

MÜNCHEN .NET MEETUP, 12. FEBRUARY 2020

JOY HERON

Web Component Design

Maintaining and Reusing your Frontend







Joy Heron

Senior Consultant @ INNOQ

joy.heron@innoq.com

Photo by Brett Patzke on Unsplash







0

Spring 2016



Column 1 \$ Column 2 \$ Column 3 \$ $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{A}}$ \sim ~ ~~~~~



Summer 2016









... and in the future??



Why am I always implementing the same thing?



Column 1 \$ Column 2 \$ Column 3 \$ m m m \sim \sim $\sim\sim\sim$



Would I do this in the backend?

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Abstraction - Rule of Three





Time to find an abstraction!



GET /search?col1=x&col2=y

200 OK

...



9

That's what I did. It's called: Tabelle

https://github.com/innog/tabelle

And now let's build it with web components!





probably

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron



make it better

make it pretty

make it work FOR ALL USERS!

Single Responsibility Principle

Benefit of HTML First: HTML composes naturally!

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Each Component should do **ONE** thing **REALLY WELL**

If you need more functionality, write a new component and compose them!

How to find web components?



Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

uan 20	Column 3 2
\sim	\sim
\sim	\sim
$\sim \sim$	
\sim	\sim

Atomic Design: <u>http://atomicdesign.bradfrost.com/</u>





Filter Field Component Step 1: make it work

What we need

my search str

Option 1 ᅌ

GET /search? col1=my+search+str& col2=Option+1



How to get it

```
<form action="/search">
```

<input type="text" name="col1" />

```
<select name="col2">
<option>Option 1</option>
<option>Option 2</option>
<option>Option 3</option>
</select>
```


<button type="submit">Search</button></form>



it works! FOR ALL USERS??

Tip #1 If you want to make sure you are accessible **ACTUALLY USE A SCREEN READER**

Read this book for more tips!

INCLUSIVE DESIGN PATTERNS

Coding Accessibility Into Web Design



SMASHING

by Heydon Pickering



Filter Field Component Step 1.2: make it accessible

Let's test our component with a screen reader to see how it sounds!

Currently

<input type="text" name="col1" />



Edit Text. You are currently on a text field inside of web content...

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron



Solution

<input type="text" name="col1" aria-label="Filter Column 1" />



Filter Column 1, Edit Text. You are currently on a text field inside of web content...













Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron



it works FOR ALL USERS!

make it pretty??



CSS is harder to OVERRIDE than it is to WRITE

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Tip #2 Use minimal CSS to make it easy to override your styles later!

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Filter Field Component Step 2: make it pretty

Add a CSS class to our component to allow users to write their own styles later!

</select>

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron



ext" name="col1" aria-label="Filter Column 1"/>

'col2" aria-label="Filter Column 1">

Column 1 \$

-		



Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Column 1 \$



Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron





Sort Button Component Step 1: make it work



Column 12

How to get it

<form action="/search">

<input id="col1_asc" type="radio"</pre> name="sort" value="col1_asc" />

<a>label for="col1_asc">Sort Column 1 Ascending

<input id="col1_desc" type="radio"</pre> name="sort" value="col1_desc" />

<label for="col1_desc">Sort Column 2 Descending</label>

<button type="submit">Search</button>



Sort Button Component Step 1.2: make it accessible



Sort Column 1 Ascending, radio button, 1 of 2 You are currently on a radio button, 1 of 2, ...



Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron



Sort Column 1 Ascending Sort Column 1 Descending



Column 100

 \bigcirc Sort Column 1 Ascending \bigcirc Sort Column 1 Descending



Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron



it works FOR ALL USERS!

make it pretty



Tip #3 You can select an input element by clicking on it's HTML label

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Sort Button Component Step 2: make it pretty

Visually hide radio buttons and style their labels.

Move content offscreen so it is not visible but can still be read by a screen reader.

