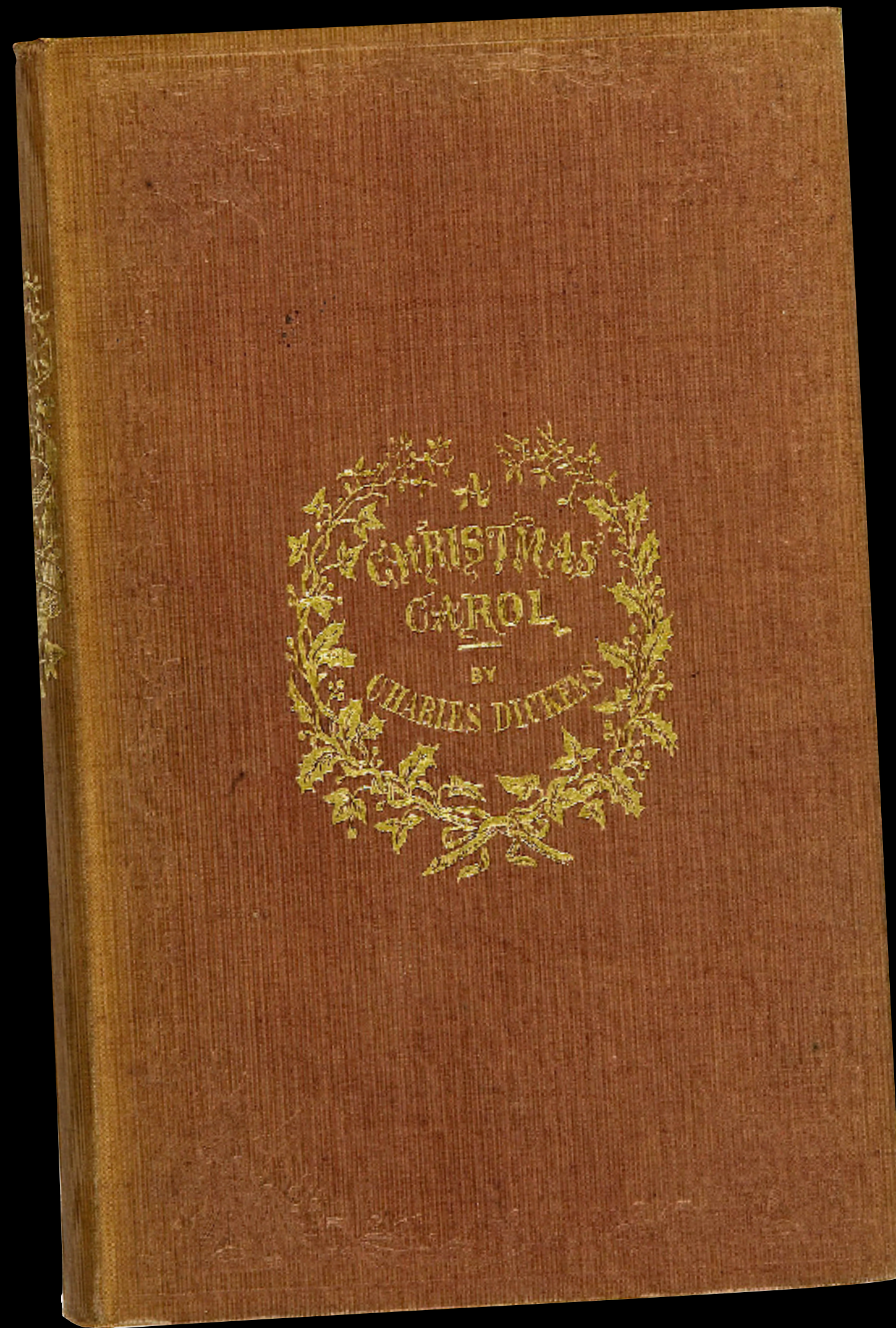




A Ghost Story *of* CSS

as told by Stephen Hay at Fronteers 2017

@stephenhay



*A Christmas Carol in Prose,
Being a Ghost-Story of Christmas*

Ghost *of* CSS Past





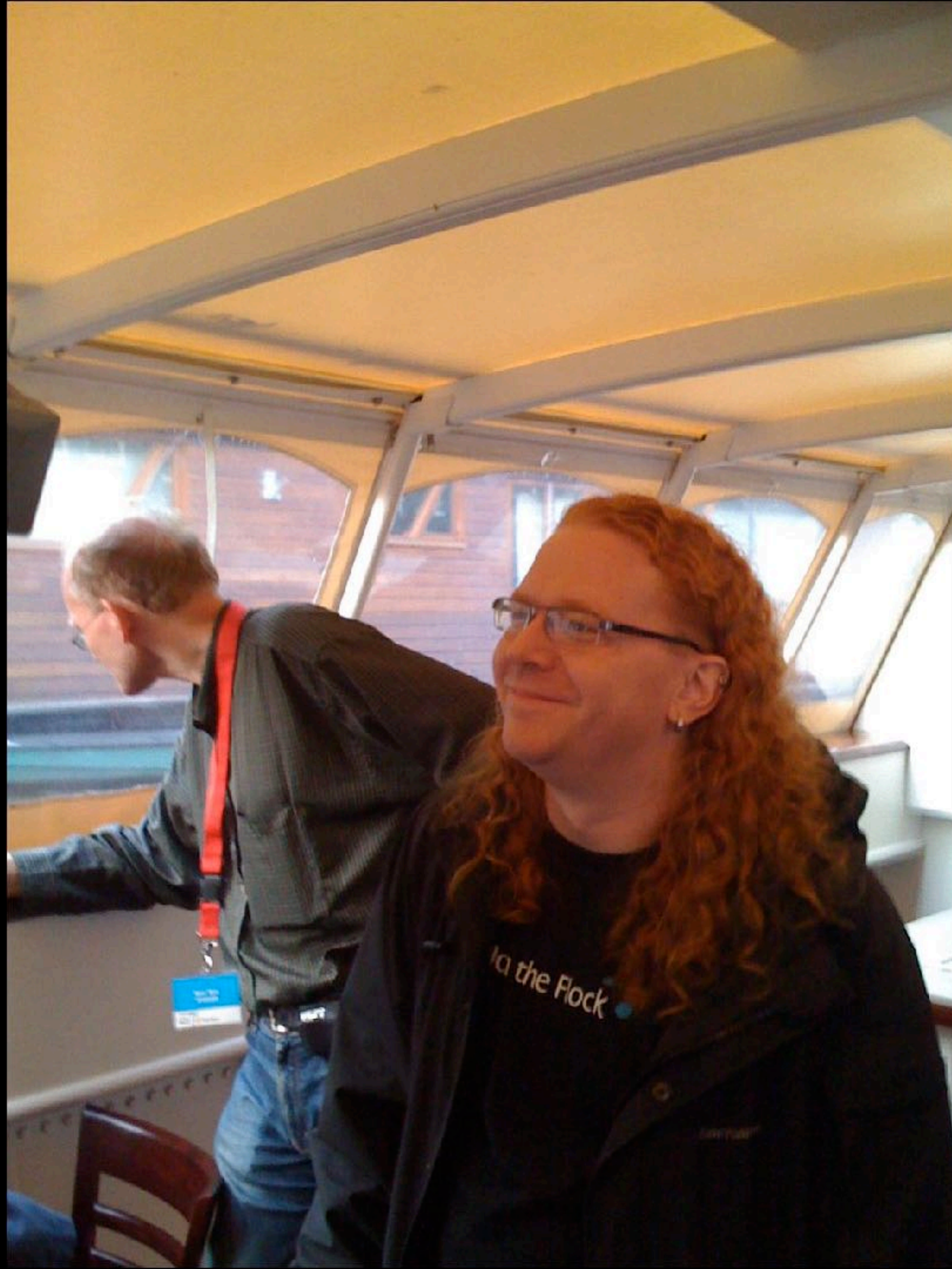
Photo by Alper Çuğun: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/alper/1403915234/>



AARGGH! My left hand is gone!



Photo by Bart: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/acbo/1470718525/>



