue
	background-color		border-bottom-left-radius		<u>border-right</u>		clear		contain-intrinsic-height		::cue-region
	background-image		border-bottom-right-radius	•	border-right-color		clip-path		contain-intrinsic-inline-		:current
	background-origin		border-bottom-style		<u>border-right-style</u>		clip-rule		size		cursor
	background-position		border-bottom-width	•	<u>border-right-width</u>		<color></color>		contain-intrinsic-size		<custom-ident></custom-ident>
	background-position-x		border-collapse		border-spacing		color	•	contain-intrinsic-width		<u>cx</u>
	background-position-y		border-color	•	border-start-end-radius		color-interpolation-filters	•	container		ΣΧ
	background-repeat		border-end-end-radius		border-start-radius		color-scheme		container-name		length#cap
	background-size		border-end-start-radius		<u>border-style</u>		column-count	•	container-type		length#ch
	base-palette (@font-palette	•	border-image		<u>border-top</u>		column-fill	•	content		length#cm
	values)		border-image-outset	•	border-top-color			•	<pre>content-visibility</pre>		

How to apply CSS

1. **External** stylesheet (most common)

2. **Internal** stylesheet

3. **Inline** styles (to avoid - why?)

index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
    <!-- External stylesheet: <link rel="stylesheet"> inside of <head> -->
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css" />
    <title>Document</title>
</head>
<body>
    <!-- Internal stylesheet: <style> inside of <body> (rarely used) -->
    <style>
            color: ■purple;
    </style>
    <header>
        <!-- Inline styles: style attribute of an element (bad) -->
        <h1 style="color: | blue">I'm blue</h1>
    </header>
</body>
</html>
```

```
styles.css
h1 {
      color: ■red;
}
```

CSS Basics: Flexbox

Result

1 2 3

One-dimensional layouts: horizontal/vertical

- → simple and easy to use for most layouts
- → frequently used

```
styles.css
.flex-container {
    display: flex; /* or inline-flex */
    flex-direction: row; /* items aligned in row */
    justify-content: space-between; /* items spaced evenly */
    align-items: center; /* items centered vertically */
    gap: 10px; /* spacing between items */
}
.item {
    flex: 1; /* item takes up all available space */
    padding: 10px;
    background: □lightblue;
    border: 1px solid □grey;
}
```

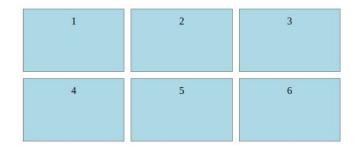
CSS Basics: Grid

Two-dimensional: rows & columns

- → for more complex layouts
- \rightarrow less used, but has its use cases

Result

styles.css



Why is my CSS not applied?

Common problem: multiple CSS rules target the same element \rightarrow which properties to apply?

→ Cascade Algorithm: "origin and order matter"

Properties are applied based on:

- **1. Origin (Precedence)**: Where the style comes from (browser < user < developer)
- 2. Specificity ("priority"): more specific selectors override less specific ones
- 3. Source Order: Later rules in the CSS override earlier rules

Precedence Order (low to high)	Origin	Importance
1	user-agent (browser)	normal
2	user	normal
3	author (developer)	normal
4	CSS @keyframe animations	
5	author (developer)	!important
6	user	!important
7	user-agent (browser)	!important
8	CSS transitions	

```
/* Specificity and Source Order */
p { color: ■red; } /* Specificity: 1 */
#intro { color: ■blue; } /* Specificity: 100 -> wins */
span { color: ■green; } /* Declared earlier */
span { color: ■blue; } /* Declared later -> wins */
```

Browser Defaults & CSS Reset

Browsers add default styles to every HTML they render (User Agent Styles)

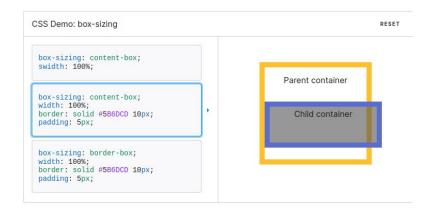
→ Readability, Accessibility, Consistency

However: may clash with custom CSS or introduce unwanted side-effects (e.g. box-sizing: content-box)

→ Usually new projects should use a "CSS Reset" stylesheet or a library (like <u>normalize.css</u> or Tailwind)

