



**CS1320**

***Creating Modern Web and  
Mobile Applications***

Lecture 6:

**Dynamic Web Pages**

# Mechanics

- Project preferences due
- Assignment 1 out
- PreLab for next week is non-trivial

# JavaScript has its Quirks

- Procedural, Functional and Object-Oriented all at once
- Objects are very different from Java/C++
  - Newer versions have Java-like classes however
- Scoping is different
  - var versus let or const
  - Declarations can follow uses
  - Declarations are optional
- Automatic type conversion
- Strict versus non-strict equality testing
- eval function
- Semicolons are optional if unambiguous
- Read up on the language (prelab)



# What is an Interactive Application

- How do we want to use JavaScript
- What does interactive mean
- What does it do when you interact
  - Check inputs, compute next page
  - Change the page without getting a new page

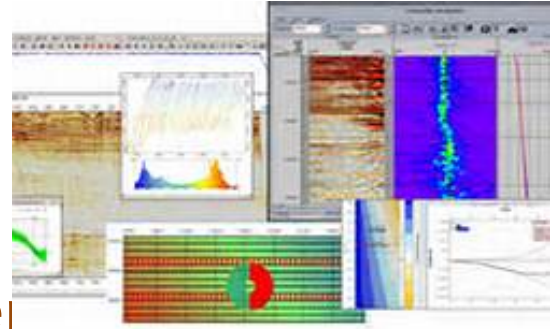


# Dynamic Web Page Examples

- <http://bdognom.cs.brown.edu:5000/> (spheree)
- <http://conifer.cs.brown.edu/s6> (s6)
- <http://conifer.cs.brown.edu:8888> (twitter)
- <http://fred4.cs.brown.edu:8800/> (sign)

# Interactive Applications

- Respond to user inputs
- Change the display (e.g. add fields, show e
- Dynamically check and verify inputs
- Allow direct manipulation (drag and drop)
- Use animation to highlight or emphasize or show things
- Display external changes in real time
- Provide input help (e.g. text completion)
- Handle dynamic resizing of the display



