# Pre-Spec Work
# Part 2 - Know Thy Medium

CSE 112

Winter 2016

Prof. Powell

# Tools and Tech First?

- Sometimes we do start with tools or tech first
- Corporate Incumbency / Technical Legacy
  - "We're a Java shop"
- Hopefully tool/tech is driven by appropriate need but if we are honest they aren't far too often
  - "Everybody uses jQuery", "Rails is hot!", "We must go to the cloud", "Let's do an App", "Angular sucks, react rocks", etc.

# Loving Constraints

- Constraints are good
  - They make our job easier because they are fixed points
  - Open ended pursuit of perfect tech/tool answers can lead to analysis paralysis
- Reviewing our constraints
  - Web based, JavaScript, MEAN stack, try to be modern SE using proper tools

# Web Based

- Browser based as opposed to app based
- Open distribution but discovery challenges
- Avoid install issues, but less persistence
- Speed/Quality concerns
  - Discuss
- Q: Is this choice appropriate if we consider our project type?

# My Environmental Assumptions

*"To succeed in the Web environment you must assume the Internet is a hostile, unpredictable network, populated by users with widely varying skill levels and intentions."*

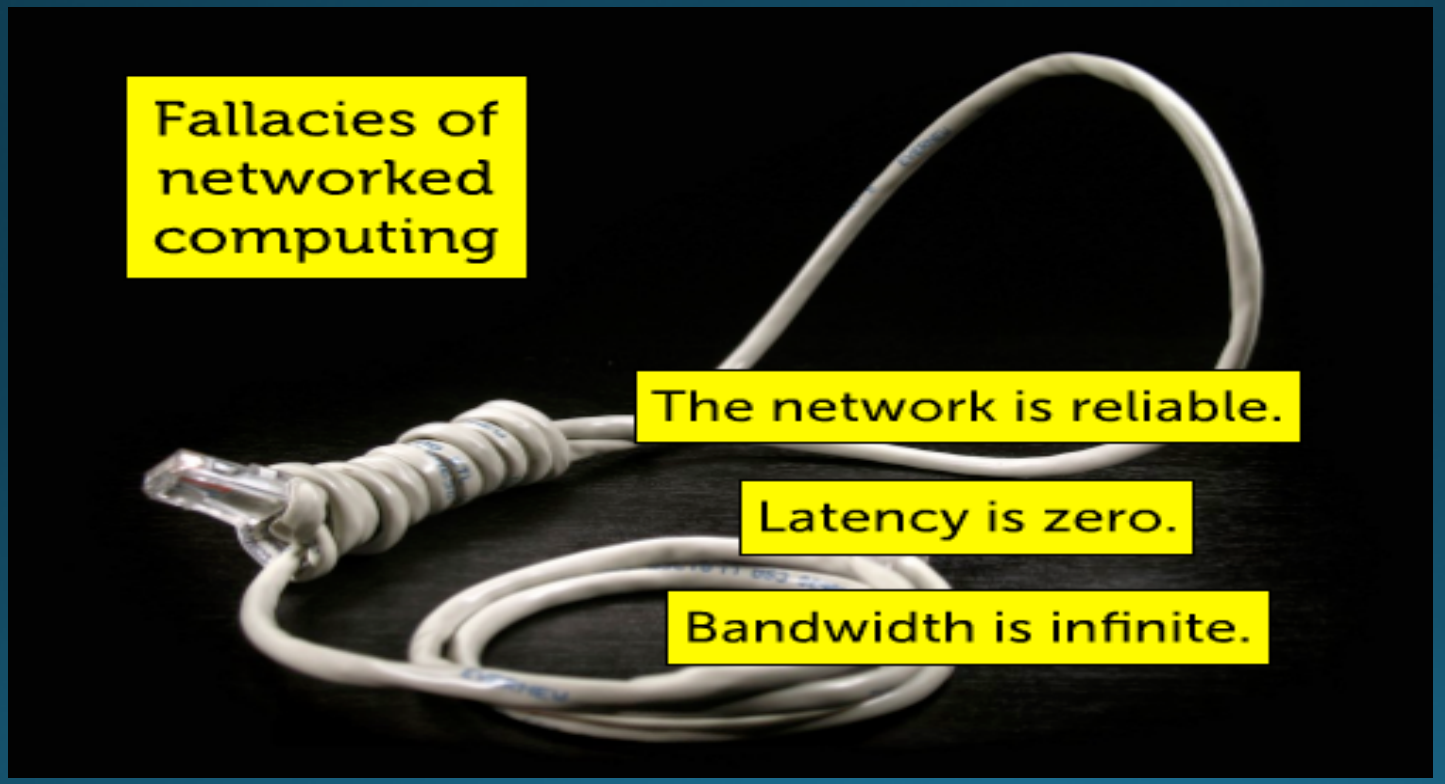
# There are no guarantees

- You are not guranteed:
  - High Bandwidth
  - Low latency
  - Predictable error free delivery
  - Safe data (data may be not just surprising but malicious)
  - A client-side with appropriate version/tech
  - A client-side configured or running properly
  - Friendly end-users (do bad things not just by mistake)
  - Technically aware end-users

# It's not just me


*Source: http://nate.koechley.com/talks/2008/at-media-2008-pro-frontend-engineering.pdf*

# Network computing is hard

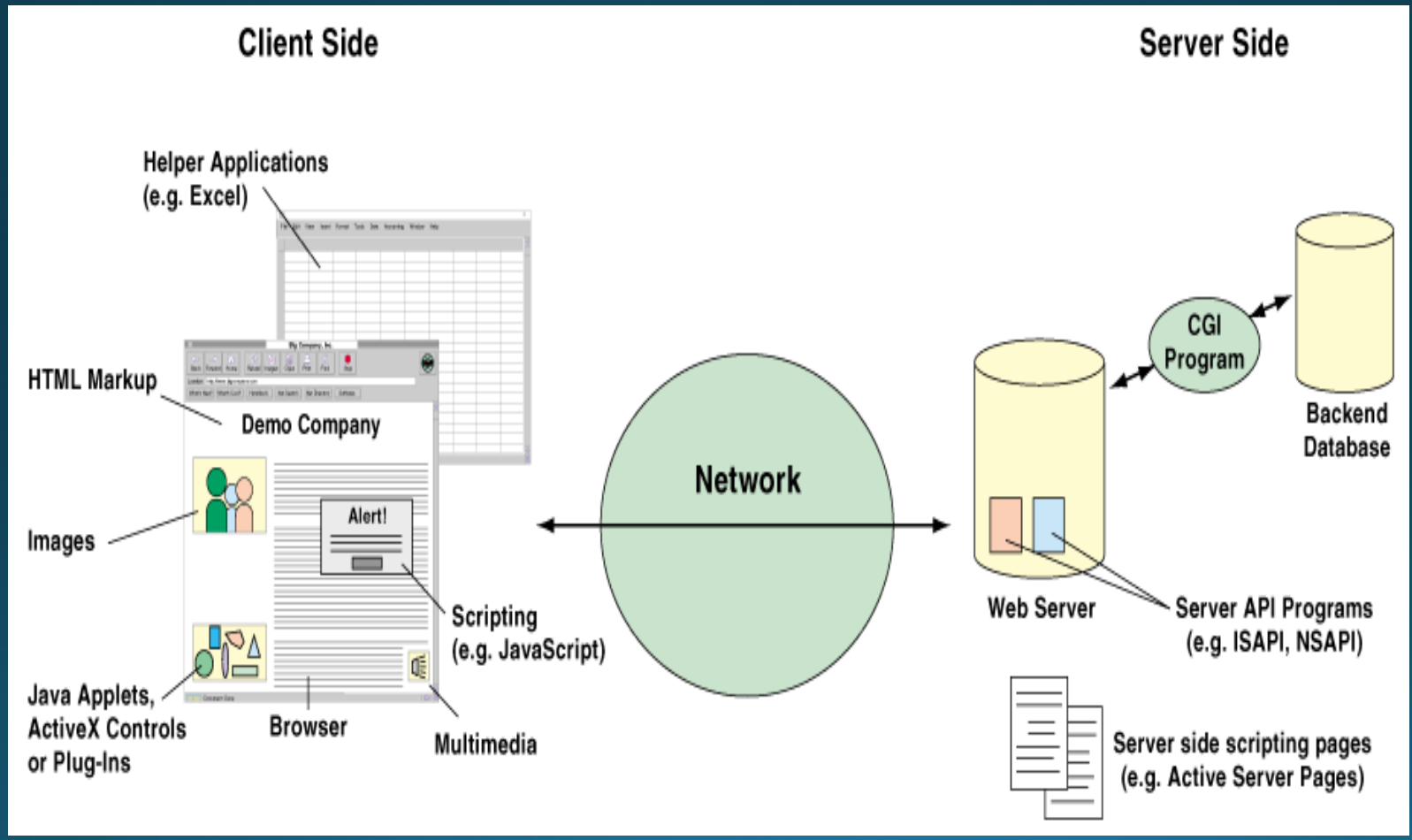


# Environmental Counterpoint

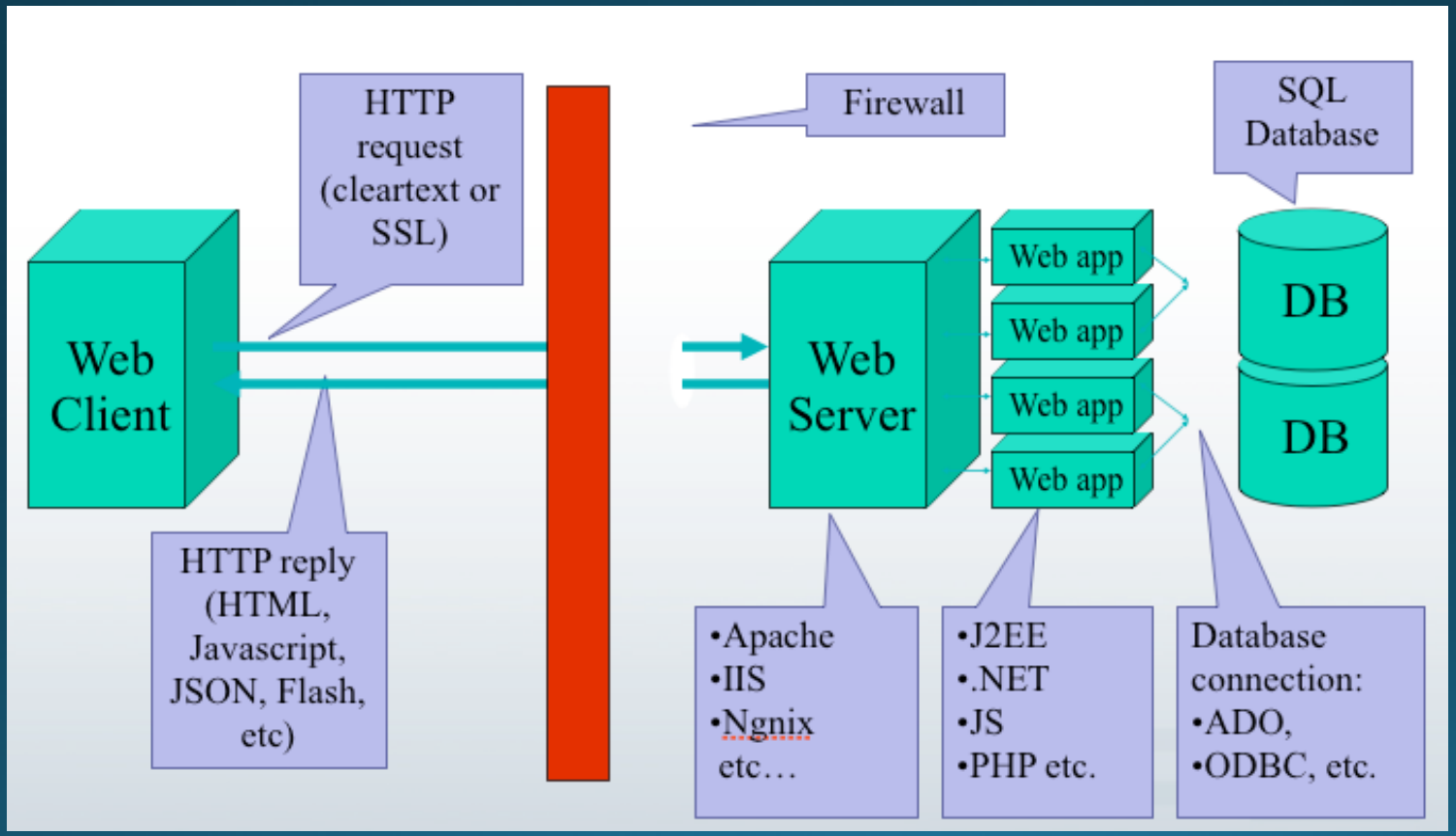
Am I wrong and just being too cynical?
Observation says probably not:

- "Layer 8" Error Correction
- Unstable Browser as platform
- Unstable tech stack and standards
- Actual network monitoring esp. RUM JS based
- Observed hacking
- Our video of users

# Development Medium



# Web App in Context of Medium



# Client-Side/Server-Side Trade-offs

- Client-side is fast, but it is unpredictable, insecure and unsafe
- Server-side is predictable but it is slow because of network round-trip
- Clear idea is to balance both sides rather than suggest a sole side solution

