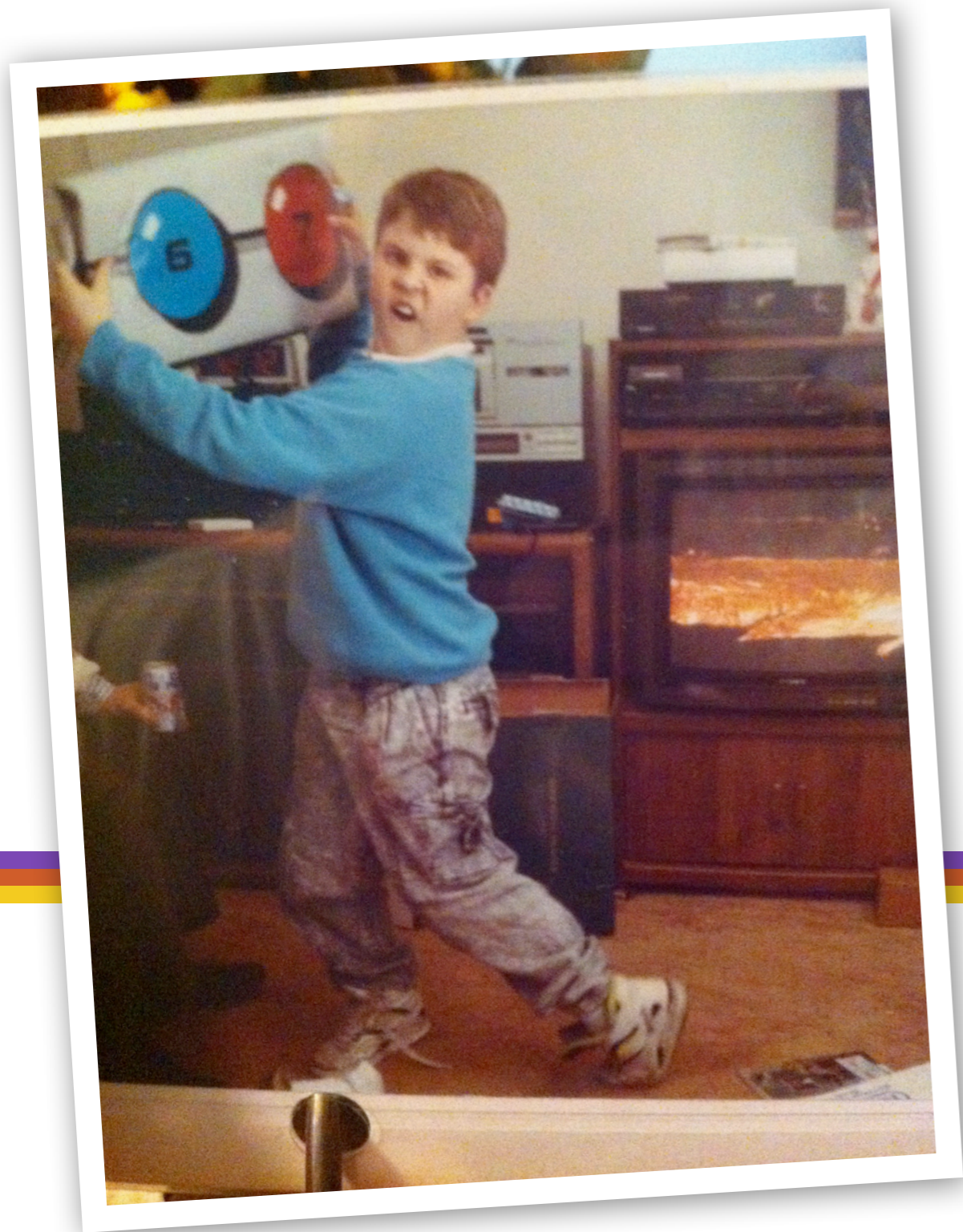


WRITING
BETTER HTML
& CSS



CHRIS COYIER

chriscoyier@gmail.com
@chriscoyier

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

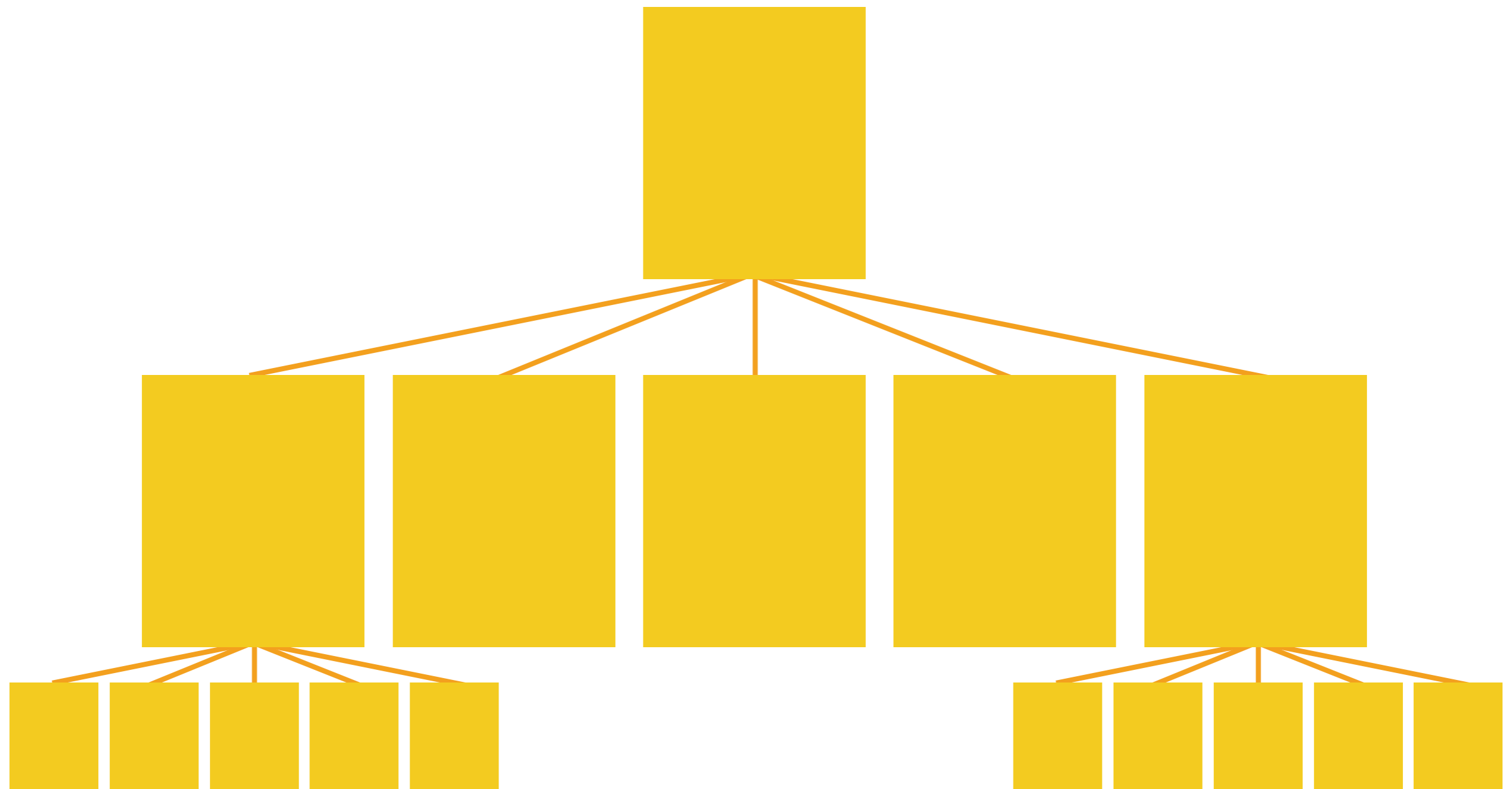
HOW WUFOO DOES CSS



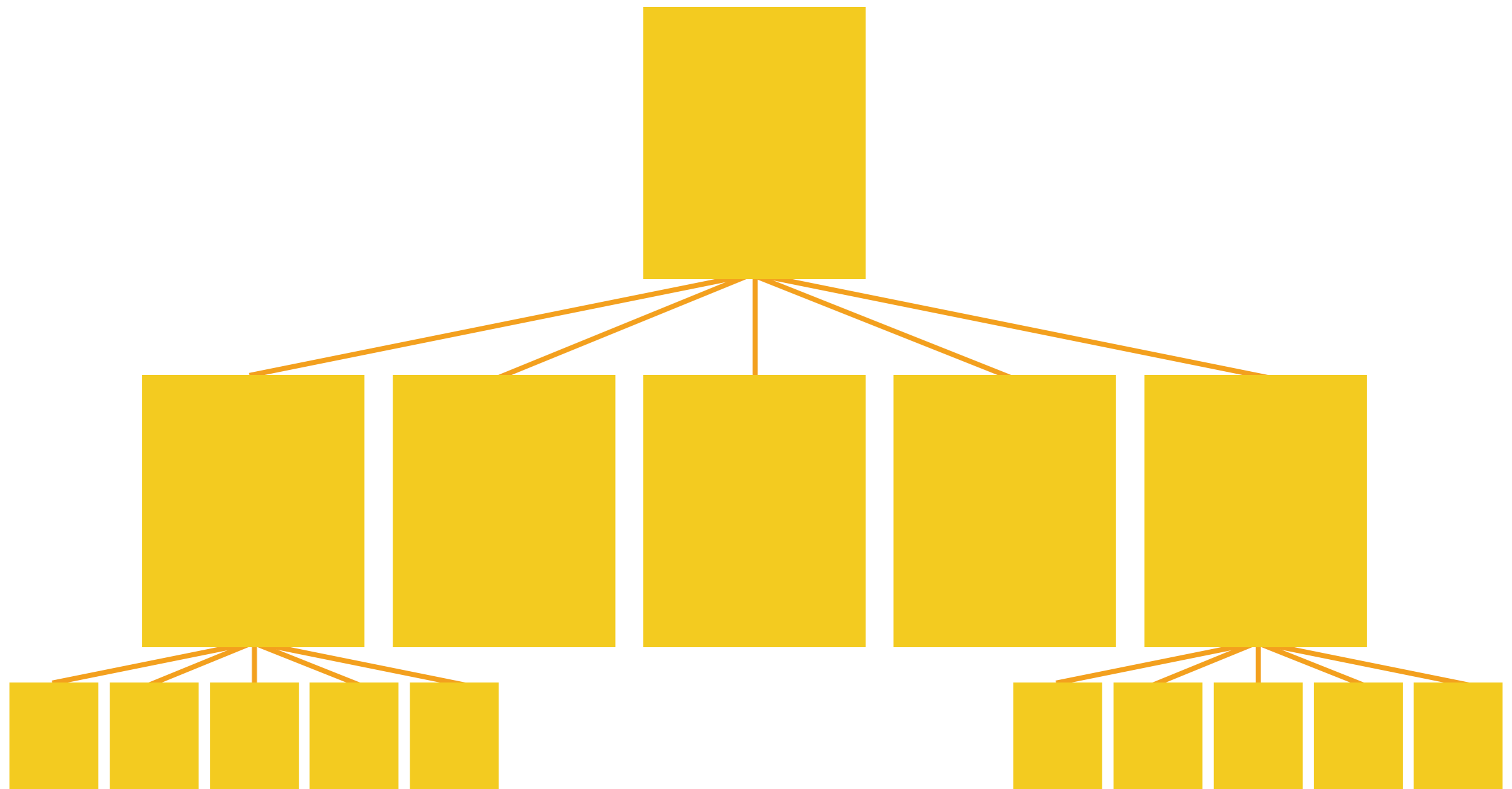
“RULES”

- 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)

