



TO **<button>** OR NOT

To **<Button>**?
THAT is the question.



BUTTON

SCREEN READERS ANNOUNCE THE NESTED TEXT FOR **<button>** ELEMENTS, AND THE **value** ATTRIBUTE FOR INPUT BUTTONS. FORM BUTTONS MUST NEVER BE EMPTY.



WHEN DO I USE A BUTTON?



WHEN YOU ARE COMPLETING AN ACTION

SUBMITTING A FORM, A SEARCH QUERY, COMPLETING AN ORDER

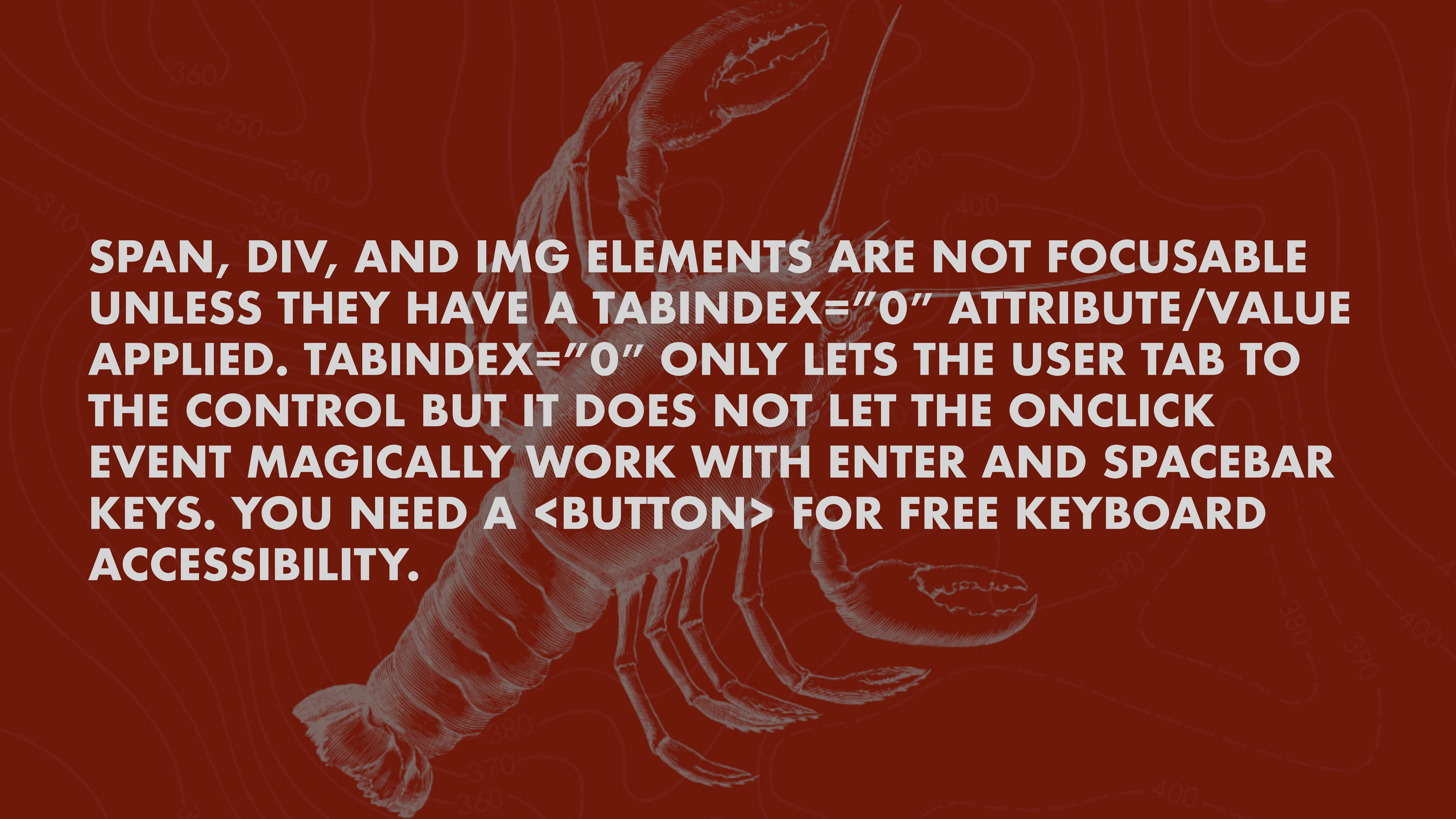


NOT!
LINKING TO ANOTHER PAGE.



