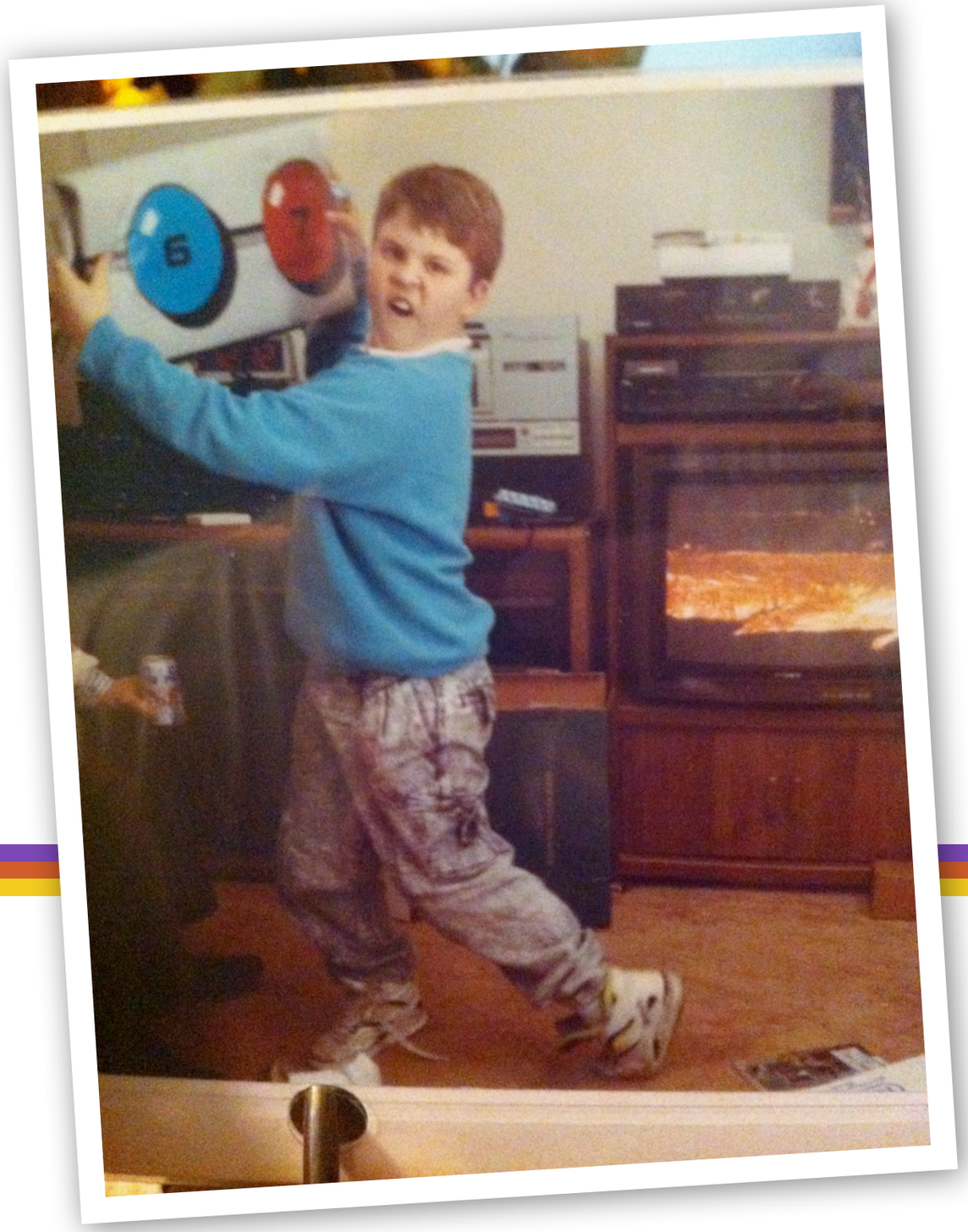
WRITING BETTER HTML & CSS



CHRIS COYIER

chriscoyier@gmail.com
@chriscoyier

Wufoo: Online Form Builder – Create Web Forms & Surveys

http://wufoo.com/

RSS

Google

WUFOO → Online Form Builder

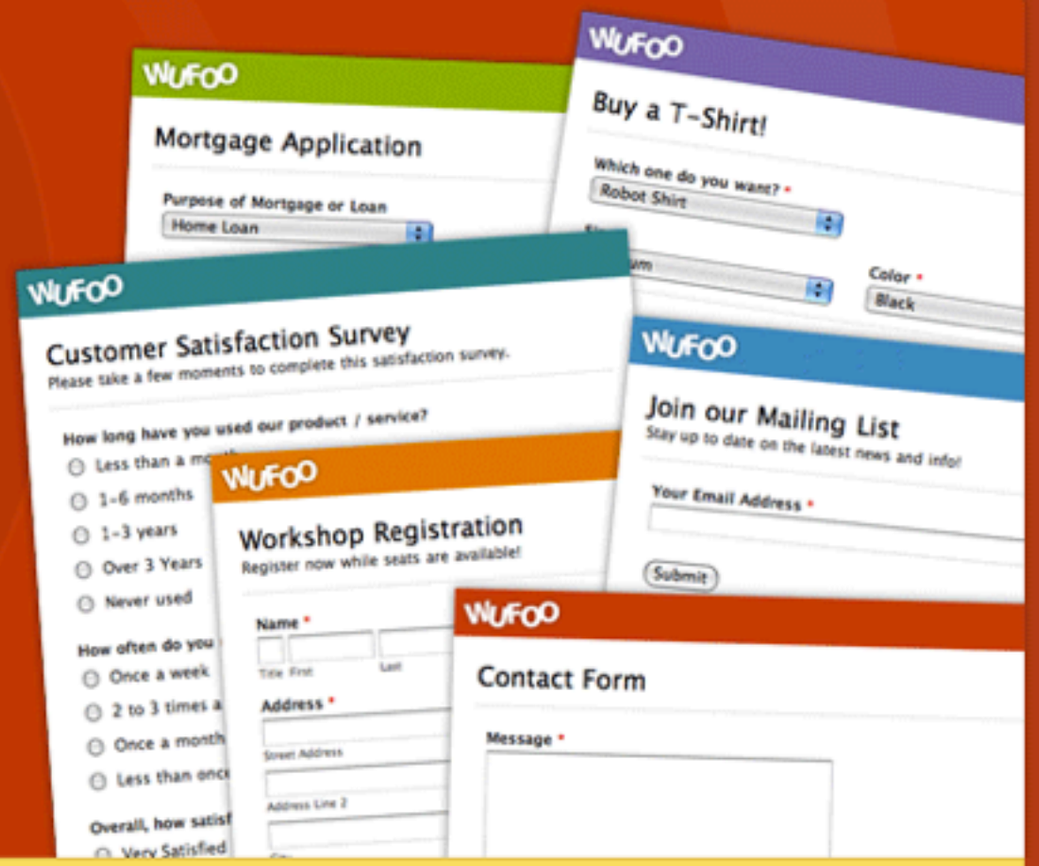
Login!

WUFOO

Making forms easy + fast + fun.

Sign Up for Free!

Tour



Home · About · FAQ · Features · Examples · Partners · Clients · Pricing

What is Wufoo?

Wufoo strives to be the easiest way to collect information over the Internet.

Our HTML form builder helps you create contact forms, online surveys, and invitations so you can

Why us?

Here's the top **10** reasons you should use Wufoo to collect information online.

The Gallery

View and customize over **80** templates and themes from our form gallery.

Latest News

- Use over 150 Fonts on Your Forms with our New Font Picker
- International Merchant Support with PayPal Payflow Pro Integration

BETTER?