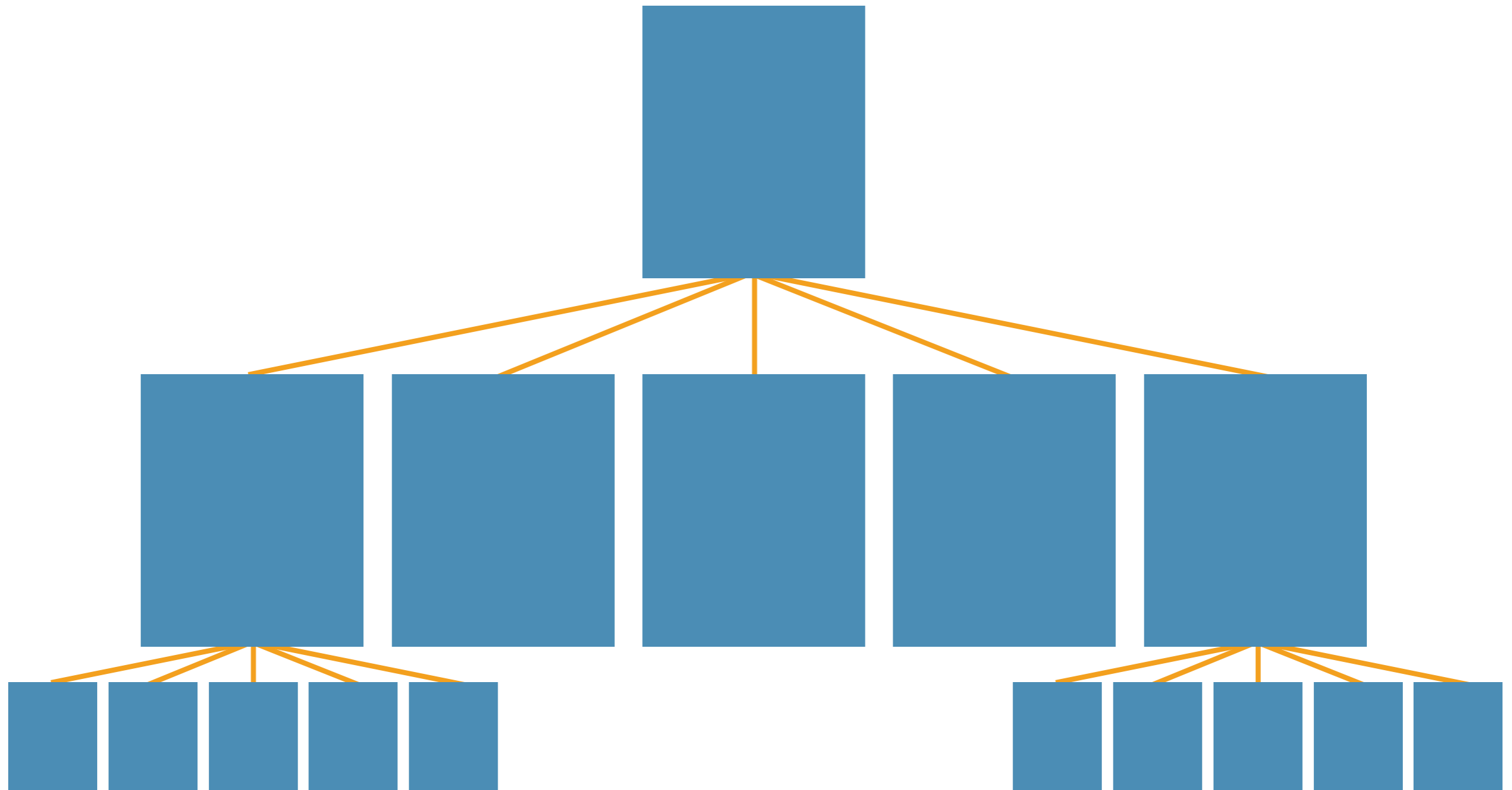
SIMPLIFIED SITE STRUCTURE



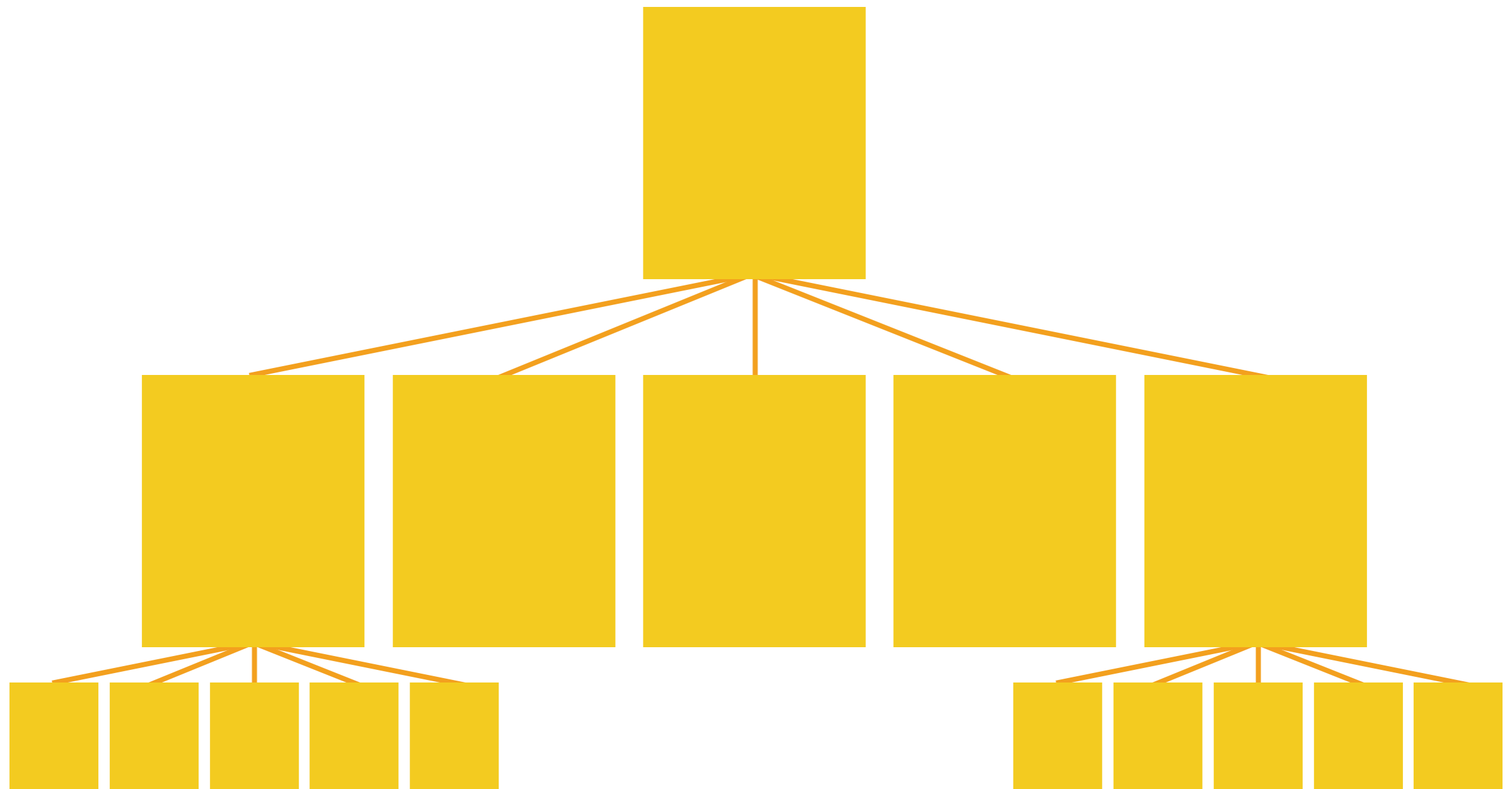
GLOBAL CSS



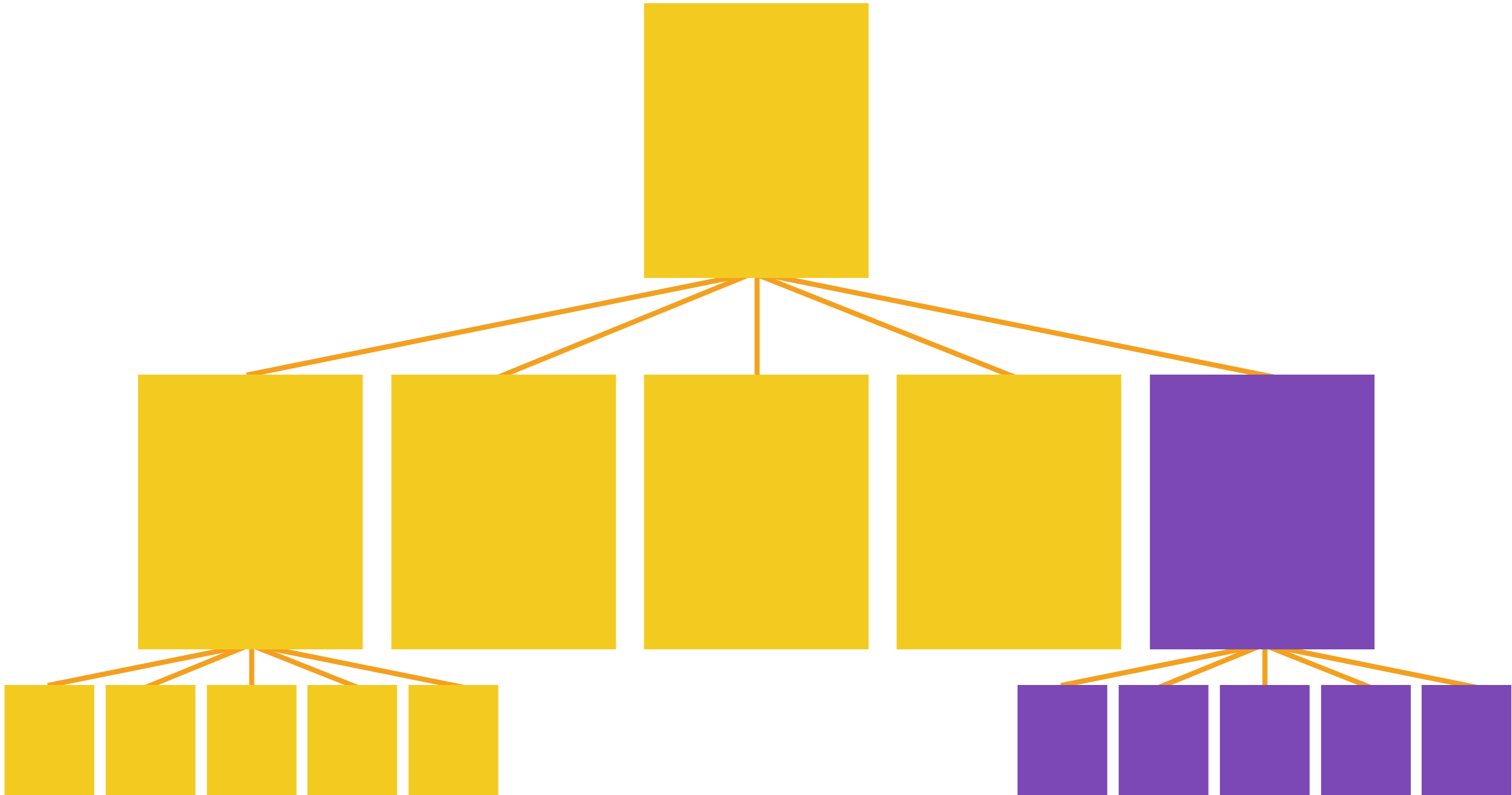
GLOBAL CSS



SITE SECTION CSS



SITE SECTION CSS



Wufoo → Online Form Builder

🐉 Login!

WUFOO

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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

