

**Boilerplate  
and bad habits**

**First....**  
a little backstory



[◀ BACK TO DIRECTORY](#)

# WEB ENGINEER, FRONT END

[APPLY ONLINE](#)**CLASSIC GAMES**

Irvine - California , United States

 [E-MAIL THIS JOB POSTING TO A FRIEND](#) [Share](#)  [Share](#)  [Tweet](#)

Compelling stories. Intense multiplayer. Endless replayability. Qualities that made StarCraft, Warcraft III, and Diablo II the titans of their day. Evolving operating systems, hardware, and online services have made them more difficult to be experienced by their loyal followers or reaching a new generation.

We're restoring them to glory, and we need your engineering talents, your passion, and your ability to get tough jobs done.

So if you like wearing many hats, know small teams are the most effective, and look forward to challenges that will create millions of

Items Right Side >

Item 2

Level 2

Items Left Side <

Level 2

Item 4

Level 2

Level 2



Level 3

Level 2

Level 3

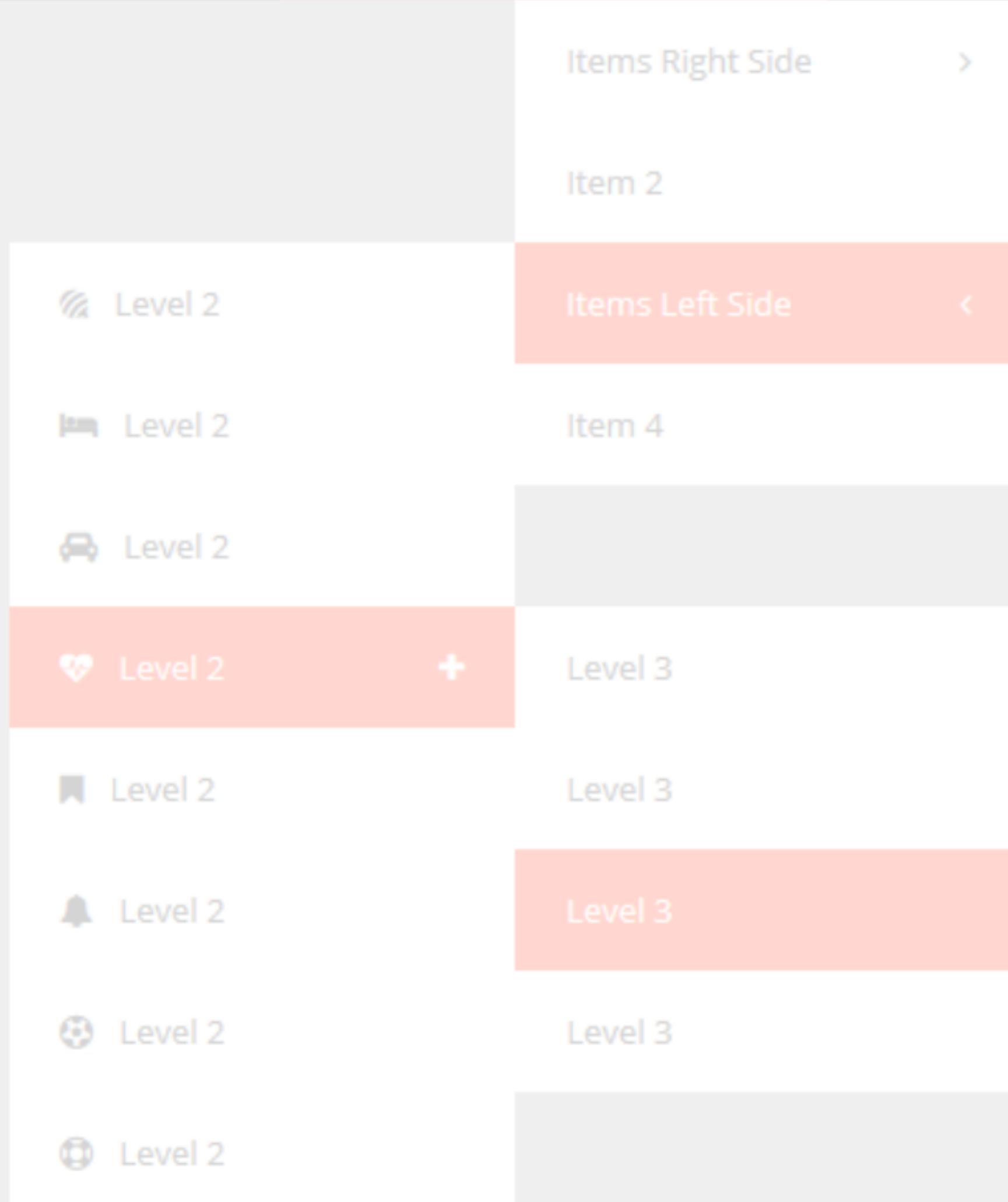
Level 2

Level 3

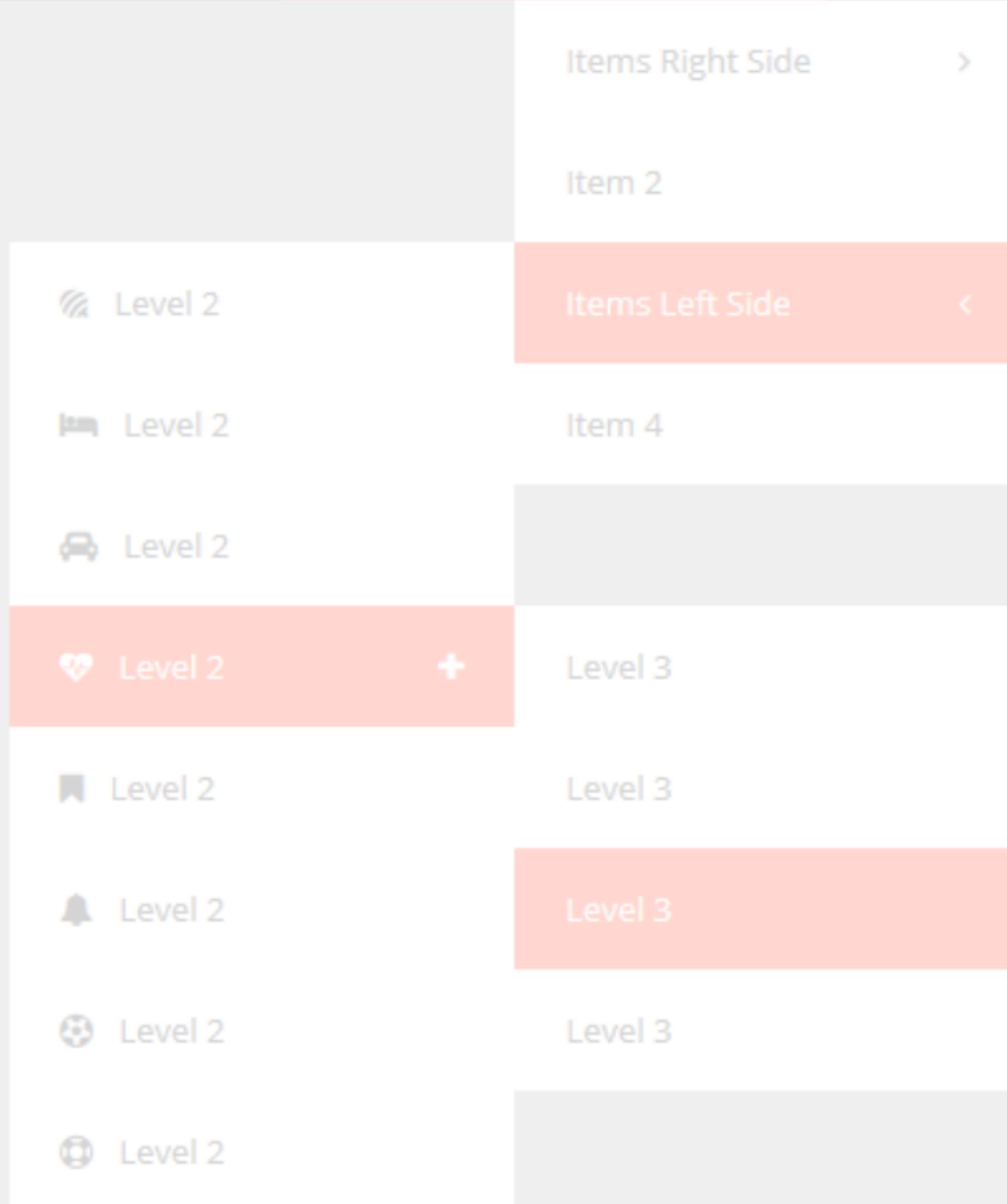
Level 2

Level 3

Level 2



JavaScript-driven  
JSON-derived  
3 hours



JavaScript-driven  
JSON-derived  
3 hours  
No libraries!

3 hours later...

# I had questions....

Is this the right career for me?

Is that code smell I smell?

What are the best practices?

Am I going to get the job?

# I had a few insights....

Stack Overflow is your friend

It's difficult without libraries

I don't know the basics

# My (over)use of ***jQuery***

had made me JavaScript dumb

A few weeks later...



A new mission  
Let's get back to basics!

5 years later...

# Drains

Takes more time

Going it alone

More testing

Not team-friendly

# Gains

Fewer dependencies

Web Performance

Learning

Better at picking up new tech

Cross-browserness!

