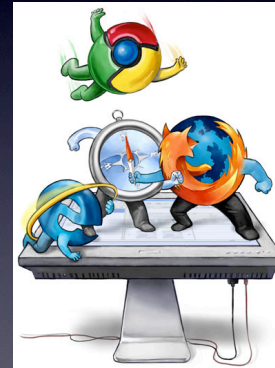


Browserkriget 2010

Daniel Glazman

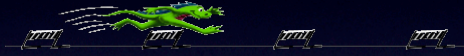
CEO Disruptive Innovations
W3C CSS Working Group, Co-chairman



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2 june 2010

Remember

- ...the lizard horizontal bars?



- ...when Netscape's default font size was not Internet Explorer's?
- ...the first time you saw a URL on television?
- ...how sexy your web site looks on a Mac and how ugly it is on Windows?
- ...<blink>?

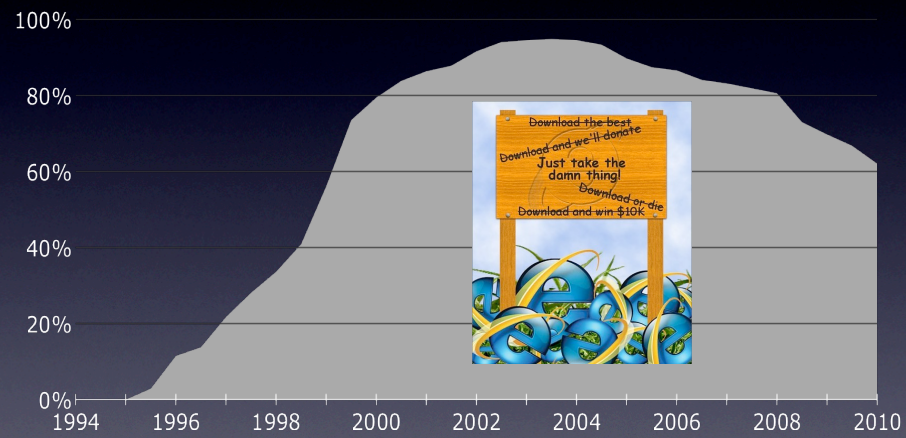
Context

- HTML+, november 1993
- HTML 4.0, december 1997
- CSS 1, december 1996
- CSS 2, may 1998
- Tag Soup and CSS hackz...
- JScript is not JavaScript

- World Wide Web Consortium
- Founded **01-oct-1994**
- Standardization and Blood
- Actors and Followers

<http://w3.org>

From 1995 to 2010



1995

- code fast, release even faster
- first mover's advantage
- reverse-engineer challengers' implementations
- heterogeneity and lack of interoperability as a result
- W3C tries to attract browser vendors

2003

- code slowly, release slowly
- mandatory standardization
- Netscape is dead, Internet Explorer hibernates
- W3C in semantic hell despite all the warning signs

2010

- code fast, release fast too
- push to standard bodies first or same time
- standards conformance a marketing factor
- interoperability a marketing factor
- accessibility a marketing factor
- W3C tries to make browser vendors forget ten years of irrelevance... and that's not easy.

Ten long years...

- XHTML 2 has sucked all forces during ten long years; result? *ingenting alls*.

Do you know what happens if you chop off the <head> of a duck? Its <body> keeps moving for a while... **But it's still a dead duck.**

- "*Reinventing HTML*" Tim Berners-Lee, 27-oct-2006
- In the meantime, the WHATWG started carrying the torch...
- Is the HTML WG only a follower?

HTML 5

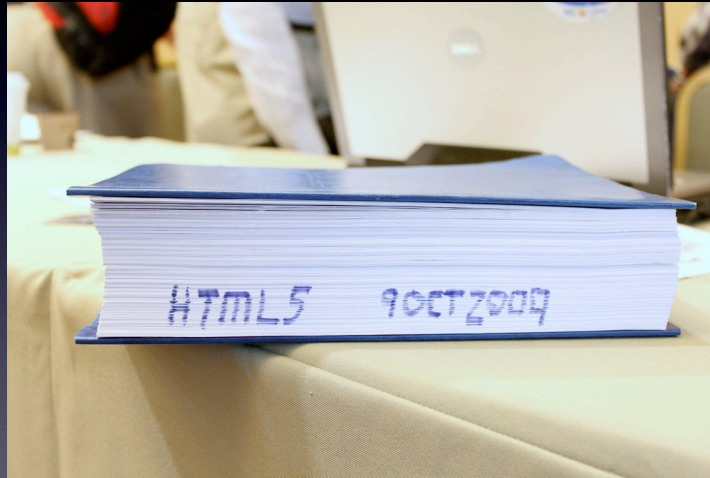


Photo S. Galneau - All rights reserved - Used with permission

HTML 5

- new cool kid on the block
- new elements, canvas, DOM, parser, transactions, workers, sockets, forms, contenteditable and much more
- **the most unreadable specification I have read in 20 years of standardization...**
- will require tens of thousands of interoperability tests and probably even more
- who said 2022 ?