1 Less of it // Speed

2 More Semantic // Maintainability

3 More Accessible // SEO

4 Futureproof // Happy People

123

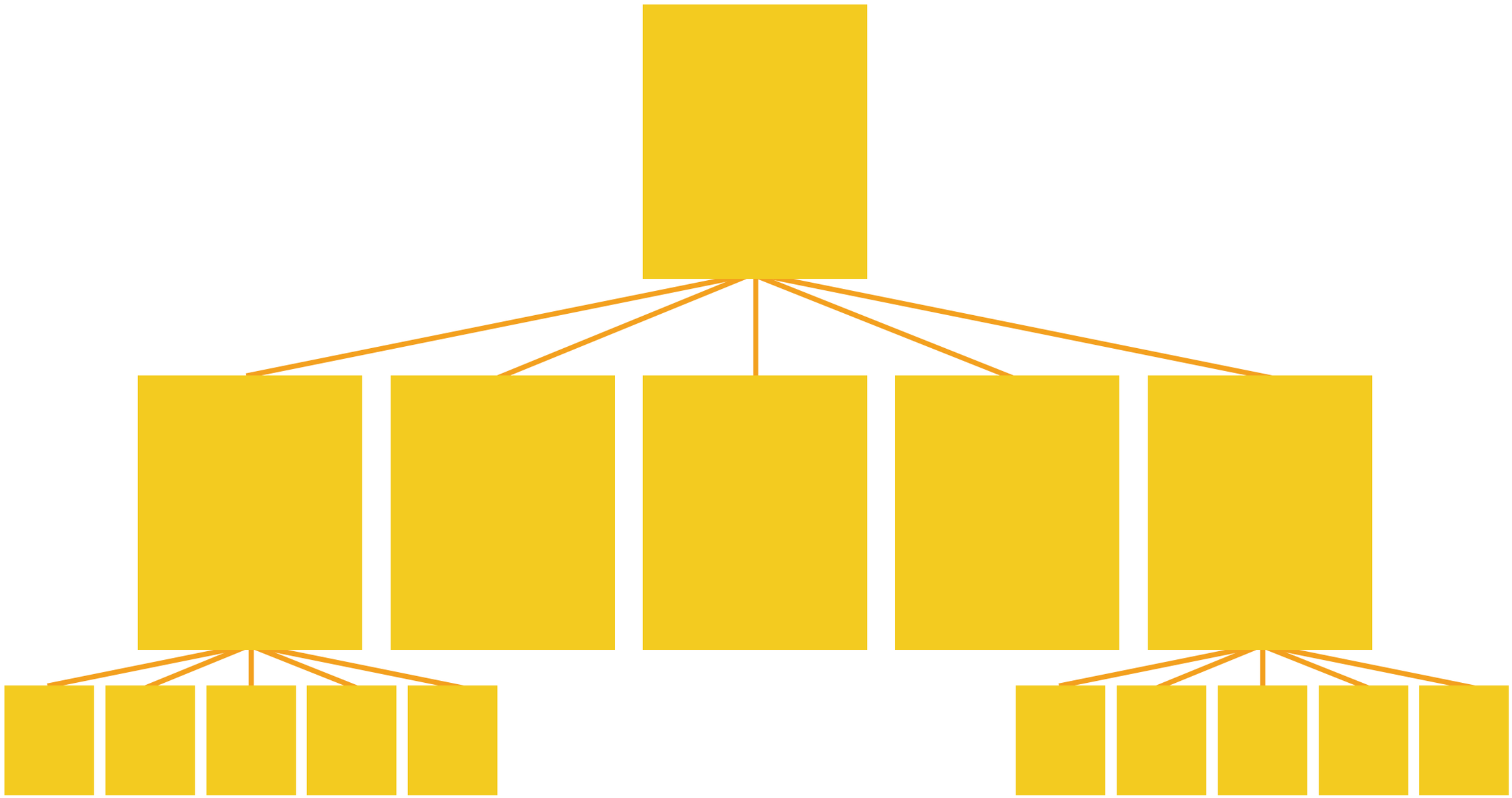
1

HOW WUFOO DOES CSS

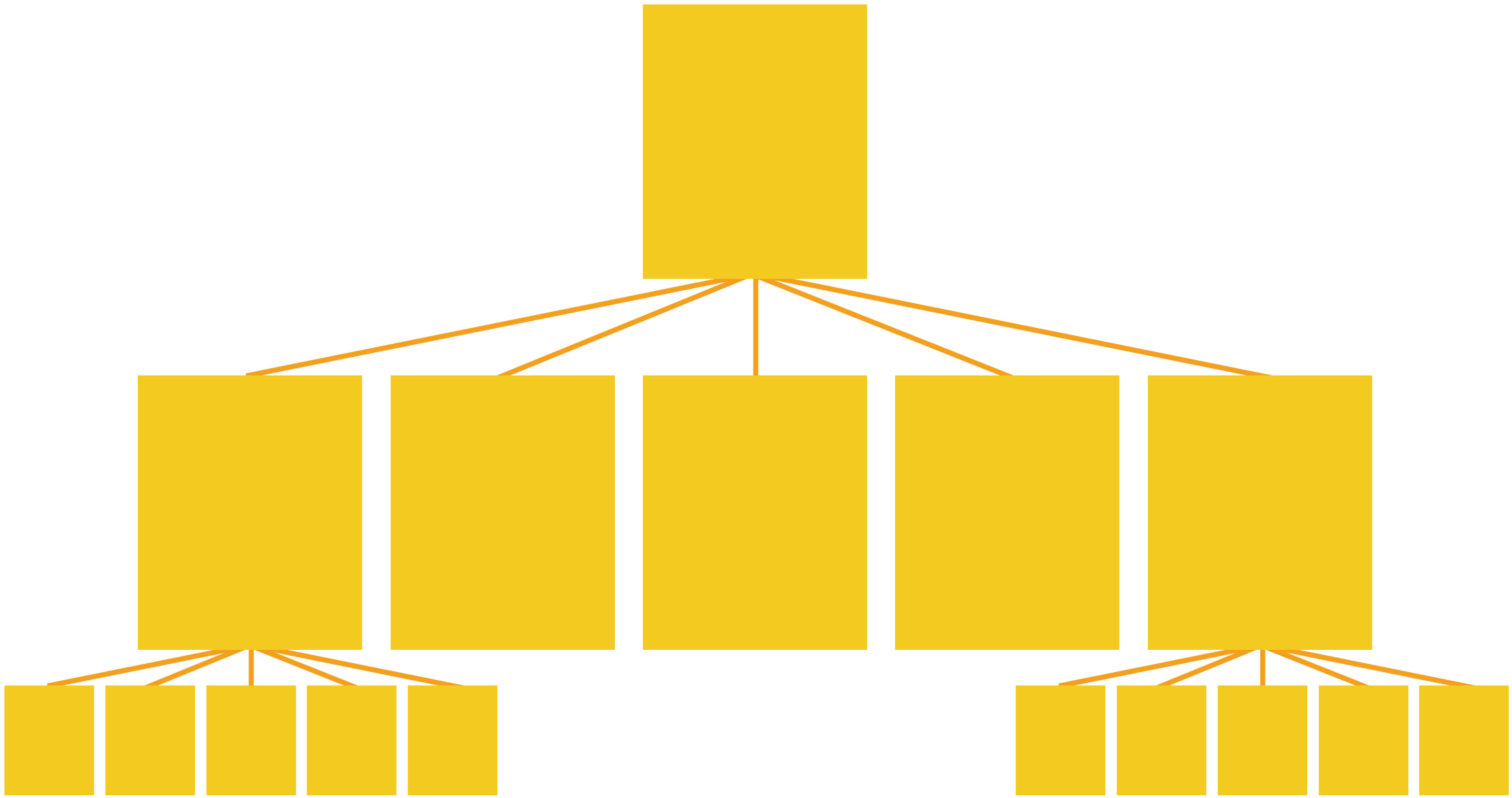
“RULES”

- No inline styles or <style> blocks
- Only 2 CSS files per page (Global + Site Section)
- These 2 are made from combined smaller files (like design patterns or site sub sections)
- Versioned in production (dynamic.13432.css) Timestamped in development (dynamic.TIMESTAMP.css)
- Reuse everything (e.g. table.css)
- Work in chunks (e.g. print.css)

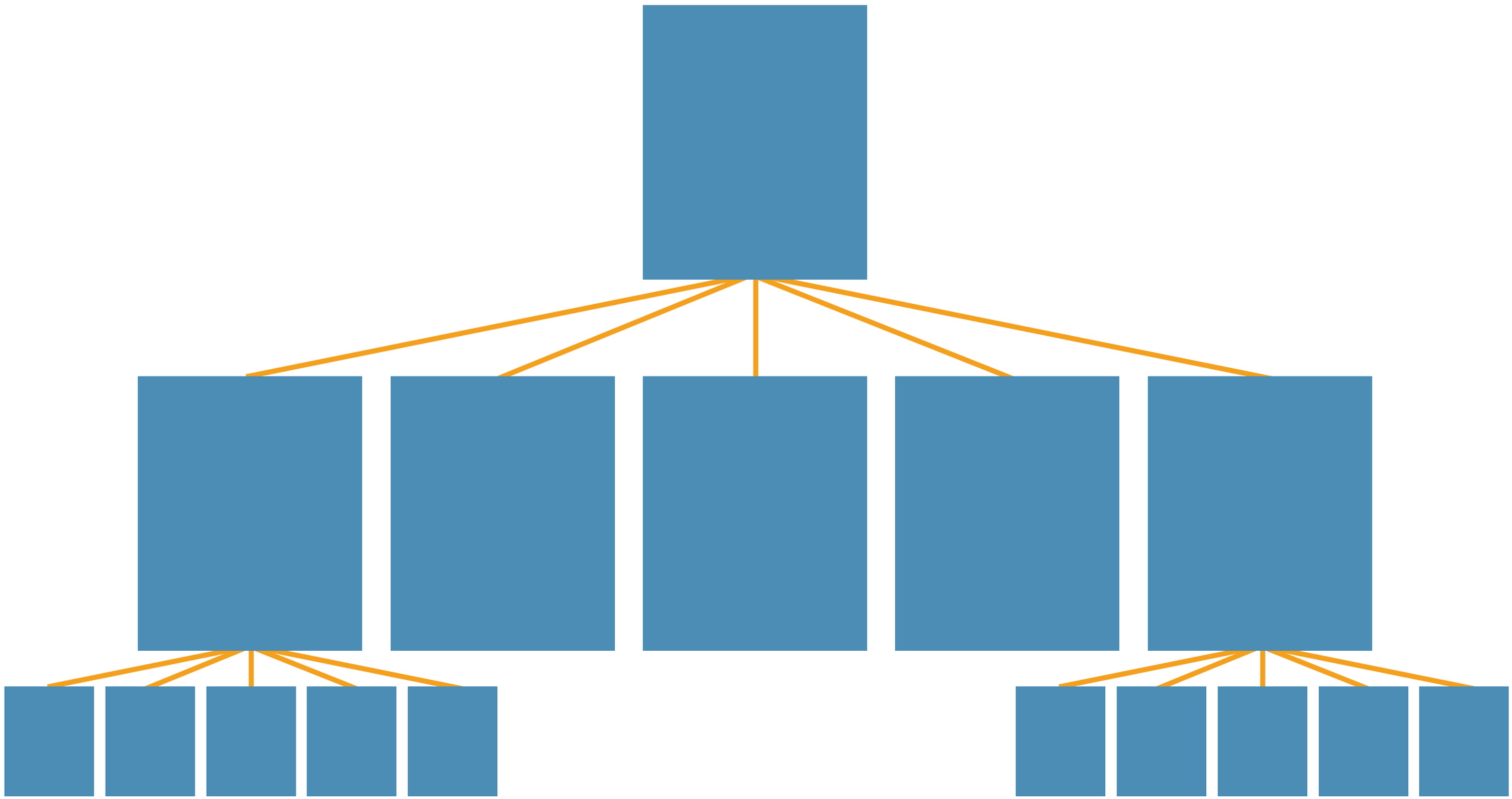
SIMPLIFIED SITE STRUCTURE



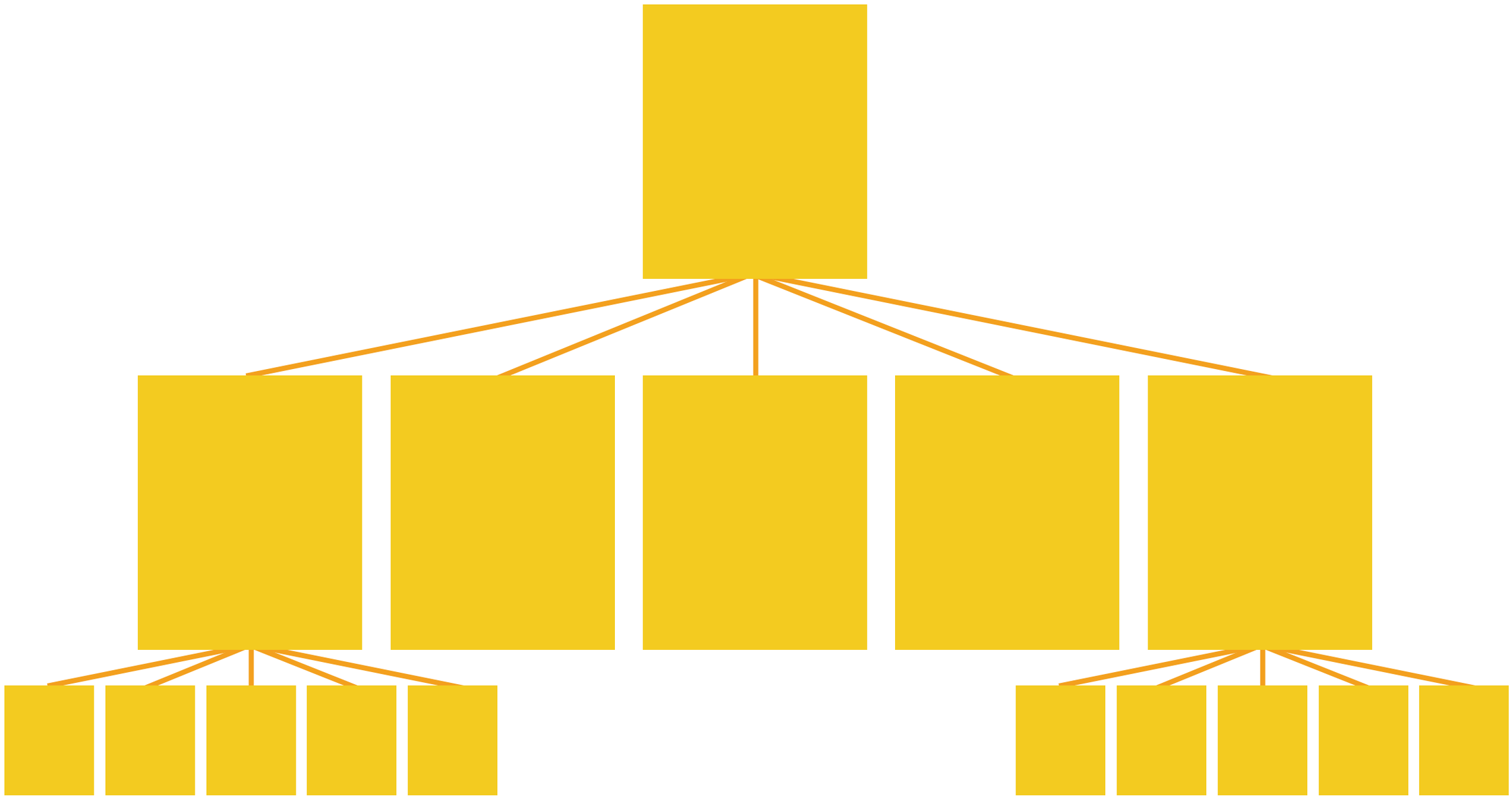
GLOBAL CSS



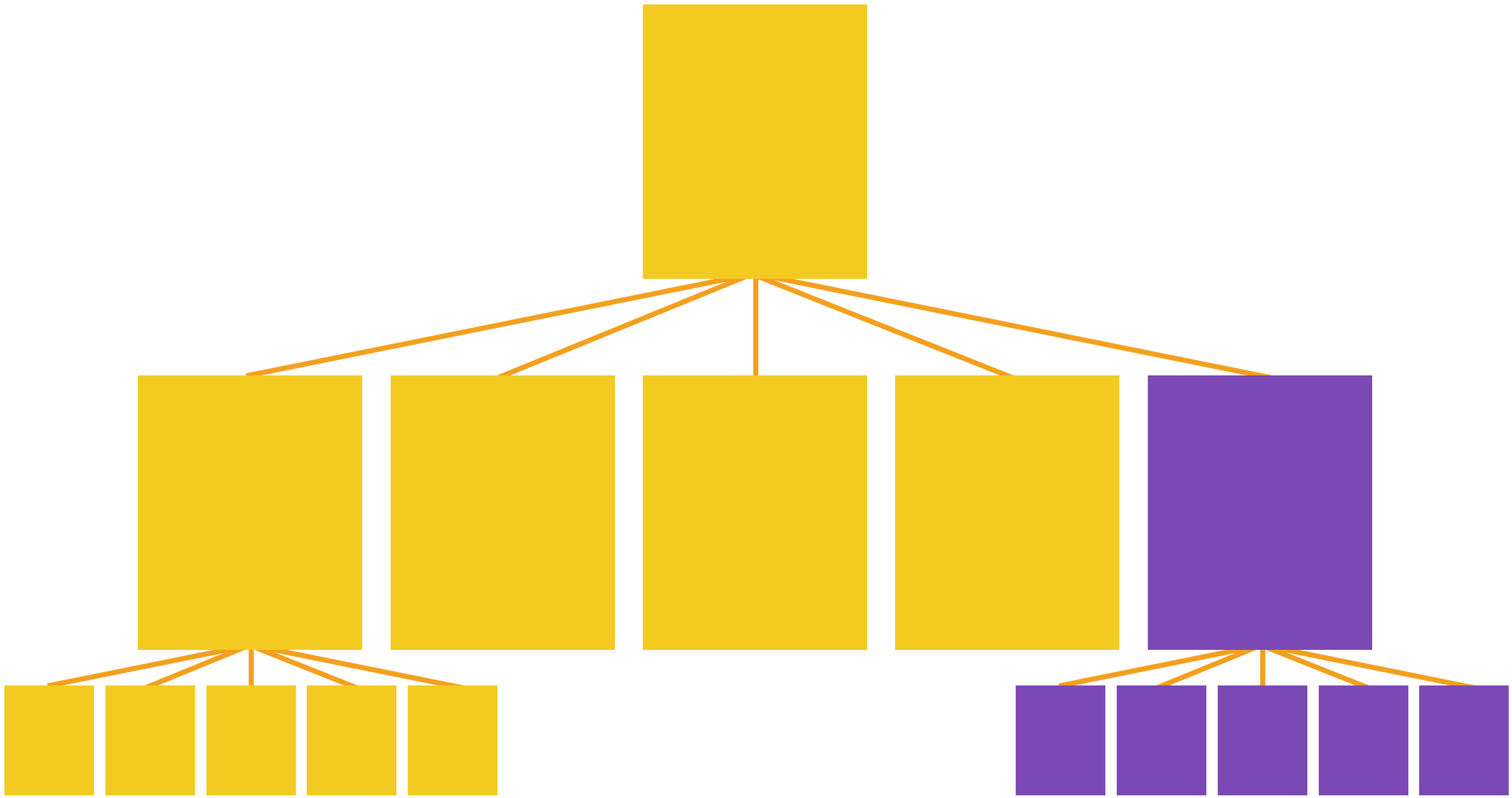
GLOBAL CSS



SITE SECTION CSS



SITE SECTION CSS



Wufoo: Online Form Builder – Create Web Forms & Surveys

Wufoo: Online Form Builder – C...

