

Scope in CSS with and without JavaScript

Brian Perry
Lead Front End Developer





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Mike Anello



BRIAN PERRY

- Lead Front End Dev at Bounteous
- Rocking the Chicago 'burbs'
- Lover of all things components...
 ...and Nintendo



d.o: brianperry

twitter: bricomedy

github: backlineint

nintendo: wabrian

brianperryinteractive.com





























CSS has global scope.

CSS has global scope.

That's great when you want rules to apply globally...

... and not so great when you don't.



Many **CSS** in **JavaScript** solutions provide **component scope**.

CSS: global scope

CSS-in-JS: component scope

People disagree about these approaches...

because... internet.

I think we should take advantage of both.



Thank You!

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Lead Front End Developer

Email: brian.perry@bounteous.com



Scope in CSS with and without JavaScript

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CSS has global scope.

```
* HTML
                                                           The same font everywhere!
   <h1>The same font everywhere!</h1>
   Even here!
                                                           Even here!
* CSS
   html {
    font-family: "Comic Sans MS", "Comic Sans", cursive;
```

Codepen: https://codepen.io/brianperry/pen/rNNQpyK

THE CASCADE (THE C IN CSS)

Stylesheets can have three different origins



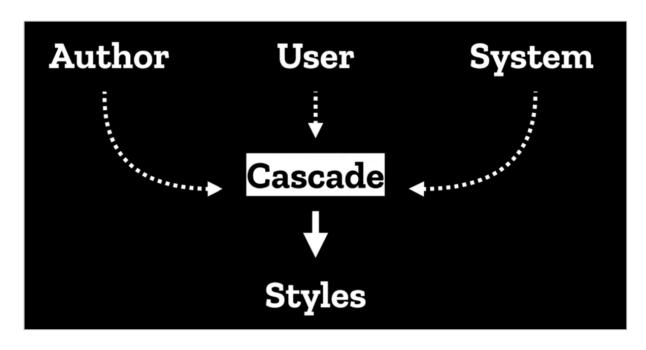
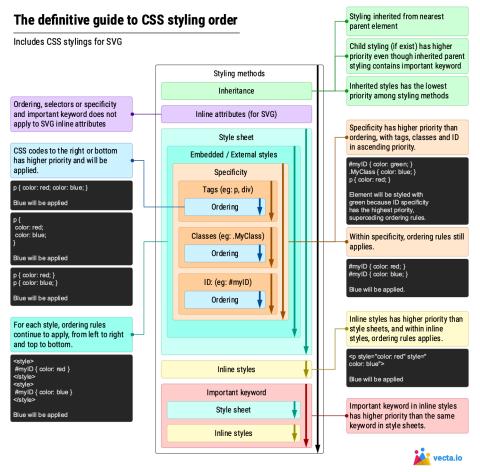


Image: https://www.miriamsuzanne.com/2019/10/03/css-is-weird/



The way all rules are combined is very easy to understand and remember.



Image: https://css-tricks.com/the-c-in-css-the-cascade/#article-header-id-11



CASCADING ORDER (ACCORDING TO W3C SPEC)

- Find all declarations that apply to the element and property for the target media type.
- Sort according to importance and origin (ascending order)
 - User agent declarations
 - User normal declarations
 - Author normal declarations
 - Author !important declarations
 - User !important declarations
- Sort rules with same origin and importance by specificity
- If all else fails, sort by order specified

Source: https://www.w3.org/TR/CSS2/cascade.html#cascade



SPECIFICITY



element selector Specificity: 0,0,1



class selector attribute selector pseudo-class

Specificity: 0,1,0 (10)



id selector Specificity: 1,0,0



style attribute Specificity: 1,0,0,0

(Note: The universal selector and inherited selectors have a specificity of 0, 0, 0, 0)

Source: https://stuffandnonsense.co.uk/archives/css_specificity_wars.html

Stuff Nonsense



1 x element selector



ра 2 x element selectors



.foo 1 x class selector *



a.foo 1 x element selector 1 x class selector

Sith power: 0,0,1

Sith power: 0,0,2

Sith power: 0,1,0

Sith power: 0,1,1













p a.foo 2 x element selectors 1 x class selector

.foo .bar 2 x class selectors

p.foo a.bar 2 x element selectors 2 x class selectors

#foo 1 x id selector

Sith power: 0,1,2

Sith power: 0,2,0

Sith power: 0,2,2

Sith power: 1,0,0











a#foo 1 x element selector 1 x id selector

.foo a#bar 1 x element selector 1 x class selector 1 x id selector

.foo .foo #foo 2 x class selectors 1 x id selector

style 1 x style attribute

Sith power: 1,0,1

Sith power: 1,1,1

Sith power: 1,2,0

Sith power: 1,0,0,0



* Same specificity class selector = attribute attribute = pseudo-classes



!important

CSS-in-JS can provide component scope ...and other advantages.

