FUNDAMENTALS of Web Performance



Todd H. Gardner Request Metrics

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- 1. Importance
- 2. Measuring
- 3. Tests and Tools
- 4. Setting Goals
- 5. Improving

Waterfall Charts

Flame Charts

Statistics



Requirements

- Github Account
- Google Chrome ~131.0.0
- NodeJS ~20.0



Sample Application

bit.ly/fund-web-perf





Todd H. Gardner

- Software Engineer since 2002
- Frontend Master since 2017
- Consultant and Training
- 2x SaaS Founder







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Debugging and Fixing Common JavaScript Errors



3 hours, 39 minutes CC





Course Description

Stomp out bugs and clean up JavaScript apps! In this course, Todd Gardner (Co-founder of TrackJS), walks through common JavaScript bugs and how to isolate and fix the source of the problems. By coding along, you'll learn the four stages of a debugging cycle needed to fix bugs. Use Chrome Dev Tools, debugger, network profile and more to fix memory leaks, performance problems, network failures and more! This course is for any JavaScript developer that builds, maintains, or tests an application that uses JavaScript. With the knowledge you gain, you'll be armed to find and squash those bugs faster and for good!



Debugging JavaScript Course



bit.ly/debug-javascript



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JavaScript Error Monitoring

TrackJS.com



Todd H. Gardner



Web Performance Monitoring

RequestMetrics.com



Todd H. Gardner

bit.ly/sup-todd







Introducing Web Performance

Introducing Web Performance

Definition

The **speed** and **efficiency** with which a website **loads**, **renders**, and **responds** to interactions from the visitors.

Introducing Web Performance

What does Slow feel like?

- Waiting for the page to load
- Elements jump around
- Delays to click responses
- Slow images and video
- Laggy scrolling and animations

Introducing Web Performance

What does *Slow* feel like?

<u>Developer Stickers Online</u> http://eu.devstickers.shop:3000/



1. Importance

- 2. Measuring
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Importance

- User Experience
- SEO
- Online Advertising





User Experience

How well your website meets or exceeds user expectations

User Experience



User Experience

websites would be so much easier without these needy users

User Expectations

"for effective communication, some response is needed within two seconds of a request.

A wait longer than two seconds breaks concentration and affects productivity."

Source: <u>IEEE Response Times</u>, <u>Miller</u>

User Expectations

- A user feels a response is instant at .01 second.
- A user experiences uninterrupted flow at 1 second.
- Users break flow and feel frustration at 10 seconds.

Source: <u>Usability Engineering, Neilsen</u>

User Expectations

 40% of users abandon a site at 3 seconds

 75% of users that experience a "slow" site will not return

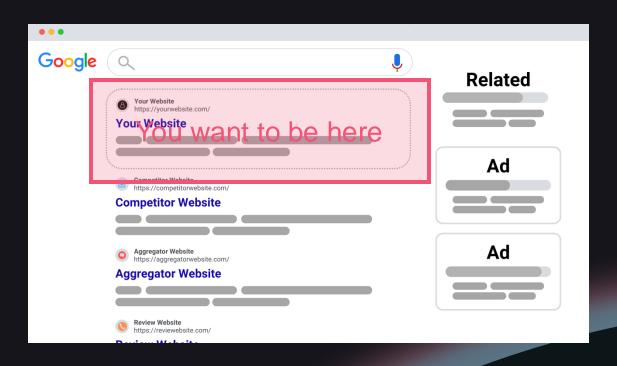
Source: <u>Time is Money, Everts</u>

SEOSearch Engine Optimization

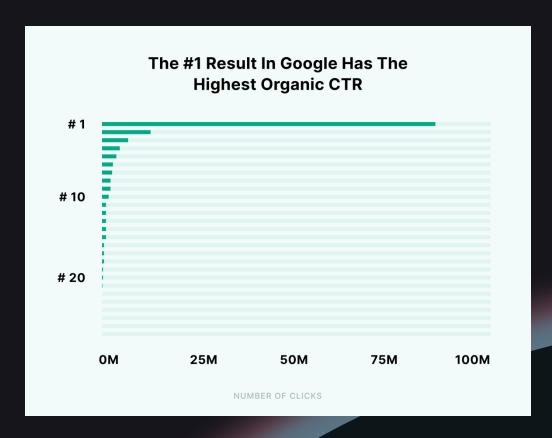
Search Engine Optimization

Helping search engines understand and rank your content

Page Rank



Rank Traffic



Source: backlink.io

SEO and Performance

Great, what does this have to do with web performance?

SEO and Performance

"Search ranking change that incorporates

page experience metrics. We will introduce a

new signal that combines Core Web Vitals

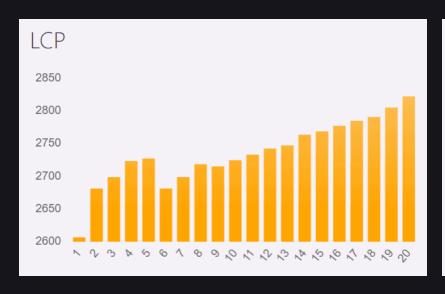
with our existing signals"

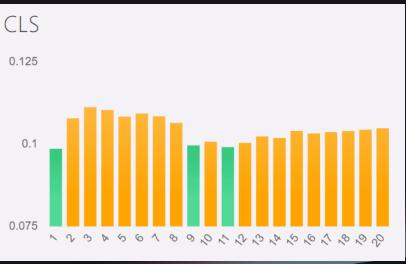
Source: Google Search Central Blog

SEO and Performance

TL;DR
You need to be fast
to rank well.