http://wufoo.com/

Google

Gmail | Google Reader | +Pinboard | Printliminator | Movie Showtime... | Bookmarks

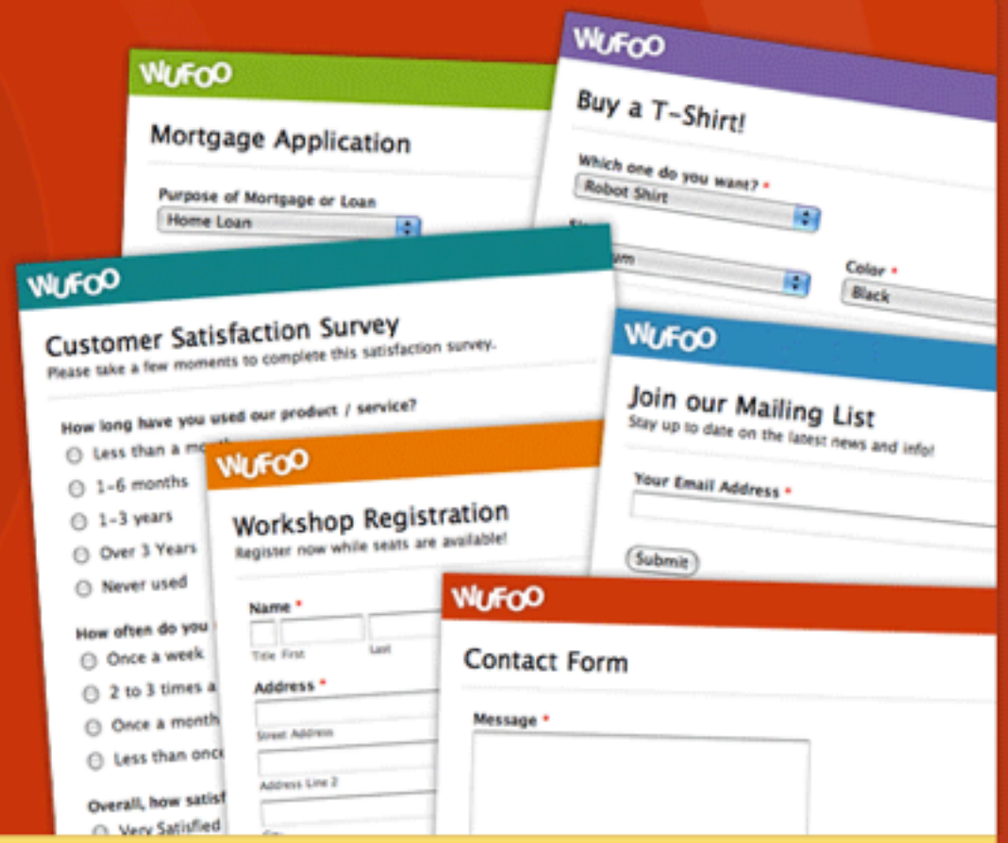
WUFOO → Online Form Builder

Login!

WUFOO

Making forms easy + fast + fun.

Sign Up for Free! Tour



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View and customize over **80** templates and themes from our form gallery.

Latest News

- Use over 150 Fonts on Your Forms with our New Font Picker
- International Merchant Support

```
<!DOCTYPE html>

<head>

  {autoVersion}/css/global/dynamic.css{/autoVersion}
  {autoVersion}/css/landing/dynamic.css{/autoVersion}
```

Smarty function (could be any server side language)

.htaccess

```
AddHandler application/x-httpd-php .php .html .xml .css .js
```

/css/global/dynamic.css

```php
<?php
require_once($GLOBALS['root'].'/library/services/
AutoVersion.php');

$fileArray = array(
  '/css/global/structure.css',
  '/css/global/buttons.css',
  '/css/global/lightbox.css',
  '/css/global/form.css'
);

$av = new AutoVersion();
$av->fly($dynamicURL,$fileArray);
?>
```

/css/landing/dynamic.css

```php
<?php
require_once($GLOBALS['root'].'/library/services/
AutoVersion.php');

$fileArray = array(
  '/css/landing/structure.css',
  '/css/landing/table.css',
  '/css/landing/else.css',
  '/css/landing/signup.css',
  '/css/landing/tour.css'
);

$av = new AutoVersion();
$av->fly($dynamicURL,$fileArray);
?>
```

AutoVersion function:

1) Fetches all files

2) Minifies*

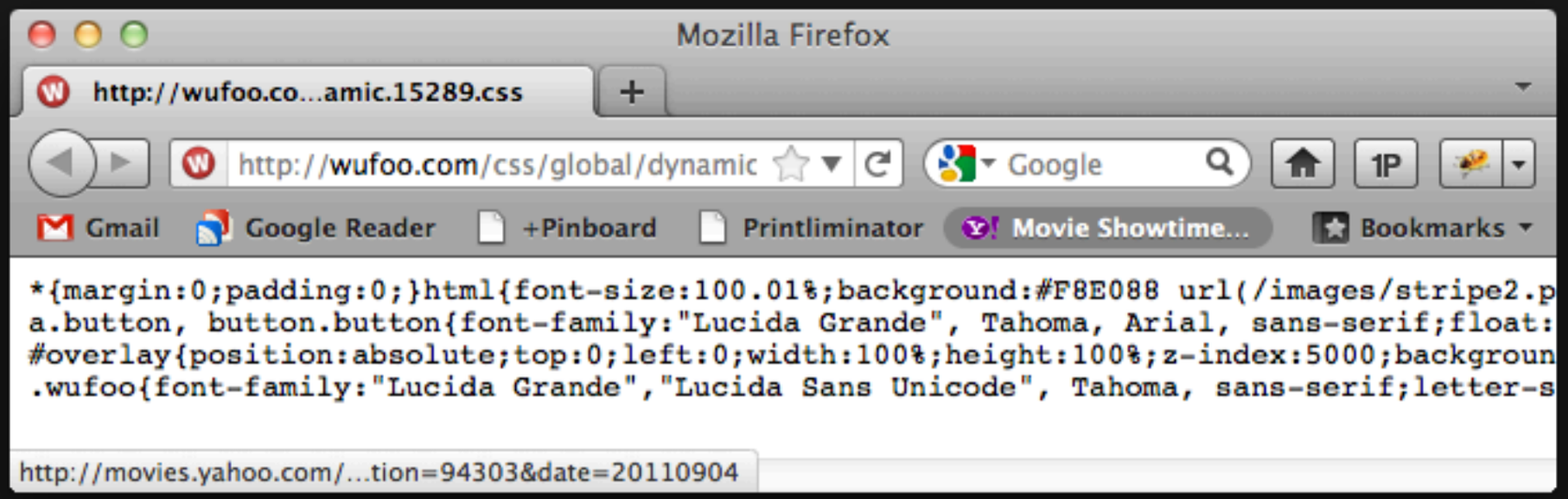
3) Combines Together*

4) Adds version number

```
<!DOCTYPE html>

<head>

  <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/global/dynamic.1234.css">
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/landing/dynamic.1234.css">
```

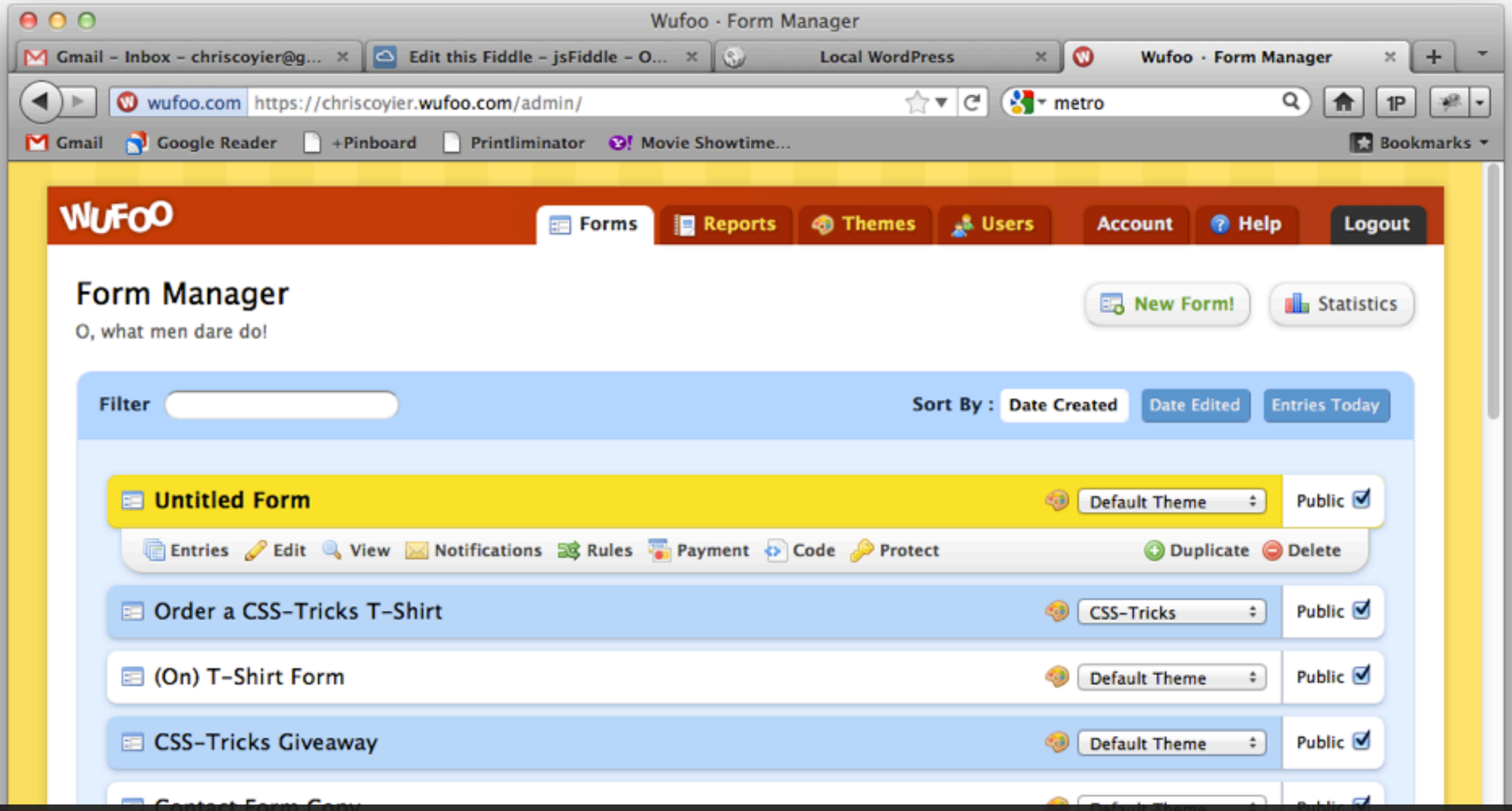


global/dynamic.css

- Loaded on every page of site
- Put as much as practical in here. User only loads this file once, so maximizes use of browser cache.
- Common design patterns are in here (buttons.css, lightbox.css, forms.css)

area/dynamic.css

- Loaded in specific area of site
- Less common design patterns in here (graph.css, calendar.css, table.css)

