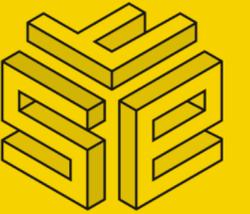


Andy Bell

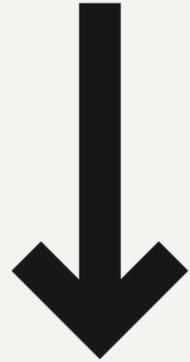
**Piccalilli**



**Get the core right  
and the resilient  
code will follow**

**So you want to  
get better at  
writing CSS?**

# Let's talk about



# design hand-off

There's a focus on the **tools**, not the ~~application~~

# Can I `:has()` new features?



**P.** Media queries are dead! Long live container queries! ⋮

Piccalilli  
176K views • 2 hours ago

**✗ Don't talk to me**

**✓ Look at the Figma**

KPIs go **brrrr!** <sup>99</sup>

It's **not all**  
doom and gloom

**You won't**

**be the same**

**developer**

**Async**

**communication**

**Keep things short**

# Don't ask for **too much**

Presume people are **busy**

**If a request blocks you,  
you're probably asking  
too late**

**Absolutely never  
make it personal**

**Don't presume  
prior knowledge**



**Me** 5:58pm

Hi!



**Designer** 6:01pm

...



**Me** 5:58pm

Hey, hope you're good. I've picked up a couple of bits on the design which looks great by the way.

I'll create a thread here so we can chat it out, as and when you get time.



**Designer** 6:01pm

Awesome, that sounds great. I've got some free time later, so I'll check in then 😊



**Me** 2:40pm

I need you to fix the colours on the design immediately because of accessibility. The client is pissed off!



**Designer** 2:51pm

Wait, what do you mean by “because of accessibility”?  
What did the client say?!



**Me** 12:06pm

Hey, I've just been speaking to the client and they've picked up some colour contrast issues with the latest round of designs, specifically on the smaller text. The colours don't conform to WCAG AA which is a requirement for this project.

It'd be really helpful if you can make some adjustments, quite urgently, because the client is rather concerned. I'm here to support you if you need help with testing etc.

Sorry to break you off from what you're doing!



**Designer** 1:18pm

Ah, my bad! I'll get on that ASAP. Thanks for the link too, that's really helpful.

Do you have any recommendations of tools I can use in Figma to test compliance?



**Me** 5:58pm

Sure thing, I've found Stark to be a really useful all-around good accessibility tool.



**Designer** 6:01pm

Thanks, I'll get that installed and tweak the colours!

# Email



**Me**

to Designer

Hi Designer, hope this email finds you well.

I hope you had a fantastic weekend. Did you get up to much? The family and I went to the beach and had a great, relaxing time.

For the project the client has raised concerns about the colour contrast and accessibility. You can read the email thread below.

Best regards,

Andy Bell

Front-end developer, Made Up Company

We are a carbon conscious company so please don't print this email.



**Me**

to Designer

Hey, I've just been speaking to the client and they've picked up some colour contrast issues with the latest round of designs, specifically on the smaller text. The colours don't conform to WCAG AA which is a requirement for this project.

It'd be really helpful if you can make some adjustments, quite urgently, because the client is rather concerned. I'm here to support you if you need help with testing etc.

Sorry to break you off from what you're doing!

# Feedback



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**Me** 8:45am

We shouldn't use a slider on the homepage because it's such a tired, old design pattern.



**Designer** 9:01am

It's what the client wants and they have signed it off so there's not much I can do.



**Me** 9:20am

Hey! The designs are looking really great. There's one section that I'm quite concerned about and would like to understand the decision more.

With the home page hero slider, I've got concerns about potential accessibility problems, overwhelm and user experience.

[This is a useful quick read](#) on the subject to give you more context about my concerns.



---

 **Designer** 10:12am

Ah, got you. So to give you context, this section was a nightmare to get over the line because different stakeholders all thought their departments were equally important as each other.

---

 **Me** 10:13am

I get that and really feel for you having to navigate that situation. Considering their departments are so important, they've not produced much content for them have they?

---



---

 **Designer** 10:16am

Not at all. I'm going to have to produce a background for each one too, which isn't ideal.

---

 **Me** 10:19am

A problem there is we might not achieve the right levels of colour contrast with the text on each slide. Especially as this is CMS content. It might be right when we hand over, but that could change really quick!



