

## A new baseline for front-end developers

Rebecca Murphey • April 2012 • BerlinJS

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O A Baseline for Front-End Dev ×

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APR 12TH, 2012 | COMMENTS

### A Baseline for Front-End Developers

I wrote a README the other day for a project that I'm hoping other developers will look at and learn from, and as I was writing it, I realized that it was the sort of thing that might have intimidated the hell out of me a couple of years ago, what with its casual mentions of Node, npm, Homebrew, git, tests, and development and production builds.

Once upon a time, editing files, testing them locally (as best as we could, anyway), and then FTPing them to the server was the essential workflow of a front-end dev. We measured our mettle based on our ability to wrangle IE6 into submission or achieve pixel perfection across browsers. Many members of the community – myself included – lacked traditional programming experience. HTML, CSS, and JavaScript – usually in the form of jQuery – were self-taught skills.

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Today's featured article

Ezra Pound, one of the prime movers of Imagism

Imagism was a movement in early 20th-century Anglo-American poetry that favoured precision of imagery, and clear, sharp language. The Imagists rejected the sentiment and artifice typical of much Romantic and Victorian poetry. This was in contrast to their contemporaries, the Georgian poets, who were by and large content to work within that tradition. Group publication of work under the Imagist name in magazines and in four anthologies appearing between 1914 and 1917 featured writing by many of the most significant figures in Modernist poetry in English, as well as a number of other Modernist figures who were to be prominent in fields other than poetry. Based in London, the Imagists were drawn from Britain, Ireland and the United States and, somewhat unusually for the time, featured a number of women writers amongst their major figures. Historically, Imagism is also significant because it was the first organised Modernist English-language literary movement or group. At the time Imagism emerged Longfellow and Tennyson were considered the paragons for poetry, and the public valued the sometimes moralising tone of their writings. In contrast to this, Imagism called for a return to what were seen as more Classical values, such as directness of presentation and economy of language, as well as a willingness to experiment with non-traditional verse forms.

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### **An Objective Look at Table Based vs. CSS Based Design** | May 12, 2004

Over the years there have been many great articles extolling the virtues of CSS based design and bemoaning table based design. However there have been very few articles looking at things from the other side of the fence. This is probably because you really have to understand and use CSS based design before you can criticise it. Yet once converted, few (if any) people go back to the old way of coding.

In order to bring some balance back to the equation, and to have a bit of fun playing devils advocate, I've decided to write an article about why in some instances, traditional table based design can be as good, if not better than CSS and standards based design.

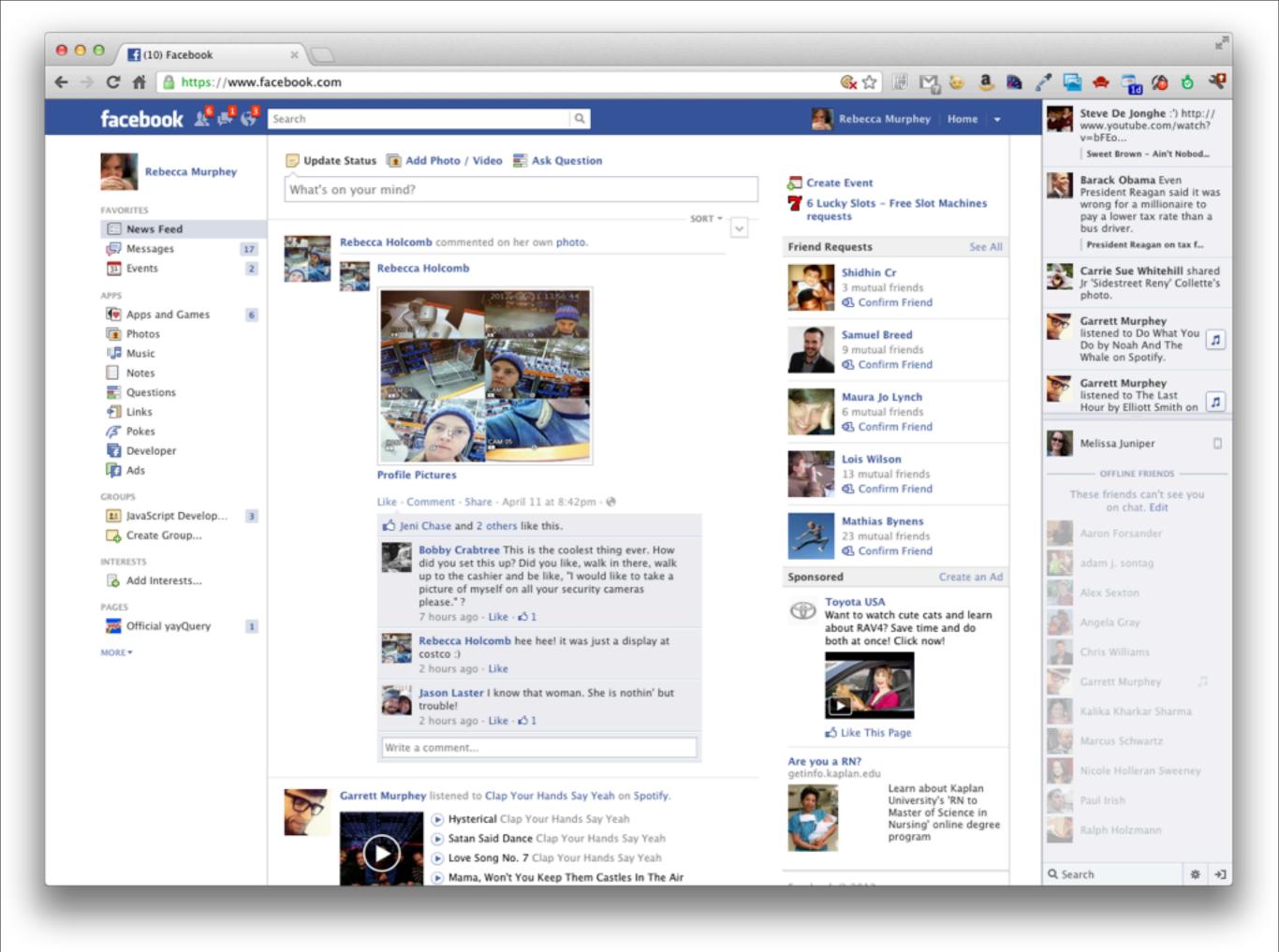
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### write less do more