```
/* CSS Reset */

* {
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
  box-sizing: border-box;
}
```



Task 1 Basic CSS

Clone repo: <u>css-workshop</u>

→ <u>task1-css</u>

(~15 min)

Task 1 Basic CSS

Reflection Questions

- How was the experience, were there any issues?
- What would change for bigger code bases?
- Would you use native CSS in our frontend projects? Why or why not?
- What issues can you imagine in larger projects?

Challenges using Pure CSS

- Deeper HTML nesting → complex CSS
- No mixins: reusable rules with slight value variations need to be duplicated
- No modularity: no built-in way to organize code into reusable modules
- Limited calculation functionalities
- No variables → doesn't apply anymore (since 2017)

→ Hard to maintain, especially for large teams & projects with a lot of style changes / complex HTML

```
/* Deeply nested rules: hard to read & maintain */
nav ul { margin: 0; }
nav ul li { list-style: none; }
nav ul li a { text-decoration: none; }
    /* Repeated rules: hard to maintain */
    button {
      border: 1px solid \( \precent{\pi} #ccc; \)
      background-color: #f0f0f0;
    button.primary {
       border: 1px solid ■#000;
      background-color: #3498db;
   /* Variables (Custom Properties) */
   :root {
     --primary-color: ■#3498db;
   button.primary {
     --primary-color: ■ red;
     background-color: var(--primary-color);
```

Part II

Preprocessors & Sass

CSS Preprocessors

Idea: extend CSS features to improve maintainability

- Provide features like variables, mixins, nested rules
- Custom language is compiled to CSS before runtime

Popular examples:

- Sass (Syntactically Awesome Stylesheets)
- 2. Less
- 3. Stylus







SCSS: Variables

```
SCSS

// Variables
$font-size: 16px;
body {
  font-size: $font-size;
}

// CSS
// body { font-size: 16px; }
```

/* Variables (Custom Properties) */ :root { --primary-color: ■#3498db; } button.primary { --primary-color: ■ red; background-color: var(--primary-color); }

SCSS: Nesting

```
// Nesting
nav {
  ul
    li {
        color: | blue;
// CSS
// nav ul li a { color: blue; }
```

SCSS: Mixins

```
// Mixins
@mixin flex($justify: center, $align: center) {
    display: flex;
    justify-content: $justify;
    align-items: $align;
}
.container {
    @include flex(space-between, flex-start);
}
/*
CSS
.container {
    display: flex;
    justify-content: space-between;
    align-items: flex-start;
}
*/
```

SCSS: Extends

```
// Extend
%message-shared {
  border: 1px solid □#ccc;
  padding: 10px;
  color: #333;
// Won't be compiled
%equal-heights {
 display: flex;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
.message {
 @extend %message-shared;
.success {
 @extend %message-shared;
  border-color: ■green;
```

```
/* CSS
.message, .success {
  border: 1px solid #ccc;
  padding: 10px;
  color: #333;
}
.success {
  border-color: green;
}
*/
```

SCSS: Functions



```
// Functions: calculating color
@function invert($color, $amount: 100%) {
    $inverse: change-color($color, $hue: hue($color) + 180);
    @return mix($inverse, $color, $amount);
}

$primary-color: \blue{#036};
    header {
    background-color: invert($primary-color, 80%);
}
```

SCSS: Partials

```
// Partials: split code into re-usable modules
@use <u>'variables'</u>;
body {
   color: variables.$primary-color;
}
```

```
// _variables.scss (underscore denotes partial)
$primary-color: ■ red;
```

SCSS: Partials