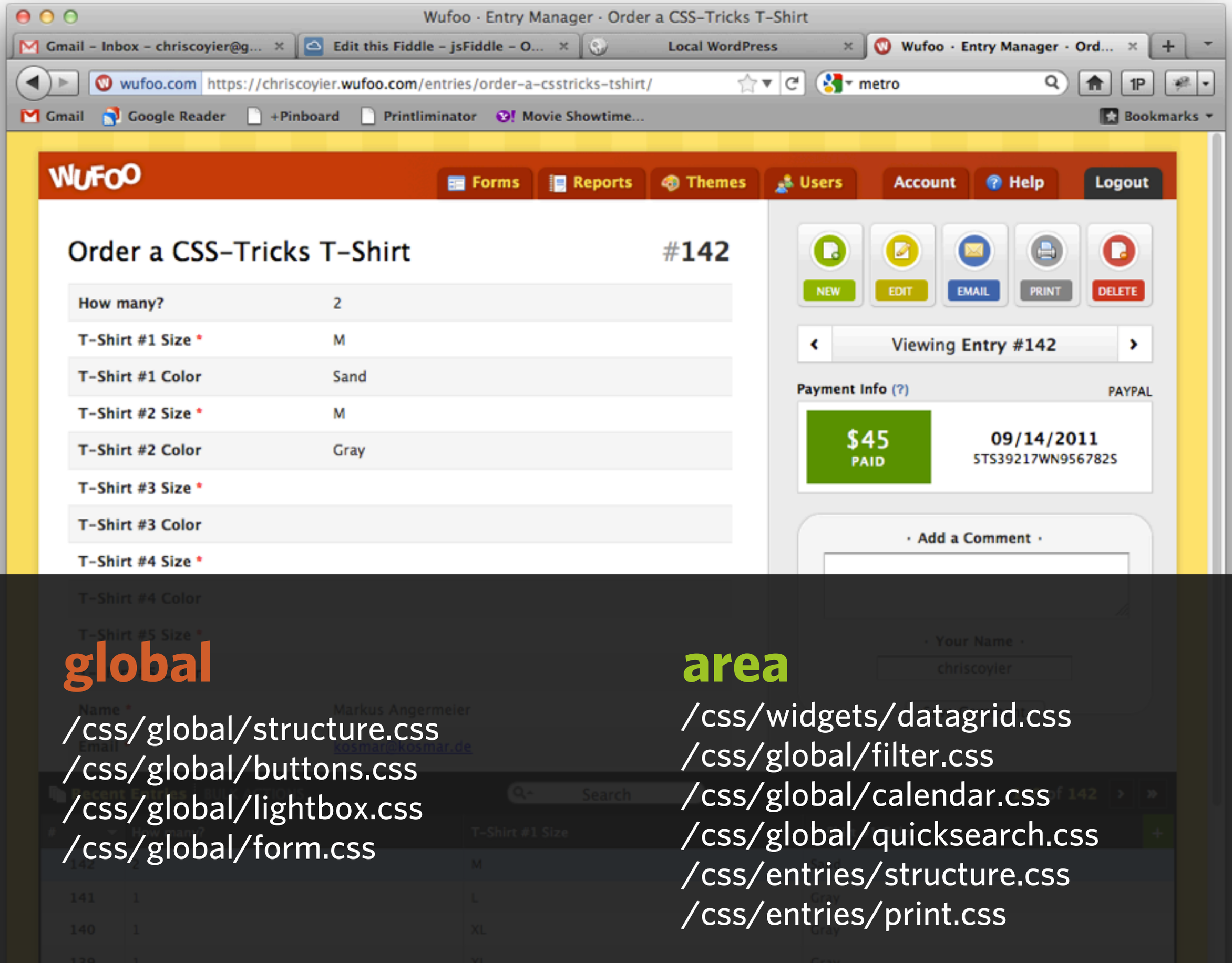


global

/css/global/structure.css
/css/global/buttons.css
/css/global/lightbox.css
/css/global/form.css

area

/css/admin/manager.css



global

/css/global/structure.css
/css/global/buttons.css
/css/global/lightbox.css
/css/global/form.css

area

/css/widgets/datagrid.css
/css/global/filter.css
/css/global/calendar.css
/css/global/quicksearch.css
/css/entries/structure.css
/css/entries/print.css

Wufoo Docs · Documentation

Gmail – Inbox – chriscoyier@g... | Edit this Fiddle – jsFiddle – O... | Local WordPress | Wufoo Docs · Documentation

http://wufoo.com/docs/

metro

Gmail | Google Reader | +Pinboard | Printliminator | Movie Showtime... | Bookmarks

Wufoo → Docs

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Google™ Custom Search

Help

- Documentation
- The Forums
- Ask Support

General Info

- FAQs
- Video Tour
- Terminology

Accounts

- Login
- Account Manager
- User Management
- Activity Log

Forms

- Form Builder
- Code Manager
- Payment Settings

Reports

Don't worry. We're here to help.

Try searching our Documentation on the left or asking some friends in the The Forums. If you can't find what you're looking for, you can always Ask Support.

General Questions

1. What is Wufoo?
2. How secure is Wufoo?
3. Who are the people behind Wufoo?
4. Is Wufoo right for me?

Billing & Accounts

1. How do I cancel my account?
2. What if I exceed my entry limit?
3. What types of payment do you accept?
4. How do I view my invoices?
5. Can I change my account name/subdomain?

Forms & Email

1. How do I integrate my Wufoo form into my
2. How do I have an email sent to me each time a
3. Why am I not receiving any email notifications?
4. Why can't I see the submit button?
5. How do I duplicate a form?

Data & Reports

1. Can I print a report/graph?
2. How can I access the files uploaded through my forms?
3. Why is all of the data being exported even if it is not visible in the report?
4. How do I export my data?

global

/css/global/structure.css
/css/global/buttons.css
/css/global/lightbox.css
/css/global/form.css

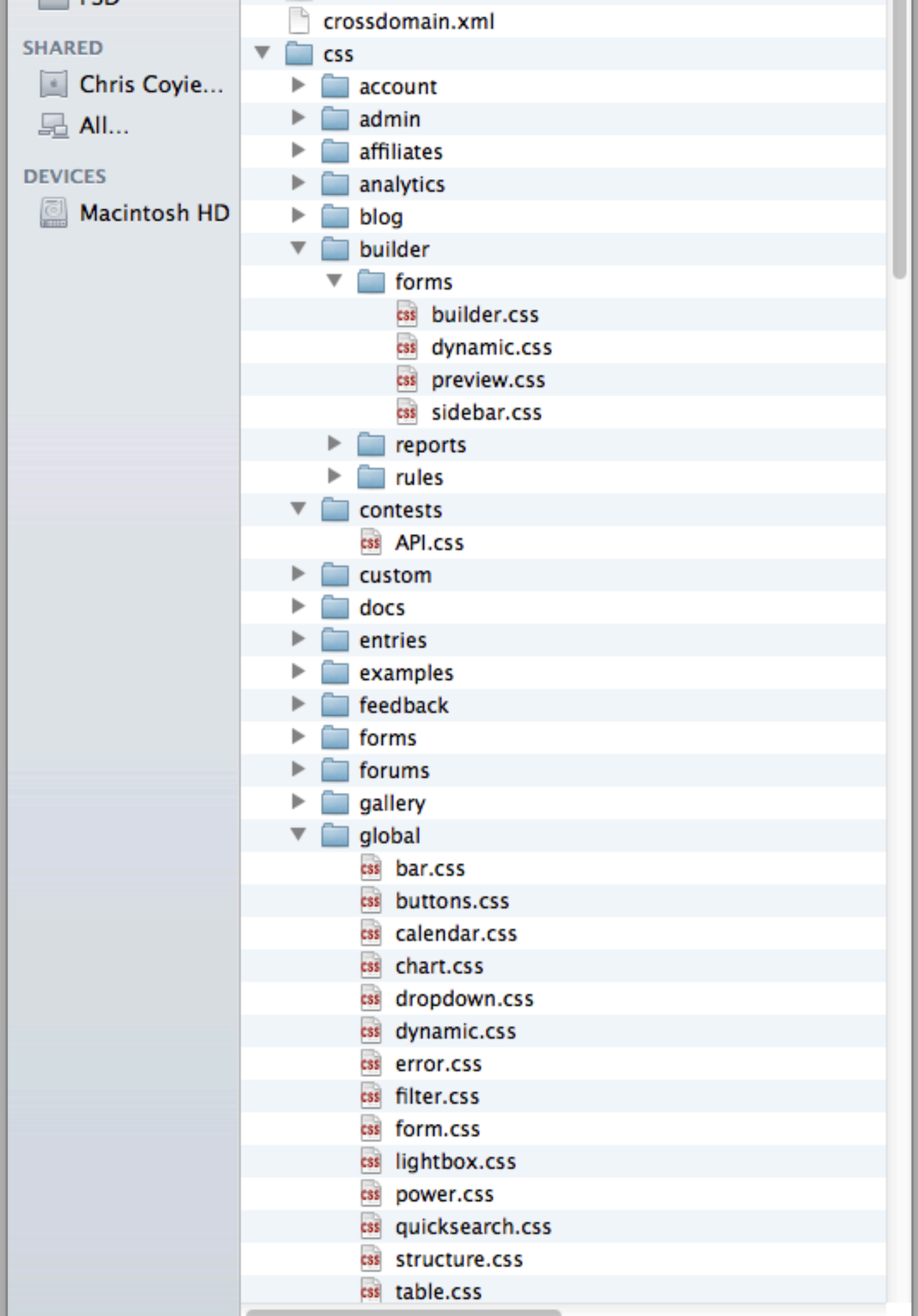
area

/css/docs/docs.css
/css/global/table.css

ALL CSS

is in /css/

organized by site section



Please note: VERY MUCH a work in progress. Do not use. Feedback

SurveyMonkey®

Design Patterns

Buttons
Tables
Tabs
Sprite
Dropdown Menus
Typography
Icons
Animations / Transitions
Form Elements
Grids
Notifications
Lightboxes
Color Palette
Help Popouts

Buttons

^ Back to Top

Standard Class

- `btn`

Size Variations

- `btn-small`
- `btn-large`

Style Variations

- `no-border`
- `no-shadow`
- `emphasize` (bold)

Standard Buttons

	btn	btn-small	btn-large	no-emphasize	no-border	shadow
btn	Button	Button	Button	Button	Button	Button
dark-grey	Button	Button	Button	Button	Button	Button
teal	Button	Button	Button	Button	Button	Button
yellow	Button	Button	Button	Button	Button	Button

2

DON'T OVER THINK IT

Good thinking

Well intentioned

BIG FANCY STYLE GUIDE

- Primary color #BADA55 / Secondary color #F00
- Headers should be 20px from navigation and 15px from following content
- Logo should have 30px of padding around it
- Links should have 1px dotted bottom borders

that's what
GLOBAL.CSS
is for

global.css

```
1  /*
2    Primary:   #BADA55
3    Secondary: #F00
4  */
5
6  /* @group NORMALIZE ------------------------------ */
7  @import url("normalize.css");
8  /* @end */
9
10 /* @group STRUCTURE ------------------------------ */
11 html {
12   background: #BADA55;
13 }
14 body {
15   font: 16px/1.6 Sans-Serif;
16 }
```

NEED TO DEVIATE?

Really? Do you?

BY SECTION

aside.css

```
1  /* @group TYPOGRAPHY ------------------------ */
2  h1, h2, h3, h4, h5 {
3    font-family: "HelveticaNeue-Light", sans-serif;
4    font-weight: 300;
5    margin: 30px 0;
6  }
7  h1       { font-size: 60px; }
8  h2       { font-size: 50px; }
9  h3,  dt { font-size: 40px; border-bottom: 1px solid #F00; }
10 h4       { font-size: 30px; }
11 h5       { font-size: 20px; text-transform: uppercase; }
12 p, li, dd {
13   margin: 0 0 15px 0;
14 }
15
16 aside h1,
17 aside h2,
18 aside h3 {
19   color: orangered;
20 }
21 /* @end */
```

NEED TO DEVIATE?

Really? Do you?

