HOW TO STAY UP TO DATE
CSS-Tricks Chronicle XV

October 18, 2013

Stuff that I have done did in the timeframe of recently.

Read Article →

Art Directed Articles. Still a Good Idea?

October 17, 2013

I was recently quoted in a tweet about this and I thought it might be worth a revisit and new discussion....

Read Article →

New T-Shirts! New Store!

October 16, 2013

Cargo cult analytics →

There is a lot to quote in this great article by Stijn Debrouwere:

There’s nothing like a dashboard full of data and graphs and trend lines to make us feel like grown ups.

... metrics only make sense when you’re going to do something with them.

I’ve never seen a news organization that has a workflow that would allow them to routinely respond to their readers’ behavior right now.

1) Have an idea where, depending on data, you’ll do A, B, or C. 2) THEN look at data. 3) Then do A, B, or C.

Introversion and UX →

Angela Craven and SuAnne Hall with thoughts, interviews, and research into introversion can be an asset to the UX field. Like the majority of people, most web users subscribe to CSS-Tricks.
#HOTDRAMA
How do you stay up to date on the latest web technology?
UMMMMMMMM
#SHUFFLEFEET
#VAGUEANSWER
#MAKEFORTHEDOOR
I should think about that and come up with a decent answer.
Three beautiful, illustrated hardbound books a year, each holding six articles and six personal lessons that use the maturing of the discipline of web design as a starting point for deeper explorations of our work and who we are as designers.

AlwaysReadTheManual.com
Tounge-Tied
TRENT WALTON
“And what is it that you do?”

“I’m a web designer.”

“Oh. That’s nice.”
DAMN IT.

That didn’t go the way I wanted it to.

Again.
Once more, I’ve proven to be a poor representative of the industry I’m so proud to belong to.
How do you stay up to date on the latest web technology?
ONE QUESTION
MANY SUBTEXTS
SUBTEXT NUMBER ONE

“Gimme Something Easy”
EVERYTHING ABOUT WEB EVER WEEKLY .com
It’s not that easy.
There are these newsletters...
CSS Application Architecture
Nicolas Gallagher

Nicolas Gallagher looks at the design and use of the SMIT framework (an HTML/CSS framework for creating loosely coupled UI components), and the use of tooling to support and test HTML/CSS development.

Interview Questions and Exercises About CSS
Subscribe today

A free, once-weekly round-up of responsive design articles, tools, tips, tutorials and inspirational links.

We spend hours and hours of our time consuming content, interviewing industry leaders and experts so that you don’t have to. For Free.

We know your email is precious which is why we keep it super secret and only ever use it to send you helpful information that keeps you on top of what’s happening in RWD without having to spend hours finding it.

Here’s what people are saying
Mozilla is fighting for the open web. Support them with a donation and receive the official Firefox t-shirt.
MAYBE IT IS THAT EASY.
“I’m worried about making bad decisions”
I’m about to start a new project.

I want to make **smart decisions** on what tech to use.
Is the tech right for the project?

Is it just short-term cool or long-term right?

What is the fail cost?
Will the team be into it?

Can I hire people that know it?

How big is the community around it?
Watch/talk to the “big” players
Look at enormous GitHub repos
Be aware of tech you hear about over and over
Look at community sizes
Research investment costs (mostly: time)
Employ good decision making
SUBTEXT NUMBER THREE

“I’m getting old.”
It might not be that you’re getting old.
It might be that you’re getting bored.
Find a way to get excited again.

Or get out.

#noshame
Decisions, decisions.
And now for a subtalk...

HOW TO MAKE A DECISION
Get a good night’s sleep.

Or ten. The bigger the decision the most rested you should be.
2

Gather and clearly lay out all the options.

Often boolean: yes/no, use/don’t use, do/don’t do
3

Consider outcome of each of those choices.

As scientifically as you can, but use your intuition.
Pick the best one and do it.