Page Rank and Performance





Source: Advanced Web Ranking, 2022

Online Advertising

Why is Web Performance Important / Online Ads

Some website

We're awesome because of content



The content you actually came here for. Good content is the foundation of any successful website or marketing strategy.









Why is Web Performance Important / Online Ads

An example

- **•** \$1,000
- 160,000 impression
- 1% click through



Source: Varos

Why is Web Performance Important / Online Ads

An example

- **\$1,000**
- **1,600 Users**
- 60% Bounce Rate
- 640 Shoppers
 - \$1.56 per shopper
 - 960 Lost



Source: Varos

Why is Web Performance Important / Online Ads

Performance and Bounce

65% Performance improvement reduced bounce rate 20% and 200% time on page.

Source: Furnspace

Why is Web Performance Important / Online Ads

An example

- **-** \$1,000
- 1,600 Users
- 48% Bounce Rate
- 832 Shoppers
 - NET 192 Shoppers
 - \$1.20 per shopper

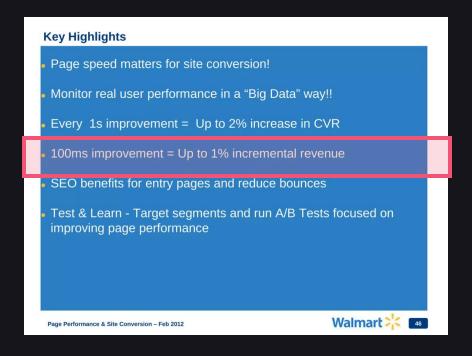


Why is Web Performance Important

Website Revenue

Why is Web Performance Important / Revenue

Walmart



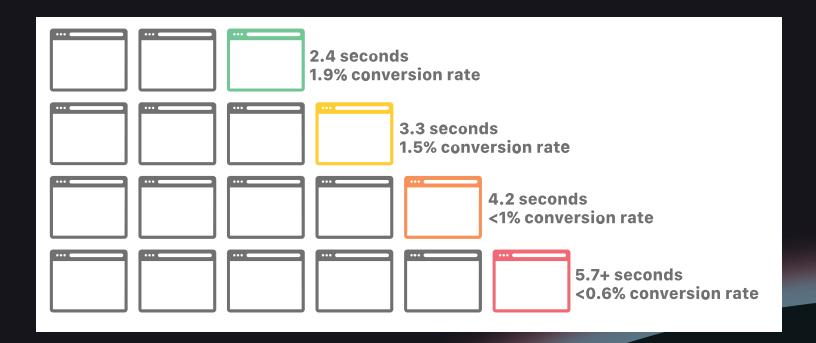
"Walmart revenue for the twelve months ending July 31, 2024 was \$665.035B

\$6 Billion Dollars

Source: Walmart

Why is Web Performance Important / Revenue

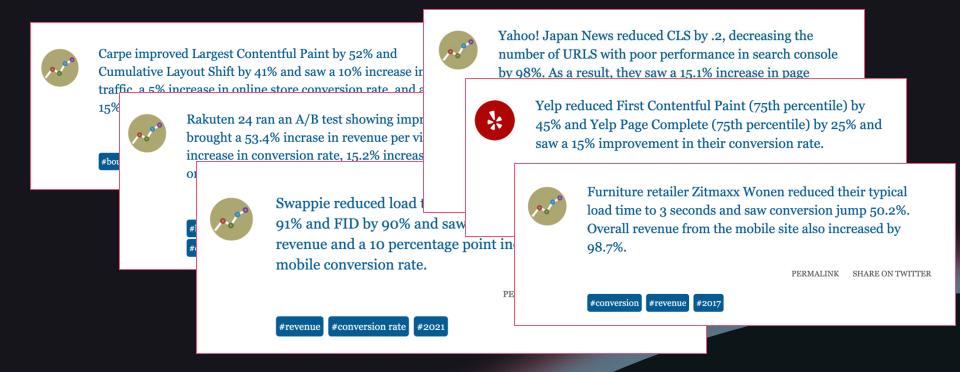
Skilled.co Job Board



Source: Cloudflare

Why is Web Performance Important / Revenue

WPOStats



Source: WPOStats

Workshop Outline

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Flame Charts

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Workshop Outline

Measuring

- Legacy Metrics
- Core Web Vitals
- More Metrics
- Capturing Metrics
- Browser Support

