

# User Interface Development with jQuery

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# Topics We'll Cover

- What is jQuery?
- JavaScript 101: A refresher course
- The jQuery Way
- Finding things
- Attributes, classes, and more
- Events
- Accessibility and jQuery
- DOM manipulation
- AJAX
- Portal friendliness, application frameworks, and Fluid Infusion



Who are we?

Who are you?



# Check out the Sample Code

<http://source.fluidproject.org/svn/scratchpad/jquery-workshop/trunk/>



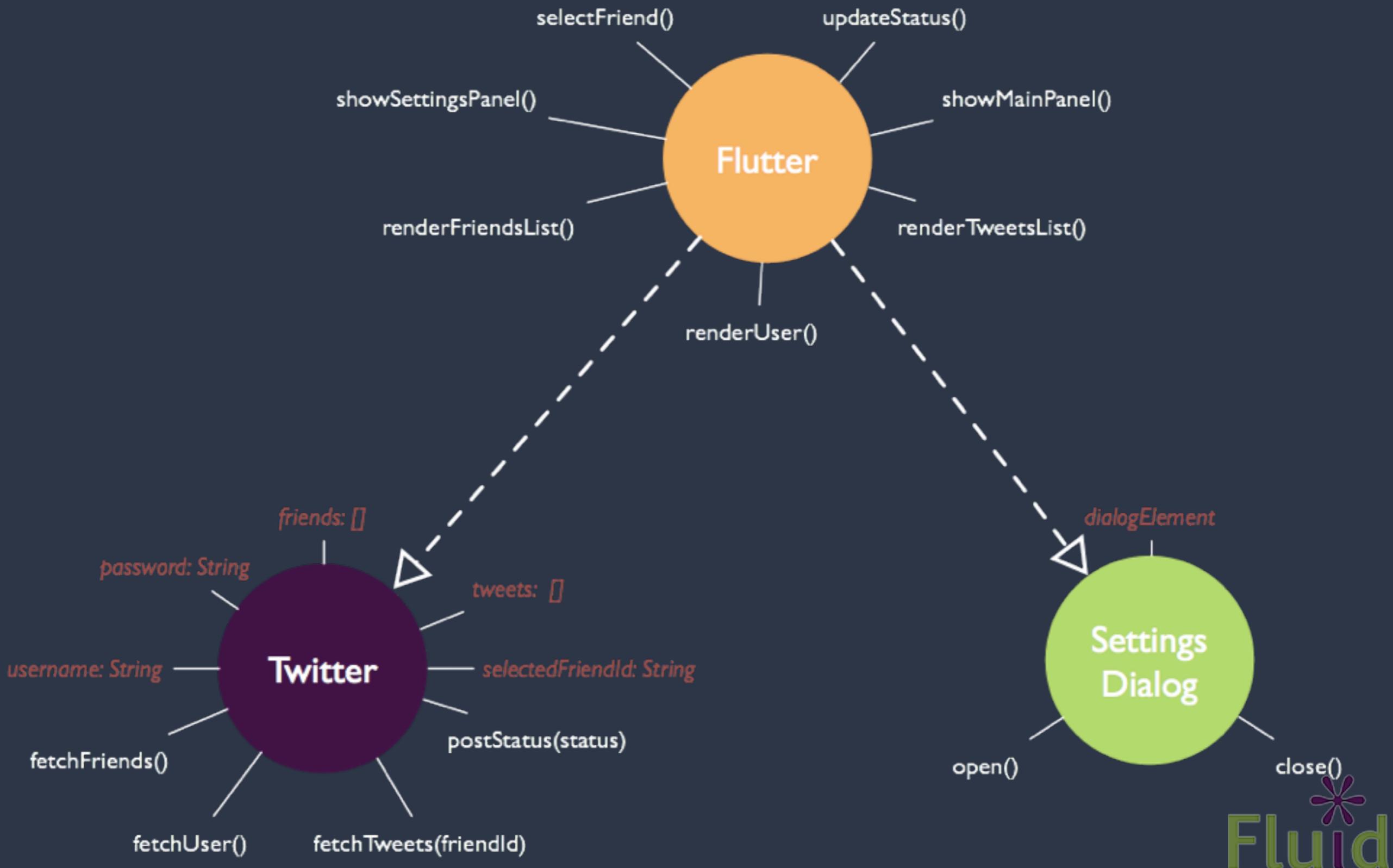
# Example Code: Flutter

The screenshot shows a web-based application titled "Flutter". At the top, there's a "My status:" input field with a placeholder "What's happening?". Below it, a list of tweets is displayed:

- filamentgroup** @platonica Try the draggable demos on the jQuery UI site: <http://www.jqueryui.com/demos/draggable/>
- Darcie Clark** @arnorhs A list of jQuery UI team member twitter accounts, discussion groups and articles are here: <http://www.jqueryui.com/support>
- jQuery** @MikevHoenselaar you'll need to use the appendTo, posX, posY options. It does not yet have auto-positioning. Comment if you have questions
- jQuery** @chiata @pardocorp @theycallmebruce @itsgg @SteveBlack @ketzusaka @Nosredna: Glad you like ThemeRoller!! :)
- Richard D. Worth** Some nice entries are coming in for our contest - hoping to see more before midnight...
- Jess Mitchell** 12 hours left to submit an entry to our jQuery UI CSS Framework contest and try to win a pass to SXSW. Plenty of time! <http://bitly.com/kaa2t>
- Charles Finley** Still 2 days left to win a pass to SXSW Interactive for the coolest use of the jQuery UI CSS Framework. <http://bitly.com/kaa2t>
- John Resig** Still 3 days left to win a pass to SXSW in our jQuery UI CSS contest. You can build almost anything in 3 days! :-). <http://bitly.com/kaa2t>
- pierrefar** did you have any luck getting the builder to work? We can't reproduce the problem. Let us know
- There's still time to enter our jQuery UI contest to win a free pass to SXSW Interactive! <http://bitly.com/kaa2t>

At the bottom, there are "Friends" and "Settings" buttons.