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](#)

```
<!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
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
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★

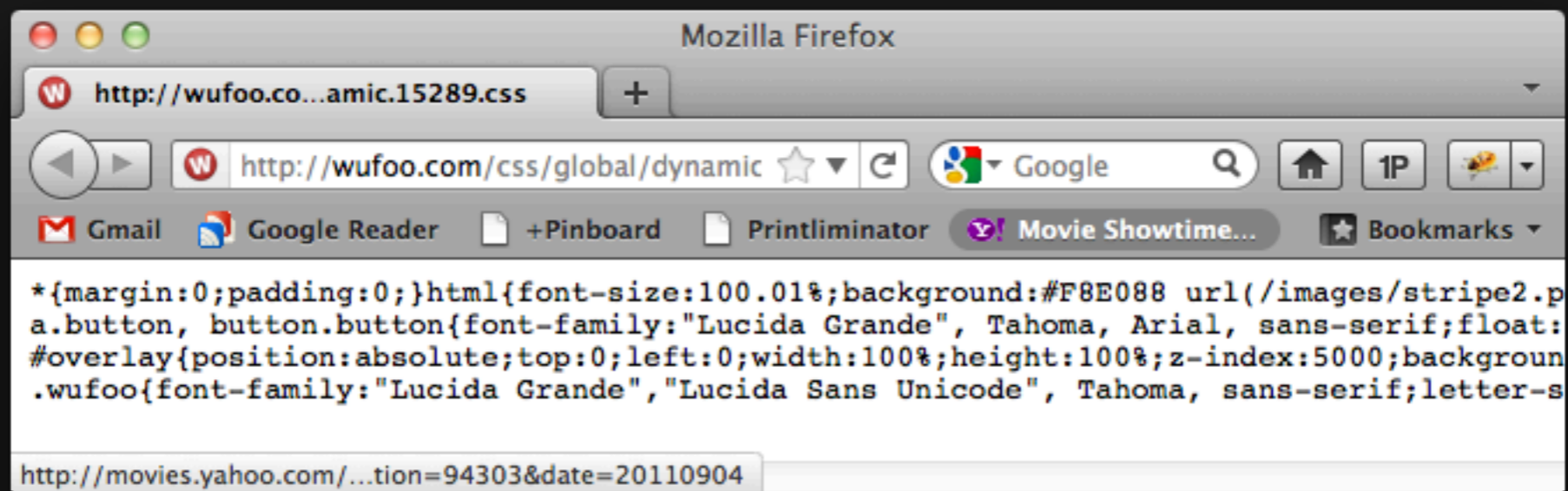
3) Combines Together★

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)**

Form Manager

O, what men dare do!

New Form!

Statistics

Filter

Sort By : Date Created

Date Edited

Entries Today

Untitled Form

Default Theme

Public

Entries Edit View Notifications Rules Payment Code Protect

Duplicate Delete

Order a CSS-Tricks T-Shirt

CSS-Tricks

Public

(On) T-Shirt Form

Default Theme

Public

CSS-Tricks Giveaway

Default Theme

Public

Contact Form Copy

Default Theme

Public

Join our Mailing List

Default Theme

Public

Palo Alto Euchre Club

Palo Alto Euchre C

Public

Mega Important Survey

SurveyMonkey

Public

Request for Feedback Form

Header Logo

Public

Anatomy

Jeff Campana

Public

global

/css/global/structure.css

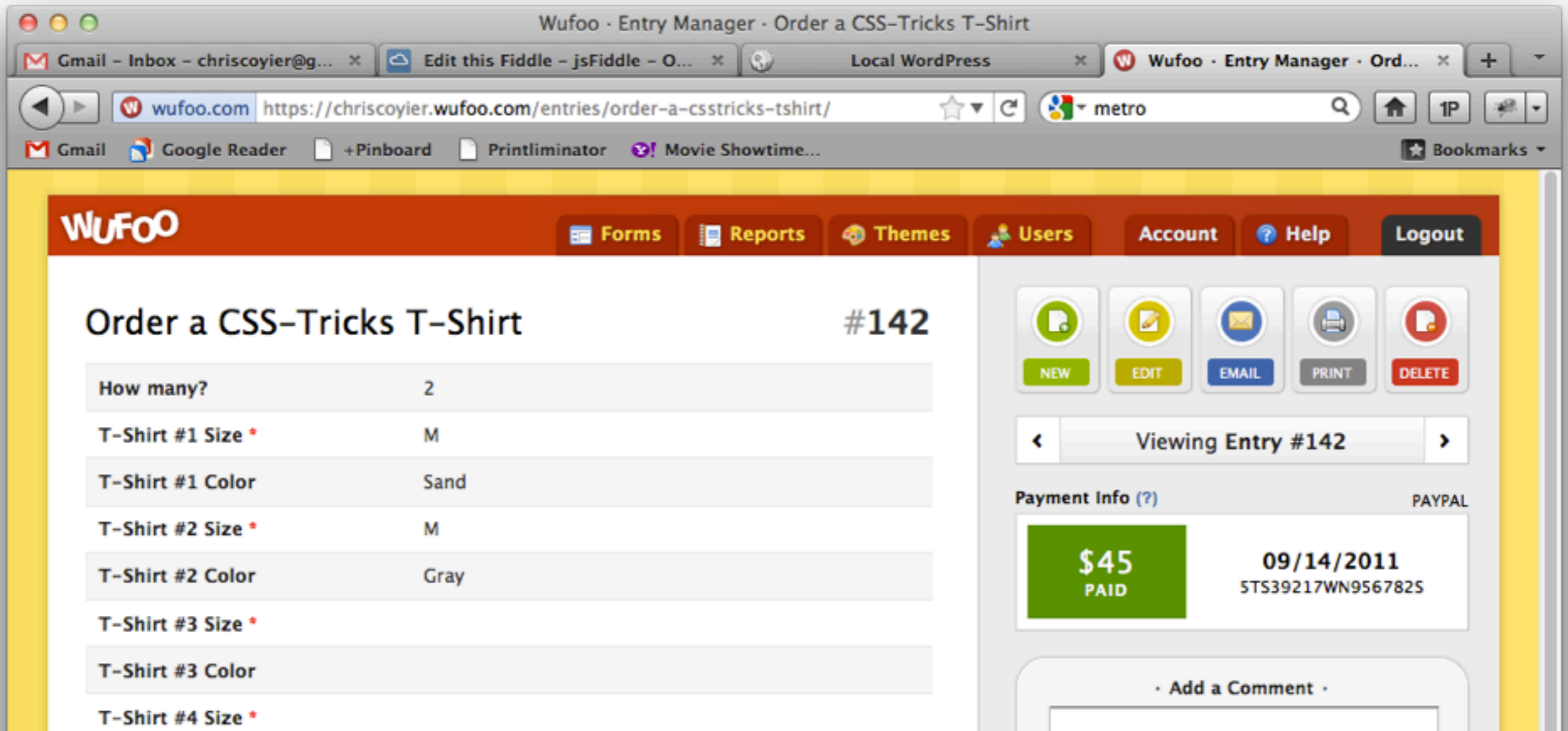
/css/global/buttons.css

/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`

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](#)

global

[/css/global/structure.css](#)

