

Coding design blocks

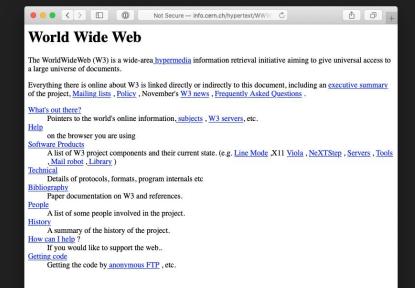
August 6, 1991

28 years ago

August 6, 1991

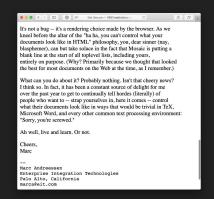
28 years ago

16 years before the first iPhone 17 years before the first Android



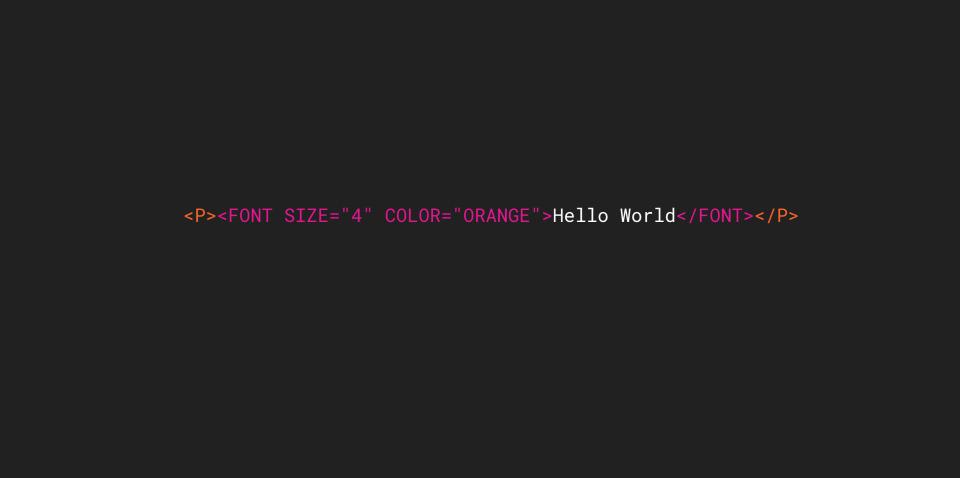
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[..] it has been a constant source of delight for me over the past year to get to continually tell hordes (literally) of people who want to -- strap yourselves in, here it comes -- control what their documents look like in ways that would be trivial in TeX, Microsoft Word, and every other common text processing environment: "Sorry, you're screwed."

- Marc Andreessen



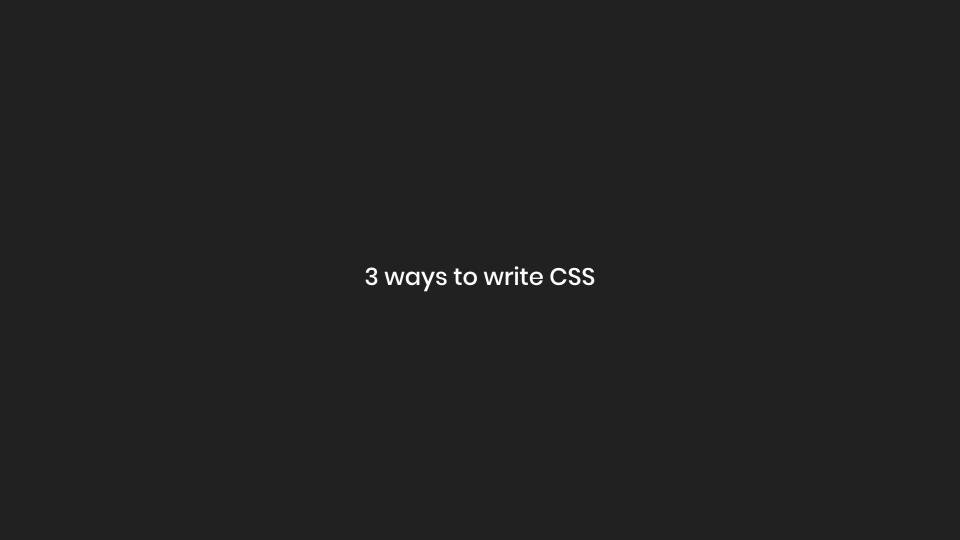
October, 1994

Håkon Wium Lie introduces CSS

1996

```
html {
  margin-left: 2cm;
  font-family: "Times", serif;
}

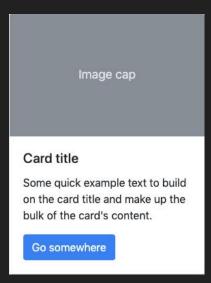
h1 {
  font-size: 24px;
}
```



The semantic way

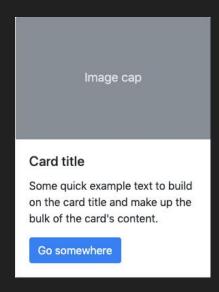
The component way

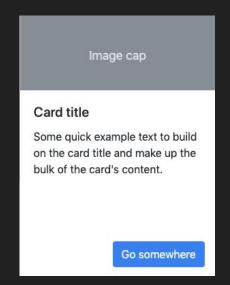
The component way



Card

The component way





Card

Card2?



Why can't we do everything inline?

Why can't we do everything inline?



– Andrea Helmbolt, Figma

"The constraints of the system allow for endless creativity"

"No one needs 12 shades of gray"

– Andrea Helmbolt, Figma

The truth is out there

Stripe.com – 189 text colors, 90 background colors, 35 font sizes

Figma.com – 9 text colors, 8 background colors, 15 font sizes

GitHub.com – 163 text colors, 147 background colors, 56 font sizes

Create constraints

Instead of 16 million different colors, let's limit ourselves to ~20

Instead of endless font sizes, let's limit ourselves to ~10

Instead of endless paddings/margins, let's limit ourselves to ~20

How would it work with CSS?

```
.color-blue { color: #0000ff }
.color-green { color: #00ff00 }
.p-0 { padding: 0 }
.p-1 { padding: 0.25rem }
.p-2 { padding: 0.5rem }
```

A utility-first approach

Is anyone using this in "the real world"

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