A Modern Web Designer’s Workflow
Chris,
this site looks horrible.

What did you use
design this? Minecraft?

It makes me sick.
The Gameplan

- CSS-Tricks as a guide
- What works for me
- Bird’s eye view
- The nerdy bits
- Tools, tech, tips
So you’re going to build a website...
Start designing in Photoshop
```html
@import "colors";
@import "bits";
@import "comments";

body {
    overflow: hidden;
    min-width: 1000px; // repeated...
}

.page-wrap {
    padding: 10px 0 0 0;
}

.result {
    left: 0;
}

tabs-pushers {
    width: 50%;
    position: absolute;
    left: 0;
    top: 0;
    height: 100%;
    overflow: auto;
    overflow-x: hidden;
    padding: 0 0 20px 10px;
    nav {
        display: block;
    }
}
> div {
    @include border-radius(0);
    @include box-shadow(0);
    &:active {
```
The New Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain

A brand-new edition of the classic—expanded and updated

Betty Edwards
The dreaded blank canvas
Trick your Brain
Write Gibberish
Write out your grocery list
“I have a secret.”
Toss down a Texture
subtlepatterns.com
Just draw some Shapes
I’m not that into Wireframes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problems with PNG animation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>simplykells</td>
<td>9:17AM EST</td>
<td>Other Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spry menu bar 1.0 doesn't fill entire container width</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>simplykells</td>
<td>9:17AM EST</td>
<td>Other Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE8 dynamic backgroundImage flicker problem</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>simplykells</td>
<td>9:17AM EST</td>
<td>Other Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSS Positioning of Links Units in Top not getting aligned</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>simplykells</td>
<td>9:17AM EST</td>
<td>Other Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to hire someone for a small job right now.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>simplykells</td>
<td>9:17AM EST</td>
<td>Other Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Locked] Jquery slider inside iframe</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>simplykells</td>
<td>9:17AM EST</td>
<td>Other Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Solved] Testimonials in Wordpress with Custom Post Types</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>simplykells</td>
<td>9:17AM EST</td>
<td>Other Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javascript LazyLoad Plugin not working in Safari</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>simplykells</td>
<td>9:17AM EST</td>
<td>Other Discussions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quickly get in the Browser
• You’re not doing work just to do it over again.
• The web doesn’t have a fixed canvas size
• It’s not any slower, It’s usually faster
• CSS is super rad you guys
• Interactivity!
• And hey, text looks better
Let’s change the phrase “designing in the browser” to “deciding in the browser.”

– Daniel Mall
{{ breathe }}
Can’t design? Hire on Dribbble.
Authentic Jobs ~ Full-time and freelance job opportunities for web, design, and creative professionals

ALL JOBS  POST A JOB  ABOUT US  OUR GUARANTEE  CONTACT US

Help us give the magic of water. DONATE NOW.

POST A JOB
Starting at $99 for 30 days

Content Producer
creativeLIVE, Inc. creativeLIVE is a live, online classroom
San Francisco, CA
Full-time

Experience Designer, Y! News
Yahoo! Yahoo!
Santa Monica
Full-time

Senior front-end developer
YouGov What the world thinks
New York
Full-time

Solid Developer, Paid to Learn Rails
Tymill Work Well, Have Fun.
Seattle
Full-time

Rails Samurai
Tymill Work Well, Have Fun.
Seattle
Full-time

Technical Support Specialist
Visual Supply Company Creating digital tools for creatives
San Ramon, CA (moving to Emeryville in December 2012)
Full-time

Authentic Jobs is where companies and creative professionals meet to make a better web.

Since 2005, qualified candidates have been applying for great opportunities at Apple, MSNBC.com, The Motley Fool, Estée Lauder, Turner Sports Interactive, ESPN, Pinney Bischoff, Garmin, Sony BMG, Electronic Arts, HP and many other companies large and small.

