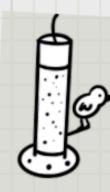


OhHelloAna.blog

JOTTINGS FROM ANA RODRIGUES



READ MY BLOG POSTS

PIXELS

Hello!

10+ years working as front-end developer.

Currently at Hactar. We specialise in Wagtail CMS.

Menu 💯





Accessibility

UX

CSS

JavaScript

Performance

Design

Figma

Ana Rodrigues / AUG 27, 2020 / > 5

Autonomy Online: A Case For The IndieWeb

iii 17 min read

Community, Inspiration, Workflow

У Share on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>

QUICK SUMMARY •• Nowadays whether you're consuming or sharing content on the web, it is likely to be via a big website. Twitter, Youtube, or a Facebook-owned service are popular examples. Whilst this gives us the advantage of being able to participate in a larger conversation at almost no monetary cost, there is also the downside of potentially losing all our content if a company closes, as has happened in the past. There is an alternative to corporate bubbles online — it's called the IndieWeb. Build your own personal websites, control your online presence, and learn on your own terms.

Web 2.0 celebrated the idea of everyone being able to contribute to the web regardless of their technical skill and knowledge. Its major features include

Hello!

10+ years working as front-end developer.

Currently at Hactar. We specialise in Wagtail CMS.

the indie web.



Hello!

+10 years working as front-end developer.

Currently at Hactar. We specialise in Wagtail CMS.

I > the indie web.

I V DIY, arts and other crafts.

Let's talk about refactoring CSS

And redecorating a new home!!

What is the latest approach?

Is this still the right way to build this?



I must read everything diest...

The blank canvas that once excited me now left me anxious and riddled with decision paralysis.



The constraints of the existing code turned out to liberate me from decision paralysis.



anarodrigues.dev

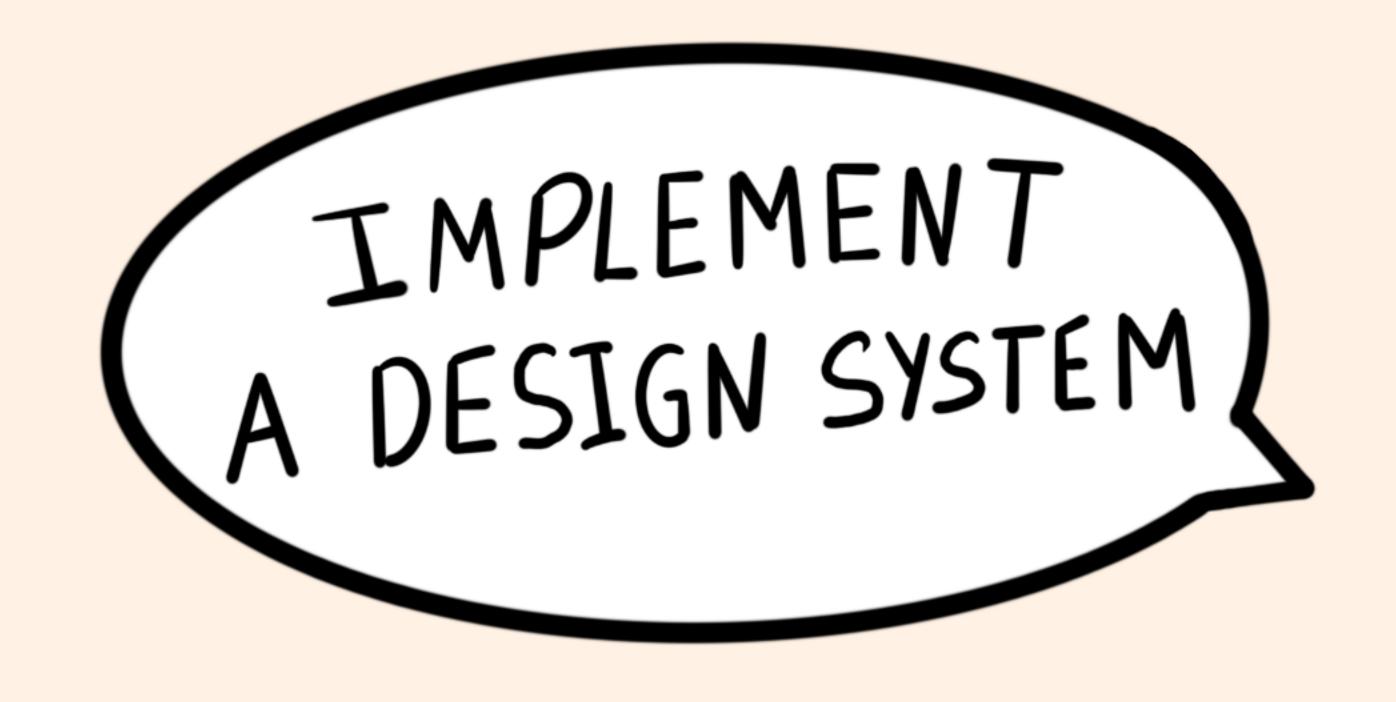


When I made a change, I could see the before-and-after, giving me confidence that my work was valuable.

Because we're not always building something brand new from scratch.

Whether it's code or a new home.

This talk is not about dissing legacy codebases.



And I could wrap quickly if I only said:

CSS just works. And when it doesn't, it is fantastic at failing.

The website built 8 or 9 years ago won't be using these.

And it still works.

Legacy CSS can document product decisions.

And the code that is live, is your documentation.

And the code that is live, is your documentation.

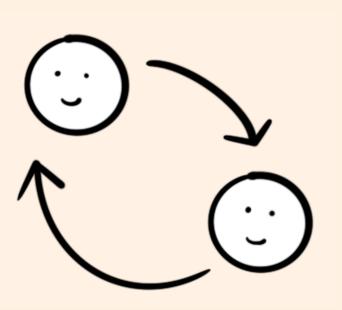
For example:

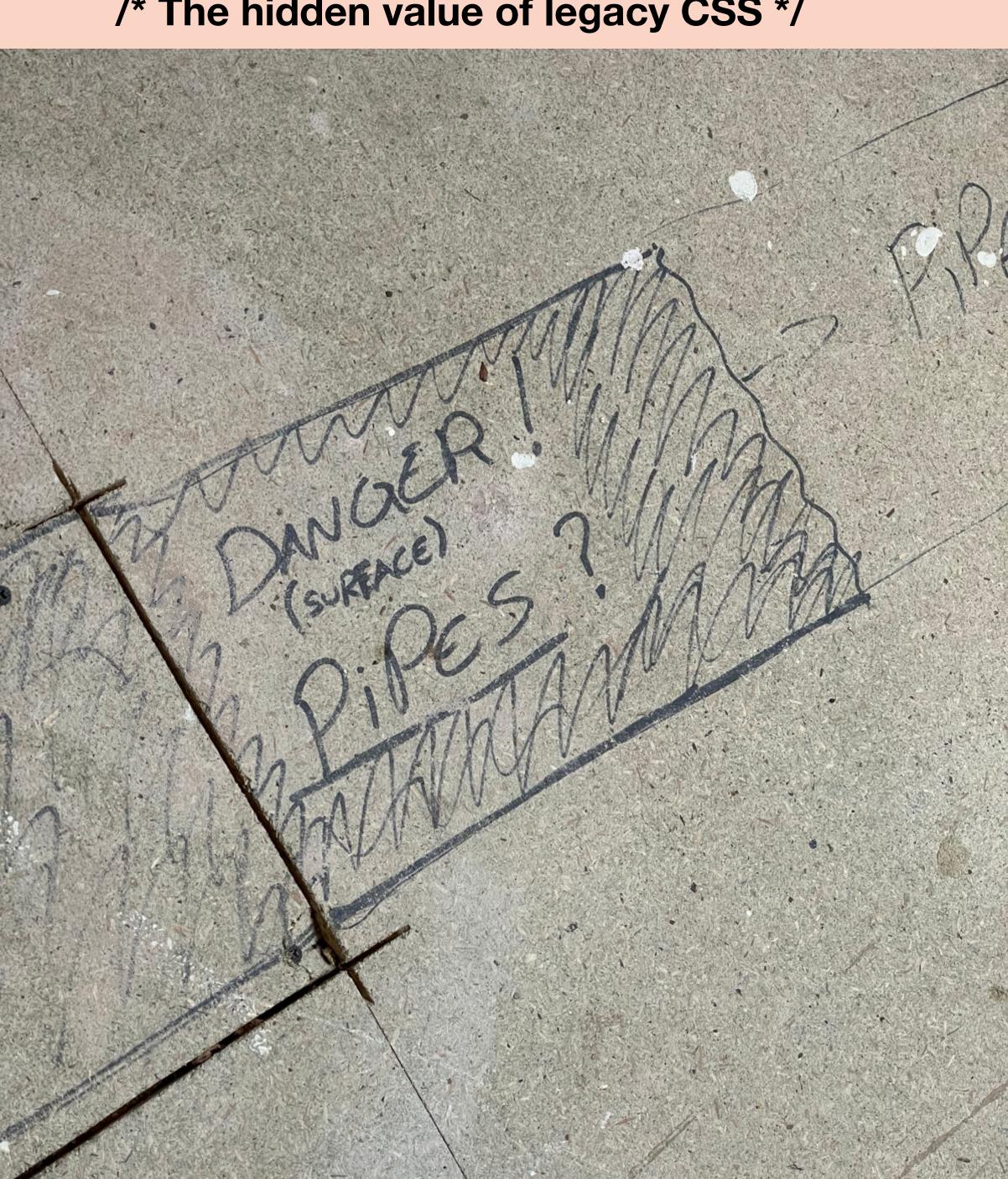


And the code that is live, is your documentation.

For example:





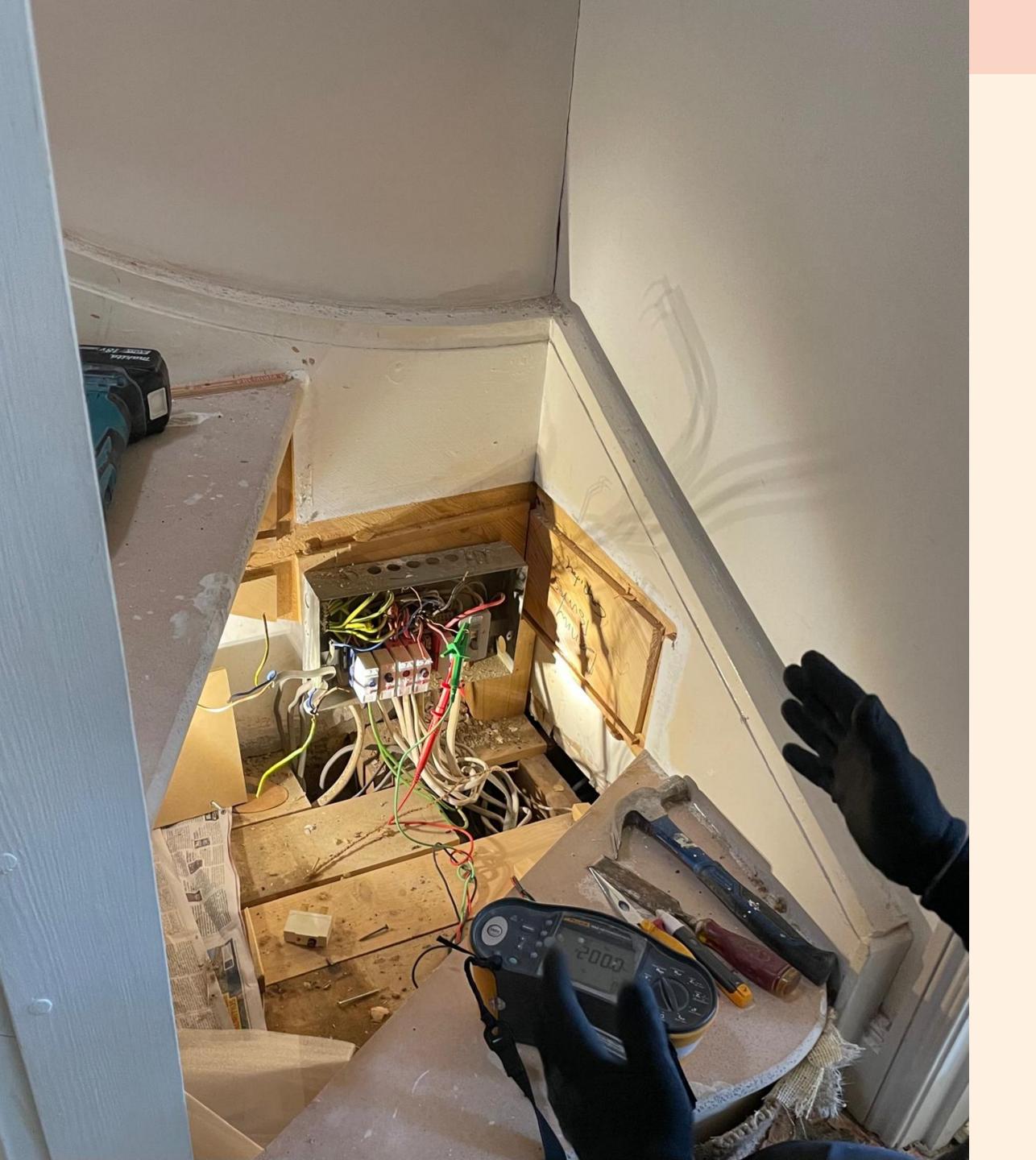


Human context

```
/* sorry */
/* this is due to time constraints */
/* do this better later */
```

- Performance or accessibility sprints
- Brand redesigns
- Something got discontinued
- Adding new features became difficult

- Performance or accessibility sprints
- Brand redesigns
- Something got discontinued
- Adding new features became difficult



Let's approach the codebase

Auditing CSS is hard because CSS simply works.

What you perceive as a flaw might just be your opinion.

/* Let's approach the codebase */

After a while, you're just looking at code that seems sensible and it becomes hard to spot issues.

```
V styles
  > base
 V components
    header.css
    hero.css
    cards.css
    accordion.css
   navigation.css
   breadcrumbs.css
    footer.css
    newsletter.css
 > print
  > utilities
  > vendor
 main.css
```

- Multiple selectors to fix specificity issues.
- @supports that may no longer be needed.
- Lots of nested margins and padding resets.
- Code difficult to search and find.

```
h2 {
    /* styles here */
 article h2 {
    /* styles here */
 article h2.archived-article--title {
    /* styles here */
  .template-news article h2.article-
title {
    /* styles here */
```

- Multiple selectors to fix specificity issues.
- @supports that may no longer be needed.
- Lots of nested margins and padding resets.
- Code difficult to search and find.

```
.my-feature {
    @include target-ie11() {
        max-height: 0;
    max-height: initial;
@supports (display: grid) {
    .another-container {
        display: grid;
        grid-gap: 30px;
        grid-template-columns: 1fr 1fr;
```

- Multiple selectors to fix specificity issues.
- @supports that may no longer be needed.
- Lots of nested margins and padding resets.
- Code difficult to search and find.

```
.my-feature h2 {
 margin: 0;
.banner .rich-text {
 margin: 0;
   margin: 0;
.intro .wrapper {
 margin: 0;
 padding: 0;
```

- Multiple selectors to fix specificity issues.
- @supports that may no longer be needed.
- Lots of nested margins and padding resets.
- Code difficult to search and find.

```
.accordion {
   $root: &;
    /* styles here */
   &:last-child {
        /* styles here */
   &.is-open {
        #{$root}__title {
            /* styles here */
```

Other bits you may pick up on

- Outdated layout approaches;

/* Let's approach the codebase */

- Outdated layout approaches;
- Performance improvements;

```
font-display: auto;
font-display: block;
font-display: swap;
font-display: fallback;
font-display: optional;
```

- Outdated layout approaches;
- Performance improvements;
- Accessibility concerns;

```
.info::before {
  content: "①" / "Departure time";
}
```



/* Let's approach the codebase */

- Outdated layout approaches;
- Performance improvements;
- Accessibility concerns;
- Media queries as documentation;

```
@media (max-width: 1250px) {
   /* styles here */
}
```

- Outdated layout approaches;
- Performance improvements;
- Accessibility concerns;
- Media queries as documentation;
- Unused and/or duplicated styles;



