

# graded browser support & progressive enhancement

Mark Norman Francis  
<http://cackhanded.net/presentations/fling07>



who am I?

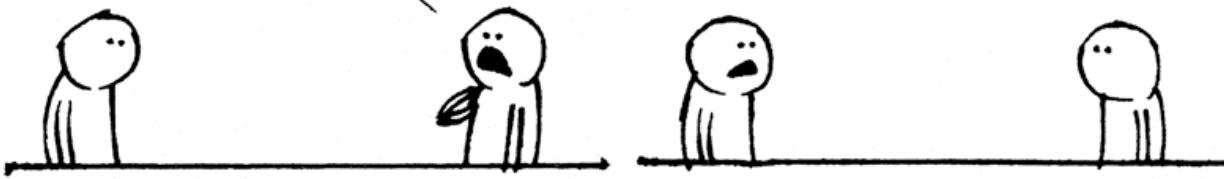
author backend beard cackhanded  
codereviews critic CSS  
eternalhippy frontend HTML  
JavaScript iñtërnâtiònàlizætiøn  
kingofthebritons longhair manager  
microformats noeyefordesign PHP  
**perl** semanticwanker shakeshake  
sysadmin webdeveloper yahoo!

I apologise for this. It amused me at the time.

I'd like to look explain one of these things in a little bit more detail.

Do you have  
a fear  
of me...?

Not really.



YOU...  
WILL.

shake  
shake



# code reviews

One of the things I do at work is run code reviews. In brief this is a stage before formal Q.A. testing in which other members of the Web Development team and sometimes the back-end Engineering team go through code, templates and the CMS structure to look for common gotchas and optimisations. I call it “collective wisdom”.

This is why I am going to tell you about GBS and point out all of the ways that Yahoo! doesn't follow its own rules. Never mind, eh?



## Yahoo! UI Library: Graded Browser Support

### Yahoo! UI Library

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- [API Documentation](#)
- [Examples & Implementations](#)
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## Graded Browser Support

### A-Grade Browser Support Chart

This chart lists all browsers that receive A-grade support as defined by [Graded Browser Support](#).

	Win 98	Win 2000	Win XP	Mac 10.3.x	Mac 10.4
IE 7.0			A-grade		
IE 6.0	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade		
Firefox 2.0.*	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade
Firefox 1.5.*	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade
Opera 9.*	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade	A-grade
Safari 2.0*					A-grade

### Changes

#### Primary Changes

# graded browser support

“Support does not mean  
that everybody gets the  
same thing.

“Support does not mean that everybody gets the same thing. Expecting two users using different browser software to have an identical experience fails to embrace or acknowledge the heterogeneous essence of the Web. In fact, requiring the same experience for all users creates a barrier to participation.”

“Availability and  
accessibility of content  
should be our key priority.

“An appropriate support strategy allows every user to consume as much visual and interactive richness as their environment can support.”

“Consider television. At the core: TV distributes information. A hand-cranked emergency radio is capable of receiving television audio transmissions. It would be counter-productive to prevent access to this content, even though it’s a fringe experience.



YOU  
MUST  
BE  
36"  
TALL  
TO  
RIDE



[http://flickr.com/photos/  
caitlinburke/147151894/](http://flickr.com/photos/caitlinburke/147151894/)

Some viewers still have black-and-white televisions. Broadcasting only in black-and-white — the “lowest common denominator” approach — ensures a shared experience but benefits no one. Excluding the black-and-white television owners — the “you must be this tall to ride” approach — provides no benefit either.”

the grades

A-Grade

Full support: the most recent browsers on the most popular OSs; receive all HTML, CSS, JS and are actively tested against

C-Grade

Core support: browsers known to be incapable of modern standards and functionality; receive HTML only

X-Grade

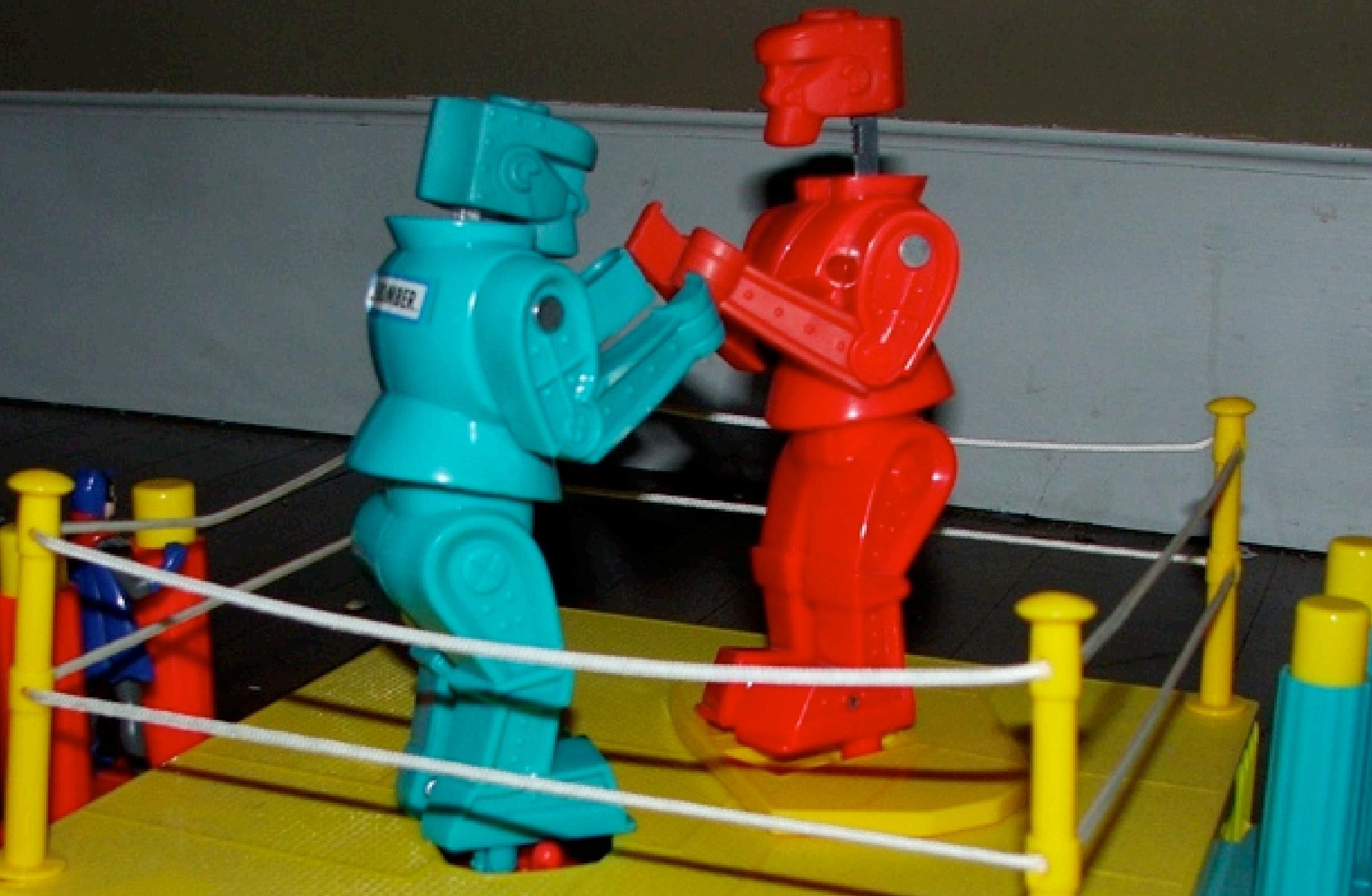
No support: unknown browsers assumed to be capable; receive all HTML, CSS, JS and a warning