100% Money Back Guarantee

Come in We're Hiring

Apple  skype  facebook  frog design  meetup  HBO  HUGE  msnbc
You need to be developing Locally
$ rails server
• Developing big redesign or new feature, it’s almost impossible to do live
• As soon as you have two (or more) people, it’s required
• Version control
• You can use preprocessors
• Deploy at will
• Find in project
• Can work offline (which is faster)
No more going
FTP COMMANDO
Speaking of Version Control, it’s Really Easy
2,694,581 people hosting over 4,518,304 repositories

jQuery, reddit, Sparkle, curl, Ruby on Rails, node.js, ClickToFlash, Erlang/OTP, CakePHP, Redis, and many more

Find any repository

facebook  twitter  Microsoft  vmware  redhat  LinkedIn  mozilla

**git** /'git/

Git is an extremely fast, efficient, distributed version control system ideal for the collaborative development of software.

**github** /'git.hab/

GitHub is the best way to collaborate with others. Fork, send pull requests and manage all your public and private git repositories.

Free public repositories, collaborator management, issue tracking, wikis, downloads, code review, graphs and much more...

Plans, Pricing and Signup

Unlimited public repositories are free!

Team management

30 seconds to give people access to code. No SSH key required. Activity feeds keep you updated on progress.

More about collaboration

Code review

Comment on changes, track issues, compare branches, send pull requests and merge forks.

More about code review

Reliable code hosting

We spend all day and night making sure your repositories are secure, backed up and always available.

More about code hosting

Open source collaboration

Participate in the most important open source community in the world today — online or at one of our meetups.

More about our community
GitHub for Mac

Your Computer
  My Repositories

GitHub
  chriscoyier
  CodePen
  CSS-Tricks
  filamentgroup

Repositories

Cloned Repositories

- CodePen/CodePen
  Hopefully will grow up into a thing someday.

- CodePen/Config
  a place for chef stuff

- CodePen/CPOR
  Code Pen on Rails

- CodePen/Preprocessor
  CodePen Preprocessor

Clone to Computer
Beanstalk — Secure, Private Subversion, Mercurial and Git Hosting

The easiest way to manage code, collaborate and deploy.

Version Control
Secure, private and reliable Git, Subversion and Mercurial hosting. View activity, browse files, compare revisions.

Collaboration
Review code and discuss changes. Easily integrate with your favorite ticketing, support and communication tools.

Deployments
Instantly deploy or rollback updates to multiple servers for testing and production releases.

View Plans & Pricing
No contracts! Sign up in seconds.

Concerned about Security?

Beautifully Simple Interface
Extensive Integration
Advanced Deployment Tools
Worry-free Reliability

Local -> Tower -> Beanstalk -> Server
{{{ breathe }}}
Get to know your Code Editor
Sublime Text 2

Download

The current version of Sublime Text 2 is 2.0.1.

- **OS X** (OS X 10.6 or 10.7 is required)
  - Windows - also available as a portable version
  - Windows 64 bit - also available as a portable version
  - Linux 32 bit
  - Linux 64 bit

Sublime Text 2 may be downloaded and evaluated for free, however a license must be purchased for continued use. There is currently no enforced time limit for the evaluation.