```
@import ' next/src/styles/colors.scss';
.kneeGridLavout {
  .cartilageTable {
   text-align: right;
   display: block;
    width: 100%;
    .container {--
    &.patella {--
    &.femur { --
   &.tibia { --
    .cell {
      .assessment {
       border-radius: 0.4em:
        padding: 0.3em;
        padding-left: 0.5em;
        margin-right: 0.5em:
        &.damaged {
         background-color: $mustard:
        &.moderately damaged {
         color: $defaultBq;
         background-color: #f5b973;
        &.severely damaged {
         background-color: $dusty pink;
        &.damaged.
        &.severely damaged {
         color: $defaultBq:
          font-weight: 600;
```

Compiled with problems: WARNING in ./src/__next/src/components/Analysis/Knee/Cartilage/KneeBoneTable.scss (./src/__next/src/components/Analysis/Knee/Cartilage/KneeBoneTable.scss.webpack[javascript/auto]!=!./node_modules/css-loader/dist/cjs.js!./node_modules/sass-loader/dist/cjs.js!./src/__next/src/components/Analysis/Knee/Cartilage/KneeBoneTable.scss) Module Warning (from ./node modules/sass-loader/dist/cis.is): Deprecation Warning on line 0, column 8 of file:///app/src/ next/src/components/Analysis/Knee/Cartilage/KneeBoneTable.scss:0:8: Sass @import rules are deprecated and will be removed in Dart Sass 3.0.0. More info and automated migrator: https://sass-lang.com/d/import 0 | @import ' next/src/styles/colors.scss'; src/ next/src/components/Analysis/Knee/Cartilage/KneeBoneTable.scss 1:9 root stylesheet Module Warning (from ./node modules/sass-loader/dist/cjs.js): Deprecation Warning on line 0, column 8 of file:///app/src/ next/src/components/Analysis/Knee/Cartilage/legend.scss:0:8: Sass @import rules are deprecated and will be removed in Dart Sass 3.0.0. More info and automated migrator: https://sass-lang.com/d/import 0 | @import ' next/src/styles/colors.scss'; src/__next/src/components/Analysis/Knee/Cartilage/legend.scss 1:9 root stylesheet

SCSS: Math Operators

```
// Operators
@use "sass:math";
.container {
    display: flex;
    }
    article[role="main"] {
        width: math.div(600px, 960px) * 100%;
    }
    aside[role="complementary"] {
        width: math.div(300px, 960px) * 100%;
        margin-left: auto;
}
```