*OH NO! There goes my
Template Layout spec!*

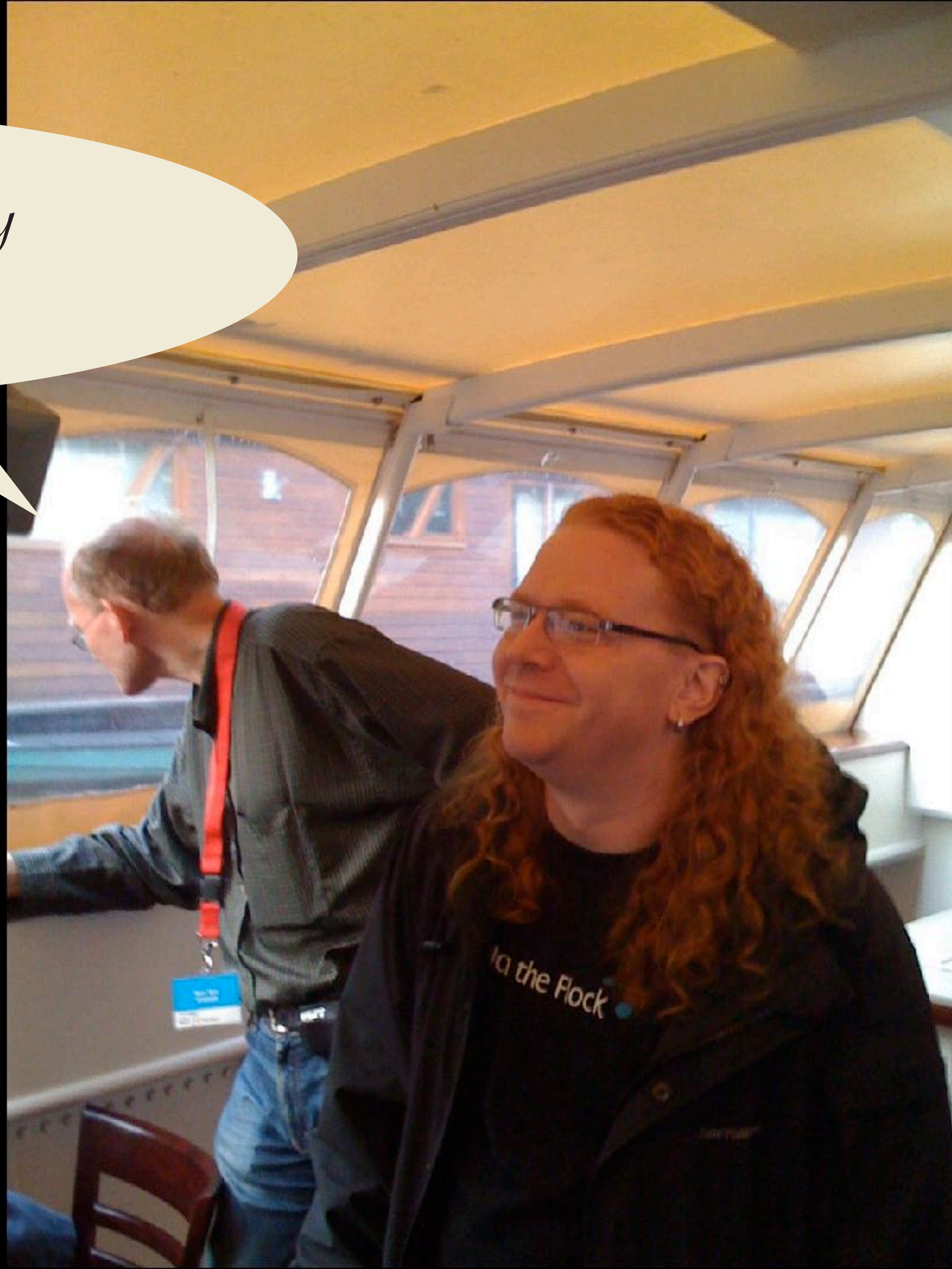




Photo by RobertG NL: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blueace/2847704261>



Photo by RobertG NL: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blueace/2847704261>



Stephen Hay

@stephenhay



Show me some CSS you used 10 years ago, compared with how you'd do it with today's CSS. Best one gets on a slide in my [@FronteersConf](#) deck.

8:01 PM - 2 Oct 2017

16 Retweets 22 Likes



 26

 16

 22





Stuart Robson @StuRobson · Oct 2



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

the only thing I got that's old, is more like 16 years ago :-O

(still works by the looks of it too)

```
</head>
<frameset rows="97,354*" frameborder="NO" border="0" framespacing="0" cols="*">
  <frame name="topFrame" scrolling="NO" noresize src="NavBar.htm">
    #document
    <html>
      <head>_</head>
      <body bgcolor="#CCFFCC" text="#000000" onload="MM_preloadImages('nav/
nav_r2_c1_f2.gif')">
        <table width="500" border="0" align="center">
          <tbody>
            <tr>_ $0
              <td height="42">
                <div align="right">
                  <p>
                    
                  </p>
                  <p>_</p>
                </div>
              </td>
              <td height="42">_</td>
            </tr>
          </tbody>
        </table>
        <div align="center"></div>
      </body>
    </html>
  </frame>
  <frame name="mainFrame" src="Main.htm">_</frame>
</frameset>
```



1



3





Stephen Hay

@stephenhay



Replying to [@StuRobson](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

That's HTML, my friend.

8:08 PM - 2 Oct 2017

5 Likes





Stuart Robson

@StuRobson

Following



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

I need another drink.

8:08 PM - 2 Oct 2017





Mikael Jergefelt ⚡

@dermike

Follow



Replying to @stephenhay

Looking back more like 15 years it was
apparently all in-line CSS for me 😎

```
56 ▼ <div id="menu_about" style="position:absolute; top:126px; left:60px; visibility:visible; z-index:3">
57 ▼ <table border="0" cellspacing="0" cellpadding="0" width="275">
58 ▼ <tr><td width="275">
59 ▼ <font size="1" face="arial" color="#333333">
60   <font color="black">What is this?</font><br>
61   <br>
62   Text<br>
63   <br>
64   <font color="black">Who am I then?</font><br>
65   <br>
66   Text<br>
67   <br>
68   <a href="mailto:mike@redvolume.com" style="text-decoration:none">mike@redvolume.com</a>
69 </font>
70 </td></tr>
71 </table>
72 </div>
```

8:12 PM - 2 Oct 2017



Alex Morris

@aexmo

Following



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

Float:left replaced by every other possible
thing

9:53 PM - 2 Oct 2017



Stuart Robson

@StuRobson

Following



Replying to [@aexmo](#) [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

then back to float: left;

am I right.

10:24 PM - 2 Oct 2017



Samia Ruponti

@Snowbell1992

Follow



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

Transparent pngs for rounded corners,
anyone? There's a zoom trick too, but I'm
too sleepy to remember what it did.

8:48 PM - 2 Oct 2017



Hidde

@hdv

Following



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

I found this in a stylesheet named ie6.css.
It's from 2010, when I used tabs and BEM
didn't exist yet.

```
.controls li {  
  zoom: 1;  
}
```

5:09 PM - 3 Oct 2017

1 Like



2



1





Wim van Iersel

@banaan666

Follow



Replying to @hdv @stephenhay @FronteersConf

Isn't that one of those hasLayout hacks?
Aarrrrghhhhhhhh the nightmares are coming
back to me

10:02 PM - 3 Oct 2017



Instagram

Search

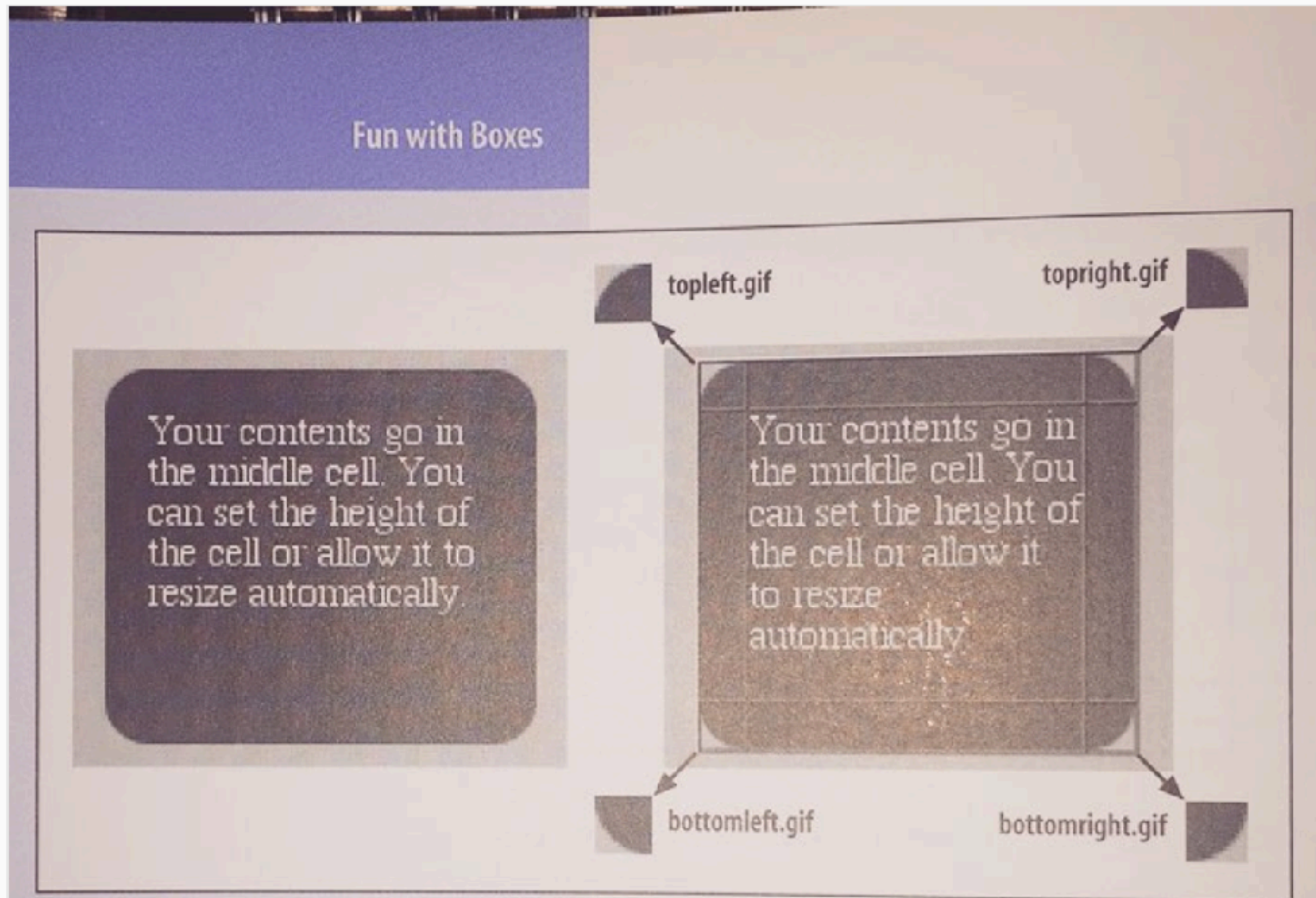


Figure 19-5. This rounded box is made of a 9-cell table with four graphics for corners



mikemartin604

Follow

mikemartin604 Remember where you came from.

maidenskull Gross ;)

chuckbergeron spacer.gif



Instagram

Search



Fun with Boxes

Your contents go in the middle cell. You can set the height of the cell or allow it to resize automatically.