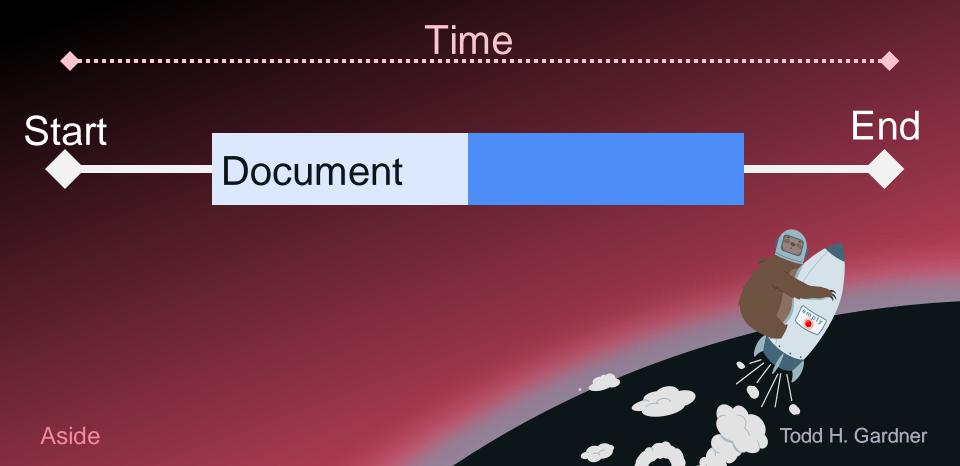
Waterfall Charts
Flame Charts



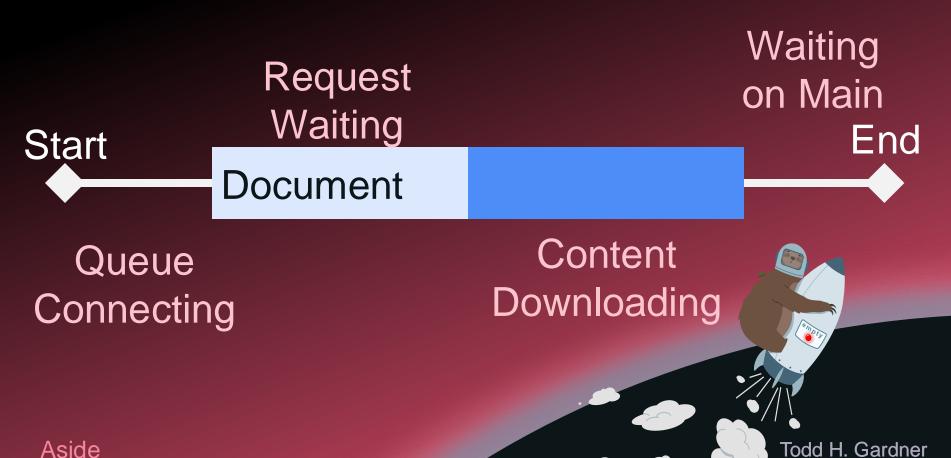
How do we measure "fast"?

Reading Waterfall Charts

Waterfall Charts



Waterfall Charts

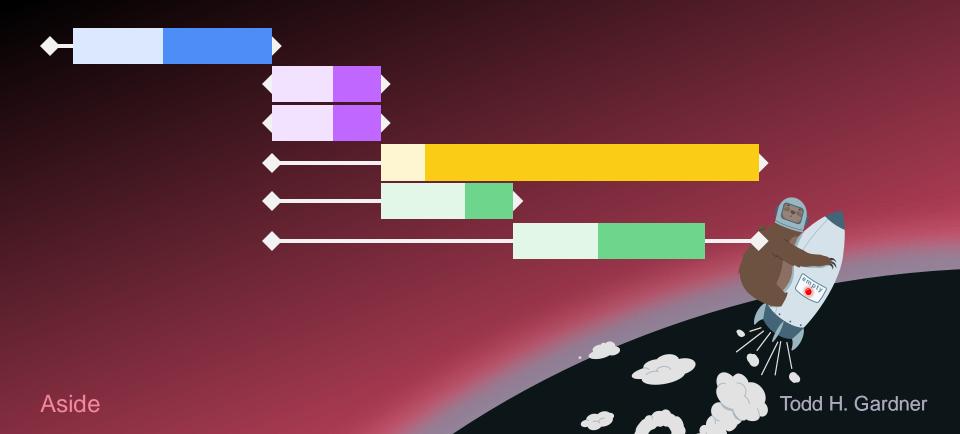


Waterfall Charts

HTML Document	
Stylesheets	
JavaScript	
Images	
Fonts	
Fetch / Other	

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Waterfall Charts



Workshop Outline

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Waterfall Charts
Flame Charts



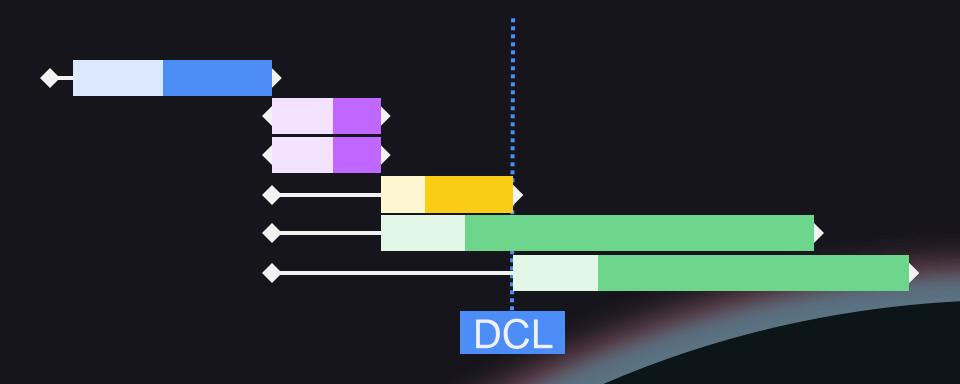
Legacy Metrics DOMContentLoaded

DOMContentLoaded

The HTML downloaded and deferred scripts have executed.

Sources: MDN

DOMContentLoaded



DOMContentLoaded





Measuring Web Performance / Legacy Metrics / DOMContentLoaded

When to Use DOMContentLoaded

The structure of the page is done, but images may not be displayed.