Version 2.0.1

Release Date: 14 July 2012

- Keyboard input while dragging a selection will cancel the drag
- Improved backspace behavior when use_tab_stops and translate_tabs_to_spaces are true
- Improved shift+drag behavior
- Improved double click drag select behavior
- About Window shows the license key details
- Fixed a Goto Anything issue where pressing backspace could scroll the overlay incorrectly
- Fixed a crash triggered by double clicking in the Goto Anything overlay
```php
<?php get_header(); the_post(); ?>

<div class="grid group">
  <section class="blog-posts grid-2-3">
    <article class="module" id="post-<?php the_ID(); ?>">
      <h1><?php the_title(); ?></h1>
      <p class="time"><time datetime="<?php the_time('Y-m-d'); ?>"><span><?php the_date(); ?></span></time></p>
      <div class="google-ad">
        <script><!--
          google_ad_client = "ca-pub-0297087566578164";
          google_ad_slot = "0106554102";
          google_ad_width = 200;
          google_ad_height = 200;
        //-->
        </script>
      </div>
    </article>
  </section>
</div>
```
```javascript
/* CSS TRANSITION SUPPORT (http://www.modernizr.com/)
 */

$.support.transition = function () {
  var transitionEnd = function () {
    var el = document.createElement('bootstrap')
    var transEndEventNames = {
      'WebkitTransition': 'webkitTransitionEnd',
      'MozTransition': 'transitionend',
      'OTransition': 'oTransitionEnd',
      'transitionend': 'transitionend',
    },
    name

    for (name in transEndEventNames) {
      if (el.style[name] !== undefined) {
        return transEndEventNames[name]
      }
    }

    return false
  }

  if (document.body.style.transition !== undefined) {
    return 'transitionend'
  }

  if (document.documentElement.style.msTransition !== undefined) {
    return 'OTransitionEnd'
  }

  return transitionEnd
};
```
Sublime Text 2 things I like and use all the time:

- **Super fast** Find in Project
- Command-T
- Per-project settings files *(e.g. ignoring css)*
- Command-Shift-Period
- Autocomplete functions
- Easy to enforce my spaces preference
- Emmet *(ex Zen Coding)*
Emmet — the essential toolkit for web-developers

Emmet (previously known as Zen Coding) is a web-developer's toolkit that can greatly improve your HTML & CSS workflow:

```
<doctype html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
  <title>Demo</title>
</head>
<body>
  <ul id="nav">
    <li class="item1" href="#">Item 1</li>
    <li class="item2" href="#">Item 2</li>
    <li class="item3" href="#">Item 3</li>
    <li class="item4" href="#">Item 4</li>
  </ul>
</body>
<html>
```

Basically, most text editors out there allow you to store and re-use commonly used code chunks, called "snippets". While snippets are a good way to boost your productivity, all implementations have common pitfalls: you have to define the snippet first and you can't extend them in runtime.

Emmet takes the snippets idea to a whole new level: you can type CSS-like expressions that can be dynamically parsed, and produce output depending on what type you in the abbreviation. Emmet is developed and optimised for web-developers whose workflow depends on HTML/XML and CSS, but can be used with programming languages too.

Start learning Emmet with the abbreviation syntax and available actions.

Supported editors
- Eclipse/Aptana
- Sublime Text 2
- TextMate 1.x
- Coda 1.6 and 2.x
{{ breathe }}
Yeah. So.

Preprocess!
RadWagon Ahoy!
Hey guys, thanks for watching.
Variables

_bits.scss
$spacing: 1em;

_typography.scss
p { margin: 0 0 $spacing 0; }

global.scss
.page-wrap { padding: $spacing; }
Variables

- Keeps code DRY (blah blah)
- Change once change everywhere (blah blah)
- Saves me from myself
Giving Users a Quick Disguised Exit From a Website

JULY 30, 2012


READ ARTICLE →

Use Cases for Multiple Pseudo Elements

SEPTEMBER 31, 2012

Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Vestibulum tortor quam, feugiat vitae, ultricies
I name my color variables stuff like $\text{blue}$, $\text{orange}$ and $\text{lightgray}$ because that’s how I think.
$yellow: yellow;
$blue: #17bfe3;
$green: #90c28f;
$padding: 20px;
Mixins

_bits.scss

@mixin font-stack-body() {
  font-family: "Whitney", "Myriad", Sans-Serif;
  font-weight: 400;
}

_typography.scss

body { @include font-stack-body; }

_forms.scss

input, textarea { @include font-stack-body; }
Mixins

• Keeps code DRY \((blah\ blah)\)
• Change once change everywhere \((blah\ blah)\)
• \textbf{Stop screwing up CSS3}
Quick!

What vendor prefixes do you need for gradients right now?

- **moz**-
- **ms**-
- **webkit**-
- no prefix
- **o**-
Quick!
What vendor prefixes do you need for gradients right now?

