

Better UI Elements for Better Apps

Delivering universal UI patterns as web components

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Why do we see so little reuse of web UI across organizations? Web projects freely use countless open libraries from npm and elsewhere, but it's rare to find high-quality web UI code which is flexible and reliable enough for immediate reuse. This makes creating great user experiences both difficult and expensive. This talk begins by looking at root causes of this problem in search of insights that might help address it.



30+ years software designer and engineer

Microsoft UI architect ·
2 startup companies

UI components for past 18 years

Fun fact: creator of the HTML `<slot>` element

Jan then discusses the strategies of his work on the Elix project, which seeks to make all common, general-purpose UI patterns available as high-quality, reusable web components. Implementing UI patterns as standard web components transforms them from a theoretical exercise into live, production-ready code that can quickly and directly express a designer's intention in any web framework.

Techniques

Strategy

Opportunity

Symptoms

Problem

Poor supply chain for UI parts prevents specialization

Causes

The talk concludes with practical techniques for deconstructing complex components into UI primitives that can be readily recombined to create UI elements tuned for an application's particular needs and aesthetics.



Wood
+ Glass
+ Nails
= Window



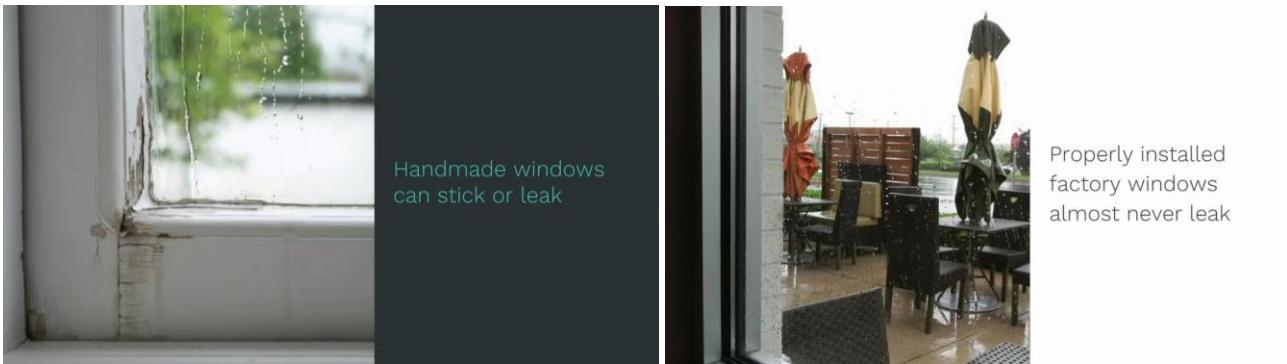
A modern window is an
unbelievably
complex machine



Modern windows are
made in factories
by specialists



A builder creates
framing for
the factory parts



Interactive HTML elements

<input>	<select>
<textarea>	<option>
<button>	<audio>
<a>	<video>

Problem statement

A poor supply chain for UI parts prevents specialization, which leads to inefficiency and low quality.

Techniques

Strategy

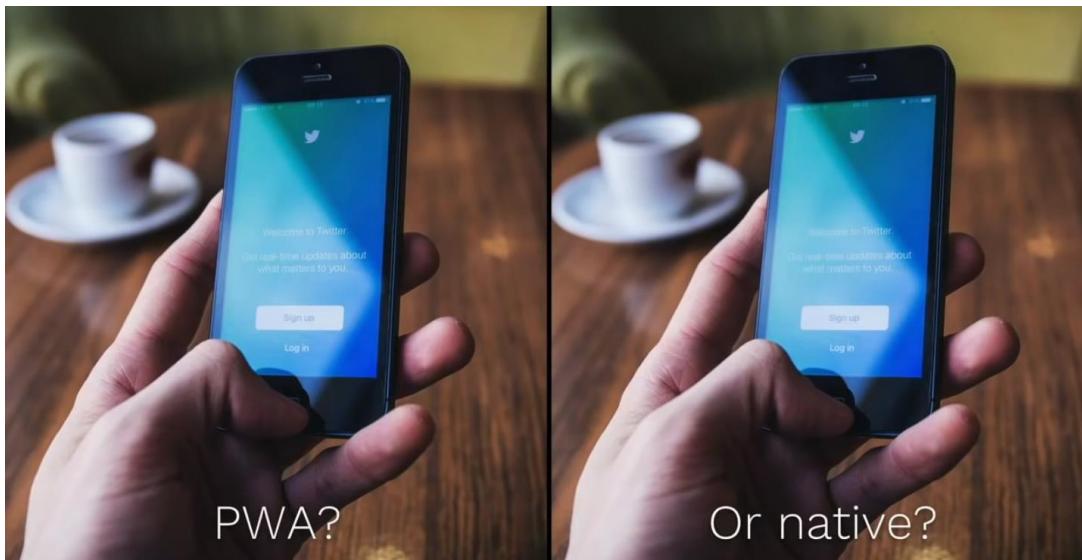
Opportunity

Symptoms

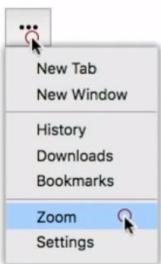
Problems

Poor supply chain for UI parts prevents specialization

Causes



Selecting a menu item with **two clicks** may feel easier:

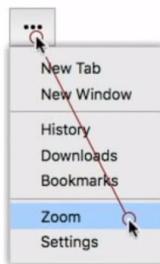


Mouse down/up (click) on menu button

Move over menu

Mouse down/up (click) on menu item

Selecting a menu item in a single **drag operation** may feel faster:

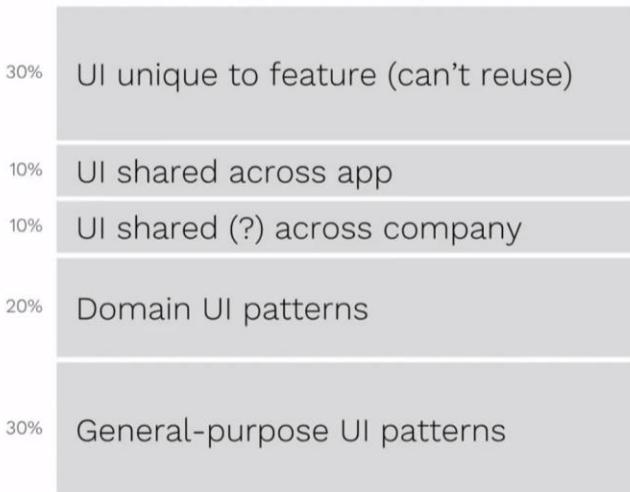


Mouse down on menu button

Drag into menu

Mouse up over menu item

UI code chunked by potential reusability



If we have a real UI supply chain that allows us to plug in reusable UI parts into new apps we are building, we can reduce the cost of development and not have to rebuild all things every time along with the frames.