# Flutter Architecture



# Things You'll Need

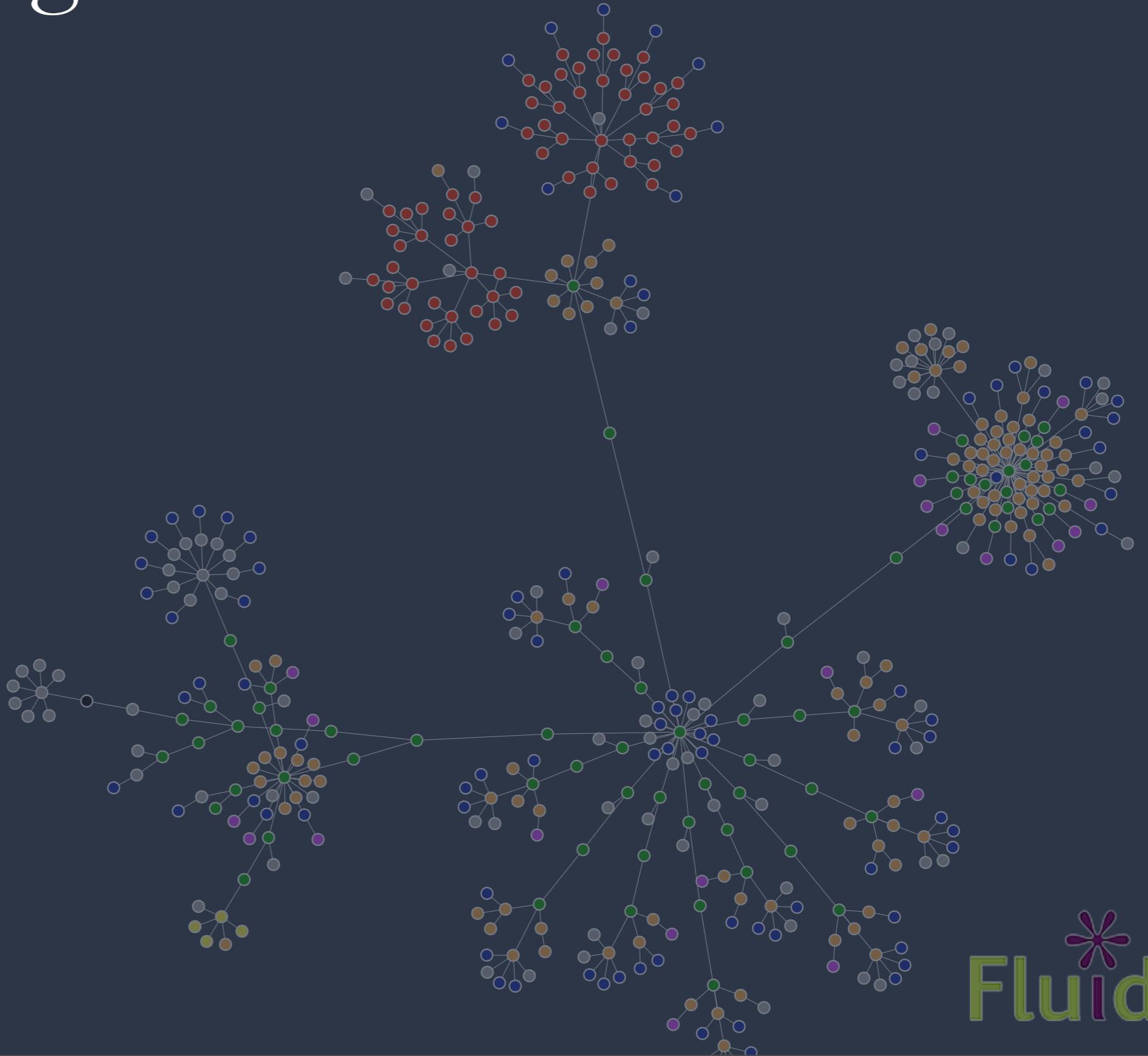
- Your favourite editor
  - Aptana or Eclipse?
- A sane browser with a good debugger
  - Firefox + Firebug
- A Servlet container
  - Tomcat or Jetty, if you want to try with live tweets