[/css/global/buttons.css](#)

[/css/global/lightbox.css](#)

[/css/global/form.css](#)

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?

Forms & Email

1. How do I integrate my Wufoo form into my Code Manager?
2. How do I have an email sent to me each time a form is submitted?
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?

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?

area

[/css/docs/docs.css](#)

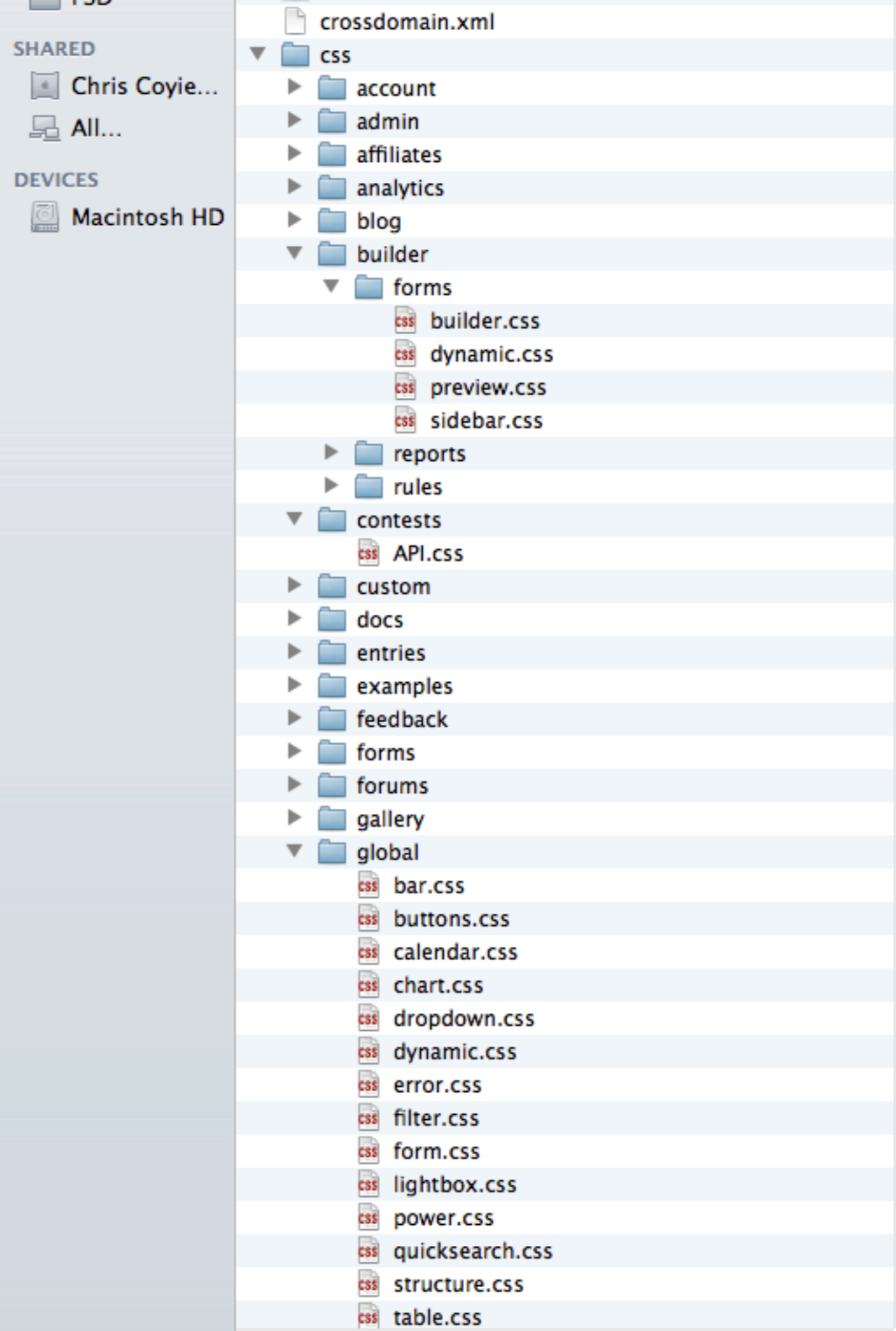
[/css/global/table.css](#)

Data & Reports

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

ALL
CSS
is in */css/*

organized by
site section



2



DON'T OVER
THINK IT

Good thinking / Well intentioned

BIG FANCY STYLE GUIDE

- **Primary color #BADDA55 / 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?

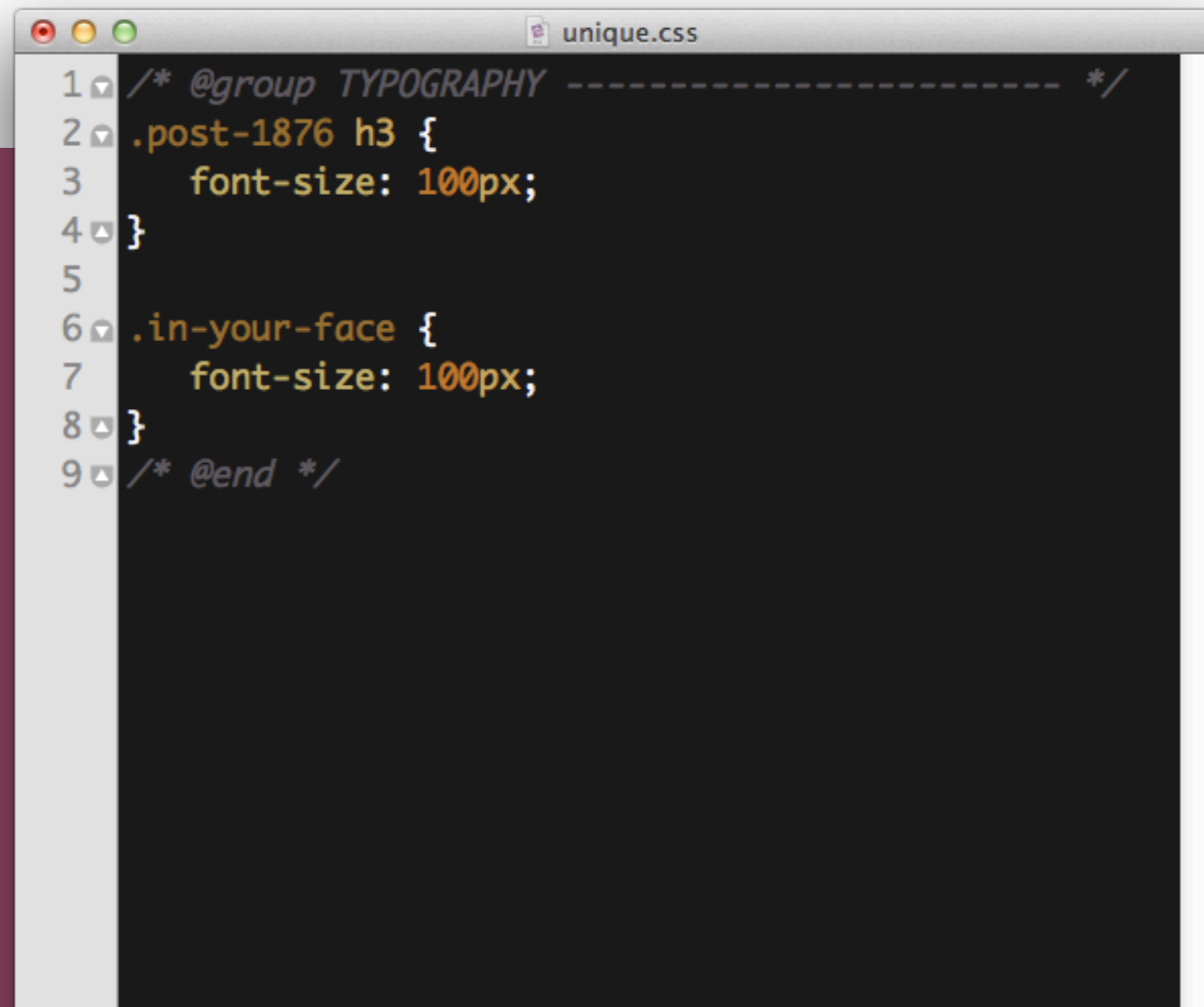
Really? Do you?

STYLE
ONLY

```
style.css
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, .h1 { font-size: 60px; }
8  h2, .h2 { font-size: 50px; }
9  h3, .h3, d { font-size: 40px; border-bottom: 1px solid #F00; }
10 h4, .h4 { font-size: 30px; }
11 h5, .h5 { font-size: 20px; text-transform: uppercase; }
12 p, li, d {
13     margin: 0 0 15px 0;
14 }
15 /* @end */
```

NEED TO DEVIATE?

Really? Do you?