Figure 19-5. This rounded box is made of a 9-cell table with four graphics for corners



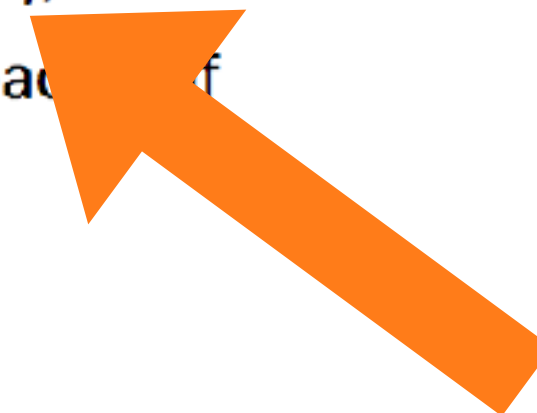
mikemartin604

Follow

mikemartin604 Remember where you came from.

maidenskull Gross ;)

chuckbergeron space of





Rik Schennink

@rikschennink

Follow



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

2005: Magic numbers, absolute positioning, id's, basically (ab)using divs to create a table layout. Nowadays it's all flexbox/grid > fluid.

```
#header {  
  position: absolute;  
  top: 0px;  
  left: 0px;  
  width: 677px;  
  height: 88px;  
  padding-left: 82px;  
  padding-top: 30px;  
  background-image: url(../imgs/headerback.gif);  
  background-repeat: no-repeat;  
  z-index: 3;  
}
```

9:07 AM - 3 Oct 2017

2 Likes





JulezRulez @JulezRulez · Oct 3



Replying to @wnas @stephenhay and 2 others

oh ja, ik heb een oudere gevonden: <body bgColor="#0000FF" text="#FFFFFF" link="#FFFF00" vlink="#C0C0C0">

Translate from Dutch



Wilfred Nas @wnas · Oct 3



Replying to @petervangrieken @stephenhay and 2 others

nope, vroeger was het nog veel mooier. <p bgcolor="white">yahoo</p>

Translate from Dutch




```
@import url("layout.css");
@import url("layoutpresentation.css");
@import url("text.css");
@import url("print.css") print;
```

Maarten Brouwers @murb · Oct 3

Replying to @stephenhay @FronteersConf

Not much has changed :)

```
@import 'settings.fonts.scss';
@import 'settings.orgname.scss';
-
@import 'elements.scss';
-
@import 'objects.card.scss';
@import 'objects.card-group.scss';
@import 'objects.meta.scss';
@import 'objects.panel.scss';
@import 'objects.visualized.scss';
@import 'objects.warnings.scss';
-
@import 'components.aside.scss';
@import 'components.breadcrumbs.scss';
@import 'components.callout.scss';
@import 'components.forms.scss';
@import 'components.header.scss';
@import 'components.hero.scss';
@import 'components.list.infinite.scss';
@import 'components.pagehead.scss';
@import 'components.tabs.scss';
@import 'components.top-bar.scss';
@import 'components.user-area.scss';
@import 'components.viewer.scss';
```

Maarten Brouwers @murb · Oct 3

Replying to @stephenhay @FronteersConf

Not much has changed :)



Robert Jan Verkade

@verkade

Following



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

Dit is van 10 jaar geleden...

```
#functions #sf-zoek form{  
/* IE5/Mac hack */  
width:13em;  
/*\*/width:auto;/**/  
}
```

Translate from Dutch

3:14 PM - 3 Oct 2017



Robert Jan Verkade

@verkade

Following



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

Dat zou ik nu anders schrijven...

```
.search {  
  width:auto  
}
```

 Translate from Dutch

3:17 PM - 3 Oct 2017



james williamson

@jameswillweb

Following



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

500 lines of code to vertically center an item
versus

```
.container {  
  align-items: center;  
}
```

3:57 PM - 3 Oct 2017

1 Retweet 7 Likes



1



7



CSS Hacks



Robert Jan Verkade

@verkade

Following



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

Dit is van 10 jaar geleden...

```
#functions #sf-zoek form{  
/* IE5/Mac hack */  
width:13em;  
/*\*/width:auto;/**/  
}
```

Translate from Dutch

3:14 PM - 3 Oct 2017



Hidde

@hdv

Following



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I found this in a stylesheet named ie6.css.
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didn't exist yet.

```
.controls li {  
  zoom: 1;  
}
```

5:09 PM - 3 Oct 2017

1 Like



2

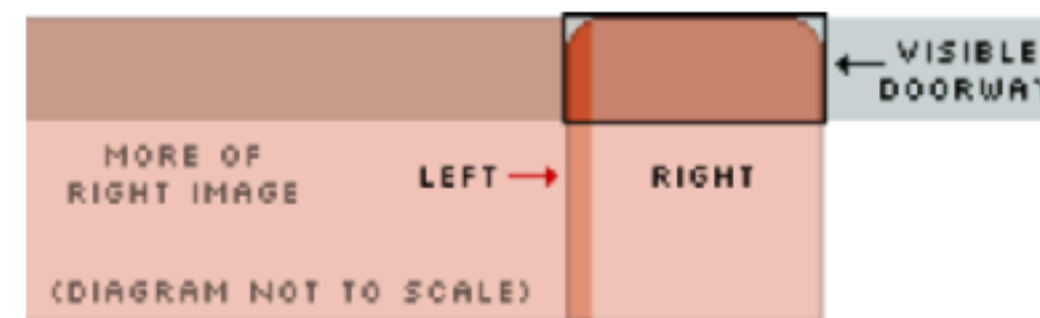


1

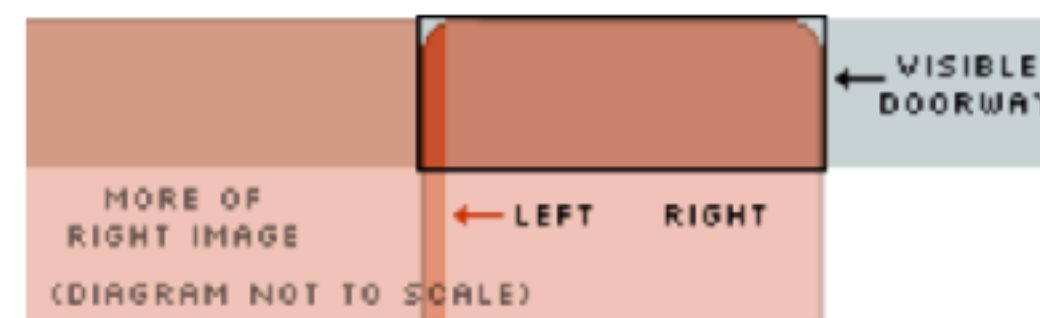


Ingenuity

Keep in mind that background images only show in the available “doorway” of the element to which they’re applied (content area + padding). The two images are anchored to the outside corners of their respective elements. The visible portions of these background images fit together inside the doorway to form a tab-like shape:



If the tab is forced to a larger size, the images slide apart, filling a wider doorway, revealing more of each image:



“Rounded corners”

The Haystack

Web. Design. Web design.

[Home](#)[Book](#)[Speaking](#)[Work](#)[About Stephen](#)

My two cents on rounded-corner markup

🕒 March 16, 2006 📁 Design, Web

(2009-10-22: This is an old article, I would say deprecated, and you really shouldn't be doing things this way, with the `border-radius` property being supported in various forms in most current browsers.)

(2006-04-18: The [demo](#) has been updated and expanded upon.)

I need rounded corners for a design I'm working on. A discussion of *why* I need them is pointless (I know they're trendy, but in this case they can be considered *defining visual elements*). However, an examination of how to implement them is quite interesting.

Buy my Book



The book discusses why web design workflow is the way it is, the challenges relating to responsive design, and presents a different view on current processes and deliverables.


```
<div class="rounded">
  <div class="boxhead">
    <h2>This is a header</h2>
  </div>
  <div class="boxbody">
    <p>This is the body.</p>
  </div>
</div>
```

```
<div class="rounded">
  <div class="boxhead">
    <h2>This is a header</h2>
  </div>
  <div class="boxbody">
    <p>This is the body.</p>
  </div>
</div>
```

```
div.boxhead h2 {
  background: url("rounded.png") top left no-repeat;
}

.boxhead {
  background: url("rounded.png") top right no-repeat;
}

.boxbody {
  background: url("rounded.png") bottom right no-repeat;
}

.rounded {
  background: url("rounded.png") bottom left no-repeat;
  width: 30%; /* could be whatever you want,
               as long as your image is large enough */
}
```


Haystack rounded corners demo

Keeping it simple.