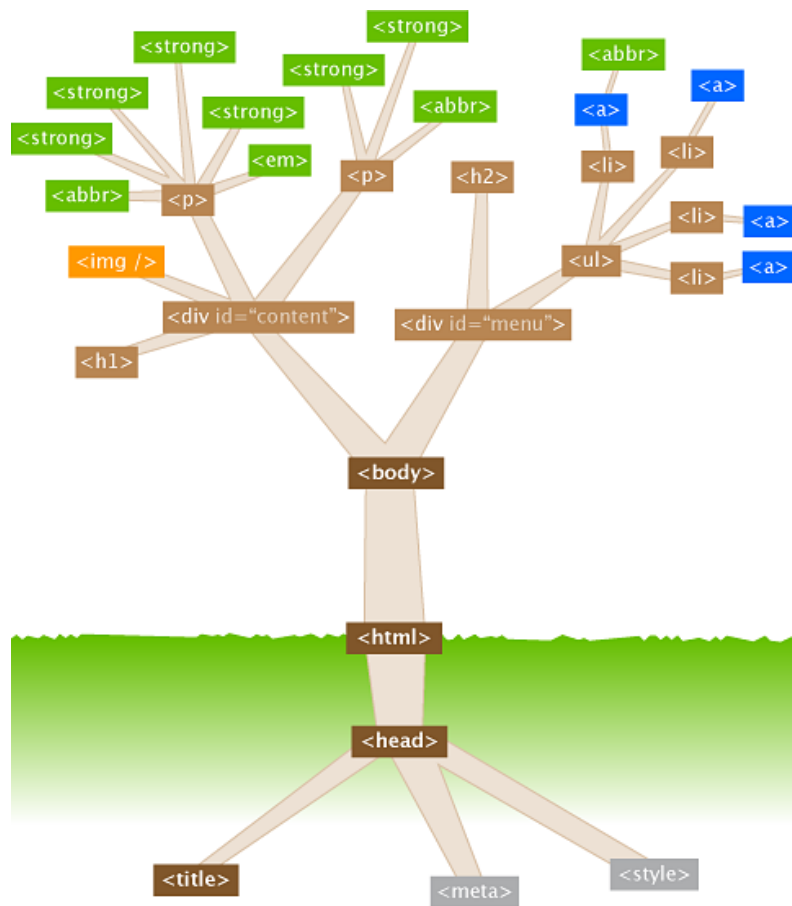
# Achieving Interactivity

- Using CSS
- Handling HTML events using JavaScript
  - Dynamically check and verify inputs
  - Handle direct manipulation
- With modern HTML features
- With animation/drawing/multimedia packages
- By talking to the server continually
- Displaying external changes in real time
- Changing styles and the content of the page
  - Change the display (e.g. add fields, show errors, ...)
  - Providing input help (e.g. text completion)
  - Adding graphs, etc. to show output



# HTML is a Tree

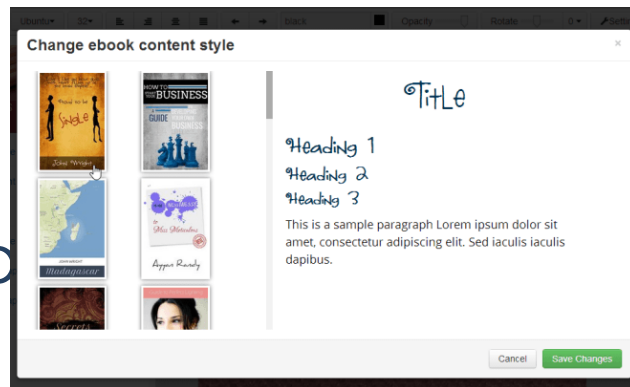
- When it is written
- When it is displayed
- Internally





# Changing the Style and Content

- **Document Object Model or DOM**
  - Representation of HTML in the browser
  - As a set of JavaScript objects representing the nodes
  - You can observe it using the debugger
- **JavaScript on the web page can access the DOM**
  - Get access to DOM objects
    - Values of object attributes
    - Child objects & child text
    - Styles
  - Set values of objects
    - Setting attributes, children, style properties, etc.
    - Setting text
    - Add event handlers
  - Add/remove whole new sub-trees



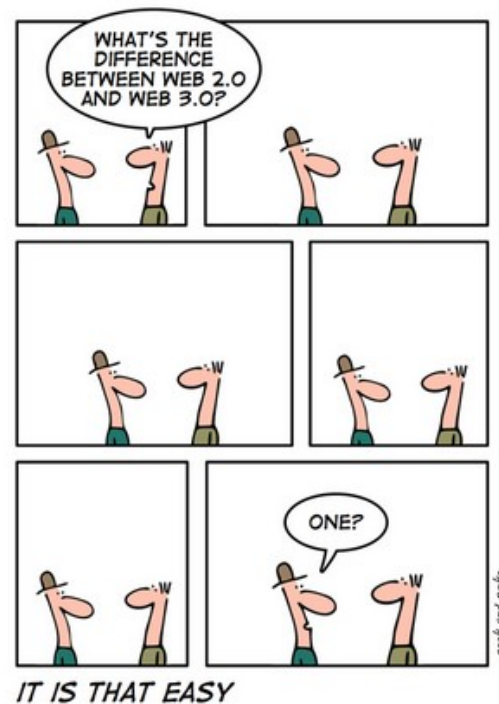
# DOM Modifications

- Changing the DOM changes the display
  - When JavaScript returns control to the browser
  - As if the new DOM were the original HTML
- This provides most of what you need to do interaction
  - Change text and input values
  - Much can be done by changing HTML **classes**
    - Hide/show, changing styles
    - Easier than changing styles, adding or removing HTML, etc.
  - Can do limited animation as well
    - Changing position, size, etc. dynamically
    - Changing things based on timers
  - Add event handlers