npm has great answers
for everything: backend,
tools, languages, ...

but not UI

We need a marketplace/way to reuse UI elements within our application

The screenshot shows the Unity Asset Store interface with the following sections:

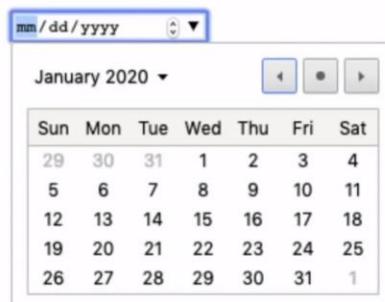
- Top Navigation:** unity Asset Store, 3D, 2D, Add-Ons, Audio, Templates, Tools, VFX.
- Search Bar:** Type here to search assets.
- Impressions:** Impressive New Assets, Bundles: Save 33%, Shop On Old Store.
- Next Gen Models:** See more. Includes items like "MALBERS ANIMATIONS Little Dragons: Tiger" (\$36 \$28), "POLYDRIFT War Ruins Armcamp" (\$75), "FORGEID Wasp Interdictor" (\$26 \$20), "ILRANCH Library Reading Room" (\$17.50 \$14), "TIRGAMES ASSETS PBR Workshop" (\$20 \$16), and "UMA RPG" (\$20).
- Top Paid Packages:** See more. Includes items like "PARADOX NOTION FlowCanvas" (\$79 \$56), "DEVOOG Inventory Pro" (\$55), "OPSIIVE (UFPS) UFPS : Ultimate FPS" (\$75), "KRIPTO289 Realistic Effects Pack 4" (\$42 \$33.60), and "JOHN LEONARD FRENCH Ultimate Game Music Col..." (\$45 \$36).
- Top Free Packages:** See more.

Techniques	
Strategy	
Opportunity	
Symptoms	Reimplementing web UI is inefficient, costly, and buggy · Poor user experiences
Problems	Poor supply chain for UI parts prevents specialization
Causes	

Easy answers

- Blame platform for missing features

Most people will blame the browser, the HTML or CSS standard for the web.

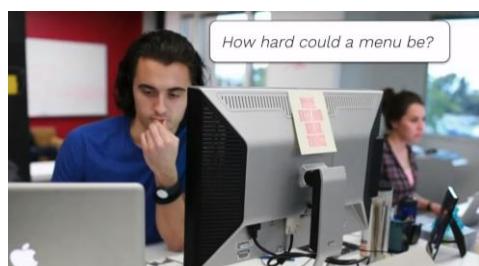


<input type="date">

This is what we get in Chrome, which does not look modern and things like copy & paste don't work and it has 2 different looking dropdown looks.

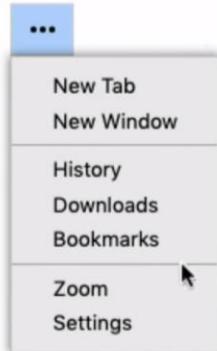
Easy answers

- Blame platform for missing features
- Blame the designer or dev





You still see the same complexity at every zoom level, same as UI challenging work.



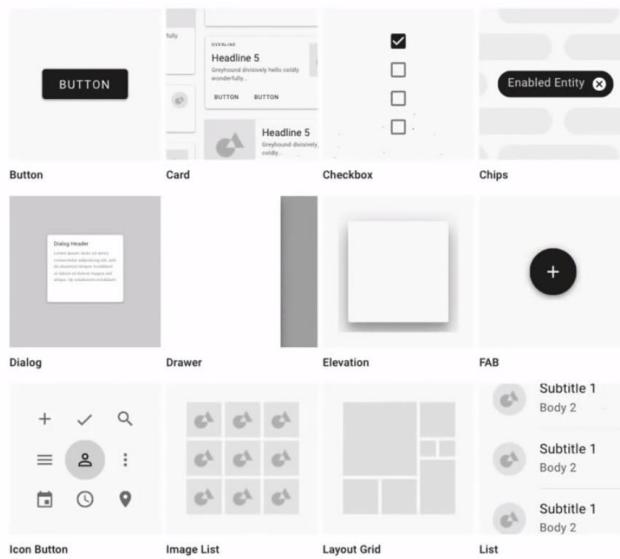
What should happen when a user tries to select something that is not selectable like the menu separator?



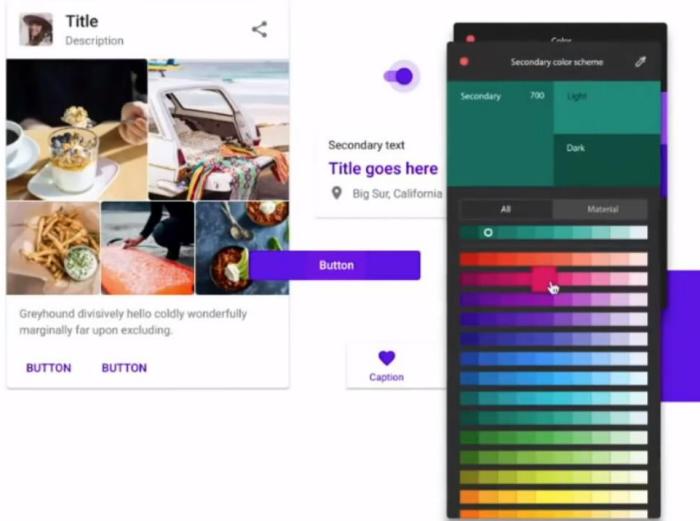
UI requires
cross-discipline
collaboration



Design
(including UI design)
requires a consistent
subjective opinion



Some companies do provide their design language as OSS but this is NOT open governance.