# Thin and Fat Clients

- Thin-client: very safe, but not-rich and slow
- Fat-client: very rich and fast, but likely fragile and insecure
- If we could we would engineer a fat client solution to error gracefully or fall back to thin client version in less than ideal situations (tech, network, hack)

# Web Toolbox

| Client Side | Server Side |
| --- | --- |
| Helper Applications | CGI scripts and programs |
| Browser API Programs<br>* Netscape Plugins<br>* ActiveX Controls<br>* Google's Native Client | Server API Programs<br>* ISAPI * NSAPI * Apache Modules |
| Java Applets | Java Servlets |
| Scripting Languages<br>* JavaScript<br>* ~~VBScript~~ | Scripting / Programming Frameworks<br>* JSP * ASP.NET * Classic Active Server Pages (ASP) * ColdFusion * PHP<br>* Ruby (Rails) * JavaScript Note: Nodejs somewhat out of box really |

# General Tool Trade-off

- Complexity and Speed
- Abstraction and Ease

- Higher/Lower Up ~ Speed
- Difficulty of coding ~ Expense
- Higher/Lower Up ~ Control

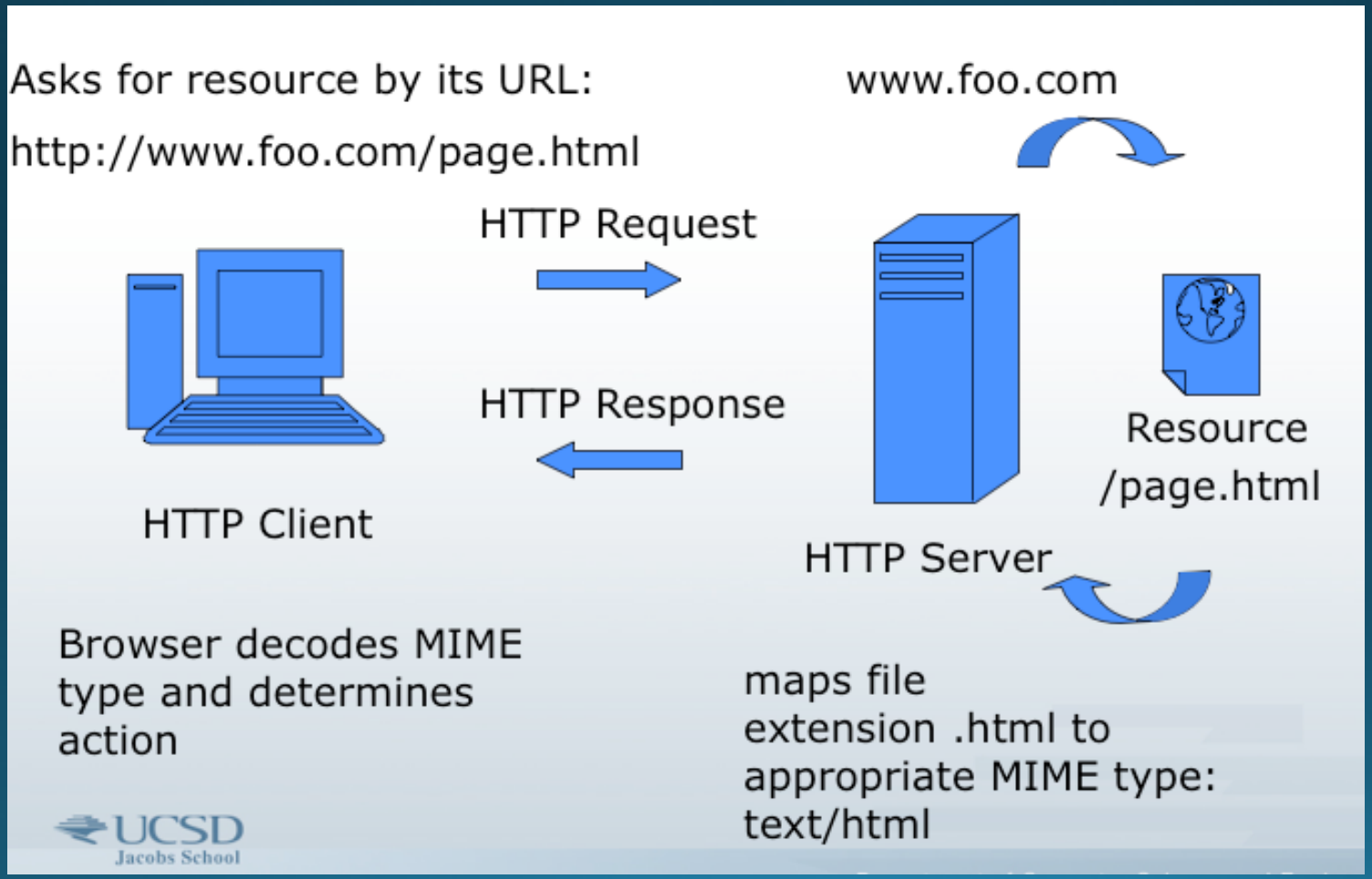
# Tool Sanity

- Rough functional & trade-off equivalences within toolbox bins, but executional, ecosystem, and other differences
- General performance, feature or quality of two items in a toolbox bin is executional rather than architectural
- Scale is generally not language issue, that is app architecture
- One can be Web scale (or Web stupid) in anything

# HTTP is the Key

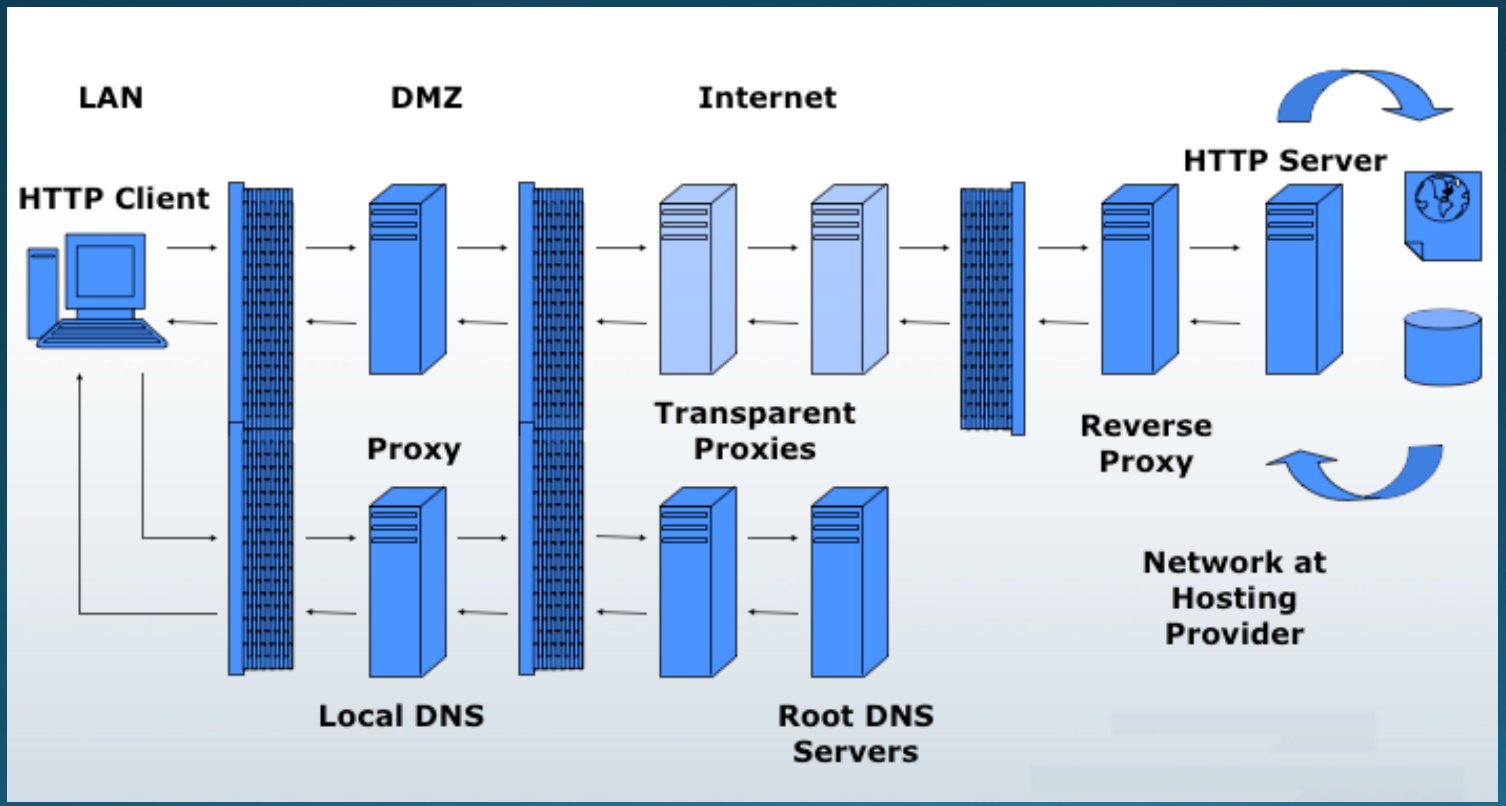
- Sure markup (HTML), look (CSS), coding (JS), browsers, etc. are unique but the part that really makes this vastly different from programming (as is in desktop) is the network
- Theory:  Knowing HTTP is key to an informed understanding of robust Web programming
- HTTP - simple stateless application layer protocol