# DOM Modification Syntax

- Standard notation
  - `document.getElementById("id")`
  - `document.id1.nestedid1.nestedid2 ...`
  - `<element>.attribute`
- Want this to be easier
  - Simple element selection and setting
  - Doing it for a set of elements at once
  - Not requiring ids for all elements
- Where have you seen the definition of ele
  - CSS selectors
  - Why not use the same selectors



# JavaScript (ES6) Selector-based Access

- `querySelector` – return first selected instance

- `let boxelt = document.querySelector(".box")`
- `let innerelt = boxelt.querySelector(".check")`

- `querySelectorAll` – return all selected instances

- `let allboxes = document.querySelectorAll(".box")`
- `let innerelts = boxelt.querySelectorAll("li");`
- Returns a `NodeList`
  - Can iterate using `for (let boxelt of allboxes) { ... }`
  - Can iterate using `allboxes.forEach(<function (box) ...>)`

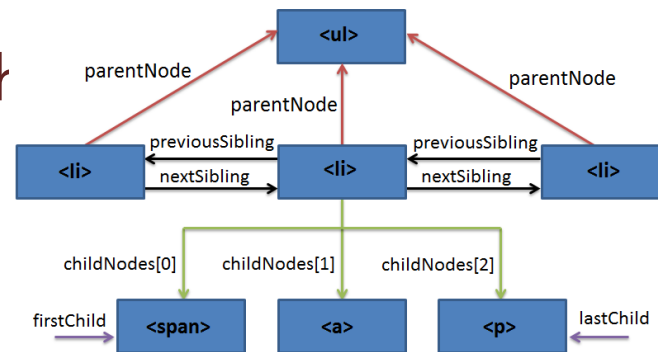
```
document.getElementById("#content")
document.querySelectorAll("button[data-actio='ajax']")
document.getElementsByClassName(".description")
document.querySelector("section.intro")
parentDiv.getElementsByTagName("p")
```

# JavaScript DOM Traversal

- Can walk through the elements in the

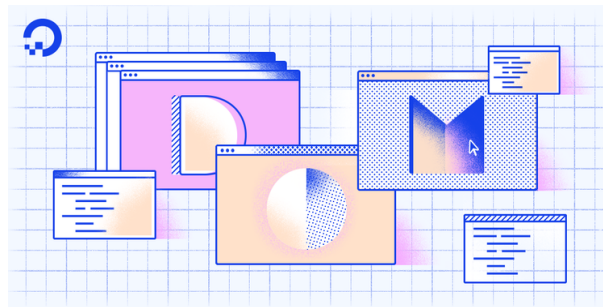
- `element.parentElement`
- `element.nextElementSibling`
- `element.previousElementSibling`
- `element.childNodes` (NodeList)

- Often easier (and safer) to use selectors here as well



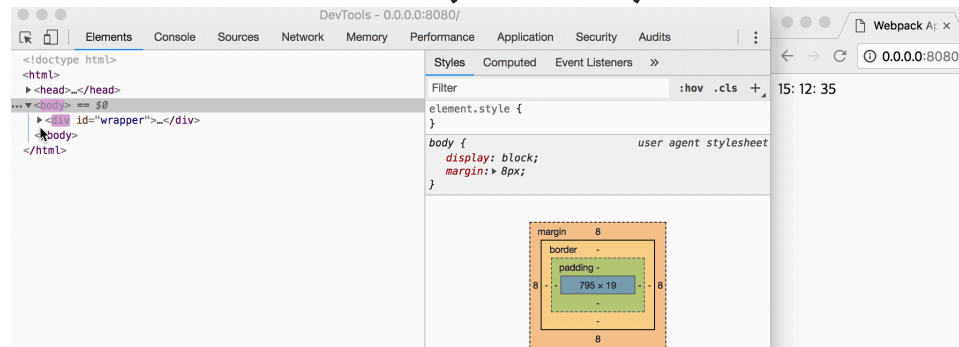
# Styling DOM Objects

- Can set style properties directly
  - `boxelt.style.color = "#ff00ff";`
  - `boxelt.style.backgroundColor = "red";`
  - `boxelt.style.cssText = "color: #ff00ff; backgroundColor: red";`
- Can hide and display nodes
  - `boxelt.style.display = "none"`
  - `boxelt.style.display = "block"`
- Can add or remove classes - preferred way of updating styles
  - `boxelt.classList.add("hide")`
    - CSS: `.hide { display : none; }`
    - Can do `box.classList.add("show","focus",...)`
  - `boxelt.classList.remove("hide")`
  - `boxelt.classList.toggle("hide")`