Don’t be a wimp.
See how it goes.

drink(5); goto(1);
THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS
TRANSCEND TECH
Who do you choose to work with?
What is my attitude?
What culture am I trying to cultivate?
Am I letting UX drive choices?
Am I building something people love?
Am I writing things people want to read?
DECISION MAKING IN ACTION
How should I go about hosting private video?
go to bed, self.
Get a good night’s sleep.
Gather and clearly lay out all the options.
3
Consider outcome of each of those choices.
Pick the best one and do it.
5

See how it goes.
Should I start using icon fonts?

Is single-color OK?
Is performance better or worse?
Will it speed up or slow down development?
Can we deal with all accessibility concerns?
Can I find ones that work for me?
I can build my own? Do I have time for that?
Do they look better to my audience?
Should I use HTML5 form features?

What is the browser support?
What quirks to watch out for?
What features do I need?
What control do I have?
What kind of fallback is acceptable?

<input type=date>
The Current State of HTML5 Forms

Browser support for the different features of HTML5 forms is quite varied. Let's explore.

The Introduction

HTML5 is the newest specification for HTML, the language that web browsers read to display web pages. HTML5 has many new features intended to make creating websites easier and people's experience in using those websites better. Among those features are many enhancements to web forms.

Since HTML5 is fairly new and not all the details have been worked out yet, not all web browsers support HTML5 features the same way. This page is intended to explore those new new features and help you understand which browsers are supporting which features and to what degree. As a whole, this represents the current state of HTML5 forms.

The charts below list the most current version of each major browser. The individual pages (e.g. page for placeholder) shows past browser support.

Browser Support for New HTML5 Input Types

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Should we use Sass?

What is the cost to switch?
Can we get the whole team on board?
What is the learning curve?
What are other people saying/doing?
What other benefits/effects does it have?
What browsers should I support?

Look at YOUR data.
What are trending indicating?
What is the cost of support?
What do you gain from that support?
Do the math.
FILING AWAY
NEW THINGS
IcedCoffeeScript is a superset of CoffeeScript. The iced interpreter is a drop-in replacement for the standard coffee interpreter; it will interpret almost all existing CoffeeScript programs.

IcedCoffeeScript (ICS) adds two new keywords: `await` and `defer`. These additions simply and powerfully streamline asynchronous control flow, both on the server and on the browser. Say goodbye to callback pyramids; say adios to massive code rewrites when synchronization requirements change slightly. Say hello to clean, readable, maintainable control flow for network and asynchronous operations!

The golden rule of CoffeeScript was: "It's just JavaScript". ICS is doing something deeper. It's selectively running code through a continuation-passing style conversion. Original-style CoffeeScript will compile as before, but code using the new ICS features will be less recognizable. Still, the compiled output is readable and pretty-printed, passes through JavaScript Lint without warnings.

**Latest Version:** 1.4.0a

**Installation**

The CoffeeScript compiler is itself written in CoffeeScript, using the jison parser generator. The command-line version of iced is available as a Node.js utility. The core compiler however, does not depend on Node, and can be run in any JavaScript environment, or in the browser (see "Try It", above).

To install, first make sure you have a working copy of the latest stable version of Node.js, and npm (the Node Package Manager). You can then install CoffeeScript with npm:

```
npm install -g iced-coffee-script
```

(Leave off the `-g` if you don't wish to install globally.)
IcedCoffeeScript? WTF is IcedCoffeeScript?
IcedCoffeeScript is a superset of CoffeeScript. The iced interpreter is a drop-in replacement for the standard coffee interpreter; it will interpret almost all existing CoffeeScript programs.

IcedCoffeeScript (ICS) adds two new keywords: \texttt{await} and \texttt{defer}. These additions simply and powerfully streamline asynchronous control flow, both on the server and on the browser. Say goodbye to callback pyramids; say adios to massive code rewrites when synchronization requirements change slightly. Say hello to clean, readable, maintainable control flow for network and asynchronous operations!