# Basic HTTP Request/Response Cycle

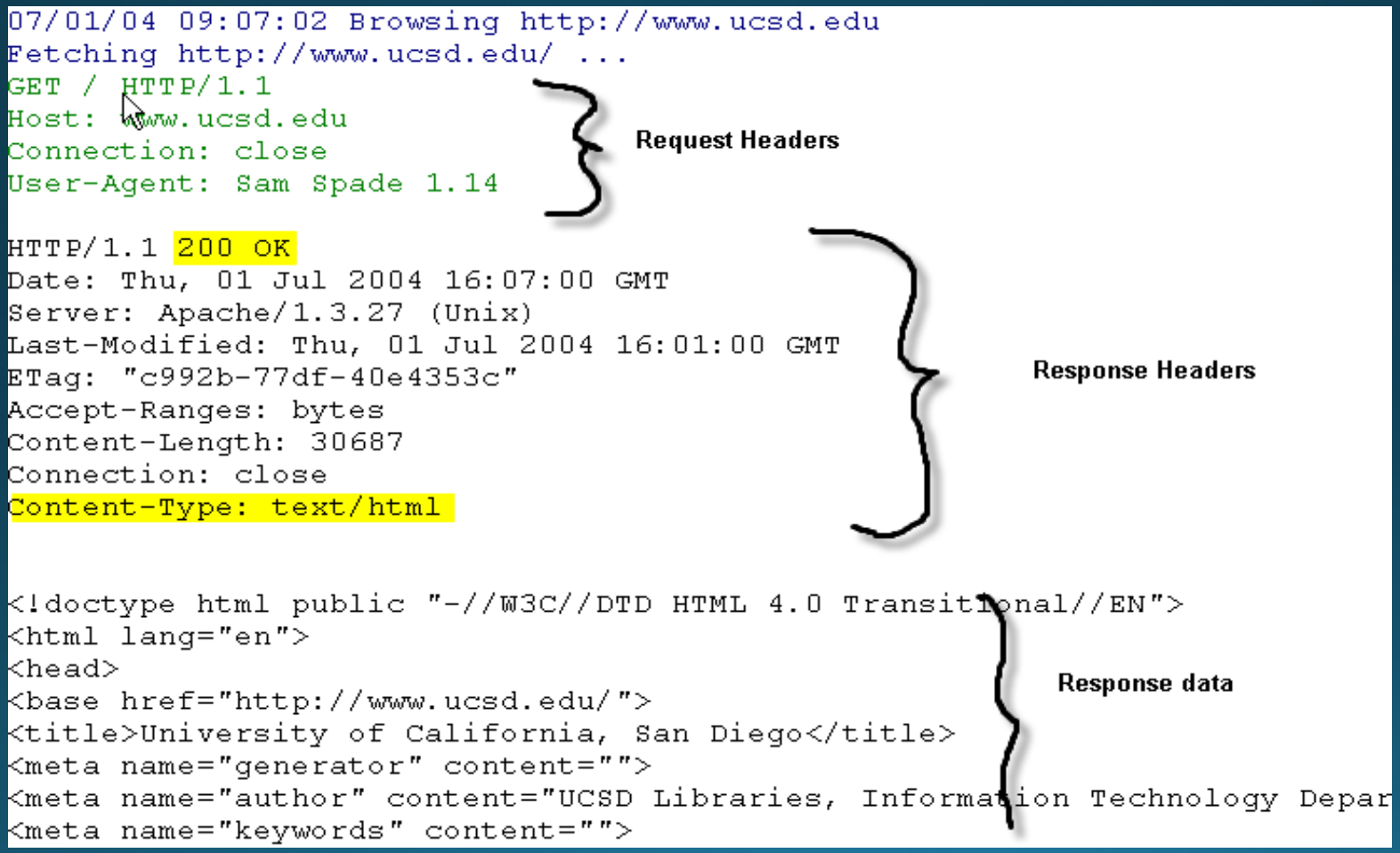


# That was too simple

Reality actually is more like…



# HTTP Up Close

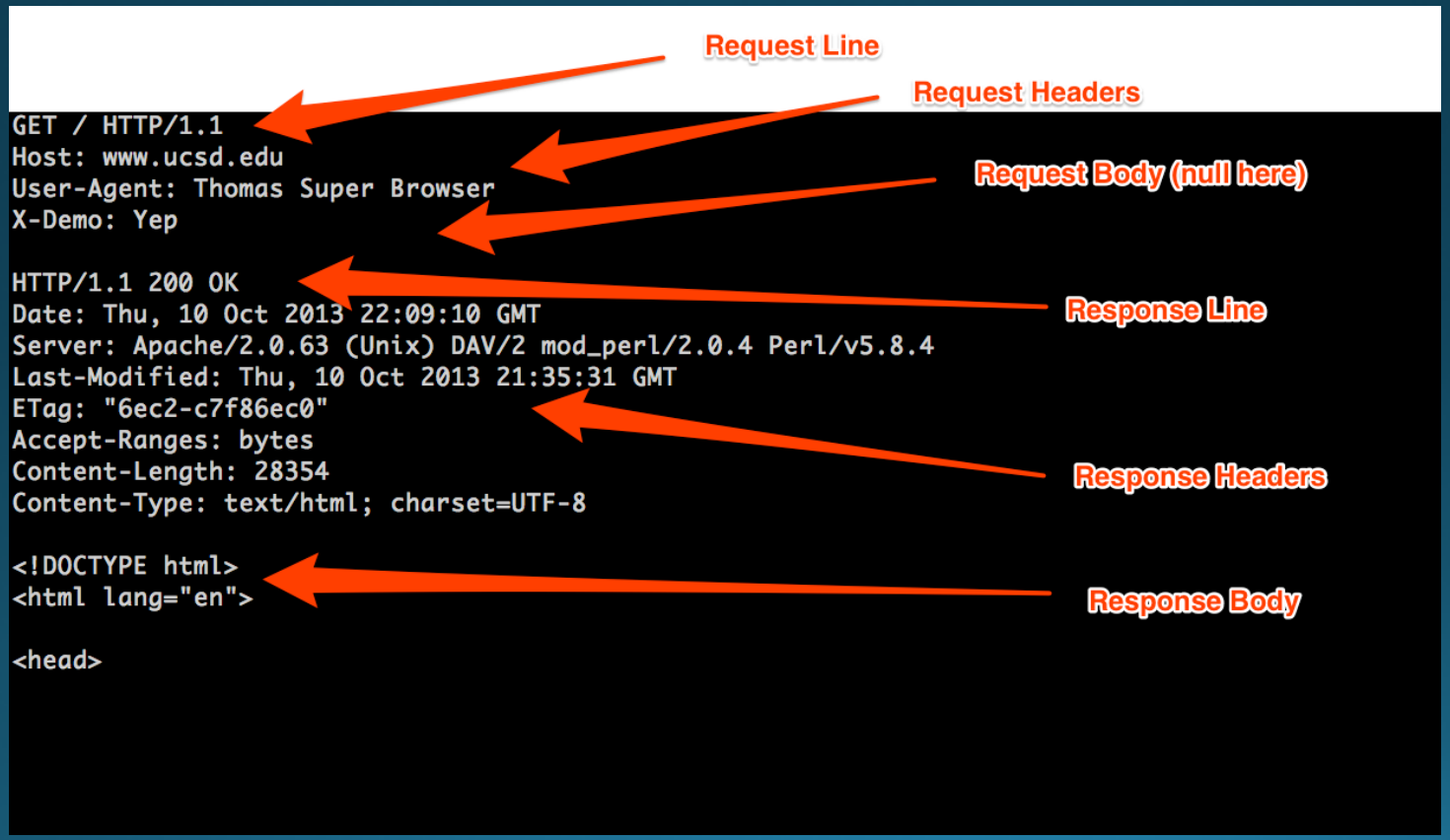


# HTTP Up Close #2

```
Fetching http://www.pint.com/badurl ...
GET /badurl HTTP/1.1
Host: www.pint.com
Connection: close
User-Agent: Sam Spade 1.14

HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found
Content-Length: 16592
Content-Type: text/html
Server: Microsoft-IIS/6.0
Date: Thu, 01 Jul 2004 16:57:38 GMT
Connection: close

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
```

# Law of 3

Focus on three pieces in, three pieces out



# HTTP Challenges

- Performance
  - Issue: Lots of requests
  - Solution: Request reduction via bundling and caching

Performance Golden Rule: Less data, less often and close by

# HTTP Challenges

- Security
  - Or lack there of
  - HTTPS only addresses about 1/3 of the problem

Security Golden Rule: Trust no user nor data

# HTTP Challenges

- State Management (since stateless)
- Possible Solutions

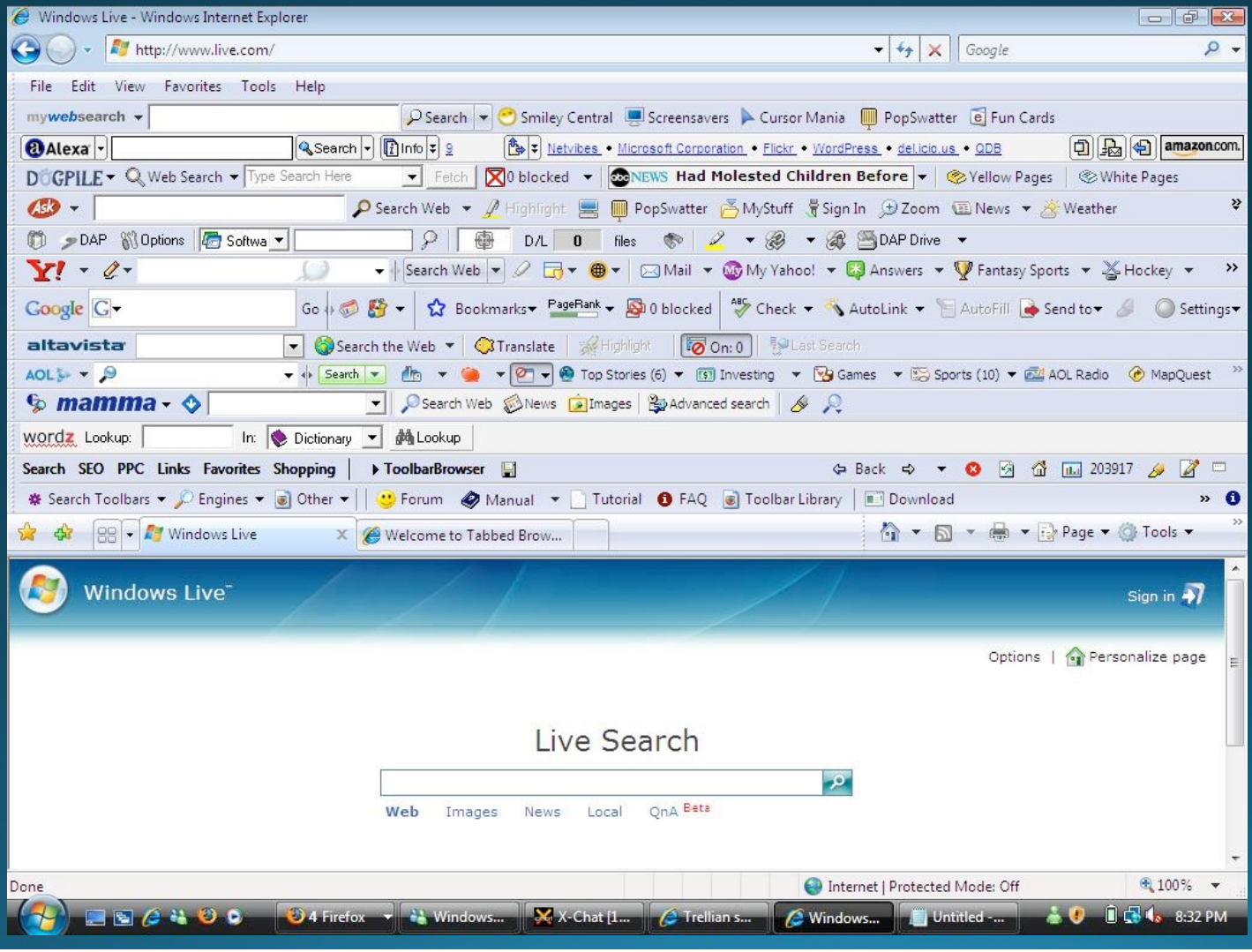
1. Dirty URLs
2. Hidden Form Fields
3. Cookies
4. Local Storage (please no!)
5. Move to stateful (ex. WebSocket)

- Privacy concerns undermine state issues
- Framework abstraction can really hurt us here if we don't understand mechanisms

# HTTP Challenges

- Protocol Misunderstanding is Widespread
  - Cave Man HTTP: Ugh, Bugha Bugha
  - GET = Ugh, POST = Bugha Bugha interchange at will
- We aim to build modern service oriented architecture we need a deeper understanding of HTTP than that!
- Careful though are you sure you have HTTP verb support end to end? I think that is assumed wrongly more than we might want to admit. Good engineers would verify a system before using it (in code not just in theory!)

# Browsers!


Windows Live - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.live.com/
Google
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Had Molested Children Before
Windows Live
Sign in
Options | Personalize page
Live Search
Web Images News Local QnA Beta
Done
Internet | Protected Mode: Off
100%
8:32 PM

# Browser Families

1. Mozilla/Firefox (Gecko) - Netscape descendent
2. Google Chrome (initially WebKit now Blink)
3. Safari (Webkit)
4. Internet Explorer (Trident and new IE)
5. Opera (Presto, Blink)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_web_browser_engines

- If browser is the OS should we know how browsers work?

http://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/internals/howbrowserswork/

# Not Even Close

- Goal: Trying to cram 20 weeks of material on HTTP, server, HTML, JS, CSS, etc. into a few hours
- Key points still to come in parts 3 and 4 which get more and more practical
- Sad Truth: Projects are undone or overbudget because of huge misconceptions about tech, server, etc. It is always best to know what we speak of!

# Our Project Medium

- Web App
  - Underline word Web
  - What does that mean?
    - HTTP, HTML, Browsers, Servers, etc.

# HTML Points

- Traditional SGML Based
  - HTML 2, ~~3~~, 3.2, 4 (strict and transitional)
- XML Based
  - XHTML 1, 1.1
- Back to the future
  - HTML5 (no SGML DTD)
  - Odd Duck: XHTML5

# Doctypes

- Traditionally (X)HTML doctypes indicate dialect and DTD of the markup language in use

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
```

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
 "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
```

# What is a DTD?

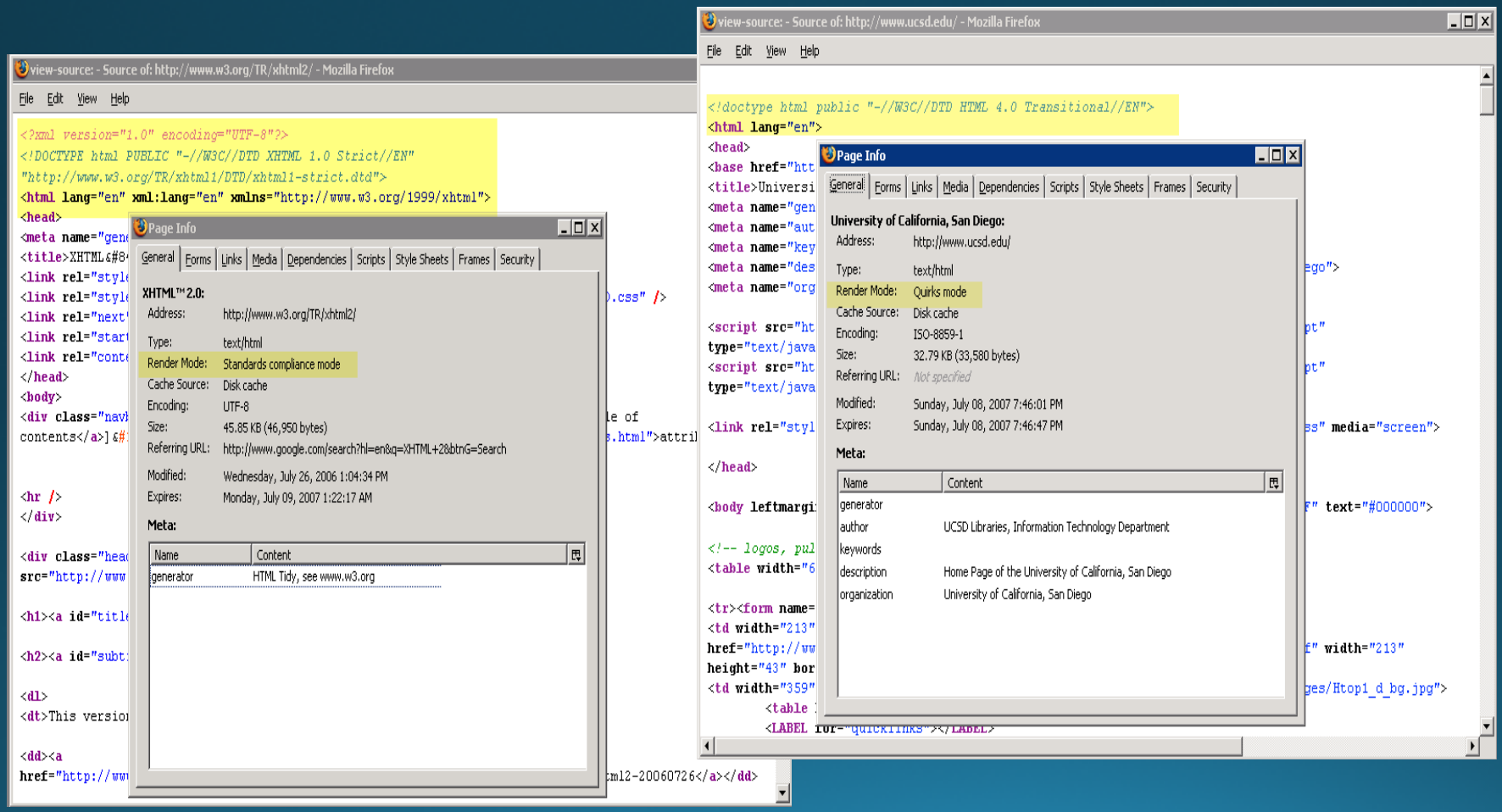
- The actual reference (implicit) or linked DTD contains the rules of valid markup
- From http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/sgml/dtd.html
- <img>

```
<!ELEMENT IMG - O EMPTY                  -- Embedded image -->
<!ATTLIST IMG
  %attrs;                                -- %coreattrs, %i18n, %events --
  src          %URI;          #REQUIRED -- URI of image to embed --
  alt          %Text;         #REQUIRED -- short description --
  longdesc     %URI;          #IMPLIED  -- link to long description
                                           (complements alt) --
  name         CDATA          #IMPLIED  -- name of image for scripting --
  height       %Length;       #IMPLIED  -- override height --
  width        %Length;       #IMPLIED  -- override width --
  usemap       %URI;          #IMPLIED  -- use client-side image map --
  ismap        (ismap)        #IMPLIED  -- use server-side image map --
  >
```