VARIATION

Variation is fundamental

- Aesthetic
- Accidental
- Historical
- Cultural
- Situational
- Functional
- Gratuitous
- Differentiable

Variation ≠ Styling

E.g., different ways a popup might be closeable:

- Click outside it
- Click inside it
- Make a selection
- Click a close button
- Hover over another element (riffing)
- Press Esc
- Press ALT
- Wait
- Scroll the window
- Resize the window
- Tab to another window



Most UI libraries try to accommodate variation by adding knobs



```
<super-widget  
  show-save-button="false"  
  toolbar-background="gray"  
  open-on-click="always"  
  picker-label="Widget"  
  dismiss-line="false"  
  icon-style="reversed"  
  shift="reduce"  
  render-on="mobileOnly"  
  underlined="true"  
 ...>  
</super-widget>
```



Most UI designers use multiple variations of doing the same thing in their component like above by using some configuration knob settings

Techniques

Strategy

Opportunity

Symptoms Reimplementing web UI is inefficient, costly, and buggy ·
Poor user experiences

Problems Poor supply chain for UI parts prevents specialization

Causes UI is hard · Multi-disciplinary · Requires consistent
subjective opinion · Poor economics · Extensive variation

Web components

First standard UI component model for web

There is a new web standard called Web Components API that we can use.

```
export class MyElement extends HTMLElement {
  constructor() {
    super();
    this.attachShadow({ mode: 'open' });
    this.shadowRoot.innerHTML =
      `<style>
        span { color: red; }
      </style>
      <span>Hello, world!</span>
    `;
  }
}

customElements.define('my-element', MyElement);
```

You can write JS that defines a class and registers that class with the browser as a custom HTML tag, the browser then runs your code when it sees your element.

```

export class MyElement extends HTMLElement {
  constructor() {
    super();
    this.attachShadow({ mode: 'open' });
    this.shadowRoot.innerHTML = `
      <style>
        span { color: red; }
      </style>
      <span>Hello, world!</span>
    `;
  }
}

customElements.define('my-element', MyElement);

```

```

<html>
  <head>
    <style>
      span {
        color: blue !important;
      }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <my-element>
      #shadow-root
      <style>
        span { color: red; }
      </style>
      <span>Hello, world!</span>
    </my-element>
  </body>
</html>

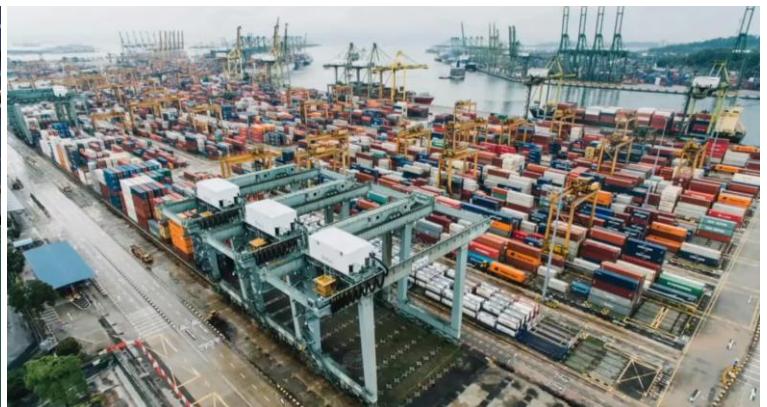
```

Hello, world!

The shadow Dom is a private little tree inside your custom element that allows you to display your custom UI managed by your custom element.

Web components assessment

- Fine for organizing your own app UI code
- Framework-independent
- Some rough edges
- Styling story is incomplete
- Barely good enough for reuse across orgs
- Ripple effects will be significant



API existence is not enough

Still substantial work to make elements:

- Well-designed
- Reliable
- Capable of handling variation

The Web Components API in the browser does not guarantee that the UI components are good and resilient. Static HTML is just the initial state of the DOM, JS then comes in to add interactivity and things like images.



Frameworks are power tools



You still can't make a modern window by yourself

But you are still building everything by hand, frameworks cannot solve all the things for us

Techniques

Strategy

Opportunity

Web components define a standard API for exchanging user interface elements

Symptoms

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Composition

Instead of big complex components:

- Identify separable UI primitives
- Compose those to build elements

Composition might be a more interesting way to build complex components than trying to build monolithic components with a lot of configuration options.

LISP computing primitives

defun functions

t nil names atomic symbols

car cdr cons list operations

cond eq atom conditionals



- Dynamic list of items
- Single selection
- Touch swipes
- Trackpad swipes
- Keyboard navigation
- Presentation + transitions
- Accessibility via ARIA
- Arrow buttons
- Page dots
- Page numbers
- Thumbnails
- Focus aggregation
- Language direction

Presentation and transitions



Component UI pipeline

Events → Semantic API → State → Render



- Items management
- Selection model
- Touch swipes
- Trackpad swipes
- Keyboard navigation
- Presentation + transitions
- Accessibility via ARIA
- Arrow buttons
- Page dots
- Page numbers
- Thumbnails
- Focus aggregation
- Language direction
- DOM attributes

Most UI component libraries will have 20 to 30 components in them.

Accordion	Content with sidebars	ModalBackdrop	Range slider
AlertDialog	CrossfadeStage	Masked text	Ribbon
Alphabetic indices	Current anchor	Menu bar	Rich text editor
Async operation button	DateComboBox	Menu	Scrolled anchors
AutoCompleteInput	Date range calendar	MenuItem	Scroll-up bar
AutoCompleteComboBox	Date text box	MenuItem	SeamlessButton
Auto-format	Delimited list	MenuItemSeparator	Seamless iframe
AutoSizeTextarea	Dialog	Mobile date/time picker	Search box
Backdrop	Drawer	ModalBackdrop	Shimmer
Breadcrumb bar	DropdownList	Modes	Slider
Button	Editable in place	Multi list box	Slideshow
CalendarDay	Editable text	Multiple file uploader	SlideshowWithPlayControls
CalendarDays	ExpandablePanel	Number with units	SlidingPages
CalendarDayNamesHeader	Expandable summary	Overlay	SlidingStage
CalendarMonth	Explorer	OverlayFrame	Spin box
CalendarMonthNavigator	Fade overflow	Packed columns	Splitter
Calendar months	File uploader	PageDot	Stacked navigation pages
CalendarMonthYearHeader	FilterComboBox	Page number navigator	Star rating
Calendar year	FilterListBox	Page transitions	TabButton
Carousel	Full screen expandable	Palette window	Tabs
CarouselSlideshow	Full screen	Panel with overflow menu	TabStrip
CarouselWithThumbnails	Gesture navigation	Persistent header	Tag text box
CenteredStrip	HamburgerMenuButton	Persistent navigation bar	Text box with button
CenteredStripHighlight	Infinite list	Persistent panel	Time combo box / time picker
CenteredStripOpacity	Labeled input	Popout	Timeline
Checked list box	Lazy list	Popup	Toggle button
Close box	Link list	PopupSource	ToolTip
Closable panel	ListBox	Process steps	Toast
Color wheel	ListExplorer	Progress bar	Tree view
Combed text box	ListComboBox	ProgressSpinner	Validating text input
ComboBox	Marquee selection	PullToRefresh	Vote up/down
Content with banners	ListWithSearch	Radio button list	Wizard