- A-Grade
  - IE6 on Windows 98, 2000 & XP
  - IE7 on XP
  - Firefox 1.5 & 2.0 on Windows 98, 2000 & XP; OS X 10.3 & 10.4
  - Opera 9 on Windows 98, 2000 & XP; OS X 10.3 & 10.4
  - Safari on OS X 10.4
- C-Grade
  - IE < 6
  - Firefox < 1.5
  - Opera < 9
  - Safari on OS X 10.3 or below
- X-Grade
  - everything else

“Progressive enhancement  
is a core concept of  
Graded Browser Support.”

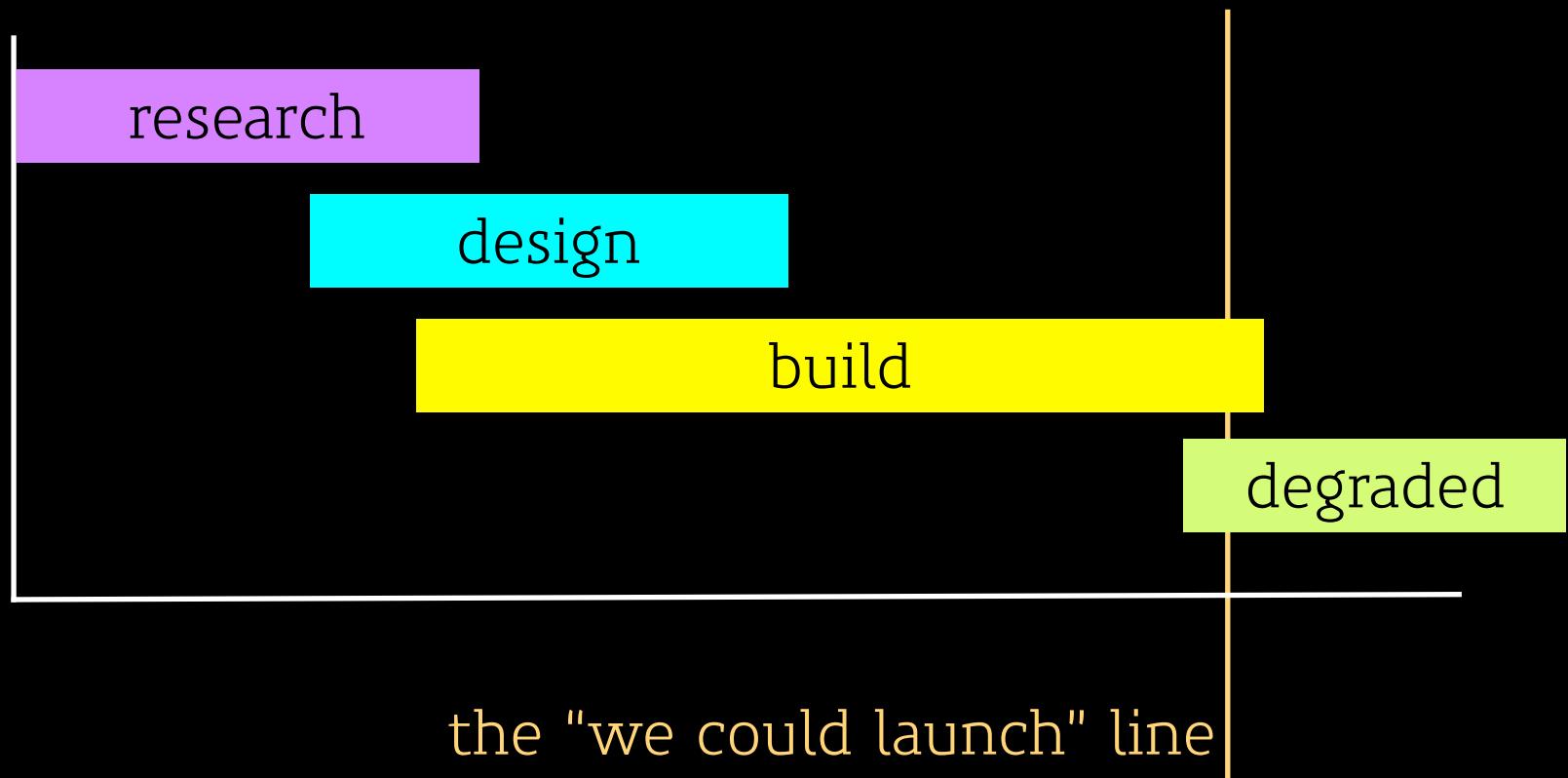
progressive enhancement  
vs.  
graceful degradation