But...

- but the Web is not only about the markup language any more
- it's also about design, interactivity, remote resources, typography, widgets, SPEED, privacy, security and more

JavaScript

- back in 2005, JavaScript was too slow for some of the features in Nvu so c++ was the only choice
- in 2010, JavaScript's so fast you can't see the very same feature is now coded in JS in BlueGriffon...
- JavaScript is the programming language on the Web and is here to stay; E4X an epic failure.
- I think all attempts to push other languages to the Web create fragmentation

CSS

- Selectors accepted as a REC
- CSS 2.1 and CSS Namespaces currently on the same track
- Backgrounds and Borders
- Media Queries
- Transforms, Transitions and Animations
- Multi-Column
- Gradients
- Better CSS Object Model
- and more...

Look Ma', I can draw

- Canvas starts really shaking the Web
- It's going to shake the game industry too
- SVG was expected to take off in 1999 and it's happening now
- We don't want to kill Flash, it will be an unexpected side-effect :-)

Starts looking even better...

- Device APIs
- Accelerometer
- Webcam
- File API
- Hardware graphics acceleration
- WebM
- etc...

Future ?

- The next step is application UI
- HTML5/JS/CSS vs. Cocoa ?
- Let's look back: namespaces, CSS OM, optimizations, RDF, ...
- How many PEDs (*Proofs of Existence of the Devil*) ?

The browser landscape

	modern	standards conformance	cross platform	speed
Firefox	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opera	✓	✓	✓	✓
WebKit	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chrome	✓	✓	✓	✓
IE6	✗	✗	✗	✗
IE7	✗	✗	✗	✗
IE8	✓	✗	✗	✗
IE9	✓	✓	✗	✓

See the problem here ?

Toolkits/Frameworks

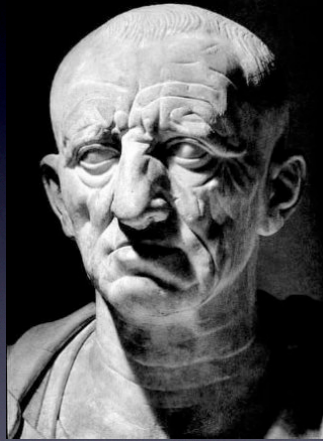
Provide web authors with abstraction layers that implement high-level features in a cross-browser flavor, hiding as best as they can browsers' holes and lack of interoperability

Yes, but...

jQuery	FF2+	O9+	S3+	C	IE6+
Processing	FF	O	S	C	
Rafael	FF3+	O9.5+	S3+		IE6+
Dojo	FF1.5+	O9.6+	S3.1+	C	IE6+
ExtJS	FF1.5+	O9+	S3+	C3+	IE6+
Prototype	FF1.5+	O9.25+	S2.0.4+	C1+	IE6+
Mootools	FF2+	O9+	S2+	C4+	IE6+

IE6 was released in august 2001 !!!

IE 6/7 delenda est



Cato

Let it die

- Toolkit's success is initially based on support for legacy browsers including IE6/7
- **BUT** I urge toolkit authors to take their responsibility and not only stop supporting IE6/7 but clearly **remove support for IE6/7 in future versions**
- IE6/IE7 support by toolkits is part of IE6/7's Intensive Care Unit and Life Support...

UNPLUG IT!

Toolkits' future

- I still need to understand it...
- DOM and CSS integrate more and more high-level machinery and browsers implement it interoperably
- what used to absolutely require a toolkit will be builtin and declarative (CSS Transitions for instance)

Fun times...

- Opera, a corporation with closed-source set of products, invests in open-source free video codecs because of the license fees for another closed-source technology
- Apple, a corporation drastically closing its hardware and software platforms, relies on an open-source rendering engine and is increasingly active on the Standards front
- Mozilla was considered in clear and immediate danger in July 2003 ; Google, representing 80% of Mozilla's income now a competitor
- Microsoft is back in the (infinite *pun intended*) loop, and drives fast

Different wars, future wars

- IE<9 and HTML5
- Infamous Apple's `<meta name="viewport"/>`
- Codecs
- Super-powerful Web apps with device APIs and hardware accelerated canvas could become a threat to the App Store's model?
- And of course, patents...

Dangers

- Lots of new code, new features, new languages/ APIs
- But rather limited and not expandable workforce
- Burn-out's not far away
- Standardization just cannot follow ; standards' release will happen ten years after browsers are shipped. Who said "Process"?
- Toolkits keep legacy browsers on Life Support

Tack :-)

<http://disruptive-innovations.com/zoo/slides/20100602-SWDC2010/BrowserKriget.pdf>

- Questions ?