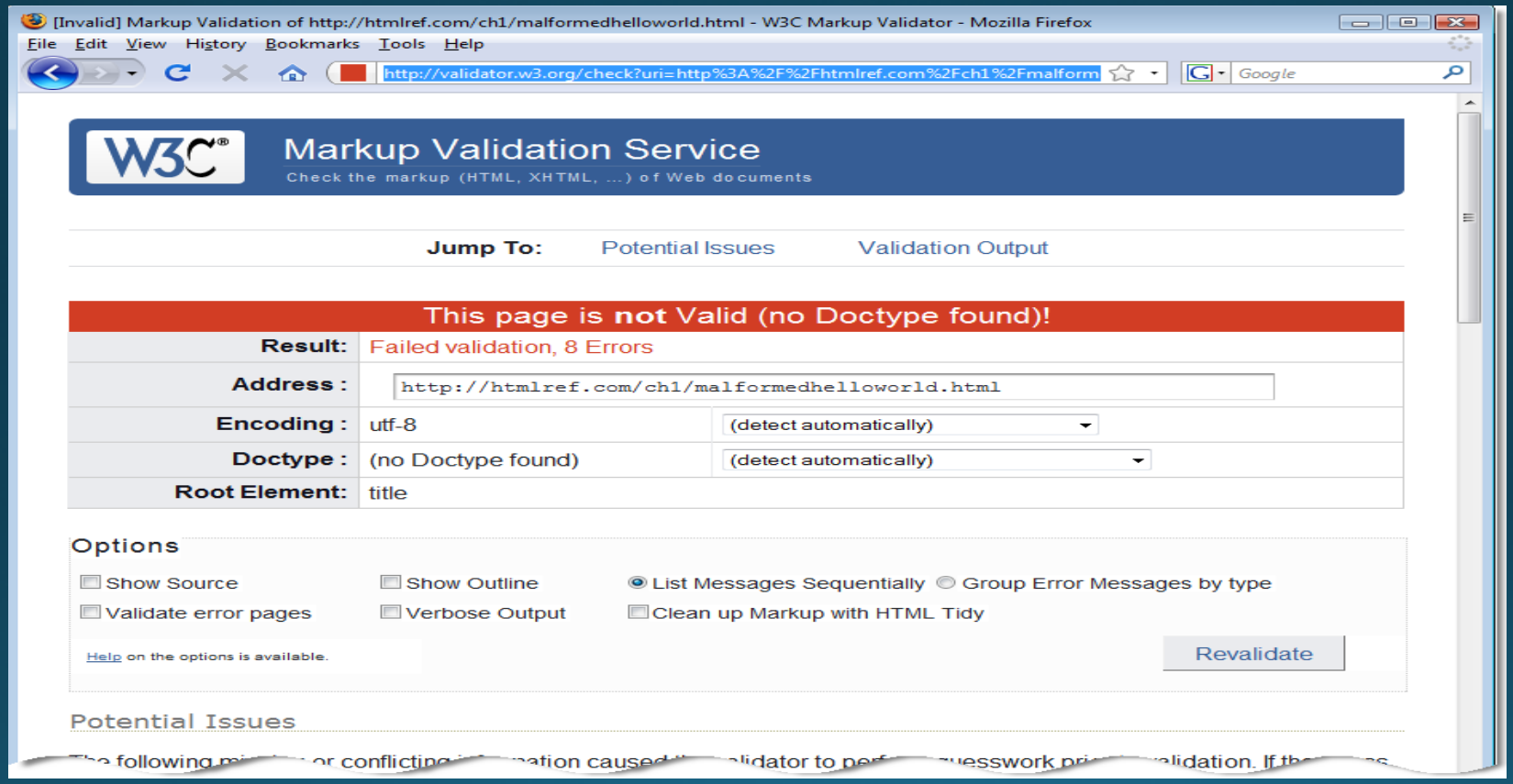
# Uses of Doctypes

- Modern browsers are aware of the <!DOCTYPE> and will examine it to determine what rendering mode to enter (standards vs. quirk).
  - This process is often dubbed the "doctype switch"
- Using the <!DOCTYPE> declaration allows validation software to identify the DTD being followed in a document, and verify that the document is syntactically correct—in other words, that all tags used are part of a particular specification and are being used correctly.

# Doctype Switch in Action



# Validation - Fail

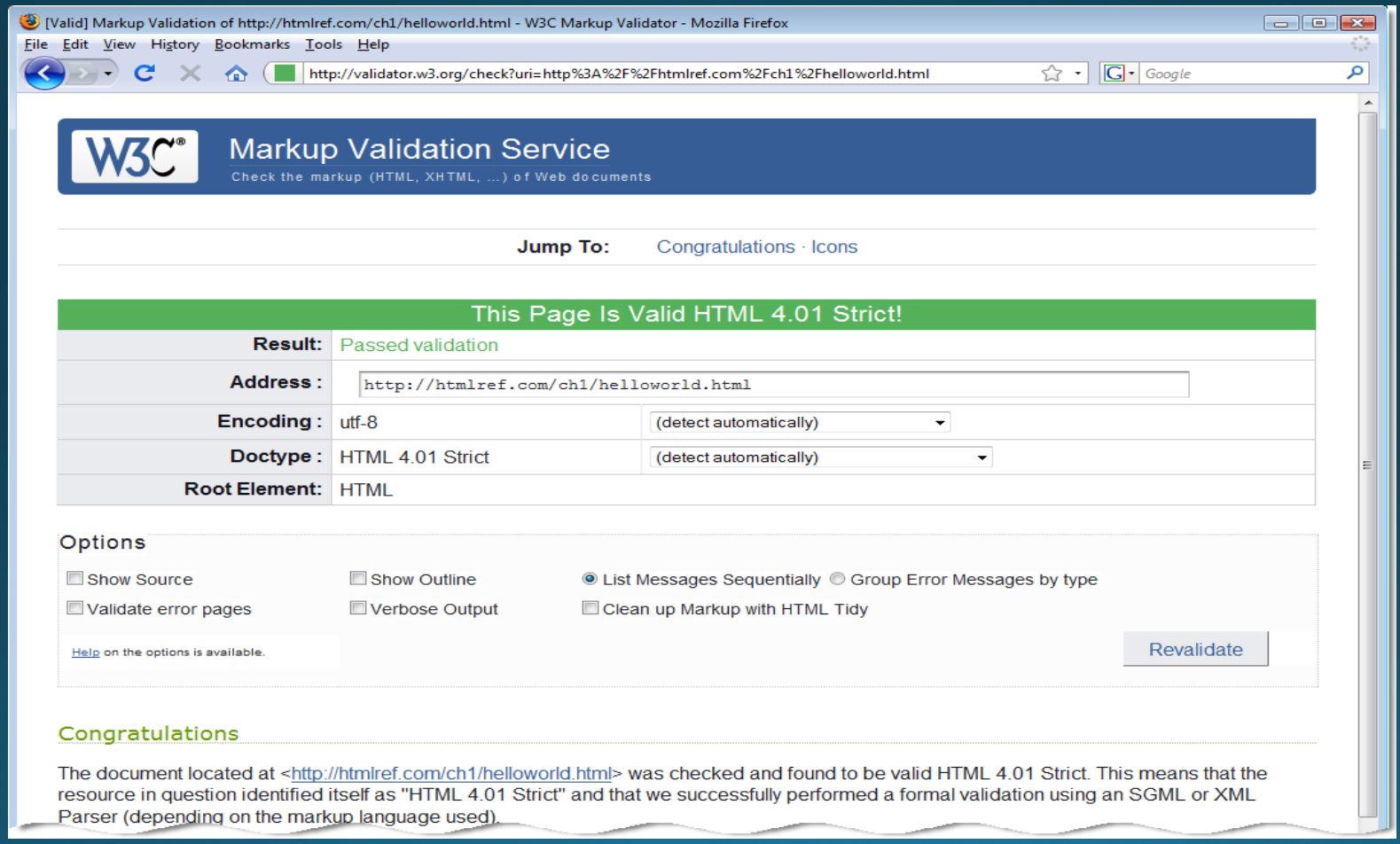



Checking the conformance of a document to the stated (or inferred DTD)…do the tags meet the rules in the spec? Is it valid?

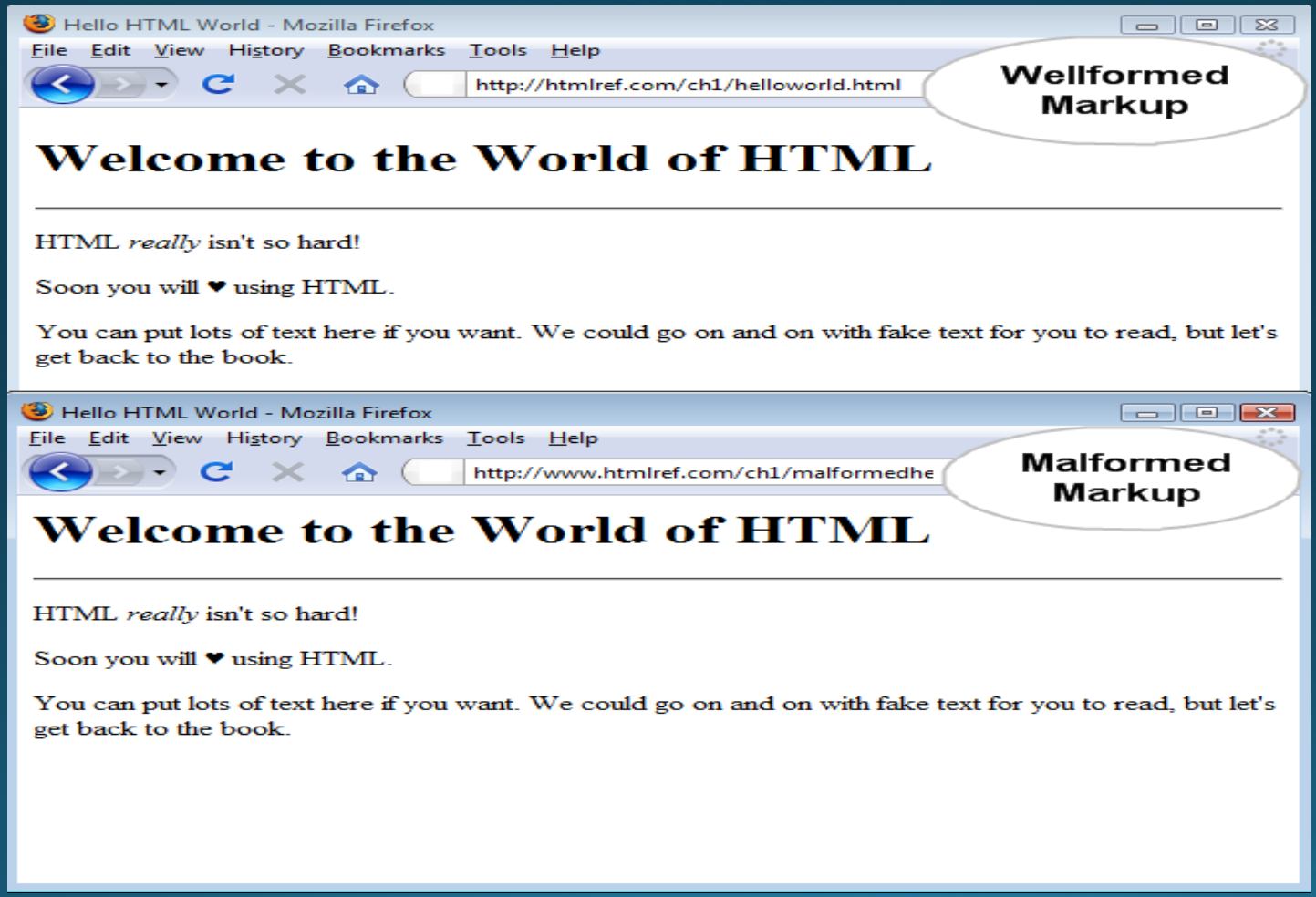
# Markup Characteristics

- well-formedness - following basic syntax rules for quotes, closing tags, case, etc.
- validity - adhering to the allowed vocabulary of tags and how they may be used
- "Purple is an eager flying cactus who loves a dog sadly perhaps." is well formed English sentence but it isn't valid*