DOMContentLoaded

```
window.addEventListener("DOMContentLoaded", (evt) ⇒ {
   console.log(`DOMContentLoaded at ${evt.timeStamp} ms`);
});

//> DOMContentLoaded at 1807.4000000059605 ms
```

Legacy Metrics Load

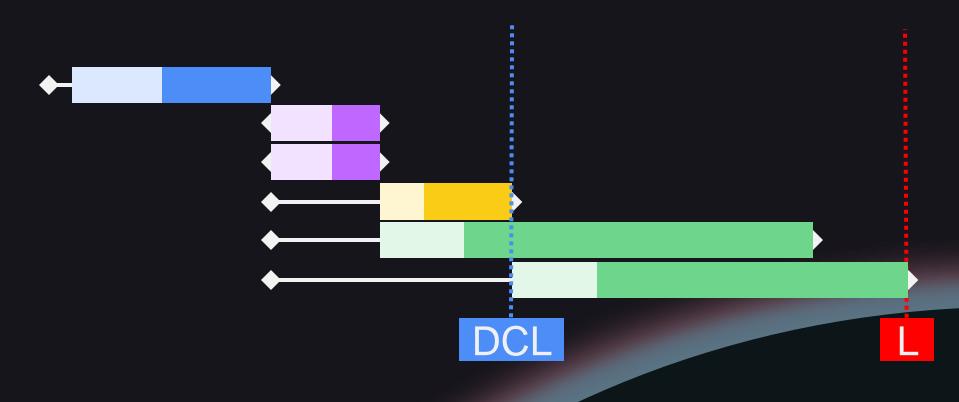
Load

The HTML and all known resources have been downloaded and rendered,

except those that are lazy-loaded.

Sources: MDN

Load



Load





When to Use Load

The document is **ready** and update and reporting tasks can begin.

Load

```
8
9 window.addEventListener("load", (evt) ⇒ {
10 console.log(`Load at ${evt.timeStamp} ms`);
11 });
12
13 //> Load at 17117 ms
14
```

The Problem with Legacy Metrics

The Problem with Legacy Metrics

What Load *Originally* Meant: **Document is Ready**

What Load Originally Meant

```
14
15
     /**
16
      * Get the Cart Items and update the item count in the header.
      * jQuery Syntax like it's 2008
17
18
      */
     $(document).ready(function() {
19
       $.ajax("/cart", {
20
         complete: function(data) {
21
           $("#cart-count").val(data.length)
22
23
       });
24
     });
25
26
```

Source: <u>iQuery</u>

Then, 2010 Happened

Client-Side Rendering Single-Page Applications







Single Page Applications

```
27
28
     <html>
       <body>
29
30
         <div id="app"></div>
         <script>
31
32
            $(document).ready(function() {
              define('application.js', function (app) {
33
                app.initialize("#app");
34
35
              })
36
37
          </script>
       </body>
38
39
     </html>
40
```

Single Page Applications





The Problem with Legacy Metrics

Users are more likely to stay on a fast website.



Source: Google Search Central Blog

The Problem with Legacy Metrics

How do we know if foo.com is faster than bar.com?



Source: Google Search Central Blog

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Waterfall Charts
Flame Charts



Measuring Web Performance

Google's Core Web Vitals

Measuring Web Performance

Core Web Vitals

- 1. how fast your site visibly loads
- 2. how smooth things load
- 3. how quickly users can interact

Measuring Web Performance

Core Web Vitals

- 1. Largest Contentful Paint (LCP)
- 2. Cumulative Layout Shift (CLS)
- 3. Interaction to Next Paint (INP)

Page Rank

"Search ranking incorporates the [Core Web Vital] page experience metrics."

Source: Google Search Central Blog

LCP Largest Contentful Paint

Largest Contentful Paint

How fast your site visibly loads the most important element

Source: Request Metrics

Largest vs Important

Google doesn't trust you.

What is the Largest?

-
- <video>
- css:background-image
- Text Elements

Source: Google Chrome Source

What is the Largest?

- Opacity > 0
- Size < 100%
- Low Entropy Images < 0.05

Source: Google Chrome Source

WTF is Entropy

Bits per Pixel



Entropy 31M / 3.3M **9.39**

Unencoded 3.9MB **31,101,368 bytes** Full Size 2800 x 1200 **3,360,000 Pixels**

Bits per Pixel

Entropy 17 / 17K **0.001**

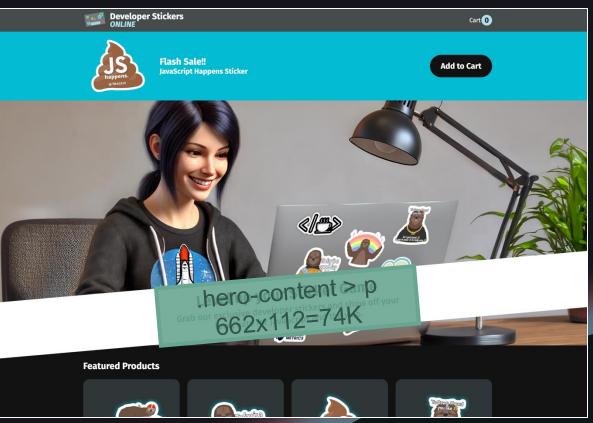
Unencoded **17 bytes**

Full Size 200 x 88 **17,600 Pixels**

Bits per Pixel

```
40
41
     console.table(
42
       [...document.images].map((img) \Rightarrow {
         const entry = performance.getEntriesByName(img.currentSrc)[0];
43
         const bytes = (entry?.encodedBodySize * 8);
44
45
         const pixels = (img.width * img.height);
         return { src: img.currentSrc, bytes, pixels, entropy: (bytes / pixels) };
46
47
       })
48
49
```