```
1 /* @group TYPOGRAPHY ----- */
2 .post-1876 h3 {
3     font-size: 100px;
4 }
5
6 .in-your-face {
7     font-size: 100px;
8 }
9 /* @end */
```

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)

[From Our CEO](#) (4)

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

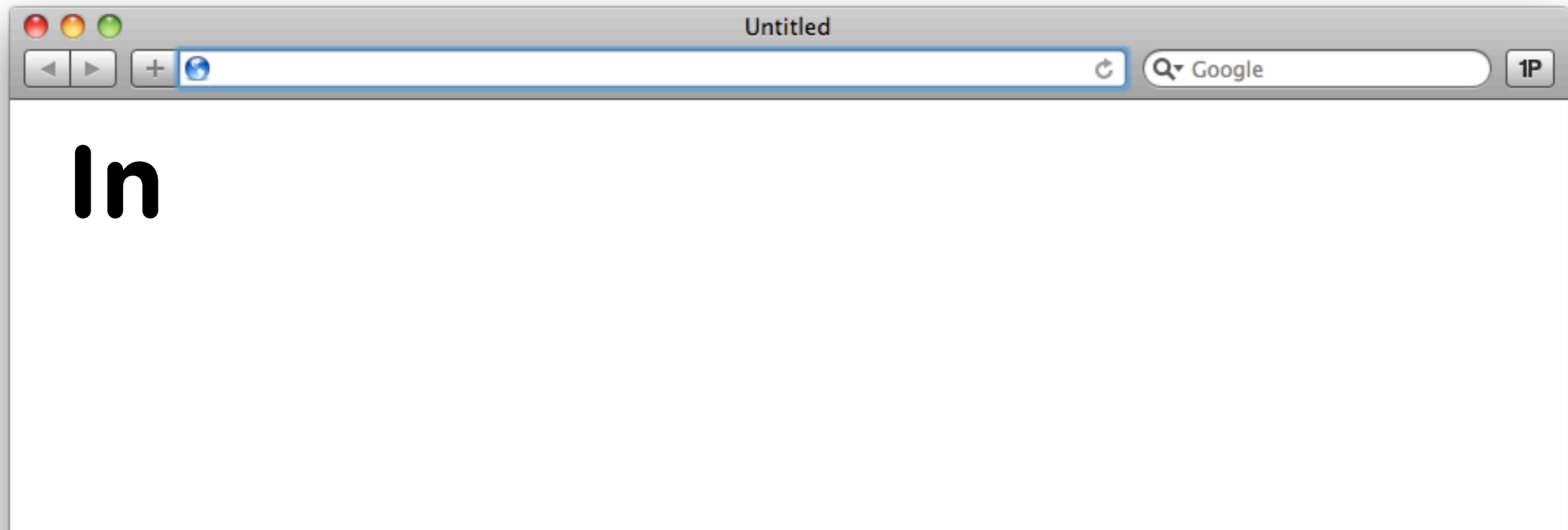
·after

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


CAMELOT!
CAMELOT!
CAMELOT!

It's only a model...
(Not really in DOM)

Not for “no content” elements

```

```

```
<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/">  
    
  Visit Our Form Gallery  
</a>
```

CSS

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



Visit Our Form Gallery

alt=""

equals

~~That's not important.~~

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

alt=""

equals

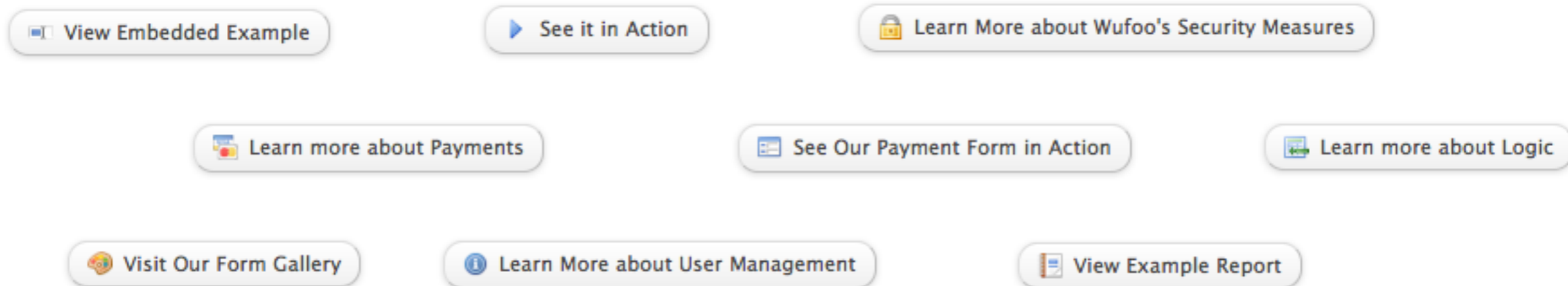
Then get that mothersucker
out of your **HTML**

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/">  
    
  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

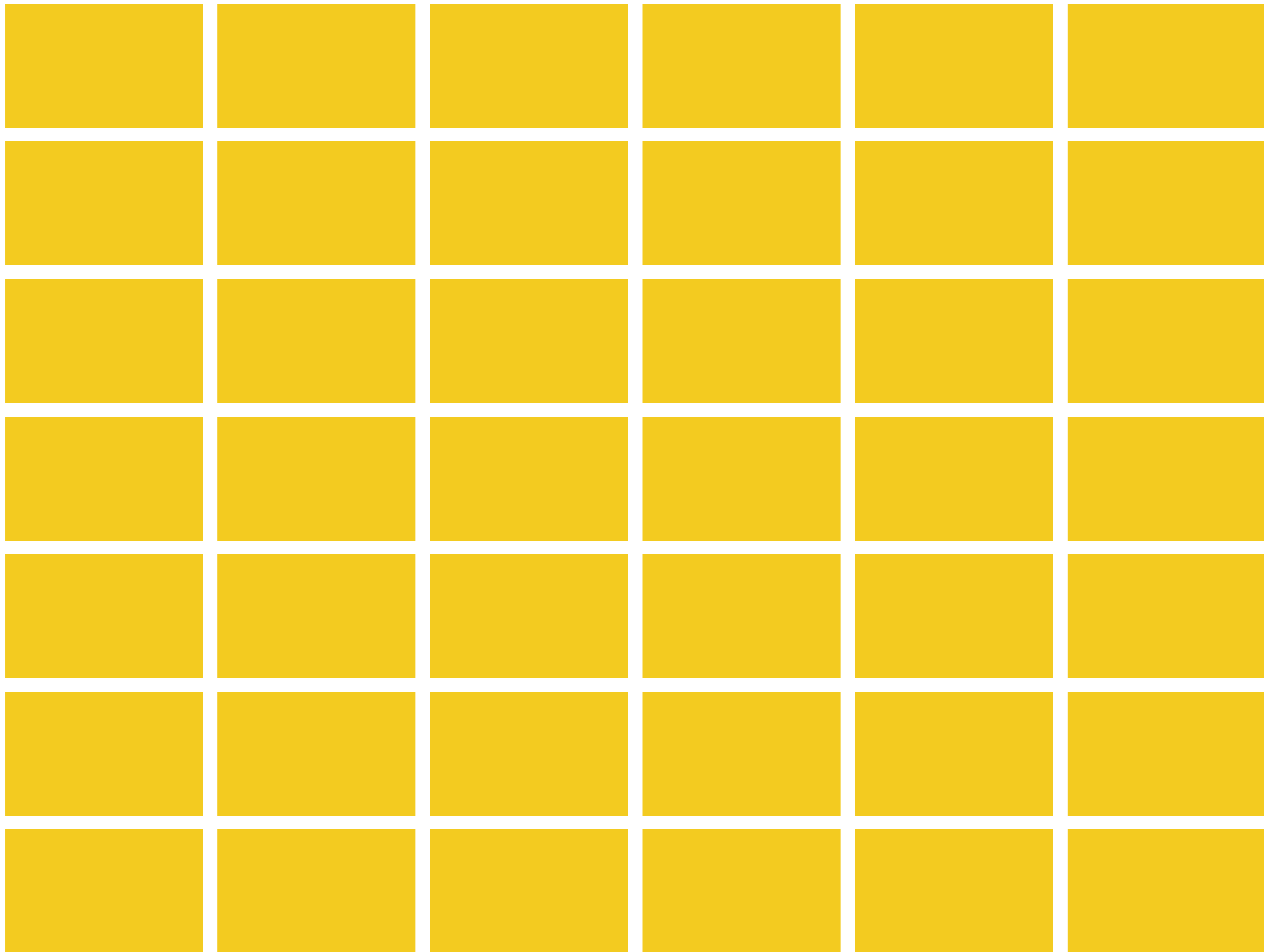
200 opportunities to be more efficient

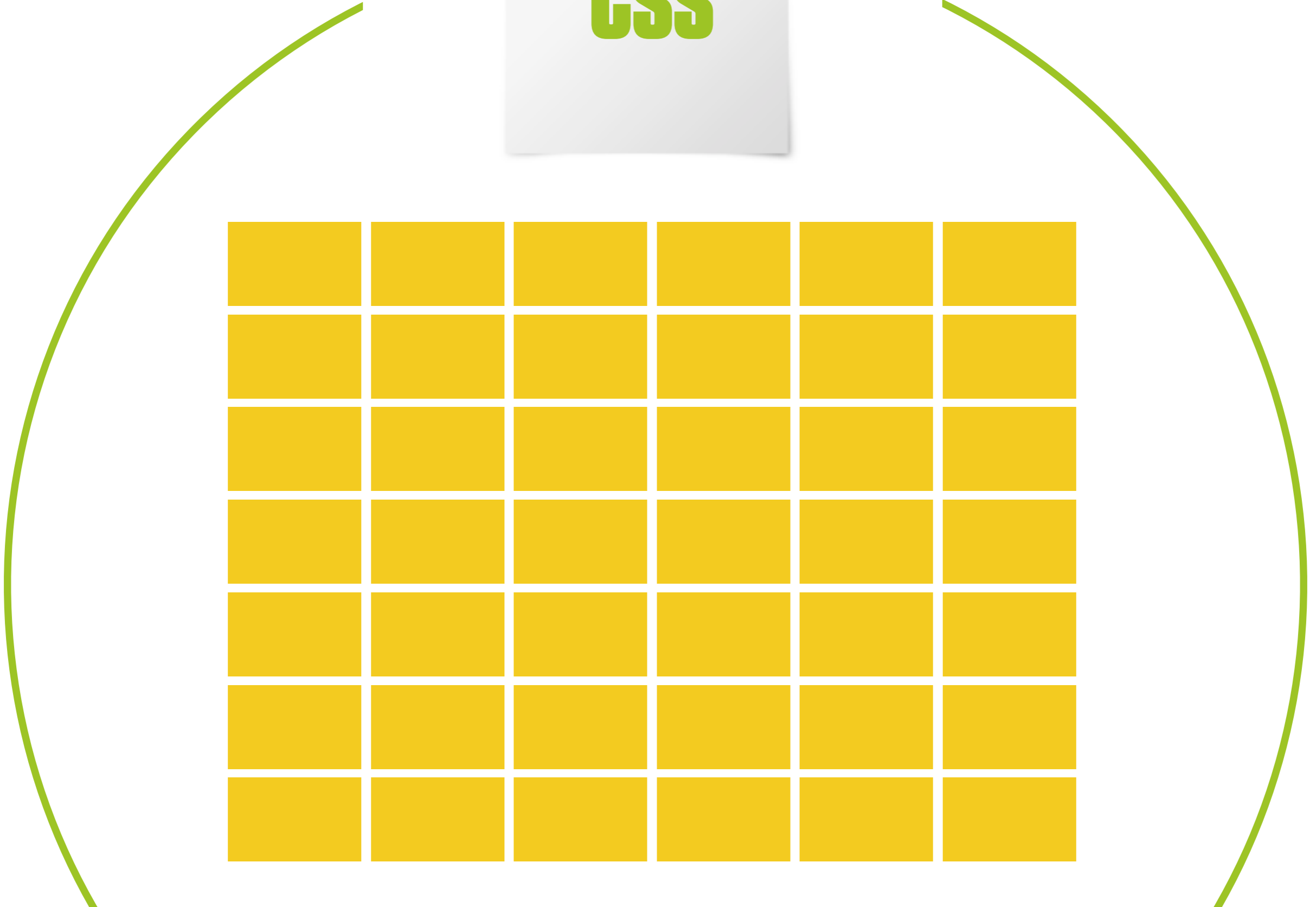


