Hi fellow developers, a couple of weeks I published another article featuring the weather app challenge also from Free Code Camp, if you would like to check it out click [here].

Today’s lesson is quite simple, we’re building a random quotes app, requirements are:

1. I can click a button to show a new random quote
2. I can click another button to tweet out that quote

Let’s grab the starter html template from Bootstrap 4, we’re going to use in the <body></body> a nice card that will contain a header with a tweet icon to be able to tweet that quote, as well as a card body with the quote text and a footer. Grab it here:

Notice that I’m also using the font awesome icons, so I’m including a link to their CDN css file on the head of the document. If you don’t know font awesome, they are absolutely amazing, learn more about them [here].

I used a minimal internal css just to change the background color of the page since I’m getting everything else from the amazing bootstrap 4. The card header has also inline css to use flex css and be able to display the header title to the left and the tweeter icon to the right using the “justify-content-between”, that comes from flexbox css. By the way, you should also learn gridbox since it operates in both axis. Last but not least there is a pre-populated quote on the body of the card. Last but not least I pre-populated the card body with a “default quote” before hitting the API. All those details on the html are trivial for advanced developers but I think it’s worth to mention since it really helps people learning to code.

Ok, now let’s see what we are doing with the JavaScript file. Create a .js file and link it to your html like I did at the end of the html file (see end of snippet above). The guys at <http://forismatic.com/en/> kindly provided an endpoint API that returns random quotes depending on the query sent to their servers, so let’s look at the URI resource and analyze it part by part:

https://api.forismatic.com/api/1.0/?method=getQuote&lang=en&format=jsonp&jsonp=?

According to their short API docs <http://forismatic.com/en/api/>

The method part or the URL is the method name to invoke, the lang should be set to “EN” for English since the default is Russian, and the format we are going to use is JSONP which stands for JSON with Padding, the good thing about JSONP is that enables the sharing of data between different domains without worrying about cross-domain issues which gave me a really hard time with other APIs, this article explain more in detail what the CORS( Cross-Domain-Resource-Sharing) (https://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/cors/)[here].

We start our JS file with the document.ready function that will execute the JS file after the HTML is fully loaded, Then we create an event listener to allow users tweet the “default” quote that I pre-wrote on the card-body back on the HTML file.

Example:

Next, I am creating the getRandomQuote function that will make a getJSON request to the forismatic API and it will return a random quote.