Automatic audit tools



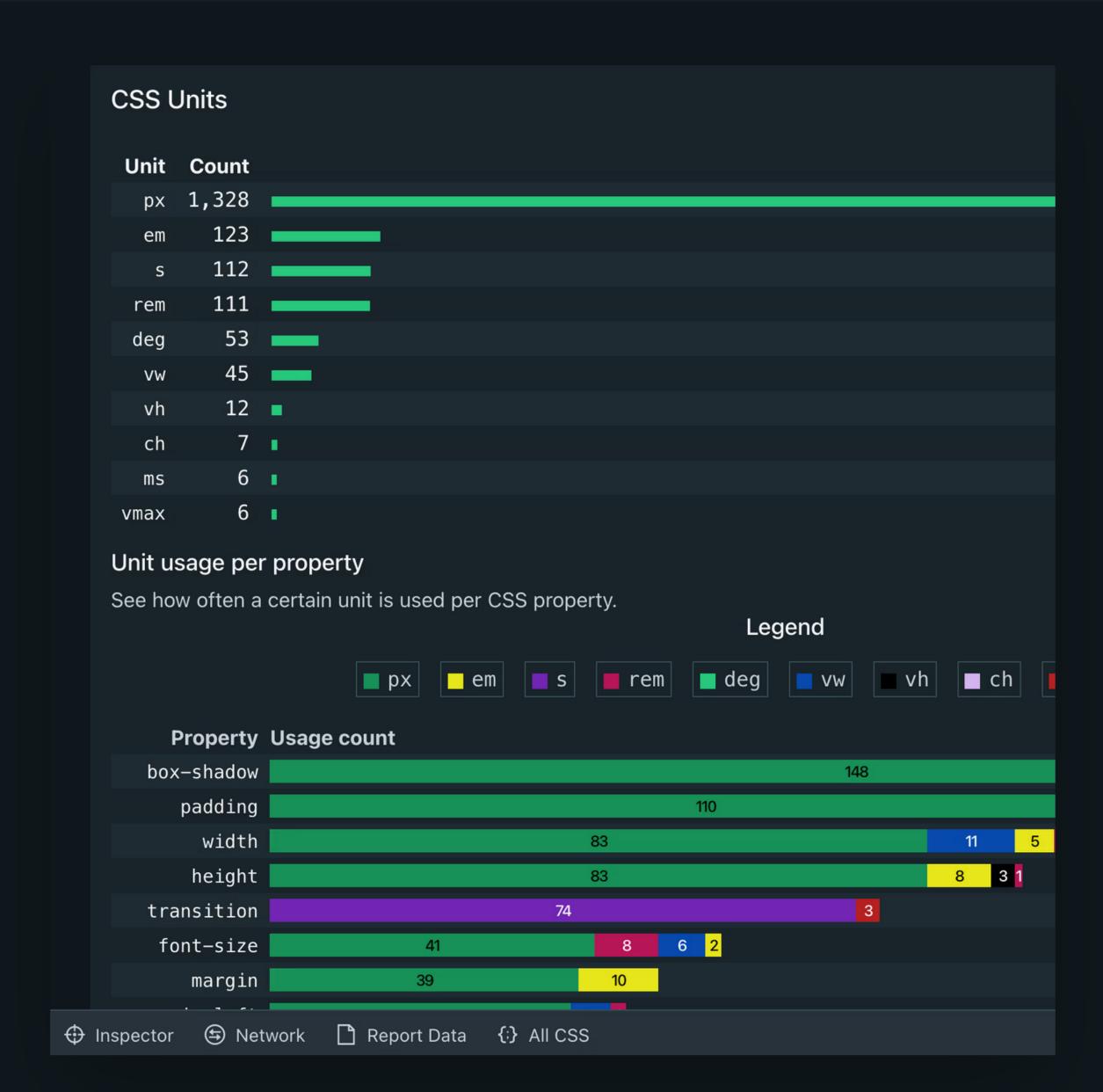


The best CSS analyzer out there.

Project Wallace is a set of CSS analyzers that check your complexity, specificity, performance, Design Tokens and much more. And all of that in a single web app.

ANALYZE CSS NOW!





Spacing Resets

Amount of times each property has been set to 0

Margir

55 Padding

47

Margin Top

10

Padding Top

1

Margin Left

6

Padding Left

6

Margin Right

16

Padding Right

10

Margin Bottom

60

Padding Bottom

5

Specificity

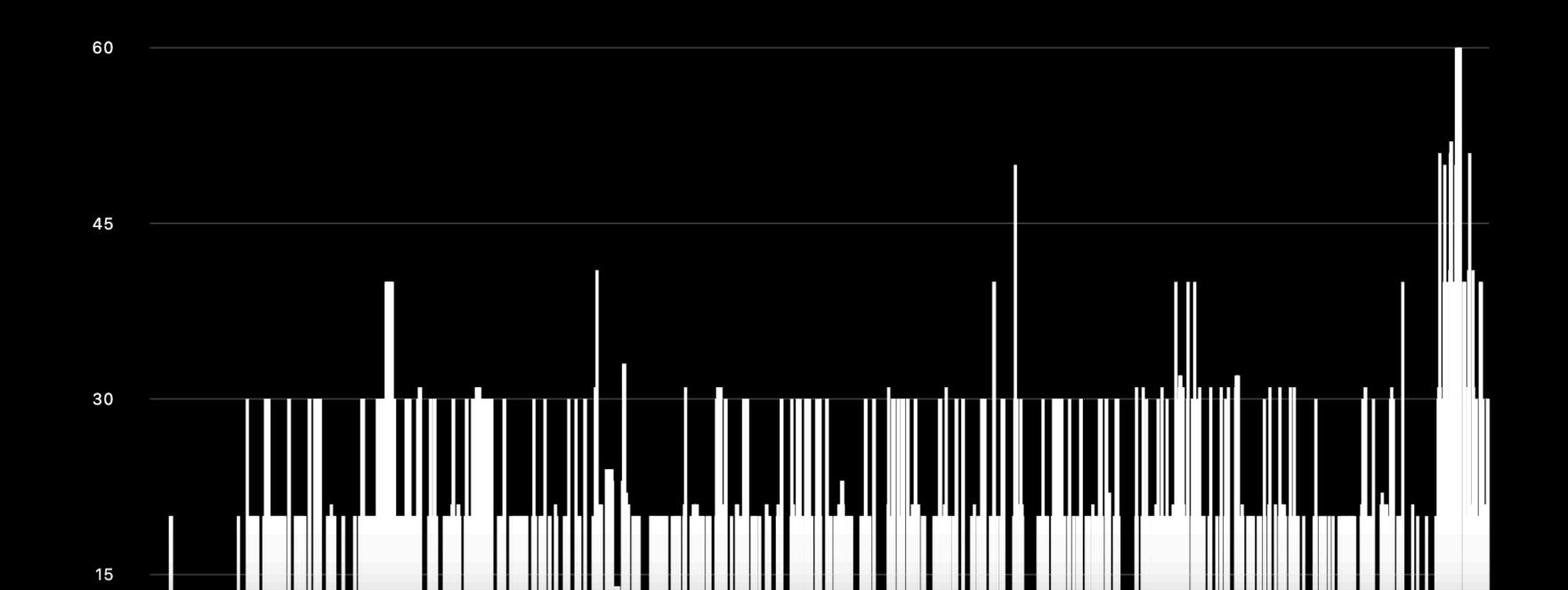
Average score

16

Max score

60

Base 10 specificity score for each selector by source order. Generally, lower scores and flatter curves are better for maintainability. Learn More