And now....  
back to boilerplate

**What is  
boilerplate?**

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
    <title>Hello world</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/style.css">
    <link rel="shortcut icon" type="image/x-icon" href="/favicon.ico">
  </head>
  <body>
    ...
    <script type="application/javascript" src="script.js"></script>
  </body>
</html>
```

**What about...  
JS and CSS libraries**



Modernizr



HTML5 ★ BOILERPLATE

Is this....  
all necessary?

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
    <title>Hello world</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/style.css">
    <link rel="shortcut icon" type="image/x-icon" href="/favicon.ico">
  </head>
  <body>
    ...
    <script type="application/javascript" src="script.js"></script>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<!--html-->
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8"-->
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
    <!--meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge"-->
    <title>Hello world</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/style.css">
    <!--link rel="shortcut icon" type="image/x-icon" href="/favicon.ico"-->
</head>
<body-->
    ...
    <script type="application/javascript" src="script.js"></script>
<!--/body-->
</html-->
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
<title>Hello world</title>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="/style.css">
...
<script src="script.js"></script>
```

**Why do  
we do this?**

**Back to....**  
those libraries



Modernizr



Normalize



Bootstrap



err, jQuery



No IE problems  
Make my life easier  
Speed up development  
Don't make me think



= 7 years



= 5 years



= 5 years



= 10 years



version 9

= 5 years



= 0.5%

version 9 + 10

No IE....  
No boilerplate?

You might  
not need Modernizr



# Modernizr



# Modernizr

JS-based feature detection  
CSS feature insights  
Conditionally load polyfills



# Modernizr

Poor for Web Performance

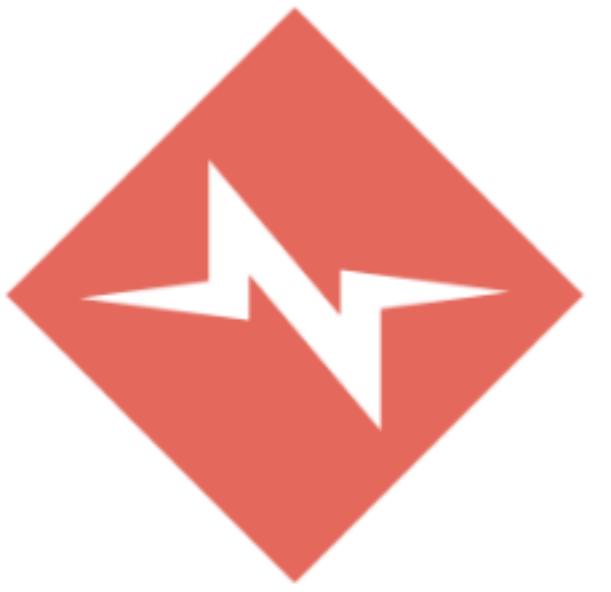
Using JS to fix everything

Poor strategy for browser support

Some features can't be polyfilled

# Examples of Modernizr

You might  
not need Normalize



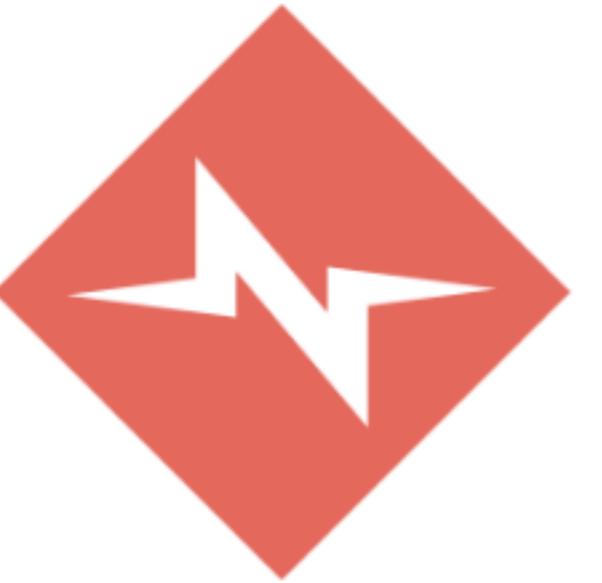
# Normalize



# Normalize

Iron-out browser differences

Covers most HTML elements



# Normalize

SO MUCH NOISE!

You won't use most of it

Have to override the 'defaults'

# Examples of Normalize

You might  
not need Bootstrap



# Bootstrap



# Bootstrap

Building prototypes

Don't have to know CSS

Common UI patterns

Cross-browser friendly

Responsive



# Bootstrap

Bloated

Not used properly

Crappy HTML

Keeps you CSS ignorant

Wasted time

# Examples of Bootstrap

You might  
not need jQuery





**Powerful selector-engine**

**Irons out browser differences**

**Fixes old browser bugs**

**More succinct API**



Massive library

You won't use most of it

Unportable scripts

Makes you JS dumb

# Examples of jQuery

You might  
not need all the things

# Gains

Write less code

Community support

Iron out browser differences / bugs

More power

Produce stuff quicker

Don't worry about the hard stuff

# Drains

Inefficiencies in the browser

Tardy Web Performance

Can make you ignorant

Time wasted fighting the system

Poor architecture

Trouble when stepping outside

So....  
it depends

# Thanks