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Introduction	Maggie edit name/color    76.111.39.140/Firefox3.0.10
Lizzer is a linking and content embedding service that works with blogs, websites, and web-based email. It is launched as a <u>bookmarklet</u> from the user's web browser and provides search results from a wide variety of content providers, including <u>Google</u> , <u>Yahoo</u> , Delicious, <u>Flickr</u> , and <u>YouTube</u> . Users can then preview	Steve 76.111.39.140/Firefox3.0.9
these results, including images, documents, and video, from the bookmarklet and choose to insert or embed the content directly in their text editor.	John 76.111.39.140/Firefox3.0.10
History	To invite someone to this pad, just copy and
Lizzer was created by Digital Scientists in 2008 as a web publishing aid. It is designed to reduce the time	paste them the URL to this page.
and steps it takes to search for and add links to blog posts. Content can be inserted with a single mouse click (1) and requires no knowledge of HTML on behalf of the user. It is currently in its Alpha stage of	Or we can send them an invitation for you:
testing. Users must sign-up for an account and install the bookmarklet to be able to use the Lizzer service.	Email: Send
In 2009, Lizzer partnered with Docstoc(2), a web-based document sharing service, to offer Lizzer functionality to Docstoc users (3), as well as add Docstoc to Lizzer's list of content providers (4). Users can	hide
access both public documents and their personal Docstoc accounts through the Lizzer bookmarklet and insert these documents (including .doc, .xls, .ppt., .pdf) into their blog posts and emails.	Chat
	Maggie (10:42): Can we improve the history? John (10:42): Perhaps we could include something
Technology	about customer requests?
Lizzer is built on the Ruby on Rails framework. It relies on standardized API's across the web to search for	John (10:43): Like the addition of twitter support?
and display results, using jQuery to generate XHR requests to the various web services selected by the user, which include:	
Delicious	
Delicious Accounts	
Google Web Search Yahoo Web Search	Say:
Docstoc	
Docstoc Accounts	Import/Export
Flickr	Download as:
Flickr Accounts	Microsoft Word
Google Image Search	
Yahoo Images Google Blog Search	Plain text
Google News Search	Bookmark file? DenDocument
Google Video Search	
VauTuba	

Friday, April 20, 12





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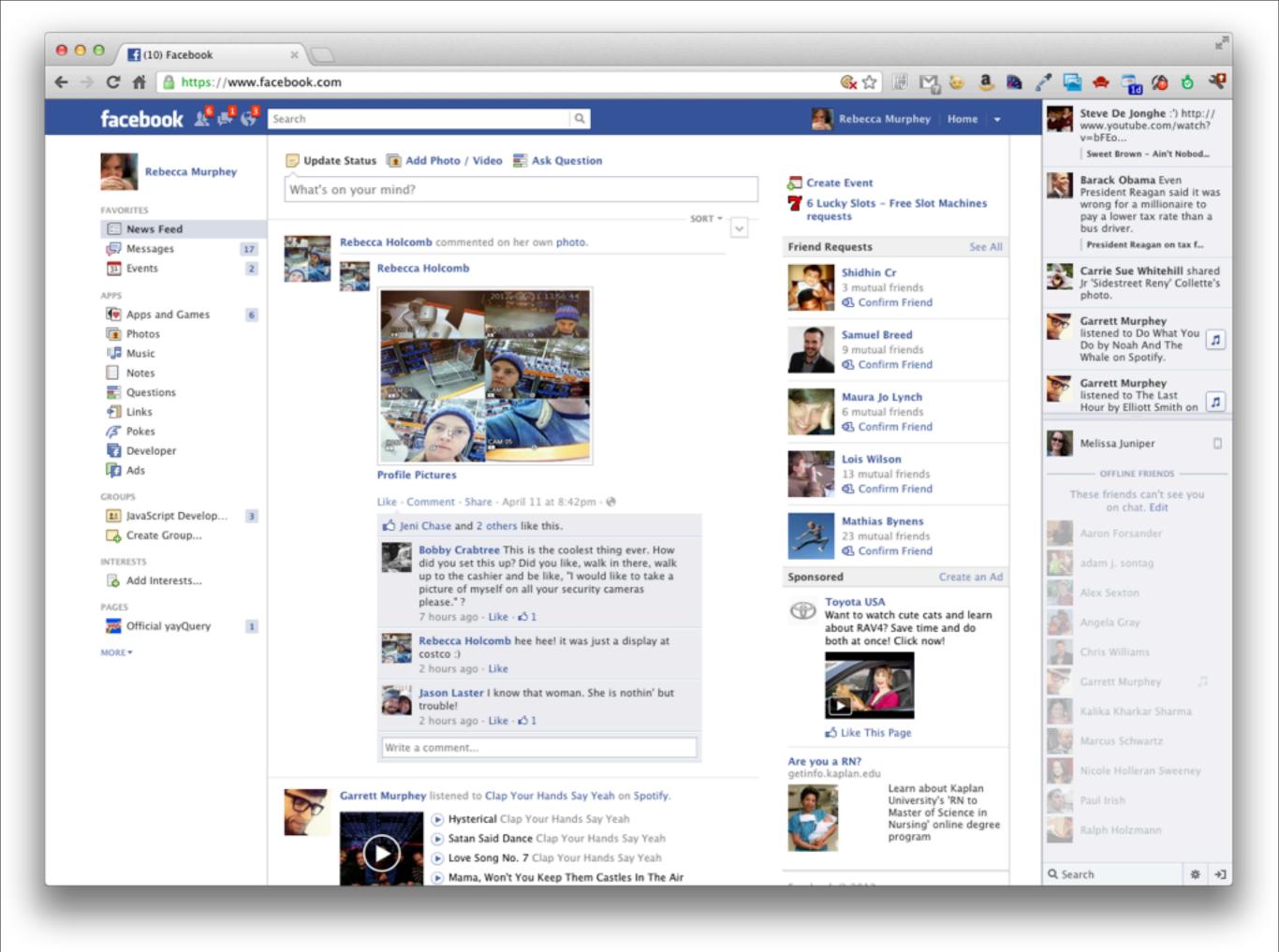
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Our emphasis shifts from trivia to tools as we are required to automate, streamline, and bullet-proof our processes.