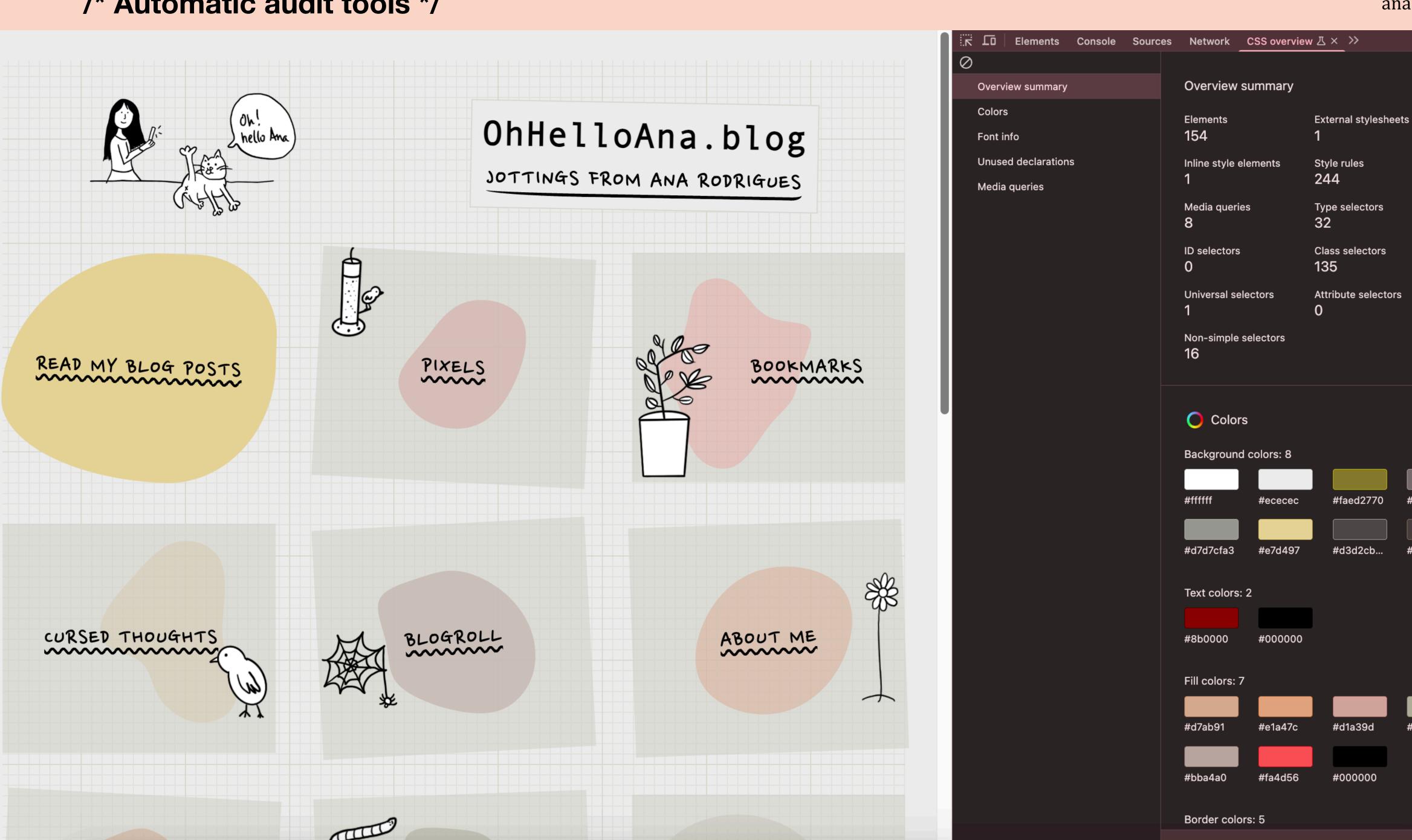
anarodrigues.dev

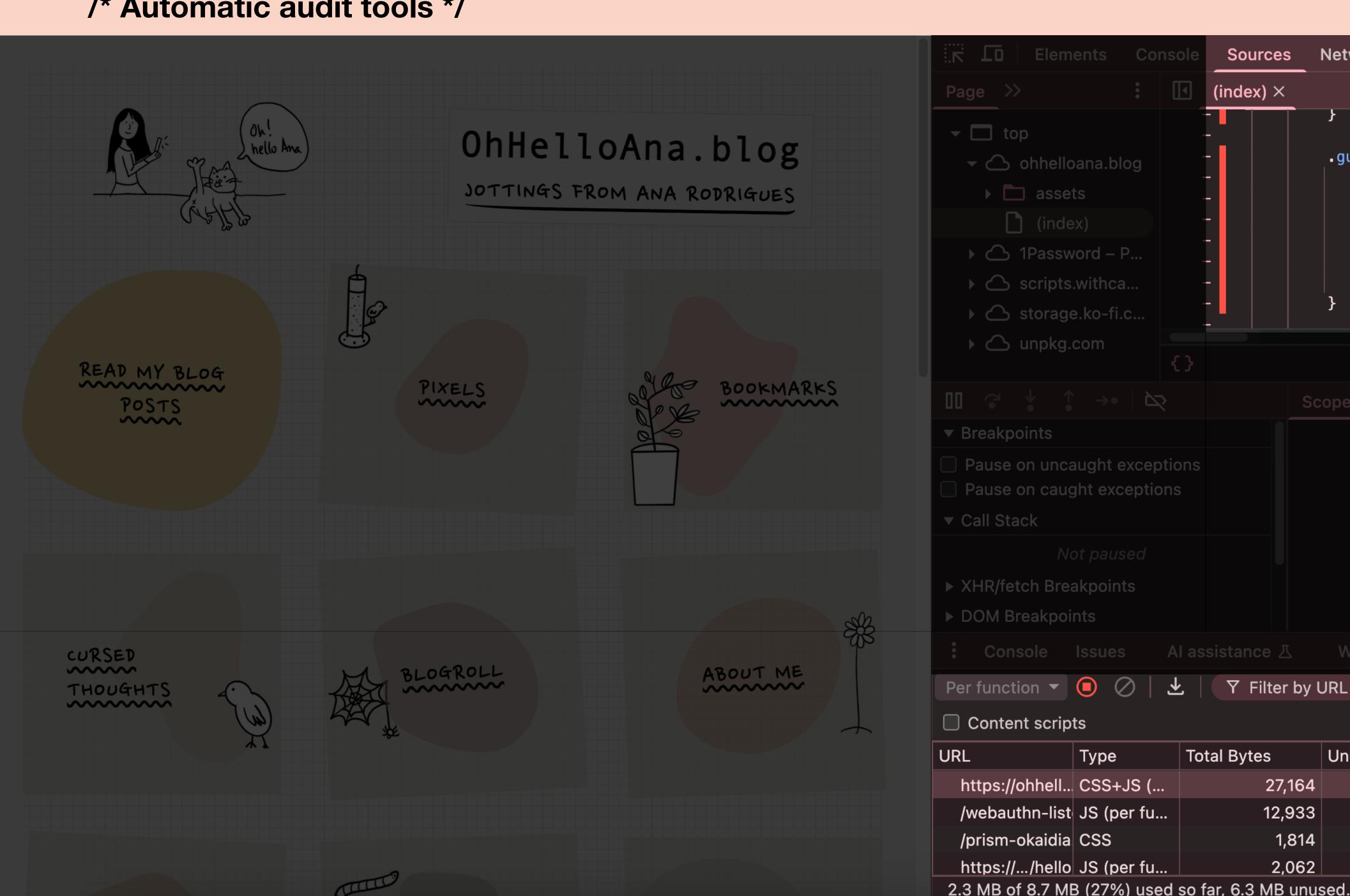
▲1 **□**1