STYLE ONLY

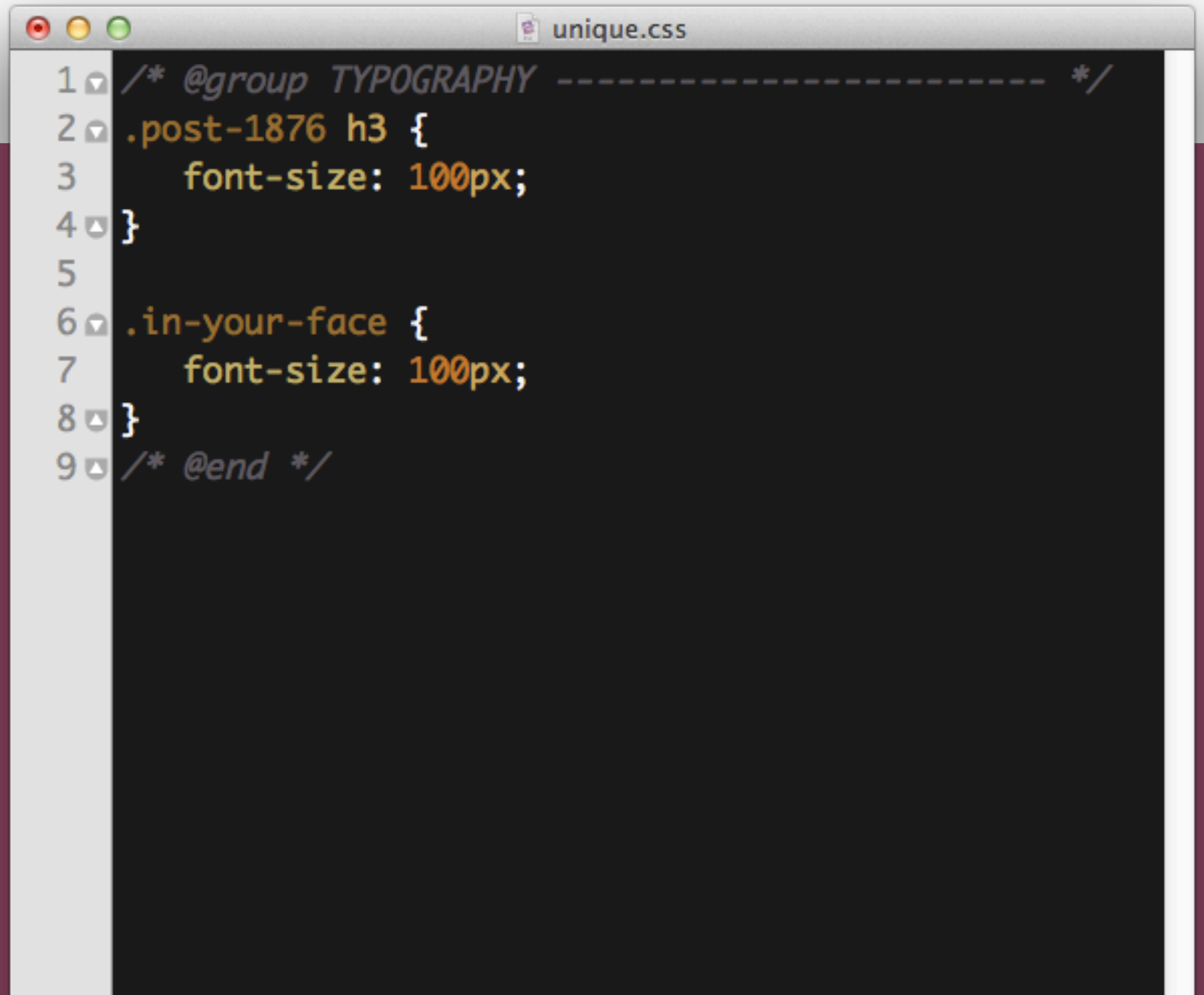
style.css

```
/* @group TYPOGRAPHY ------------------------ */
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5 {
  font-family: "HelveticaNeue-Light", sans-serif;
  font-weight: 300;
  margin: 30px 0;
}
h1, .h1      { font-size: 60px; }
h2, .h2      { font-size: 50px; }
h3, .h3, d   { font-size: 40px; border-bottom: 1px solid #F00; }
h4, .h4      { font-size: 30px; }
h5, .h5      { font-size: 20px; text-transform: uppercase; }
p, li, d {
  margin: 0 0 15px 0;
}
/* @end */
```

NEED TO DEVIATE?

Really? Do you?

TOTALLY UNIQUE



DON'T OVER THINK IT

```
/* Good thing we specified this link is a
   descendant of html, so none of those
   crazy outsider links get this style */
html body #page-wrap .inner ul li ul li a {
  font-size: 0.8em;
}

li li li li {
  font-size: 1.0em;
  /* Erm, use REM */
}

a {
   text-decoration: none;
}

/* Killing a fly with a jackhammer */
#page-wrap a {
   text-decoration: underline;
}

/* Thus begins a nasty cycle */
aside a {
   text-decoration: none !important;
}
```

Just try it

CHALLENGE:

Don't use ID's in your CSS whatsoever for one small project.

Template

By Chris Coyier on Sep 27th, 2011 9:42AM

This is your intro paragraph. It should be a couple of sentences long and explain what this article is going to be about and why a SurveyMonkey blog reader would care. This intro will show on the homepage of the blog, truncated to 60 words. You can see the word count below the typing area in WordPress. This is about 60 words.

Header Level 2

Headers are used to break up longer articles into sections. The <h2> header is the biggest and boldest of headers.

The image the left used the settings Align – Left, Link URL – none, Caption – none, Size – Full. When left or right alignment is chosen for an image, the image will line up to that side and the text will wrap around it. If you are going to align an image to the left or right, it should be less than 400px wide, so there is enough room for text to be readable.

SEARCH BLOG

RECENT ENTRIES

Creating a Practical Survey: How to Polish Your Survey Design

"Other" Answers to Streaming Websites

Event Planning Made Easy

Survey Ideas for Startups – A Few Examples

How to Easily Embed Wufoo Forms on WordPress.com

The SurveyMonkey Hackathon!

CATEGORIES

Audience (6)

Contribute & Charities (2)

Customer Spotlight (24)

Data & Insights (7)

Engineering (3)

Features (36)

3

PSEUDO ELEMENTS

pseudo class selectors

:visited :hover :active :link

:first-child :last-child :nth-child() :nth-of-type()

:enabled :disabled :checked :indeterminate

:focus :target :root :lang()

http://css-tricks.com/pseudo-class-selectors/

:before

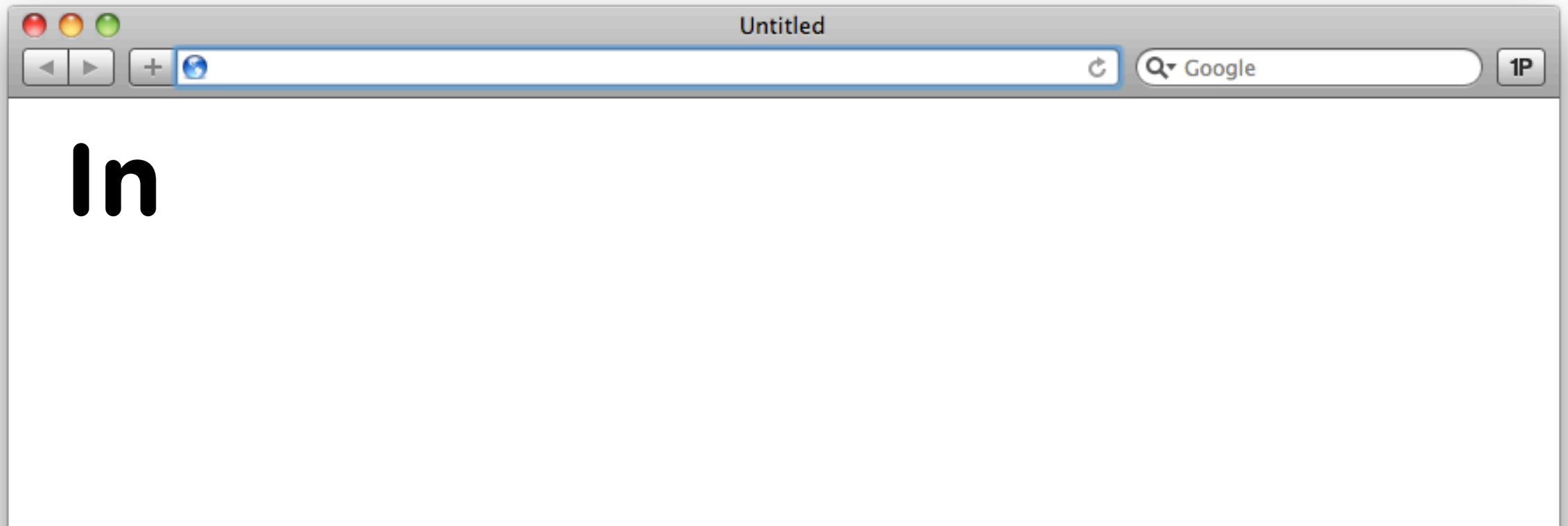
:after

HTML

```
<div>In</div>
```

CSS

```
div:before {
  content: "Robots ";
}
```



HTML

```
<div>In</div>
```

CSS

```
div:before {
  content: "Robots ";
}
div:after {
  content: " Disguise";
}
```

So what's with the different name?

Pseudo *selectors* select elements that **already exist** (perhaps in different states).

Pseudo *elements* create new content that **doesn't exist (yet)**.

::before

::after

::first-line ::first-letter

:before

:after

:first-line :first-letter

HTML

```
<div>In</div>
```

CSS

```
div:before {
  content: "Robots ";
}
div:after {
  content: " Disguise";
}
```

Resulting
HTML
(sorta)

```
<div>
  In
</div>
```

Resulting HTML (sorta)

Robots

  In

Disguise

Not “before/after the element”…

Resulting HTML (sorta)

```
<div>
   Robots
   In
   Disguise
</div>
```

It's before/after the content inside.

Resulting
HTML
(sorta)

```
<div>
   <h1>Blah blah blah</h1>
   <p>More stuff</p>
   Nothing to see here.
</div>
```

Resulting HTML (sorta)

```
<div>
  Robots
   <h1>Blah blah blah</h1>
   <p>More stuff</p>
   Nothing to see here.
   Disguise
</div>
```

It’s only a model…
(Not really in DOM)

Not for “no content” elements

```
<img src="robot.jpg" alt="Robot">
<input type="email" name="email" />
<br>
```

- Allows but shouldn’t
- Styles as if was inside

- Checkboxes
- Radio Buttons

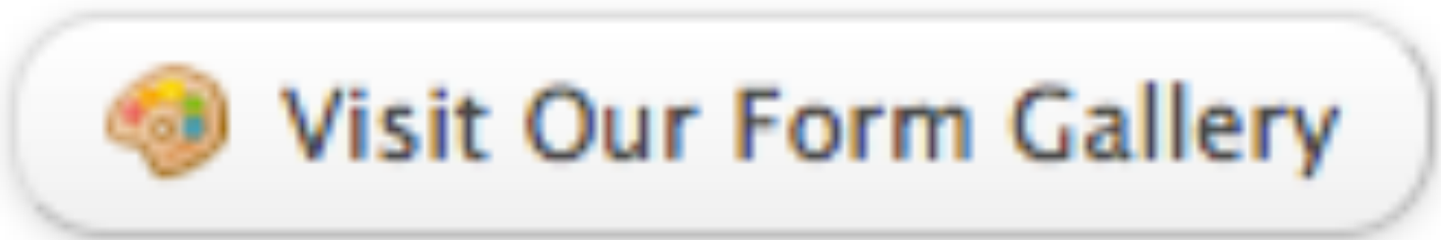
BUTTONS WITH ICONS

HTML

```
<a class="button" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">
    <img src="/images/icon_gallery.png" alt="">
    Visit Our Form Gallery
</a>
```

CSS

```
.button {
  /* Awesome gradients and stuff */
}
.button img {
  /* Probably some margin and stuff */
}
```



alt=""

equals

~~That's not important.~~

~~Screen readers don't need to see that.~~

```
alt=""
```

equals

Then get that mothersucker

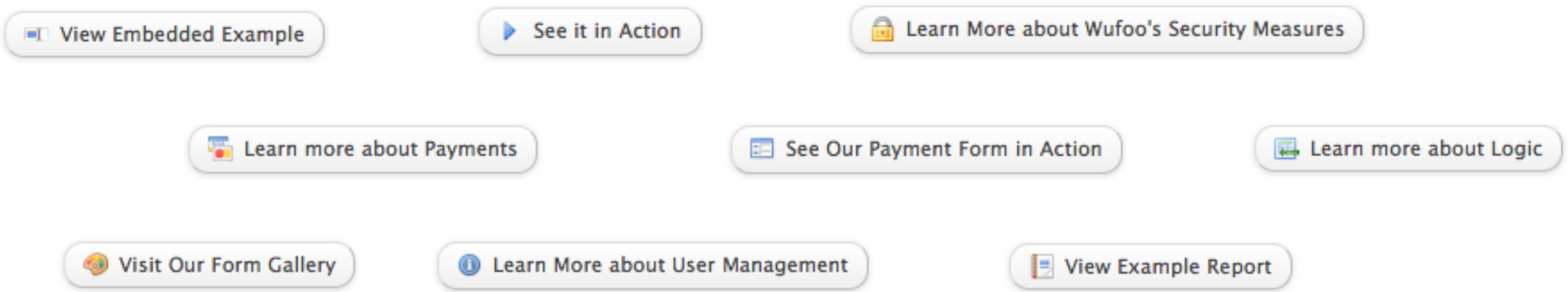
out of your HTML

HTML

```
<a class="button button-gallery" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">
    Visit Our Form Gallery
</a>
```

