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Web 160: Final Project
News Posting

What is Bootstrap? And what makes is so amazing?

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If you're a web designer, then you already know all about Bootstrap. But if you're relatively new to coding in HTML and CSS, you may not yet know about powerful and user-friendly framework that is Bootstrap. But you should!

So what is Bootstrap?

Bootstrap was developed by Twitter as a method to maintain consistency throughout the company's internal tools. Released in 2011, it is relatively new, but has already become one of the most popular and powerful ways to design websites. According to Wikipedia,

> "Bootstrap is a free and open-source front-end web framework for designing websites and web applications. It contains HTML- and CSS-based design templates for typography, forms, buttons, navigation and other interface components, as well as optional JavaScript extensions."

What does it all mean?

Essentially Bootstrap gives you a foundation to work off from. It makes web design more approachable and rewarding, regardless of your skill level. It supports responsive web design, which is critical in this day and age.

In fact, starting with Bootstrap, version 3.0, responsive design is the default. This means mobile-first is the approach taken in structuring the layout of your website.

Simply by following the established structure, and calling the correct classes and id's, web designers are able to save themselves a great deal of time.

What established structure?

Bootstrap organizes content on a grid system. There are other frameworks that do the same thing. But Bootstrap is one of the most intuitive and comprehensive.

Let's say you're designing a website that ideally you would like users to view on their cellphones. You arrange all the content so that it fits your iPhone 6. You send your link to your friends and family. You expect glowing reviews; but instead, the feedback you receive is that it's hard to read, and the site looks in disarray. You ask yourself, what's going on and why did this happen? Well, turns out your friends and family viewed your website using different devices. Your brother used his iPad, your best friend used his iPhone7s, and your dad used his laptop. Your website was not structured to be responsive to different devices.

Here's where Bootstrap's grid system comes in handy. Simply by structuring your HTML code accordingly, your website will restructure itself to fit all of the content regardless of the device being used.

Here is the basic grid system:

.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1	.col-md-1

.col-md-8								.col-md-4			

.col-md-4				.col-md-4				.col-md-4			

.col-md-6						.col-md-6					

	Extra small devices Phones (<768px)	Small devices Tablets (≥768px)	Medium devices Desktops (≥992px)	Large devices Desktops (≥1200px)
Grid behavior	Horizontal at all times	Collapsed to start, horizontal above breakpoints		
Container width	None (auto)	750px	970px	1170px
Class prefix	.col-xs-	.col-sm-	.col-md-	.col-lg-
# of columns	12			
Column width	Auto	~62px	~81px	~97px
Gutter width	30px (15px on each side of a column)			
Nestable	Yes			
Offsets	Yes			
Column ordering	Yes			

What else does Bootstrap have to offer?

The answer is, much much more. As I continue building websites, I'm still discovering new features. For example, the below icons are at your disposal with one simple line of command. No longer do you need to create and/or download icon imagery, upload it onto your images folder, and then call it in your HTML code.

Also, what about clickable buttons? if you've ever wanted to create a clickable button on your website, this is all you have to do:


```
EXAMPLE

  Link    Button    Input    Submit


<a class="btn btn-default" href="#" role="button">Link</a>
<button class="btn btn-default" type="submit">Button</button>
<input class="btn btn-default" type="button" value="Input">
<input class="btn btn-default" type="submit" value="Submit">
```
Copy

Like I said, I'm still discovering new features. But as a web student, who has been exposed to several different options to creating websites, Bootstrap is my prefered method. It's helped me

produce websites with very clean and organized code. And if you're familiar with coding, you understand the importance of clean coding. I highly recommend you to try it out!

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