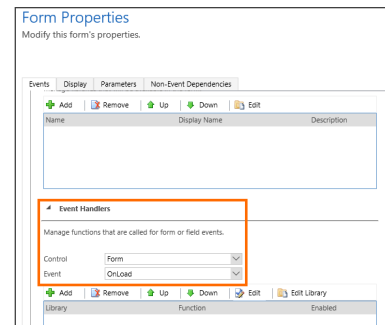
# Creating or Modifying the HTML

- `let elt = document.createElement("div")`
  - `elt.appendChild(document.createElement("h1"))`
- `elt.textContent = "text"`
- `let textelt = document.createTextNode("text")`
  - `elt.appendChild(textelt)`



# Adding Event Handlers

- Dynamically created elements might have associated events/actions
- `elt.addEventListener("click",function )`
  - click, mouseenter, keyup, keydown ...
- Do this when the element is added to the DOM
- `function ready(callback) {`
  - if (document.readyState != "loading") callback();
  - else document.addEventListener("DOMContentLoaded",callback)`}`
  - ready( function to be called to set things up once document is loaded )
  - Useful for adding event listeners to dynamic content





# Changing the DOM

- **Easiest**
  - Put all text on page, then hide/show as needed
  - Add or remove classes to change display properties
  - Set text or html or value for computed items
  - Moving items around within a list or table
- **More difficult**
  - Create new html for items in a list or table
    - Cloning original or just creating from scratch
    - Libraries exist for this
  - Actually creating new html for the page
    - Better done elsewhere
- **In Between (later lectures)**
  - Use a helper library such as **jQuery**
  - Use templates to create items as needed
  - REACT, Angular, **Vue**, ...



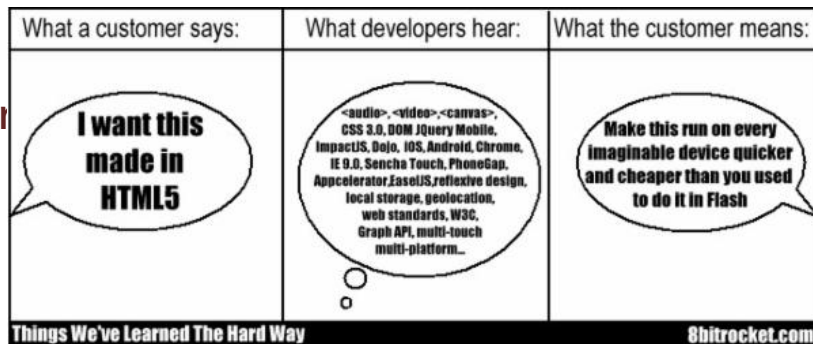
# DOM Update and Accessibility

- Changing the DOM can cause accessibility problems
  - Updates can confuse screen readers
  - Updates might not be visible in high magnification
  - Updates might be invisible (red border for errors)
  - Updates might come too fast (before page was read)
- These should be addressed: here are some guidelines
  - If content updates for more than 5 seconds, provide the ability to pause, stop or hide the updates
  - Inform the user of changes (live region, alert, setting focus, highlight)
  - Inform user that the page is dynamic
  - Work without dynamics, provide static HTML alternative pages
- These need to be tested carefully (i.e. screen reader testing)