### bit.ly/front-end-dev-baseline



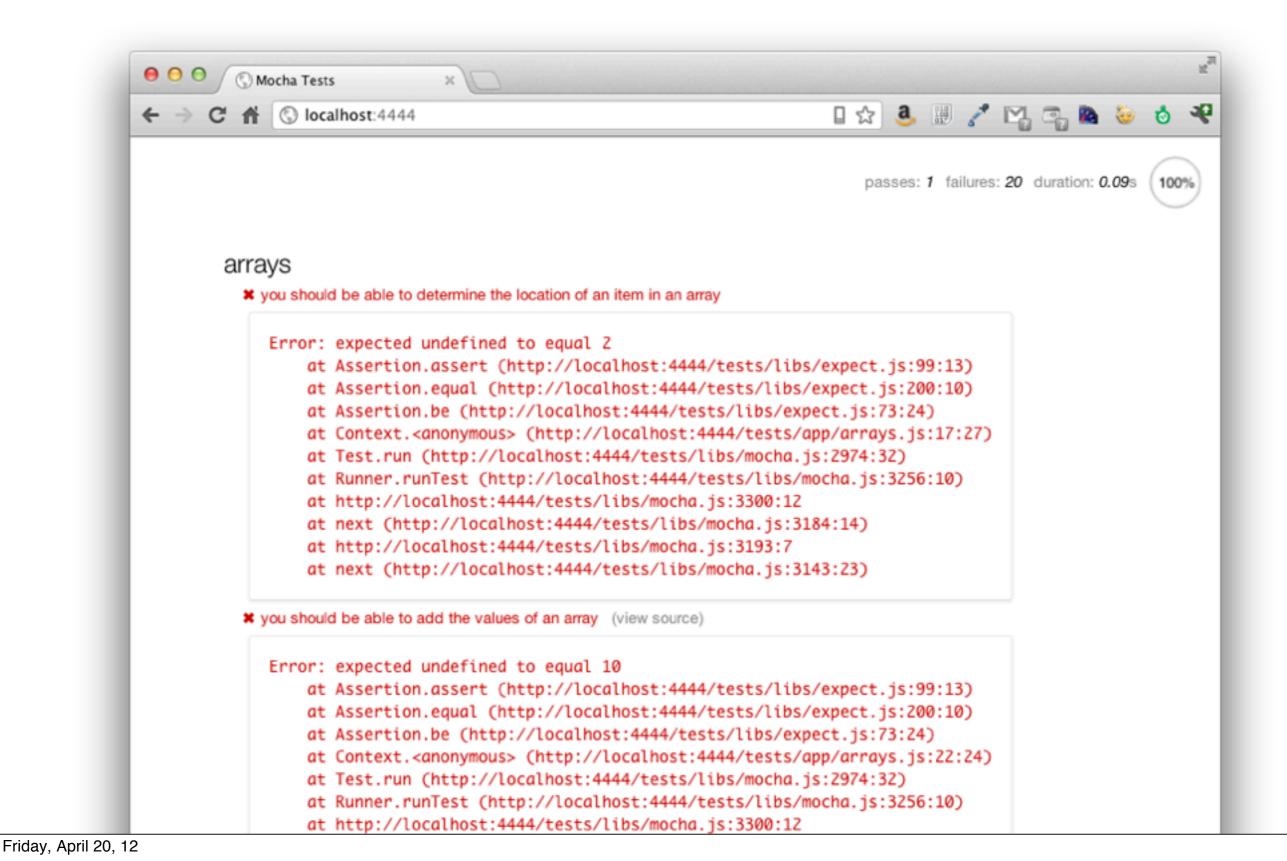
### you already know:

jQuery, underscore, basic JavaScript

### you should know:

jQuery-less JavaScript, prototypal inheritance, Function.bind, basics of Backbone, Ember, canJS or similar

### https://github.com/rmurphey/js-assessment



```
5
       beforeEach(function() {
         a = [1, 2, 3, 4];
 6
 7
         b = {
           foo : 'bar',
 8
           baz : 'bim'
 9
         };
10
11
12
         fn = function() { };
13
       });
14
       it("you should be able to determine the location of an item in an array", function() {
15
16
         // define a function for fn so that the following will pass
17
         expect(fn(a, 3)).to.be(2);
18
       });
19
       it("you should be able to add the values of an array", function() {
20
21
         // define a function for fn so that the following will pass
22
         expect(fn(a)).to.be(10);
23
       });
24
25
       it("you should be able to remove an item from an array", function() {
26
         // define a function for fn so that the following will pass
27
         var result = fn(a, 2);
28
         expect(result).to.have.length(3);
         expect(result.join(' ')).to.be('1 3 4');
29
30
       });
31
32
       it("you should be able to add an item to the end of an array", function() {
33
         // define a function for fn so that the following will pass
34
         var result = fn(a, 10);
35
         expect(result).to.have.length(5);
36
         expect(result[result.length - 1]).to.be(10);
37
       });
38
39
       it("you should be able to create an array from two arrays", function() {
40
         // define a function for fn so that the following will pass
         var c = [ 'a', 'b', 'c' ],
41
             result = fn(a, c);
42
```