These are some of the common available UI patterns



- Open source web component library
- Reusable UI primitives
- Comprehensive collection of all general-purpose UI patterns
- Support extensive variation
- Quality goal: as good as HTML

Fundamentals

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-browser • Accessible • All input modes • International | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient • Performant • Styleable • Well-tested |
|---|---|

Accordion	Content with sidebars	Range slider
AlertDialog	Masked text	Ribbon
Alphabetic indices	Menu bar	Rich text editor
Async operation button	Menu	Scrolled anchors
AutoCompleteInput	MenuItem	Scroll-up bar
AutoCompleteComboBox	MenuSeparator	SeamlessButton
Auto-format	Mobile date/time picker	Seamless iframe
AutoSizeTextarea	ModalBackdrop	Search box
Backdrop	Multiple file uploader	Shimmer
Breadcrumb bar	Number with units	Slider
Button	Overlay	Slideshow
CalendarDay	OverlayFrame	SlideshowWithPlayControls
CalendarDays	Packed columns	SlidingPages
CalendarDayNamesHeader	PageDot	SlidingStage
CalendarMonth	Page number navigator	Spin box
CalendarMonthNavigator	Page transitions	Splitter
Calendar months	Palette window	Stacked navigation pages
CalendarMonthYearHeader	Panel with overflow menu	Star rating
Calendar year	Persistent header	TabButton
Carousel	Persistent navigation bar	Tabs
CarouselSlideshow	Persistent panel	TabStrip
CarouselWithThumbnails	Popout	Tag text box
CenteredStrip	Popup	Text box with button
CenteredStripHighlight	PopupSource	Time combo box / time picker
CenteredStripOpacity	Process steps	Timeline
Checked list box	Progress bar	ToolTip
Close box	ProgressSpinner	Toast
Closable panel	Marquee selection	Tree view
Color wheel	ListWithSearch	Validating text input
Combed text box		Vote up/down
ComboBox		Wizard
Content with banners		Implemented (44%)

Techniques

Strategy UI primitives · Comprehensive library of general-purpose UI patterns · As good as HTML

Opportunity Web components define a standard API for exchanging user interface elements

Symptoms Reimplementing web UI is inefficient, costly, and buggy · Poor user experiences

Problems Poor supply chain for UI parts prevents specialization

Causes UI is hard · Multi-disciplinary · Requires consistent subjective opinion · Poor economics · Extensive variation

Reactive core without React

- **state**
- **setState**
- **render**
- **componentDidMount / Update**

No JSX, virtual DOM, synthetic events, etc.

We have an immutable **state** that you can call **setState** on that will then trigger a **render**, but we don't need the rest of the React component model like we can use browser events instead of React events.

```

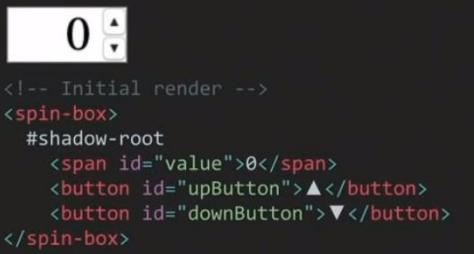
class SpinBox extends ReactiveMixin(HTMLElement) {
  get defaultState() {
    return { value: 0 };
  }

  decrement() {
    this.setState({ value: this.state.value - 1 });
  }

  increment() {
    this.setState({ value: this.state.value + 1 });
  }

  render() {
    if (!this.shadowRoot) {
      this.attachShadow({ mode: 'open' });
      this.shadowRoot.innerHTML = `
        <span id="value"></span>
        <button id="upButton">▲</button>
        <button id="downButton">▼</button>
      `;
    }
    const value = this.shadowRoot.getElementById('value');
    value.textContent = this.state.value;
  }
}

```

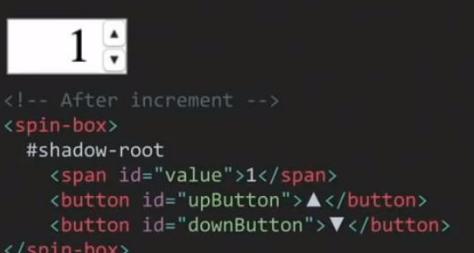


Initial render

```

<spin-box>
  #shadow-root
    <span id="value">0</span>
    <button id="upButton">▲</button>
    <button id="downButton">▼</button>
  </spin-box>

```



After increment

```

<spin-box>
  #shadow-root
    <span id="value">1</span>
    <button id="upButton">▲</button>
    <button id="downButton">▼</button>
  </spin-box>

```

Functional mixins

- Compose behavior in plain JavaScript without a framework
- A mixin is just a function that takes a class and returns a new subclass

```

// Functional mixin
function GreetMixin(Base) {
  return class Greet extends Base {
    greet() {
      alert('Hello');
    }
  };
}

// Define a web component that uses the mixin.
class GreetElement extends GreetMixin(HTMLElement) {}
customElements.define('greet-element', GreetElement);

// Instantiate the component.
const element = new GreetElement();
element.greet(); // "Hello"

```

This is an additive mixin that acts like a normal HTMLElement and also now knows how to say hello. This pattern is sufficient for our reactive features and the UI primitives that we want.