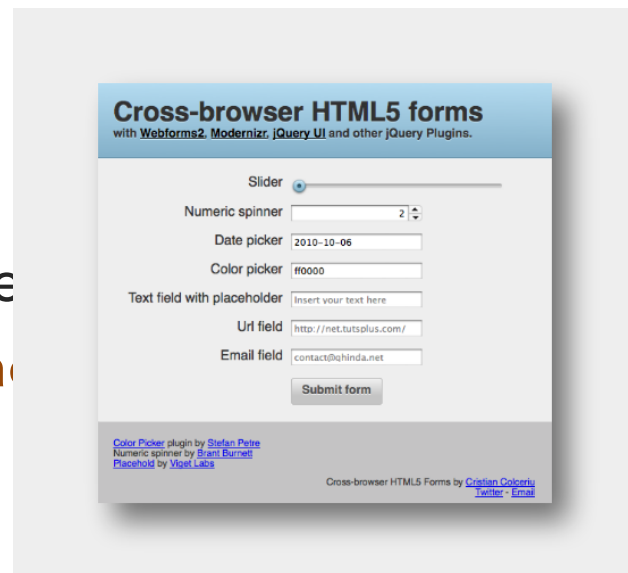
# HTML = HTML5

- **HTML5 is designed to support modern web apps**
  - More interaction
  - More devices
- **Multimedia and animations are more common**
  - A large fraction of web sites are using them
  - They shouldn't require plugins to be usable
  - These should be standard in all browsers
- **Other features have similar properties**
  - Simple databases, cookie management, ...
- **Basic HTML doesn't provide enough context information**
  - About the page (for search, readers, ...)
  - About forms (numbers, dates, ...)



# HTML5 Forms

- Do forms work on your smart phone/tablet
- Forms are the basis for much HTML interaction
  - But they are quite limiting
  - And not well-oriented to tablets / smart phones
  - And require JavaScript to validate
- HTML5 significantly expands the input types in forms
  - Text, password, submit, radio, checkbox, button
  - Color, date, datetime, email, month, number, range, search, tel, time, url, week
  - With built-in validation
  - Generic regular-expression based validation



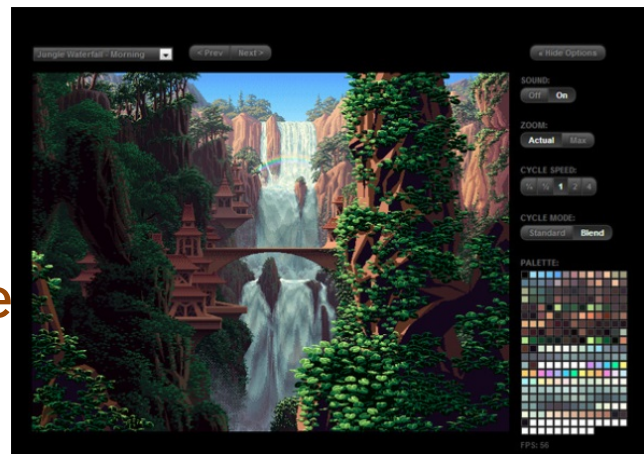
# HTML5 Canvas

- A canvas is a drawing area on the page

- Use JavaScript to draw on that canvas
- Drawing is similar to Java2D drawing
  - Similar primitives, transformations, coordinates, etc.
  - Rectangles, paths, arcs, text
  - Java Graphics2D maps to HTML5 Context
- Can be used for static graphics and animations

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnAiEJEBLJg>

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZInfZ0wecw>



# SVG Graphics

- Different approaches to graphics
  - Procedural calls to draw everything
  - Structure representing what should be drawn
- SVG takes the second approach
  - The structure is part of the DOM
    - Can be manipulated by JavaScript
  - Objects correspond to various primitives
  - Often easier than functional drawing
    - Refresh handled automatically
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SDKN-Amlyo>



# HTML5 Multimedia

- **<audio> and <video> tags**
  - Controls
  - Multiple formats can (and have to) be provided

- **Examples**

```
<video width="320" height="240" controls="controls">
```

```
  <source src="movie.mp4" type="video/mp4" />
```

```
  <source src="movie.ogg" type="video/ogg" />
```

Your browser does not support the video tag.

```
</video>
```

```
<audio controls="controls">
```

```
  <source src="song.ogg" type="audio/ogg" />
```

```
  <source src="song.mp3" type="audio/mpeg" />
```