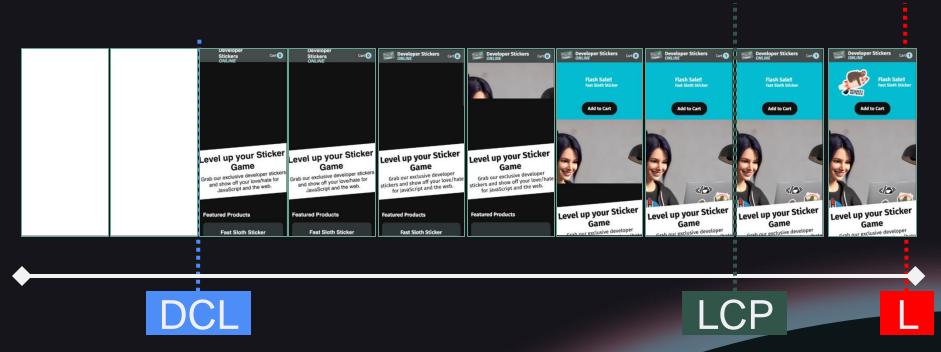
What is the Largest?



What is the Largest?



Sequence



Considerations

Stops after first user interaction

What is a Good Score (to Google)?



Source: web.dev

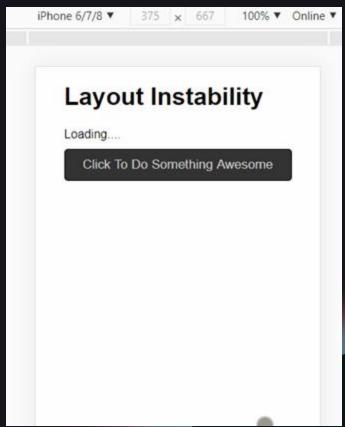
CLS Cumulative Layout Shift

Cumulative Layout Shift

How smooth and predictably elements load into the page

Source: Request Metrics

Cumulative Layout Shift



Source: Request Metrics

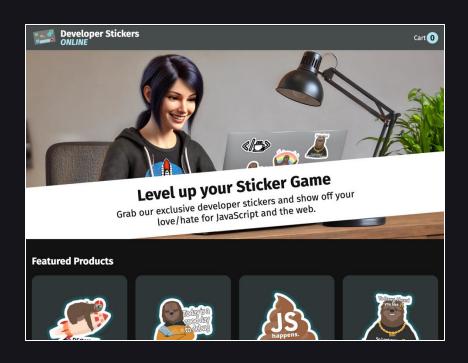
Todd H. Gardner

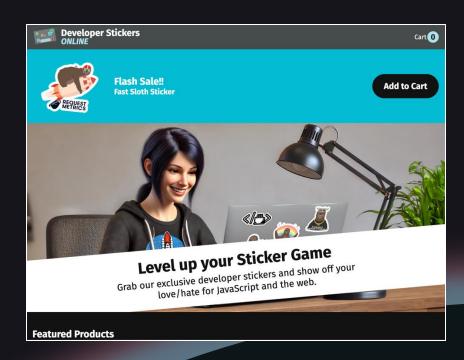
Cumulative Layout Shift

Play Shifty.site https://shifty.site/



Cumulative Layout Shift

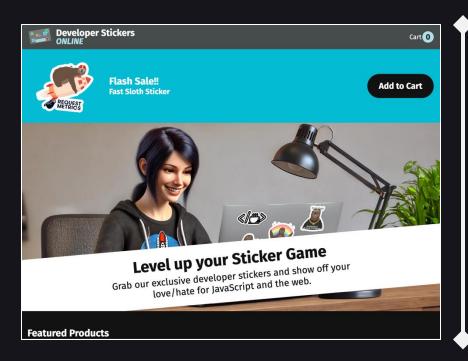




Layout Shift Value

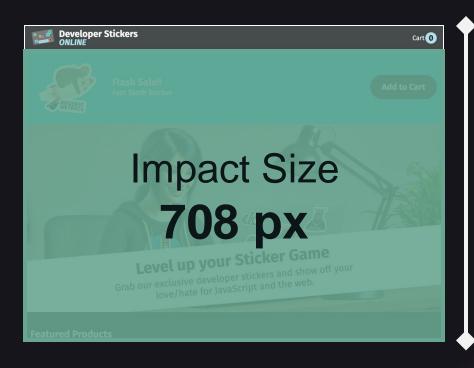
Source: Request Metrics

Impact Fraction



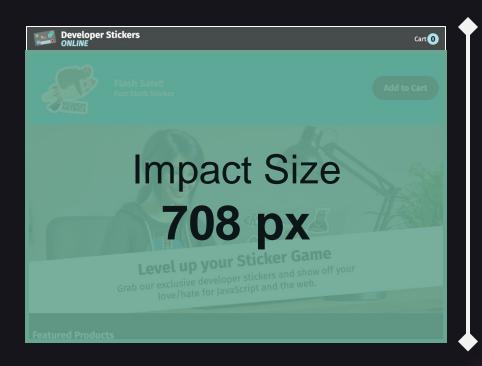
Viewport Height
768 px

Impact Fraction



Viewport Height
768 px

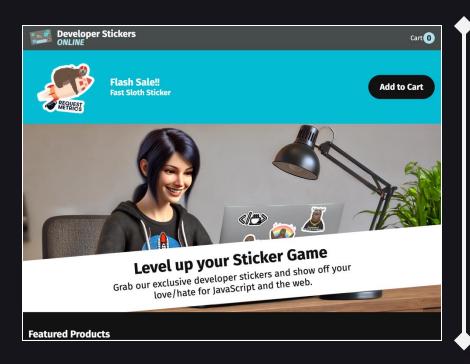
Impact Fraction



Viewport Height
768 px

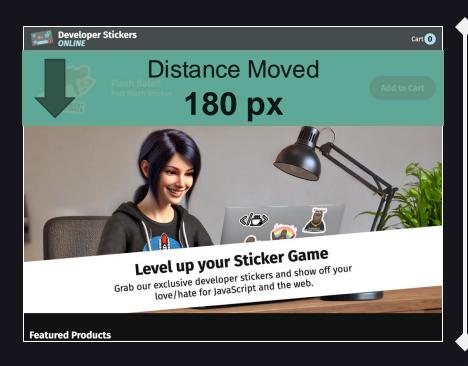
Impact Fraction 708 ÷ 768 **0.922**

Distance Fraction



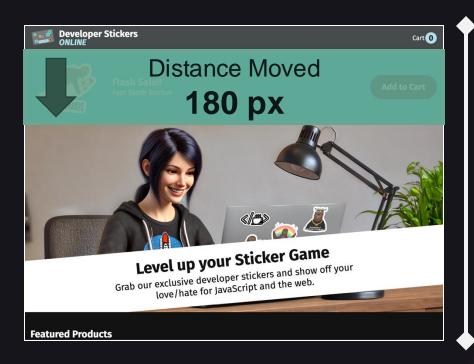
Viewport Height
768 px

Distance Fraction



Viewport Height
768 px

Distance Fraction



Viewport Height
768 px

Distance Fraction 180 ÷ 768 **0.234**

Layout Shift Value

Source: Request Metrics

Layout Shift Value

0.922 × 0.234 0.215

Source: Request Metrics

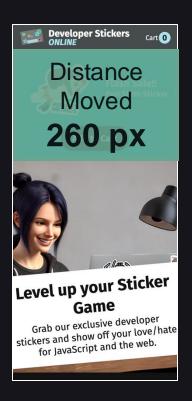
Impact Fraction



Viewport Height 844 px

Impact Fraction 784 ÷ 844 **0.929**

Impact Fraction



Viewport Height
844 px

Distance Fraction 260 ÷ 844 **0.308**

Layout Shift Value

Desktop

0.922

× 0.234

~0.215

Mobile

0.929

×<u>0.308</u>

~0.286

Layout Shift Value

This applies to both height and width

Cumulative?

The sum of all layout shifts