If creating UI elements like a list box, we can identify the UI elements and build them as mixins

```

class ListBox extends HTMLElement {
  constructor() {
    super();
    this.selectedItem = null;
    this.addEventListener('click', event => {
      if (this.selectedItem) {
        // Deselect previous item.
        this.selectedItem.style.backgroundColor = null;
        this.selectedItem.style.color = null;
        this.selectedItem.setAttribute('aria-selected', false);
      }
      // Select new item.
      this.selectedItem = event.target;
      this.selectedItem.style.backgroundColor = 'highlight';
      this.selectedItem.style.color = 'highlighttext';
      this.selectedItem.setAttribute('aria-selected', true);
      this.setAttribute('aria-activedescendant', this.selectedItem.id);
    });
  }
}

```

This is a monolithic web component approach that works but does not permit variations in the behavior of the list box

Goal: a tap/click on a list item highlights it and applies appropriate ARIA attributes for accessibility

Primitives:

- Track items in the list
- Track selection state
- Map taps/clicks to selection
- Render visual highlight
- Render ARIA attributes

Mixins:

- SlotItemsMixin**
- SingleSelectionMixin**
- TapSelectionMixin**
- (custom)
- AriaListMixin**

We can map each of these highlights to functional mixins that we take care of each part

```

function TapSelectionMixin(Base) {
  return class TapSelection extends Base {
    constructor() {
      super();
      this.addEventListener('click', event => {
        if (event.target !== this) {
          this.selectedItem = event.target;
        }
      });
    }
  };
}

```

This mixin will give any base class a click handler, then call a selection API and passing it what was clicked

```

function SingleSelectionMixin(Base) {
  return class SingleSelection extends Base {

    get defaultState() {
      return Object.assign({}, super.defaultState, {
        selectedItem: null
      });
    }

    get selectedItem() {
      return this.state.selectedItem;
    }
    set selectedItem(item) {
      this.setState({ selectedItem: item });
    }

    selectFirst() { ... }
    selectLast() { ... }
    selectNext() { ... }
    selectPrevious() { ... }

  };
}

```

This mixin handles the selection API and simply remembers what was clicked and exposes some methods for navigating a selection. This is a semantic operation that will update the state of the list box

```

function AriaListMixin(Base) {
  return class AriaList extends Base {
    render() {
      if (super.render) { super.render(); }
      const { items, selectedItem } = this.state;
      items.forEach(item => {
        const isSelected = item === selectedItem;
        item.setAttribute('aria-selected', isSelected);
      });
      const selectedItemId = this.selectedItem ? this.selectedItem.id : null;
      this.setAttribute('aria-active-descendant', selectedItemId);
    }
  };
}

```

We can then render the new state of the list box using the mixin above, this will handle the Aria attributes on both the individual list items and on the top-level list itself

```

const Base =
  SlotItemsMixin(
    SingleSelectionMixin(
      TapSelectionMixin(
        AriaListMixin(
          ReactiveMixin(
            HTMLElement
          )));
);

class ListBox extends Base {
  render() {
    if (super.render) { super.render(); }
    const { items, selectedItem } = this.state;
    items.forEach(item => {
      const isSelected = item === selectedItem;
      item.style.backgroundColor = isSelected ? 'highlight' : null;
      item.style.color = isSelected ? 'highlighttext' : null;
    });
  }
}

```

We can put all the mixins together by applying a bunch of functions on the HTMLElement by invoking all the mixin functions as above. This gives us a base/foundation for a list.

```
const ListBoxBase =
  AriaListMixin(
  AttributeMarshallingMixin(
  ComposedFocusMixin(
  ContentItemsMixin(
  DirectionSelectionMixin(
  FocusVisibleMixin(
  ItemsTextMixin(
  KeyboardDirectionMixin(
  KeyboardMixin(
  KeyboardPagedSelectionMixin(
  KeyboardPrefixSelectionMixin(
  LanguageDirectionMixin(
  ReactiveMixin(
  RenderUpdatesMixin(
  SelectedItemTextValueMixin(
  SelectionInViewMixin(
  ShadowTemplateMixin(
  SingleSelectionMixin(
  SlotContentMixin(
  TapSelectionMixin(
    HTMLElement
))))))))))))));
```

This is what we have in the Elix project, a list box with about 20 mixins for UI primitives variations we might need like auto-select, up and down keys, etc.



```
const ListBoxBase =
  AriaListMixin(
  AttributeMarshallingMixin(
  ComposedFocusMixin(
  ContentItemsMixin(
  DirectionSelectionMixin(
  FocusVisibleMixin(
  ItemsTextMixin(
  KeyboardDirectionMixin(
  KeyboardMixin(
  KeyboardPagedSelectionMixin(
  KeyboardPrefixSelectionMixin(
  LanguageDirectionMixin(
  ReactiveMixin(
  RenderUpdatesMixin(
  SelectedItemTextValueMixin(
  SelectionInViewMixin(
  ShadowTemplateMixin(
  SingleSelectionMixin(
  SlotContentMixin(
  TapSelectionMixin(
    HTMLElement
))))))))))))));
```

```
const MenuBase =
  AriaMenuMixin(
  AttributeMarshallingMixin(
  ContentItemsMixin(
  DelegateFocusMixin(
  DirectionSelectionMixin(
  FocusVisibleMixin(
  ItemsTextMixin(
  KeyboardDirectionMixin(
  KeyboardMixin(
  KeyboardPagedSelectionMixin(
  KeyboardPrefixSelectionMixin(
  LanguageDirectionMixin(
  ReactiveMixin(
  RenderUpdatesMixin(
  SelectedItemTextValueMixin(
  SelectionInViewMixin(
  ShadowTemplateMixin(
  SingleSelectionMixin(
  SlotContentMixin(
  TapSelectionMixin(
    HTMLElement
))))))))))))));
```

Acai
Akee
Apple
Apricot
Avocado
Banana
Bilberry
Black sapote
Blackberry
Blackcurrant



They are not similar in look but they have similar behaviors that allows code to be shared, about 85%.

```
class SpinBox extends ReactiveMixin(HTMLElement) {
  get defaultState() {
    return { value: 0 };
  }
  decrement() {
    this.setState({ value: this.state.value - 1 });
  }
  increment() {
    this.setState({ value: this.state.value + 1 });
  }
  render() {
    if (!this.shadowRoot) {
      this.attachShadow({ mode: 'open' });
      this.shadowRoot.innerHTML =
        `<span id="value"></span>
         <button id="up">▲</button>
         <button id="down">▼</button>`;
    }
    const value = this.shadowRoot.getElementById('value');
    value.textContent = this.state.value;
  }
}
```

```
class SpinBox extends ReactiveMixin(ShadowTemplateMixin(HTMLElement)) {
  get defaultState() {
    return { value: 0 };
  }
  decrement() {
    this.setState({ value: this.state.value - 1 });
  }
  increment() {
    this.setState({ value: this.state.value + 1 });
  }
  get template() {
    return html`<span id="value"></span>
      <button id="up">▲</button>
      <button id="down">▼</button>`;
  }
  render() {
    if (super.render) { super.render(); }
    const value = this.shadowRoot.getElementById('value');
    value.textContent = this.state.value;
  }
}
```

```

class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {
  get defaultValue() {
    return { value: 0 };
  }
  decrement() {
    this.setState({ value: this.state.value - 1 });
  }
  increment() {
    this.setState({ value: this.state.value + 1 });
  }
  get template() {
    return html`
      <button id="up">▲</button>
      <button id="down">▼</button>
    `;
  }
  render() {
    if (super.render) { super.render(); }
    const value = this.shadowRoot.getElementById('value');
    value.textContent = this.state.value;
  }
}

```

As a convenience, we then bundle these common components into a base class called `ReactiveElement` that is inherited from by other components.