<http://flickr.com/photos/goldenpath/299181069>



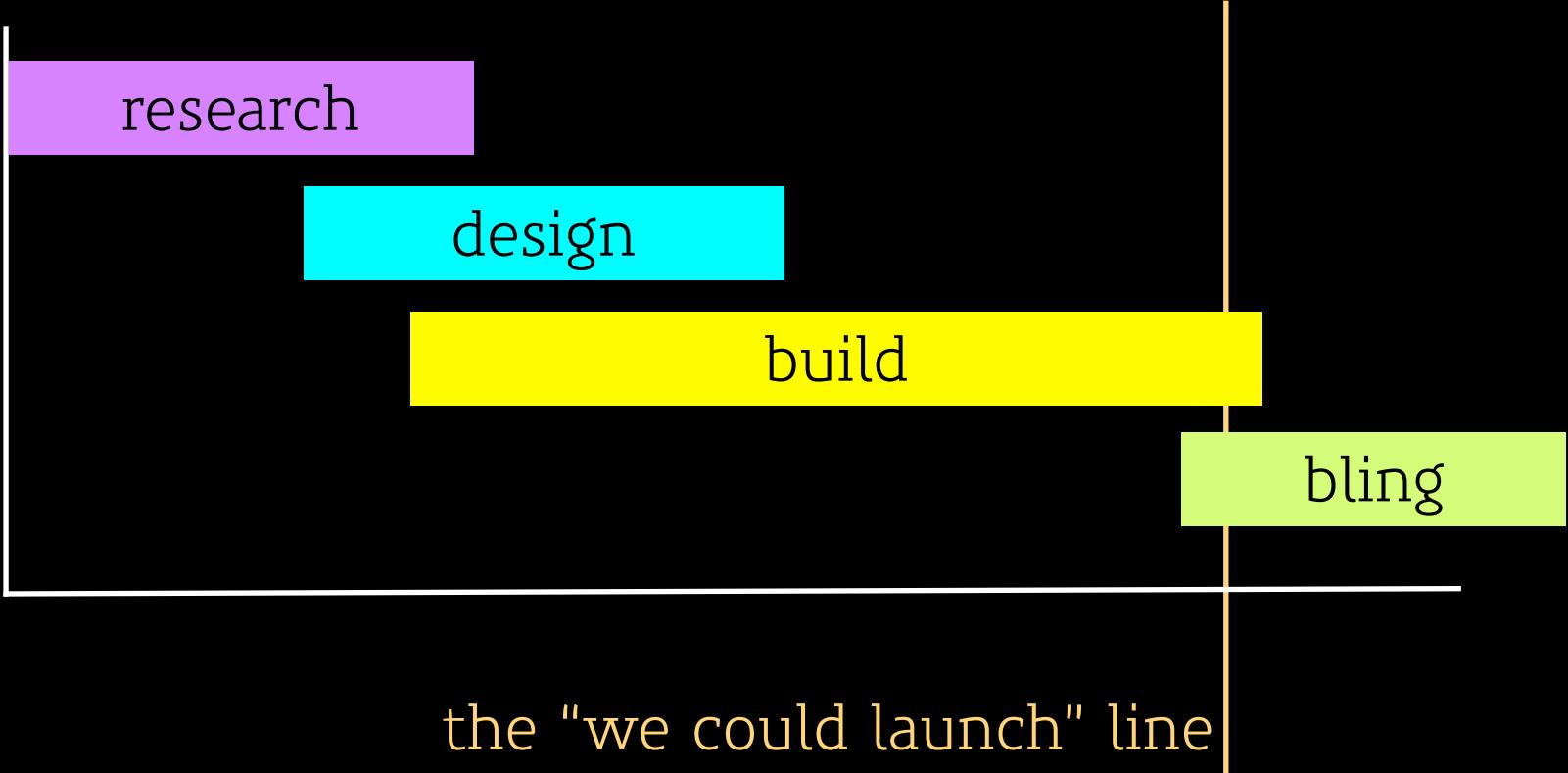
There is a problem however, in that many people do not see the difference between graceful degradation and progressive enhancement. There is a misconception that it is the same goal just seen from two different perspectives. Indeed, I've even had to explain it to my boss at work, and I'm still not sure it's clear to him. The article has this to say:

"These two concepts influence decision-making about browser support. Because they reflect different priorities, they frame the support discussion differently. Graceful degradation prioritizes presentation, and permits less widely-used browsers to receive less (and give less to the user). Progressive enhancement puts content at the center, and allows most browsers to receive more (and show more to the user). While close in meaning, progressive enhancement is a healthier and more forward-looking approach."



# graceful degradation

Any project is squeezed as time-to-launch grows short. If your “accessibility” is the last stage of your build process (graceful degradation) it’s quite possible you’ll never actually get time to do it.



# progressive enhancement

If you take care of your accessibility and content up front, it will work for everyone. Then you can spend as much time as deemed necessary adding the extra 'bling' to your site.

some examples of  
right and wrong

Who doesn't love flickr? A poster-child for Web 2.0 and a wholesale embracer of Ajax techniques. And a whole lot of fun to boot.

In a capable browser, Flickr allows some very nice in-page editing. Clicking in the title or the description turns it into a form allowing you to edit it quickly and easily.

http://flickr.com/photos/mn\_francis/435010076/

Forget free Coca-Cola...

Signed in as cackhanded

(36 new)

Help

Sign Out



Home

You

Organize

Contacts

Groups

Explore

Search everyone's photos

Search

## Forget free Coca-Cola – this is staff motivation

**SAVE** OR **Cancel**

ADD NOTE SEND TO GROUP ADD TO SET BLOG THIS ALL SIZES ORDER PRINTS ROTATE DELETE X



Uploaded on March 26, 2007  
by [cackhanded](#)

### cackhanded's photostream



You are at  
the last  
photo

2,938  
photos

[View as  
slideshow](#)

### Tags

- Yahoo! Europe [x]
- Yahoo! [x]
- 125 Shaftesbury Avenue [x]
- canteen [x]
- Byte [x]
- The Byte [x]
- magic mushrooms [x]
- mushroom [x]

Connecting to l.yimg.com...



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- [mushroom](#) [x]

To take full advantage of Flickr, you should use a JavaScript-enabled browser and [install the latest version of the Macromedia Flash Player](#).



However, with JavaScript off Flickr displays the ‘helpful’ message: “To take full advantage of Flickr, you should use a JavaScript-enabled browser and install the latest version of the Macromedia Flash Player.”

Clicking in the title or the description now does nothing.

Forget free Coca-Cola – this is staff motivation on Flickr – Photo Sharing!

http://flickr.com/photos/mn\_francis/435010076/

Forget free Coca-Cola...

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You are at  
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2,938  
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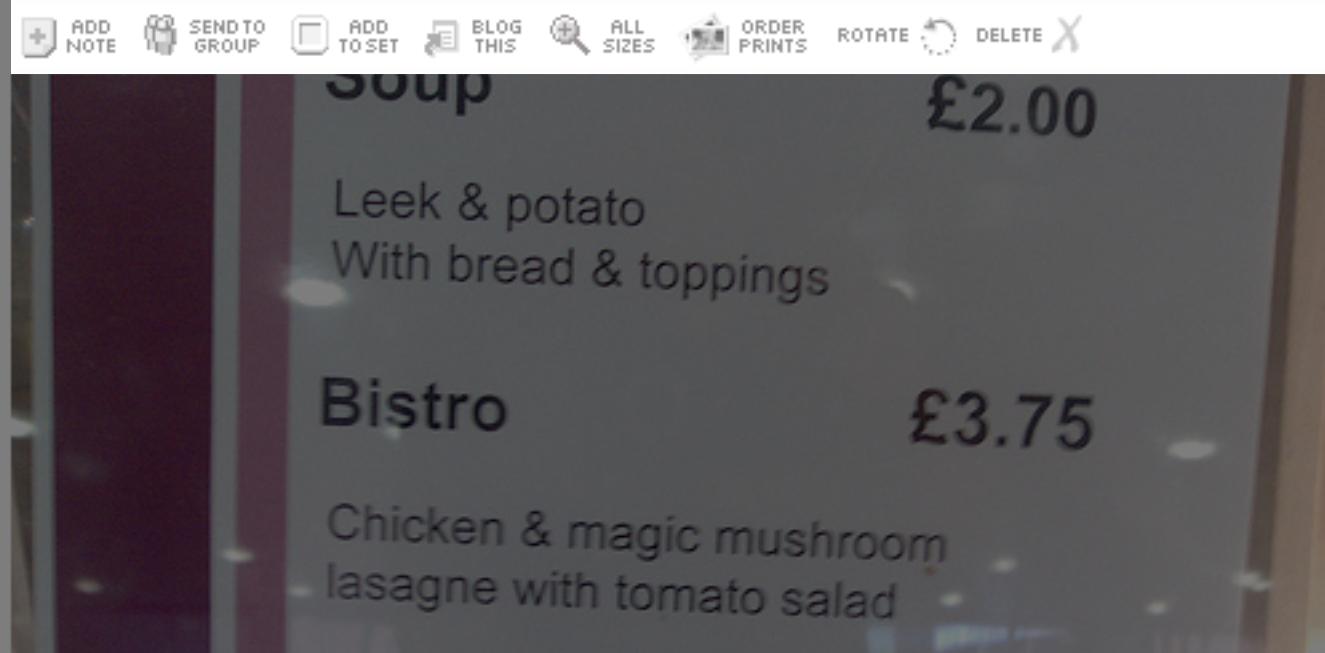
[View as  
slideshow](#)

| [browse](#) |

## Tags

- [Yahoo! Europe](#) [x]
- [Yahoo!](#) [x]
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- [mushroom](#) [x]

To take full advantage of Flickr, you should use a JavaScript-enabled browser and [install the latest version of the Macromedia Flash Player](#).