```
/* CSS
.container {
   display: flex;
}
article[role=main] {
   width: 62.5%;
}
aside[role=complementary] {
   width: 31.25%;
   margin-left: auto;
}
*/
```

Sass for the win...?

- **Reusability**: variables, mixins
- **Readability**: nested rules
- Modularity: split code into partials
- Programming features: if, for, each, functions
- Backwards compatibility (CSS)
- Integration into libraries like Vite / Webpack

- → fosters maintainability
- → made for large projects



Sass Downsides

- Preprocessing step → +build time & complexity
- Learning curve: specific syntax and paradigms (e.g. <u>@use and namespaces</u>)
- Risk of overuse/"unintended" use → bad maintainability
- Debugging styles can be challenging due to additional step
- Native CSS is evolving
- Dependency on Sass compiler

Conclusion: When (not) to use Sass?

- Useful tool for big projects and teams
- Prerequisite: developer needs to understand its paradigms and syntax
- Sass should not be the default choice, but depend on project requirements & size
- Don't use SCSS for simple projects. Native CSS fulfills most use cases

Task 2 Refactoring w/ Sass

task2-sass

(~20 min)

Task 2 Refactoring w/ Sass

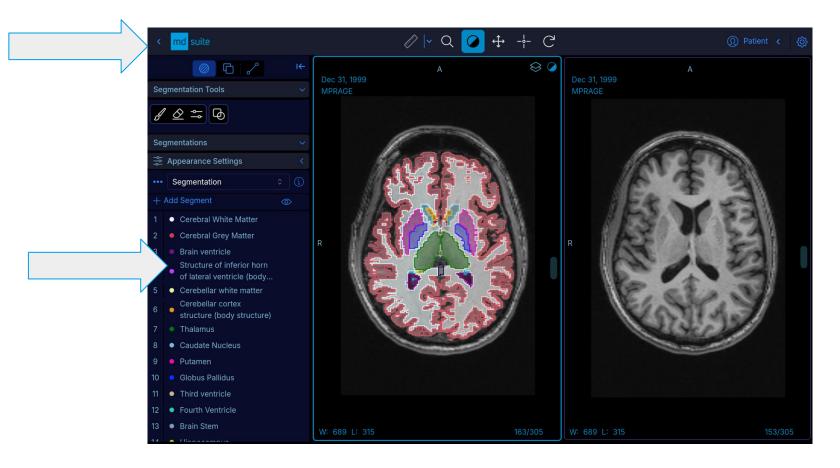
Reflection Questions

- How easy/difficult was the refactoring?
- Personally, what are the main benefits of Sass?
- When would you choose Sass over pure CSS? Why?
- Did you learn anything we can apply for our projects?

Part III

Utility-first & Tailwind CSS

Business Case: Viewer Rewrite



How we usually write CSS

Semantic CSS: define HTML and CSS based on element structure & meaning

Separate files for structure and styles

Separation of concerns, maintainability, collaboration



Problems

- Lacks scalability, unwanted side-effects (global scope)
- Naming conventions required
- No real separation between HTML and CSS
- New styles -> more CSS (re-using requires effort)
- Slower development from scratch

Good Semantics

```
<article>
  <h1>Smurf Movie Kinda Sucks</h1>
  Not surprisingly, this weeks release of
       <b>The Smurfs</b> kinda sucks.
  </article>
```

```
.analysis.contentContainer {
 display: block;
 position: relative;
 height: auto;
 overflow: visible:
  .warning {
   position: relative:
   display: flex:
   align-items: center:
   padding: 1em 2em;
   background-color: $darkBg;
   border-top: 1px solid $defaultTypeSemi:
   // padding-right: 50%;
   ima {
     height: 2em;
    .message {
     font-size: 0.7em:
     margin-left: 0.5rem;
     padding: 0.5em 0.5rem;
     line-height: 1.7;
     max-width: 40%:
     border-left: 1px solid $defaultTypeSemi:
```

Traditional Workflow

```
Card
Some important information
```

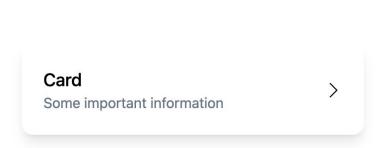
```
.card {
    display: flex;
    align-items: center;
   justify-content: space-between;
    max-width: 24rem;
    margin: 0 auto;
   padding: 1.5rem;
   border-radius: 0.5rem;
   background-color: □#fff;
   box-shadow: 0 20px 25px -5px □rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.1),
        0 10px 10px -5px □rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.04);
.card-icon-wrapper {
    flex-shrink: 0;
.card-icon {
    height: 3rem;
    width: 3rem:
.card-content {
    margin-left: 1.5rem:
.card-title {
    color: ■#1a202c:
    font-size: 1.25rem:
   line-height: 1.25;
.card-message {
    color: ■#718096:
    font-size: 1rem:
   line-height: 1.5;
```

Alternative: Utility-first Approach

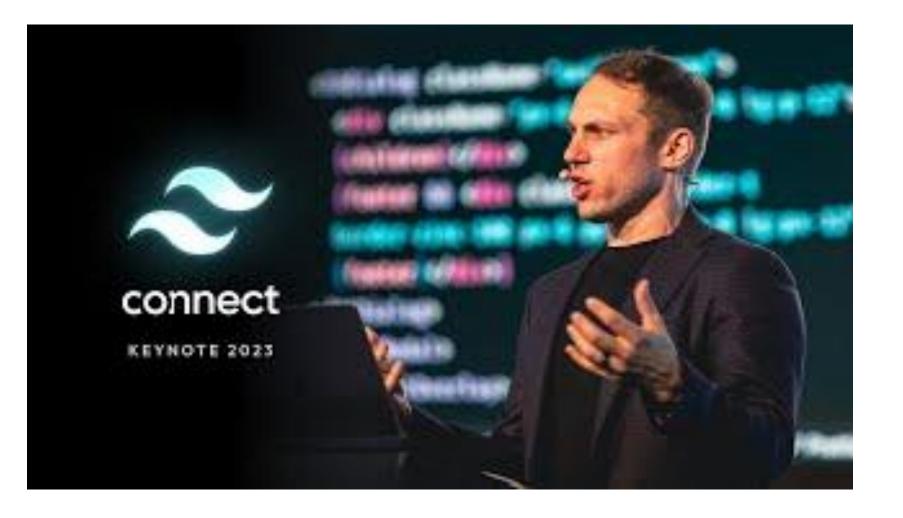
Idea: don't write CSS; instead apply atomic utility classes to HTML

Atomic: each class represents a single CSS property

No custom CSS needed for most solutions!