# What is jQuery?



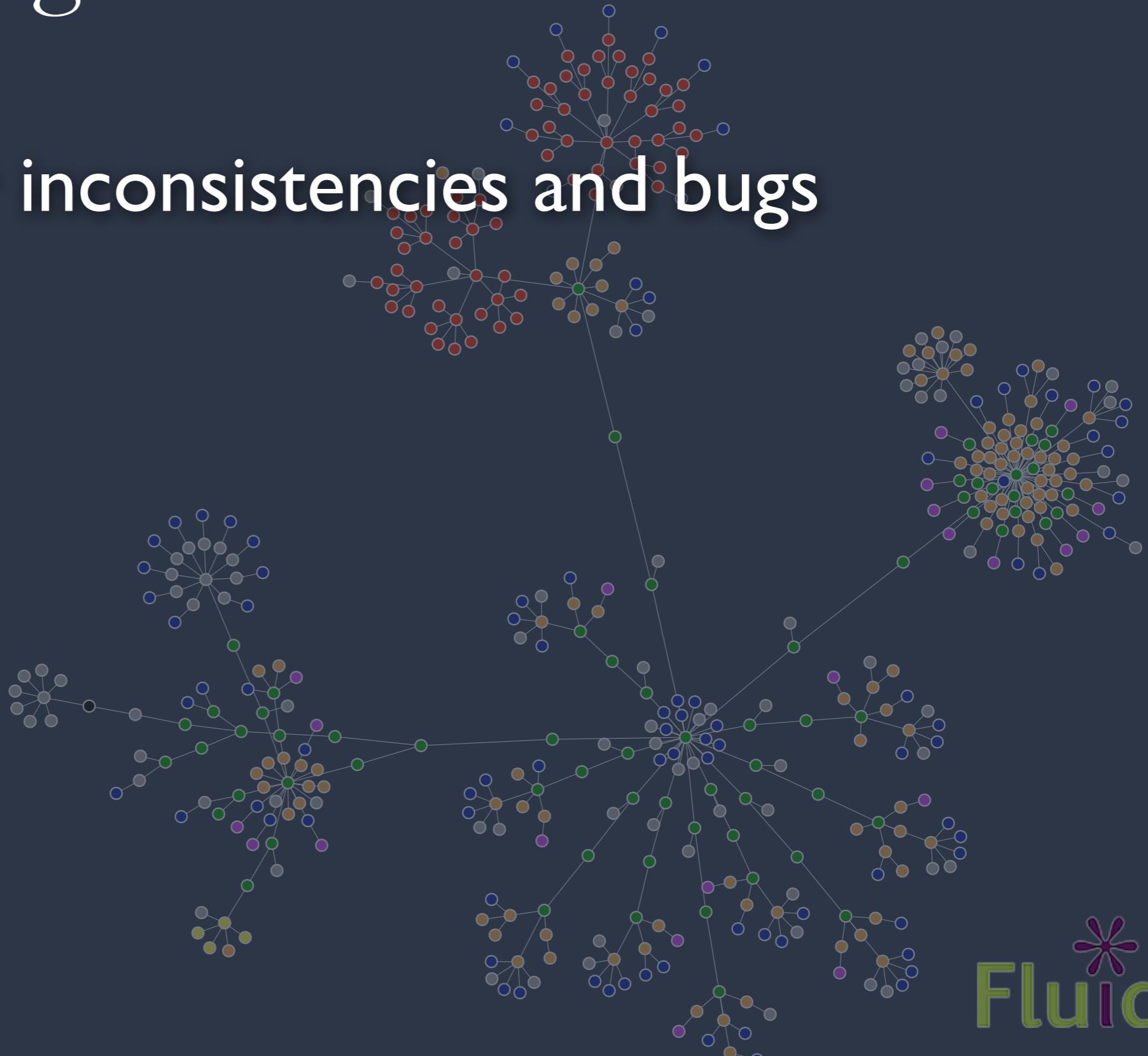
# Challenges of the Client-Side



Fluid

# Challenges of the Client-Side

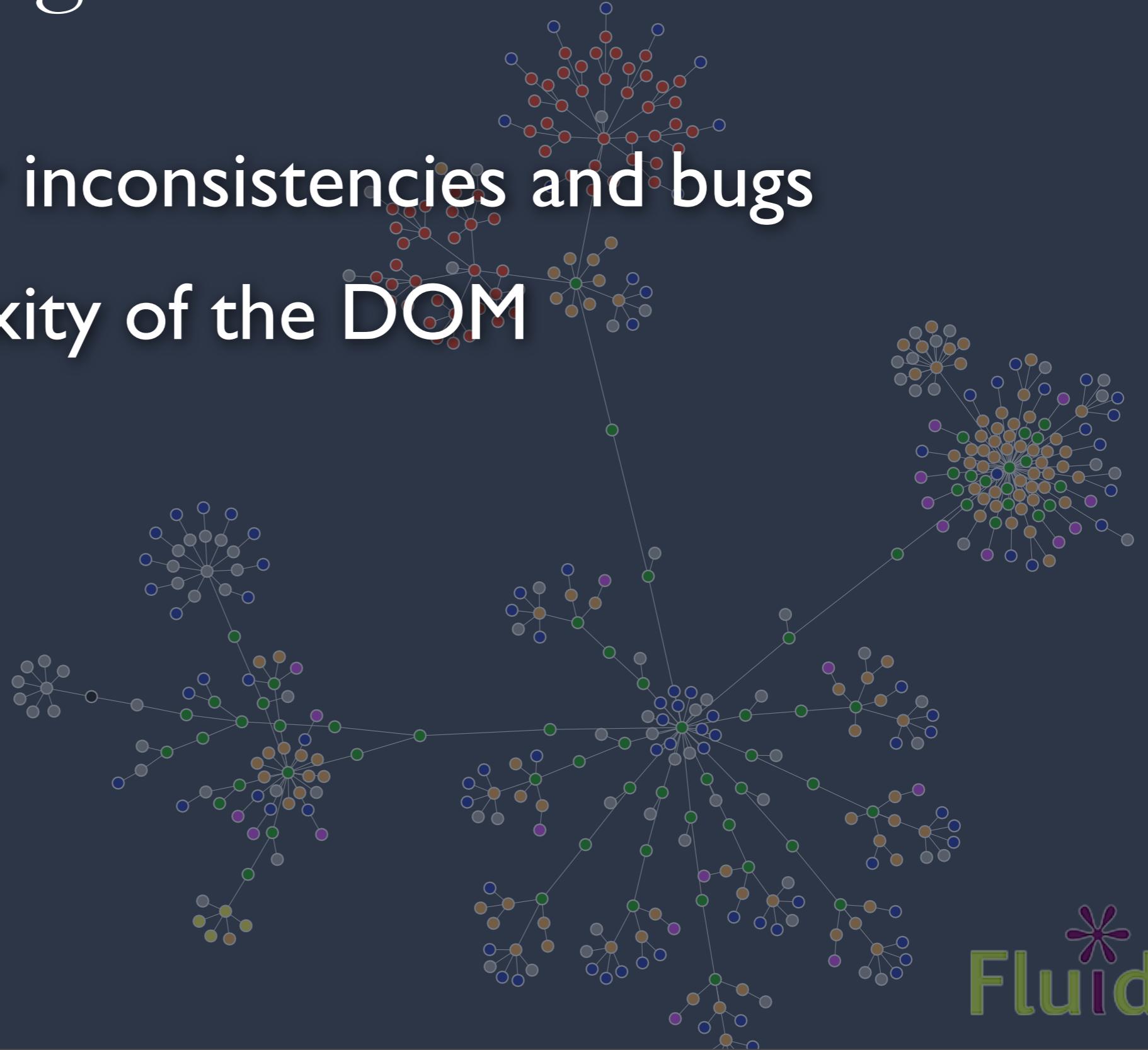
- Browser inconsistencies and bugs



Fluid

# Challenges of the Client-Side

- Browser inconsistencies and bugs
- Complexity of the DOM



Fluid

# Challenges of the Client-Side

- Browser inconsistencies and bugs
- Complexity of the DOM
- Handling events and asynchrony

# Challenges of the Client-Side

- Browser inconsistencies and bugs
- Complexity of the DOM
- Handling events and asynchrony
- Communicating with the server

# Toolkits can help!

- **Browser Abstraction**
- **Complexity of the DOM**
- **Handling events and asynchrony**
- **Communicating with the server**

Fluid

# Toolkits can help!

- Browser abstraction
- A simple, unified API for the DOM
- Handling events and asynchrony
- Communicating with the server

Fluid

# Toolkits can help!

- Browser abstraction
- A simple, unified API for the DOM
- Easy, functional events system
- Communicating with the server

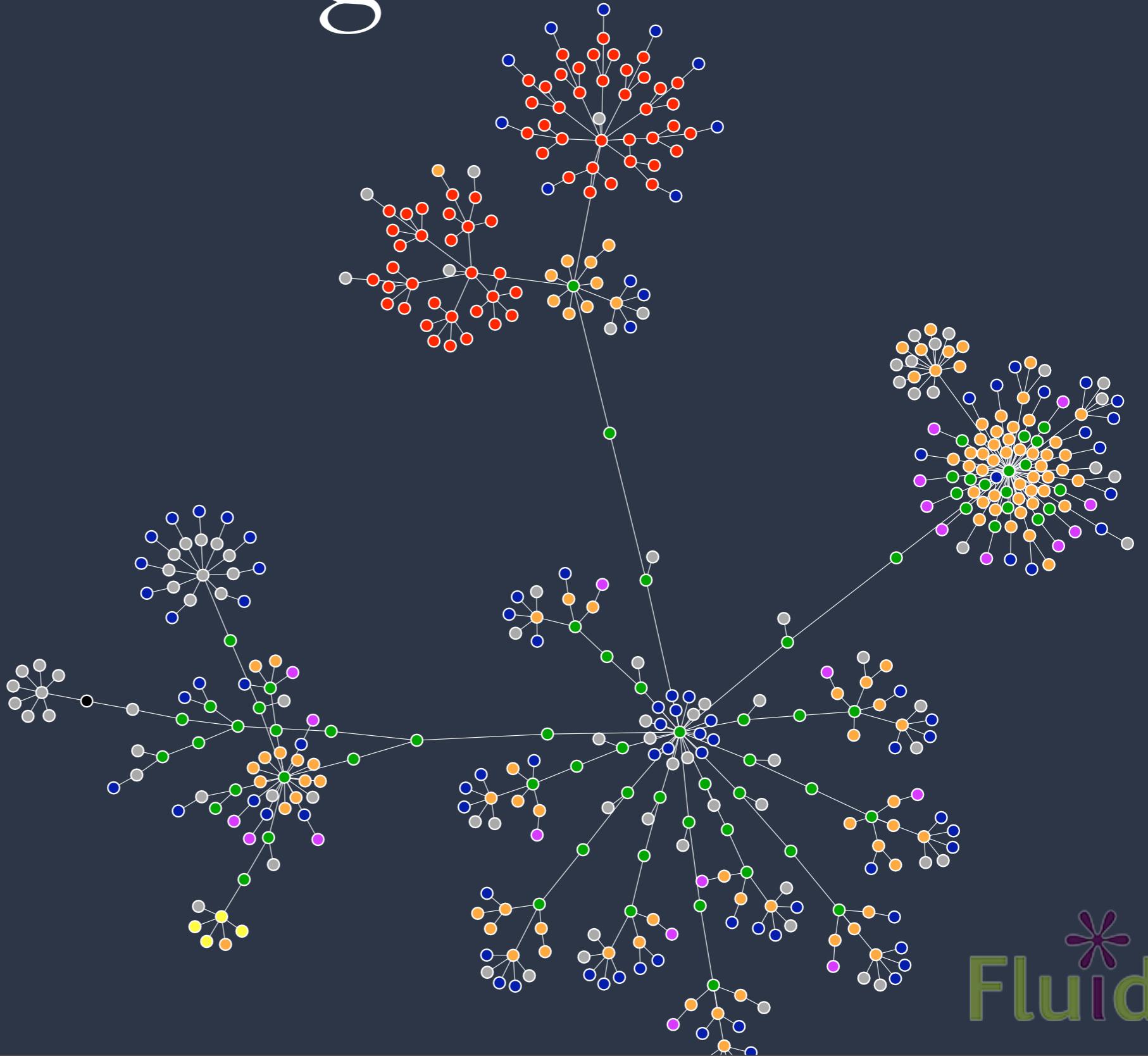
Fluid

# Toolkits can help!

- Browser abstraction
- A simple, unified API for the DOM
- Easy, functional events system
- Built-in AJAX, XML, and JSON support