So let's take a look at the buttons above the image. When you click on them now, they do nothing. Why is this?



Home You Organize Contacts Groups Explore

Search everyone's photos

SEARCH

## Forget free Coca-Cola – this is staff motivation



Uploaded on March 26, 2007  
by [cackhanded](#)

### cackhanded's photostream



You are at  
the last  
photo

2,938  
photos

[View as  
slideshow](#)

```

<script type="text/javascript">
  _decorate( _ge('photo_gne_button_add_note'),
  435010076 );
</script>
```

The code for the buttons clearly explains why. They are activated by JavaScript, and there is no fallback anchor. So clicking on them without JavaScript enabled does nothing.

There are other basic problems with the button code as well. Note the lack of the alt attribute on the buttons.

Forget free Coca-Cola...

With bread & toppings

Bistro

£3.75

Chicken & magic mushroom  
lasagne with tomato salad

Vegetarian

£3.00

Vegetable Lasagne  
with tomato & basil salad

Jackets

£2.25

Chicken & magic mushroom lasagne with a tomato salad.

## Comments



[kapowaz](#) pro says:

And I'm sure I remember you telling me that Yahoo were a bunch of hippies at heart...

Posted 6 days ago / [permalink](#) | [delete](#)

## Tags

- Yahoo! Europe [x]
- Yahoo! [x]
- 125 Shaftesbury Avenue [x]
- canteen [x]
- Byte [x]
- The Byte [x]
- magic mushrooms [x]
- mushroom [x]
- badger badger badger badger [x]
- lasagne [x]
- recipe [x]
- salad [x]
- tomato [x]
- staff motivation [x]

## Additional Information

Some rights reserved. ([edit](#))

- Place this photo on a map
- Taken with a Nokia N80.  
[More properties](#)
- Taken on March 26, 2007 ([edit](#))
- See different sizes
- 3 people call this photo a favorite
- Viewed 78 times (Not including you)
- [Edit title, description, and tags](#)

Also, where did the ability to add a tag go?

Well, at least we can change titles and descriptions and add tags to photos using the older Flash-based Organizer, can't we?



Signed in as cackhanded

(36 new)

Help

Sign Out

Search everyone's photos

SEARCH

Home

You

Organize

Contacts

Groups

Explore

In order to use Organizr, you'll need to [install the latest version of the Macromedia Flash Player](#).

Activity      [On Your Photos](#) | [Comments You've Made](#) | [In Your Groups](#) | [Photos from your friends](#)

[Save to del.icio.us](#)

You      [Your Photos](#) | [Organize](#) | [Upload](#) | [Your Account](#)

Explore      [Last 7 Days](#) | [This Month](#) | [Popular Tags](#) | [Creative Commons](#) | [Search](#)

Help      [Community Guidelines](#) | [Forums](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Tools](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Help by Email](#)

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<http://flickr.com/>

Ah no.

We can't use the Organizer. The error you get tells you to install the latest version of the Flash Player. I have that installed, trust me. I just don't have JavaScript turned on. The Organizer is inserted with JavaScript, without any fallback other than this incorrect and misleading error message.



GAMMA

Signed in as cackhanded

(36 new)

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Groups

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this is not  
progressive  
enhancement

Activity      On Your Photos | Comments You've Made | In Your Groups | Photos from your friends

Save to del.icio.us

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Explore      Last 7 Days | This Month | Popular Tags | Creative Commons | Search

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Flickr Blog | About Flickr | Flickr News | Flickr Press Room | Flickr API

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GAMMA

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(36 new)

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# this is not even

In order to use Organizr, you'll need to [install the latest version of the Macromedia Flash Player](#).

# graceful

# degradation

Activity      On Your Photos | Comments You've Made | In Your Groups | Photos from your friends

Save to del.icio.us

You      Your Photos | Organize | Upload | Your Account

Explore      Last 7 Days | This Month | Popular Tags | Creative Commons | Search

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GAMMA

Signed in as cackhanded

(36 new)

Help

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Organize

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SEARCH

# this is just

# criminally inadequate

In order to use Organizr, you'll need to [install the latest version of the Macromedia Flash Player](#).

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Save to del.icio.us

You      [Your Photos](#) | [Organize](#) | [Upload](#) | [Your Account](#)

Explore      [Last 7 Days](#) | [This Month](#) | [Popular Tags](#) | [Creative Commons](#) | [Search](#)

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[clue us in – take the del.icio.us survey](#) [hide this](#)[popular](#) | [recent](#)

## del.icio.us / help / tagometer

[your bookmarks](#) | [your network](#) | [subscriptions](#) | [links for you](#) | [post](#)logged in as **mn\_francis** | [settings](#) | [logout](#) | [help](#)

### Tagometer Badge

With our JSON powered Tagometer Badge, you can add some flair to your site. With this badge, it's easy to show both tags and number of saves, so it's easy to show visitors how interesting you are.

**Please note:** currently, the badge only works on websites which allow JavaScript includes as part of pages or templates. If this badge does not work for you, it is likely that your site has disallowed this use of JavaScript.

#### Tall Badge

The tall badge is great for sidebars and shows in a narrow multiline presentation.

[bookmark this on del.icio.us](#)

**tags:** [del.icio.us](#) [bookmarks](#) [social bookmark](#) [web2.0](#) [delicious](#) [links](#) [web imported](#) [community](#) [tools](#)

saved by **12560** other people

Cut and paste this code into your webpage to get the tall badge.

The del.icio.us tagometer badge.

## del.icio.us / help / tagometer

[your bookmarks](#) | [your network](#) | [subscriptions](#) | [links for you](#) | [post](#)logged in as **mn\_francis** | [settings](#) | [logout](#) | [help](#)

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saved by **12560** other people

Cut and paste this code into your webpage to get the tall badge.

The del.icio.us site recently added a “tagometer badge” which allows visitors to a web page to see up-to-the-minute information on how many times that page has been bookmarked, and the most popular tags they are using.

In the text on the page it states “**Please note:** currently, the badge only works on websites which allow JavaScript includes as part of pages or templates.” The badge is inserted by JavaScript, and JavaScript alone.

## del.icio.us / help / tagometer

[your bookmarks](#) | [your network](#) | [subscriptions](#) | [links for you](#) | [post](#)

### Tagometer Badge

With our JSON powered Tagometer Badge, you can add some flair to your site. With this badge, it's easy to show both tags and number of saves, so it's easy to know who or how interesting you are.

**Please note:** currently, the badge only works on websites which allow JavaScript inclusion as part of pages or templates. If this badge does not work for you, it is likely that your site has disallowed this use of JavaScript.