```
<html style="background: yellow;">
```

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

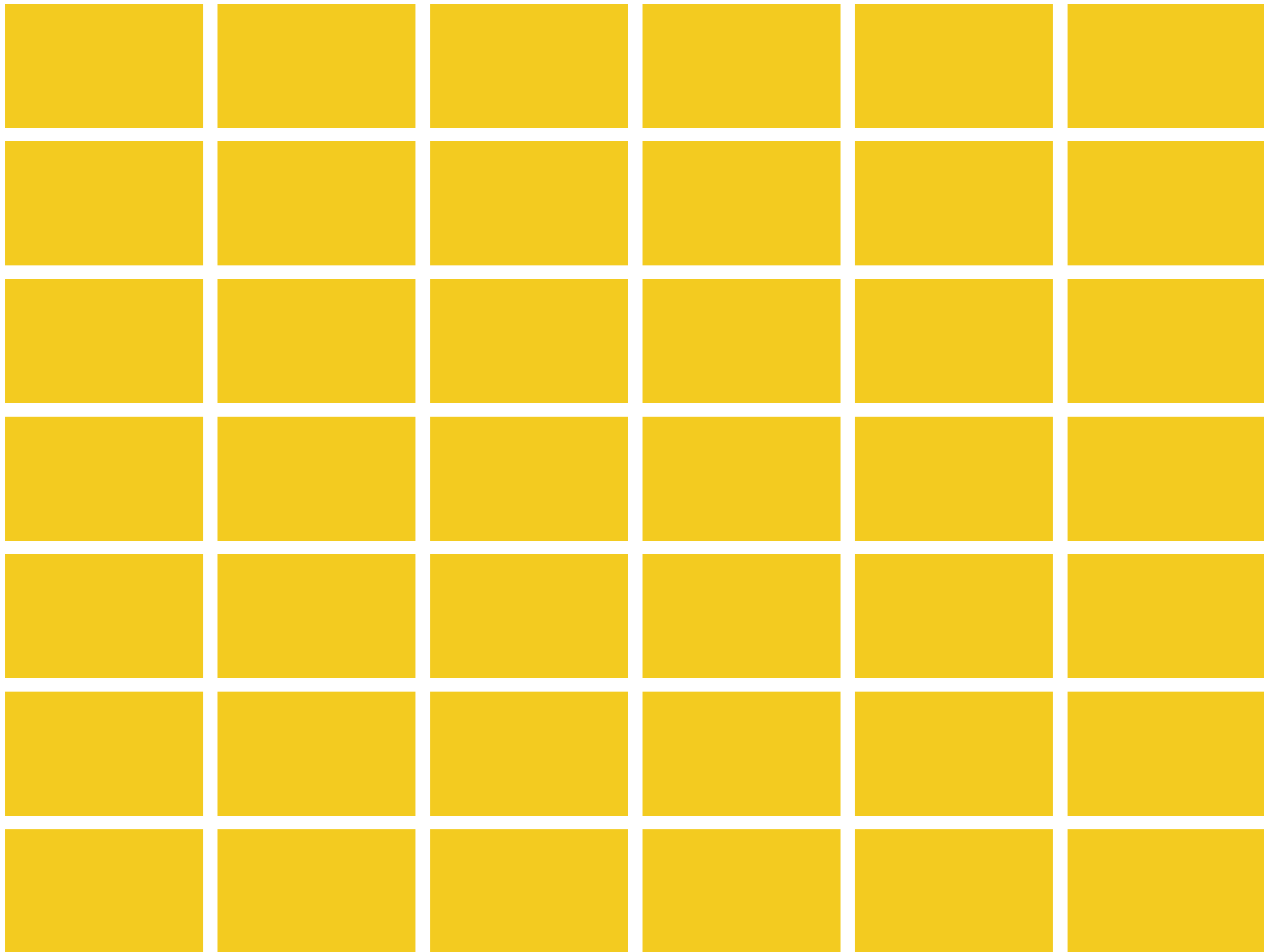


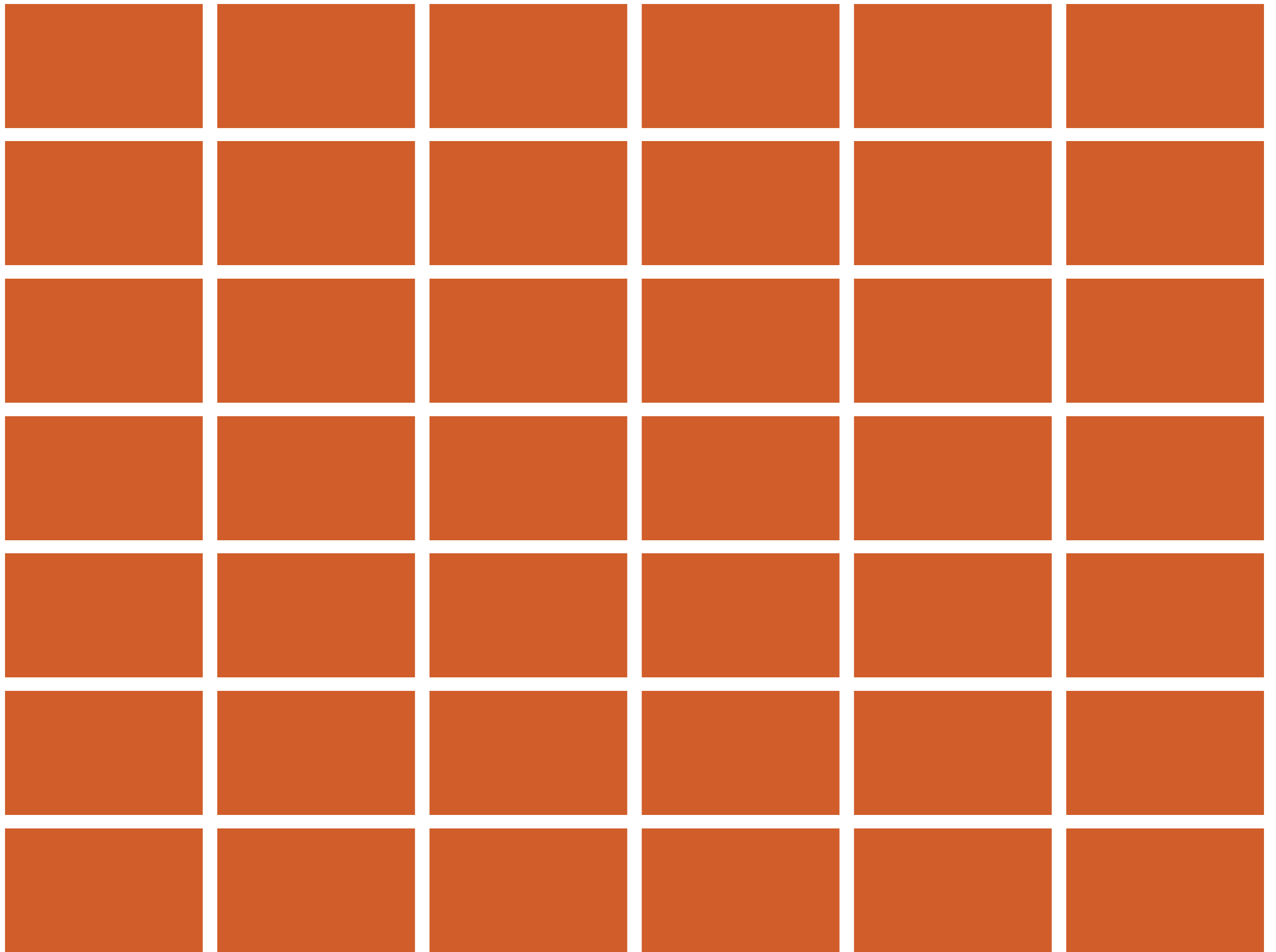




CSS

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





EFFICIENCY!

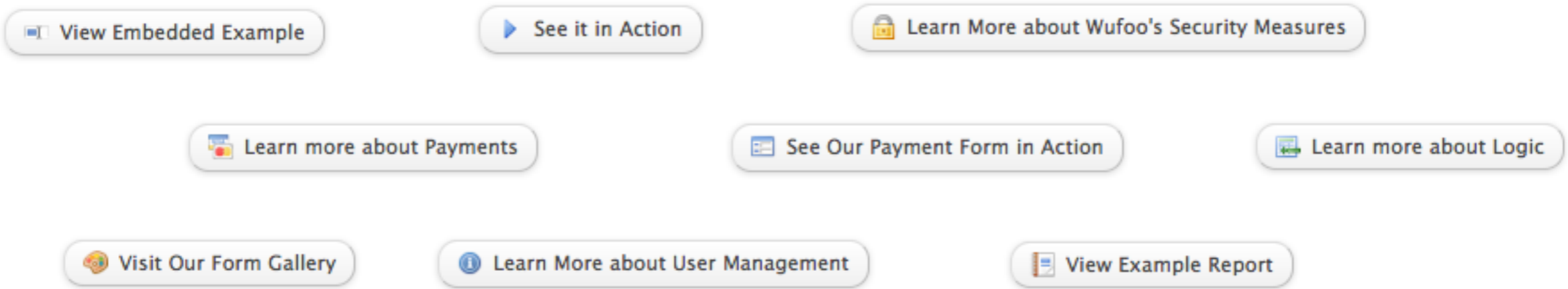
HTML

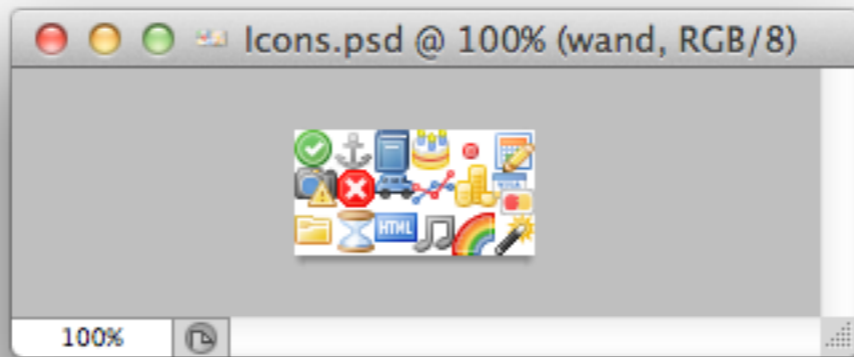
```
<a class="button button-gallery" href="http://wufoo.com/gallery/">  
  Visit Our Form Gallery  
</a>
```

CSS

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

Individual Request