Fluid

# Find something...



Fluid

# Find something...

and do something  
with it



Fluid

# doing something without a toolkit

```
function stripeListElements() {  
    // get the items from the list  
    var myItems = document.getElementsByTagName("li");  
    // skip line 0 as it's the header row  
    for(var i = 0; i < myItems.length; i++) {  
        if ((i % 2) === 0) {  
            myItems[i].className = "even";  
        }  
    }  
}
```



# doing something with jQuery

```
jQuery("li");
```



# doing something with jQuery

```
jQuery("li:even");
```



# doing something with jQuery

```
jQuery("li:even").addClass("striped");
```



# Types of JavaScript Tools

- Foundational toolkits
- Widget libraries
- Application frameworks

... compare and contrast

# Foundational toolkits

- Totally presentation focused
- DOM manipulation
- Event binding
- Ajax

*jQuery  
Prototype  
Dojo core*



# Widget Libraries

- Reusable user interface widgets
  - Drag & Drop
  - Tabs
  - Sliders
  - Accordions

*jQuery UI  
Ext  
Scriptaculous*



# Application frameworks

- Model notifications “something changed here”
- Views to help keep your presentational code clean
- Data binding to sync the display with your model

*SproutCore*

*Dojo/Dijit/  
Dojox*

*Cappuccino*



# jQuery in a Nutshell

- Everything you need for:
  - Finding things
  - Styling things
  - Manipulating things
  - Attaching events
  - Making AJAX Requests
- Pretty low-level: you'll need more



# The jQuery Way



# jQuery Philosophy

- Unobtrusive
  - Separation of presentation, structure, logic
- Lightweight
  - Browser normalization, DOM, AJAX. That's it
- Functional, not object oriented



# JavaScript 101 (quickly)



# JavaScript is Different

- Everything is an object
- Has an extremely loose type system
- No classes
- Functions are first class
- Some annoying bugs



# Defining Variables

```
var mango = "yum";  
mango = 12345;  
mango = false;
```





# Defining Variables

- If you omit **var**, it will be defined as a **global variable**.
- This is **extremely dangerous**; JavaScript won't warn you!

```
rottenTomato = "gross!"; // This is global
```

# Truthy and Falsey

- JavaScript automatically coerces types

```
if (cat) {  
    cat.meow();  
}
```

- Unlike static language: “shades” of true and false
- Use with care



# Falsey Values

false

null

undefined

""

0 (zero)

NaN

- Everything else is truthy. Careful...

-1, "false", "0" are all true





# Equivalent vs. Equal

Comparisons are coercive:

```
1 == "1" // true
```

```
0 == false // true
```

Non-coercive comparison:

```
0 === false // false
```

```
1 !== "1" // true
```

```
1 === Number("1") // true
```

# Objects Are Loose Containers

- Objects are just maps
- Keys can be any string, values can be anything
- Two different ways to access members:

```
basketOfFruit.kiwis; // dot notation
```

```
basketOfFruit["figs"]; // subscript notation
```

- You can add new members to any object at any time



# No Classes

- JavaScript does not have a class system
- Methods are just properties in a container:
  - pass them around
  - modify them
  - delete them
- Inheritance is prototypal, but this is broken



{}{}



# Objects Are Modifiable

```
var basketOfFruit = {  
  pears: "bartlett",  
  oranges: "mandarin"  
};  
  
// New property  
basketOfFruit.apples = "macintosh";  
  
// New method  
basketOfFruit.eat = function () {  
  return "tasty";  
};
```



# First Class Functions

1. Functions are real objects.
2. Functions are data: assign, pass, return them
3. Functions remember their scope and carry state

# A Simple Closure

```
var addNumber = function (a) {  
    // This function will remember the value of a  
    return function (b) {  
        return a + b;  
    };  
};  
  
var addOne = addNumber(1); // result is an "add 1" Function  
addOne(5); // Result is 6  
addOne(41); // Result is 42
```



# A Realistic Example

```
var tweetBox = $("#statusTextField");

function createTweetHandler () {
    var user = {
        id: "12345",
        lastTweet: null
    };

    return function (evt) {
        user.lastTweet = tweetBox.val();
    }
}

tweetBox.bind(createTweetHandler());
```



# The Good Parts

## JSLint: a static analyzer for JavaScript

[Warning: JSLink will hurt your feelings.](#)

JSLink clear

**Options**

<input type="checkbox"/> Stop on first error <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strict white space <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assume a browser <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assume console, alert, ... <input type="checkbox"/> Assume a <a href="#">Yahoo Widget</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Assume a <a href="#">Windows Sidebar Gadget</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Assume <a href="#">Rhino</a> <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Subset <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">ADsafe</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tolerate debugger statements <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerate eval <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerate sloppy line breaking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tolerate <a href="#">unfiltered</a> for in <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerate inefficient subscripting <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerate CSS workarounds <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerate HTML case <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerate HTML event handlers <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerate HTML fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allow one var statement per function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disallow undefined variables <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disallow dangling _ in identifiers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disallow == and != <input type="checkbox"/> Disallow ++ and -- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disallow bitwise operators <input type="checkbox"/> Disallow insecure . and [ ^... ] in /RegExp/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require "use strict"; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require Initial Caps for constructors <input type="checkbox"/> Require parens around immediate invocations
--	--	--

Strict white space indentation  
 Maximum line length  
 Maximum number of errors  
Predefined ( , separated)

/\*jslint white: true, browser: true, devel: true, forin: true, onevar: true, undef: true, nomen: true, eqeqeq: true, bitwise: true, strict: true, newcap: true \*/



# Getting Started with jQuery



# A shape for your code

```
// Your namespace is the only global variable.  
var namespace = namespace || {};  
  
// A private space, with a helpful alias to jQuery  
(function ($) {  
  
    // To make something available, add it to your namespace.  
    namespace.myFunction = function () {  
  
    };  
  
})(jQuery);
```



# jQuery === \$

Constructor:

```
$(selectorString | Element | Array | jQuery);
```

Returns:

A jQuery instance.



