



SmashingConf Freiburg 2023

Day 2, September 5th, 2023

<https://smashed.by/forest>

Hello friends! :) Howdy!

Let's take notes together.

Please be cool and **friendly**.

Notes from Day 1: <https://smashed.by/campfire>

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Let's Get To Know Y'All!

How did you sleep?

(e.g. Best sleep ever, I dreamt like a smooth SVG animation)

- Wonderful (Cause I'm home and slept in my own bed 🌅)
- Awful :(
- Way too short
- Gooooood
- Meh
- Better than Sunday night!
 - Yes!!!
- https://media1.giphy.com/media/Wi8O8WBtYX7dS/giphy.gif?cid=6co9b952ja49gu7yaqdd3xov3adg5vo347pxyo46jewmpun6&ep=v1_internal_gif_by_id&rid=giphy.gif&ct=g
- quite good and even woke up without my annoying alarm 🕒
-

Why is your best friend so awesome?

(e.g. she always buys me ice-cream, even when it freezes outside)

- Because they are honest when they need to be
- Because there can be months without contact, because everyone lives their own life. And when you see each other again, everything is the same as before. Love you, best friend!
- cause my two best friends make almost every activity fun no matter how awful it may be otherwise

Talks

10:00 — Mystery Speaker on Life Is A Mystery

Who do you think it is? What do you think they're talking about?

Zach? Web Fonts?

zach leatherman on web components

Questions:

- Hello wonderful people typing in questions! Please add your names in brackets, like this **[Marie] Question**, so I can refer to you on stage :)
- [Vitaly] What do you think is missing in web components to become widely spread and established in the industry?
- [Vitaly] Massive improvements in the world of static site generators, incremental deployments etc. Where are we today with Jamstack? **“Composable architectures”** appears to be the new catchphrase. Fast forward six more months, and Netlify has just closed The Jamstack Community Discord, according to Jamstack aficionado Brian Rinaldi (who runs an email newsletter called — for now — JAMstacked).
- [Vitaly] Eleventy / Static generators have now been around for a while. What do you think is the space in which static generators have become

a standard? How and where do they fit in the modern web development landscape?

- [Vitaly] What are some of the major developments in front-end that you see happening in 2023, and where are we heading with all of this?
- [Vitaly] What do you think are common misconceptions that still prevail in our industry, and kind of hold us back?
- [Vitaly] What do you think is the biggest challenge in front-end these days/refactoring/debugging, and can you share some tips and tricks to get it right?
- ~~[Sascha] WebC seems to conclude the circle what we already have with PHP with SSR being “the thing” again. Why not simply use what we already have? It kind of feels like we are re-inventing the wheel~~
- ~~State of tooling: where do we stand now, what would be a tooling stack that companies tend to choose these days?~~
- ~~[Paul] Why are Web Components not mainstream yet, despite being an industry standard? How can we improve their visibility?~~
- ~~[Christian] as of today, do you think web components can be used for more complex (still quite standard) components like a toolbar, or modal dialogs?~~

Notes & key takeaways:

- Can layer functionality using behaviours
- Progressive enhancements
- Islands architecture
- Avoiding Repetition

- WebComponent Shadow DOM now has a declarative API
<https://developer.chrome.com/articles/declarative-shadow-dom/#building-a-declarative-shadow-root>
 - a. But makes DRY hard
- Shadow DOM: third party widgets instead of primary functionality
- Shadow DOM: one const argument layout shift
- :not(:defined) / :defined (once custom element is loaded)
- Embedding Shadow root by using declarative shadow DOM
- Scoped CSS
- WebC - define once, rendered many times. Compile similar to Svelte.
- Ship functionality as HTML if enough, then maybe add CSS and JS last, don't use JS first
-

Links & slides:

- <https://www.zachleat.com/>
- <https://www.zachleat.com/web/details-utils>
- <https://custom-elements-everywhere.com/>
- <https://github.com/11ty/is-land>
- <https://github.com/11ty/webc>
- <https://github.com/11ty/eleventy-base-webc>

11:05 — [Christine Vallaure](#) on [Design Beyond Breakpoints](#)

"If only designers and developers would understand each other better!" Design and development can be perfect together! Yes, designers and developers must understand each other's tools and engage in constructive dialogue, but modern tools make their life so much easier.