Overridable DOM updates

```

  {
    attributes: {
      id: 'save'
    },
    style: {
      color: 'red'
    },
    textContent: 'OK'
  }
}

this.setAttribute('id', 'save');
this.style.color = 'red';           →
this.textContent = 'OK';

```

```

class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {
  ...
  get template() {
    return html`
      <button id="up">▲</button>
      <button id="down">▼</button>
    `;
  }
  render() {
    if (super.render) { super.render(); }
    this.$.value.textContent = this.state.value;
  }
}

```

```

class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {
  ...
  get template() {
    return html`▲▼`;
  }
  get updates() {
    return {
      $: {
        value: {
          textContent: this.state.value
        }
      }
    };
  }
}

```

The screenshot shows the DevTools Elements tab with the following details:

- DOM Structure:** A spin box element with ID `#spin-box` is selected. It has a shadow root containing a style node and a span element with the value `1`. Below it is a div with the ID `buttons` containing two buttons: `up` and `down`.
- Styles Tab:** Shows a CSS rule for `:host`:


```
:host { border: 1px solid gray; display: inline-flex; min-width: 2.5em; }
```
- Console Tab:** Displays the state object:


```
$0.state
< State {value: 1} 
  value: 1
  > __proto__: Object
$0.updates
< $: {} 
  > $:
    > value:
      > textContent: 1
      > __proto__: Object
      > __proto__: Object
      > __proto__: Object
```

```

class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {
  ...
  get updates() {
    return {
      $: {
        value: {
          textContent: this.state.value
        }
      }
    };
  }
}

class CustomSpinBox extends SpinBox {
  get updates() {
    return merge(super.updates, {
      $: {
        value: {
          style: {
            color: this.state.value < 0 ? 'red' : null
          }
        }
      }
    });
  }
}

```

The screenshot shows the DevTools Elements tab with the following details:

- DOM Structure:** A spin box element with ID `#spin-box` is selected. It has a shadow root containing a style node and a span element with the value `-1`. Below it is a div with the ID `buttons` containing two buttons: `up` and `down`.
- Styles Tab:** Shows a CSS rule for `:host`:


```
:host { border: 1px solid gray; display: inline-flex; min-width: 2.5em; }
```
- Console Tab:** Displays the state object, which is identical to the one in the previous screenshot.

```
class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {  
  ...  
  get updates() {  
    return {  
      $: {  
        value: {  
          textContent: this.state.value  
        }  
      }  
    };  
  }  
}
```

40 ▲▼

```
class RomanSpinBox extends SpinBox {  
  get updates() {  
    return merge(super.updates, {  
      $: {  
        value: {  
          textContent: romanize(this.state.value)  
        }  
      }  
    });  
  }  
}
```

XL ▲▼

```
class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {  
  get updates() {  
    return {  
      $: {  
        value: {  
          textContent: this.state.value  
        }  
      }  
    };  
  }  
}
```

0 ▲▼

```
class CustomSpinBox extends SpinBox {  
  get updates() {  
    return merge(super.updates, {  
      $: {  
        value: {  
          style: {  
            color: 'red'  
          }  
        }  
      }  
    });  
  }  
}
```

0 ▲▼

Template patching

- Ask base class for a copy of its template
- Patch it however we want
- Return the patched template

```

class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {
  get template() {
    return html`
      <!-- Defined by SpinBox --&gt;
      &lt;span id="value"&gt;0&lt;/span&gt;
      &lt;button id="up"&gt;▲&lt;/button&gt;
      &lt;button id="down"&gt;▼&lt;/button&gt;
    </spin-box>`
  }
}

class CustomSpinBox extends SpinBox {
  get template() {
    return concat(
      super.template,
      html`<!-- Defined by CustomSpinBox --&gt;
      &lt;style&gt;
        #value {
          color: red;
        }
      &lt;/style&gt;
    `);
  }
}
</pre>


```





These variations will be really hard to do with a single carousel to rule them all, it is a lot easier to have the building component blocks to put it together by adding behaviors as needed.

Custom button

0 ▲▼

Most apps already have elements in their design language, we can use this approach to make them better as styling and behaviors.

<pre> class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement { get template() { return html`<div>0<button id="up">▲</button><button id="down">▼</button></div>`; } } class CustomSpinBox extends SpinBox { get template() { return concat(super.template(), html`<style> button { background: darkgray; color: white; } </style> `); } } </pre>	<pre> <spin-box> #shadow-root <!-- Defined by SpinBox --> 0 <button id="up">▲</button> <button id="down">▼</button> </spin-box> <custom-spin-box> #shadow-root <!-- Defined by SpinBox --> 0 <button id="up">▲</button> <button id="down">▼</button> <!-- Defined by CustomSpinBox --> <style> button { background: darkgray; color: white; } </style> </custom-spin-box> </pre>	
<pre> <!-- Spin box uses regular buttons --> <spin-box> #shadow-root 0 <button id="up">▲</button> <button id="down">▼</button> </spin-box> </pre>	<pre> <!-- Spin box variation using custom buttons --> <spin-box> #shadow-root 0 <custom-button id="up">▲</custom-button> <custom-button id="down">▼</custom-button> </spin-box> </pre>	

But Web Components are really a way of packaging up styling and behaviors, we can swap out the DOM UI elements (like a button) we want to enhance with the web component version.