# Examples

```
// Selector  
var allListItems = $("li");
```

```
// DOM Element  
var theWholeDocument = $(document);
```

# What's a jQuery?

- A wrapper for one or many elements
- A real object with useful methods
- A better API than the raw DOM
- Context-oriented and chainable:

```
$(“li”).addClass(“selected”).attr(“tabindex”, “-1”).text(“Hello!”);
```



# Basic jQuery Methods

```
var allListItems = $("li");

// Get the id attribute
allListItems.attr("id");

// Add a CSS class name.
allListItems.addClass("stripey");

// Get all the children
allListItems.children();

// Find items scoped within another jQuery
$("a", allListItems);
```



# A Unified API for One or Many

- Most DOM code requires a lot of looping:

```
var myItems = document.getElementsByTagName("li");
for (var i = 0; i < myItems.length; i++) {
    myItems[i].className = "foo";
}
```

- jQuery treats sets the same as single elements:

```
 $("li").addClass("foo");
```

- Bottom line: no iteration means way less code (and it's portable)



# One or many?

```
// Returns the id attribute of the first element.  
$("li").attr("id");  
  
// Sets the tabindex attribute of all elements.  
$("li").attr("tabindex", "-1");  
<li tabindex="-1">foo</li>  
  
// Adds the class name to all elements.  
$("li").addClass("highlighted");  
  
// Returns true if at least one has this class  
$("li").hasClass("highlighted");
```



# Accessing Members

```
// Get the element at a specific position, as a jQuery
$("li").eq(0);

// Get the element at a specific position,
// as a pure DOM element
$("li")[0];

// Loop through each element in a jQuery
$("li").each(function (index, item) {
    $(item).addClass("highlighted");
});
```



# Selectors

# What's a Selector?

- Selectors are specified by a string
- A notation for identifying elements in the DOM
- The same thing you use when you're writing CSS



# Types of Selectors

- Element selectors

“div”

“span”

“ul”

“li”

“body”

- id selectors

“#flutter-friends”

“#friends-error-dialog”

- Class name selectors

“.invisible”

“.flutter-status-panel”



# More Selectors

- Descendent selectors:

<i>ancestor</i>	<i>descendent</i>
".flutter-status-panel"	"textarea"
".flutter-status-panel"	".active"

- Child selectors:

<i>ancestor</i>	<i>child</i>	<i>child</i>
"#friends"	"li"	"img"

- Pseudo selectors:

":not(#flutter-friends-template)"			

# All the details...

<http://api.jquery.com/category/selectors>



# Doing Stuff



# Manipulating Attributes

```
var friends = $("#friends li");
```

```
// Get the id attribute  
friends.attr("id");
```

```
// Set the id attribute  
aFriend.attr("id", "123456789");
```

```
// attr() also provides normalization  
friends.attr("tabindex", -1);
```



# Manipulating Classes

```
var friends = $("#friends li");
```

```
// Add a class name  
friends.addClass("flutter-hidden");
```

```
// Remove a class name  
friends.removeClass("flutter-hidden");
```

```
// Toggle a class name on or off  
friends.toggleClass("flutter-hidden");
```



# Directly Manipulating Styles

```
var friends = $("#friends li");

// Get the element's computed border-color style
friends.css("border-color");

// Set the element's style
friends.css("border-color", "red");
friends.css("border", "5px");

// Get and set height and width
settingsPanel.height();
settingsPanel.width(400);
```



# Is the document ready?

- HTML gets parsed by the browser linearly
- Head first, then body, etc.
- So all your <head> scripts will execute immediately

```
<head>
  <script>
    console.log("Number of <li>s on the page: " +
      $("li").length);
  </script>
</head>
```

- How do you know when the page is loaded?



# Script Blocks

```
<body>

<ul>
  <li>Fish</li>
  <li>Penguins</li>
  <li>Kings</li>
</ul>

<script type="text/javascript">
  console.log("Number of <li>s on the page: " +
    $("li").length);
</script>

</body>
```



# `$(document).ready(fn)`

```
$(document).ready(function () {  
    // This is the earliest point at which  
    // the whole document is ready.  
    console.log("Number of <li>s on the page: " +  
        $("li").length);  
});
```



# Exercise 1

# Finding Things

- Find the following things:
  - The **friends** list
  - All list items in every list on the page
  - The list items inside the friends list
  - Everything with the class fl-centered
  - The first form element on the page
  - The last item in the friends list
  - The label for the username text field
- Give each thing a different background colour (there is a style sheet you can use if you're not hot on CSS)

# Exercise 1 Illustrated

**Flutter**

Colin Clark

My status:

Your status was successfully updated!

- Darcie Clark
- John Resig
- Jess Mitchell
- Filament Group
- Richard D. Worth
- [User]

- Microsoft Research just published a paper on implementing a browser like an Operating System: <http://bit.ly/hXQO1>
- I'm still watching Heroes even though I've lost all reason to care. Really happy they played Talking Heads in the last episode.
- Cinematic Titanic was awesome - they riffed 'Dynamite Brothers' (<http://bit.ly/4wl8Q>) and it was awfully perfect.
- I made some delicious french toast and linguica for breakfast. Yay for Saturdays!
- Status goes here

**Your Twitter Settings**

- Twitter user name:
- Password:

**Save & Continue**

- [Friends](#)
- [Settings](#)

We couldn't get your friends list from Twitter. If this is your first time using Flutter, choose "Settings" to set up your username and password.

# Events



# Types of Browser Events

- **Mouse**
  - `click()` when the mouse button is clicked
  - `mouseover()` when the cursor is over an element
- **Keyboard events:**
  - `keydown()` as soon as a key is pressed down
  - `keyup()` when the key is released
  - `keypress()` can be buggy and inconsistent
  - `focus()` when an element is clicked or focused with the keyboard
  - `blur()` when focus leaves the event

# jQuery and Events

- Events vary wildly across browsers
- Netscape vs. IE vs. W3C: they're all different
- jQuery normalizes all the standard browser events
- Also lets you define your own custom events



# Event Bubbling

- Browser detects an event
- Starts at the immediate target element
- If a handler is not found, the parent is then checked
- And onwards up the tree
- If a handler is present, it is invoked
- Handler can stop bubbling; otherwise, the event propagates up the tree as above



# Binding Events

```
// The generic way
$("li").bind("click", function (event) {
    alert("You clicked me!");
});
```

```
// Event binding shortcut
$("li").click(function (event) {
    alert("You clicked me!");
});
```

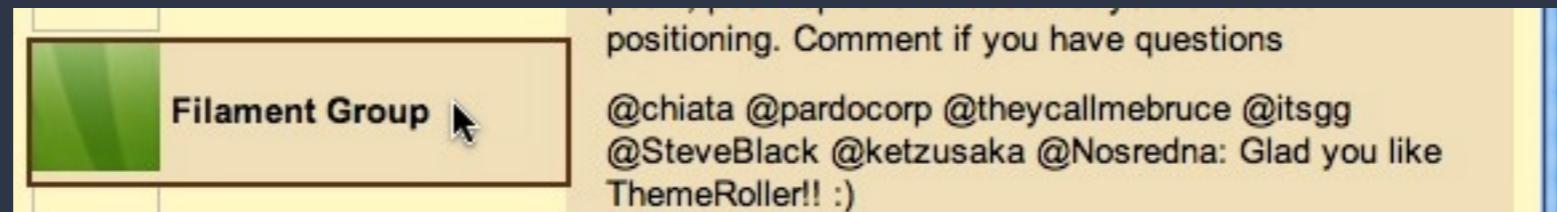


# Event Handlers

- The event object provides more information about the event that occurred
- `this` points to the element on which the event listener was bound. Be careful!
- Event handlers always deal with pure elements, not jQuery instances (`this` and `event.target`)