- moz-
-webkit-x2
- ms-
-o-
- no prefix 
future proof
Compass is an open-source CSS Authoring Framework.

Why designers love Compass.

1. Experience cleaner markup without presentational classes.
2. It’s chock full of the web’s best reusable patterns.

Compass uses Sass.

Sass is an extension of CSS3 which adds nested rules, variables, mixins, selector inheritance, and more. Sass generates well formatted CSS and makes your stylesheets easier to organize and maintain.
@import "compass/css3";

.module {
    @include background(
        linear-gradient(white, #ccc)
    );
}

Spec Syntax
.module {
    background: -webkit-gradient(linear, 50% 0%, 50% 100%, color-stop(0%, #ffffff), color-stop(100%, #cccccc));
    background: -webkit-linear-gradient(#ffffff, #cccccc);
    background: -moz-linear-gradient(#ffffff, #cccccc);
    background: -o-linear-gradient(#ffffff, #cccccc);
    background: linear-gradient(#ffffff, #cccccc);
}
@import "compass/css3";
$experimental-support-for-svg: true;

.module {
  @include background(
    linear-gradient(white, #ccc)
  );
}
Linda? Hey.
No. Yeah.
I’ll be working from home the rest of this week trying to get our IE 9 support done. Yeah.
Talk to you later.
Nesting

```
.module {}
.module h4 {}
.module a {}

.module {
    h4 {}
    a {}
}
```
Nesting

• No directly tangible benefits

• **Just feels right**
  It’s the thing I miss the most when writing regular CSS
Media Queries

.page-wrap {
    width: 75%;
    @media (max-width: 700px) {
        width: 100%;
    }
}
@mixin breakpoint($point) {
  @if $point == papa-bear {
    @media (max-width: 1600px) { @content; }
  }

  @else if $point == mama-bear {
    @media (max-width: 1250px) { @content; }
  }

  @else if $point == baby-bear {
    @media (max-width: 650px) { @content; }
  }

  @else if $point == retina {
    @media
      (-webkit-min-device-pixel-ratio: 2),
      (min-resolution: 192dpi) {
      @content;
    }
  }
}
Media Queries

```css
.page-wrap {
  width: 75%;
  @include breakpoint(baby-bear) {
    width: 100%;
  }
}
```
PREPROCESSING

Makes CSS fun again!
Hey Everybody!
Preprocessing is cool.

Hey Everybody!
Preprocessing is cool.
It’s like steroids for web developers.
Style Injection is for winners
Style injection is super nice...

Open Dialog Box
CSS

C

JS

None
CoffeeScript

Latest Version of...
MooTools

No results match "some dumb search"

Modernizr

+ add another resource
{{ breathe }}
Real Developers Care about performance
Concatenating & Compressing Styles & Scripts
@import "bits";
@import "normalize";
@import "icons";
@import "ads";
@import "toolbox";
@import "typography";
@import "prism";
@import "buttons";
@import "forms";
@import "grid";
// some stuff, maybe
@import "footer";

global.css
lodge.scss → lodge.css
The Big v10 Redesign Project
A super detailed journey through the redesign process of an entire website. This very website, in fact.

Only a few of the videos have been posted so far. Never fear, I’ll be posting several more a day and they should all be up within a week or so.
(function($) {

  // global js

})(jQuery);
Losslessly Compressing Images
SXSW News

Americana Fans Happy with No Depression Showcase

Posted by kevin on February 17, 2012 Music Festival

Among the hundreds of SXSW showcases announced this week, the No Depression lineup includes some of the brightest lights in Americana, kicking off at 8pm on Wednesday 3/14 at the Continental Club with The Trishas, a quartet of women who have quickly risen to headliner status here in Austin and whose
Initial Size: 1.7 MB
Current Size: 1 MB
Reduction: 39.494%

The values above are totals for all 21 selected files.
Alternatives
LiveReload 2 proudly presents...