### eloquentjavascript.net

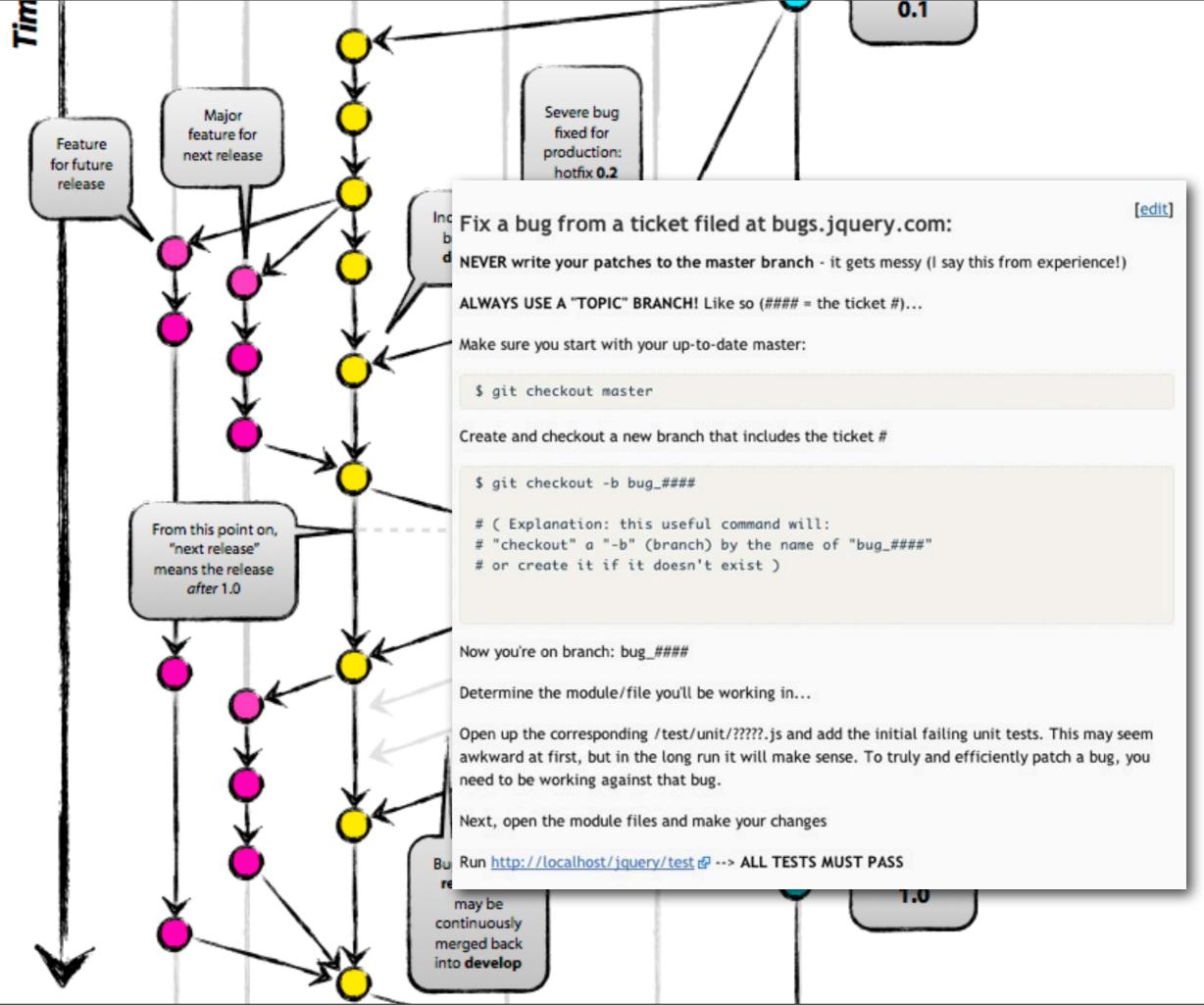
# git & github

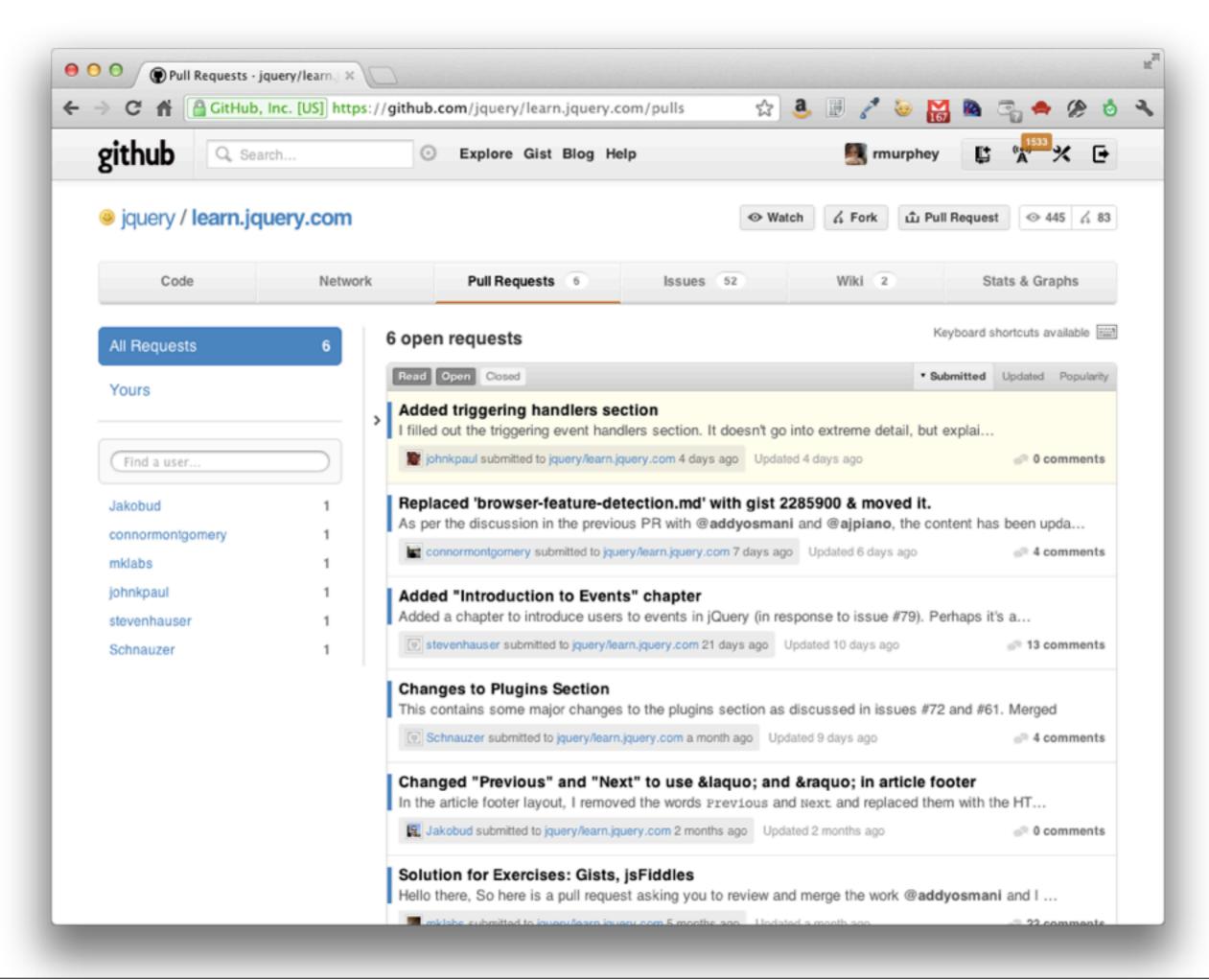
### you already know:

creating a new repo, cloning a repo, branching and merging locally

### you should know:

collaboration workflow, pull requests, code reviews





# modularity & builds

### you already know:

to keep scripts out of your <head>, to limit the number of http requests, to reduce http overhead via minification