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

SCSS Placeholder Selector & Util CSS Class

```
%visually-hidden {
  position: absolute !important;
  height: 1px; width: 1px;
  overflow: hidden;
  clip: rect(1px 1px 1px 1px); /* IE6, IE7 */
  clip: rect(1px, 1px, 1px, 1px);
}
```

```
.visually-hidden {
  @extend %visually-hidden;
```



Sort Button Component Step 2: make it pretty

Visually hide radio buttons and style their labels.

```
.arrow {
  @extend %visually-hidden;
}
.arrow—asc {
  @include icon-before('up.svg', #acacac);
  cursor: pointer;
.arrow—desc {
  @include icon-before('down.svg', #acacac);
  cursor: pointer;
```



Sort Column 1 Descending

So far, so good:



Column

Sort Button Component Step 2: make it pretty

- Style checked, focused, and hover input states!
- Because our label follows our input, we can style this using pure CSS with a '+'!

```
.arrow:checked + .arrow—asc::before,
.arrow:checked + .arrow—desc::before {
  background-color: #535353;
```

```
}
```

.arrow:focus + .arrow—asc::before, .arrow:focus + .arrow-desc::before, .arrow:hover + .arrow—asc::before, .arrow:hover + .arrow—desc::before { background-color: #6882cb;





Result:

Sort Column 1 Ascending focused: Sort Column 1 Descending

checked:

Sort Column 1 Ascending Sort Column 1 Descending


Sort Button Component Step 2: make it pretty

Hide our labels visually

```
<input class="arrow"
      id="col1_asc" type="radio"
       name="sort" value="col1_asc" />
<label class="arrow—asc" for="col1_asc">
  <span class="visually-hidden">Sort Column 1 Ascending<span/>
</label>
<input class="arrow"
      id="col1_desc" type="radio"
      name="sort" value="col1_desc" />
<label class="arrow-desc" for="col1_desc">
```

Sort Column 1 Descending </label>





Sort Button Component Step 2.2: Double-check accessibility



Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron









38



Column 10



Column 10



We've written some components...

But how can we **MAINTAIN** them over time?

Tip #4 Use a templating engine as an abstraction for your component

Possible templating engines: JSX / complate, Handlebars

Benefits of HTML Templates for web components



Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Change ONCE, modify all instances

Easier to MAINTAIN components over time

PUBLISH templates as an npm library for use in other projects

We need a big mental shift: From "Let's Build a Website" to "Let's maintain a product which other products use as a dependency"

Photo by Jens Lelie on Unsplash

- Brad Frost



input and select components

/* input.jsx */
function Input ({ name, label }, ...kids) {
 return <input class="tabelle-input"
 type="text" name={name}
 aria-label={label} />
}

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

<lnput name="col1" label="Column 1" >

<Select name="col2" label="Column 2"> <option>A</option> <option>B</option>

<option>Z</option></Select>

arrows component

```
/* arrows.jsx */
function Input ({ name, label }, ...kids) {
  return <>
     <input class="arrow" id="{name}_asc" type="radio"</pre>
            name="sort" value="{name}_asc" />
     <label class="arrow—asc" for="{name}_asc">
       <span class="visually-hidden">
         Sort {label} Ascending
       <span/>
     </label>
     <input class="arrow" id="{name}_desc" type="radio"</pre>
            name="sort" value="{name}_desc" />
     <label class="arrow-desc" for="{name}_desc">
       <span class="visually-hidden">
         Sort {label} Descending
       <span/>
     </label>
  </>
```

<<u>Arrows name="col3"</u> label="Column 3" />

Tip #5

Develop your components using a pattern library or living styleguide

(patternlab.io, fractal)

BONUS POINTS:

publish your pattern library as reusable templates



Podcast Page O

Product Microsite Page •

- <h2 class="teaser-section-heading">Podcasts</h2>
- <div class="podcast-grid"><a href="#" class="podcast-teaser podcast-teaser-avatar--</pre>



How does this work in a team?

A simple team





A new product with the same design system?

But what happens when we have to split our teams?





Cross-functional Team

Web components provide a *language* between backend and frontend



Collaboration with split teams

AVOID throwing components over the wall!





There are loads of different team constellations but in all of them we want...

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

to RELEASE new versions of our component library quickly as we develop new ideas

to UPGRADE to new versions of our component library quickly WITHOUT worrying about breaking changes

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Tip #6 When publishing a library of templates, keep the components backward compatible to make it easy to upgrade!

How to make a component backward compatible



Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

When adding new parameters, make them OPTIONAL or add a default value

Instead of breaking a component, create a COPY of the existing implementation and give it a NEW NAME

Avoid DEPENDING too strongly on the structure of the component when using it in other components or in UI Tests

...now to our next component...