Lately, we have seen incredible advancements in CSS that have the potential to revolutionize the way we approach web design, and Figma — with all its recent updates — has made it much easier for designers to understand and design for all these new things possible.



In her talk, Christine will take you on a Figma tour where she shows you how you can use container queries, variables, and grid, and bring modern CSS to its full potential. So let's be perfect, together!

Christine will also give a workshop on Wednesday on everything Figma.

Questions:

- ~~{Vitaly} Do you use Design Tokens through a plugin like Tokens studio?~~
- Do you have thoughts or recommendations for **noting accessibility features** for the developer that will build the product?

- What are some of the most useful Figma plugins you use all the time?
- [Vitaly] How do you manage interactive components?
- [Vitaly] How do you manage **iterations within Figma**, especially when working on larger projects with multiple team members?
- [Vitaly] **The delta between what we design and what gets shipped** typically is measured in light years. Is it because we are too much focused on perfectionism while developers are focused on pragmatism? How do we reduce this delta?
- [Vitaly] What would you recommend to **remote teams** where designers and developers struggle with the usual suspects — communication and collaboration? Any little tips/ideas you would recommend?
- ~~[Vitaly] **Migration process**: many teams have been stuck for years in a tool of choice, such as Adobe XD or Sketch. If they want to migrate to Figma, how would you recommend to proceed?~~
- [Vitaly] And do you have any particular **wishlist features** that you'd love to see in Figma?
- [Vitaly] We need to define breakpoints in px, but when building we usually would bring in a breakpoint once content must be adjusted
- Christine will also give a workshop on Wednesday on [everything Figma](#).
- ~~[Sascha] Does what you showed integrate well with design systems? It feels like it would raise the complexity to maintain values in a system.~~

- [Matthias] These techniques and Figma are awesome! Thanks for sharing! What's your take on the long term sustainability of the Figma Platform? Especially now that we add more and more critical product logic and knowledge into this service. Don't get me wrong I really like Figma but I'm just missing the interoperability with local files. Maybe the Figma API is the answer for these kind of concerns?

- [Lena] I've had problems before with the z-index being supposed to behave differently than the level hierarchy. In your opinion, is the z-index still a missing parameter in Figma? How do you think its implementation could improve the handling?
- [Lara] how do you hand over the design / concepts to your devs? Are you using the dev mode in figma or still using a special page on your figma file? Have you discovered any better ways?
- [Lisa] what is your experience, presenting designs to clients with little UI understanding, does this help. Do you think it's useful?
- [Lisa] how do you rate the effort of building all those states vs. Less questions or bugs in development?
- [Franzi] Do you have any best practices on how to connect the variables to github etc.? And will it be possible to add calculations inside of figma variables? We use calculations in Tokens Studio to simulate CSS clamp calculations 

Notes & key takeaways:

Links & slides:

- Moon learning io
- <https://www.figma.com/community/plugin/1205622541257680763/EightShapes-Specs>
-

12:15 — [Christophe Porteneuve](#) on [Things You Don't Know about JavaScript in 2023](#)

Yes, okay, ES2015 rules, and ES2017–2022 brought about a lot of cool things (most notably async/await, async iteration, optional chaining, private members), but a ton of cool stuff is expected to land in the next few years, too... and we can play with it already!

Christophe takes you through a whirlwind tour of the upcoming features he's most excited about, due to become official in 2023, 2024... or 2025 ;-)

Questions:

- [Vitaly] Lunch session: a few tickets available
- ~~Where does this excitement about regex come from?!~~
- ~~[Paul] Tell us more about ES4 😊~~
- ~~[Sascha] Is there a goal where JS is heading? Like for example maturing it like PHP did to be stronger typed making things like Typescript obsolete and making the landscape less complicated and fractured.~~
- [Paul] Many of these new features exist in toolsets such as lodash and underscore. Where does the line fall between features that are necessary in the core of the language, and nice-to-haves that are better left to toolsets like the above?
- ~~[Chris] What is the current state of immutable data structures (Records&Tuples)?~~