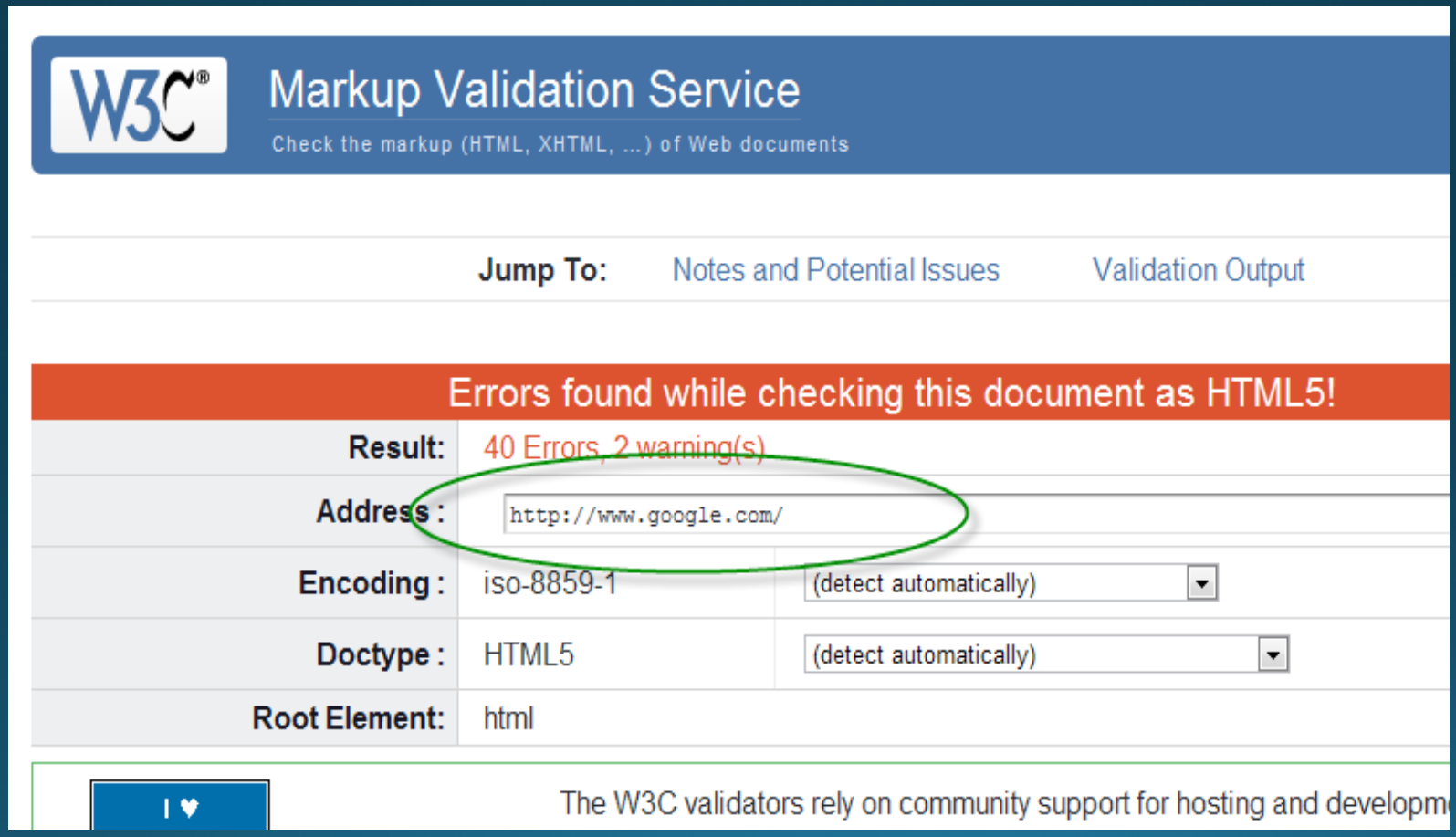
# Validation - Pass



# Why Bother? Part 1



# Why Bother Part 2

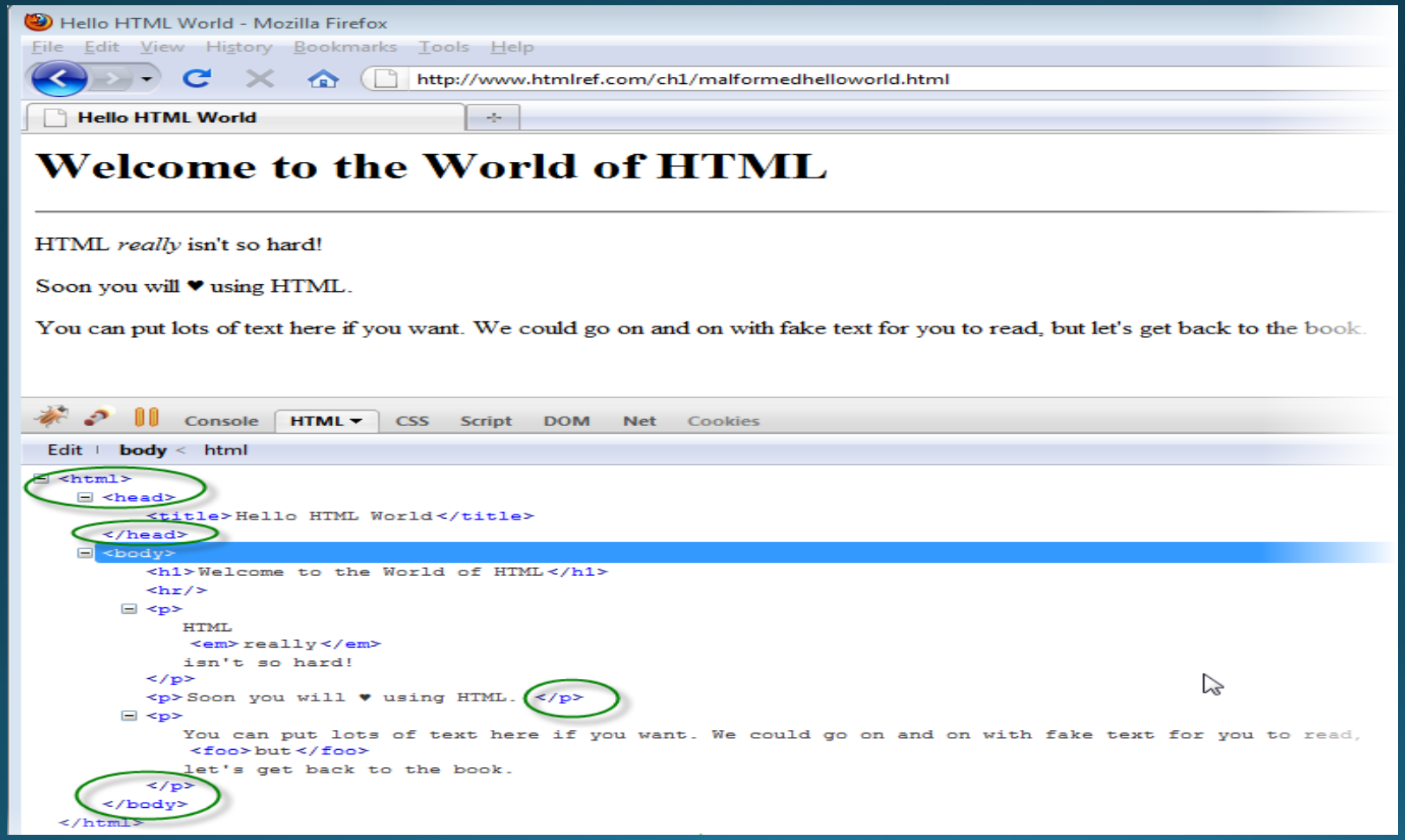


# Tag Soup

Bad Example: http://htmlref.com/ch1/malformedhelloworld.html

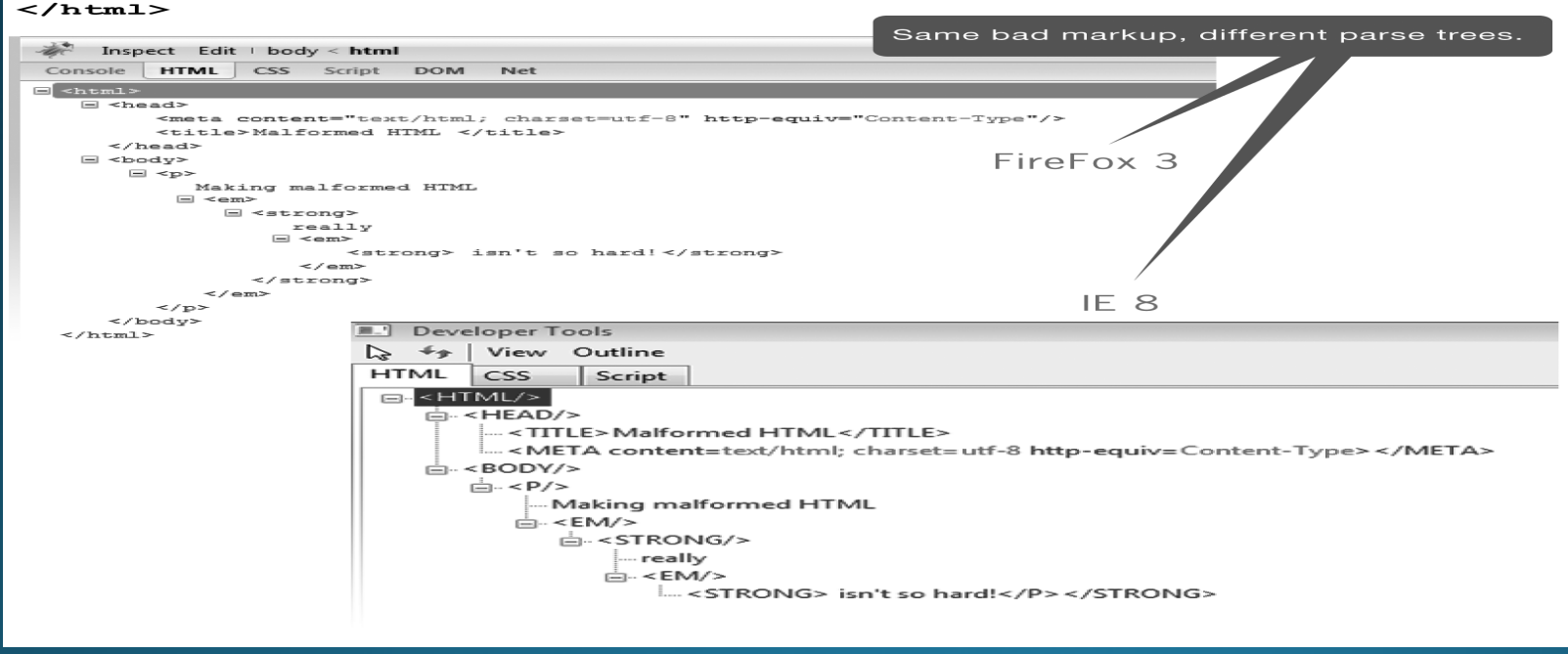
```
<TITLE>Hello HTML World</title>
<!-- Simple hello malformed world -- example -->
</head>
<body>
<h1>Welcome to the World of HTML</H1>
<hr />
<p>HTML <eM>really</Em> isn't so hard!
<P>Soon you will &hearts; using HTML.
<p>You can put lots of text here if you want.
We could go on and on with fake text for you
to read, <foo>but</foo> let's get back to the book.
</html>
```

# Yum..fixed your soup



# Guessing the parse

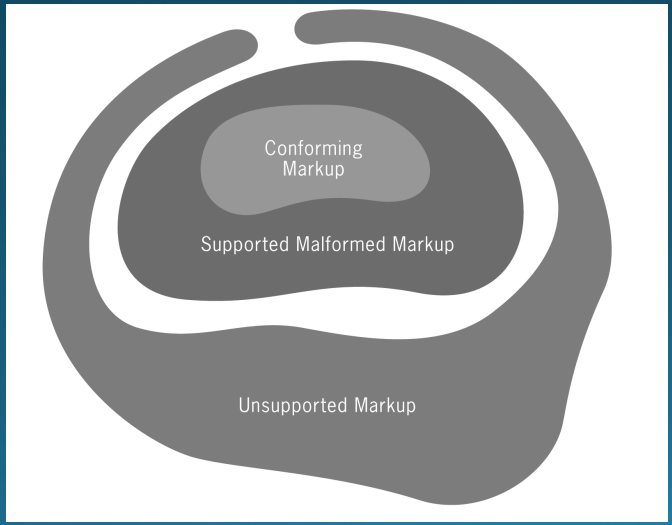
```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/strict.dtd">

<html>
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;charset=utf-8">
<title>Malformed HTML</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>Making malformed HTML <em><strong>really<em><strong>
isn't so hard!</p>
</body>
</html>
```