Source: Request Metrics

Considerations

Not including Shifts from user actions
 < 500ms

What is a Good Score (to Google)?



Workshop Outline

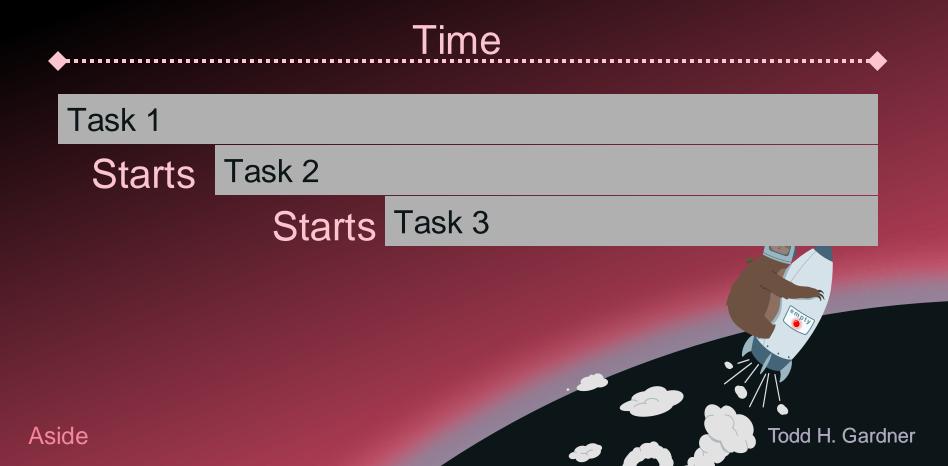
How to Measure Web Performance

- Legacy Metrics
- Core Web Vitals
- More Metrics
- Capturing Metrics
- Browser Support

- Waterfall Charts
- Flame Charts

Reading Flame Charts

Flame Charts



Flame Charts

```
53
54
     function task1() {
       task2();
55
56
57
     function task2() {
58
       task3();
59
60
61
62
     function task3() {
63
       // something
64
65
```

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Flame Charts

Browser Tasks

Parse HTML

Layout and Paint

Evaluate and Compile Scripts (passthrough)

JavaScript Execution (working)

Extensions



Flame Charts

```
<html>
     <body>
       <script>
         window.addEventListener("load", () ⇒ {
           var el = document.createElement("div");
           el.innerHTML = "<h1>Hey</h1>"
           document.body.appendChild(el);
         });
       </script>
10
     </body>
11
12
     </html>
13
```

Flame Charts

Task

Parse HTML

Evaluation script

Compile code

Task

Event: load

Function call

Compile

(function)



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Measuring Web Performance / Flame Charts

The Main Thread

The single thread of work the browser has for handling user events, layout, paint, and running JavaScript

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Workshop Outline

Measuring

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Waterfall Charts
Flame Charts



INP Interaction to Next Paint

Interaction to Next Paint

How quickly users can interact

Source: Request Metrics

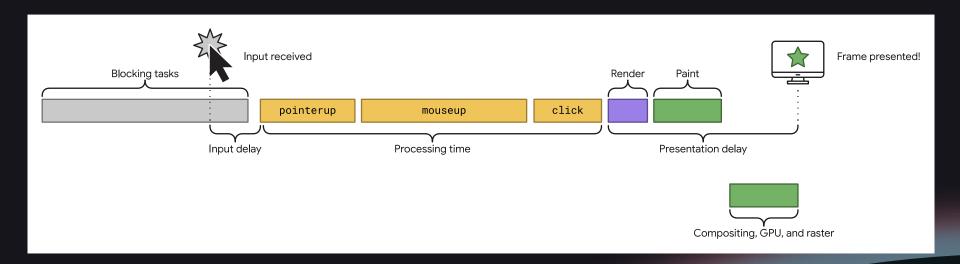
What's an interaction?