Your browser does not support the audio element.

```
</audio>
```



# HTML5 Drag and Drop

- Direct manipulation interfaces are sometimes based on drag and drop
  - That's what users have come to expect
- HTML5 lets any element be dragged
  - And any element can be a drop target
- HTML5 also provides JavaScript events to support
  - On drag start (set the content of the drag)
  - On drag over (allow/disallow drop)
  - On drop (use the contents)
- Much simpler to use than Java drag and drop

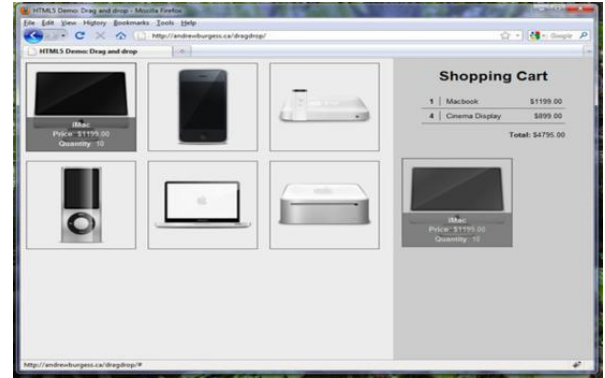




# Drag and Drop Example

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML>
<html> <head> <script type="text/javascript">
function allowDrop(ev) { ev.preventDefault(); }
function drag(ev) { ev.dataTransfer.setData("Text",ev.target.id); }
function drop(ev)
{
    var data=ev.dataTransfer.getData("Text");
    ev.target.appendChild(document.getElementById(data));
    ev.preventDefault();
}
</script> </head> <body>
<div id="div1" ondrop="drop(event)" ondragover="allowDrop(event)"></div>

</body> </html>
```



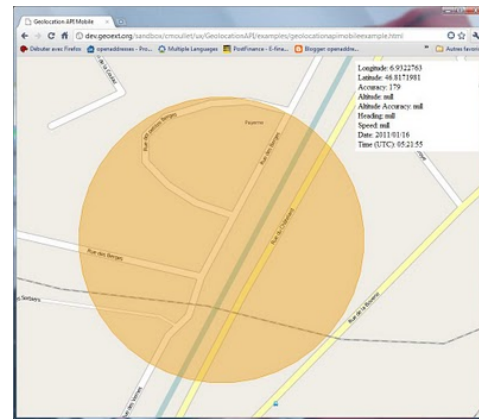
# HTML5 Web Storage

- Cookies are not efficient or secure
  - Have to be sent with each HTTP request
- HTML5 offers several new facilities
  - Local storage (name-value) of arbitrary data
    - Permanent, fixed time, or session-based
  - Generation of public-private keys
    - Offers secure communication
    - Rarely used - use HTTPS instead



# HTML5 Geolocation

- HTML5 enables using the current location
  - Accurate from a device with GPS
  - Approximate from other computers
- Can use this with JavaScript
  - Locally (place on a map)
  - Globally (send to server)
- Can also get automatic updates
  - JavaScript code that is invoked as the position changes
  - There's an event for that



# Geolocation Example

