

From Comfort Zone to Cutting Edge

Embracing Lean Principles in Front-End Projects

Goals for this talk

How to:

- Keep projects lean
- Stay up to date with the technology
- Stay sane doing that

How to stay up to date

The standard approach

- Subscribe to newsletters
- Read blog posts
- Follow Addy on Twitter / X
- Read books
- Go to meetups and conferences
- Buy courses
- Read manuals

It can get overwhelming

There has to be another way

The Framework

Start with *your* Project

Can I build it with
Existing Tools?

Can I build it with Existing Tools?

Let's unpack this

- Keeps the project lean
- You stand on the shoulders of giants
- Shows respect to the team and the project
- Shows seniority because you save time for other more important things
- Pushes you to study the project deeply
- A lot of existing tools push boundaries
- Contributing to open-source pushes boundaries

- **Yes!** 🎉

- **No.** 😞

- **Maybe.** 🤔

Can I build it with just
HTML and CSS

Can I build it with HTML/CSS

Let's unpack this

- Accordion —> `<details>` and `<summary>`
- JS fix for viewport units —> native `dvh` and other units

ViewPort Units Example

<https://tinyurl.com/38ksa9n8>

Can I build it with HTML, CSS, and
just a touch of JavaScript

How much is “a touch”?

Let's unpack this

- A simple class or DOM manipulation
- If the logic fits in a few functions
- When the entire script fits on one screen (no cheating, no imports at the top)
- If it's super easy to follow

Just a touch of JavaScript

Let's unpack this

- No libraries yet
- Explore what's possible with HTML —> Cutting edge
- Explore what's possible with CSS —> Cutting edge
- Explore the native browser APIs —> Cutting edge
- Pushes you to think outside the box
- Fewer dependencies
- Leaner project

Carousel Example:

<https://tinyurl.com/2s73rc63>

- **Yes!** 🎉

- **No.** 😞

- **Maybe.** 🤔

Can I Use a Library

Can I Use a Library

Good signs

- Recent Activity
- Issues and Pull Requests
- Frequent Releases
- Documentation
- Community Engagement
- Maintainer Responsiveness
- Licensing
- Dependencies
- Support Channels

- **Yes!** 🎉

- **No.** 😞

- **Maybe.** 🤔

If it's still a *“No”*

Like... *Seriously*...
talk to the client

Like... *Seriously*...
talk to the client again

But *How*?

How to talk to the client

Let's unpack this

- Build a connection first
- Listen
- Deeply understand the end goal
- Present alternative solutions
- Don't drown them in technicalities
- Present options through business value
- Steer to a better outcome, not from a negative one
- Use positive language

The Framework

<https://tinyurl.com/4v5tkawt>