### you should know:

AMD, RequireJS / Almond, UglifyJS, Closure Compiler



```
1 ({
    baseUrl : 'app',
 2
     dir : 'build',
 3
 4
     paths : {
       lib : '../lib',
 5
       plugins : '../lib/plugins',
 6
       app : '.',
 7
 8
       jquery : '../lib/jquery',
 9
       underscore : '../lib/underscore',
10
       backbone : '../lib/backbone',
11
12
13
       use : '../lib/plugins/use',
       text : '../lib/plugins/text'
14
15
    },
16
17
    use : {
18
       underscore : {
         attach : '_'
19
20
       },
21
       backbone : {
         deps : [ 'use!underscore', 'jquery' ],
22
         attach : [ 'Backbone' ]
23
24
      }
25
    },
26
27
     modules : [
28
       {
29
         name : 'app/main'
30
       }
31
    ٦
32 })
```

### r.js -o your.build.js

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3 / 5 requests   146.39KB / 2	37.50KB	transferre	ed ∣ 217r	ns (onload: 30	5ms, DOM	ContentLo	oaded: 90ms	)			
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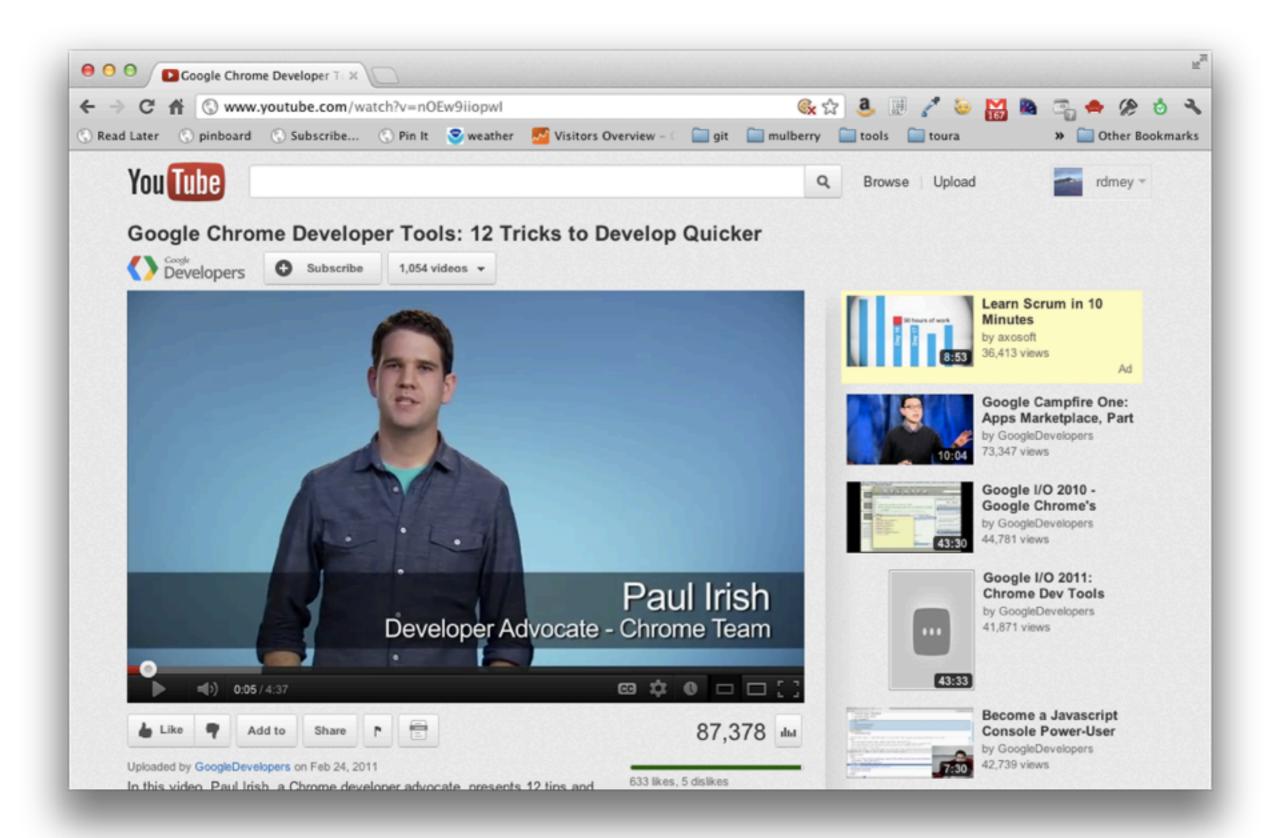
## dev tools