```
<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;  
}
```



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



theTeam.

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

...this also helps select itty bitty sprites

spritecow.com

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

sprite.me.org

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

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 ``



```
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;  
}
```

Styling ordered list numbers demo page

This is a demo document related to the article [Styling ordered list numbers](#)

- 1 List item one
- 2 The second item on the list
- 3 Number three is a bit longer, with some lorem ipsum for good measure. Eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.
- 4 And here is number four.
- 5 List item five.
- 6 The sixth item on the list
 - 1 A nested ordered list
 - 2 A nested list
 - 3 A nested list
- 7 Number seven is a bit longer, with some lorem ipsum for good measure. Eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.
- 8 And here is number 8.
 - o A nested unordered list
 - o A nested list
 - o A nested list
- 9 List item 9.
- 10 The tenth and last item on the list

COMBINING WITH MEDIA QUERIES

Super team:

Chris Coyier

Elisabeth Moss

Amanda Righetti

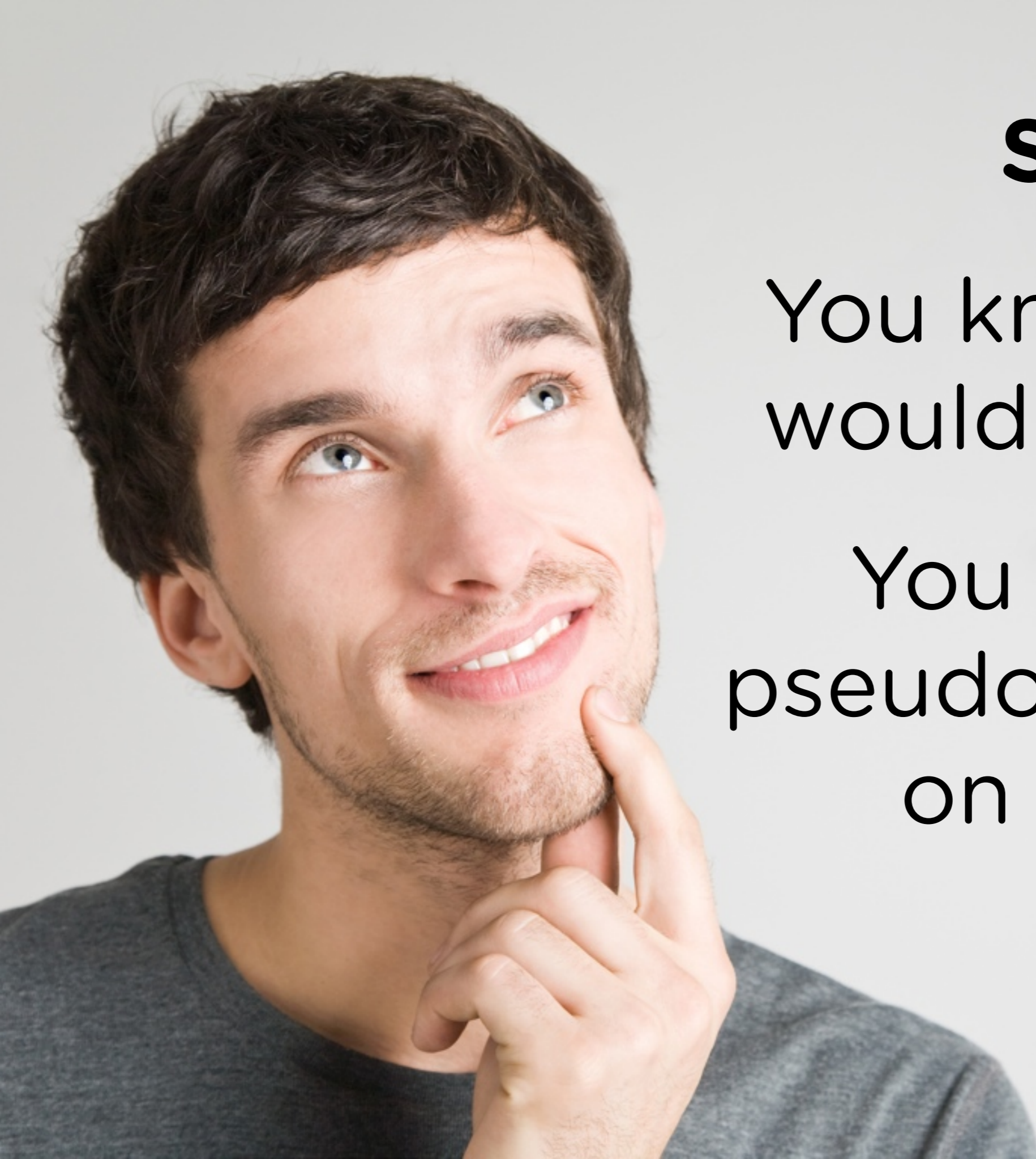
Pellentesque habitant
senectus et netus et m
ac turpis egestas. Vesti
quam, feugiat vitae, ul
tempor sit amet, ante.
libero sit amet quam e
Aenean ultricies mi vit

mobile portrait