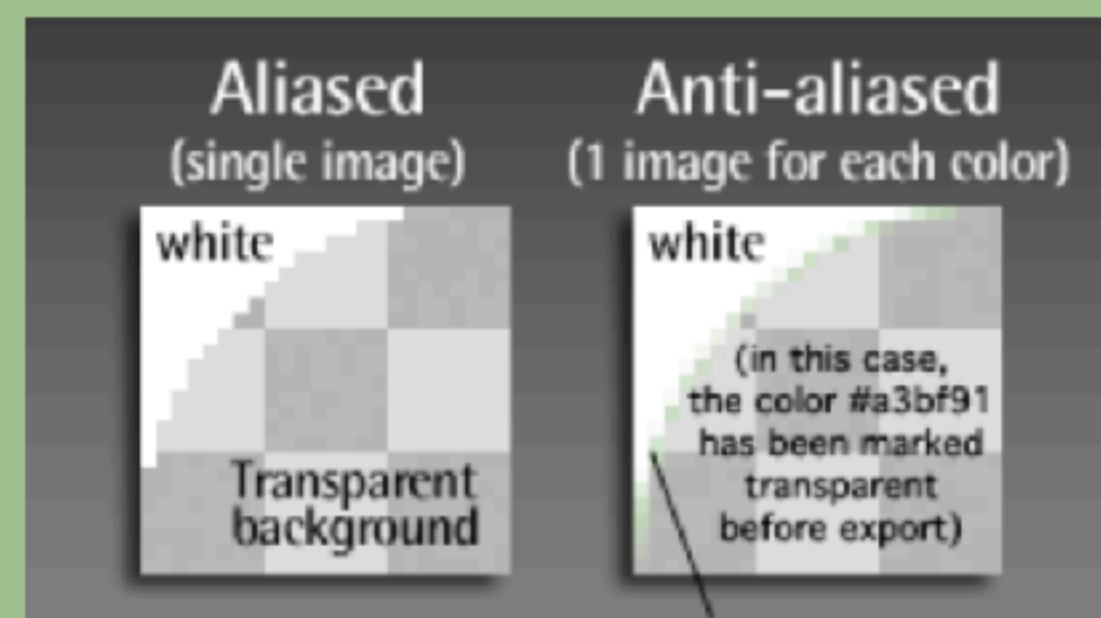
Only one image is used: a transparent rectangle with (inverted) white rounded corners (see "rounded.png"), so that you can simply call the background-color you like for each box without having to use separate images. This has the disadvantage that the corners are not as smooth as they could be.

Remember, the extent to which the box can extend vertically or horizontally will depend on the height and width of the image. That's the price we pay for single-image simplicity. For this example, I used 2000x2000px. That's 6kB, but acceptable since the cached image would be used for every rounded box on the page or site.

Take a look at the [CSS](#) for this page.

Making it smooth.

For smooth corners, you'll have to wait for sufficient PNG-24 support in common browsers, or if you know the color you'll be using, make a separate image for each color, each image with the corners anti-aliased to their respective background-color. With separate images, you'll need to hook each to a separate class or ID.



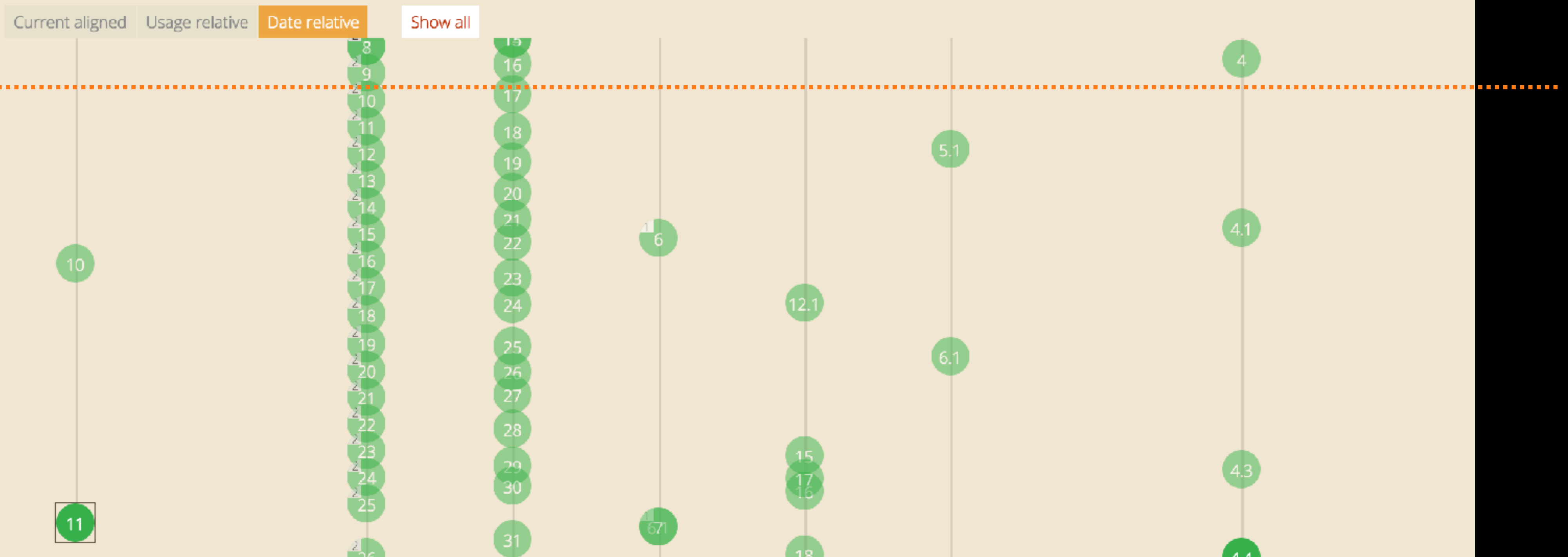
2012

CSS3 Border-radius (rounded corners) 📄 - CR

Global 95.07%

unprefixed: 95.02%

Method of making the border corners round. Covers support for the shorthand `border-radius` as well as the long-hand properties (e.g. `border-top-left-radius`)





The humble border-radius

By Lea Verou (@LeaVerou)

Layout

The Future State of
Layout

Stephen Hay . Fronteers, Amsterdam . 20091105



Photo courtesy of Kenn W. Kiser, morgueFile.com



Photo: beglib, morgueFile.com

CSS3-Grid (Microsoft)
CSS3-Flexbox (Mozilla)
CSS3-Layout (W3C)


```
<div id="parent">  
  <p id="child1">First child</p>  
  <p id="child2">Second child</p>  
  <p id="child3">Third child</p>  
</div>
```

```
#parent {  
  display: box;  
  box-orient: horizontal;  
  #child3 {  
    box-flex: 1;  
  }  
}
```

twitter

Login Join Twitter!

The global layout for A List Apart:
display { "abbb" /50px "acde" /* "ffff"
/70px 210px 370px 215px 170px } #css3-
layout-in-a-tweet

1:03 AM Oct 22nd from web



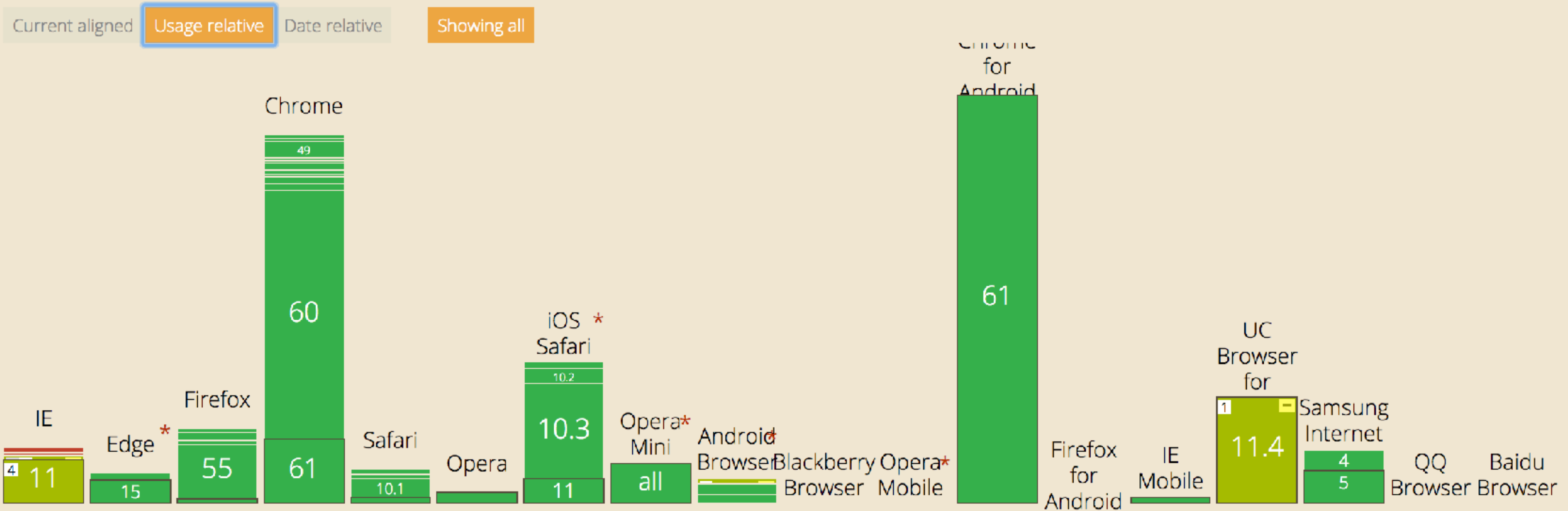
stephenhay
Stephen Hay

© 2009 Twitter [About Us](#) [Contact](#) [Blog](#) [Status](#) [Goodies](#) [API](#) [Business](#) [Help](#) [Jobs](#) [Terms](#) [Privacy](#)

CSS Flexible Box Layout Module - CR

Method of positioning elements in horizontal or vertical stacks.
Support includes all properties prefixed with `flex`, as well as `display: flex`, `display: inline-flex`, `align-content`, `align-items`, `align-self`, `justify-content` and `order`.