NOT!
A SPAN OR A DIV!





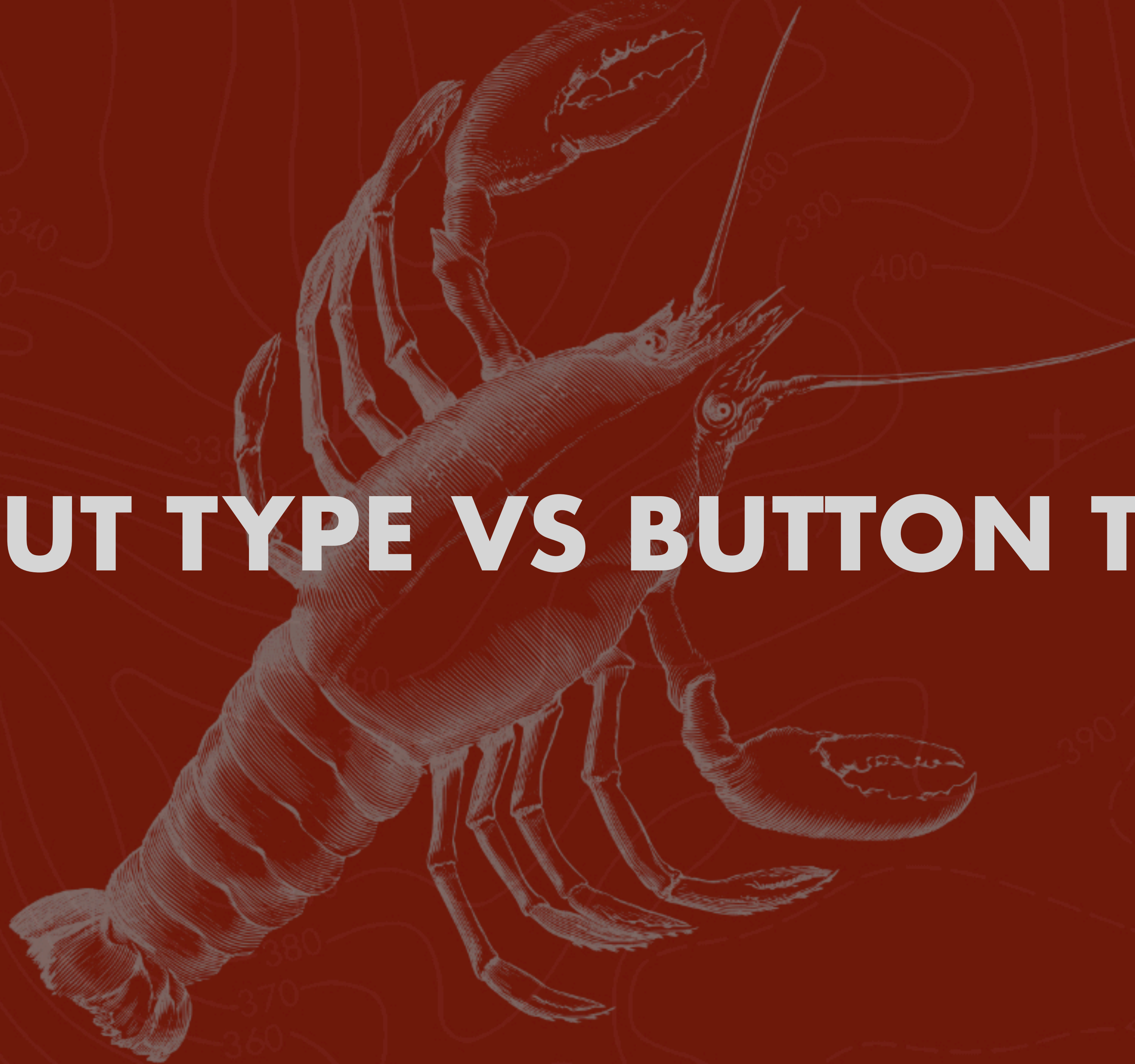
SPAN, DIV, AND IMG ELEMENTS ARE NOT FOCUSABLE UNLESS THEY HAVE A TABINDEX="0" ATTRIBUTE/VALUE APPLIED. TABINDEX="0" ONLY LETS THE USER TAB TO THE CONTROL BUT IT DOES NOT LET THE ONCLICK EVENT MAGICALLY WORK WITH ENTER AND SPACEBAR KEYS. YOU NEED A <BUTTON> FOR FREE KEYBOARD ACCESSIBILITY.