The Web Developer Wonderland
(a happy land where browsers don’t need a Refresh button)

CSS edits and image changes apply live.
CoffeeScript, SASS, LESS and others just work.

Citizenship is granted through the Mac App Store.
Windows permanent residency issues are being worked out,
temporary stay already allowed.

What does LiveReload do?
LiveReload monitors changes in the file system. As soon as you save a file, it is preprocessed as needed, and the browser is refreshed.
What is SoFresh?

Tired of refreshing your browser when editing CSS files? SoFresh is a bookmarklet shamelessly copied based on the excellent CSSrefresh. It allows you to select which files you want to refresh (or not). They are refreshed everytime you save them, so that you don’t need to refresh your browser.

Launch our cool bookmarklet and start editing your CSS code to see the changes live. Your F5 key will be happy.

Get the bookmarklet
HTTP Compression
GZip
mod_deflate
whatever
"The Internet"

SERVER

file

"The Internet"

file

BROWSER

file

imperceptibly fast un-squishing

imperceptibly fast squishing
gzipwtf.com
The web’s most popular front-end template

HTML5 Boilerplate helps you build fast, robust, and adaptable web apps or sites. Kick-start your project with the combined knowledge and effort of 100s of developers, all in one little package.

Download v4.0.1  Get a custom build

See the CHANGELOG

Save time. Create with confidence.

⭐ Analytics, icons, and more
A lean, mobile-friendly HTML template; optimized Google Analytics snippet;

⭐ Normalize.css and helpers
Includes Normalize.css v1.0.x — a modern, HTML5-ready alternative to CSS resets — and
html5-boilerplate

Update Normalize.css to 1.0.2

- drublic authored 8 days ago
- Update Normalize.css to 1.0.2 [drublic]

- .gitattributes
  - a year ago
  - Simplify .gitattributes. Thanks, @jeffbyrnes! See https://github.com/… [mathiasbynens]

- .gitignore
  - 4 months ago
  - Clean up .gitignore [necolas]

- .htaccess
  - 15 days ago
  - Add note about 'AddOutputFilterByType' in Apache < v2.3.7 [lhemberger]

- 404.html
  - 4 months ago
  - Minor HTML indentation change [necolas]

- CHANGELOG.md
  - 8 days ago
  - Update Normalize.css to 1.0.2 [drublic]

- CONTRIBUTING.md
  - 3 months ago
  - Add a `CONTRIBUTING.md` file [necolas]

- LICENSE.md
  - 4 months ago
  - Add MIT license [necolas]
# Gzip compression

# Force deflate for mangled headers developer.yahoo.com/blogs/ydn/posts/2010/12/pushing-beyond-gzipping/

<IfModule mod_deflate.c>
  # Compress all output labeled with one of the following MIME-types
  # (for Apache versions below 2.3.7, you don’t need to enable `mod_filter`
  # and can remove the `<IfModule mod_filter.c>` and `</IfModule>` lines as
  # `AddOutputFilterByType` is still in the core directives)
  <IfModule mod_filter.c>
    AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/atom+xml \
    application/javascript \n    application/json \n    application/rss+xml \n    application/vnd.ms-fontobject \n    application/x-font-ttf \n    application/xhtml+xml \n    application/xml \n    font/opentype \n    image/svg+xml \n    image/x-icon \n    text/css \n    text/html \n    text/plain \n    text/x-component \
    text/xml
  </IfModule>
</IfModule>

# Expires headers (for better cache control)

# -----------------------------
Your host might do it automatically.

If not, search their docs first.
Cache!
Server Side
(install a plugin!)

Client Side
(set expires headers!)
The fastest HTTP request is the one not made.

http://www.stevesouders.com/blog/2012/03/22/cache-them-if-you-can/
HTML5 ★ BOILERPLATE

The web’s most popular front-end template

HTML5 Boilerplate helps you build fast, robust, and adaptable web apps or sites. Kick-start your project with the combined knowledge and effort of 100s of developers, all in one little package.

Download v4.0.1
Get a custom build

Save time. Create with confidence.