CSS

```
.button {
  /* Awesome gradients and stuff */
}
.button-gallery:before {
  content: url(/images/icon_gallery.png);
}
```



```
<a class="button" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">
    <img src="/images/icon_gallery.png" alt="">
    Visit Our Form Gallery
</a>
```

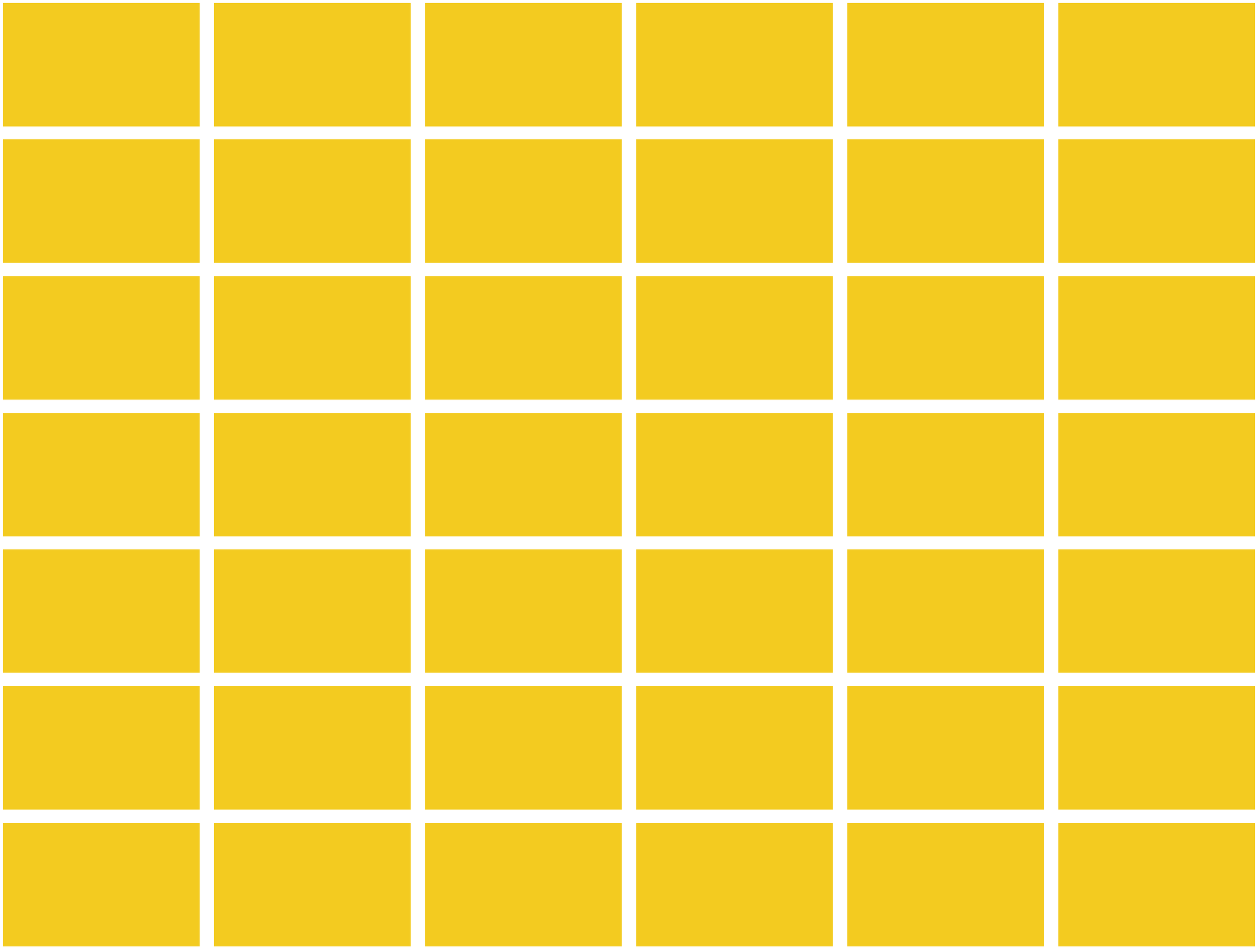
200 **extra** lines of HTML

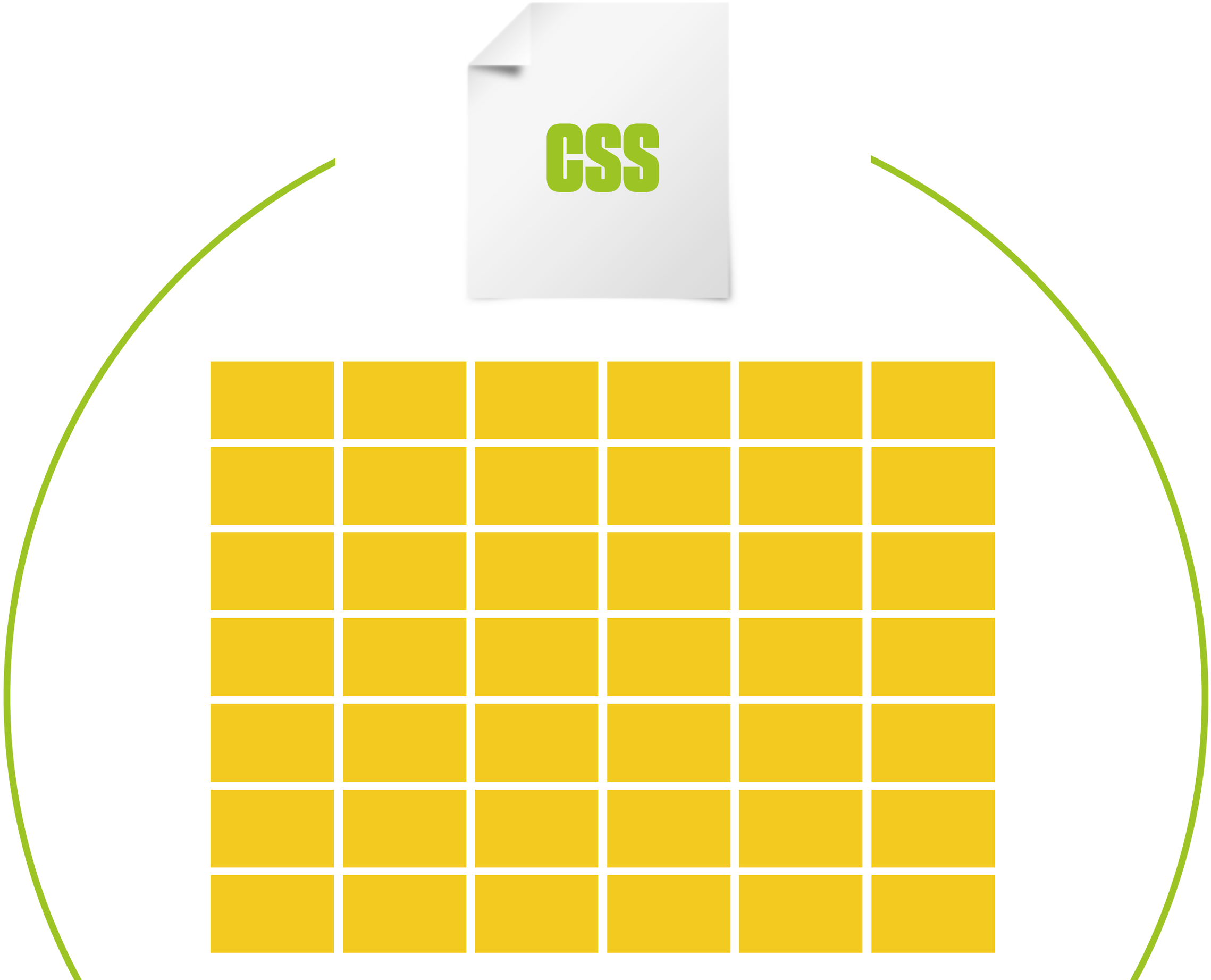
200 places you aren't being **semantic**

200 places you need to change **one-by-one**

200 opportunities to be more efficient

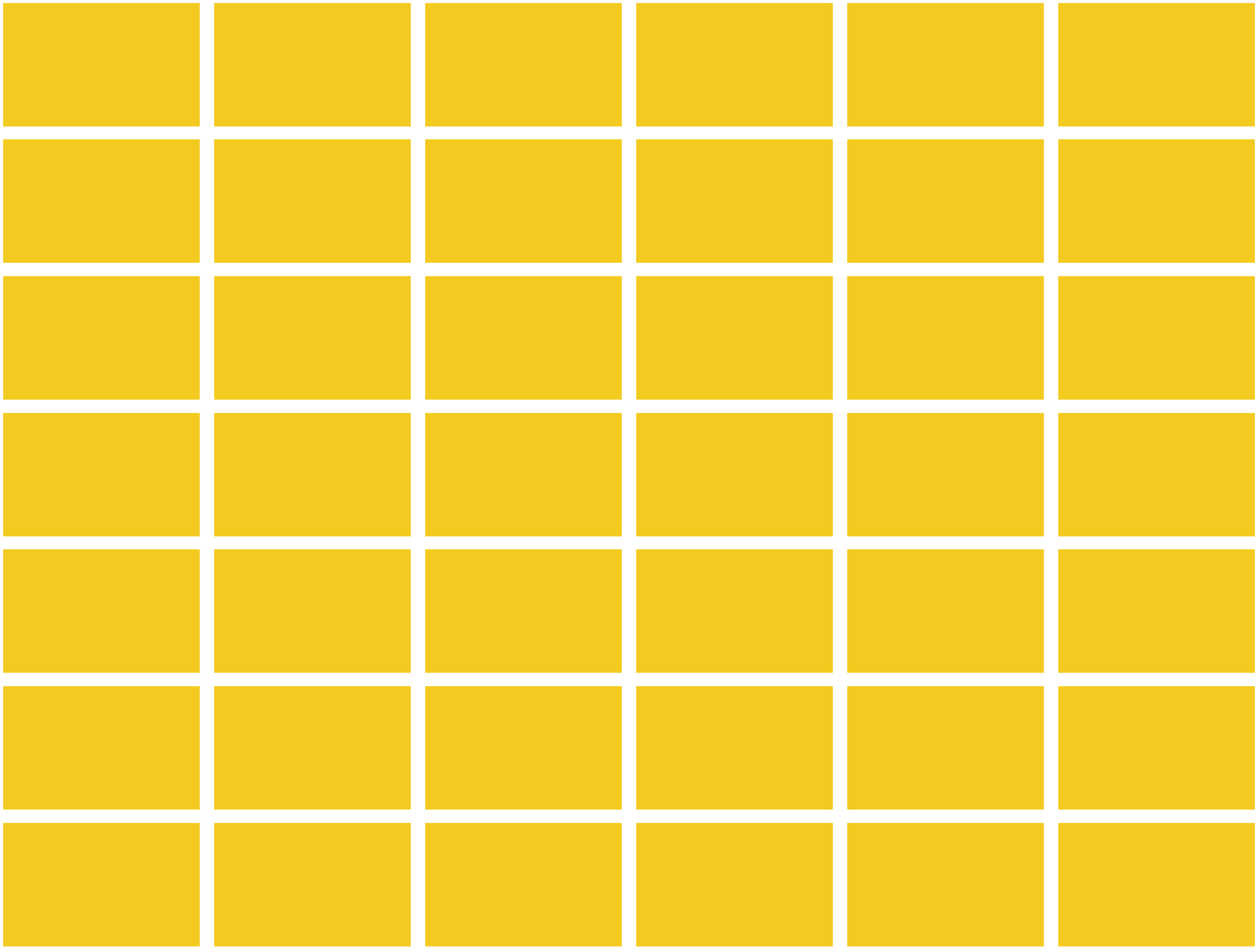
That's a website. It's abstract. Deal with it.