- Click
- Drag
- Touch
- Keypress

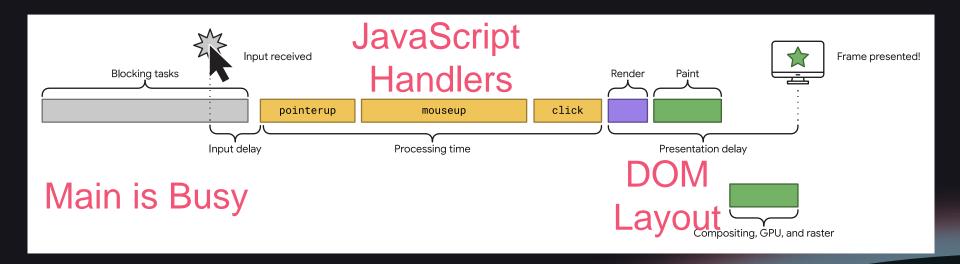
But not

Scroll

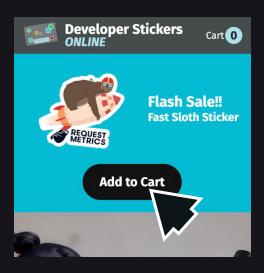
What's an interaction?



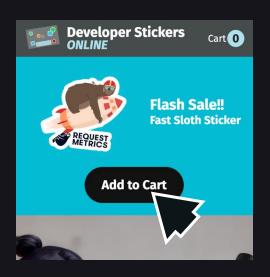
What's an interaction?



What's the "next paint"?

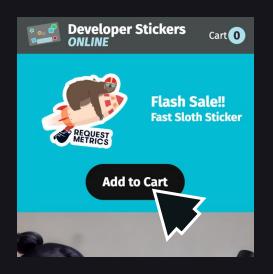


What's the "next paint"?

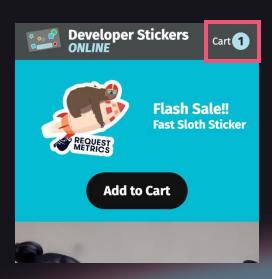


```
(evt) => {
    //handle it
}
```

What's the "next paint"?



```
(evt) => {
    //handle it
}
```



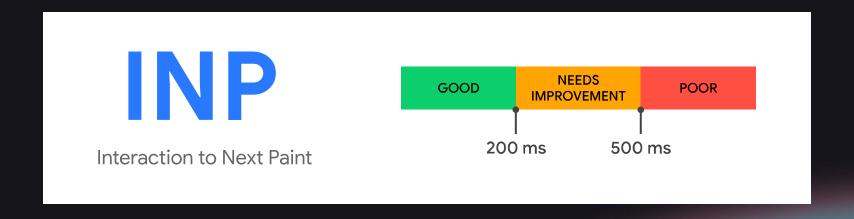
The worst Interaction

4 ms	7 ms	9 ms
43 ms	243 ms	12 ms
89 ms	79 ms	54 ms
2 ms	23 ms	5 ms

Considerations

- There might not be an interaction
- We don't know the worst until it's over
- Heavily influenced by device capability

What is a Good Score (to Google)?



FID First Input Delay In memorial 2020-2024

First Input Delay

Measured the first INP

Problems with FID

- Emphasized Blocking Time over Processing Time
- Users interact many times

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Waterfall Charts
Flame Charts



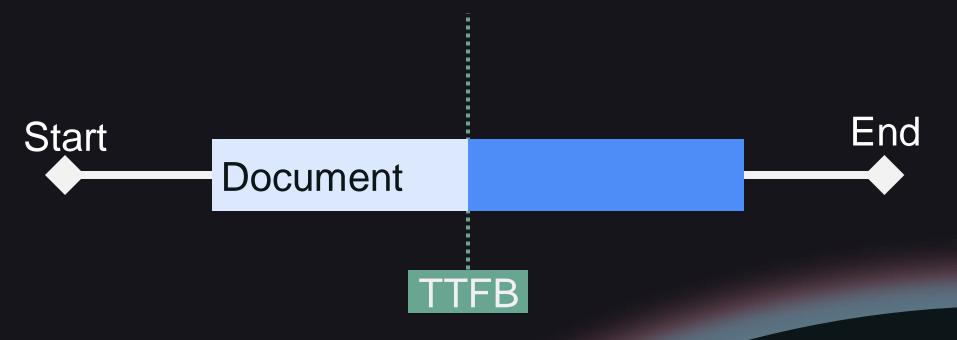
More Performance Metrics

TTFB Time to First Byte

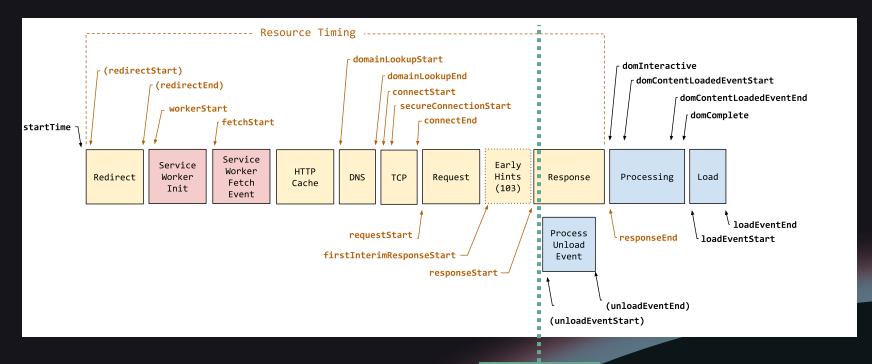
Time to First Byte

How quickly your host responds.