### Tall Badge

The tall badge is great for sidebar and shows in narrow mobile presentation.

[bookmark this on del.icio.us](#)

**tags:** [del.icio.us](#) [bookmarks](#) [social bookmark](#) [web2.0](#) [delicious](#) [links web imported](#) [community tools](#)

saved by **12560** other people

Cut and paste this code into your webpage to get the tall badge.

# this is

# graceful degradation

This is graceful degradation. Most people that run blogs that would use this service have no programming skills, so unless they are given something they can just drop-in to their site, they have no del.icio.us functionality at all. In this case graceful degradation is better than nothing. But it would be better if there were something in the page content to indicate that such functionality would be available, and to at least provide a link to the page on del.icio.us with the information displayed.

Creating a server side ...

Select Theme: Dark or Light //

## a weblog by Ed Eliot

Web Standards, PHP, HTML, CSS, JavaScript and other web technologies

### Selected Entry

**Creating a server side del.icio.us badge with PHP**      3 months, 5 days ago

#### Introduction

del.icio.us recently released a [JavaScript tagometer badge](#). For each page you add the badge to it displays the number of times the page has been bookmarked as well as associated tags and provides a direct link for bookmarking. This makes it a really useful for site authors to see at a glance how their pages are performing as well as giving visitors an indication of how popular pages are and perhaps the perceived quality of the information each contains.

### Connect/Save

 [bookmark on del.icio.us](#)tags: tools javascript json  
delicious tags badges  
**php** tutorial del.icio.us  
tag code

saved by 18 people

I am ejeliot on del.icio.us.

[Add me to your network](#)

### Menu

[Blog Home](#)[About](#)[Downloads](#)[Quick Links](#)[CV / Résumé](#)[Contact](#)

### RSS Feed

[Post](#)

A Yahoo! employee, Ed Eliot, reverse engineered the del.icio.us badge and ported it to PHP, improving upon it as he did so because he didn't like that it wasn't as configurable and that it was inserted by JS. Now the badge's content is available to all users of his personal site regardless of their browser capabilities.

this is neither  
a weblog by Ed Elliot

# graceful degradation nor progressive enhancement

But this is neither graceful degradation nor is it progressive enhancement.

a weblog by Ed Eliot

Select Theme: Dark or Light //

# this is just The Right Way To Do It

Selected Entry

Creating a server side del.icio.us badge with PHP

3 months, 5 days ago

Menu

Blog Ho

About

Download

Quick Li

CV / Re

Contact

RSS Fe

Post

## Introduction

del.icio.us recently released a JavaScript tag [del.icio.us badge](#). For a page you add the badge to it displays the number of times the page has been bookmarked as well as associated tags and provides a direct link for bookmarking. This makes it a really useful for site authors to see at a glance how their pages are performing as well as giving visitors an indication of how popular pages are and perhaps the perceived quality of the information each contains.

Comment Section

bookmark on del.icio.us

tags: tools javascript json  
delicious tags badges  
php tutorial del.icio.us  
tag code

saved by 18 people

I am ejeliot on del.icio.us.

Add me to your network

This is just The Right Way To Do It.

By including the functionality in the server-side code, every user is able to access the links and information contained within the del.icio.us tag block.

However, the ability to integrate PHP into a blog is beyond many users. But as builders of systems, it should not be beyond you. You should always strive to put content into pages on the server, where feasible.

Yahoo! UK &amp; Ireland

Get Yahoo! Toolbar

Try online dating with **Yahoo! Personals.**[My Yahoo!](#)[My Mail](#)[Web](#) | [Images](#) | [Video](#) | [Local](#) | [Shopping](#)[Web Search](#) the web  UK only[Page Options](#)

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- Protesters pelt UK embassy as Iran row worsens
  - Nightmare over for Guantanamo detainee
  - Suicide raid on Afghan army kills nine
  - Father begs Japanese to help find killer
  - British oil worker abducted off Nigeria
  - Global warming could bring hunger and melt Himalayas
  - Teachers given new discipline powers
- » More: [UK News](#) | [Oddly Enough](#) | [Yahoo! Answers](#)

Markets: **Dow: 12354 (+0.05%)** Nasdaq: 2421 (+0.16%)

Hi Mark [Sign Out](#)  
 Mail 4 New  
 Messenger  
 Weather

Limited offer  
just click ►  
[t-mobile.co.uk/offers](http://t-mobile.co.uk/offers)

T-Mobile.  
simply closer

Next, let's take a look at the Yahoo! Frontpage.

Yahoo! UK &amp; Ireland

Get Yahoo! Toolbar

Try online dating with **Yahoo! Personals.**

My Yahoo!

My Mail

Web | Images | Video | Local | Shopping

Web Search

 the web  UK only

Page Options ▾

360°      Dating      Horoscopes      Music      Sport  
Answers      Finance      Jobs      News      Travel  
Cars      Games      Mobile      Property  
Chat      Groups      Movies      Shopping

[All Yahoo! Services](#)

News

Sport

Entertainment

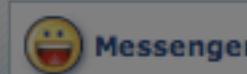
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- » More: [UK News](#) | [Oddly Enough](#) | [Yahoo! Answers](#)

Markets: Dow: 12354 (+0.05%) Nasdaq: 2421 (+0.16%)

Transferring data from eur.al.yimg.com...

Hi Mark

Sign Out

Mail  
4 New

Messenger



Weather

Limited offer  
just click ➤  
[t-mobile.co.uk/offers](http://t-mobile.co.uk/offers)

T-Mobile.  
simply closer

The enhanced search facility allows you select up-front which kind of search you want to do, without having to navigate to the Search site first.

Yahoo! UK &amp; Ireland

Get Yahoo! Toolbar

Try online dating with **Yahoo! Personals.**[My Yahoo!](#)[My Mail](#)[Web](#) | [Images](#) | [Video](#) | [Local](#) | [Shopping](#)

in

[Local Search](#)

Businesses &amp; Services

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» More: [UK News](#) | [Oddly Enough](#) | [Yahoo! Answers](#)

Markets: **Dow: 12354 (+0.05%)** Nasdaq: 2421 (+0.16%)

Transferring data from eur.al.yimg.com...

Hi Mark

[Sign Out](#)Mail  
4 New

Messenger



Weather

Limited offer

just click ➤

[t-mobile.co.uk/offers](http://t-mobile.co.uk/offers)  
simply closer

The search form is rewritten by JavaScript as necessary as you click on the links for the different types of search. However, what happens without JavaScript?

in United Kingdom - Y...

[Yahoo!](#) [My Yahoo!](#) [Mail](#) [Welcome, mn\\_francis](#) [[Sign Out](#), [My Account](#)][Local Home](#) | [Maps Home](#) | [Help](#)

Search for: e.g. restaurants, museums, pubs Location: City, Town or Postcode

United Kingdom



Search

## Local Results 1-10 of 1,865,808 total results for in United Kingdom

[United Kingdom](#)[Printable Version](#)Sort Results By: [Top Results](#) | [Nearest](#) | [Alphabet](#) Make this the default location for Yahoo!

Show Results Within:

Select Distance



Go

of the centre of United Kingdom

[View larger map](#)[Static map not available](#) | [Dynamic Map](#)

Classified results provided by



Be the first to rate!