WHY CSS-IN-JS?

- Component scope styles can't 'leak out'
- Co-locate styles with components
 - Positive developer experience
 - An advantage for distributed and composable components
- Dead code elimination bundler knows if css is being used
- Worry free naming don't have to worry about conflicts or enforcing a naming convention
- Respond to props rather than juggling class names
- And yes, probably fear / lack of knowledge in some cases

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AND WHY NOT?

- You still need to know how CSS works (even the hard stuff)
- Can come with a bundle size / performance cost
- Potential barrier of entry for CSS experts who aren't JS experts
- Additional layers of abstraction
 - Some approaches use less css more object-like syntax
 - Potential syntax highlighting issues
- Risk of inconsistency / one offs

So which approach is right?



Thank You!

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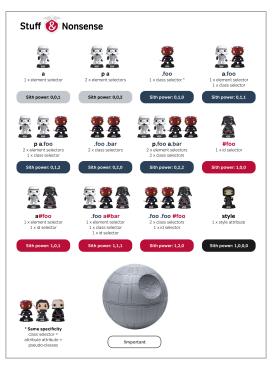
CSS has global scope.

HEY, REMEMBER CSS?

Cascade



Specificity



Inheritance

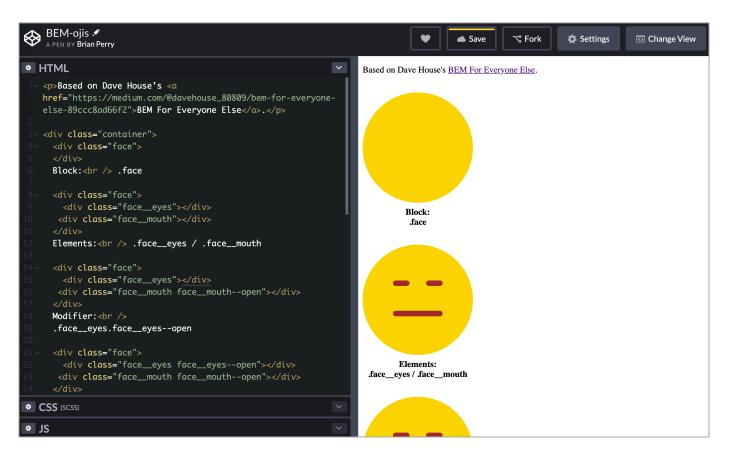


Some of this is tricky. We should get our act together...

CSS METHODOLOGIES

- Popular Methodologies
 - Object-Oriented CSS (OOCSS)
 - Block, Element, Modifier (BEM)
 - Scalable and Modular Architecture for CSS (SMACSS)
- File organization
- Naming conventions
- Can create something that 'feels' like component scope.

BEM



Concept: https://medium.com/@davehouse_80809/bem-for-everyone-else-89ccc8ad66f2 Codepen: https://codepen.io/brianperry/pen/BaaMYMJ

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BEM IS GREAT!

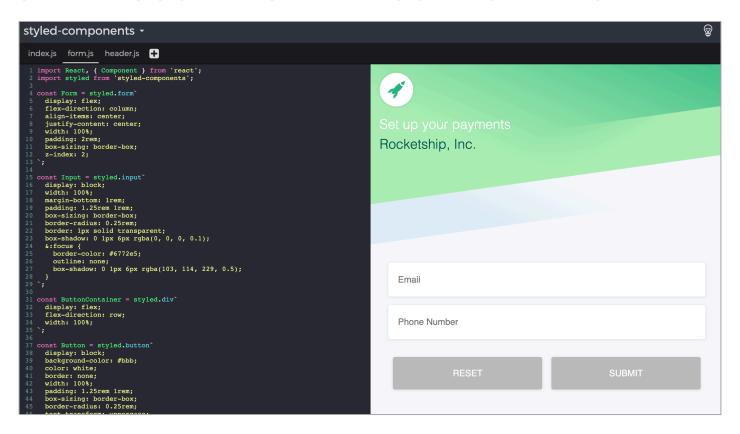
- Understandable structure that unifies markup and styles
- Specific and component focused classes

But...

- In practice often like component scope, but not truly scoped to component
- Not enforced at the tooling level
 - (sass-lint can help a bit here)
- Requires discipline across dev team
- Naming is still hard

CSS-in-JS can provide component scope.

