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 dive in:

Let’s grab the starter html template from bootstrap 4, we’re going to use in the <body></body> a nice card that with a header, a body that will include the button to click and a footer, like this:

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, there are absolutely amazing, click [here]

I also want you to check that 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. 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 unless you speak 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 trying to use other quotes APIs.