```
<script>
var x=document.getElementById("demo");
function getLocation()
{
  if (navigator.geolocation) {
    navigator.geolocation.getCurrentPosition(showPosition); Fix
  }
  else { x.html("Geolocation is not supported.");}
}
function showPosition(position)
{
  x.html("Latitude: " + position.coords.latitude +
    "<br />Longitude: " + position.coords.longitude);
}
</script>
```



# HTML5 Messaging

- **Mashups**

- Web pages composed of information from multiple sources
- Browsers limit where requests can be sent based on URLs
  - Make mash-ups difficult to implement
- Messaging allows this to be bypassed in a selective manner
- Usually embedded in libraries – not something you do directly
  - Maps: Google maps, leaflet.js
  - Payments: Stripe, Paypal
  - Other: address decoding, weather, ...

- **Web Sockets**

- Continuous communication with your server
- Easy to set up and use (callback functions on both ends)



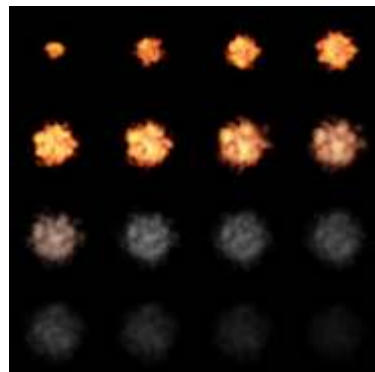
# Animation on Web Pages

- Is animation a good idea in a web application?
- Something moving (changing) on the screen
- Properties
  - Can be one-time or continuous
  - Can be smooth or jerky
    - All animation is jerky, why does it appear smooth
    - Persistence of vision, frames per second
- Types of animation
  - Movies
  - Sound
  - Bitmap animation (canvas)
  - Vector animation (svg, flash)



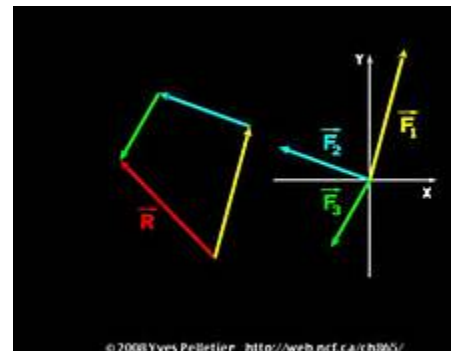
# Bitmap Animation

- Animation as a sequence of bitmaps
- Techniques
  - Animated GIFs
    - All images stored in a single GIF file
    - Browser takes care of the animation
  - JavaScript
    - Change the image associated with a region using timers
    - Let the browser then redraw the image
- Pros/cons
  - Simple to use, built into browser, tool support
  - Limited in what it can do



# Vector Animation

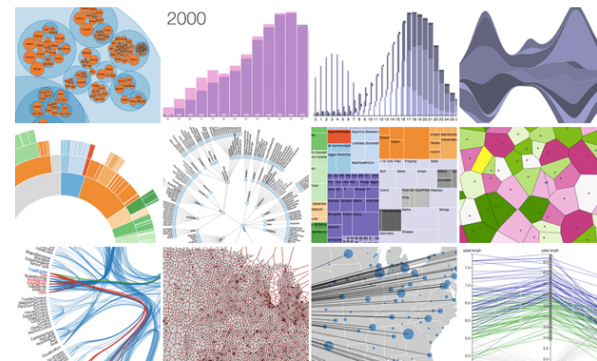
- Consider a drawing program
  - You place objects on the screen
    - Circles, rectangles, lines, text
    - Each of these is parameterized
      - » Position, size, angle, sting, color, line style, fill style, ...
  - The result is an image
- Can create a sequence of images drawn this way
  - Next image is going to be similar to the previous
    - What is going to change
  - Change expressed in terms of changes to parameters
    - This makes it easy to define such a sequence
- Show the images at the appropriate speed
- Can be done using canvas/SVG





# Data Visualization

- Canvas/SVG
- D3
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oOC2FYNo1M>



# Next Class

- More Dynamic Web Pages



# Videos

- Full bitmap images with automatic sequencing
- Typically encoded to save space
  - Data doesn't change much from one image to another
  - Code key frames completely, otherwise just differences
  - Decoding should be fast and cheap

# Sound

- **Sound is nearly continuous**