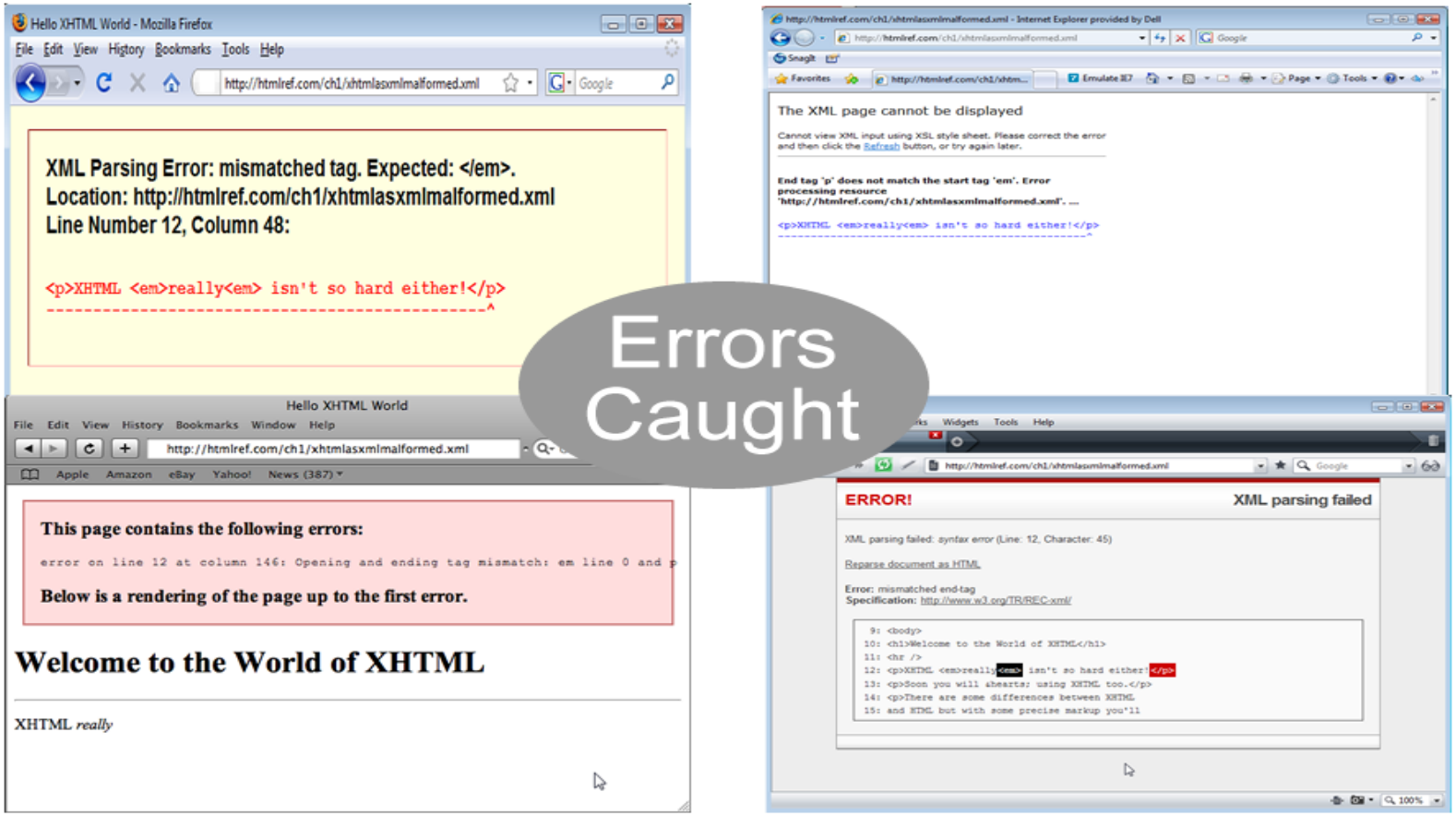
# Yeah everybody does it

| Study | Date | Total Validated | Passed Validation | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parnas | Dec 2001 | 2,034,788 | 14,563 | 0.71% |
| Saarsoo | Jun 2006 | 1,002,350 | 25,890 | 2.58% |
| MAMA | Jan 2008 | 3,509,180 | 145,009 | 4.13% |

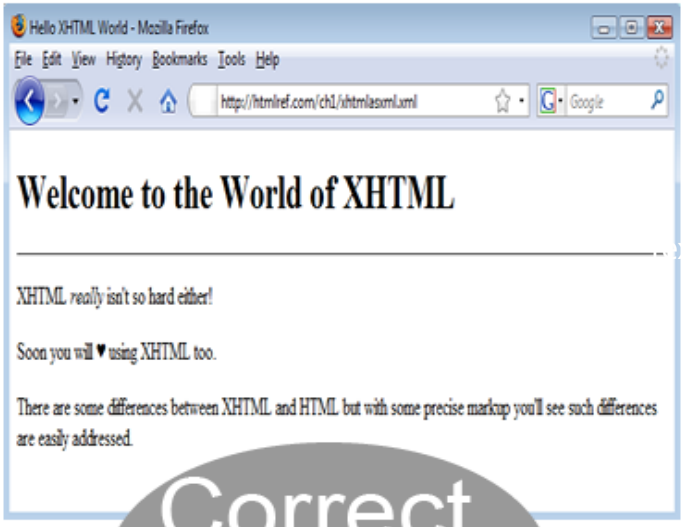
*Markup validation studies*



# Enter XML / XHTML



# Unfortunately…even if you wanted to




Correct Render

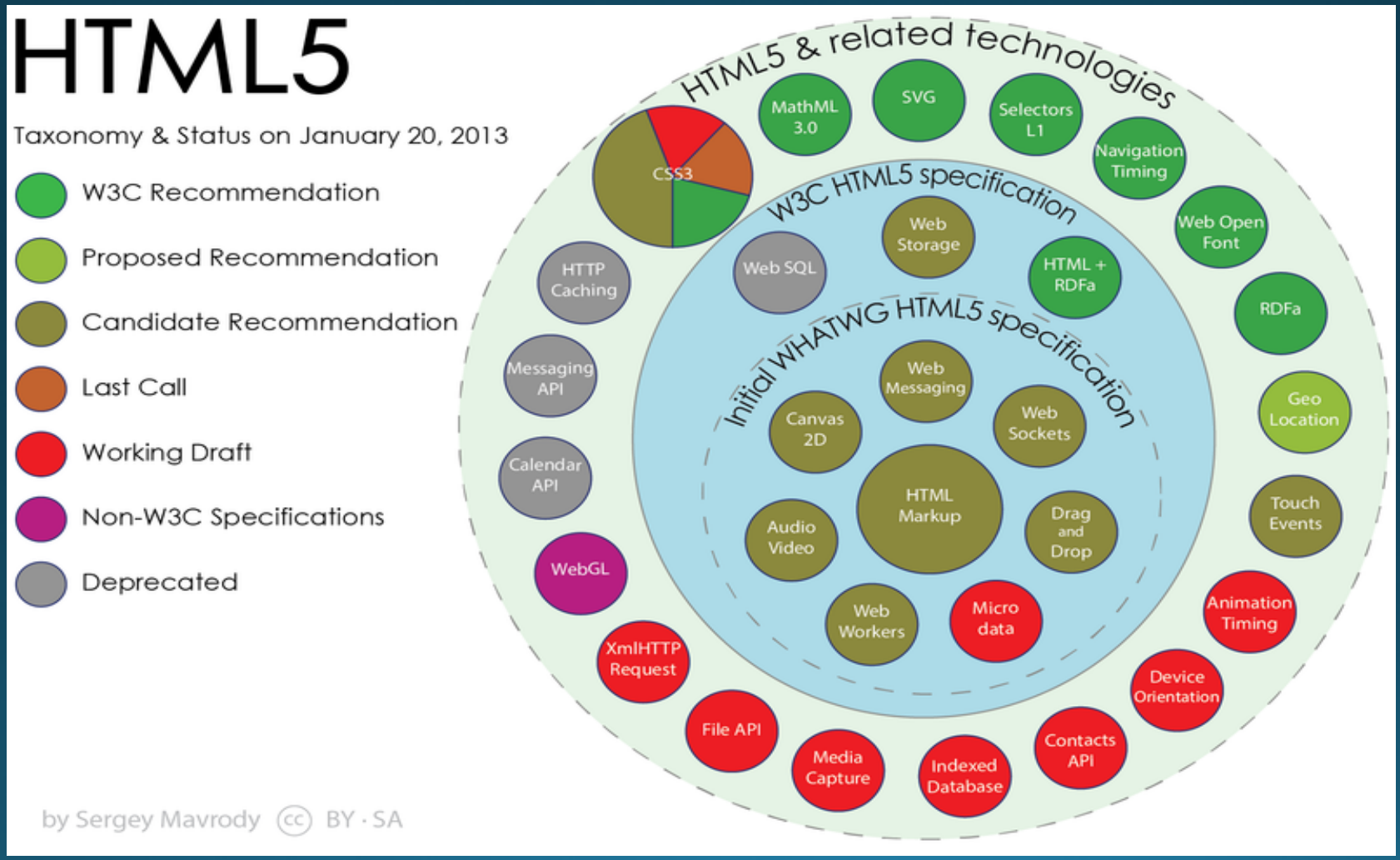

Parse Tree

Good news everyone! IE9+ fixed this.

# Back to the Future

- But we aren't going there
- Too hard to get people to do it right, easier to get the browser vendors to have a malformedness handler agreement and return to the looseness
- HTML5 from a markup point of view is back to HTML4 with more new stuff…but worse

# HTML5 Viz Overview



# Spec Kitchen Sink

# Pfftt..HTML5? HTML5.2!

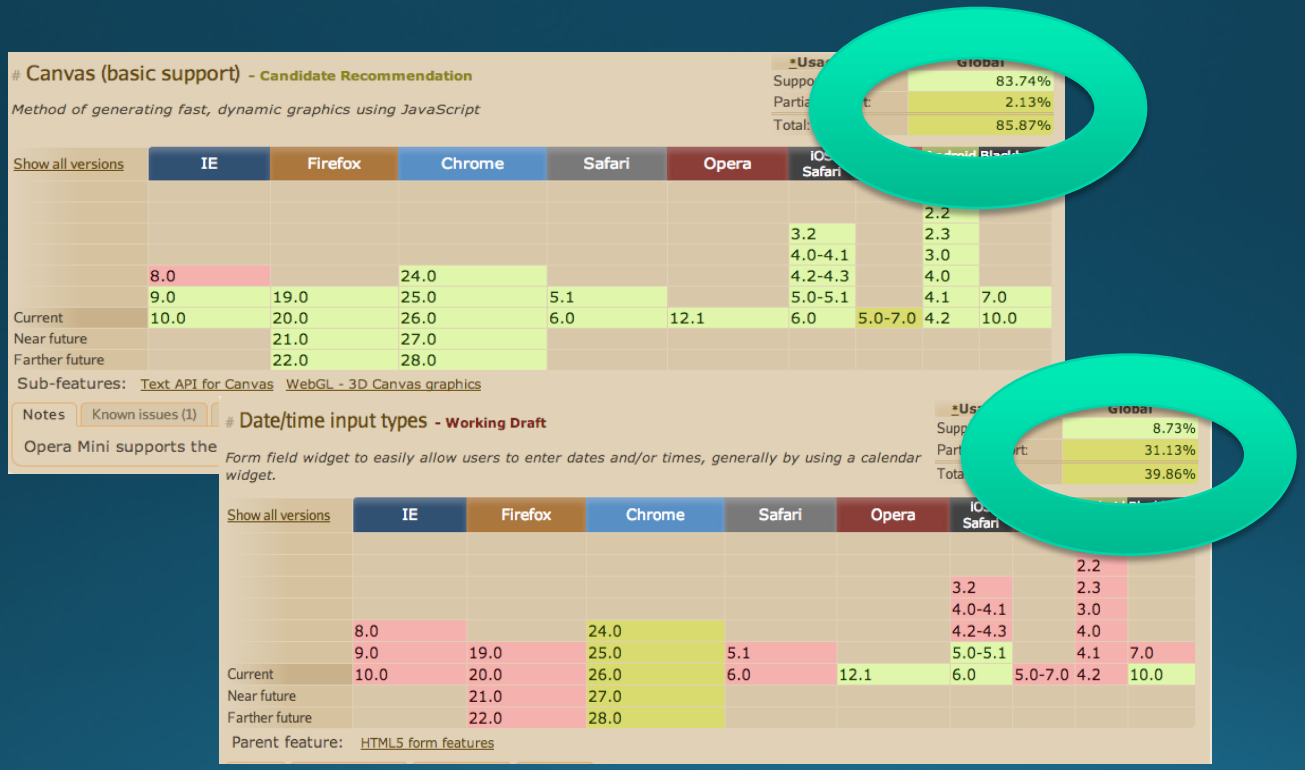
The combined timelines for HTML 5.0, HTML 5.1 and HTML 5.2:

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HTML 5.0 | Candidate Rec | Call for Review | Recommendation | | |
| HTML 5.1 | 1st Working Draft | | Last Call | Candidate Rec | Recommendation |
| HTML 5.2[28] | | | | 1st Working Draft | |