- [Vitaly] What are some of the most exciting Browser APIs that have been released recently? What are you most excited about
- [Vitaly] Where do you see the role of WebAssembly at this point? Where does it complement JavaScript, and what's the best way to use it?
- [Vitaly] What are your feelings around **Web Components**? Are they a suitable alternative to React's componentization?
- [Vitaly] **Where do you see front-end heading these days? There are many conversations about the Islands architecture:** Each island is prerendered, so there is no interactivity right after the page loads. Islands hydrate themselves via `requestIdleCallback()` when the main thread is free. Do you think it's an approach that's going to take roots in modern landscape?
- [Vitaly] So what's the state of React Suspense? Why did it take so long, and where are we there?
- [Vitaly] Do you feel a consolidated set of frameworks (say top-3) works better OR having many purpose-built frameworks which work best for a specific use-case works better ?
- [Vitaly] **Climbing up abstractions.** Over the years, we've abstracted away everything from physical servers and data layer to build tools and languages. Today, we can get entire infrastructure with one single framework. Recently your colleague at Vercel, Malte Ubl wrote an interesting post on **framework-defined architecture**. Could you explain what it is and how does it shape the evolution of the web?
- [Vitaly] This year is probably the first year for a decade when JavaScript seems to be slowing down, or maybe everyone is just a bit too tired of all the frameworks!
- [Christian] what's your opinion on the proposal of type annotations (e.g. define types as jsdoc)

~~{Hans} do you think that es is moving more and more towards being a functional language?~~

Notes & key takeaways:

- Promise.allSettled (no short circuit)
- Array.at(). Supports negative indices (i.e. from end of array)
- Array.findLast/findLastIndex - search from end by function
- Array.to* methods change array by *copy*

Amazing shirt!

Links & slides:

- Slides: <https://tdd.github.io/smashing-freiburg-2023-javascript/1>

14:40 — [Elliot Jay Stocks](#) on [Better Type for the Web](#)

Yes, we can still do better type for the web. Elliot will talk about type performance, using grade for dark mode, getting the most out of variable fonts, and how to optimise your type in design systems. And — oh yeah — a few other cool things too!

Questions:

- [Vitaly] Should we expect you coming to Berghain in Berlin any time soon?
- [Vitaly] Over the years we've got **exciting OpenType features**, from fractions to diacritics and accent characters working flawlessly on the web. We seem to also have figured out the licensing issues around fonts. Are we done with the typography on the web? What else do we need to improve?
- [Vitaly] What's the current state of **variable fonts**? Browser support is here but it seems like not many foundries are keen on designing and releasing variable fonts. Why is that, and where do we stand there?
- [Vitaly] ~~In one of the restaurant, a sommelier told me once that the easiest way to pair wine and meal is to **pick both from the same region**. So, do you have a similar magical recipe for pairing typefaces for body copy and headings? Should they come from the same foundry?~~

- [Vitaly] **Tooling!** We have wonderful tools for fluid typography and fluid sizing (clamp). Are there any useful typographic tools that you would highly recommend, and encourage people to use?
- ~~[Vitaly] Accessibility: in Google Fonts there are now some **Braille fonts available (Atkinson Hyperlegible)**, and fonts designed for people with **dyslexia (Lexend)**. Fantastic to see that effort. What do we need to keep in mind when picking a typeface for people with permanent or temporary disabilities?~~
- ~~[Sascha] One big struggle when optimising for CLS is text jumping after a font loads. Do you have any good techniques to configure a web safe font to match as close to the to be loaded font as possible?~~
- ~~[Patrick] Some fonts look different in Figma than in the browser. Is there a way to adjust the font in a browser (with CSS, for example) so that it matches more?~~
- ~~Fabian — what's your take on antialiasing in the browser? That often fixes the discrepancy between figma and the browser but I'm unsure about accessibility~~

Notes & key takeaways:

- Use **OpenType features** if they exist in your font
- Use **optical sizes** if they exist in your font
- Use **grades** if they exist in your font
- Use **variable fonts**
- Use all of the above to **help you choose fonts**
- Be aware of **what causes line height issues**
- Use **fluid type scales**
- Web typography has grown up – **now it's about enhancement**

Links & slides:

- <https://fonts.google.com/knowledge>
- <https://css-tricks.com/using-css-custom-properties-to-adjust-variable-font-weights-in-dark-mode/>
- https://fonts.google.com/knowledge/using_type/styling_type_on_the_web_with_variable_fonts
- <https://utopia.fyi/>
- <https://github.com/elliottjaystocks/choosing-type-checklist>
- <https://buttondown.email/elliottjaystocks>

15:50 — [Miriam Suzanne on Containers, What Do They Know?](#)

How did container queries go from ‘impossible’ to ‘shipping’ after so many years? How do we use them, and what hidden powers do they have? What are CSS containers, and what queries can they respond to? Let’s find out!