**BUTTONS ARE NOT USED TO OPEN WEBPAGES, INSTEAD
USE LINKS. BUTTONS PERFORM AN ACTION, LINKS
TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE, DIVS HOLD THINGS.**



INPUT TYPE VS BUTTON TYPE





INPUT TYPE

**WHEN A USER ENTERS INFORMATION, THAT INFORMATION IS
BEING SENT BACK TO A SERVER**

The background features a detailed illustration of a lobster, rendered in a light, sketchy style, positioned diagonally across the frame. This illustration is overlaid on a dark red background that also contains faint, light-colored topographic contour lines and numerical values (e.g., 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400) scattered throughout, suggesting a map or a technical drawing.

BUTTON TYPE

**WHEN YOU NEED STYLING CONTROL OR HAVE TO EMBED
MORE THAN JUST A TEXT STRING**

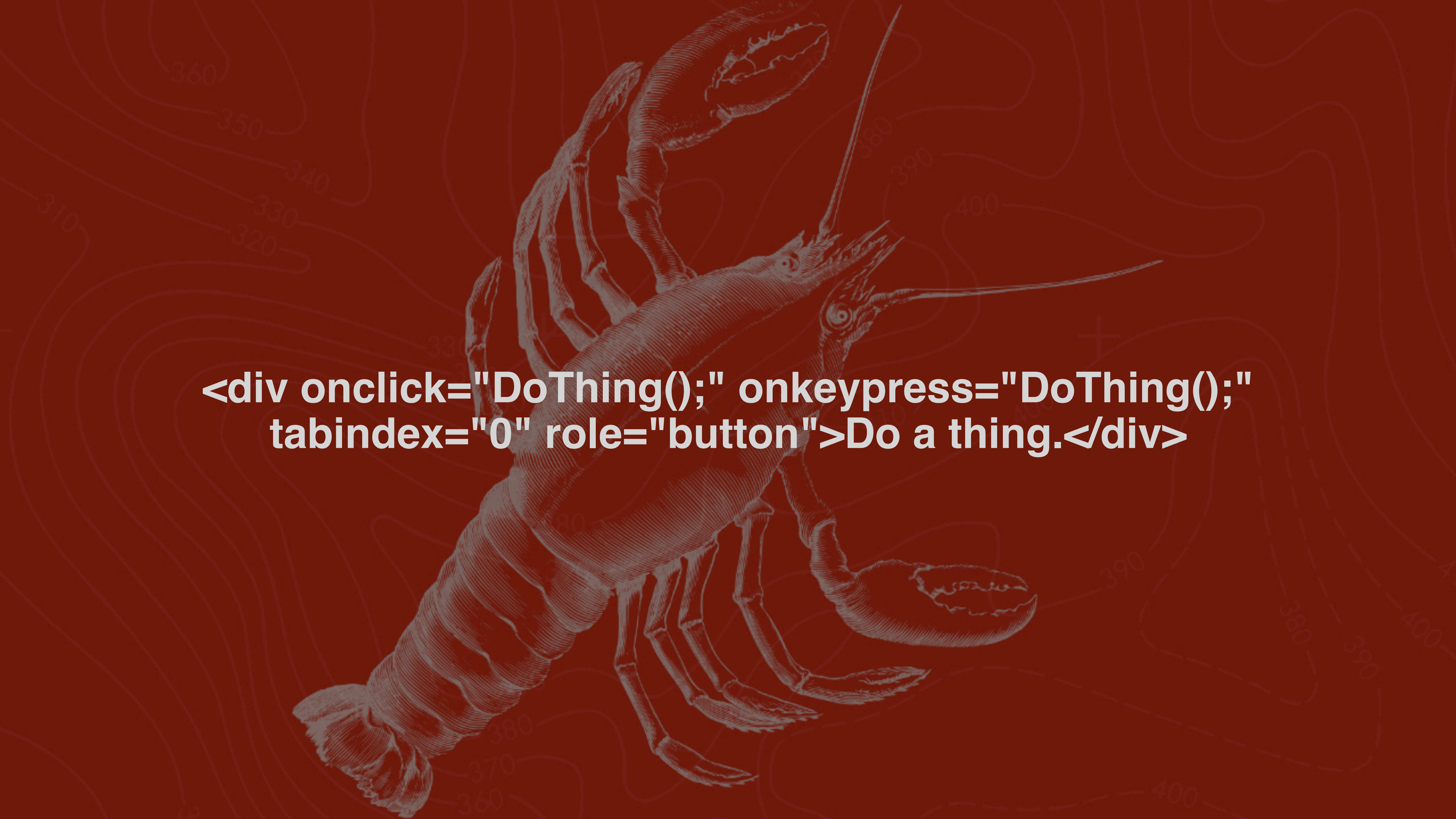


ROLE=“BUTTON”

THIS DOES NOT WORK! IT MAKES IT WORSE.