Table Header Component Step 1: make it work

<div> Column 1 <Arrows name="col1" label="Column 1" /> <Input name="col1" label="Column 1" /> </div>





Column 1

- $\mathbf{\wedge}$
- \sim





Table Header ComponentStep 1.2: make it accessible



Column 1

4	μ		١.
÷		1	ę

 \sim

Column 2

^

Y

Column 3

^

 $\mathbf{\vee}$

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Column 1

- \rightarrow Sort Column 1 Ascending, radio button 1 of 6
- → Sort Column 1 Ascending
- \rightarrow Sort Column 1 Descending, radio button 2 of 6
- → Sort Column 1 Descending
- \rightarrow Filter Column 1, edit text
- → Column 2

 \rightarrow

•••

- → Sort Column 2 Ascending, radio button 3 of 6
- → Sort Column 2 Ascending
- → Sort Column 2 Descending, radio button 4 of 6



Olumi

Tip #7 Wrap input fields in a **role=group** to add a navigation level for a screen reader

Note: The built-in HTML Element *fieldset* provides similar behavior but is extremely difficult to style

Table Header Component Step 1.2: make it accessible

<div> Column 1 <Arrows name="col1" label="Column 1" /> <Input name="col1" label="Column 1" /> </div>





<div role="group" aria-labelledby="col1_group" > Column 1 <Arrows name="col1" label="Column 1" /> <Input name="col1" label="Column 1" /> </div>



Table Header Component Step 1.2: make it accessible

Column 1	Column 1, group
Column 2	
~ ~	
Column 3	
<u>^</u>	
▼	

Navigation via groups with a screen reader!





Column 2, group VO+→

VO \checkmark

Column 2

- Sort Column 2 Ascending, radio button 3 of 6 \rightarrow
- Sort Column 2 Ascending \rightarrow
- Sort Column 2 Descending, radio button 4 of 6 \rightarrow
- Sort Column 2 Descending \rightarrow
- Filter Column 2, edit text \rightarrow



Column 1 \$

Column 1



 \sim



it works FOR ALL USERS!

make it pretty











Tip #8 Design CSS like a box of chocolates

Design your container with love and place your components inside it.

(use Flexbox or CSS Grid)

Define a CSS Grid for Layout



```
.tabelle-header {
 display: grid;
 grid-template-areas:
    "header arrow-asc"
    "header arrow-desc"
    "search search";
  grid-template-columns: 1fr auto;
```



(olumn

Place children items in grid



.tabelle-header {
 grid-template-areas:
 "header arrow-asc"
 "header arrow-desc"
 "search search";
}

```
.tabelle-header {
  .header {
    grid-area: header;
  .arrow—asc {
    grid-area: arrow-asc;
  .arrow—desc {
    grid-area: arrow-desc;
  .tabelle-input {
    grid-area: search;
 ר
```



(0)

Add new styling classes





Almost there!!!

Tip #9 With CSS Grid or Flexbox, vertical alignment is *finally* easy!





Center table header vertically








Table Header Component Our HTML Template for reuse



/* tabelle-header.jsx */ function TabelleHeader ({ name, label }, ...kids) { return <div class="tabelle-header" {label} <Arrows name={name} label={name} /> {kids ? <Select name={name} label={name}>{kids}<Select> : < Input name={name} label={name} />} </div>



```
role="group" aria-labelledby="{name}_group">
```









Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron











Tabelle Step 1: make it work

```
<form action="/search">
 <thead>
    >
       <TabelleHeader name="col1" label="Column 1" />
      >
       <TabelleHeader name="col2" label="Column 2" />
      >
        <TabelleHeader name="col3" label="Column 3" />
      </thead>
   ...
 <button type="submit">Perform Search</button>
</form>
```

Column 1 Column 2 Column 3 3 $\wedge \sim \sim$

Wrap in a form so that we can submit user filter queries



Tabelle Step 1: make it work



 $(\leftarrow) \rightarrow$ C (a)

i localhost:3000

People

Name	Phone	Email 🔷	Address
	Ĩ		
Jeremy Kutch V	185-342-4903 x729	renayshields@bogan.name	7843 Haywood Drive Moenmouth, 53084-5375 Liberia
Noelia Treutel	(721) 756-2848 x444	stewartbecker@okon.biz	827 Carita Spring South Jerold, 65969 Taiwan
Julia Daugherty Sr.	693.904.6223	murray@pfefferwalter.org	75038 Hermann Keys Lake Kathyrn, 05745 Finland
Bradly Wuckert	882.469.7537 x5484	malcolmsmitham@gradybrekke.org	86628 Zulauf Meadow Terenceton, 41074 Lesotho
Delia O'Hara	392.556.7103	genarobuckridge@mcdermott.biz	39098 Stefan Rest North Janette, 31321 Palau