Replaceable element roles

- Identify a key node in the template
- Role defines the type used at that node
- Fill role with some other element class

Custom button +  = 

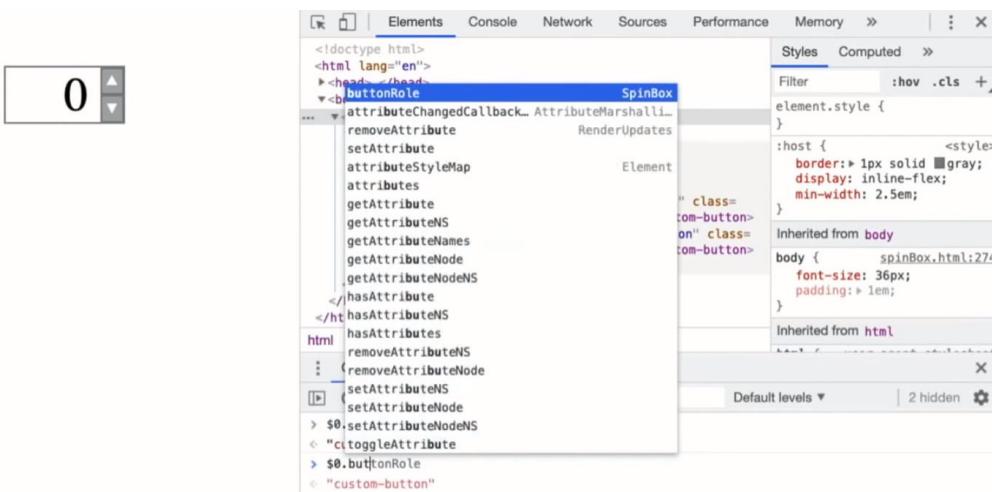
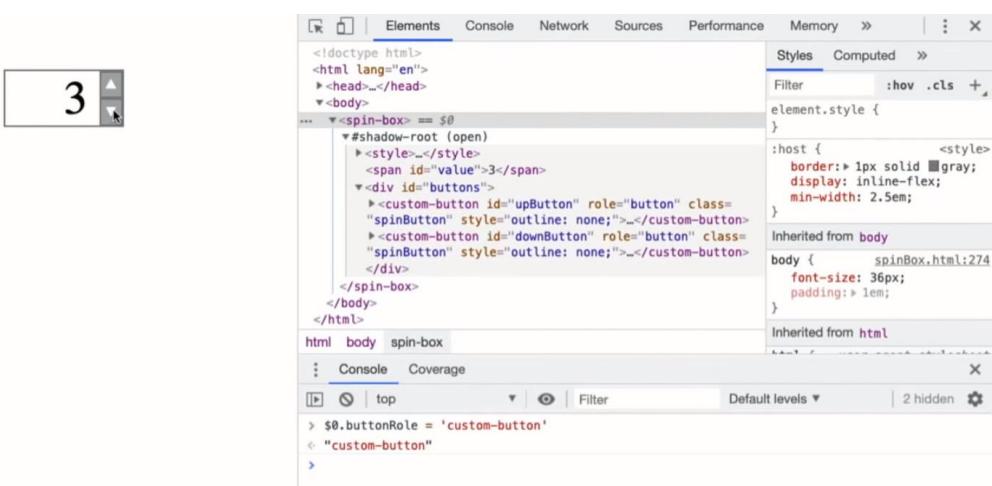
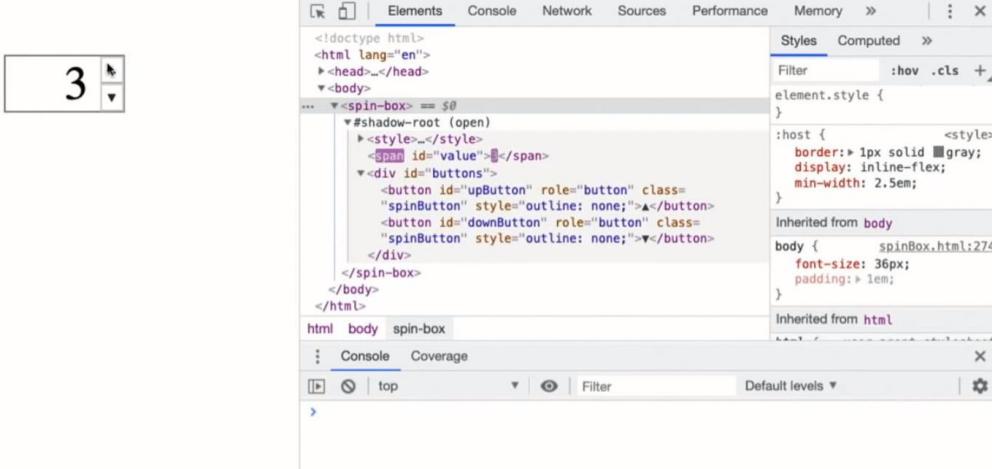
We want to take an element and hand it to our custom element as a parameter to swap

```
export class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {  
  ...  
  get defaultState() {  
    return {  
      buttonRole: 'button',  
      value: 0  
    };  
  }  
  get template() {  
    return html`  
      <span id="value"></span>  
      <button id="up">▲</button>  
      <button id="down">▼</button>  
    `;  
  }  
  componentDidUpdate(previousState) {  
    if (this.state.buttonRole !== previousState.buttonRole) {  
      transmute(this.$.up, this.state.buttonRole);  
      transmute(this.$.down, this.state.buttonRole);  
    }  
  }  
}
```

We use the transmute() operation to do the swapping

```
export class SpinBox extends ReactiveElement {  <spin-box>  
  ...  
  get defaultState() {  
    return {  
      buttonRole: 'button',  
      value: 0  
    };  
  }  
  get template() {  
    return html`  
      <span id="value"></span>  
      <button id="up">▲</button>  
      <button id="down">▼</button>  
    `;  
  }  
  componentDidUpdate(previousState) {  
    if (this.state.buttonRole !== previousState.buttonRole) {  
      transmute(this.$.up, this.state.buttonRole);  
      transmute(this.$.down, this.state.buttonRole);  
    }  
  }  
}
```





The screenshot shows the browser's developer tools with the 'Elements' tab selected. The left pane displays the DOM tree for a 'spin-box' element. The right pane shows the 'Styles' tab with a list of applied styles, including a custom button style for the up and down buttons. A dropdown menu is open over the 'buttonRole' attribute, listing options like 'buttonRole = "custom-button"', 'buttonRole = "button"', etc.