- Awful
- Poor
- Average
- Good
- Excellent

[Rate](#)[Write a review](#)

Map cannot be displayed. It seems you may have JavaScript disabled in your web browser. You will need to enable JavaScript to use Yahoo! maps.  
 Please refer to our [help documentation](#).

**1** [Townhead Garage](#)

(01969) 667216

Bruntacres Industrial Est, Hawes  
DL8 3LP0.53 miles | [Map](#) | [Directions](#)Category: [Garage Services](#)**2** [Fawcett](#)

(01969) 667302

[http://uk.yahoo.com/r/sc/di/\\*-http://uk.local.yahoo.com/search.html](http://uk.yahoo.com/r/sc/di/*-http://uk.local.yahoo.com/search.html)

When JavaScript is turned off, the Local link is still there and still does something. It navigates the user to the Local property. Unfortunately, any search term they had already typed in would be lost.

in United Kingdom - Y...

[Yahoo!](#) [My Yahoo!](#) [Mail](#) [Welcome, mn\\_francis](#) [\[Sign Out\]](#) [My Account](#)[Local Home](#) | [Maps Home](#) | [Help](#)

Search for: e.g. restaurants, museums, pubs

Location: City, Town or Postcode

United Kingdom



Search

Local Results 1-10 of 1,865,808 total results for in United Kingdom

[United Kingdom](#)[Printable Version](#)Sort Results By: Top Results | [Nearest](#) | [Alphabet](#)

Classified results provided by

 Make this the default location for Yahoo!

Show Results Within:

Select distance from

With the centre of United Kingdom

[View larger map](#)[Static map not available](#) | [Dynamic Map](#)

# this is not progressive enhancement

**1** [Townhead Garage](#)

(01969) 667216

Bruntacres Industrial Est, Hawes,  
DL8 3LP0.53 miles | [Map](#) | [Directions](#)Category: [Garage Services](#)

Be the first to rate!

 Awful Poor Average Good Excellent[Rate](#)[Write a review](#)Map cannot be displayed. It seems you may have  
JavaScript disabled in your web browser. You will  
need to enable JavaScript to use Yahoo! maps.  
Please refer to our [help documentation](#).

This is not progressive enhancement.

(but at least  
this is graceful  
degradation)

Local Results 1-10 of 1865 80 total results for in United Kingdom

[United Kingdom](#)

[Printable Version](#)

Sort Results By: Top Results Nearest Alphabet

**1** [Townhead Garage](#)

(01969) 667216

Bruntacres Industrial Est, Hawes,  
DL8 3LP

0.53 miles | [Map](#) | [Directions](#)

Category: [Garage Services](#)

Be the first to rate!

Awful  
 Poor  
 Average  
 Good  
 Excellent

[Rate](#)  
[Write a review](#)

Make this the default location for Yahoo!

Show Results Within:

Mile Distance

Go

of the centre of United Kingdom

[View larger map](#)

[Static map not available](#) | [Dynamic Map](#)

Map cannot be displayed. It seems you may have  
JavaScript disabled in your web browser. You will  
need to enable JavaScript to use Yahoo! maps.  
Please refer to our [help documentation](#).

**2** [Fawcett](#)

(01969) 667302

★★★☆

But at least it is graceful degradation.

Even though the functionality was replicated for the user, and they can still use the site, and if they have a browser capable of using the JavaScript, they get a better experience. Why don't I consider this progressive enhancement?



Search for: restaurant, museums, etc. Location: City, Town or Postcode  
United Kingdom

Search

Local Results 1-10 of 1,865,808 total results for in United Kingdom

United Kingdom

Mobile Version

Sort Results By: Top Results

Nearest

Alphabet

Set this as the default location for Yahoo!

Show Results Within:

Select Distance

Go

of the centre of United Kingdom

View larger map

Stationary View Available

Dynamic Map

1 Townhead Garage  
(01969) 667116  
Bruntacres Industrial Est, Hawes  
DL8 3LP

0.53 miles | [Map](#) | [Directions](#)  
Category: [Garage Services](#)

Classified results provided by



The  
Phone  
Book

1

Townhead Garage

(01969) 667116

Bruntacres Industrial Est, Hawes

DL8 3LP

0.53 miles | [Map](#) | [Directions](#)  
Category: [Garage Services](#)

2 Fawcett

(01969) 667302

★★★☆

Map cannot be displayed. It seems you may have JavaScript disabled in your web browser. You will need to enable JavaScript to use Yahoo! maps.  
Please refer to our [help documentation](#).

because the functionality of the first page was only available in JS

The ability to select the end-result of the search and still be able to use the form was only available to the end-user with JavaScript. Without, the search form works only for searching the web.

This is a subtle, and some might say overly picky point. But this is a part of my job, to point out this kind of functionality impairment. Also, this CAN be done in just HTML, so there's no way this can be called progressive enhancement. How?

# seem a little arbitrary?

In my work, I draw the line between graceful degradation and progressive enhancement at the point where the functionality of the site is available to all.

In this particular case, it isn't progressive enhancement because the same functionality could be made available without the use of JavaScript.

TV Home sampler

http://localhost/tv/

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BT Yahoo! Home My Yahoo! Mail TV Help BT Yahoo! Help  
Sign In New User? Sign Up

Web Pictures Video Audio

YAHOO! TV UK & IRELAND

TV HOME TV LISTINGS NEWS & GOSSIP FEATURES PHOTOS

Buzz: American Idol America's Next Top Model MI-5 Lost South Park 24 Family Guy The Green Wing Blue Peter



**Strictly Come Dancing**

Emma Bunton stars in the latest series of Strictly Come Dancing, on our screens from 7th Oct - check out our gallery for the full list of contestants.

[Find out who is taking part in Come Dancing](#)

[More reality TV: See our bootcamp gallery](#)

[Keep up to date with X Factor - read our blog](#)



TV News Headlines

Connecting to produce.yahoo.com...

In the new TV site, the Search box has the same kind of functionality.

Welcome to Flickr!

TV Home sampler

BT Yahoo! Home My Yahoo! Mail TV Help BT Yahoo! Help



Sign In

New User? Sign Up

Web

Pictures

Video

Audio

TV HOME

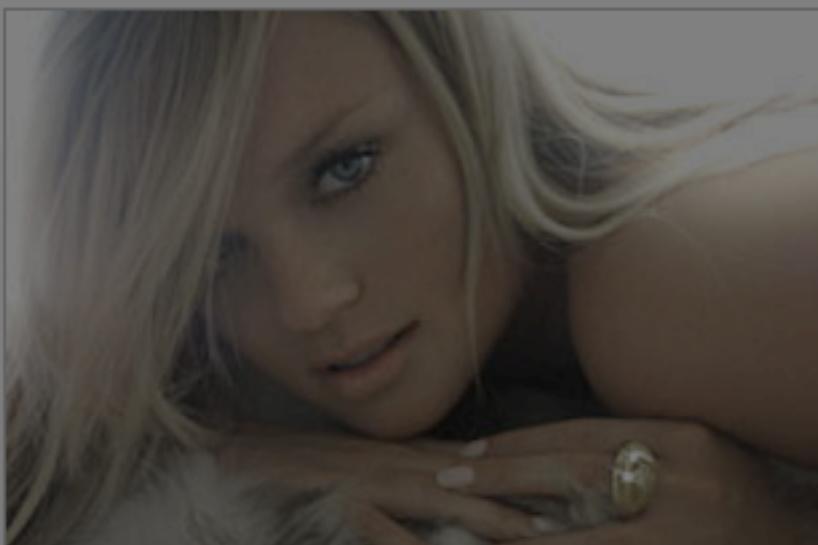
TV LISTINGS

NEWS & GOSSIP

FEATURES

PHOTOS

Buzz: American Idol America's Next Top Model MI-5 Lost South Park 24 Family Guy The Green Wing Blue Peter



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TV News Headlines

Connecting to produce.yahoo.com...