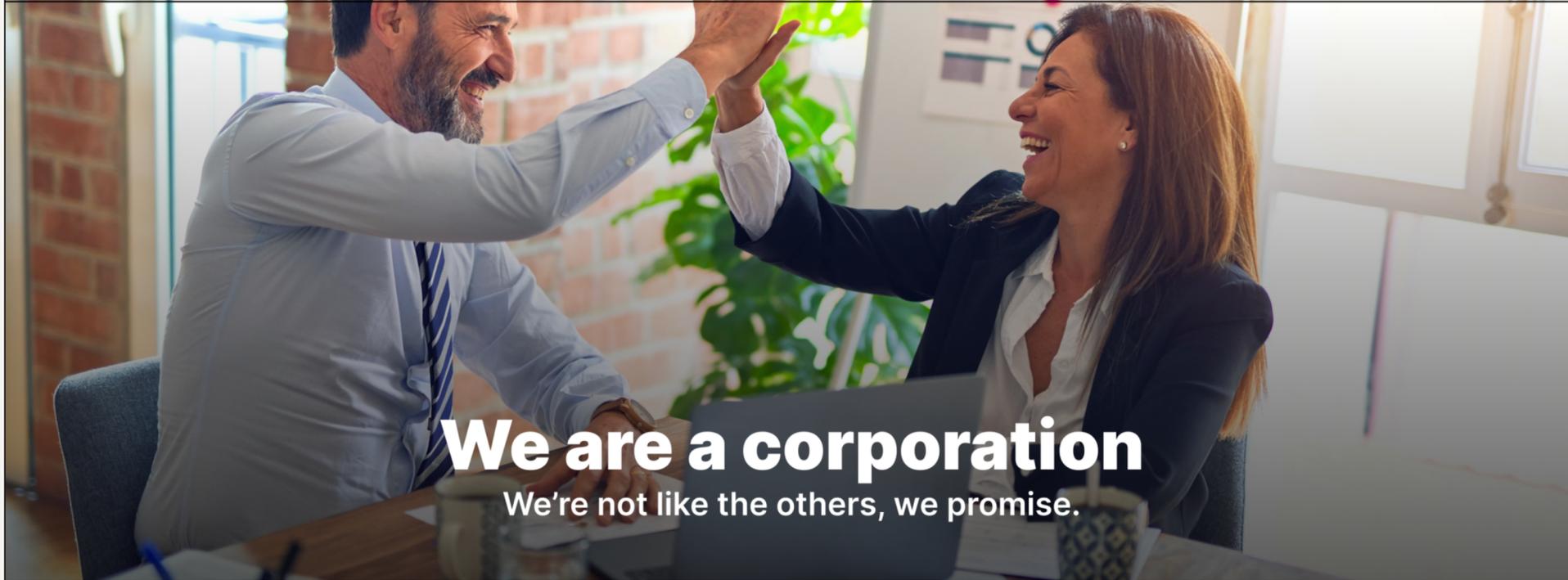
**Me** 10:19am

Maybe we should get some data to support our concerns. It'll be worth looking at what the average session time is on their current home page because we're going to have to wait at least a few seconds before the next slide changes right? We could argue a user likely will never get beyond the first slide.



**Designer** 11:04am

That's a good shout. The problem is they still want an "impactful hero" **and** to promote each department equally. I'll get some data for us to look at. I'll have a think about other design ideas too in the interim.



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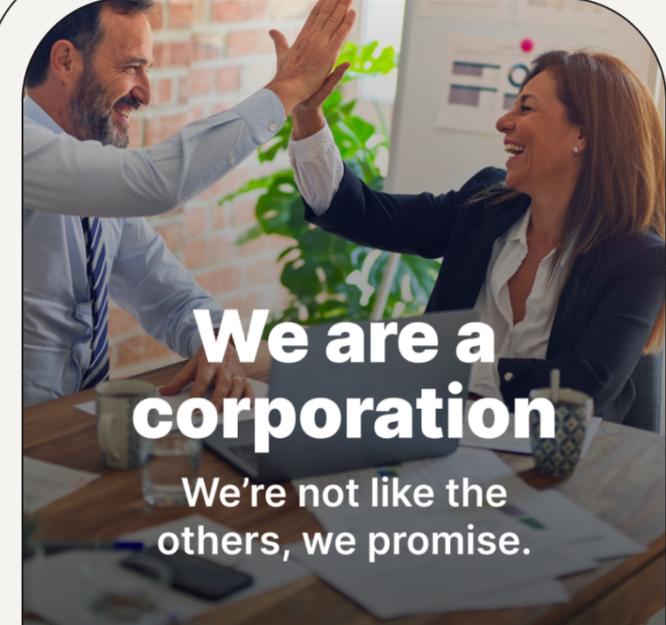
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**Designer** 12:01am

Hey, the new homepage section looks really great but the first grid item is the same on each page when I look at it, even after refreshes. The client **really** wanted those to change on each page load.



**Me** 8:10am

I can't do that because they'll all shift around. Large manipulations of the DOM aren't good either.



**Designer** 12:01am

Hey, the new homepage section looks really great but the first grid item is the same on each page when I look at it, even after refreshes. The client **really** wanted those to change on each page load.