IF YOU DO THIS...



```
<div onclick="DoThing();" onkeypress="DoThing();"
  tabindex="0" role="button">Do a thing.</div>
```






SEMANTIC HTML

KEYBOARD USERS WILL THANK YOU



BUT...

**BUTTONS SOMETIMES LOOK LIKE LINKS AND
LINKS SOMETIMES LOOK LIKE BUTTONS!**



STOP IT!

**MAKE LINKS LOOK LIKE LINKS (A DIFFERENT PRESENTATION)
MAKE BUTTONS LOOK LIKE BUTTONS (CUZ THEY'RE BUTTONS!)**



EXAMPLES

<https://medium.com/simple-human/but-sometimes-links-look-like-buttons-and-buttons-look-like-links-9b371c57b3d2>

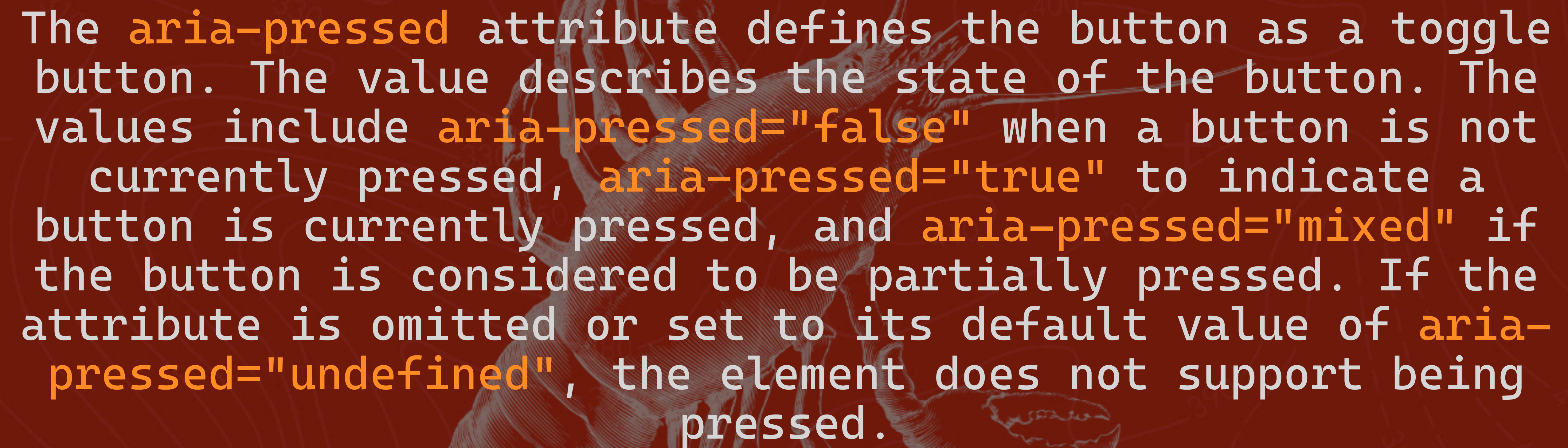
The background features a detailed illustration of a scorpion, rendered in a light, sketchy style. The scorpion is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its head at the top right and its tail at the bottom left. The entire scene is set against a dark red background that also serves as a topographic map, with white contour lines and numerical labels (e.g., 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400) indicating elevation. The word "ARIA" is prominently displayed in the center in a large, bold, white sans-serif font.