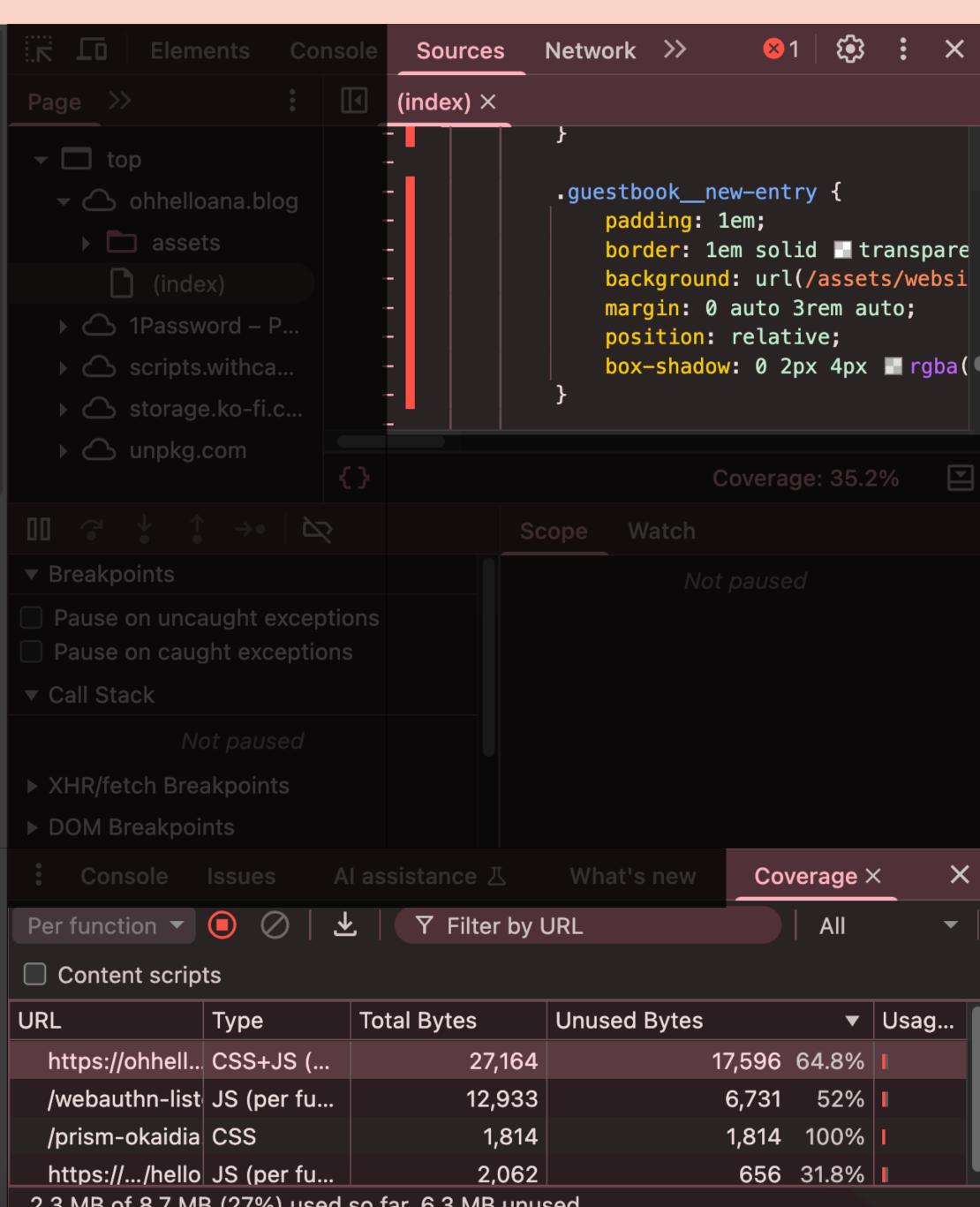
#e0d9da.

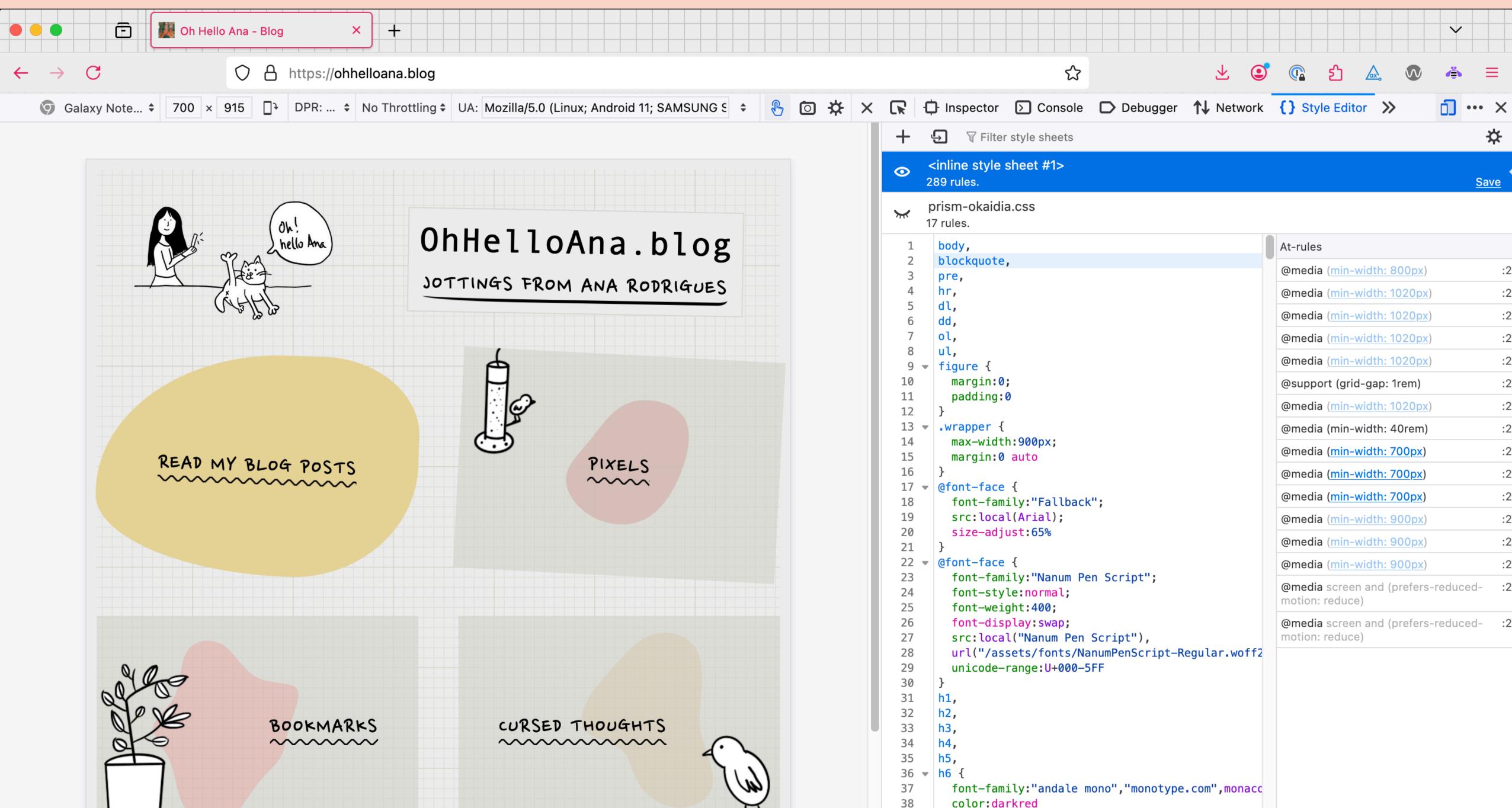
#a9a38e...