# Caniuse.com


Search:
border-radius, WebGL, woff, (
Index
Tables
Import stats
FAQ
Resources
Embed
CSS
@font-face Web fonts
calc() as CSS unit value
2.1 selectors
Counters
Feature Queries
Filter Effects
Generated content
Gradients
Grid Layout
Hyphenation
inline-block
Masks
min/max-width/height
outline
position:fixed
HTML5
Audio element
Canvas (basic support)
Color input type
contenteditable attribute (basic support)
Datalist element
dataset & data-* attributes
Date/time input types
Details & Summary elements
Download attribute
Drag and Drop
Form validation
HTML5 form features
input placeholder attribute
New semantic elements
Number input type

# Proceed with caution?



# Suggestions

- For public facing applications use HTML5 with an emphasis on realistic support
- Validate your markup, but understand when it may be appropriate to ignore validation
- Automate continuous validation on build and/or deploy
- Use XML based markup in a contained environments where failures are not tolerable
    - Aim beyond well-formedness to validity

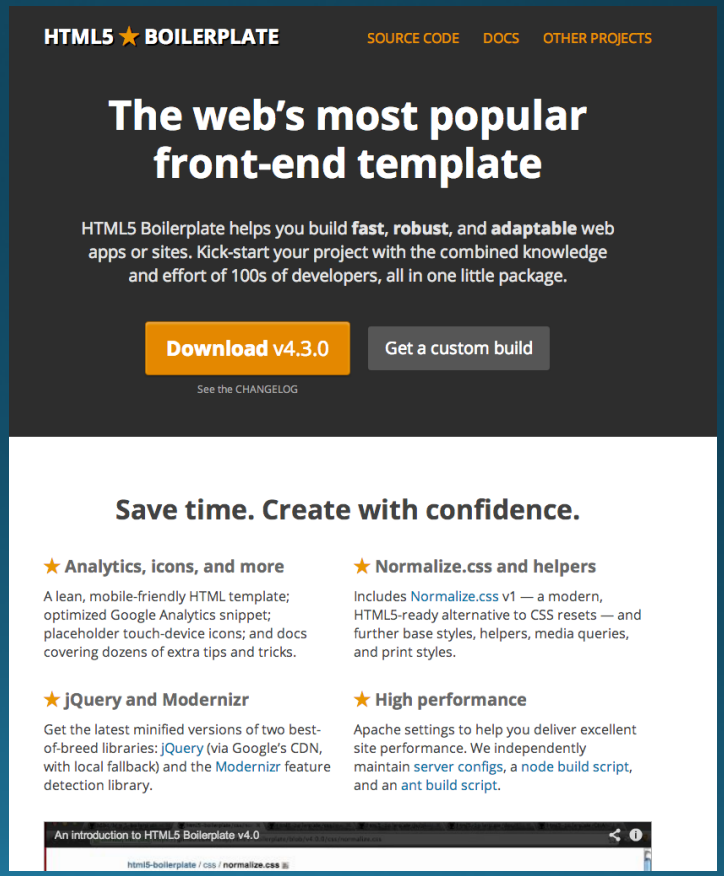
# Suggestions

- Adopt an HTML style guide
  - Casing, quotes " vs ', indent pattern, comments, attribute order, id and class name patterns, etc.
  - Employ a pretty printer for consistency
  - Use templates and scaffolds
    - Skeleton repo

# Suggestions - Boilerplates

Small Concerns

- Make sure you know what it is doing
- Are you including random stuff in a boilerplate bulking things up needlessly?




http://html5boilerplate.com

# Suggestions - Minify


Mistakes on purpose … theoretical adherence vs reality

# Suggestion - Semantics First

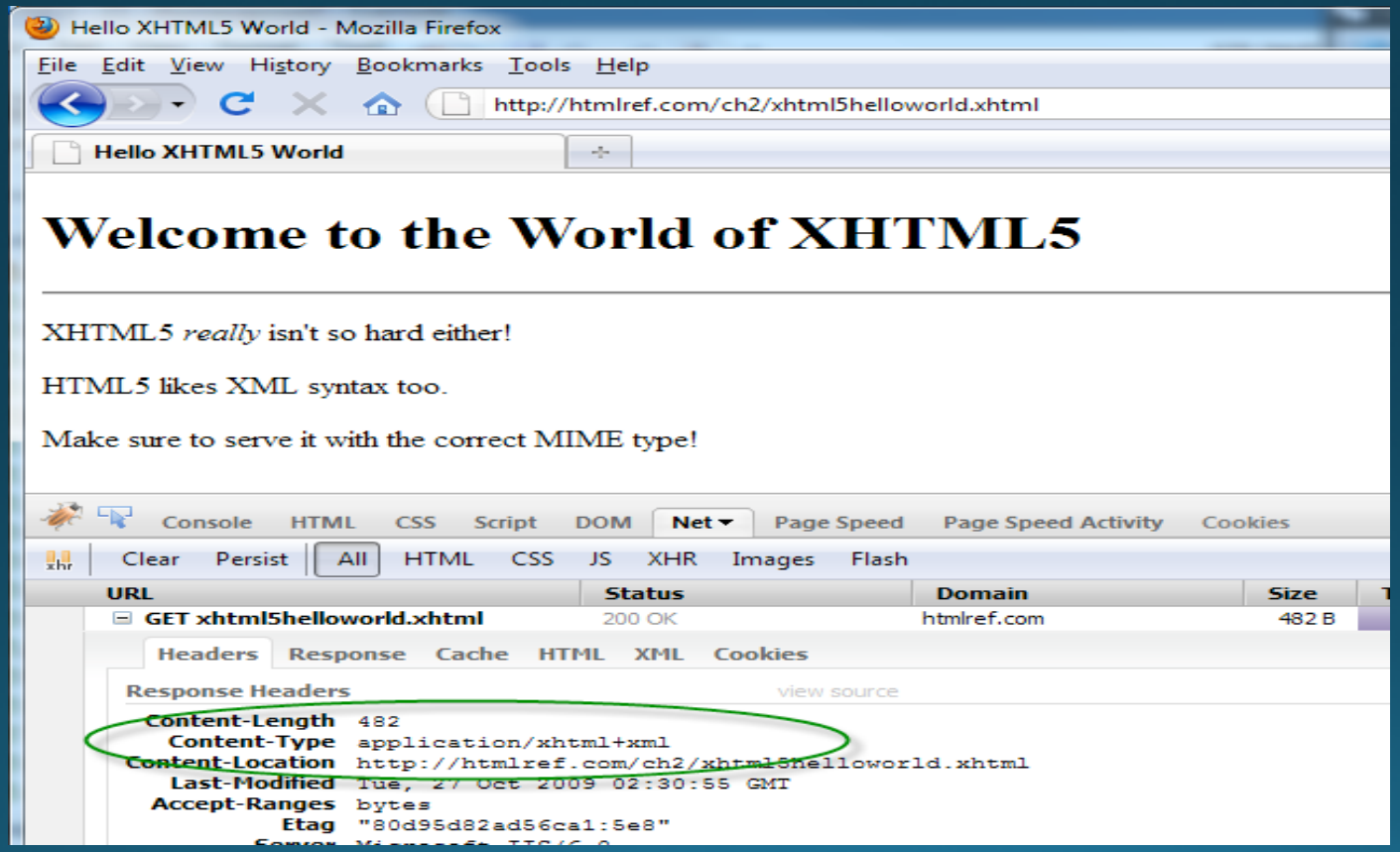
- Don't catch -itis
  - Blah...
- Instead more meaning based tags
  - <header>, <footer>, <section>
- Avoid presentational markup (and thinking)
  - <font>, <b>, bgcolor, etc.
  - Assuming <h1> makes it big!
- Loosely couple style
  - <time style='background: orange'>Oct 31</time> <!-- so so -->
    <time class="halloween">Oct 31</time> <!-- better -->

# MIME

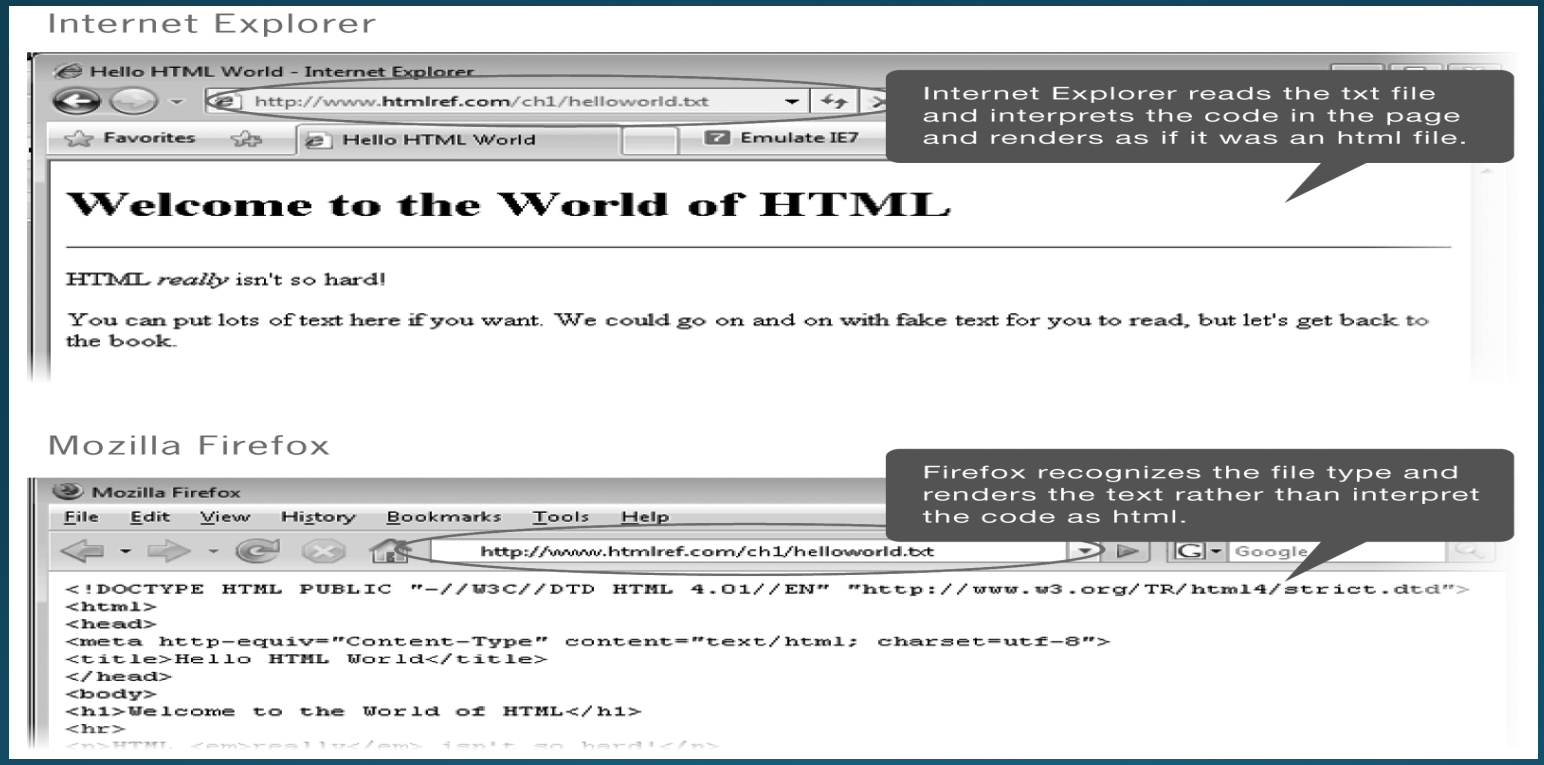
- Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
- Used by Web browsers via the HTTP Content-Type header
  - Upload - Post encoding commonly application/x-www-form-urlencoded
  - Download - text/html, image/jpg, etc.
  - Determine what to do in browser*

* most of the time

# Get the MIME Right



# It's not a detail




- Sadly people don't know MIME and trouble can happen when we "fix" things for them - Thomas' Law of Unintended Consequences

# CSS

- Versions
  - CSS1, CSS-P, CSS2, CSS2.1, CSS3*
  - CSS3 is crazy it is a hodge podge of a million different things of varying states of likelihood of being real or not

# Proper CSS Usage

- Separation of concerns
  - HTML for structure, CSS for style
  - External CSS files (watch downloads)
  - Organization style - alpha, general->specific, etc.
  - Watch out for classitis and repeated IDs
- The dream and reality of the Zen Garden
  - http://www.csszengarden.com/

# Vendor Prefix Fun

- Prefix new features to keep implementations separate until standard
  - -moz , -webkit, -ms, -o
  - Ex: -moz-column-count, -webkit-column-count, column-count
  - Huge redundancy and headache

# !important

- Too many rules, bad tree, inheritance complexity -> things just don't look right
- !important - Useful but ugly hack that should be done inline or at least last rule for best result
  - Ex: <p style="!important ruleiwant:valiwant">
  - Except when it is a !important war