# Events: this VS. target



```
var friends = $("#friends");
friends.click(function (event) {
    // this === $("#friends");
    // evt.target === $("#friends li")[3]
});
```

# Default Actions

- When links are clicked, a new page loads
- When an arrow key is pressed, the browser scrolls
- When Enter is pressed in a form, it submits
- You can prevent the browser's default action:

```
$(“a”).bind(“click”, function (event) {  
    event.preventDefault();  
});
```



# Stopping Propagation

- By default, events will propagate up the tree after your handler runs
- Stopping propagation:

```
$("a").click(function (event) {  
    event.stopPropagation();  
});
```

- To swallow propagation and the default action:

```
$("a").click(function (event) {  
    return false;  
});
```



# The Event Object

```
{  
  altKey: boolean,  
  ctrlKey: boolean,  
  metaKey: boolean,  
  shiftKey: boolean, // Were these modifier keys depressed?  
  keyCode: Number, // The numeric keycode for key events  
  which: Number, // Keycode or mouse button code  
  pageX: Number, // Horizontal coordinate relative to page  
  pageY: Number, // Vertical coordinate relative to page  
  relatedTarget: Element, // Element left or entered  
  screenX: Number, // Horizontal coordinate relative to screen  
  screenY: Number, // Vertical coordinate relative to screen  
  target: Element, // The element for which the event was triggered  
  type: String // The type of event that occurred (eg. "click")  
}
```



# Event Delegation

- Often you've got a lot of elements on page (e.g. Twitter friends)
- Each shares the same event behaviour
- In this case, bind your event to their container:

```
<ul id="friends">
  <li id="19539154">          // This will be slow, because it binds an
    <img />                  // event on each item in the list.
    Darcie Clark
  </li>
  <li id="19539154">          // Bind the event to the container, and let
    <img />                  // it bubble up. Way faster.
    John Resig
  </li>
  <li id="19539154">
    <img />
    Justin Obara
  </li>
</ul>
$( "#friends li" ).click(function (event) {
  showTweetsForFriend(this);
});

var friends = $( "#friends" );
friends.delegate("li", "click", function (evt) {
  showTweetsForFriend(this);
});
```



# Removing Events

```
// Remove all event listeners.  
$("li").unbind();  
  
// Remove all click event listeners.  
$("li").unbind("click");  
  
// Remove a specific listener.  
var myListener = function (event) {...};  
$("li").bind(myListener);  
$("li").unbind(myListener);  
  
// Remove a delegate-based event.  
$("#friends").undelegate("li", "click");
```



# One-off Events

```
// This event will only ever fire once.  
$("li").one("click", function (event) {  
    alert("You'll only see me once.");  
});
```

```
// A more awkward, verbose version:  
var fireOnce = function (event) { ... };  
$("li").bind("click", function (event) {  
    fireOnce();  
    $("li").unbind(fireOnce);  
});
```



# Exercise 2: Events

# Binding Events

- Bind **click handlers** to each of the **friend <li>** elements.
- Your click handler should **invoke** a **selectFriend()** function **with the friend that was clicked**.
- The **selectFriend()** function should use **jQuery** to adjust the **CSS classes** of the **friend elements** so that the **clicked element has the flutter-active style**

# Exercise 2 Illustrated

**Flutter**

Darcie Clark  
A small portrait of Darcie Clark, a woman with brown hair, wearing a blue t-shirt with the text "tektctek".

John Resig  
A small portrait of John Resig, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a grey shirt.

Jess Mitchell  
A small portrait of Jess Mitchell, a person with red hair, wearing a blue shirt.

Filament Group  
A green square graphic with radiating lines, representing the Filament Group logo.

Richard D. Worth  
A small portrait of Richard D. Worth, a man with short brown hair, smiling.

# DOM Manipulation



# Getting/Setting Element Values

```
// Get a value from a form element.  
$("#status").val();
```

```
// Set a value on a form element.  
$("#status").val("Giving a presentation a Jasig.");
```

```
// Getting the text of an element.  
$("#status").text();
```

```
// Setting the text of an element.  
$("#status").text("John Resig");
```



# DOM Manipulation

- The traditional DOM provides methods for creating new elements and adding them to existing elements
- Can also be quite slow
- IE implemented the now ad-hoc standard innerHTML, which was faster
- jQuery provides a great API for DOM manipulation, as well as cross-browser manipulation
- Ultimately, it still uses the DOM APIs underneath: still slow



# Manipulating the DOM

```
// Create a new element.  
var myList = $("<ul></ul>");  
  
// Appending elements to the end of a container.  
var otherListItems = $("li");  
myList.append(otherListItems);  
  
// Same result.  
otherListItems.appendTo(myList);  
  
// Remove an element from the DOM entirely.  
// Conveniently, this returns the item you just removed  
$("#flutter-friend-template").remove();  
  
// Remove all children from a container.  
myList.empty();
```



# More manipulation: copying

```
// Clone an element  
$("#flutter-friend-template").clone();  
  
// Clone an element, along with all its event handlers  
$("#flutter-friend-template").clone(true);
```



# Injecting Lots of Stuff (slow)

```
// Create a new element.  
var myList = $("<ul></ul>");  
var john = myList.append("<li></li>");  
john.text("John Resig");  
john.attr("tabindex", "-1");  
  
var paul = myList.append("<li></li>");  
paul.text("Paul McCartney");
```



# Injecting Lots of Elements at Once

```
var friends = [{  
    id: "12345",  
    name: "John Resig"  
}];  
  
// The ugly, error-prone string concat way  
$(“<li id=\”” + friends[0].id + “\” tabindex=\”-1\”>” +  
friends[0].name + “</li>”).click(function () {  
    showTweetsForFriends()  
});
```



# Quick Element Construction

```
var friends = [{  
    id: "12345",  
    name: "John Resig"  
}];  
  
// The speedy, nice way.  
$("<li>", {  
    text: friends[0].name,  
    id: friends[0].id,  
    tabindex: "-1",  
    click: function () {  
        showTweetsForFriend(this);  
    }  
});
```



# DOM Manipulation Advice

- Try to use CSS instead of DOM manipulation where possible (e.g. hiding/showing elements, etc.)
- DOM manipulation can be very costly
- jQuery's API is great, but it isn't magic
- Avoid building up elements one at a time
- Injecting whole blocks of HTML at once:

```
myContainer.html("<ul><li>Colin</li><li>Antranig</li><li>Jess</li></ul>");
```



# Exercise 3: Manipulation

# Manipulating the DOM

- Bind a **key handler** to the **entry field**
- The key handler should:
  - i) **listen for the Enter key** (\$.ui.keyCode.ENTER)
  - ii) **clone the template node** for a new tweet
  - iii) **fill in the node** with the text entered by the user
  - iv) **add the node to the twitter list**
  - v) **make the new node visible**
  - vi) **clear the entry field**



# Exercise 3 Illustrated

## **My status:**

Palm trees: A-OK

- I like cats
- ... and warmer weather
- ...less so, the rain.

A black computer keyboard is shown from a top-down perspective. Numerous small, green seedlings are growing out of the keys, particularly the larger ones like the spacebar, enter, and arrow keys. The plants are at various stages of growth, with some having small leaves and others just thin green stems. A large, semi-transparent dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the keyboard. Inside this box, the word "Accessibility" is written in a large, white, serif font.