ARIA

Aria-pressed, aria-expanded, aria-disabled



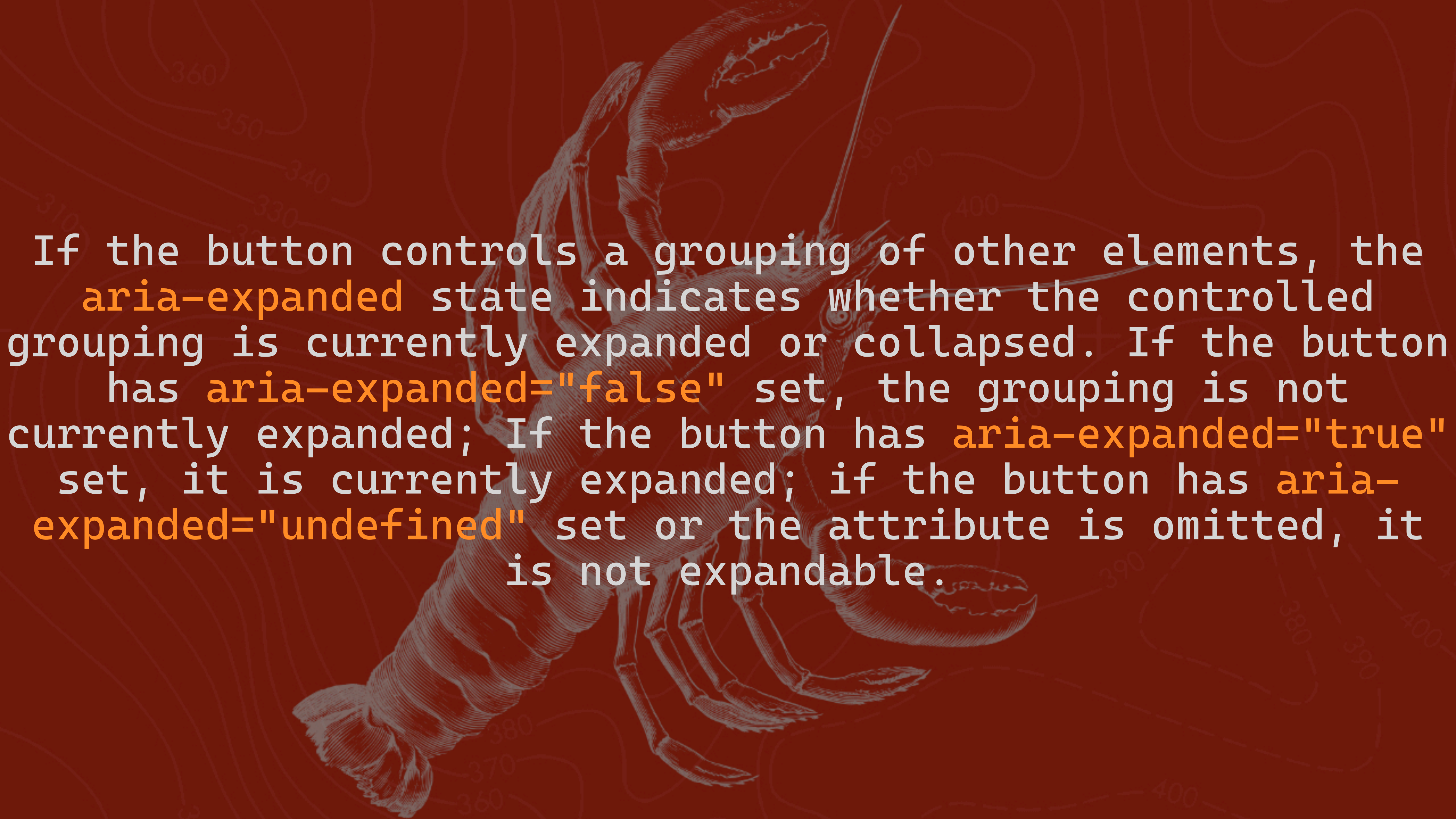
ARIA-PRESSED

The background features a detailed illustration of a scorpion, rendered in a light, sketch-like style. The scorpion is positioned diagonally, with its head and pincers at the top left and its tail (metasoma) extending towards the bottom right. Overlaid on this illustration are faint, light-colored contour lines and numerical values, such as 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, and 400, which appear to be part of a technical or scientific drawing. The overall color palette is a dark, muted red or maroon.

The **aria-pressed** attribute defines the button as a toggle button. The value describes the state of the button. The values include **aria-pressed="false"** when a button is not currently pressed, **aria-pressed="true"** to indicate a button is currently pressed, and **aria-pressed="mixed"** if the button is considered to be partially pressed. If the attribute is omitted or set to its default value of **aria-pressed="undefined"**, the element does not support being pressed.