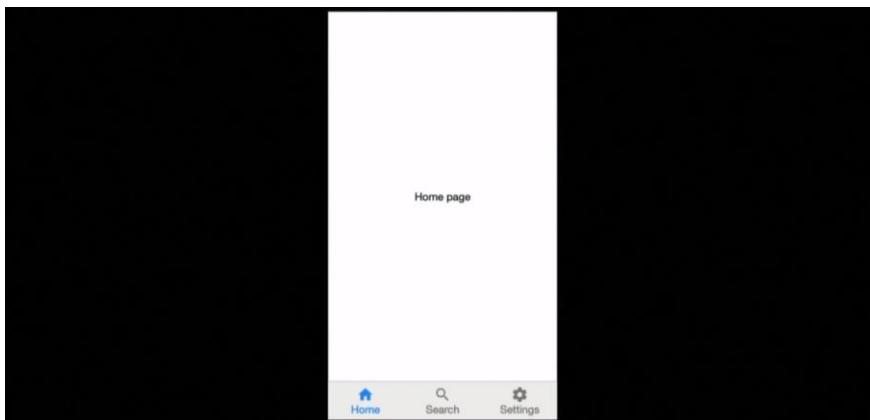
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head></head>
  <body>
    <spin-box> = $0
      <#shadow-root (open)>
        <style></style>
        <span id="value">0</span>
        <div id="buttons">
          <custom-button id="upButton" role="button" class="spinButton" style="outline: none;"></custom-button>
          <custom-button id="downButton" role="button" class="spinButton" style="outline: none;"></custom-button>
        </div>
    </spin-box>
  </body>
</html>
```



The screenshot shows a page with a header containing three buttons labeled 'One', 'Two', and 'Three'. Below the header is a large empty rectangular area. At the bottom of the page is a footer with the text 'Page one'.

One Two Three

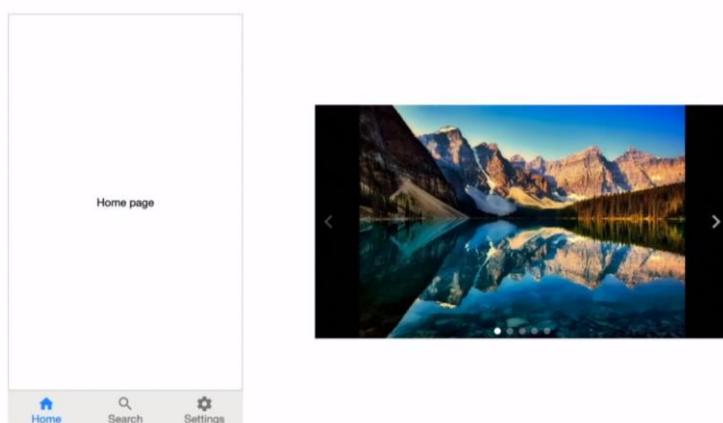
Page one



Modal stage

Crossfade stage

Sliding stage



Outlook

Search

+ New message

Delete Archive Junk Sweep Move to ...

Favorites

Inbox 17

Drafts Sent Deleted Robin Counts Travel

Folders

Inbox Junk Inbox Sent Deleted Archive Travel New folder

Kristin Patterson Reminder: Submit Expenses Thu 6:16 PM Please submit your expenses from your last...

Tim Deboer Project Review Fri 10:02 AM Hi all, should we meet early next week to di...

Moving Party

Elvia Atkins So much fun. Hey - who was that band? They rocked!

Henry Brill Fri 7/06/2018 3:10 PM You; Elvia Atkins;

Henry Brill, Elvia Atkins 4:45 PM We are so sad to be moving out of the nei...

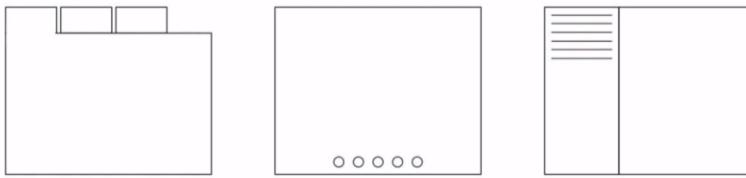
Erik Nason Options for next week's event 11:29 AM Are you guys all on for next weekend? I was...

Yesterday

Collin Ballinger Show & Tell at Pacific Crest Mon 2:08 PM Hi Gracie, Are you still available to come nex...

Katri Ahokas Talk tonight Mon 1:12 PM I'm speaking at this event tonight, would you...

Reply all



They are all the same thing in essence and behaviors



Fruit: Mandarin

- Jostaberry
- Jujube
- Juniper berry
- Kiwifruit
- Kumquat
- Lemon
- Lime
- Longan
- Loquat
- Lychee
- Mandarin**
- Mango

Search for fruit

- Acai
- Akee
- Apple
- Apricot
- Avocado
- Banana
- Bilberry
- Black sapote

mang

- Mango
- Mangosteen
- Purple mangosteen

Fruit: Mango

- Mango**
- Mangosteen
- Purple mangosteen

March 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

English (U.S.)

March 2019						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

English (UK)

French (France)

مارس 2019						
اللун.	المر.	المر.	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء
			1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

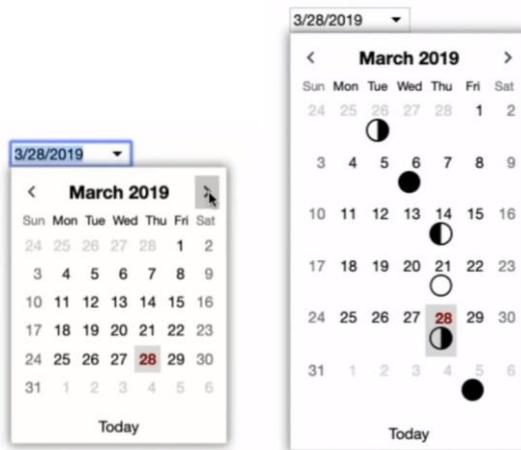
Russian (Russia)

مارس 2019						
السبت	الجمعة	الخميس	الأربعاء	الثلاثاء	الإثنين	الإحدى
		1	2			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Japanese (Japan)

Arabic (Saudi Arabia)

Hindi (India)



Techniques

Reactive core · Functional mixins · Overridable DOM updates · Template patching · Replaceable element roles

Strategy

UI primitives · Comprehensive library of general-purpose UI patterns · As good as HTML

Opportunity

Web components define a standard API for exchanging user interface elements

Symptoms

Reimplementing web UI is inefficient, costly, and buggy · Poor user experiences

Problems

Poor supply chain for UI parts prevents specialization

Causes

UI is hard · Multi-disciplinary · Requires consistent subjective opinion · Poor economics · Extensive variation

<https://component.kitchen/elix>

These slides: bit.ly/better-elements

jan@component.kitchen or @JanMiksovsky

rajeshsu@microsoft.com