# Accessibility

# What is Accessibility?



# A New Definition

- Accessibility is the **ability of the system to accommodate the needs of the user**
- Disability is the **mismatch between the user and the interface provided**
- We all experience disability
- Accessible software = better software

# Assistive Technologies

- Present and control the user interface in different ways
- Not just screen readers!
- Use built-in operating system APIs to understand the user interface

Screen readers  
Screen magnifiers  
On-screen keyboards



# DHTML: A New Can of Worms

- Shift from documents to applications
- Familiar a11y techniques aren't enough
- Most DHTML is completely inaccessible
- New techniques are still being figured out



# The Problem

- Custom widgets often look, but don't act, like their counterparts on the desktop
- HTML provides only simple semantics
- Not enough information for ATs
- Dynamic updates require new design strategies to be accessible

# The Solution

- Describe user interfaces with ARIA
- Add consistent keyboard controls
- Provide flexible styling and presentation



# Supporting Assistive Technology



# Opaque Markup

```
// These are tabs. How would you know?  
<ol>  
  <li><a href="#cats">Cats</a></li>  
  <li><a href="#dogs">Dogs</a></li>  
  <li><a href="#gators">Gators</a></li>  
</ol>  
<div>  
  <div id="cats">Cats meow.</div>  
  <div id="dogs">Dogs bark.</div>  
  <div id="gators">Gators bite.</div>  
</div>
```



# Opaque Markup: Tabs

meow. The cat (*Felis catus*), also known as the domestic cat or housecat to distinguish it from other felines and felids, is a small carnivorous mammal that is valued by humans for its companionship and its ability to hunt vermin and household pests. It has been associated with humans for at least 9,500 years and is currently the most popular pet in the world.' The background of the content area is white, and the overall layout is clean and modern."/>

Cats [meow](#).

The cat (*Felis catus*), also known as the domestic cat or housecat to distinguish it from other felines and felids, is a small carnivorous mammal that is valued by humans for its companionship and its ability to hunt vermin and household pests. It has been associated with humans for at least 9,500 years and is currently the most popular pet in the world.

# ARIA

- Accessible Rich Internet Applications
- W3C specification in the works
- Fills the semantic gaps in HTML
- Roles, states, and properties
- Live regions



# Roles, States, Properties

- **Roles** describe widgets not present in HTML 4
  - slider, menubar, tab, dialog
- **Properties** describe characteristics:
  - draggable, hasPopup, required
- **States** describe what's happening:
  - busy, disabled, selected, hidden



# Using ARIA

```
// Now *these* are Tabs!
<ol id="animalTabs" role="tablist" tabindex="0">
  <!-- Individual Tabs shouldn't be focusable -->
  <!-- We'll focus them with JavaScript instead -->
  <li role="tab"><a href="#" tabindex="-1">Cats</a></li>
  <li role="tab"><a href="#" tabindex="-1">Dogs</a></li>
  <li role="tab"><a href="#" tabindex="-1">Gators</a></li>
</ol>
<div id="panels">
  <div role="tabpanel" aria-labelledby="cats">Cats meow.</div>
  <div role="tabpanel" aria-labelledby="dogs">Dogs bark.</div>
  <div role="tabpanel" aria-labelledby="gators">Gators bite.</div>
</div>
```



# Adding ARIA in Code

```
// Identify the container as a list of tabs.  
tabContainer.attr("role", "tablist");  
  
// Give each tab the "tab" role.  
tabs.attr("role", "tab");  
  
// Give each panel the appropriate role,  
panels.attr("role", "tabpanel");  
panels.each(function (idx, panel) {  
    var tabForPanel = that.tabs.eq(idx);  
    // Relate the panel to the tab that labels it.  
    $(panel).attr("aria-labelledby", tabForPanel[0].id);  
});
```



# Keyboard Accessibility



# Keyboard Navigation

- Everything that works with the mouse should work with the keyboard
- ... but not always in the same way
- Support familiar conventions

[http://dev.aol.com/dhtml\\_style\\_guide](http://dev.aol.com/dhtml_style_guide)



# Keyboard Conventions

- **Tab** key focuses the control or widget
- **Arrow keys** select an item
- **Enter** or **Spacebar** activate an item
- Tab is handled by the browser. For the rest, you need to write code. A lot of code.



# Keyboard ally: Tabs

Cats **Dogs** Hamsters Alligators

Cats meow.

The cat (*Felis catus*), also known as the domestic cat or housecat to distinguish it from other felines and felids, is a small carnivorous mammal that is valued by humans for its companionship and its ability to hunt vermin and household pests. It has been associated with humans for at least 9,500 years and is currently the most popular pet in the world.

# Tabindex examples

```
<!-- Tab container should be focusable -->
<ol id="animalTabs" tabindex="0">
  <!-- Individual Tabs shouldn't be focusable -->
  <!-- We'll focus them with JavaScript instead -->
  <li id="tab1">
    <a href="#cats" tabindex="-1">Cats</a>
  </li>
  <li id="tab2">
    <a href="#cats" tabindex="-1">Dogs</a>
  </li>
  <li id="tab3">
    <a href="#cats" tabindex="-1">Alligators</a>
  </li>
</ol>
```



# Making Things Tabbable

- Tabindex varies subtly across browsers
- jquery.attr() normalizes it as of 1.3
- For all the gory details:

[http://fluidproject.org/blog/2008/01/09/  
getting-setting-and-removing-tabindex-values-with-javascript/](http://fluidproject.org/blog/2008/01/09/getting-setting-and-removing-tabindex-values-with-javascript/)

```
// Make the tablist accessible with the Tab key.  
tabContainer.attr("tabindex", "0");  
// And take the anchors out of the Tab order.  
$("a", tabs).attr("tabindex", "-1");
```



# Adding the Arrow Keys

```
// Make each tab accessible with the left and right arrow keys.  
tabContainer.fluid("selectable", {  
  selectableSelector: that.options.selectors.tabs,  
  direction: fluid.a11y.orientation.HORIZONTAL,  
  onSelect: function (tab) {  
    $(tab).addClass(that.options.styles.highlighted);  
  },  
  
  onUnselect: function (tab) {  
    $(tab).removeClass(that.options.styles.highlighted);  
  }  
});
```



# Making Them Activatable

```
// Make each tab activatable with Spacebar and Enter.  
tabs.fluid("activatable", function (evt) {  
    // Your handler code here. Maybe the same as .click()?  
});
```



# Documentation

- Tutorial:

<http://wiki.fluidproject.org/display/fluid/Keyboard+Accessibility+Tutorial>

- API Reference:

<http://wiki.fluidproject.org/display/fluid/Keyboard+Accessibility+Plugin+API>



# Exercise 4: Accessibility

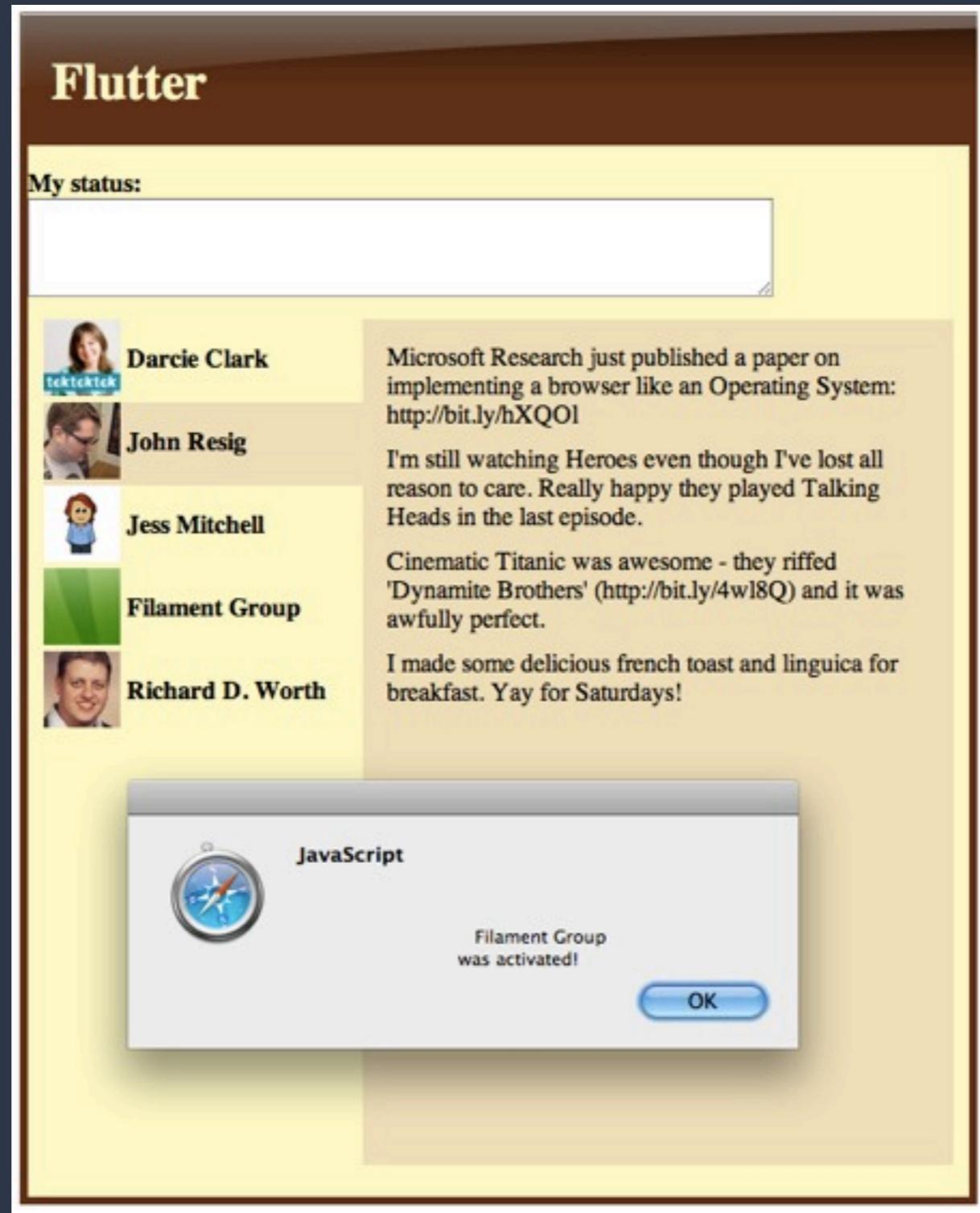
# Make it More Accessible

*The list of tweets is like a set of sideways tabs*

- Put the friends list in the tab order
- Make each friend selectable with the arrow keys
- Make each friend activatable
  - show an alert when the friend is activated
- With ARIA, identify each friend as a tab
- Make the tweet list a tab panel



# Exercise 4 Illustrated



# AJAX

# What is AJAX?

- A technique for making HTTP requests from JavaScript without reloading the entire page
- Asynchronous, meaning it doesn't block the UI
- The X stands for XML, but JSON is often more convenient
- The heart of Web 2.0: enables unprecedented dynamism on the Web



# REST

- Just the way the Web works
- Resources are the nouns, referred to by URL
  - e.g. <http://twitter.com/friends>
- Representations define a format for a resource (eg. XML or JSON)
  - e.g. <http://twitter.com/friends.json>
- A small set of verbs:
  - GET: gets data from the server
  - POST: updates data on the server
  - DELETE, PUT

# AJAX with jQuery

```
$.ajax({  
  url: "http://twitter.com/friends",  
  type:"GET",  
  dataType: "json", // "xml", "json", "html", "script"  
  data: { // Object containing query variables  
    id: 123457  
  },  
  success: function (data) { }, // A callback upon success  
  error: function () { } // Callback if an error occurs  
});
```



# jQuery UI & Plugins



# jQuery Plugins

- Plugins extend jQuery's functionality
- No special API: they just mix themselves into the jQuery object directly
- Shared namespace: risky for portals
- Two types: community plugins and jQuery UI



# Community Plugins

<http://plugins.jquery.com/>

- User-contributed
- Anything goes
- Some great stuff, some awful stuff



# jQuery UI Plugins

<http://ui.jquery.com/>

- “Official” widgets for jQuery
- Generally more robust and reusable
- Developed by a community of experienced coders
- Accessibility
- Great themeing and skinning



# jQuery UI Plugins

<http://ui.jquery.com/>

- Dialog
- Slider
- Tabs
- Accordion
- Date picker
- Autocomplete
- Progress bar
- Button



# jQuery UI Dialog



```
var dialogRoot = $(".settingsDialog");
dialogRoot.dialog({
    modal: true
    buttons: {
        "Cancel": function () {
            $(this).dialog("close");
        },
        "Settings": function () {
            save();
            $(this).dialog("close");
        }
    });
dialogRoot.dialog("open");
```

# Theme Roller

<http://jqueryui.com/themeroller/>

The screenshot shows the jQuery UI ThemeRoller interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Roll Your Own, Gallery, Help, Download theme, Font Settings, Corner Radius, Header/Toolbar (selected), Content, Clickable: default state, Clickable: hover state, Clickable: active state, Highlight, Error, Modal Screen for Overlays, and Drop Shadows. The main area displays several UI components:

- Accordion:** A panel titled "Section 1" contains placeholder text: "Mauris mauris ante, blandit et, ultrices a, suscipit eget, quam. Integer ut neque. Vivamus nisi metus, molestie vel, gravida in, condimentum sit amet, nunc. Nam a nibh. Donec suscipit eros. Nam mi. Proin viverra leo ut odio. Curabitur malesuada. Vestibulum a velit eu ante scelerisque vulputate." Below it are "Section 2" and "Section 3".
- Button:** A button element with three choices: Choice 1, Choice 2, and Choice 3.
- Autocomplete:** An input field.
- Slider:** A horizontal slider.
- Datepicker:** A calendar for March 2010. The days of the week are labeled Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa. The dates 1 through 31 are shown in a grid, with the 5th highlighted in yellow.
- Tabs:** A tabbed panel with tabs labeled First, Second, and Third. The Second tab is selected, displaying placeholder text: "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do 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."
- Dialog:** A button labeled "Open Dialog".
- Progressbar:** A horizontal progress bar.





# Playing Nice With Others

# Portals, Mashups, and CMS's

- These days, diverse code and markup coexists
- Most JavaScript is written as if it owns the whole browser
- As you combine stuff, things can break
- Namespacing and privacy is essential



# Writing Collision-Free JavaScript

- Put code in a unique namespace
- Use closures for privacy
- Support more than one on the page
  - Scope all variables to an instance
  - Avoid hard-baking ID selectors
- Constrain selectors within a specific element



# Questions?