#b1ac9c

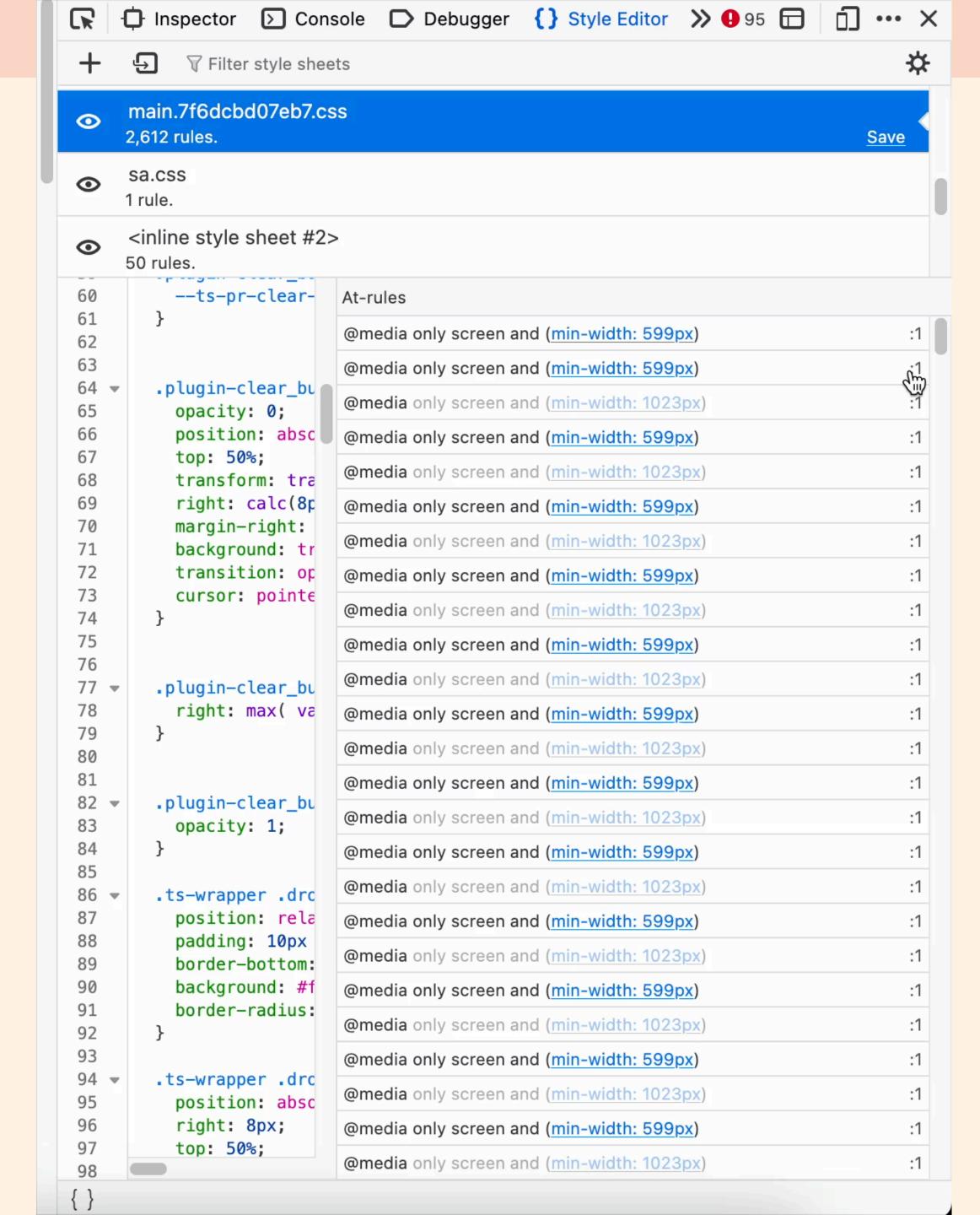








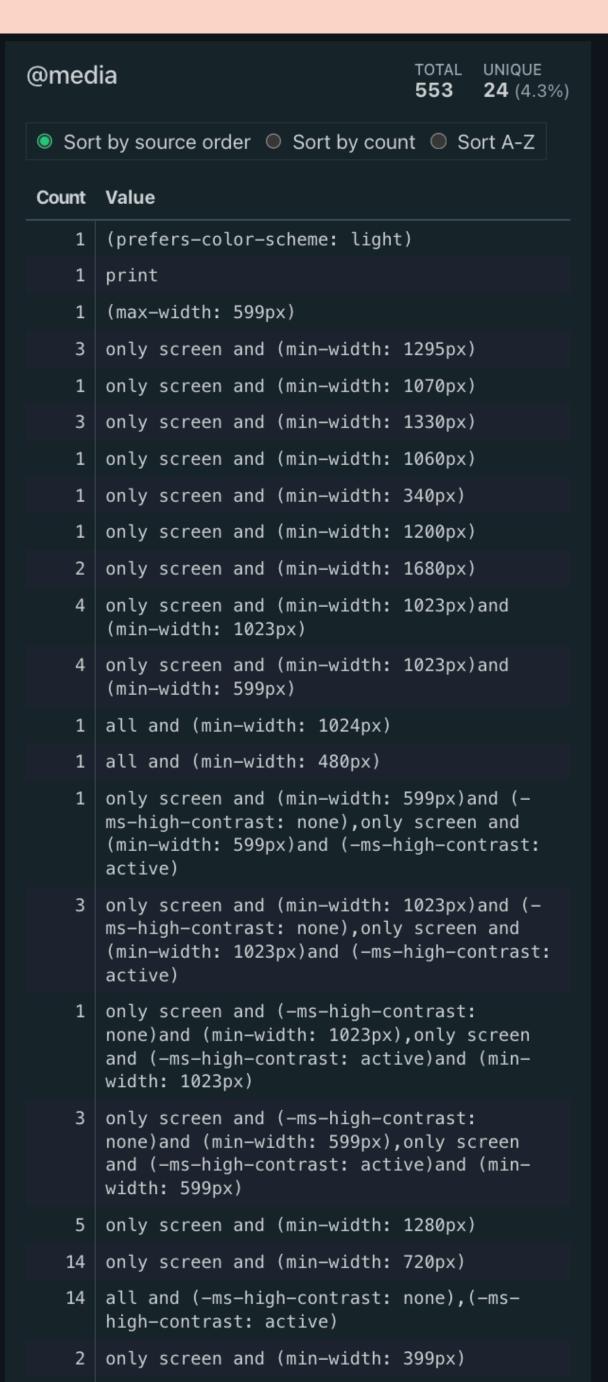
This may be necessary complexity or a sign that the designs were strict and fluid layouts were not applied here.

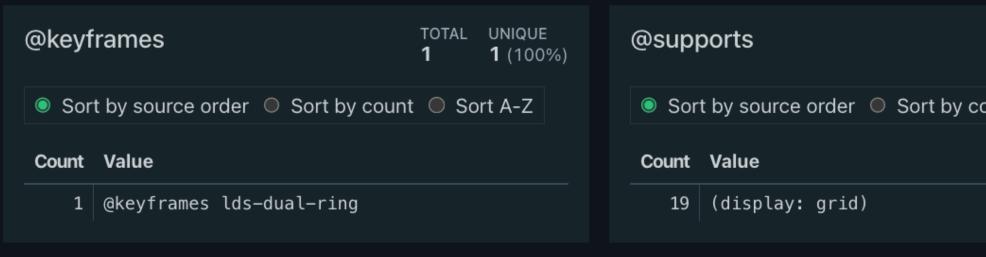


anarodrigues.dev

anarodrigues.dev







When you run a CSS automated audit, the high numbers in reports can seem alarming, but they might be completely appropriate for your project.

Automated tools cannot distinguish between necessary complexity and technical debt.



Practical next steps



Document low hanging technical debt in tickets.



Label the "quick wins" for momentum.



Ask questions.

/* Practical next steps */



Google Analytics | Baseline Checker

A tool to help Google Analytics users determine the best Baseline target for their site, based on their users.

How it works

Step 1: Export your browser usage data from Google Analytics (learn how).

Step 2: Import that data using the <u>tool below</u> to generate a report.

Step 3: Use this report to help you choose the best Baseline target for you.

Import your Google Analytics data

Drag & Drop file here, or click to choose a file 1

https://github.com/web-platform-dx/baseline-status https://chrome.dev/google-analytics-baseline-checker https://web.dev/articles/how-to-choose-your-baseline-target

Create your baseline wish list

Note: All data imported into this tool is processed entirely



Wait
& find the pain
points



Dear Diary...

What is causing me to take longer to make a change or add a new feature?

What normally comes back as a bug after we work on this codebase?

What do I dread to touch?

Could anyone arrive to this project and make this change?

Is it a real problem or just not done to my taste?



Whenever we add a new feature that allows some rich text to be added via the CMS, the utility class the project currently uses adds extra margins to the container as well as to all the paragraphs.

This means **lots has to be reset every time in new features**. Especially if only one paragraph of text is added.



The new spacing guidelines are very different from the existing ones in the codebase.

Whenever we add a new feature, it inherits the existing spacing and we have to overwrite it to match the new designs.



The same template is being re-used for multiple differently styled cards so we have go in deep in specificity.

It takes takes time to make sure we're changing the correct thing.



There's a lot of unnecessary code. Nearly all the code is written inside some @supports which are now baseline.

Whenever we make changes to that code, we need to pay extra attention to where we are adding it.

Project managers Delivery managers Business analysts Product strategist Talking to Product owners Productlead Product director Feature owner Innovation lead





Actual design systems ROI: scalability, collaboration, speed, cohesive brand. You can't guess how much money your design system saved you! Product people like that though.



Product people are tasked with delivering experiences that make money.
Or at minimum, don't lose money.

Metrics like reduced file size or faster loading times are great, but if your website is primarily visited by people on fast connections, they won't make a significant business impact.

/* Talking to product */

anarodrigues.dev

When you enhance the codebase for developer experience, the value takes time to materialise.



If a bug fix isn't tied to a specific requirement or feature, it gets labeled as "tech debt" and shoved to the bottom of the backlog. And let's be honest: "tech debt" is corporate-speak for "we'll deal with this never."