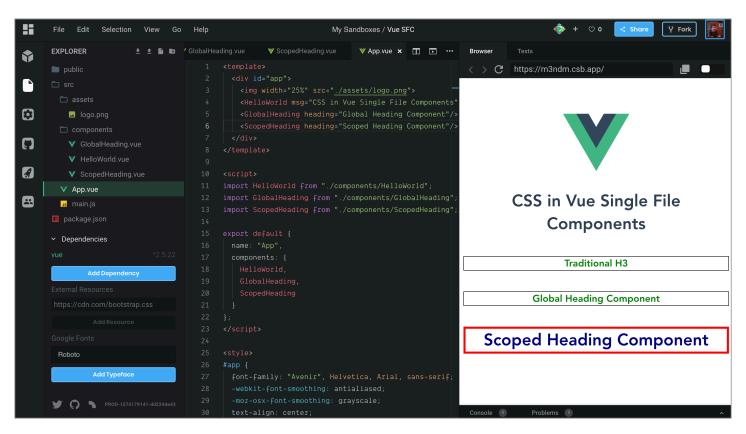
COMPONENT SCOPE - STYLED COMPONENTS



Source: https://www.cssinjsplayground.com/

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VUE SINGLE FILE COMPONENTS



Source: https://codesandbox.io/s/vue-sfc-css-scope-m3ndm

You probably know what slide is coming next...



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CSS has global scope.

HEY, REMEMBER CSS AND BEM?

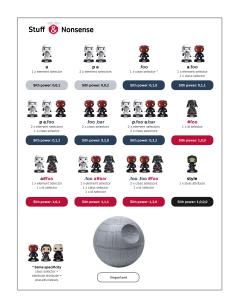
Cascade

Specificity

Inheritance

BEM









Modifier:
.face__eyes.face__eyes--open
.face__mouth.face__mouth-open

But can 'regular' CSS have component scope?

But can 'regular' CSS have component scope?

Not really, but...

ATOMIC (FUNCTIONAL) CSS IS A THING

- Small single purpose classes named based on visual function
- Immutable CSS
 - Classes don't change
 - Visual control shifts from CSS to markup
- Approaches:
 - Static pre-existing set of utility classes
 - Programmatic CSS generated based on markup

TAILWIND

A utility-first framework for rapidly building custom designs

```
<div class="bg-white rounded-lg">
     <img class="h-16 w-16" src="avatar.jpg">
      <h2>Erin Lindford</h2>
      <div>Customer Support</div>
      <div>erinlindford@example.com</div>
      <div>(555) 765-4321</div>
     </div>
9 </div>
                                 Erin Lindford
                                 Customer Support
                                 erinlindford@example.com
                                 (555) 765-4321
```

I'LL BE HONEST...



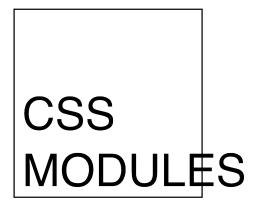
Some people love it, but to me it feels more like not using CSS...

CSS-in-JS can provide component scope.

But could CSS-in-JS be more like 'regular' CSS?

CSS MODULES

- Not a package
- Handled by a build process (typically Webpack)
- Scopes styles locally by default
- Can play nice with Sass
- Ships with Create React App and Gatsby
- Has a super snarky logo



SCOPED CSS – PROJECT CARD

Featured Projects

JavaScript

Gatsby

A framework based on React that helps developers build blazing fast websites and apps

More info >

PHP

Tome

A static site generator for Drupal 8

More info >

View All

See all projects listed on the site or add something new

More info >

```
.project-card {
 box-shadow: 0px 0px 2px 1px □rgba(25,17,34,0.1);
 background-color: ■white;
 padding: 2rem;
 display: block;
 text-decoration: none;
 border-radius: 10px;
 width: 100%;
 &:hover {
   box-shadow: 0px 0px 2px 1px □rgba(6, 120, 190, 0.3);
 .title {
   font-family: 'Overpass', Sans-Serif;
   font-size: 30px;
 .language {
   color: □#31373f;
   font-size: 14px;
 .description {
   color: □#31373f;
 р {
   font-size: 14px;
   margin-bottom: 0;
```

```
// ProjectCard.js
     import styles from "./ProjectCard.module.scss"
     const ProjectCard = (props) => (
       <Link
         to={props.link}
         key={props.link}
11
12
13
         <div className={styles.projectCard}>
14
             <div className={styles.language}>{props.language}</div>
15
             <div className={styles.title}>{props.title}</div>
             <div className={styles.description}>{props.description}</div>
17
             More info >
18
         </div>
       </Link>
19
20
     );
21
22
     export default ProjectCard
```

SCOPED CLASS NAMES





GLOBAL CSS

```
// ProjectCard.js
     import React from "react"
     import { Link } from "gatsby"
     import "./ProjectCard.scss"
     const ProjectCard = (props) => (
       <Link
11
         to={props.link}
12
         key={props.link}
13
14
         <div className="project-card">
15
             <div className="language">{props.language}</div>
             <div className="title">{props.title}</div>
17
             <div className="description">{props.description}</div>
             More info >
         </div>
       </Link>
     );
21
22
23
     export default ProjectCard
```