Column 1 \$ Column 2 \$ Column 3 \$ \sim \sim m \sim

← → G		calhost:3000		🗵	$\overline{\mathbf{h}}$	 \	•	ļ	8 +	ABP	0	»
Peop	ole											
	Name	, Phone	Ç Email	~			Add	Iress	\$			~
Jeremy k	Kutch V	185-342-4903 x729	renayshields@bogan.name	7843 Hay Moenmou Liberia	wood th, 53	Drive 084-	5375					
Noelia Tr	reutel	(721) 756-2848 x444	stewartbecker@okon.biz	827 Carita South Jer Taiwan	a Sprii old, 6	ng 5969						
Julia Dau	igherty Sr.	693.904.6223	murray@pfefferwalter.org	75038 He Lake Kath	rmanı nyrn, (n Key)5745	s					

malcolmsmitham@gradybrekke.org

genarobuckridge@mcdermott.biz

Finland

Lesotho

Palau

86628 Zulauf Meadov

Terenceton, 41074

39098 Stefan Rest

----- - -----

North Janette, 31321

Bradly Wuckert

Delia O'Hara

882.469.7537 x5484

392.556.7103

CSS?

make it pretty?



it works FOR ALL USERS!

Column 1 \$ Column 2 \$ Column 3 \$ \sim \sim \sim

\rightarrow C $($	localhost:3000		···· 🖂 🔸 💷 💆 🖬 🖉) () » :
People				
Name	> Phone	Contraction Email	Address	~
	Į			
Jeremy Kutch V	185-342-4903 x729	renayshields@bogan.name	7843 Haywood Drive Moenmouth, 53084-5375 Liberia	
Noelia Treutel	(721) 756-2848 x444	stewartbecker@okon.biz	827 Carita Spring South Jerold, 65969 Taiwan	
Julia Daugherty Sr.	693.904.6223	murray@pfefferwalter.org	75038 Hermann Keys Lake Kathyrn, 05745	

malcolmsmitham@gradybrekke.org

genarobuckridge@mcdermott.biz

Finland

esothe

Palau

86628 Zulauf Meado

Terenceton, 41074

39098 Stefan Rest

North Janette, 31321

882.469.7537 x5484

392.556.7103

Bradly Wuckert

Delia O'Hara





it works FOR ALL USERS!

make it better



Tip #10 Submit forms asynchronously and replace your DOM with the result from the server

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Submitting forms asynchronously

// stringify form data as `application/x-www-form-urlencoded`
function serializeForm (form) { ... }

```
function submit (form) {
   const uri = serializeForm(form)
   return fetch(uri)
   .then(response => response.text())
```

• Only the application happy path is being considered here. Source: https://github.com/FND/uitil



Replacing the tbody with response HTML

function template2dom (htmlString, selector) { let tmp = document.createElement('template') **tmp**.innerHTML = htmlString.trim() return **tmp**.content.querySelector(selector)

function replaceTbody (tbody, htmlResponse) { let newTbody = template2dom(htmlResponse, 'tbody') **tbody**.innerHTML = **newTBody**.innerHTML

! Only the application happy path is being considered here.





Override default submit behavior



• Only the application happy path is being considered here.





Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

Historically: adding a component dynamically used to require **BOTH the HTML Markup and** a function to initialize it

Tip #11 Use Custom Elements to define a custom HTML Element AND define how to initialize it.

Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

The browser will then initialize your component for you!

Custom Elements allow you to define how the component needs to be initialized.

```
class Tabelle extends HTMLElement {
   connectedCallback () {
      let form = this.form
      initializeSubmit(this, form)
   }
   get form () {
      return this.querySelector('form')
   }
}
customElements.define('ta-belle', Tabelle)
```



<ta-belle>

... </ta-belle>



As soon as **ta-belle** appears in the DOM, connectedCallback will be called!