Global	85.95%	+	11.78%	=	97.74%
unprefixed:	85.68%	+	3.08%	=	88.76%



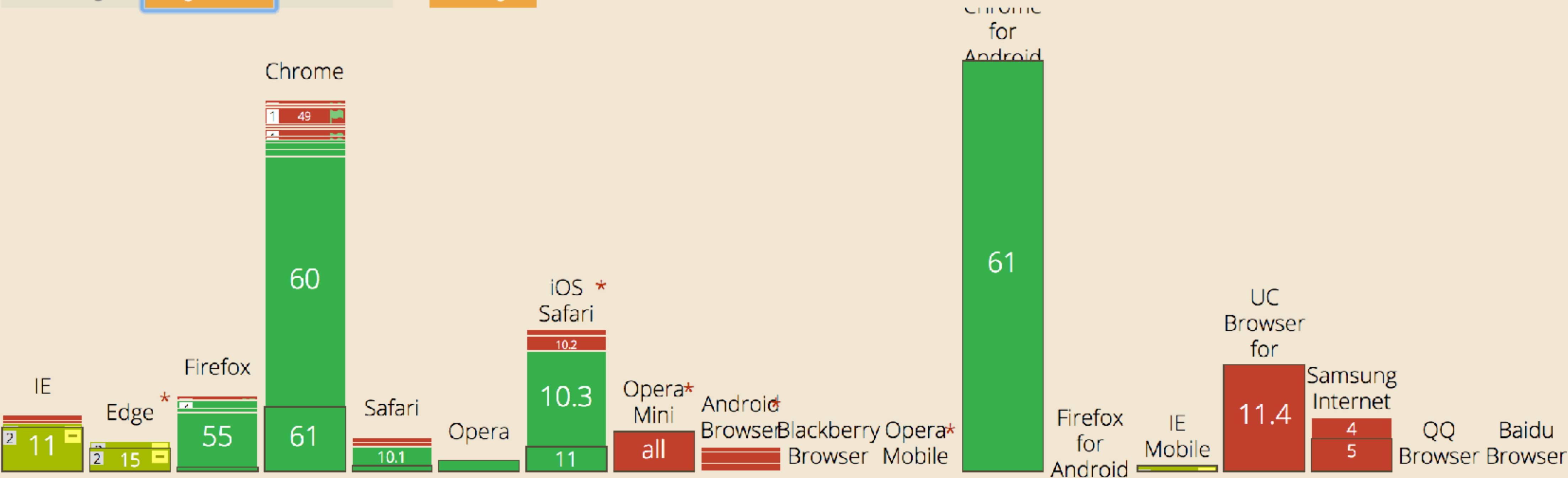
CSS Grid Layout 📄 - CR

Method of using a grid concept to lay out content, providing a mechanism for authors to divide available space for layout into columns and rows using a set of predictable sizing behaviors

Global69.53% + 5.62% = 75.15%

unprefixed:69.53%

Current alignedUsage relativeDate relativeShowing all



Media queries and responsive design



A LIST APART



Illustration by [Kevin Cornell](#)

Responsive Web Design

by [Ethan Marcotte](#) · May 25, 2010

Published in [CSS](#), [Layout & Grids](#), [Mobile/Multidevice](#), [Responsive Design](#), [Interaction Design](#)

“The control which designers know in the print medium, and often desire in the web medium, is simply a function of the limitation of the printed page. We should embrace the fact that the web doesn’t have the same constraints, and design for this flexibility. But first, we must ‘accept the ebb and flow of things.’”

@MEDIA MOBILISM AND (YEAR: 2011)



META LAYOUT

A CLOSER LOOK AT MEDIA QUERIES

BY STEPHEN HAY

Design systems and components

A NEWLY RECORDED VERSION BROUGHT TO YOU BY PUBLIC DEMAND

Walls Come Tumbling Down

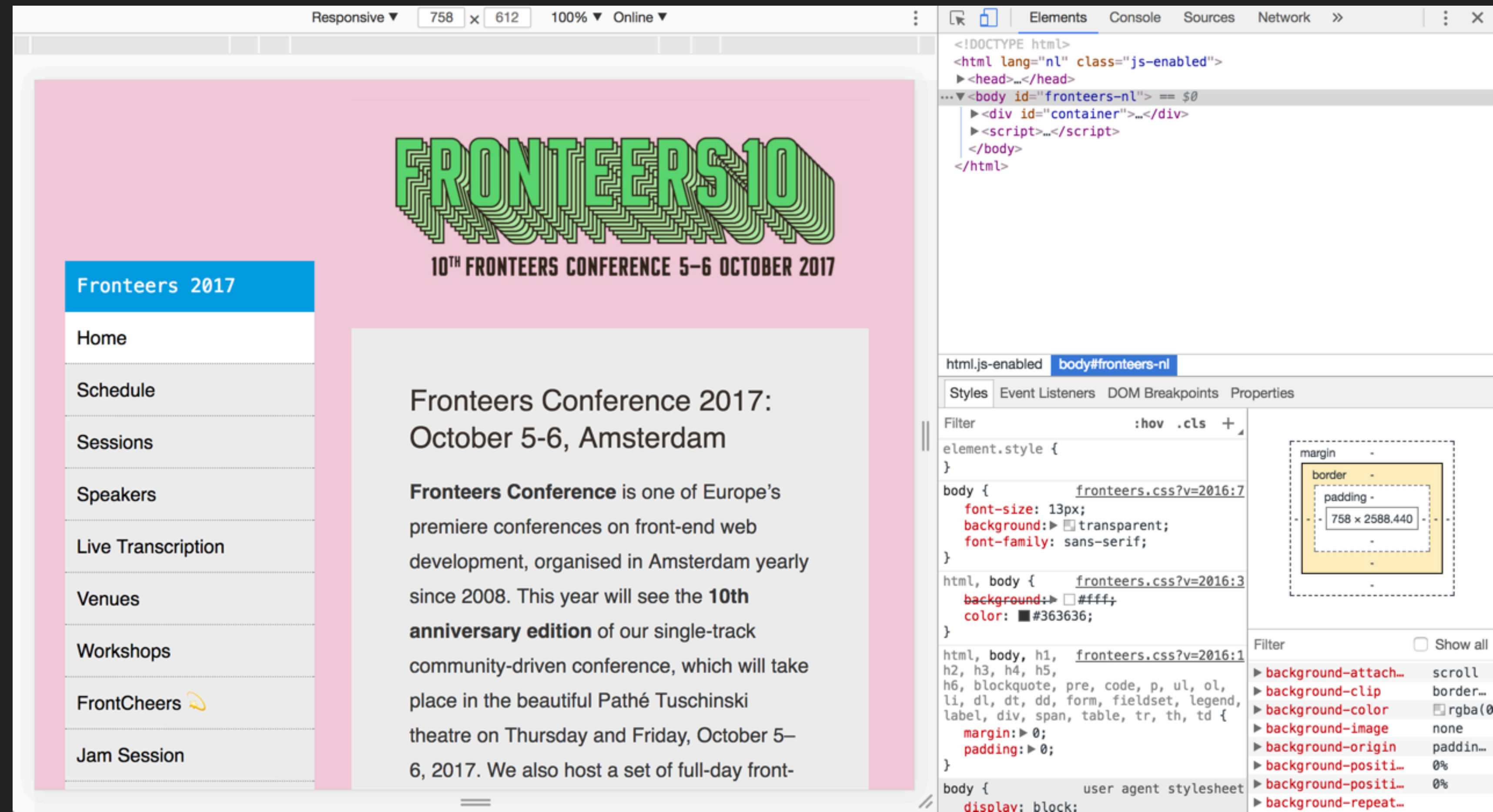
London, June 2009

Andy Clarke
Stuff and Nonsense

© 2009 FOR SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY. NOT FOR RESALE

PAGES
TO
COMPONENTS
TO
SYSTEMS

Developer tools



Preprocessors

Your laptop needs more Sass. Grab a set of Sass stickers now.



[INSTALL](#)

[LEARN SASS](#)

[BLOG](#)

[DOCUMENTATION](#)

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CSS with superpowers



Sass is the most mature, stable, and powerful professional grade CSS extension language in the world.

[Current Release: 3.5.1](#)

[Release Notes](#)

[Fork on GitHub](#)

[Implementation Guide](#)



Photo by RobertG NL: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blueace/2847704261>