★ Analytics, icons, and more
A lean, mobile-friendly HTML template; optimized Google Analytics snippet;

★ Normalize.css and helpers
Includes Normalize.css v1.0.x — a modern, HTML5-ready alternative to CSS resets — and
A professional front-end template for building fast, robust, and adaptable web apps or sites. — Read more
http://html5boilerplate.com/

- Clone in Mac
- ZIP
- HTTP
- SSH
- Git Read-Only

Files

- Update Normalize.css to 1.0.2
- Remove broken link to PDF in cross-domain docs
- git ignore files do not need to ignore ignoring themselves
- Updated jQuery to 1.8.3
- Simplify .gitattributes
- Clean up .gitignore
- Add note about ‘AddOutputFilterByType’ in Apache < v2.3.7
- Add a `CONTRIBUTING.md` file
- Add MIT license
# Expires headers (for better cache control)
# These are pretty far-future expires headers.
# They assume you control versioning with filename-based cache busting
# Additionally, consider that outdated proxies may misconstrue
# www.stevesouders.com/blog/2008/08/23/revving-filenames-dont-use-querystring/
# If you don't use filenames to version, lower the CSS and JS to something like
# "access plus 1 week".

<IfModule modExpires.c>
    ExpiresActive on
    # Perhaps better to whitelist expires rules? Perhaps.
    ExpiresDefault "access plus 1 month"
    # cache.appcache needs re-requests in FF 3.6 (thanks Remy - Introducing HTML5)
    ExpiresByType text/cache-manifest "access plus 0 seconds"
    # Your document html
    ExpiresByType text/html "access plus 0 seconds"
    # Data
    ExpiresByType application/json "access plus 0 seconds"
    ExpiresByType application/xml "access plus 0 seconds"
    ExpiresByType text/xml "access plus 0 seconds"
    # Feed
    ExpiresByType application/atom+xml "access plus 1 hour"
    ExpiresByType application/rss+xml "access plus 1 hour"
    # Favicon (cannot be renamed)
    ExpiresByType image/x-icon "access plus 1 week"
    # Media: images, video, audio
    ExpiresByType image/ico "access plus 1 month"
    ExpiresByType image/gif "access plus 1 month"
    ExpiresByType image/png "access plus 1 month"
    ExpiresByType image/jpeg "access plus 1 month"
    ExpiresByType video/mp4 "access plus 1 month"
    ExpiresByType audio/ogg "access plus 1 month"
    ExpiresByType video/ogg "access plus 1 month"
    ExpiresByType video/webm "access plus 1 month"
</IfModule>
It’s up to you to break cache.

style.v1.css
style.v2.css
style.css?v=3243
style.css?v=3244
...

{{ breathe }}
Testing, Testing, Testing
Past Safari
michelf.ca/projects/multi-safari

Current Safari
support.apple.com/downloads#safari

Future Safari
nightly.webkit.org
Past Chrome
doesn’t really matter

Current Chrome
google.com/chrome

Future Chrome
tools.google.com/dlpage/chromesxs
Past Firefox

davemartorana.com/multifirefox
ftp.mozilla.org/pub/mozilla.org/firefox/releases

Current Firefox

mozilla.org/firefox

Future Firefox

nightly.mozilla.org
Past Opera
www.opera.com/browser/download/?custom=yes

Current Opera
www.opera.com/

Future Opera
www.opera.com/browser/next/
What about IE testing?
Live Web-Based Cross Browser Testing

Instant access to all browsers across platforms. Forget clumsy virtual machine & mobile setup. Save time & money.

Sign up for free trial

Loaded with 30 minutes of browser testing to use whenever you like.

Full Name     Email     Company (optional)     Password     Start testing
Recap

• Started designing in Photoshop but moved to browser quickly
• Working locally is a good thing
• Version control is a good thing
• Preprocessing is a good thing
• Performance as workflow
• Testing
THANK YOU

@chriscoyier
chriscoyier.net