```
<div
   <div
   class="p-6 max-w-sm mx-auto □bg-white rounded-xl shadow-lg flex
   items-center gap-x-4 justify-between"
   <div>
       <div class="text-xl font-medium | text-black">Card</div>
       Some important information
   </div>
   <div class="shrink-0">
       <ima
           class="size-5"
           src="img/chevron.svg"
           alt="ChitChat Logo"
   </div>
</div>
```



Tailwind CSS

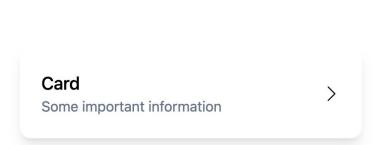
Utility-first CSS framework: pre-defined utility-classes

Idea: Instead of writing CSS, you use the classes like building blocks

Benefits

- Pre-defined class names: no name guessing + consistency
- Maintainability: no more growing CSS
- No global changes on local edits (remember Peter Griffin)
- Most popular CSS framework (used by <u>Netflix</u>, <u>OpenAI</u>, <u>Shopify</u>, ...)
- Customizable: allows to change colors or overwrite/define classes
- UI libraries and toolkits ready to be used or draw inspiration from (<u>TailwindUI</u>, <u>shadcn/ui</u>)

Tailwind CSS: Example



```
<div
   <div
   class="p-6 max-w-sm mx-auto □bg-white rounded-xl shadow-lg flex
   items-center gap-x-4 justify-between"
   <div>
     Some important information
   </div>
  <div class="shrink-0">
     <img
        class="size-5"
        src="img/chevron.svg"
        alt="ChitChat Logo"
   </div>
</div>
```

Tailwind CSS: @apply

@apply allows to combine different utility-classes into one

→ reuse common patterns

```
.btn-primary {
    @apply px-4 py-2 ■bg-blue-500 □text-white rounded-md ■hover:bg-blue-600;
}
```

However: you need to write CSS again...

Task 3 Tailwind CSS

task3-tailwindcss

(~20 min)

Task 3 Tailwind CSS

Reflection:

- How was the experience of styling using utility classes instead of CSS rules?
- Why do you think Tailwind is so popular?
- What were drawbacks you noticed or what can you imagine when the code grows?
- Could you imagine using it in our projects?

Tailwind CSS Drawbacks

- Cluttered HTML / difficult to read
- Learning curve (abbreviated class names like mt-3)
- Adds complexity compared to CSS (check which classes are printed in the final bundle)