Functionally Cool Style Sheets

Functionally Cool Style Sheets

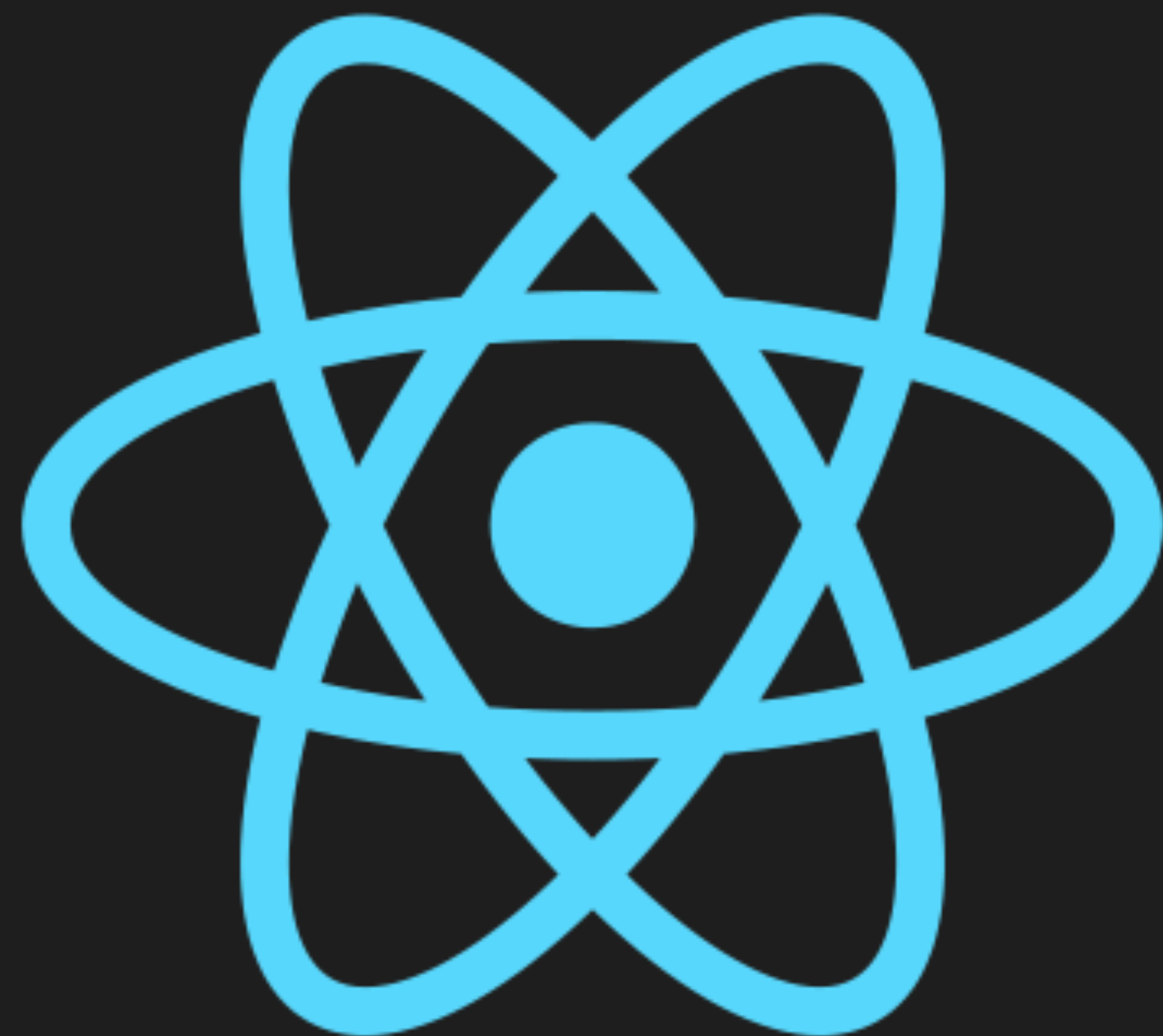
FuCSS

A lot has happened
in 10 years.

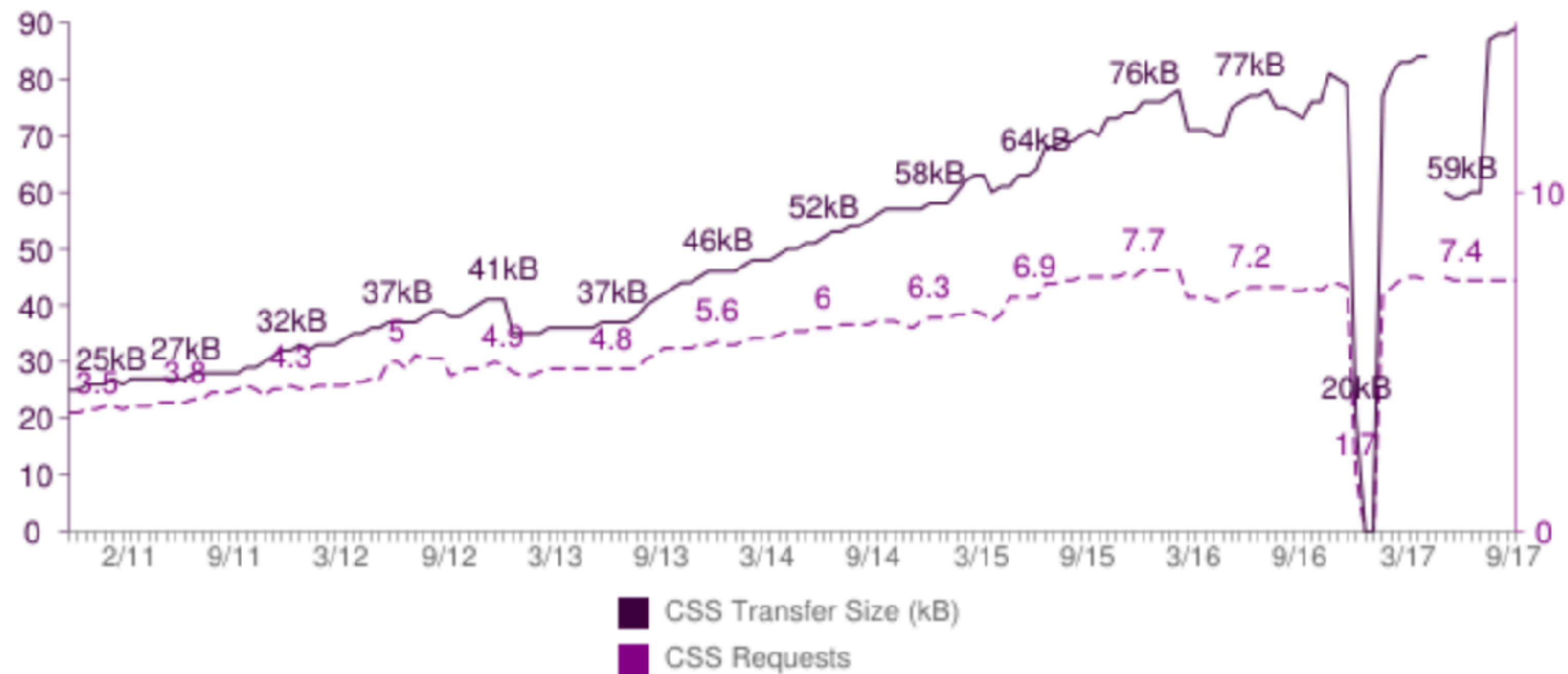
Multiple backgrounds, animations,
transitions, filters, variables, calc(),
more selectors, etc.

Ghost *of* CSS Present



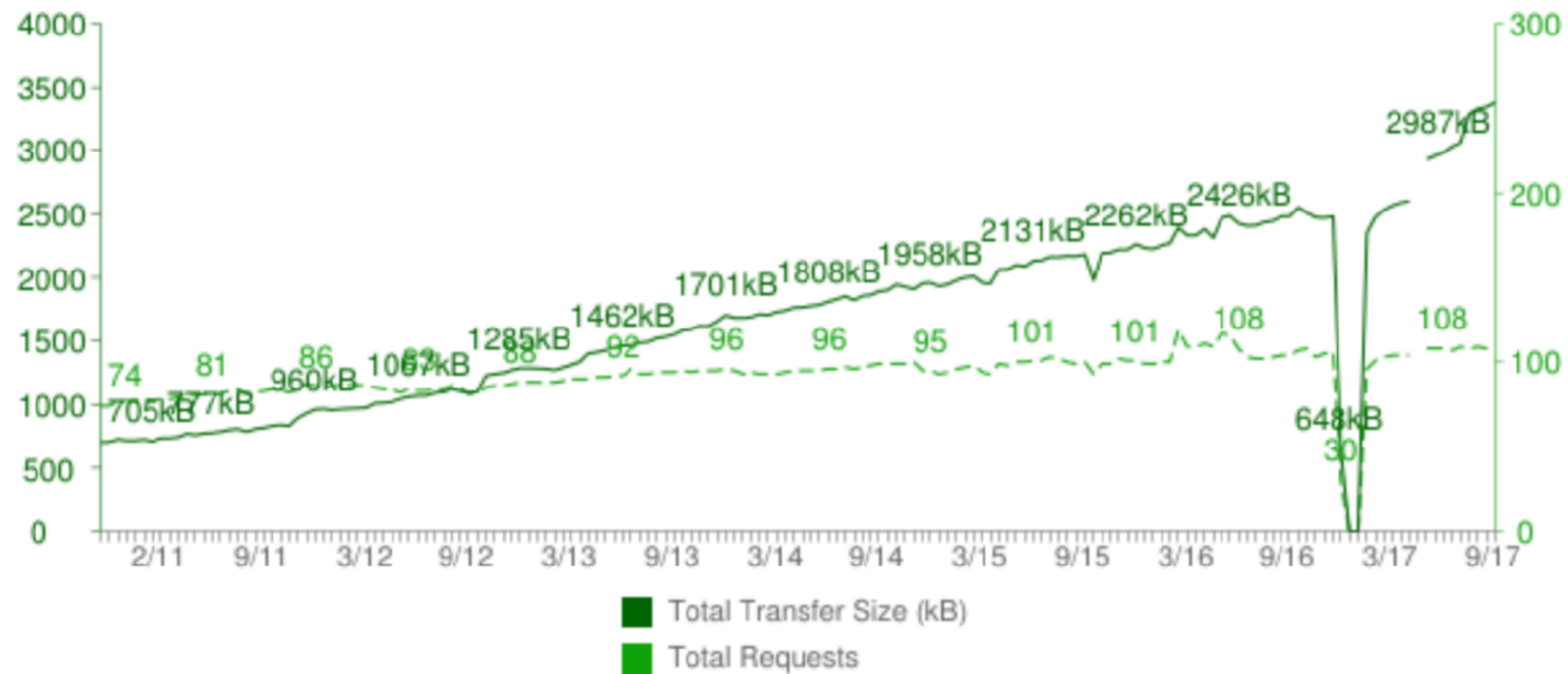


CSS Transfer Size & CSS Requests



source: HTTP Archive

Total Transfer Size & Total Requests



source: HTTP Archive

Fighting against CSS



Stuart Robson @StuRobson · Oct 2



Replying to [@stephenhay](#) [@FronteersConf](#)

the only thing I got that's old, is more like 16 years ago :-O

(still works by the looks of it too)

```
</head>
▼ <frameset rows="97,354*" frameborder="NO" border="0" framespacing="0" cols="*">
  ▼ <frame name="topFrame" scrolling="NO" noresize src="NavBar.htm">
    ▼ #document
    ▼ <html>
      ▶ <head>_</head>
      ▼ <body bgcolor="#CCFFCC" text="#000000" onload="MM_preloadImages('nav/
nav_r2_c1_f2.gif')">
        ▼ <table width="500" border="0" align="center">
          ▼ <tbody>
            ▼ <tr> == $0
              ▼ <td height="42">
                ▼ <div align="right">
                  ▼ <p>
                    
                  </p>
                  ▶ <p>_</p>
                </div>
              </td>
              ▶ <td height="42">_</td>
            </tr>
          </tbody>
        </table>
        <div align="center"></div>
      </body>
    </html>
  </frame>
  ▶ <frame name="mainFrame" src="Main.htm">_</frame>
</frameset>
```