**Me** 8:10am

Thanks! Yeh I struggled to get this working well because I'd have to rearrange the content with client-side JavaScript. The problem with that is there's a good chance JavaScript will fail and/or not be available. It's why I got the overflow scrolling setup working with CSS only.



**Me** 8:11am

If JavaScript does work, manipulating the DOM like that can be quite clunky — especially on low powered devices.



**Designer** 2:19pm

Got it. The reason they wanted to randomise the order of the content is similar to why they wanted a slider in the first place. They're adamant that each department is as important as each other and they don't want one department being prioritised over the other. It's really frustrating because they won't move on that.



**Me** 8:11am

Sounds very frustrating to me. The content comes from a CMS but the site is built with a static site generator. This means it's built once, then a static HTML page is served to the user.

What if they changed the order of the content in the CMS quite regularly which would trigger a rebuild of the static site?



**Designer** 2:19pm

It's a good idea, but I know they won't want to do that. They're really quite lazy as well as demanding 😓



**Me** 8:11am

Ok, how about this: we set the site to rebuild every hour with automation and when it does rebuild, it randomises the order of the content each time?



**Designer** 2:19pm

Now that's a good idea! No client leg work required and they get what they want in essence. Let me run it past them!

**Feedback is  
an **iterative**,  
team process**

Move **slowly** and  
**methodically** to go fast

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / TECH / GOOGLE

# Google promised a better search experience – now it’s telling us to put glue on our pizza



/ Google’s AI Overviews feature is delivering incorrect answers faster than ever.

By [Kylie Robison](#), a senior AI reporter working with The Verge’s policy and tech teams. She previously worked at Fortune Magazine and Business Insider.

May 23, 2024, 8:27 PM GMT+1

**Ok I get the point  
but what does this  
have to do with CSS?**

Gather around, it's story time

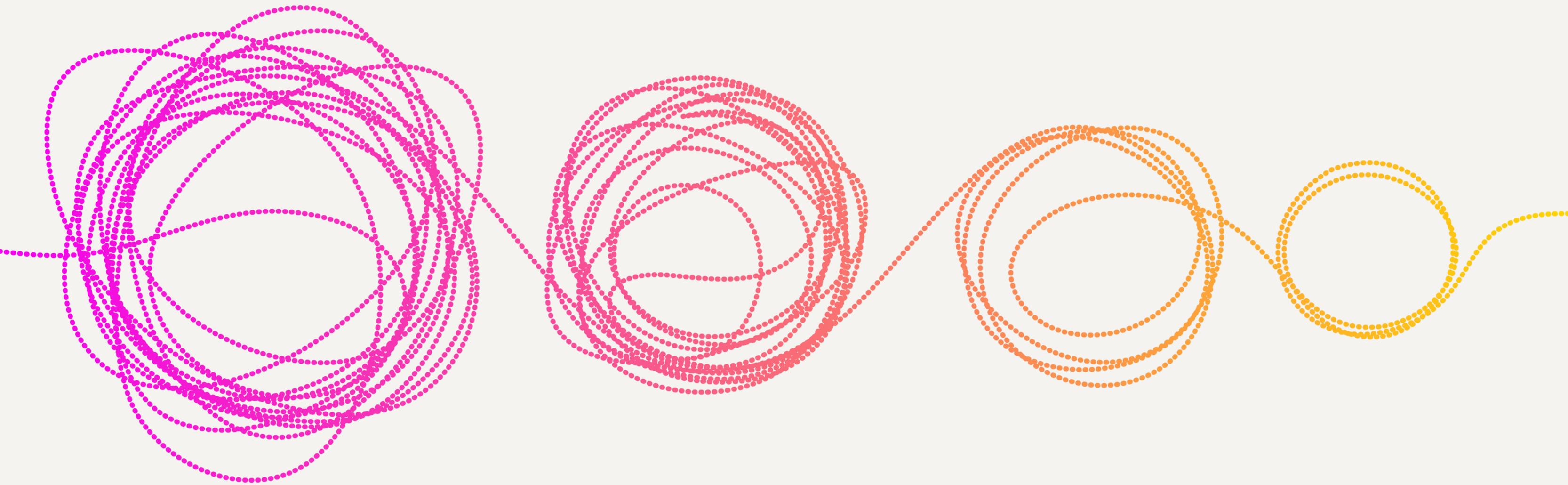
**The cost of  
technical debt  
was astronomical**

✓ **Slow is smooth**

✓ **Smooth is fast**

**“Hey Andy!**

**you’ve barely  
mentioned any CSS?!”**



# Thank you

**Andy Bell**

Founder of [set.studio](#) and [Piccalilli](#)

[swop.link/andy](https://swop.link/andy)

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