But it has one subtle difference. The 'links' to change the search destination are not links at all.

TV Home sampler

http://localhost/tv/

Welcome to Flickr! TV Home sampler

BT Yahoo! Home My Yahoo! Mail TV Help BT Yahoo! Help

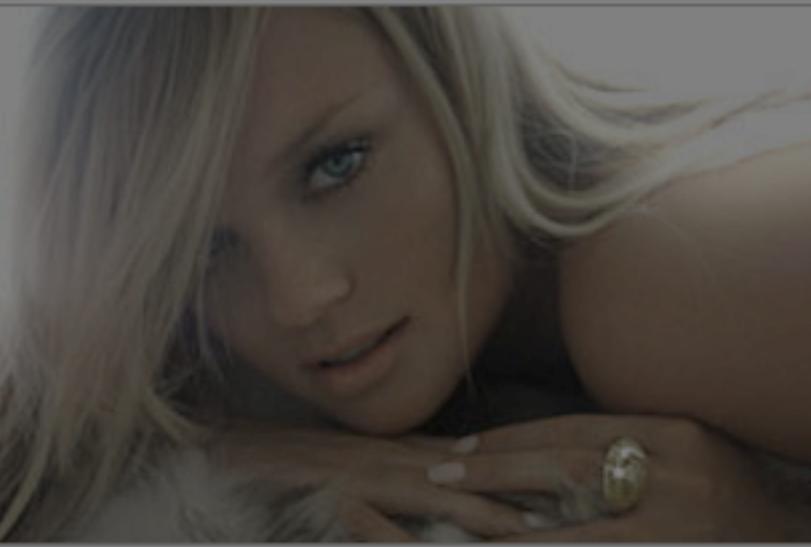
**YAHOO! TV**  
UK & IRELAND

Sign In  
New User? Sign Up

Web Pictures Video

TV HOME TV LISTINGS NEWS & GOSSIP FEATURES PHOTOS

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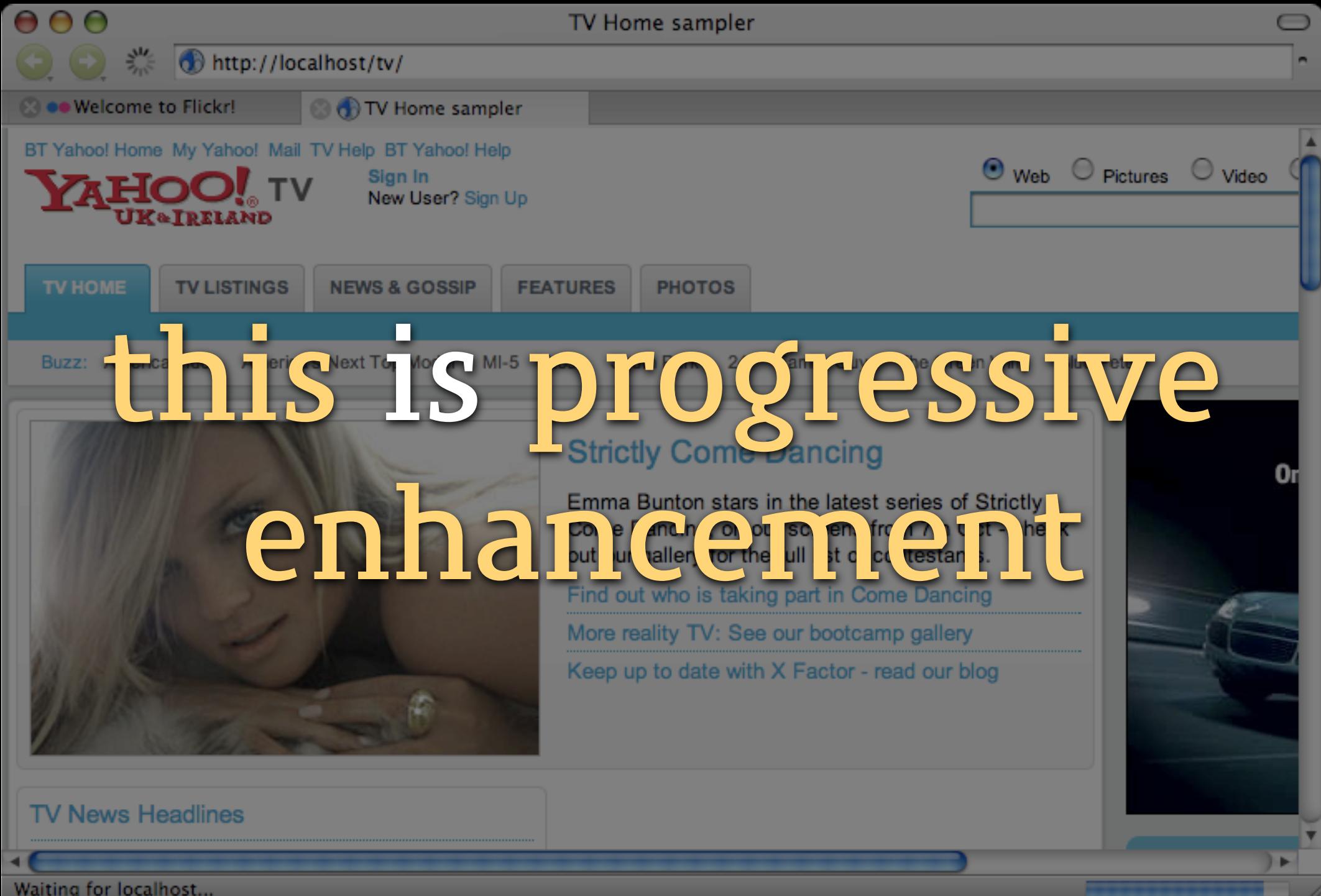
Or

TV News Headlines

Waiting for localhost...

They are actually radio buttons in the form.

After the search form is submitted by the user, the Search server receives the request and based upon the destination parameter redirects the user to the correct end result.



This is finally an example of progressive enhancement at Yahoo!. And this is because the original functionality was available to the user without the use of JavaScript.

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## VIDEO NEWS

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## TECHNOLOGY

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EU probe Apple on music download costs.