# Suggestions

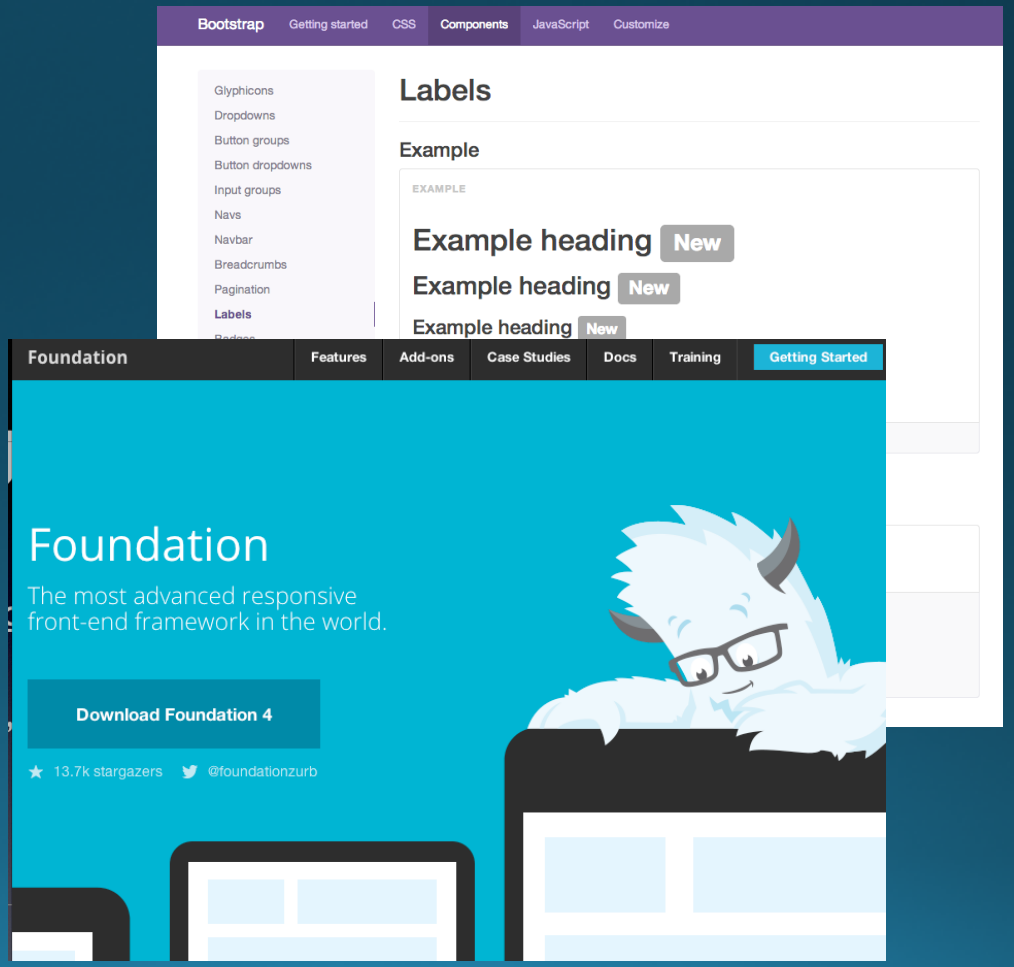
- CSS Validation - http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/
- CSS minification
- CSS bundling
  - Inlining of CSS? Sometimes makes sense

# Suggestion
# Use a Framework

http://getbootstrap.com

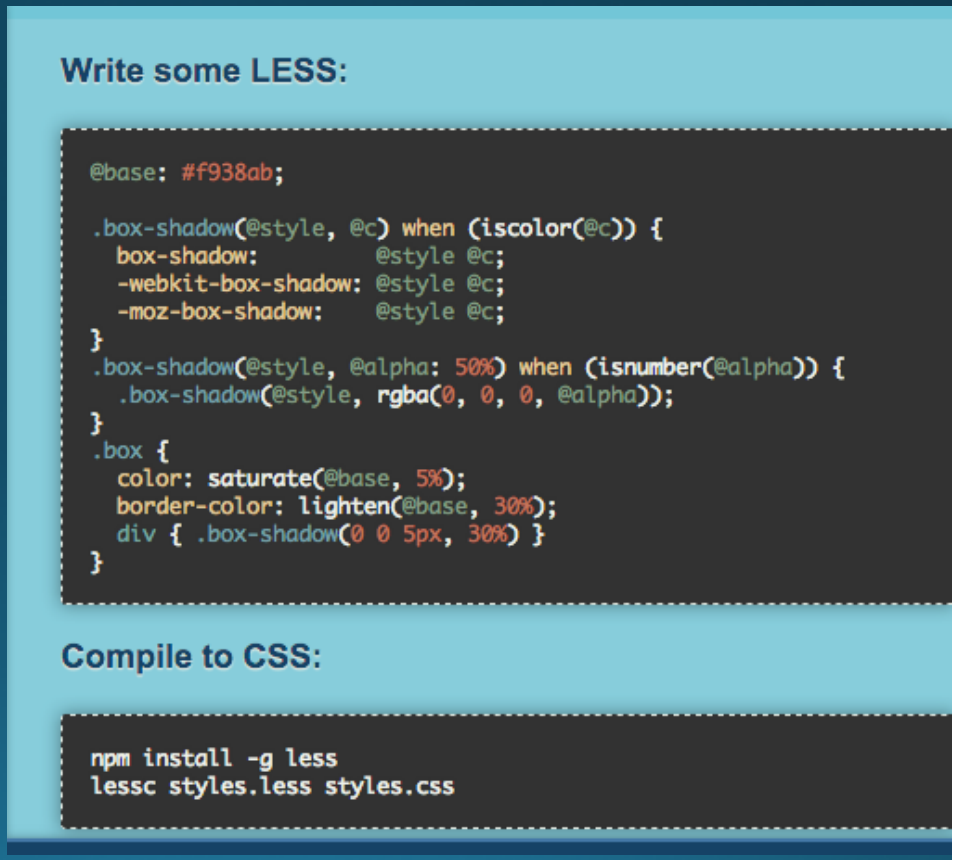
http://foundation.zurb.com

- Concerns
  "Validity", Cruft



# Suggestion - CSS Preprocessors

- Concerns
  - Solving problems that may go away?
  - Solving problems that suggest a deeper problem you have?
- http://lesscss.org
- http://learnboost.github.io/stylus/
- http://sass-lang.com/



# Core JavaScript Discussion Snipped

Presented in a previous lecture

# Suggestion: JS Combining

- Since browser based JS shares same name space combining files doesn't change anything code wise but improves network delivery because of request reduction
- Production JS files should be combined before deployment
- Combine before minifying in my opinion so you don't get duplicate names
- Grunt task

# Suggestion: JS Minification

- Reduce source code size for delivery
  - Minor amount of obfuscation
- Common Techniques
  - Remove white space, comments, dead code
  - Rename long names
  - Inline single usage
  - Byte shave (ex. x=x+1 to x++)

# Suggestion: Minification Tools

- Google Closure Compiler https://developers.google.com/closure/compiler/
- UglifyJS http://lisperator.net/uglifyjs/
- Make it part of deployment process
  - GruntJS automation https://github.com/gruntjs/grunt-contrib-uglify

# Minifcation Considerations

- Naming
  - file.js  file.min.js
- Sometimes minifiers break stuff
  - Their bugs, your bad code
  - Sourcemap to allow for in production debug
    - http://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/developertools/sourcemaps/

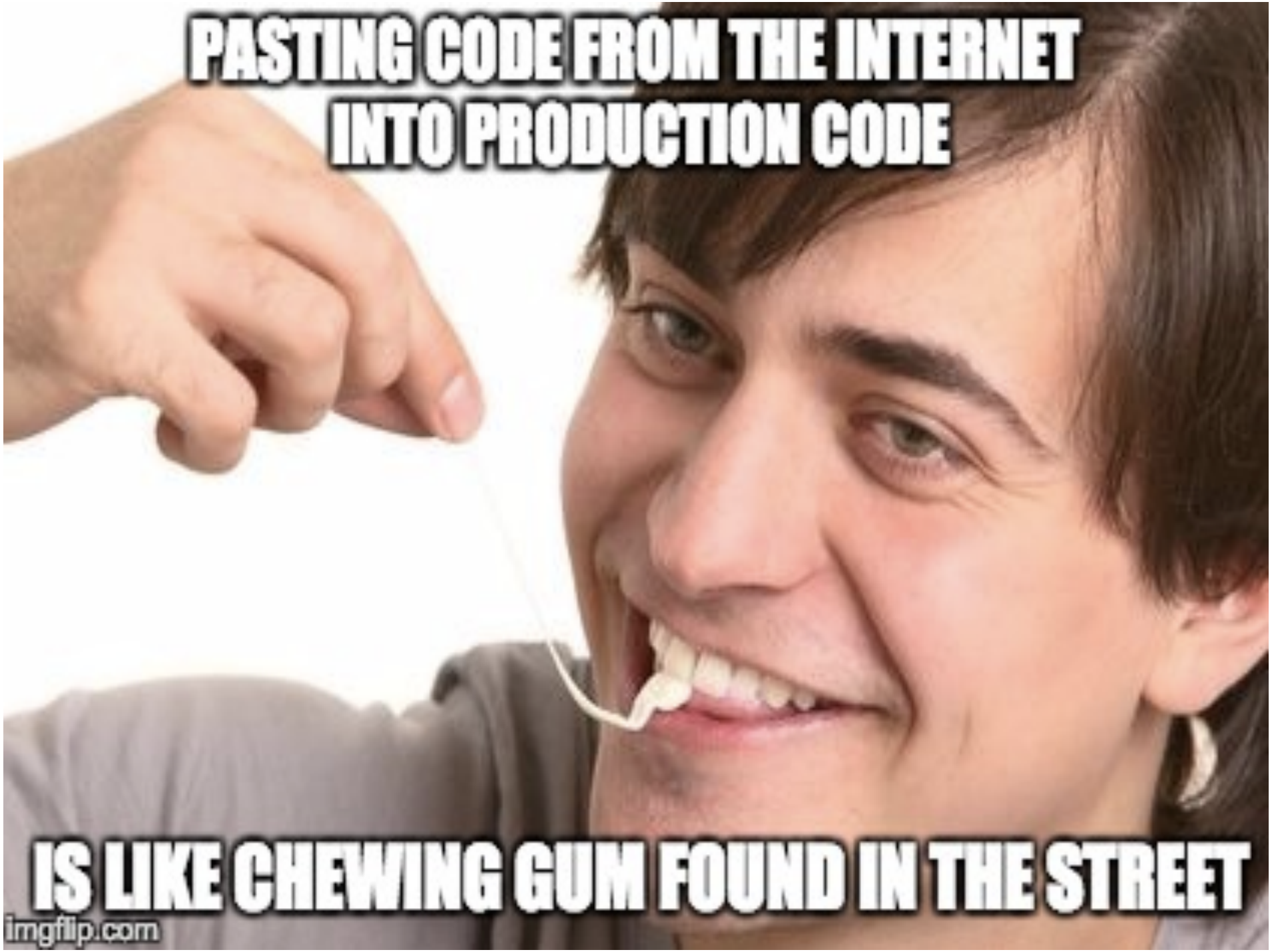
# Suggestion: Build File Naming

- If you are making somewhat frequent updates we need to be quite careful about browser & proxy caches

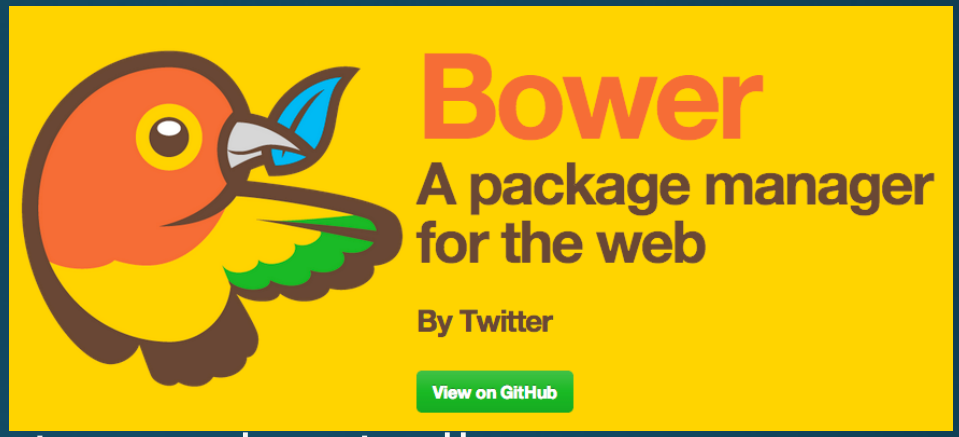
```
<script src="myapp.min.js"></script>
<!- is this dangerous? -->

<script
src="myapp.1382403226836.min.js">
</script>
<!-- use timestamp but build id is
that better? -->
```

# Suggestion: Package Management

- If you depend on other people's code you have to keep up with it
- Rule of thumb: The more you mix the more volatile things are going to get
- Reactions - include nothing and write everything, upon error exclaim it's not my fault, fork, contribute back


PASTING CODE FROM THE INTERNET
INTO PRODUCTION CODE
IS LIKE CHEWING GUM FOUND IN THE STREET
imgflip.com

# Suggestion: Bower




- http://bower.io/
- bower install <x>
- bower install
  consults mainfest in bowser.json and get it all
- Avoid: bower search - do some eval first!

# Suggestion: Scaffolders

- http://yeoman.io/
  - Automates lots of routine tasks
  - Can help speed development - live reloads, staging server, test runni etc.
  - Lots of configuration to learn