1



3



CSS is painful

CSS is a critical piece of the frontend toolkit, but it's hard to manage, especially in large projects. Styles are written in a global scope, which is narrowed through complex selectors. Specificity issues, redundancy, bloat, and maintenance can become a nightmare. And modular, component-based projects only add to the complexity. Atomic CSS enables you to style directly in your components, avoiding the headache of managing stylesheets.

Style with class

Most approaches to styling inside components rely on inline styles, which are limiting. Atomic CSS, like inline styles, offers single-purpose units of style, but applied via *classes*. This allows for the use of handy things such as media queries, contextual styling and pseudo-classes. The lower specificity of classes also allows for easier overrides. And the short, predictable classnames are highly reusable and compress well.

<https://acss.io/>

example

```
// config object
```

```
'custom': {  
  'brandColor': '#0280ae',  
  'columnWidth': '20px'  
}
```

example

```
<div class="Pos(a) Bgc(brandColor) W(columnWidth) H(90px)"></div>  
<div class="C(brandColor) BdB Bdc(brandColor) Mstart(columnWidth) P(  
  Lorem ipsum  
</div>
```

What problem are we
solving?

50 lies programmers believe, #20

CSS can be “object-oriented” or “functional” rather than a declarative rules language with a moderately complex inheritance model.

We seem to want CSS
to be a programming
language.

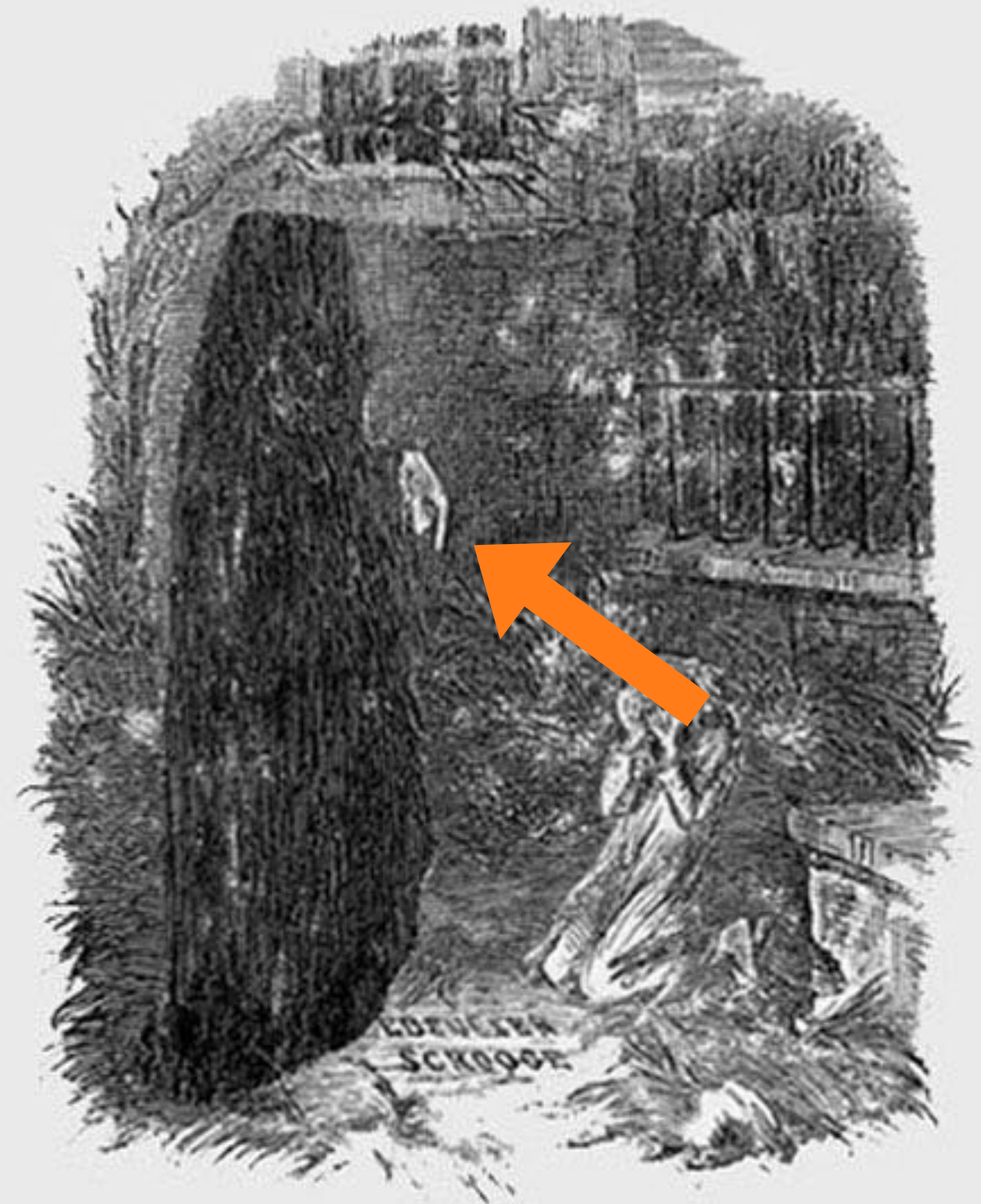


Our concerns have
shifted from techniques
to processes.

Ghost *of* CSS Yet to Come



Ghost *of* CSS Yet to Come



The basics are in place.

Layout

(Responsive) Images

Colour

Typography

Motion

[www.w3.org/Style/
CSS/current-work](http://www.w3.org/Style/CSS/current-work)

CSS and developer tools
will be more frequently
used as design tools.

Here's the real challenge:

From techniques to processes,
from processes to people.

Respect and collaboration.


We need to remember that
all of this is by people, for
people, and about people.

All of the real problems
are people problems.

So many talks by these folks where the whole argument is premised on what the web "is." You don't get to define it just cuz you old as fuck!

So many talks by these folks where the whole argument is premised on what the web "is." You don't get to define it just cuz you old as fuck!

Someone on Twitter,
demonstrating skilful debate and formidable social prowess.



So many talks by these folks where the whole argument is premised on what the web "is." You don't get to define it just cuz you old as fuck!

Someone on Twitter,
demonstrating skilful debate and formidable social prowess.



Yoav Weiss

@yoavweiss

Following



Replying to @yoavweiss @sleeви_ and 2 others

Anyway, I declare myself victor of this thread and going to celebrate my victory in a boat ride around Amsterdam!