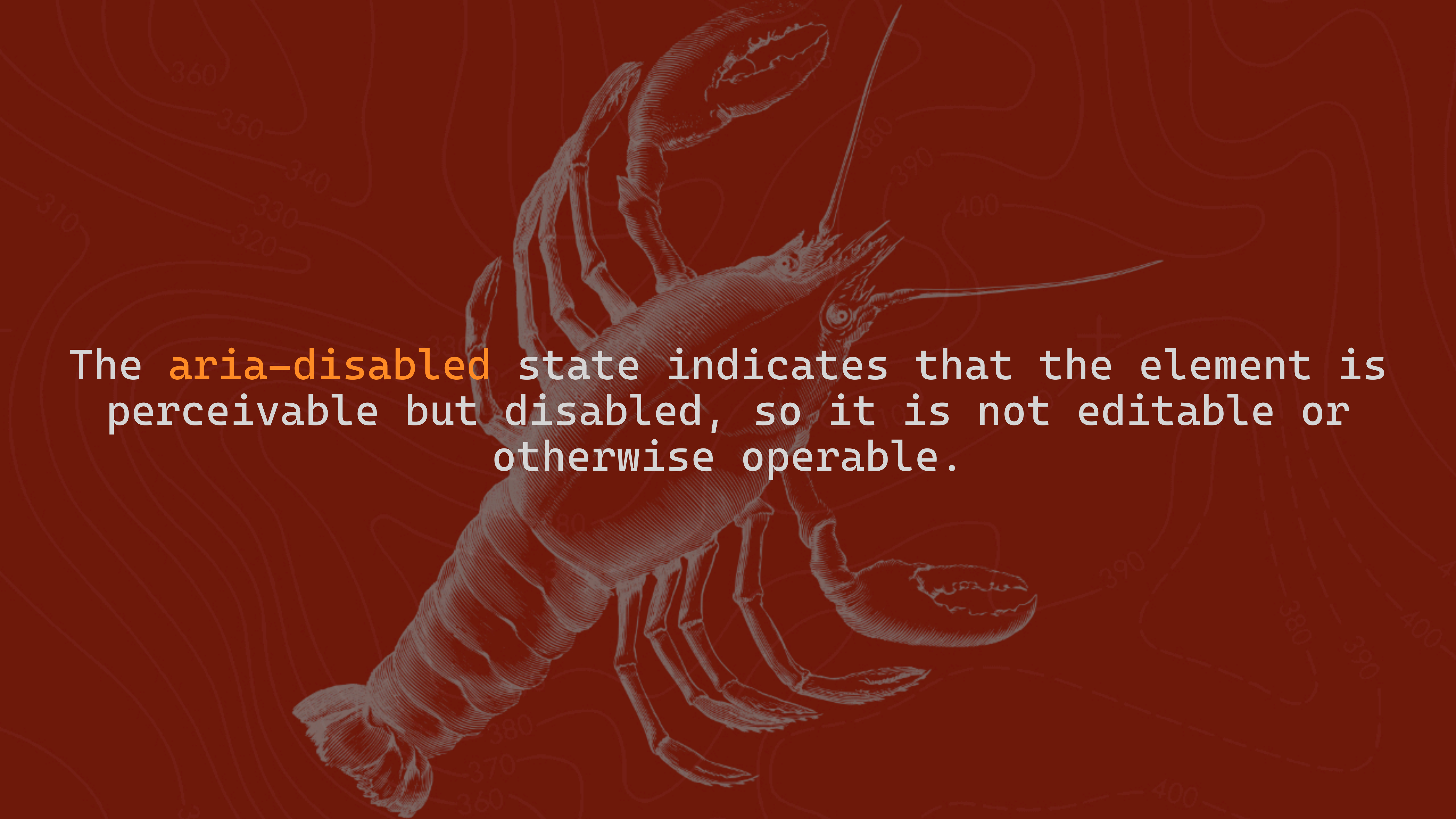
ARIA-EXPANDED

The background features a detailed illustration of a lobster, rendered in a light, sketchy style, positioned diagonally across the frame. This illustration is overlaid on a dark red background that also contains faint, light-colored topographic contour lines with numerical labels such as 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, and 400.

If the button controls a grouping of other elements, the **aria-expanded** state indicates whether the controlled grouping is currently expanded or collapsed. If the button has **aria-expanded="false"** set, the grouping is not currently expanded; If the button has **aria-expanded="true"** set, it is currently expanded; if the button has **aria-expanded="undefined"** set or the attribute is omitted, it is not expandable.



ARIA-DISABLED



The **aria-disabled** state indicates that the element is perceivable but disabled, so it is not editable or otherwise operable.



BUTTON = ACTION
A = TAKES YOU PLACES
DIV = CONTAINER



THANKS!

@TODDLIBBY - TODD LIBBY