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New pictures of captured Brits published

Suspects on parade

Campaigning in East Timor

[All Videos »](#)**UK****Grandmother charged after girl mauled to death**

Reuters - 44 minutes ago

The grandmother of a 5-year-old girl who was mauled to death by the family dog has been charged with her manslaughter, the Crown Prosecution Service said on Tuesday. [More »](#)

▶ [Girls killed in house fire](#) ITN - 3 minutes ago

▶ [Reid denies 'Big Brother' CCTV plan](#) Press Assoc. - 15 minutes ago

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[UK](#)

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The 'carousel' widget on the Yahoo! UK News site provides a gallery of different new stories within the page.

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  - Campaigning in East Timor
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## UK



### Grandmother charged after girl mauled to death

Reuters - 44 minutes ago

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► Girls killed in house fire ITN - 3 minutes ago

► Reid denies 'Big Brother' CCTV plan Press Assoc. - 15 minutes ago

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Users can scroll through more stories than are initially presented, making it a quick and lightweight method for browsing content within a page without overwhelming the user with endless similar boxes of news content.

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  - [Campaigning in East Timor](#)
- [All Videos »](#)

## UK

### [Grandmother charged after girl mauled to death](#)

Reuters - 43 minutes ago

The grandmother of a 5-year-old girl who was mauled to death by the family dog has been charged with her manslaughter, the Crown Prosecution Service said on Tuesday. [More »](#)

[Girls killed in house fire](#) ITN - 2 minutes ago[Reid denies 'Big Brother' CCTV plan](#) Press Assoc. - 13 minutes ago[All UK News »](#)[Crime](#) | [Royals](#) | [Videos](#)

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When JavaScript is turned off, the content is still there in the page. Nothing has been denied to the user without JavaScript.

The scrollbar is there to lessen the page jumping around as JavaScript reformats a variable-height box into a single row of modules. I personally disagree with having a scrollbar on the content, as I feel this is a sub-optimal way to deal with this issue. In fact I don't believe it is an issue at all. The developer disagrees and kept the content to the same height without JS on.

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Latest news from around the world.

**TECHNOLOGY**

EU probe Apple download costs.

# this is progressive enhancement

**UK****Grandmother charged after girl mauled to death**

Reuters - 43 minutes ago

The grandmother of a 5-year-old girl who was mauled to death by the family dog has been charged with her granddaughter's killing. [Read more](#)

Serious assault on Tuesday. [More](#)[Girls killed in house fire](#) ITN - 2 minutes ago[Reid denies 'Big Brother' CCTV plan](#) Press Assoc. - 13 minutes ago[All UK News »](#)[Crime](#) | [Royals](#) | [Videos](#)[Play Video »](#) [New pictures of captured Brits published](#) [Suspects on parade](#) [Campaigning in East Timor](#)[All Videos »](#)**PHOTO HIGHLIGHT**[View Photo](#)[All Photos »](#)**MESSAGE BOARDS** [UK](#) [Politics](#)

This is progressive enhancement because the content in the gallery is still made available to the user.

This module has also been used to provide image galleries, pulling in the later “pages” of images using Ajax. As long as there is a link to a static page where the user can see these further images, this is still progressive enhancement, as all of the content is available as normal, but the initial page has been enhanced to allow direct access to further content.

“Methodologies including layered development via progressive enhancement, Unobtrusive Javascript, and Hijax ensure that higher layers don’t disrupt lower layers.

“...be sure your site’s core content and functionality is accessible without images, CSS, and JS”

“However, representative testing of the core experience is critical. If you choose to adopt a Graded Browser support regime for your own web applications, be sure your site’s core content and functionality is accessible without images, CSS, and JS. Ensure that the keyboard is adequate for task completion and that when your site is accessed by a C-grade browser all advanced functionality prompts are hidden.”

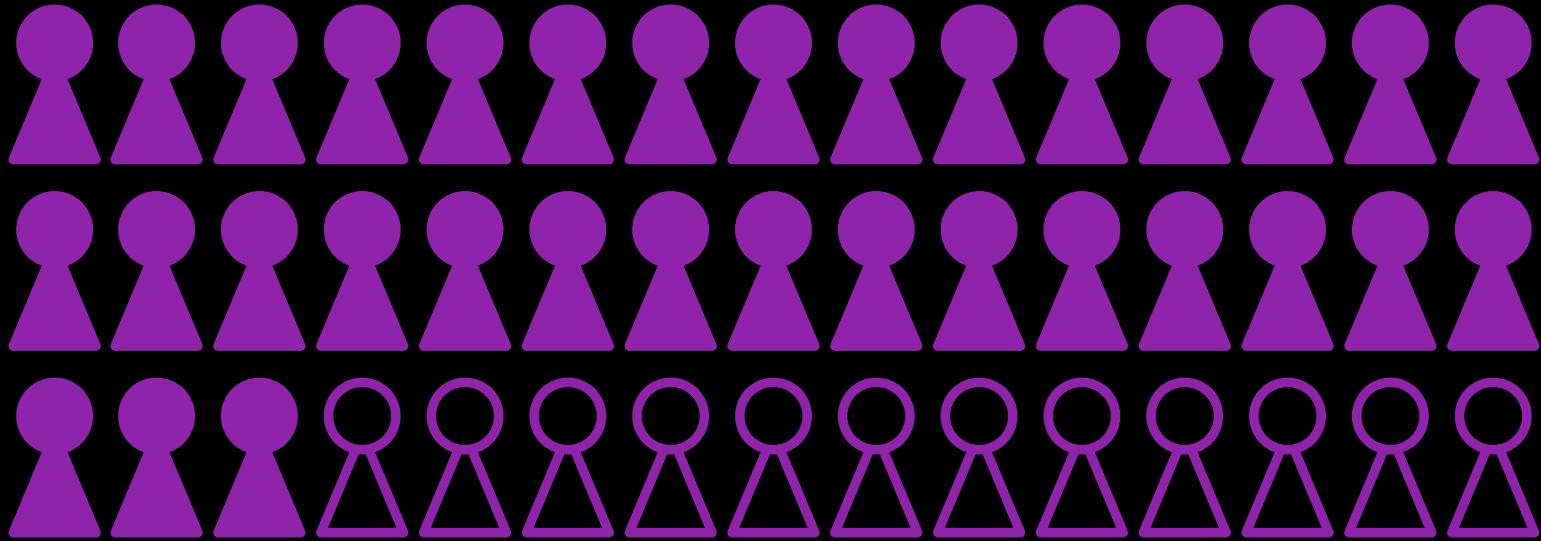
“...in modern web development we must support all browsers. Choosing to exclude a segment of users is inappropriate, and ... unnecessary.

"In the first 10 years of professional web development, back in the early '90s, browser support was binary: Do you — or don't you — support a given browser? When the answer was 'No', user access to the site was often actively prevented. In the years following IE5's release in 1998, professional web designers and developers have become accustomed to asking at the outset of any new undertaking, 'Do I have to support Netscape 4.x browsers for this project?'"

By contrast, in modern web development we must support all browsers. Choosing to exclude a segment of users is inappropriate, and, with a 'Graded Browser Support' strategy, unnecessary."

# Yahoo! EU Web Dev – We're Hiring!

[mfrancis@yahoo-inc.com](mailto:mfrancis@yahoo-inc.com)



## any questions?

Actually, before I take any questions, I have one for you. Does anyone want to work for Yahoo!? :)