5:48 PM - 4 Oct 2017

4 Likes



1



4

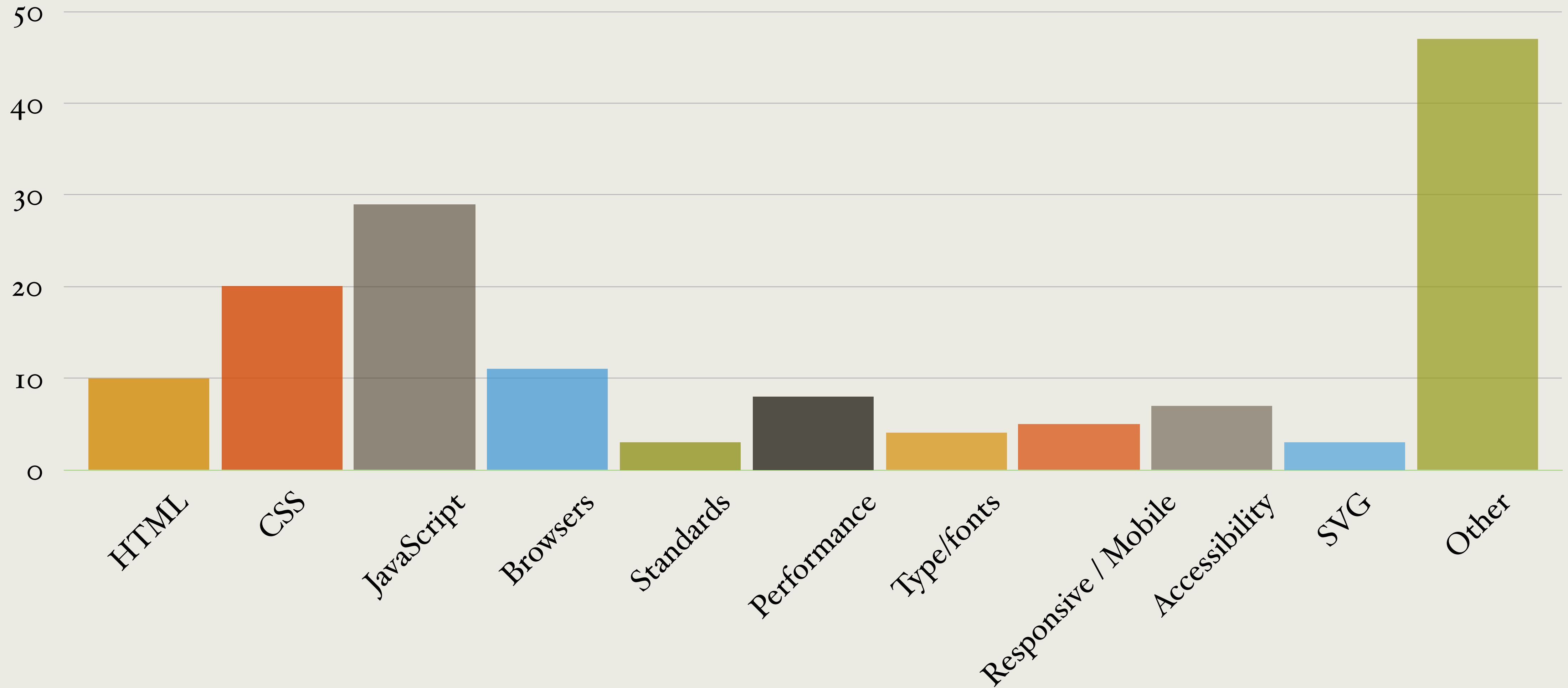


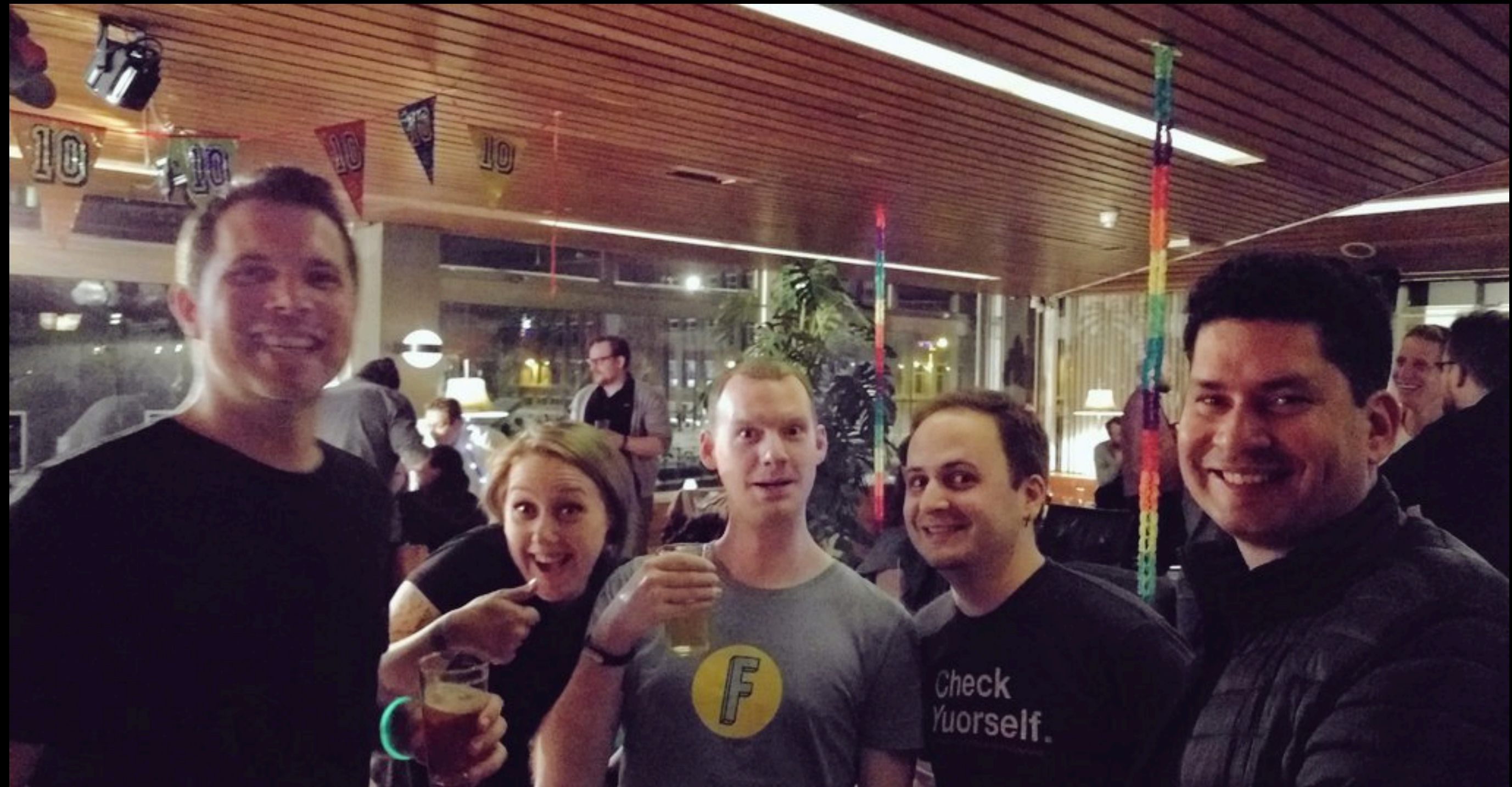
Try this: defend your
opponent's position and
see what you learn from it.

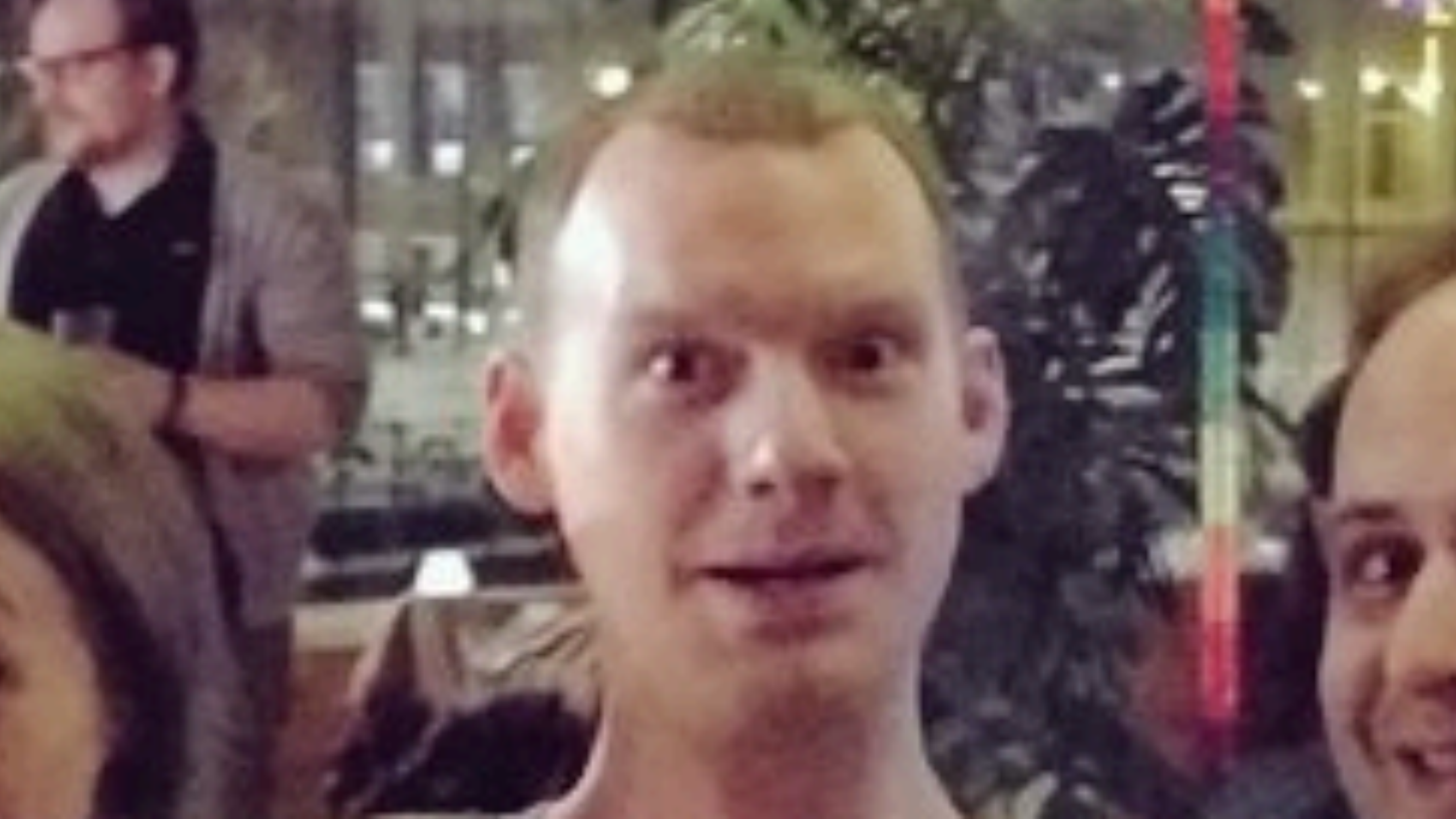
Learn from each other.

Keep it fun!

10 years of Fronteers talks







I declare myself the victor
of this conference
and I'm going to celebrate
in Amsterdam.



Thank you.

@stephenhay