

**CSS ISN'T SCARY:  
HOW TO STOP WORRYING  
AND LOVE FRONT END**  
*with Stephanie Slattery*

**#CODERCONFERENCE  
@SUBLIMEMARCH**

*Raise your hand if...*

- 1. Why CSS is scary**
- 2. Why CSS is great!**
- 3. How to write better CSS**

1. Why CSS is scary
2. Why CSS is great!
3. How to write better CSS





**Hervy** 🍪  
@HervyPaws

Follow



I

hate

CSS  
Shit

Because  
Doesn't Align

properly

Retweets  
**4**

Likes  
**19**



12:50 PM - 25 May 2017









**Kyte Frost**

@fusselschnauze

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Argh, i swear i hate **#CSS**. You fix something just to have something else break -.- its a endless cycle.

7:21 AM - 27 May 2017





**Brian Olore**

@olore

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Today I figured out why I hate CSS... I can't test it.

How do I know I did it right?

Like

1



4:10 PM - 2 May 2017



5



1

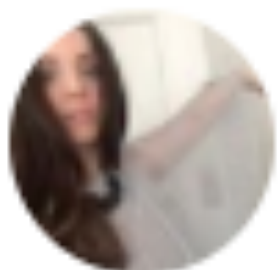


# CSS IS DECLARATIVE



CSS

Global  
HD



**SaraJChipps**

@SaraJChipps

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CSS is enough for me to think this internet thing is not all it's cracked up to be.

Retweet

1

Likes

23



1:27 PM - 16 May 2017 from **Manhattan, NY**



1



1



23



CSS IS *awful!*

CSS IS *awesome!*

1. Why CSS is scary
2. Why CSS is great!
3. How to write better CSS



# THE SEPARATION OF CONTROLS PRINCIPLE

# CSS IS FLEXIBLE

**CSS IS MADE  
OF SIMPLE THINGS**

```
.selector {  
  name: value;  
}
```

**CSS IS EASY  
TO GENERATE**

# CSS STANDS ALONE

**Just look at this! Or this!**

# CSS IS OPEN SOURCE



1. Why CSS is scary
2. Why CSS is great!
3. How to write better CSS

**CSS IS JUST ANOTHER  
PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE**

# UNDERSTAND SPECIFICITY

- 0. Inline styles
- 1. IDs
- 2. Classes, attributes, and pseudo-classes
- 3. Elements and pseudo-elements

**DON'T GUESS AND CHECK FOR  
SPECIFICITY**

# Specificity Calculator

A visual way to understand [CSS specificity](#). Change the selectors or paste in your own.

`li:first-child h2 .title`

0

Inline styles

0

IDs

2

Classes, attributes  
and pseudo-classes

2

Elements and  
pseudo-elements

+ Duplicate

`#nav .selected > a:hover`

0

Inline styles

1

IDs

2

Classes, attributes  
and pseudo-classes

1

Elements and  
pseudo-elements

+ Duplicate

<http://specificity.keegan.st/>

# DON'T OVER-SPECIFY

```
#home #hero #claim .logo h2 {  
  display: inline-block;  
}
```

# DON'T PUT HTML COMPONENTS IN SELECTORS

```
a {  
  text-decoration: none;  
}
```

# NO !IMPORTANT FLAGS

```
.pink-text {  
  color: pink !important;  
}
```



# AND ABSOLUTELY NO INLINE STYLES

```
<div style="color: red; font-size: 14px;">Hello!</div>
```

# USE A SINGLE CLASS AS YOUR SELECTOR

```
.hero-text-link {  
  font-size: 18px;  
}
```

# INSTEAD OF SOMETHING MORE COMPLEX

```
.hero p a {  
  font-size: 18px;  
}
```

# KEEP IT DRY

```
<h2 class="fun-title pink-title">Hello</h2>
```

```
.fun-title {  
  font-family: "Comic Sans", sans-serif;  
}
```

```
.pink-title {  
  font-family: "Comic Sans", sans-serif;  
  color: pink;  
}
```

# INSTEAD

```
<h2 class="fun-title pink-title">Hello</h2>
```

```
.fun-title, .pink-title {  
  font-family: "Comic Sans", sans-serif;  
}
```

```
.pink-title {  
  color: pink;  
}
```

# OR EVEN BETTER

```
<h2 class="title pink-title">Hello</h2>
```

```
.title {  
  font-family: "Comic Sans", sans-serif;  
}
```

```
.pink-title {  
  color: pink;  
}
```

**CSS TRANSPIILERS MAKE  
THIS EVEN EASIER**

```
<h2 class="pink-title">Hello!</h2>
```

```
.title {  
  font-family: "Comic Sans", sans-serif;  
}
```

```
.pink-title {  
  @extend .title;  
  color: pink;  
}
```



# ORGANIZE YOUR CSS

# HACKS.CSS

# PUT IT IN A HACKS.CSS FILE IF YOU'RE

- ▶ using magic numbers
- ▶ writing overly specific selectors
  - ▶ using !important flags
- ▶ undoing styles that are elsewhere in the code

# UNDERSTAND BROWSER COMPATIBILITY

Can I use

flow-root

?



Settings

1 result found

#

display: flow-root - WD

Global

49.63%

The element generates a block container box, and lays out its contents using flow layout. It always establishes a new block formatting context for its contents. The result is the same as the "clearfix" hack.

Current aligned

Usage relative

Date relative

Show all

IE	Edge *	Firefox	Chrome	Safari	Opera	iOS Safari *	Opera Mini *	Android Browser *	Chrome for Android
			49						
			56						
		52	57			9.2		4.4	
	14	53	58			10.2		4.4.4	
11	15	54	59	10.1	46	10.3	all	56	59
	16	55	60	11	47	11			
		56	61	TP	48				
		57	62						

<https://caniuse.com/>

CSS Isn't Scary | @sublimemarch

# AND SO MUCH MORE!

- learn the box model
- use flexbox
- pick a preprocessor
- implement a naming methodology like BEM or OOCSS
- try visual diffs to test your code
- use a linter
- look at dev tools
- use a CSS reset

CSS IS *awesome!*

(MOSTLY)

# STEPHANIE.SLATTERY.WEBSITE