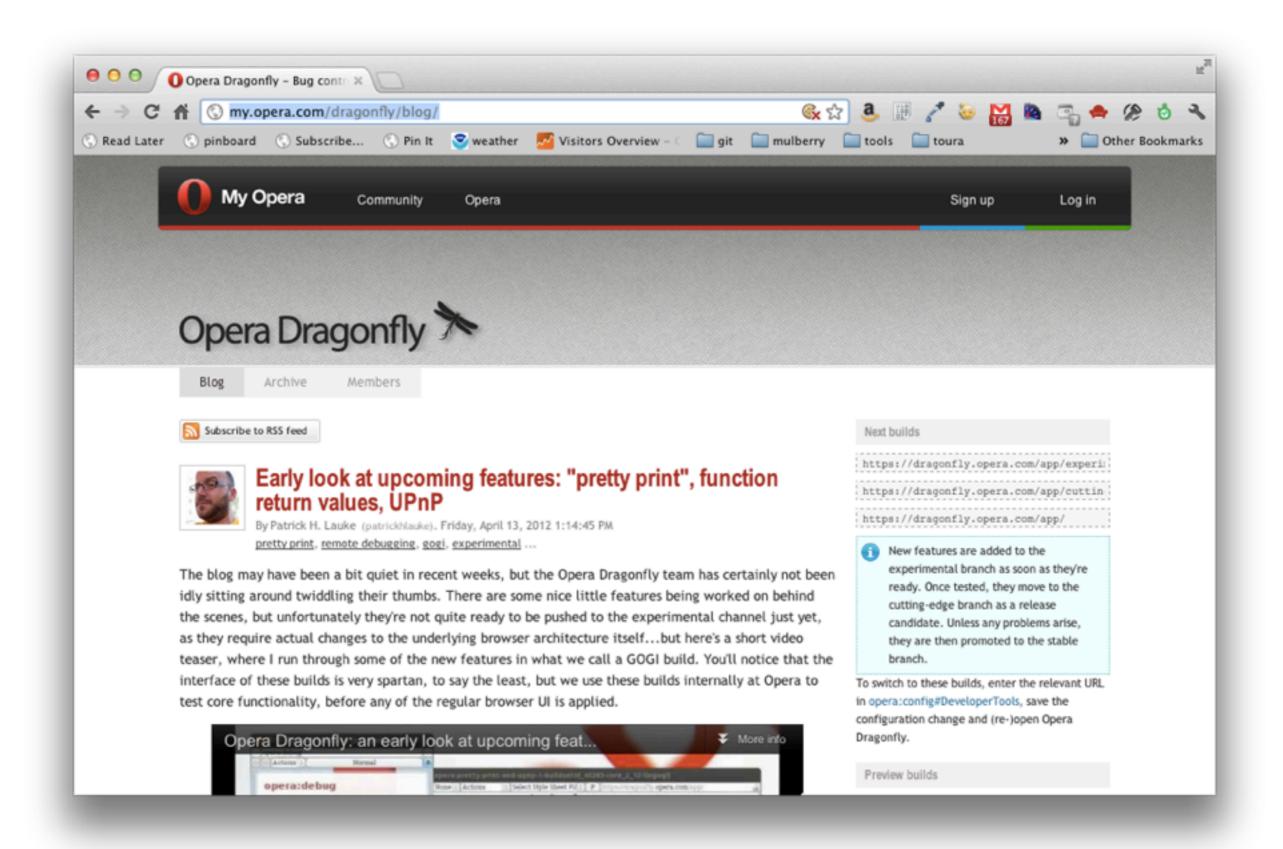
### you already know:

### console.log, console.dir, editing CSS, the network tab, Firebug or Chrome dev tools

### you should know:

breakpoints & step debugging, \$0, timelines & profiles, other browsers





## command line

## Is it **unreasonable to ask for a GUI** so that whatever I'm doing works like all the other programs I use all day?

Dark\_Prism on Reddit

## Now you can berate me for not understanding the Terminal if you like, but I'll trade your ruby gems for my under-colour removal and dot gain, any day of the week. **How hard should this be?**

Andy Clarke, author of "Hardboiled Web Design"

either that the command line is amazing, or the command line is terrifying

## you should know:

ack, ssh, find, curl, git, npm; creating aliases for commonly used commands

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github	Search	<ul> <li>Explore Gist Blog Help</li> </ul>		S rmurphey	¢	**** 🕒
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∆ branch: master	Files Commits	Branches 1			Tags	Downloads
					-	
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Added alias to high	light arbitrary files, use c instea	ad of cat				1. (1. J. 1997 - 1
	light arbitrary files, use c instea	ad of cat			👔 commi	it fbdae795e1
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Added alias to high	light arbitrary files, use c instea	message			👔 comni	it fbdae795e1 history
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to send data, not HTML, from the server; to build HTML as a string & insert it into the DOM all at once<sup>\*</sup>

## you should know:

various templating libraries & tradeoffs, the RequireJS text! plugin

	C f () garann.github.com/template-chooser/						
	G garannigen ub.com/ template-chooser/						
ama	ZING MAGICAL TEMPLATE						

► IS THIS FOR USE ON THE CLIENT OR THE SERVER?	DOM.JS	DOT	. <b> </b> \$	FIG	UONDI	EBARS.JS	HOGAN.JS
Now much logic should it have?	github proje			project		roject	project
DOES IT NEED TO BE ONE OF THE VERY FASTEST?			-				
DO YOU NEED TO PRE-COMPILE TEMPLATES?			JADE TEMPLATI		LATES		
DO YOU NEED PARTIALS?	<u>project</u>		<u>github</u>		_	<u>blog post</u>	
► DO YOU WANT A DOM STRUCTURE. OR JUST A STRING?	MUSTACHE.JS		S PLATES.JS		IS UNI	UNDERSCORE TEMP	
ASIDE FROM TEMPLATE TAGS, SHOULD IT LOOK THE	github	2		github		proje	ect
SAME BEFORE AND AFTER RENDERING?							

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-ENGINE-CHOOSER:

fort me on Crithis

0

~

```
1 define([
 2 'app/components/base',
 3 'text!app/templates/searchForm.html'
 4 ], function(C, tpl) {
 5
    return C({
      template : tpl,
 6
 7
 8
      events : {
 9
        'submit .search-form' : '_onSearch'
10
      },
11
12
      _onSearch : function(e) {
13
        e.preventDefault();
        var term = $.trim(this.query('.js-input').val());
14
15
        if (!term) { return; }
        this.trigger('search', term);
16
17
      }
18 });
19 });
```