While the basics look a lot like media queries – and can work as a drop-in replacement for many existing @media rules – there are some key differences to understand, and a lot more power than you might expect. Along the way we’ll encounter CSS fundamentals like normal flow, intrinsic and extrinsic sizing, value resolution, and more. Join me to learn all you need to know about using container queries in your web projects.

Miriam will also give a workshop on Wednesday on everything CSS.

Questions:

- ~~[Sascha] Do we even need media queries any more? Shouldn’t we embrace a “inside-out” design philosophy from now on that makes media queries a bad practice?~~
- How would you recommend teams to write CSS these days? Cascade layers-first, how to organize CSS these days? Best practices?
- ~~[Mika] What are some CSS “bad habits” that you still see people doing despite newer and better ways of doing things? And follow up: is that just ok? Do we need to use the latest technique, if an existing technique is working for us?~~
- [Vitaly] **Thank you** for the incredible work you are doing!

- Subgrid?
- Would it make sense to have a component measure a parent of another container in another position on the page?
- CSS is booming: what exactly has happened, and how do you see it evolving?
-

Notes & key takeaways:

- Has the best shoes ever, too
- Containers have explicit width, implicit height (box size)
- Containers contain layout. Cf. clear (float)
- It is recommended to name containers
- We can now use em-based container queries to do responsive sizing based on the actual font sizes of the containers themselves.
- Web Components can have their own containers, using :host
- Containers can be nested
- Cq units, specific to container. E.g. 100CQI is lhs of container, 100CQI is RHS
- Style queries are coming, but only for custom properties
- Container queries make media queries redundant for size, state, but are still relevant for layout
- Masonry?

Links & slides:

- <https://codepen.io/miriamsuzanne>
- <https://www.miriamsuzanne.com/>

- <https://slides.oddbird.net/cq/smashingde/>

17:00 — [Harrison Wheeler](#) on [Facilitating Safe and Inclusive Feedback](#)

Receiving and providing feedback is an integral part of the design process. It plays a vital role in how we can expand our thinking and deliver innovative solutions.

Learn how a few simple steps around facilitation can foster meaningful conversations around design in your organization as we move into hybrid working environments.

Questions:

- ~~[Sascha] In my team we had one complaint over and over again in retros that was accepted by the blamed party but simply never got better so it went in circles until people stopped bringing it up since “it wont get better anyway”. How do you solve something like this~~
- [Vitaly] Setting the right expectations for meetings etc is so helpful! How do I ensure everybody follows along though as rules are established without coming across as being aggressive or obsessed with rules?
 - [Vitaly] What’s the perfect **setup for teams in terms of size and diversity?**
 - How do you avoid “critique workspaces” feeling like pile-ons?
 - [Vitaly] How do you encourage active participation and listening in a remote-first environment? It’s easy in Zoom meetings for participants to fully disengage

- [Vitaly] How do you handle the party-poopers who say that no rituals are “exciting”?
- [Vitaly] What is the best way to ensure that the meetings lead to meaningful actions?
- [Vitaly] How do you get team members to be comfortable with each other when they are all remote? IE. know how to deliver feedback with an understanding of the individual.
- [Vitaly] What are some methods, tools, or frameworks you are excited to try? (That you haven't tried yet)
- ~~[Lilia] What are some tips you might have when things get very heated and highly emotional, especially when there is a sore spot between teams?~~
- [Vitaly] **How to deal with multiple stakeholders with different opinions, and all of them need to consider and give different directions?!**
- ~~How do I make sure people have really said their piece? Sometimes I think there might be something missing, but I can't force anyone to give feedback either.~~
- How can I make sure that calling people when they're not engaged isn't putting them on the spot?
- ~~[Lughni] sometime it is bit tricky to facilitate feedback when there is no data involved, as every members or sub-team have their own perspectives. How do we tackle that situation?~~

- ~~[Kate] Product design is a big responsibility with a lot of decisions to be made. What could a young engineer start with to integrate into the decision making process?~~

Notes & key takeaways:

- Four types of feedback
- Contention » points of decision
-
- "be the teammate you'd want to have"

Links & slides:

- <https://Startupstockphotos.com>
 - <https://www.harrisonwheeler.com/>
 - <https://www.figma.com/community/file/1103209849435535949>
-

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