  - Time between values depends on frequency
    - To get a frequency response of 20K, need 40K sample/second
    - This means every 25 microseconds
    - But this is only one value, not a whole image
    - 8, 16, or 32 bits of data
- **Again a variety of encodings are possible and used**
- **Synchronizing sound and image can be tricky**
  - Handled by movie players
  - Handled by multimedia languages
- **Sound in web applications can be annoying**
- **HTML5 <audio> tag**



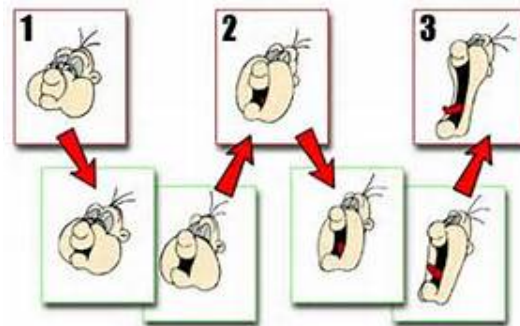
# Making This Easier

- **Key Frames**

- Suppose one takes 2 images K-frames apart
  - Parameters/positions change from one to the next
- Have the computer construct the intermediate frames
  - Parameter values need to change from one value to the other
  - Interpolate values based on the end points
- Types of interpolation
  - Linear: simplest to do
  - Path-based: user specifies a path (virtual or real)

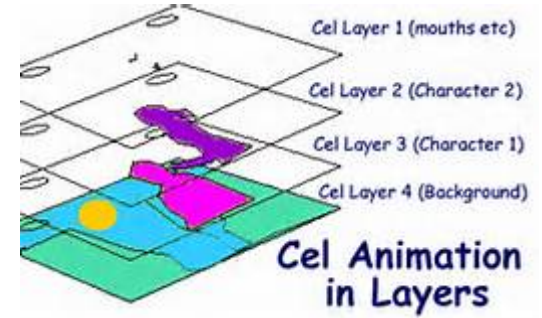
- **Example**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJlAcTc5HUw>



# Making This Easier

- **Layers**
  - Split the drawing into different layers
  - Layers can be animated independently
    - Bottom layer(s) might be fixed (scenery/background)
    - Top layer(s) might be animated (person)
  - Can reuse the top layer or change its properties easily



# Languages for Vector Animations

- **Flash is the most widely known**
- Microsoft Silverlight, Adobe AIR, JavaFX are alternatives
- **These are implemented as browser plugins**
  - Pretty much trusted
  - Provide a sandbox for executing programs
  - Include a scripting language for writing animations
  - Generally provide lots of other multimedia features
  - But not always available
- **Java via Applets**
- **JavaScript implementations of these**
- **JavaScript using SVG**



# Question

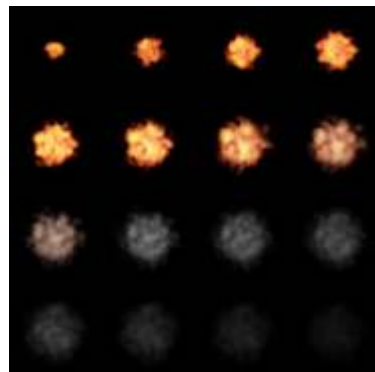
What is a good rule of thumb for the minimum number of frames per second for a video or animation to look smooth to the human eye?

- A. 10
- B. 30
- C. 80
- D. 240
- E. 1080



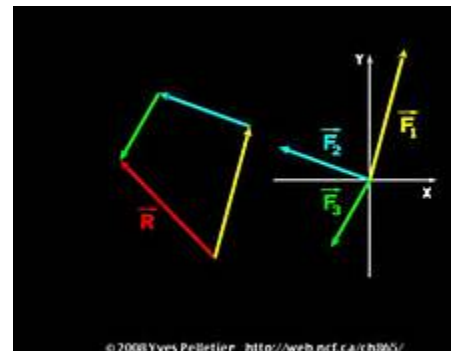
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# Vector Animation

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  - Change expressed in terms of changes to parameters
    - This makes it easy to define such a sequence
- Show the images at the appropriate speed
- Can be done using canvas/SVG



## Question

Which of the following are not built-in to HTML(5)?

- A. 2D and 3D drawing areas
- B. Input from a web or phone camera
- C. Drag and drop
- D. Geolocation with arbitrary updating
- E. All are built into HTML5

# Resize Experience

- What pages did you try?
  - What happened when you resized them
  - When did this “work”
  - When did it “fail”
- Do web sites use the same pages for phone & browser?
  - Why or why not?
- How might this be done?
  - Responsive applications