Designing with the Web
A heretical guide to creating native software.

Steve Smith • @orderedlist
Hello, I’m @orderedlist
This is NOT about...

Designing in the browser

WebViews

Language wars
This IS about...

Designing more than just visuals

Try it before you buy it

An easier transition to development
A Brief Demo
A peek under the kimono...
Using **HTML** & **CSS** to mockup native applications
Real Talk: Just use Webkit
background-color  border  box-shadow  linear-gradient  border-radius  outline
NOPE.
Avoid **drawing** with CSS
Use **rendered images** you can use in your real application
background-image
border-image
.button {
  -webkit-border-image: url(image.png) 1 10 repeat repeat;
  border-width: 1px 10px;
}
.button {
  -webkit-border-image: url(image.png) 1 10 repeat repeat;
  border-width: 1px 10px;
}
<a href="#" class="button">
  View on GitHub
</a>
But what about Retina?
-webkit-image-set
-webkit-image-set(
    url(button.png) 1x,
    url(button@2x.png) 2x
)
The **browser** decides which image to use.
Use `-webkit-image-set` anywhere you’d use a `url`
The benefits of **CSS**?
CSS encourages reuse of visual styles.
CSS is really fast to write.
CSS can use your final image assets to create mockups.
So what’s the big deal?
Back to the demo...
Using **JavaScript** to mockup native applications
Start with jQuery, jQuery UI
Next, pick a **JS framework**
I happen to use SpineJS
http://spinejs.com
Things it should include...

Fast to run, fast to write

Browser local storage-backed models

HTML5 history based routing
Why is this better than just a picture of software?
Design the complete workflow
See your design with real data
Design animations, loaders, and transitions
Evaluate a design in context
It removes questions for the developer
It hints at complication early in the process
So how do I show this off?

Once more, to the demo...
How to **deploy** your mockup as a web application
Create a Rails app
Authentication with OAuth
Push the app to Heroku
Push the app to Heroku
http://mockup.domain.com/feature/section/id
Deployment

Push the code to GitHub
Send changes in **Pull Requests**
Start slowly, and build your mockup over time
It doesn’t demand perfection
It’s still just a mockup
It’s a ground for experimentation
Thank you!

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