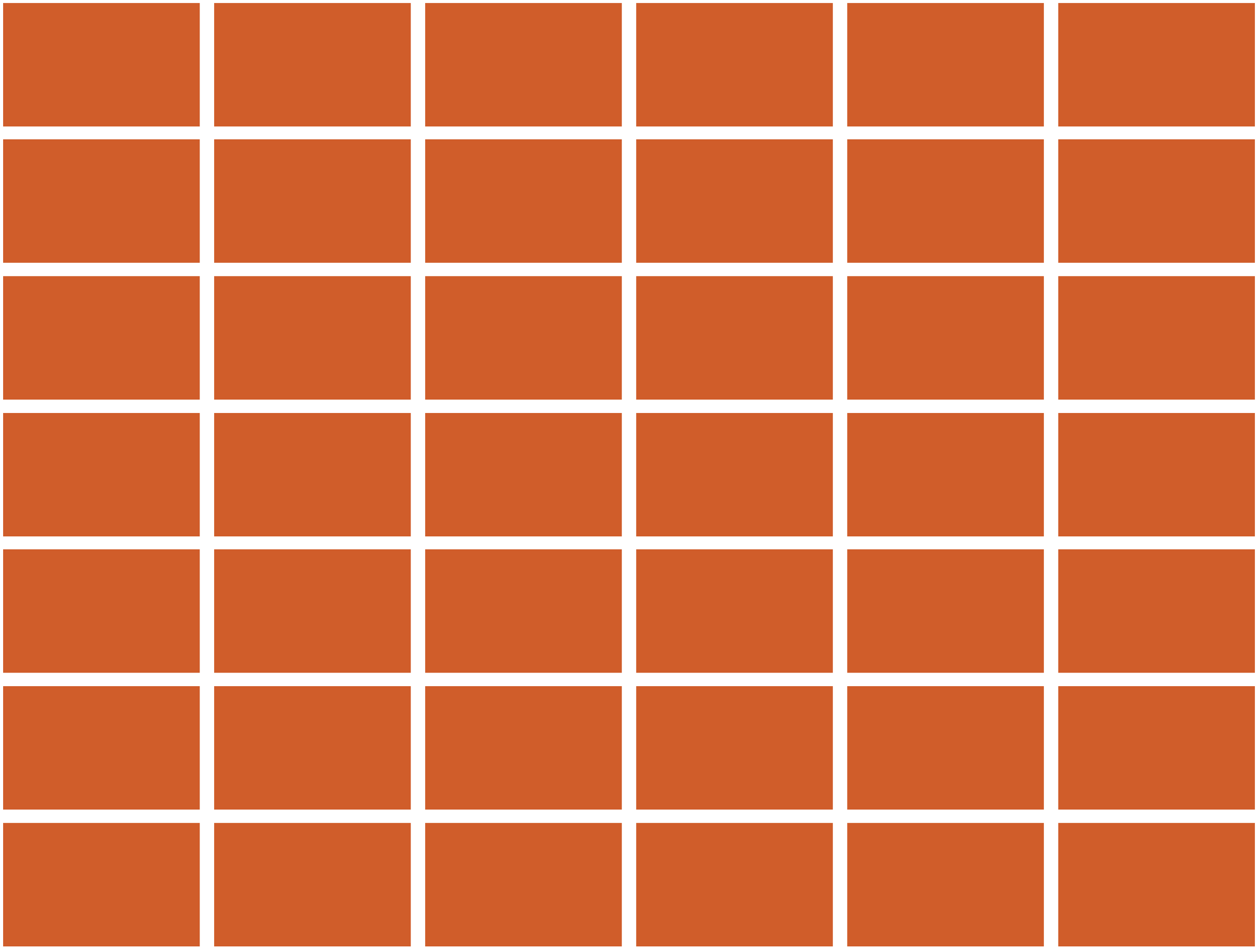



CSS

CSS

```
html {
    background: red;
}
```





EFFICIENCY!

HTML

```
<a class="button button-gallery" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">
    Visit Our Form Gallery
</a>
```

CSS

```
.button {
  /* Awesome gradients and stuff */
}
.button-gallery:before {
  content: url(/images/icon_gallery.png);
}
```

Individual Request

View Embedded Example

See it in Action

Learn More about Wufoo's Security Measures

Learn more about Payments

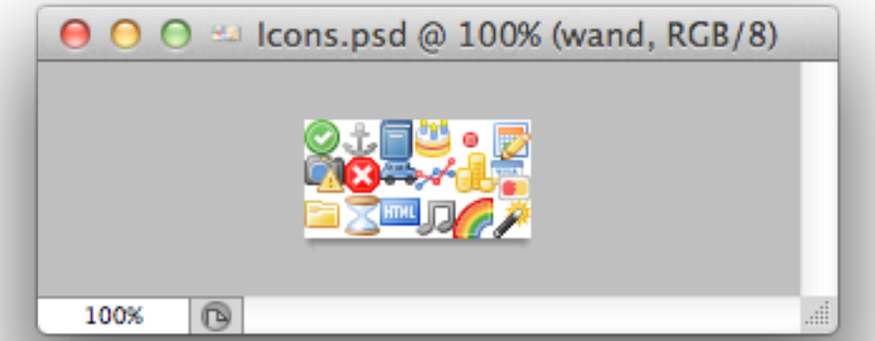
See Our Payment Form in Action

Learn more about Logic

Visit Our Form Gallery

Learn More about User Management

View Example Report


Icons.psd @ 100% (wand, RGB/8)
HTML
100%

```
<a class="button button-gallery" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">
    Visit Our Form Gallery
</a>
```

x200

```
.button-gallery:before {
  content: url(/images/icon_gallery.png);
  content: "";
  display: inline-block;
  width: 16px;
  height: 16px;
  background-image: url(/images/sprite.png);
  background-position: -32px -32px;
}
```

Sprite Cow – Generate CSS for sprite sheets

Sprite Cow – Generate CSS for s...

http://www.spritecow.com/

Gmail Google Reader +Pinboard Bookmarks

Sprite Cow

Open Select Sprite Pick Background

Click these to get their background-position, width & height as CSS

Eep! Clicking here doesn't select the whole logo. No worries, just click + drag to cover pixels from every letter...

theTeam.

...this also helps select itty bitty sprites

spritecow.com

SpriteMe

SpriteMe

http://spriteme.org/

Google

Gmail Google Reader +Pinboard Bookmarks

SpriteMe

Spriting made easy

Home Demo FAQ Savings

Background images make pages look good, but also make them slower. Each background image is an extra HTTP request. There's a fix: combine background images into a CSS sprite. But creating sprites is hard, requiring arcane knowledge and lots of trial and error. SpriteMe removes the hassles with the click of a button.

Try it on this page: Run SpriteMe

Installation

Install SpriteMe by dragging this link to your bookmark toolbar or right-click to add it to your favorites:

SpriteMe **drag this link!**

October 7 - Latest release now supports export CSS feature.

How to use it

Try the SpriteMe demo to see how SpriteMe:

- finds background images
- groups images into sprites
- generates the sprite
- recomputes CSS background-positions
- injects the sprite into the current page

SpriteMe users have shared **17232 results** with an average savings of **3 HTTP requests** and **-7K of data**.

spriteme.org

UNFORTUNATE NAME

HTML

```
<h1></h1>
<h2></h2>
```

CSS

```
h1:before {
    content: “Wufoo”;
}
h2:before {
    content: “Making forms easy + fast + fun”;
}
```

RABBLE RABBLE RABBLE!

SCREEN READERS

NVDA	**doesn't read**
Jaws	**doesn't read**
Window Eyes	**doesn't read**
VoiceOver (OS X)	**does read**

Testing (mostly) by Lucica Ibanescu

http://cssgallery.info/testing-the-accessibility-of-the-css-generated-content/

Bad for accessibility
Bad semantically
Bad for SEO

What can content be?

```
.thing:before {
    content: ?
}
```

TEXT / STRING

```
content: "$";
content: "\0022";
```

IMAGE

Behaves like an <img>

```
content:  url(i/icon-smile.png);
content: -webkit-linear-gradient(...);
```

Needs dimensions

ATTRIBUTE

content: attr(href);
content: attr(data-city);

COUNTER

On list items

```
content: counter(li);
counter-increment: li;
counter-reset: li;
```

On list

NOTHING

content: “”;

~~HTML~~

content: “<h1>Nope</h1>”;

TEXT / STRING

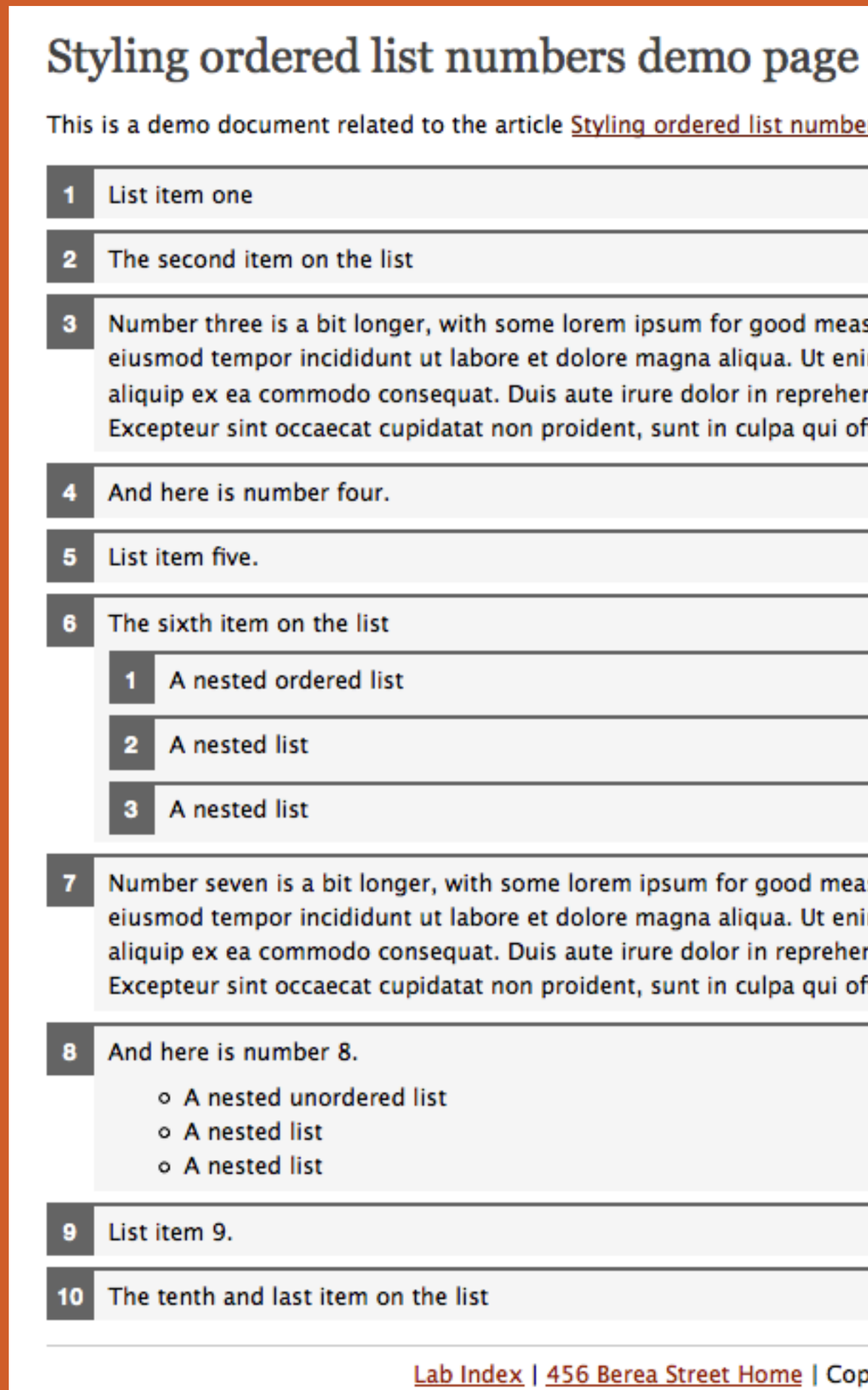
```
<div class="price">30</div>
<div class="price" lang="cn">100</div>
```

```
.price:before {
  content: “$”;
}

[lang=‘cn’] .price:before,
.price[lang=‘cn’]:before {
  content:  ‘\00a5’;
}
```

COUNTER

```
ol {
  counter-reset: li;
  list-style: none;
}
ol > li:before {
  content: counter(li);
  counter-increment: li;

  background: #666;
  color: white;
  padding: 10px;
}
```

http://www.456bereastreet.com/lab/styling-ordered-list-numbers/



COMBINING WITH MEDIA QUERIES

mobile portrait

CSS

```
@media (min-width: 1001px) {
 aside li a:after {
  content: " (" attr(data-email) ")";
  font-size: 11px;
  font-style: italic;
  color: #666; }
}

@media (max-width: 1000px) and (min-width: 700px) {
 aside li a:before {
  content: "Email: ";
  font-style: italic;
  color: #666; }
}

@media (max-width: 699px) and (min-width: 520px),
       (min-width: 1151px) {
 aside li a {
  padding-left: 21px;
  background: url(i/email.png) left center no-repeat; }
}
```

Self!

You know what would be neat?

You ***fade in*** pseudo elements on hover.