```
@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 */  
}
```

amies ac turpis egestas. vestibulum tor
, ultricies eget, tempor sit amet, ante.
m egestas semper. Aenean ultricies mi
erat eleifend leo. Quisque sit amet est
pharetra. Your mom erat wisi, condim
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ndimentum, eros ipsum rutrum orci, sa
c dui. Donec non enim in turpis pulvi
nt dapibus, neque id cursus faucibus, t
e. eu vulputate magna eros eu erat. A

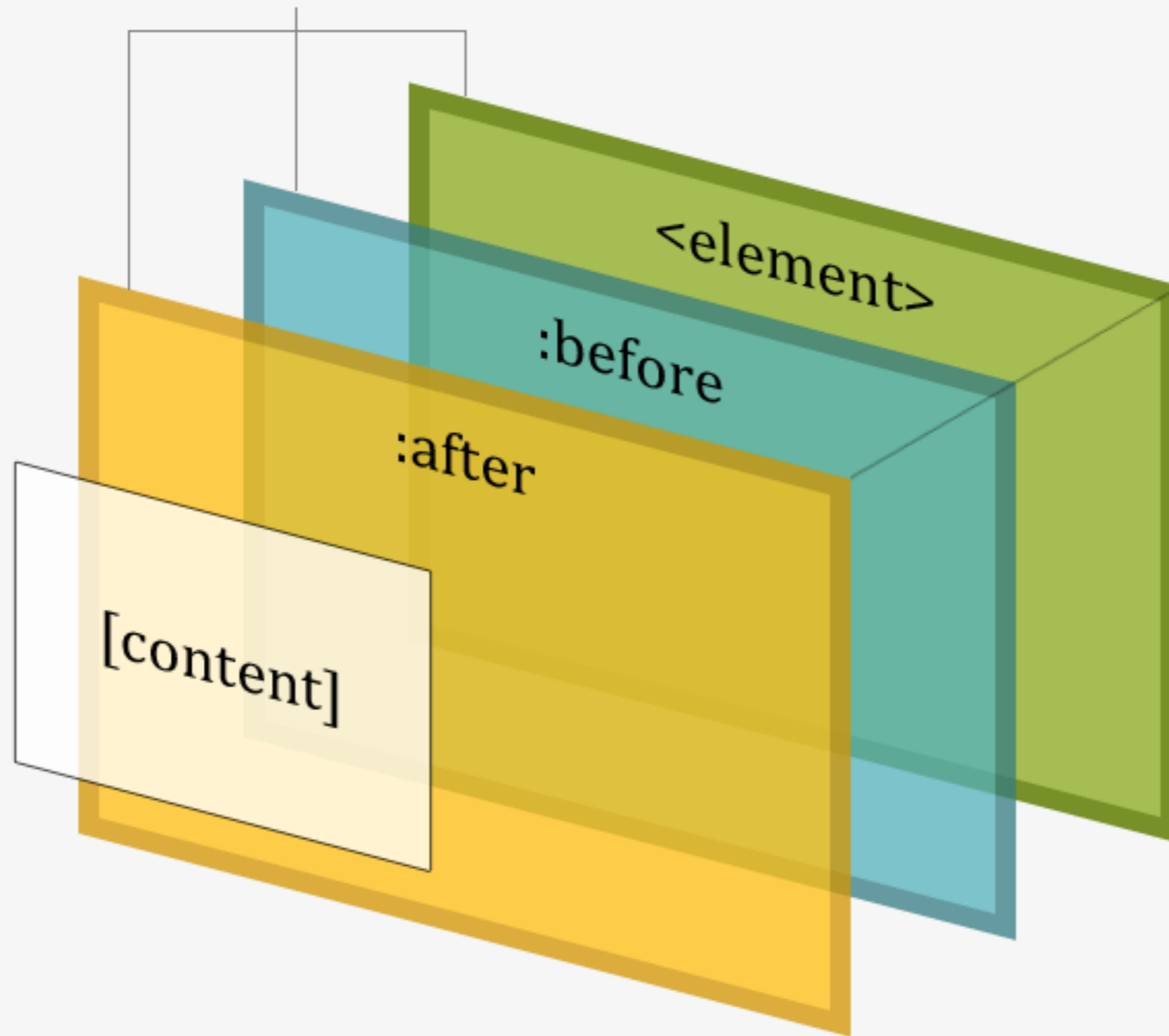
*You can't talk about Pseudo Elements
without talking about...*

Nicolas
“Dr. Pseudo Element”
Gallagher

<http://nicolasgallagher.com/>

@necolas

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



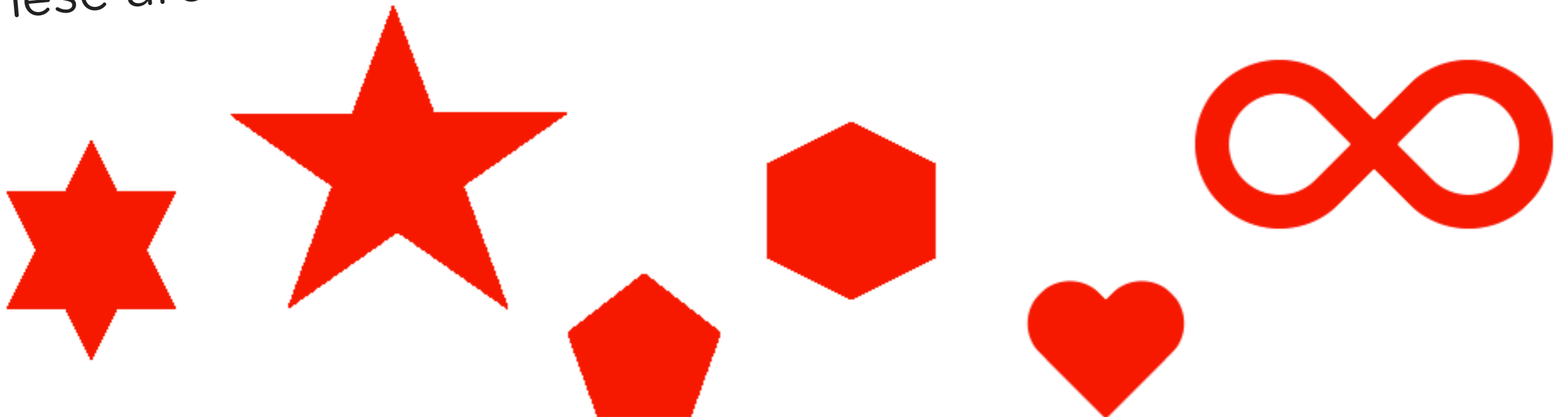
- **Multiple Backgrounds**
 - **Multiple Borders**
 - **Background Opacity**
 - **Clear Floats**
- **Responsive Data Tables**

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

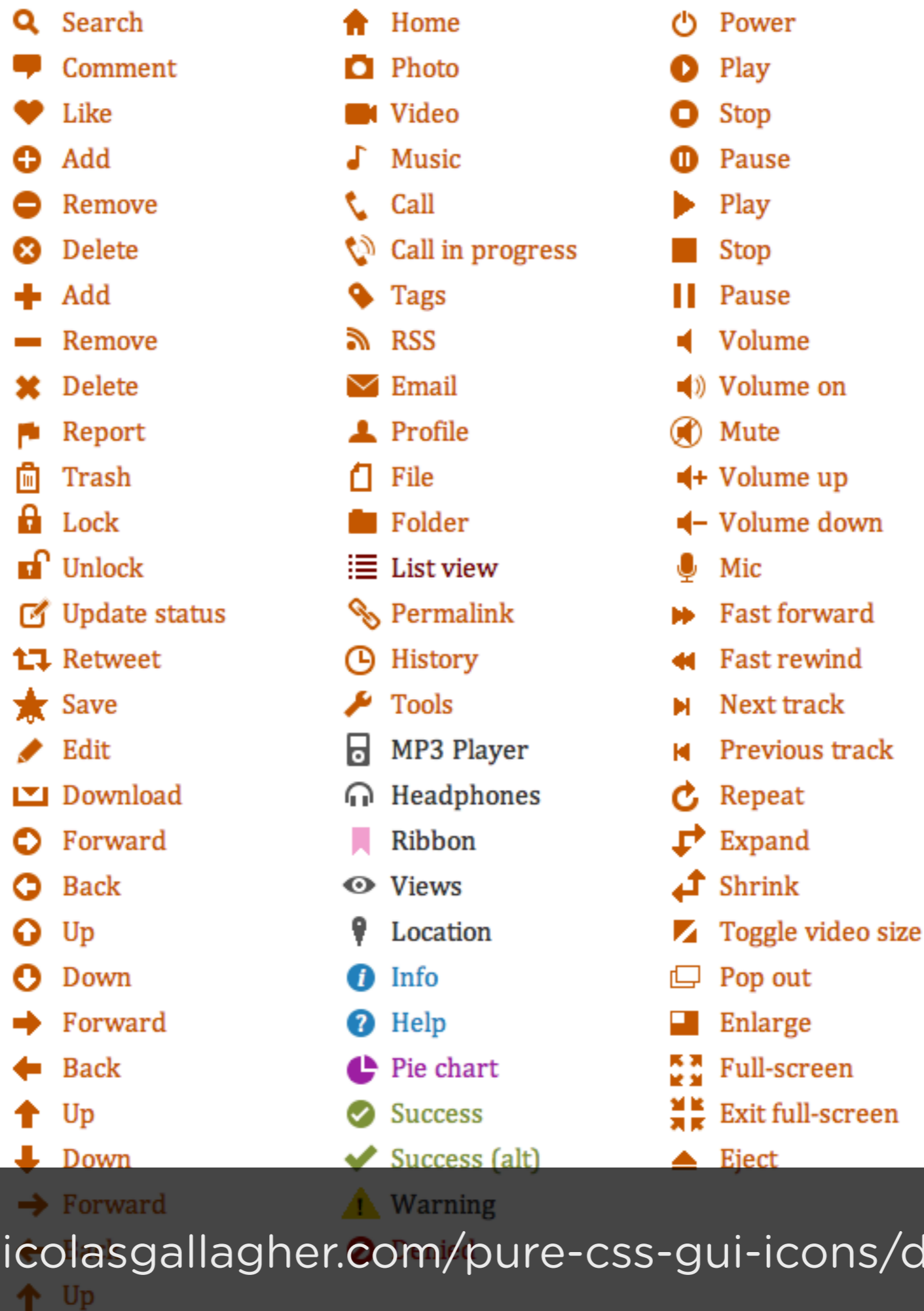
All of the below use only a single HTML element. Any kind of CSS goes, as long as it's supported in at least one browser.

Square



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

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



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://nicolas.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/fowa-better-css