Can you convince the product owner to refactor a dormant website?

Probably not.



How do we get the money back from investing your time doing this?

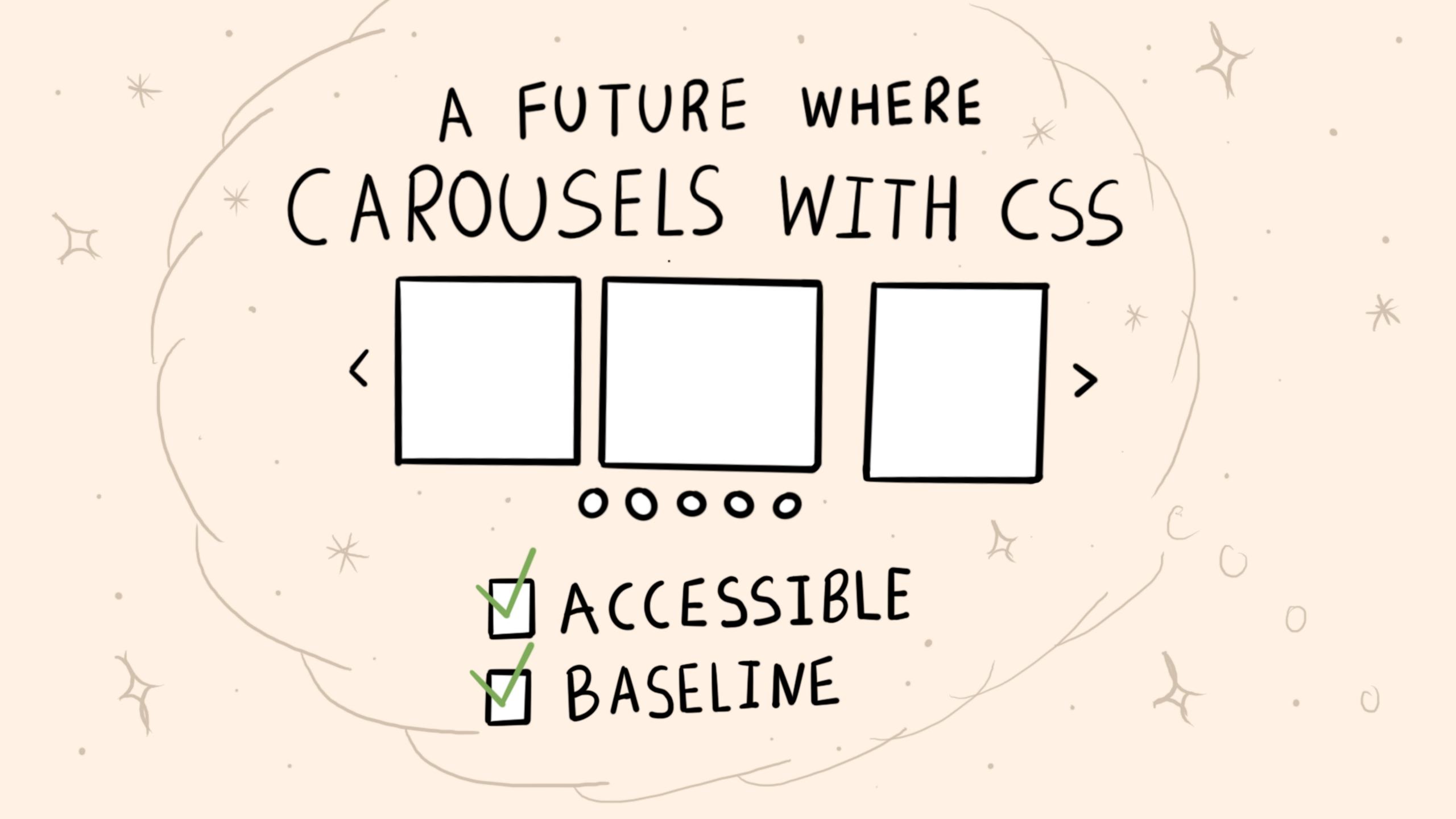
/* Talking to product */



How does this mitigate risk?

If we don't do this, this very annoying thing can happen and it will delay many other things.





/* Talking to product */





You love the craft.



Not your personal website.



Employer doesn't want you to work for free.

Future Carousels with CSS - Attempt #1

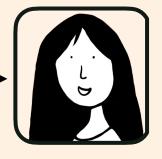
Hey! So you know how we use those carousels on the website? I think we should replace it with "CSS Carousels". Here's an example.





What is wrong with the current implementation?

It works! But it is using a third party library and it's always good to delete some code and remove reliance on javascript.

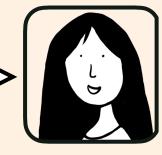


Future Carousels with CSS - Attempt #1



Is the 3rd party library still being supported?

Humm. Maybe? I just checked the repo. It hasn't been updated in a while but I guess there isn't a reason to?





I'm not sure if that's where we should be focusing now since it works.



Mitigating the risk of third party fallout.

/* Talking to product */



Are we limited with how it looks like?

Is the UX improved, does it feel more native?

Does it unlock any new features?



Can we reproduce the exact same design?

Future Carousels with CSS - Attempt #2

Hey! So I learned about this web feature and now that it is safe to implement I think we should use it on this component we have on our website.

We've been pretty good with the accessibility overall and refactoring this component to use something that we know is accessible will increase our confidence.





Mitigating the risk of accessibility standards increase

Future Carousels with CSS - Attempt #3

Hey! So since we have some hours per sprint for personal development and I learned about this web feature and now that it is safe to implement I think we should use it on this component we have on our website.

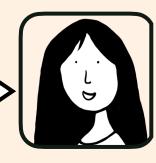
I would like to spend my time this upcoming sprint experimenting with this.



Personal development is part of the job!!

Addressing pain points

Hello! We have a lot of CSS inside @supports to cater for IE11 users. This makes changes really time consuming and prone to errors. Is IE11 still a browser we support?





Hi! Huh, so I had a look and looks like we haven't had a single visitor using IE11 in the past 6 months. Let's remove it then. We need a time estimate though.

Addressing pain points

Good question. Let me think about it and get back to you. It's is happening in a lot of features so we also will need to test them all.





Okay. Let me know when you have a time estimate but it might be a while until we have time in a sprint to book that amount of work.