Custom Elements provide scope: this is bound to the HTML Element itself and it's native JavaScript API

```
class Tabelle extends HTMLElement {
  connectedCallback () {
    let form = this.form
    initializeSubmit(this, form)
  get form () {
    return this.querySelector('form')
customElements.define('ta-belle', Tabelle)
```

Column 1 \$ Column 2 \$ Column 3 \$



Make the implementation more dynamic by triggering submits when an input element changes

```
import { debounce } from 'util'
class Tabelle extends HTMLElement {
  connectedCallback () {
     ...
    form.addEventListener('change', () => doSubmit(this, form))
    form.addEventListener('keyup',
       debounce(300, ev => doSubmit(this, form)))
Ĵ
```



P	mn 1 \$	Column 2:	Colun
	~~~~	~~~~~	$\sim$
	$\sim$	$\sim$	$\sim$
		$\sim$	$\sim$
		$\sim$	$\sim$

Make sure to	debounce 'keyups' for
input[type=t	ext] elements!

https://davidwalsh.name/javascript-debounce-function



### ...and much more...

•	• •	TabelleRa	ilsExam	ple × +														
4	) → C'	<b>ŵ</b>	(i) <b>(</b>	https://tabelle-rails-exam	ple.herokuapp.com	Worl	k 💼	•••• (	◙	I	II\	1	ļ	8+ 88	ABP	0	»	
	Реор	le																
	Na	ame	~	Phone	Email	~					Add	ress	5	 		~	]	
	Willard Me	ertz DVM		508-768-5842	buster@windler.io		4561 Kling Courts New Chester, 58948-2023 Iraq											
	Kit Glover			509.257.2793 x4916	angie@robel.info		578 Dom Nica	Rueck nenicch ragua	ter Vi neste	a r, 952	234-	385 [,]	4					
	Florrie Ski	iles		1-751-059-1176	mariano@casper.io		2952 Meld Indo	24 Mer latown onesia	rtz Ri 1, 16	dges 774-7	278							
	Graig Dibl	bert		133.422.1767	kristalebert@mayertgorczany.net		9230 Wes Jama	01 Lea t Loni, aica	ndro 900	Field 77-34	s 88							
	Cecilia Vo	n		390-242-0512 x16166	merle@marks.io		170 New Czec	Alix Ca Brant ch Rep	ause view ublic	way , 3857	70							
	Latonya R	eichert		(806) 153-2423	allen@nicolas.co		7544 Malo Japa	4 Rigol colmfur	berto rt, 67	Pines 7893-1	s 5783	3						
	Rueben C	ummings		604.534.9325 x525	garry@hammesmcclure.org		187 Lake Alba	Schus Alfon nia	ter P zo, 4	arks 2853								
	Nadine Ha	ayes		(990) 978-5937 x56483	wesherzog@farrell.co		163 Port Mexi	Kimbe Vincer ico	erly P nzo,	lains 58659	)							



Column 1 Column 2 Column 3 2  $\sim$  $\sim$  $\sim$  $\sim\sim\sim\sim$  $\sim\sim\sim\sim$ 

•	- • TabelleRailsExar	mple × +														
¢	$) \rightarrow$ C $rac{1}{2}$	https://tabelle-rails-exam	nple.herokuapp.com	Work		•••	${igsidential}$	)	١I/		ļ		ABP	0	»	≡
	People															
	Name 🔷	Phone 🗘	Email	~					Ac	dres	S			~		
	Willard Mertz DVM	508-768-5842	buster@windler.io		4561 Kling Courts New Chester, 58948-2023 Iraq											
	Kit Glover	509.257.2793 x4916	angie@robel.info		578 Dom Nica	Rue nenic aragu	cker ches Ia	Via ter,	9523	4-38	54					
	Florrie Skiles	1-751-059-1176	mariano@casper.io		295 Melo Indo	24 M datov onesi	ertz vn, 1 a	Ridg 677	es 4-727	78						
	Graig Dibbert	133.422.1767	kristalebert@mayertgorczany.net		923 Wes Jam	01 Le st Lor aica	eand ni, 90	ro Fi 077	elds -348	8						
	Cecilia Von	390-242-0512 x16166	merle@marks.io		170 New Czec	Alix / Bra ch Re	Caus ntvie epubl	sewa w, 3 ic	y 8570	1						
	Latonya Reichert	(806) 153-2423	allen@nicolas.co		754 Malo Japa	4 Rig colmf an	jober furt,	to P 6789	ines 93-57	783						
	Rueben Cummings	604.534.9325 x525	garry@hammesmcclure.org		187 Lake Alba	Schu e Alfo ania	uster onzo,	Par 428	ks 853							
	Nadine Hayes	(990) 978-5937 x56483	wesherzog@farrell.co		163 Port Mex	Kim Vinc ico	berly cenzo	Plai 9, 58	ns 659							





Joy Heron / @iamjoyheron

# Thank you!

https://tabelle-rails-example.herokuapp.com/



https://github.com/innoq/tabelle_rails_example