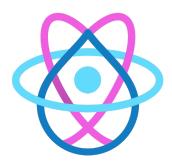
STYLES SHARED BY MULTIPLE TEMPLATING ENGINES

Drupal



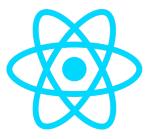
- Twig
- Unique styles and components

Combined



- Global styles that apply to both.
- Few (if any) shared components

React

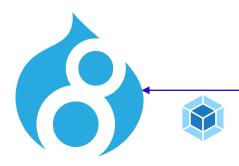


- JSX
- Unique styles and components

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STYLES SHARED BY MULTIPLE TEMPLATING ENGINES

Drupal



 Global CSS file combines design system partials and Drupal specific partials

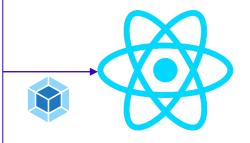


Projects consume partials as needed

CSS

MODULĖS

React



- Imported in JS
- Mix of global and component scope
- Also project specific CSS

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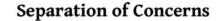
bounteous Proprietary & Confidential

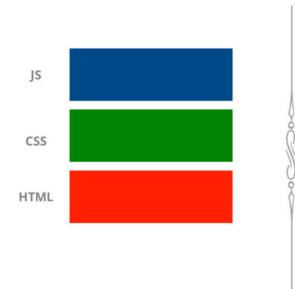
We can have both!





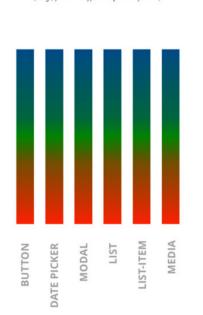
SEPARATION OF CONCERNS IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER





Separation of Concerns





Source: https://speakerdeck.com/didoo/let-there-be-peace-on-css?slide=62

But could we have component scope with less JS?

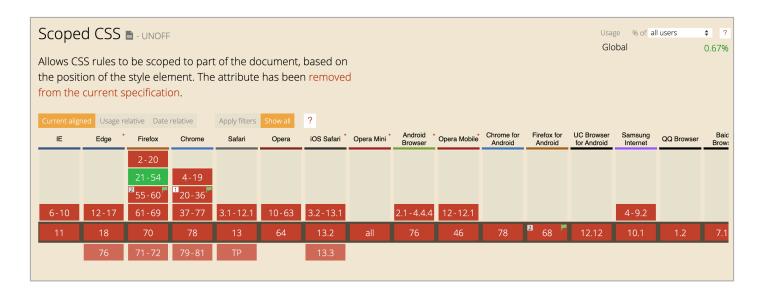
POPULAR EXTENSIONS BECOME OFFICIAL

- CSS Preprocessors influence CSS
 - CSS Custom Properties
 - CSS Nesting
- Popular Drupal contrib projects make their way into core (I said Drupal, aren't you proud?)
 - JSON:API
 - Panels Ecosystem -> Layout Builder
- Babel lets you develop with cutting edge JS today
 - Transpile today, browser native tomorrow.

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COULD WE SEE THE SAME FOR CSS SCOPE?

- HTML Scoped Attribute... kind of didn't happen.
 - <style scoped>



COULD WE SEE THE SAME FOR CSS SCOPE?

- Web Components / Shadow DOM as a solution?
 - Shadow DOM styles scoped locally by default.
 - Approaches also exist to use or selectively override global styles.
 - Still requires writing a decent amount of JS.

```
Web Component with Local Styles
A PEN BY Chris Coyier PRO
                                                                                                                 Settings
                                                                                                                               Change View
 HTML
                                                       CSS (SCSS)
     <whats-up></whats-up>
                                                           button {
                                                                                                                const template =
                                                            background: #1E88E5:
                                                                                                                document.createElement('template');
                                                             color: white:
                                                                                                                template.innerHTML = `<button>Sup?
                                                            padding: 2rem 4rem;
                                                                                                                </button>`;
                                                            border: 0;
                                                                                                                class WhatsUp extends HTMLElement {
                                                             font-size: 1.5rem;
                                                                                                                  constructor() {
                                                                                                                    super();
                                                                                                                    this.attachShadow({mode: 'open'});
                                                                                                                 this.shadowRoot.appendChild(template.conte
                                                                                                                nt.cloneNode(true));
                                                                                                                    const button =
```





Contribution Day

Sunday, February 23, 2020 1:15pm - 5:00pm

First-time contributor workshop • Mentored contribution • General contribution

#DrupalContributions

Thank You!

Brian PerryLead Front End Developer

Email: brian.perry@bounteous.com