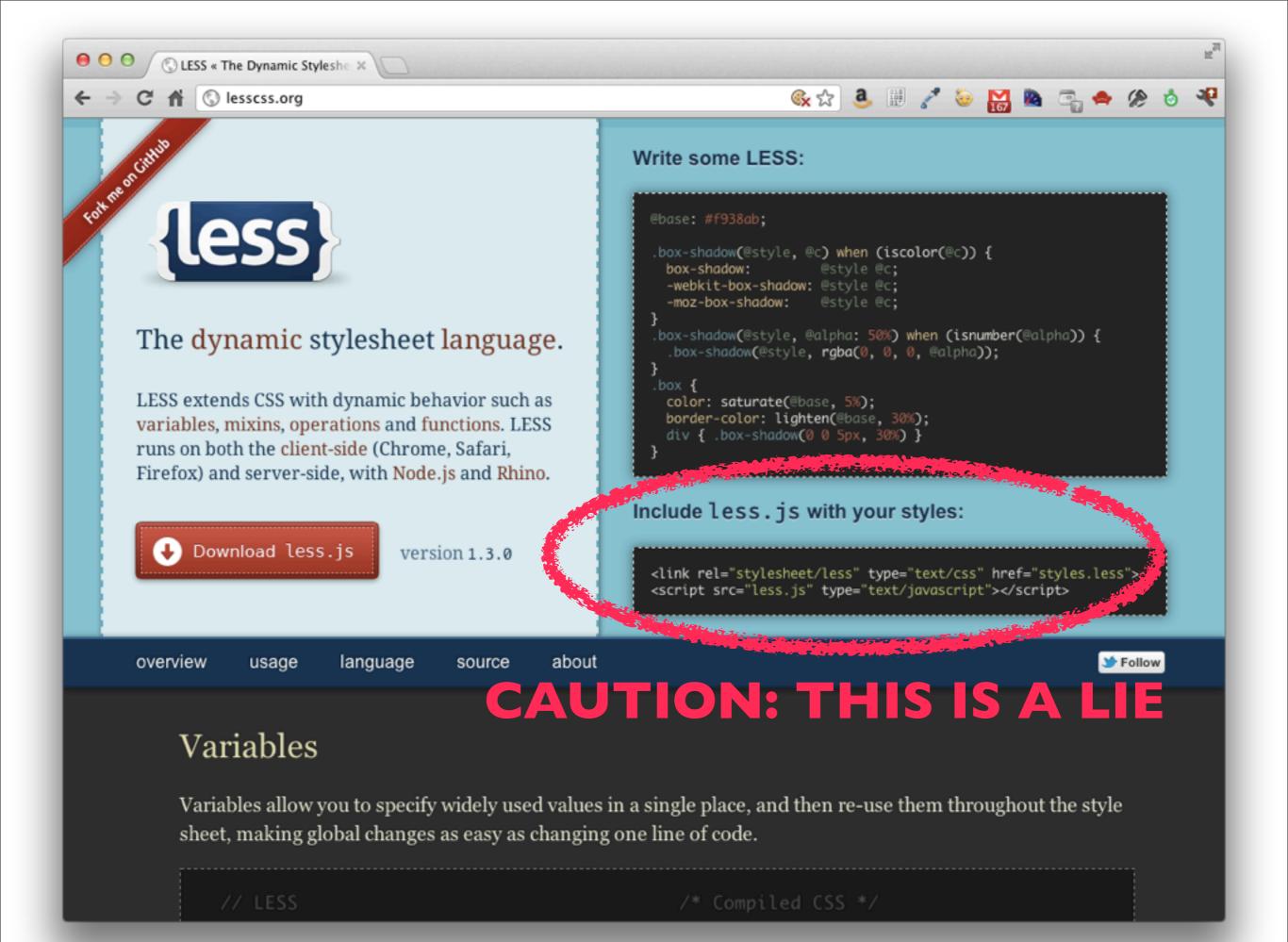
that CSS is difficult to maintain, that you should be modularizing your CSS, that you should combine & minify CSS for production

## you should know:

SASS, Stylus, and/or LESS; RequireJS for plain CSS optimization

```
1 border-radius()
2 -webkit-border-radius arguments
3 -moz-border-radius arguments
4 border-radius arguments
5
6 body
7 font 12px Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif
8
9 a.button
10 border-radius 5px
```

```
1 $blue: #3bbfce;
 2 $margin: 16px;
 3
 4 .content-navigation {
 5
    border-color: $blue;
   color:
 6
      darken($blue, 9%);
 7
8 }
 9
10 .border {
11 padding: $margin / 2;
12 margin: $margin / 2;
13 border-color: $blue;
14 }
```

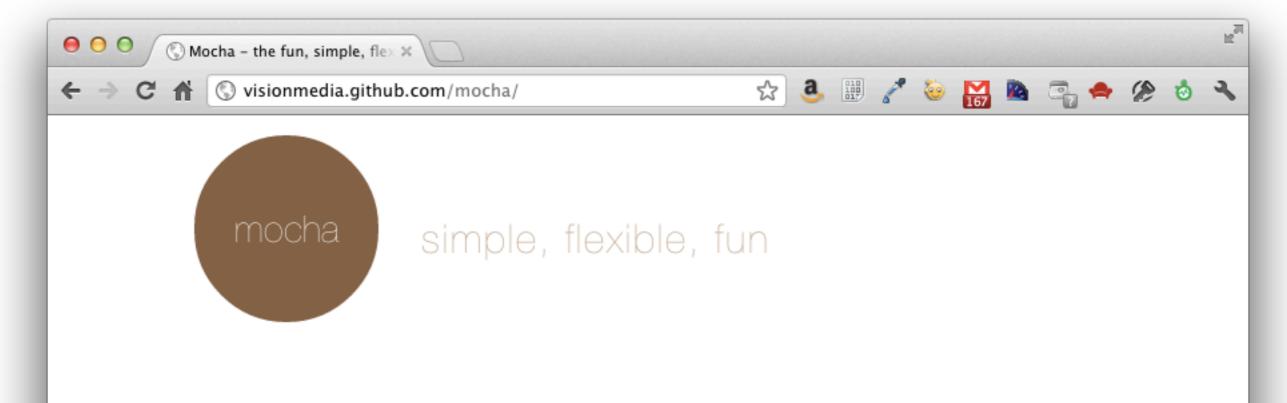


# testing

you should be testing your code, but it's hard to know where to start

## you should know:

modularizing code makes testing easier; baby steps are better than no steps at all



Mocha is a feature-rich JavaScript test framework running on **node** and the browser, making asynchronous testing simple and fun. Mocha tests run serially, allowing for flexible and accurate reporting, while mapping uncaught exceptions to the correct test cases. Hosted on **GitHub**.

#### Features

browser support	simple async support
test coverage reporting	string diff support
javascript API for running tests	proper exit status for CI support etc

We *desperately* need more resources to teach people how to get started with testing.