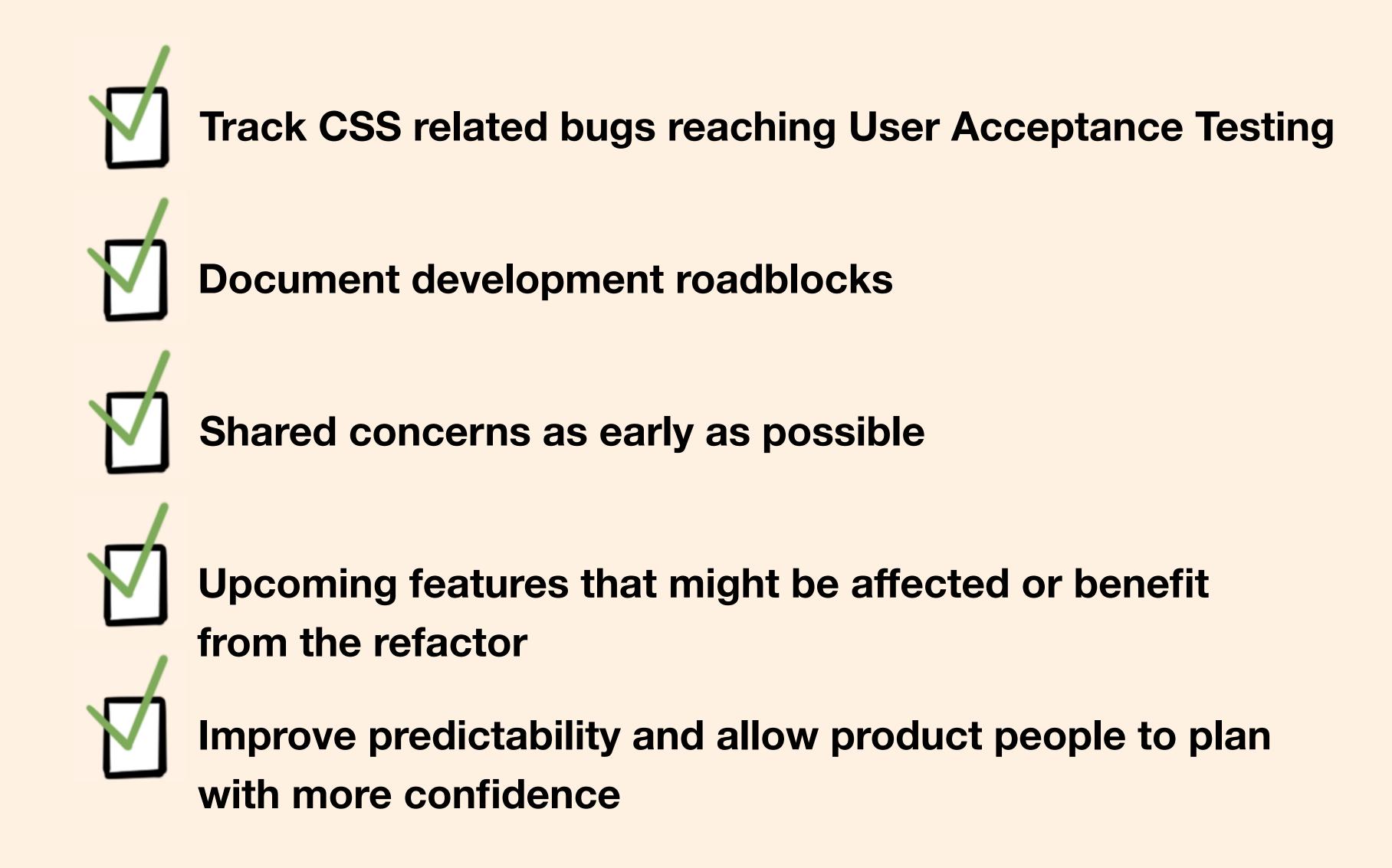
Addressing pain points

Good question. Let me think about it and get back to you. It's is happening in a lot of features so we also will need to test them all.





Right! Okay. In that case, instead of doing it in one go let's attach that work to when we're working on those features so that testing is included instead of doing a general regression testing.





Don't procrastinate. Messes only grow with time. You can easily make excuses and hold off on doing something until the conditions are right, or things seems stable.

Perfection isn't possible, but progress is.





So you got the green light to proceed.

Refactor by component/feature



Strategy, Regression Testing and Maintenance (Part 2)

```
V styles
V base
base.css
V components
refactored-component.css
overrides.css
> print
main.css
```

The team



Ana Rodrigues

Web Developer

Visit profile

```
.card {
   /* styles here */
}
.card--events {
   /* styles here */
}
.card--person {
   /* styles here */
}
```

Which animals will you sponsor?

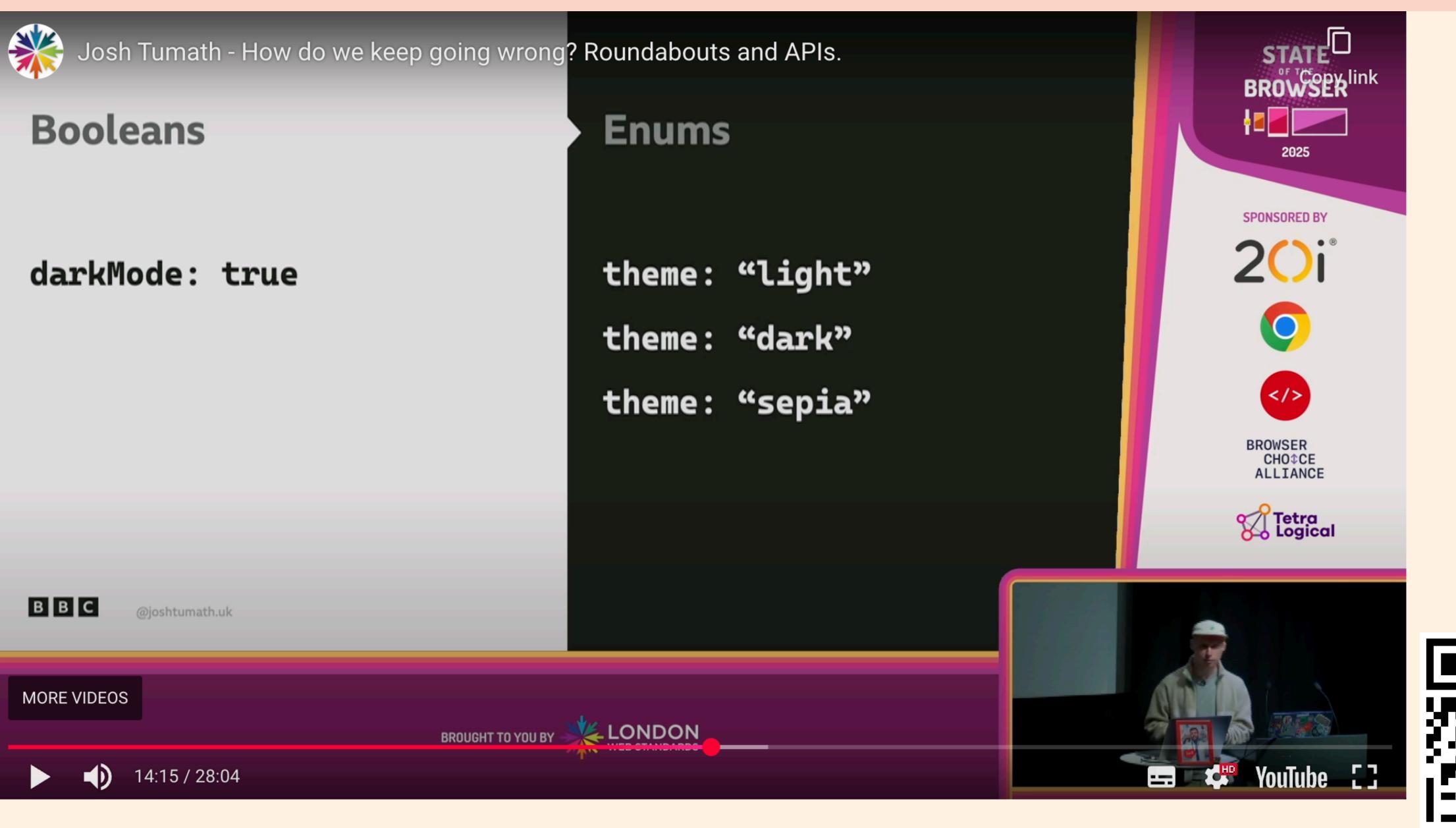


Cute & Cuddly

From guinea pigs to sheep.

Visit profiles

```
.card {
   /* styles here */
}
.card--events {
   /* styles here */
}
.card--person {
   /* styles here */
}
```





The team



Ana Rodrigues

Front-end developer hello@anarodrigu.es

Visit profile

Which animals will you sponsor?



Marshmallow

Type: Sheep

Age: 5 years

Visit profiles

```
.card {
   /* styles here */
.card[data-type="event"]{
   /* styles here */
.card[data-type="person"] {
   /* styles here */
.card[data-type="sponsor"] {
    /* styles here */
```

```
.progress-bar {
   /* styles here */
.progress-bar[data-status="loading"] {
   /* styles here */
.progress-bar[data-status="success"] {
   /* styles here */
.progress-bar[data-status="error"] {
   /* styles here */
```



```
.card {
   border: 10px solid var(--brand-color);
}
.card[data-border-collapse~="top"] { border-top: 0; }
.card[data-border-collapse~="right"] { border-right: 0; }
.card[data-border-collapse~="bottom"] { border-bottom: 0; }
.card[data-border-collapse~="left"] { border-left: 0; }

<div class="card" data-border-collapse="left right"></div>
```



Bring CSS logical properties and values

```
.card {
    padding-top: 20px;
    padding-right: 10px;
    padding-block-start: 20px;
    padding-block-end: 10px;
    padding-left: 10px;
}
.card {
    padding-block-start: 20px;
    padding-inline-end: 10px;
    padding-left: 10px;
}
```



& more...

Do maintenance every time you work on a component as testing will be included.

What about automated testing?



Progress...
not perfection.



Progress...
not perfection.

Writing tidy and non-chaotic CSS is a skill.



front-end.social/@anarodrigues bsky.app/profile/ohhelloana.blog