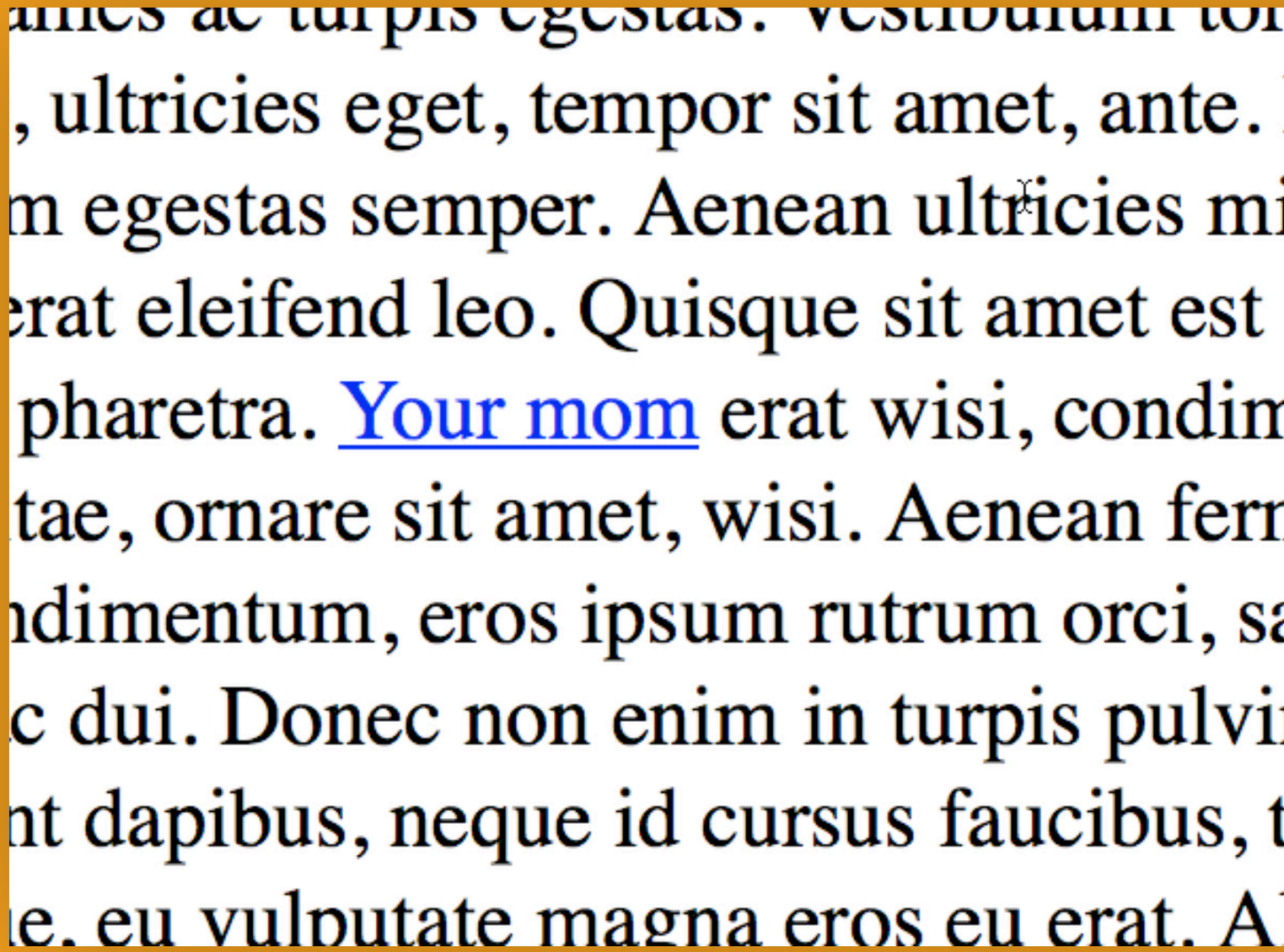
TOTAL EPIC FRICKING DISASTER

You can’t animate
or transition
pseudo elements.

But WAIT!
You totally can
in Firefox 4+

ATTRIBUTE

```
a {
  position: relative;
}
a:after {
  content: attr(data-tooltip);
  position: absolute;
  bottom: 100%;
  left: 20px;
  background: yellow;
  opacity: 0;
}
a:hover:after {
  opacity: 1;
}
a:before {
  /* triangle action */
}
```



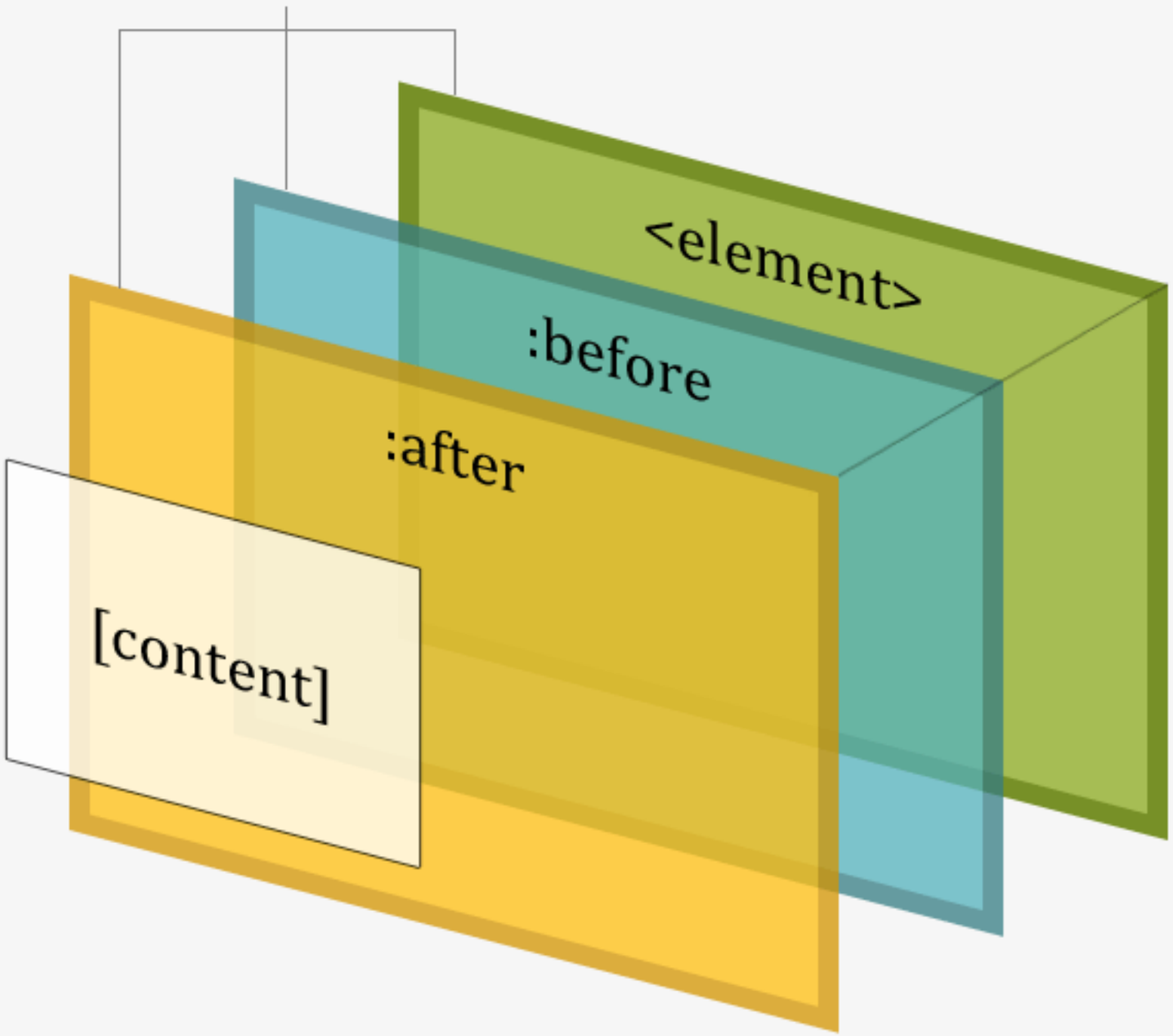
You can't talk about Pseudo Elements
without talking about...

Nicolas
"Dr. Pseudo Element"
Gallagher

http://nicolasgallagher.com/

@necolas

Multiple boxes from one HTML element allow for multiple backgrounds and borders



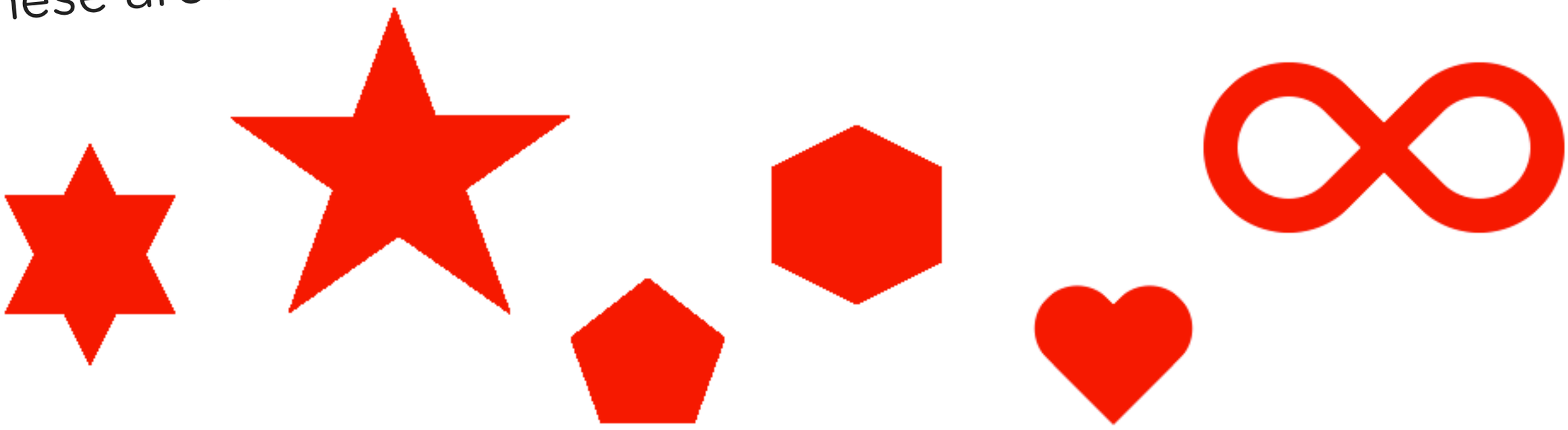
- Multiple Backgrounds
- Multiple Borders
- Background Opacity
- Clear Floats
- Responsive Data Tables

http://css-tricks.com/9516-pseudo-element-roundup/

Shapes!

These are easy.

These are less easy.



```
.star {
    width: 0;
    height: 0;
    border-left: 50px solid transparent;
    border-right: 50px solid transparent;
    border-bottom: 100px solid red;
    position: relative;
}
.star:after {
    width: 0;
    height: 0;
    border-left: 50px solid transparent;
    border-right: 50px solid transparent;
    border-top: 100px solid red;
    position: absolute;
    content: "";
    top: 30px;
    left: -50px;
}
```

The Shapes of CSS

http://css-tricks.com/examples/ShapesOfCSS/

Google

The Shapes of CSS

All of the below use only a single HTML element. Any kind of CSS goes, as long as it's supported in at least one browser.

Square

```
#square {
        width: 100px;
        height: 100px;
        background: red;
}
```

http://css-tricks.com/examples/ShapesOfCSS/

Fancy View Source

Search
Comment
Like
Add
Remove
Delete
Add
Remove
Delete
Report
Trash
Lock
Unlock
Update status
Home
Photo
Video
Music
Call
Call in progress
Tags
RSS
Email
Profile
File
Folder
List view
Permalink
Power
Play
Stop
Pause
Play
Stop
Pause
Volume
Volume on
Mute
Volume up
Volume down
Mic
Fast forward
Retweet
Save
Edit
Download
Forward
Back
Up
Down
Forward
Back
Up
Down
Forward
Up
History
Tools
MP3 Player
Headphones
Ribbon
Views
Location
Info
Help
Pie chart
Success
Success (alt)
Warning
Fast rewind
Next track
Previous track
Repeat
Expand
Shrink
Toggle video size
Pop out
Enlarge
Full-screen
Exit full-screen
Eject

http://nicolasgallagher.com/pure-css-gui-icons/demo/

Remember, CSS **TWO** not THREE

Browser Support

CSS-Tricks
97%

85%

Other tech
92%

3.5+

3.0- positioning issues

1+

9+

8 :: / :hover / z-index

7-

1.3+

6+

http://css-tricks.com/browser-support-pseudo-elements/

123

Links

http://necolas.github.com/normalize.css/
http://snook.ca/archives/html_and_css/font-size-with-rem
http://particletree.com/notebook/automatically-version-your-css-and-javascript-files/
http://css-tricks.com/855-specifics-on-css-specificity/

Photos

http://www.flickr.com/photos/webel/347801397/

Type

Gotham Condensed
Gotham Rounded
TUNGSTEN
Whitney

Thanks!

bit.ly/better-html-and-css