```
<div
class="w-16 h-16 rounded \( \subseteq \text-\text\) text-white \( \begin{align*} \begi
```

However: This fosters using components / @apply to encapsulate reusable parts as much as possible.

Tooling exists to help organize the classes.

Part IV

Discussion & Conclusion

Discussion

- What were your main learnings today?
- Do you have any ideas how / where we improve our current styles?
 - Web Interface tables (party done via SCSS, and partly copied from some JS file as inline styles)
 - In general: consolidate duplicate styles → reduce bundle size
- What paradigm & framework should we use for the future?
- What are the most important factors for you personally when it comes to styling?
- Do you have further suggestions how we can improve our styles (maintainability & UX)?
 - Mediaire UI Library (next slide)

Idea Pitch: Mediaire UI Library

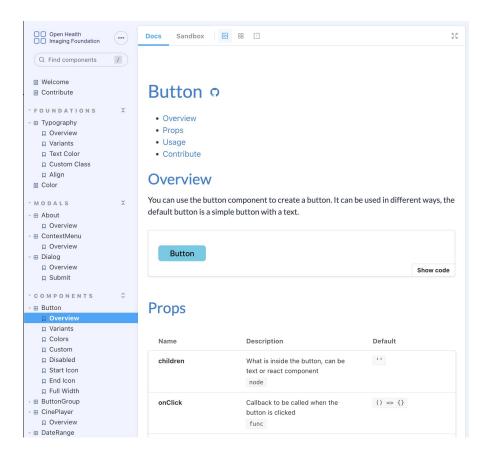




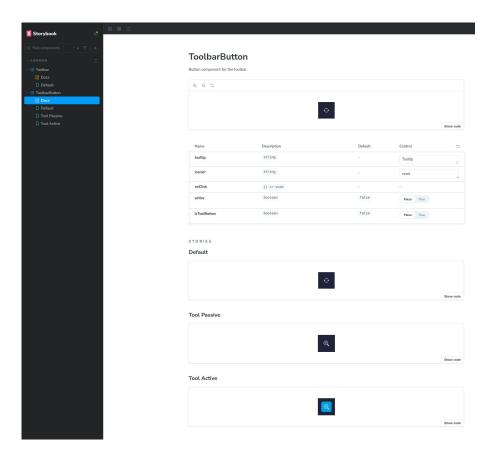
- Extract commonly used components & styles into a shared repo
- Use TailwindCSS for quick implementation & high maintainability
- Document components using Storybook
 - "Single source of truth" for our company styles
 - easy to browse components, colors, typography
 - collaborative tool for designers, devs, QA (test in isolation)

- → Collection of re-usable components that are pre-styled according to our mediaire brand (e.g. buttons, nav bar, modal dialogs, ...)
- → no duplicate styles, quick development of new features or products

Example: OHIF UI



First Draft: Viewer Components



Conclusion

- Basic CSS solves a lot of problems with reduced complexity
- Frameworks / preprocessors should have a clear use case
- Two major paradigms of CSS
 - Semantic CSS: great for readability, collaboration, and long-term maintainability in simple or medium-complexity projects
 - Utility-first CSS: excels in fast prototyping, scalability, and consistency, making it ideal for larger or fast-paced projects

Next steps:

- First draft of mediaire component library (based on viewer components)
- Tailwind CSS: great opportunity for our projects to have more maintainable styles and code in general

Q&A / Feedback

I'm happy to hear your opinions on this workshop! Was it helpful? Did you like the format? ...

Sources

- 1. https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn web development/Core/Styling basics/Getting started
- 2. https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn_web_development/Core/Styling_basics/Handling_conflicts
- 3. https://sass-lang.com/guide/
- 4. https://css-tricks.com/semantic-class-names/
- 5. https://www.infog.com/articles/no-need-css-framework/
- 6. https://adamwathan.me/css-utility-classes-and-separation-of-concerns/
- 7. https://www.aleksandrhovhannisyan.com/blog/why-i-dont-like-tailwind-css
- 8. https://eev.ee/blog/2020/02/01/old-css-new-css/
- 9. https://raygun.com/blog/css-preprocessors-examples/