## automation

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← → C ff @GitH	lub, Inc. [US] ht	tps://github.com/cowboy/	grunt	\$	<b>a</b>	2 👻 🔛	🐚 🖓 🗢 🖉	03
github	Q, Search	O Explo	ore Gist Blog Help		🧾 rmu	irphey	***** E	
cowboy	/ grunt			0	Unwatch	🖌 Your Fork	◆ 1,000 4 58	
Co	de	Network	Pull Requests 1	Issues	27	Stats	& Graphs	
Grunt: a task-	-based command	d line build tool for JavaScript	projects Read more			_		
Clone in M	lac 🖭 ZIP	HTTP Git Read-Only http	s://github.com/cowboy/grunt.	git	Read	Only access		
A branch: ma	ster • File	S Commits Branch	8S (3)			Tags	Downloads	
() Latest commit t	o the master branch	1						
Bumping vers	ion to v0.3.9 and	publishing.						
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#### grunt /

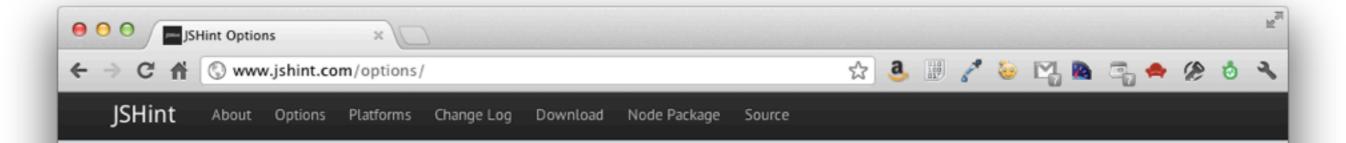
name	age	message	history
🖾 bin	13 days ago	Grunt will, when run globally, attempt to load a locally installed ve [cowboy]	
📔 dev	24 days ago	Minor updates to expect script. [cowboy]	
📴 docs	6 days ago	Updating FAQ to mention this.async. Closes #122. [cowboy]	
🔚 lib	13 days ago	Breaking grunt.file.findup into its own internally-used lib. [cowboy]	
🔄 tasks	2 days ago	Append a semicolon after minifying with UglifyJS. [scottgonzalez]	
📴 test	13 days ago	Adding file_template helper. Closes #97. [cowboy]	
.gitignore	3 months ago	Removing unnecessary stuff from .gitignore. [cowboy]	
E LICENSE-MIT	3 months ago	Removing redundant metadata from grunt.js, Updating copyright to 2012. [cowboy]	



subtle flaws in code can ruin your day, a project's existing style

## you should know:

JSHint, pre-commit hooks, editor plugins



#### **Enforcing Options**

These options tell JSHint to be more strict towards your code. Use them if you want to allow only a safe subset of JavaScript-very useful when your codebase is shared with a big number of developers with different skill levels.

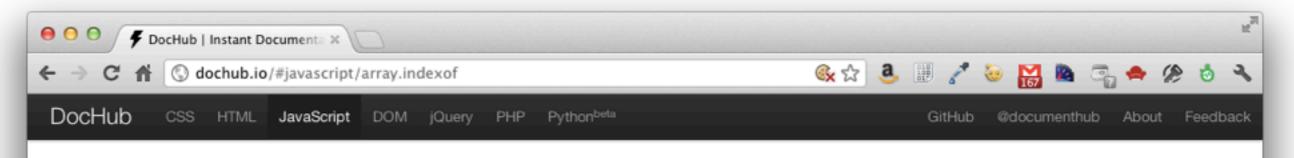
Name	Description
bitwise	<ul> <li>This option prohibits the use of bitwise operators such as ^ (XOR),   (OR) and others. There are two reasons why you would want to enable this option:</li> <li>1. Since JavaScript doesn't have integers (only doulbe precision floating-point numbers) the bitwise operators here is very slow.</li> <li>2. Bitwise operations are very rare in JavaScript programs and very often &amp; is simply a mistyped &amp;&amp;.</li> </ul>
curly	This option requires you to always put curly braces around blocks in loops and conditionals. JavaScript allows you to omit curly braces when the block consists of only one statement, for example: while (day) shuffle();
	However, in some circumstances, it can lead to bugs: while (day) shuffle(); sleep(); // You would think that this is a part of your loop, but it is not.
	Generally, unless you are careful, it is safer to require curly braces around all blocks.



w3schools.com is abhorrent

## you should know:

MDN, dochub.io; prefix all your JS searches with "mdn" (or !js on duckduckgo)



#### Type a JavaScript class/function nam

#### Arithmetic Operators Array Array.Reduce Array.ReduceRight Array.concat Array.constructor Array.every Array.filter Array.forEach Array.indexOf Array.isArray Array.join Array.lastIndexOf Array.length Array.map Array.pop Array.prototype Array.push Array.reverse Array.shift Array.slice Array.some Array.sort Array.splice Array.toSource Array.toString Array.unshift ArrayBuffer ArrayBufferView Assignment Operators **Bitwise Operators** Boolean Boolean.constructor Declass prototype

#### Array.indexOf

#### Summary

Returns the first index at which a given element can be found in the array, or -1 if it is not present.

#### Method of Array

Implemented in JavaScript 1.6 ECMAScript Edition ECMAScript 5th Edition

#### Syntax

array.indexOf(searchElement[, fromIndex])

#### Parameters

#### searchElement

Element to locate in the array.

#### fromIndex

The index at which to begin the search. Defaults to 0, i.e. the whole array will be searched. If the index is greater than or equal to the length of the array, -1 is returned, i.e. the array will not be searched. If negative, it is taken as the offset from the end of the array. Note that even when the index is negative, the array is still searched from front to back. If the calculated index is less than 0, the whole array will be searched.

#### Description

indexOf compares searchElement to elements of the Array using strict equality (the same method used by the ===, or triple-equals, operator).

#### Compatibility

indexOf is a recent addition to the ECMA-262 standard; as such it may not be present in all browsers. You can work around this by inserting the following code at the beginning of your scripts, allowing use of indexOf in implementations which do not natively support it. This algorithm is exactly the one specified in ECMA-262, 5th edition, assuming Object, TypeError, Number, Math.floor, Math.abs, and Math.max have their original value.

#### if (!Array.prototype.indexOf) { Array.prototype.indexOf = function (searchElement /\*, fromIndex \*/ ) { "use strict":

A good programmer is a lazy programmer; only lazy programmers will want to write the kind of tools that might replace them in the end. But for a lazy programmer to be a good programmer, **he or she must be incredibly** *unlazy* when it comes to learning how to stay lazy.

> Paraphrased from Philipp Lenssen, "Why Good Programmers are Lazy and Dumb"

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