The golden rule of CoffeeScript was: "It's just JavaScript". ICS is doing something deeper. It's selectively running code through a continuation-passing style conversion. Original-style CoffeeScript will compile as before, but code using the new ICS features will be less recognizable. Still, the compiled output is readable and pretty-printed, passes through JavaScript Lint without warnings.

\textbf{Latest Version: 1.4.0a}

\textbf{Installation}

The CoffeeScript compiler is itself written in CoffeeScript, using the Jison parser generator. The command-line version of iced is available as a Node.js utility. The core compiler however, does not depend on Node, and can be run in any JavaScript environment, or in the browser (see "Try It", above).

To install, first make sure you have a working copy of the latest stable version of Node.js, and npm (the Node Package Manager). You can then install CoffeeScript with npm:

\begin{verbatim}
  npm install -g iced-coffee-script
\end{verbatim}

(Leave off the \texttt{-g} if you don't wish to install globally.)
IcedCoffeeScript is a superset of CoffeeScript... it will interpret almost all existing CoffeeScript programs.

IcedCoffeeScript (ICS) adds two new keywords: **await** and **defer**.

```javascript
parallelSearch = (keywords, cb) => {
  out = []
  await
    for k,i in keywords
      search k, defer out[i]
  cb out
}
```
How do you stay up to date on the latest web technology?
What if you just stopped?

Would it make that big of a difference?
Stay as up to date as you need to.
Not out of compulsion.
I BET

If you stopped reading any dev tech news for a year, you could catch up in a week.

Binge on some blogs.

Go to a conference or two.
THE

BOSS

SLIDES
A VERY SMALL SMATTERING OF VERY SMART AND INTERESTING BLOGS, PODCASTS, & PEOPLE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW.
Smashing Magazine
smashingmagazine.com

Cognition
cognition.happycog.com

NetTuts+
net.tutsplus.com

A List Apart
alistapart.com

HTML5 Rocks
html5rocks.com

24 Ways
24ways.org

Codrops
tympanus.com/codrops

HTML5 Doctor
html5doctor.com
Paul Irish
@paul_irish / paulirish.com

Estelle Weyl
@estellevw / estelle.github.com

Martin Wolf
@_martinwolf / theamazingweb.net

Rebecca Murphey
@rmurphey / rmurphey.com/

Tab Atkins
@tabatkins / xanthir.com

Val Head
@vlh / valhead.com

Zoe Gillenwater
@zomigi / zomigi.com

Jeremy Keith
@adactio / adactio.com

Nicole Sullivan
@stubbornella / stubbornella.org

Ryan Seddon
@ryanseddon / thecssninja.com

Divya Manian
@divya / nimbupani.com

Christian Heilman
@codepo8 / christianheilmann.com
Elijah Manor
@elijahmanor / elijahmanor.com

Rachel Nabors
@rachelnabors / rachelnabors.com

Ethan Marcotte
@rwd / @beep / ethanmarcotte.com/

Raquel Velez
@rockbot / raquelvelez.com

Jeff Starr
@perishable / perishablepress.com

Pamela Fox
@pamelafox / pamelafox.org

Lea Verou
@leaverou / lea.verou.me

Mike Taylor
@miketaylr / miketaylr.com

Rachel Andrew
@rachelandrew / rachelandrew.co.uk

Scott Jehl
@scottjehl / scottjehl

Jina Bolton
@jina / jina.me

Hakim El Hattab
@hakimel / hakim.se
WHAT ABOUT THAT QUESTION
How do you stay up to date on the latest web technology?
“And what is it that you do?”

“I work at a small web design shop and we’re building a website that sells car parts for old cars.”
If you’re looking for a few quick wins, there are some great newsletters you can subscribe to.
But why do you ask?
THANK YOU

@chriscoyier
chriscoyier.net