Time to First Byte



Time to First Byte





What is a Good Score (to Google)?



FCP First Contentful Paint

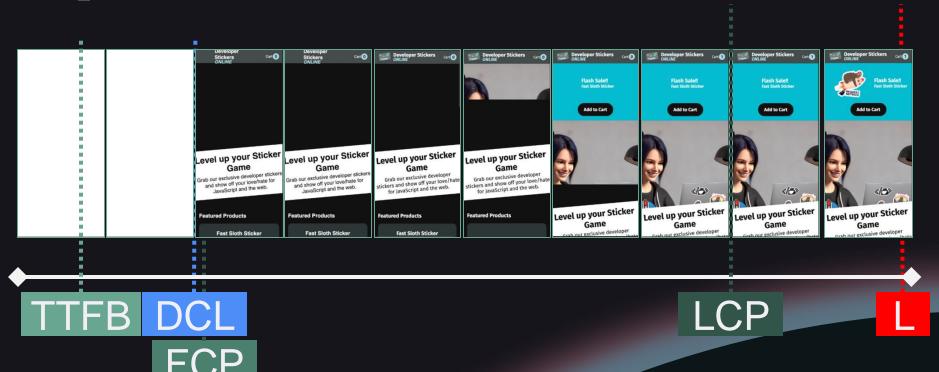
First Contentful Paint

How fast your site visibly loads the **something**.

Source: Request Metrics

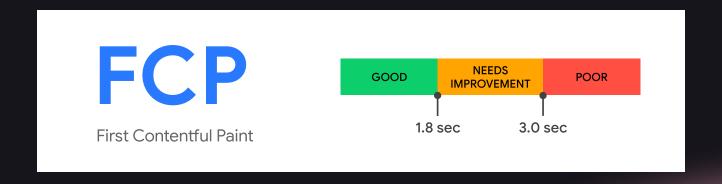
Measuring Web Performance / More Metrics / FCP

Sequence



Measuring Web Performance / More Metrics / FCP

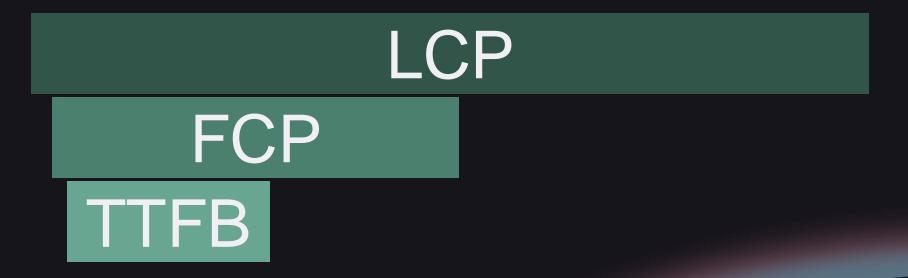
What is a Good Score (to Google)?



Source: web.dev

Measuring Web Performance / More Metrics / FCP

Relationship to LCP



Workshop Outline

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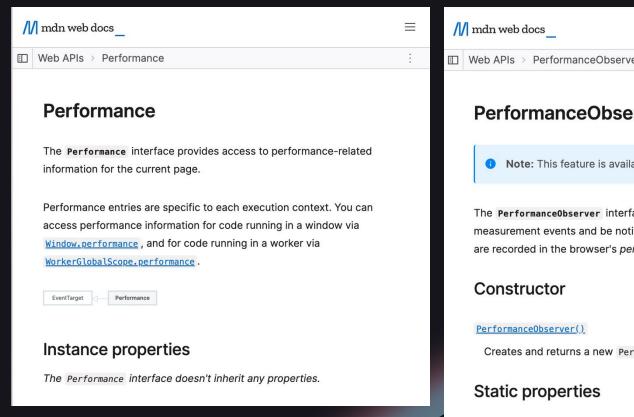
Waterfall Charts Flame Charts

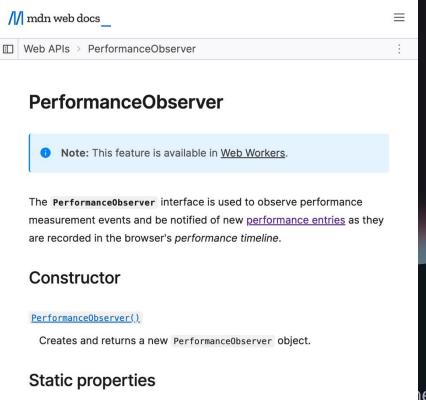


Measuring Web Performance

Capturing Metrics

How to capture performance metrics





Performance API

- .now()
- .getEntries()
- .mark()
- .measure()

Source: MDN

Capturing Metrics / Performance API performance.now()

High-resolution timestamp relative to start of page

Source: MDN

Capturing Metrics / Performance API / now

vs Date.now()

```
66
     Date.now()
67
68
     //> 1727181644813
69
     performance.now()
70
71
     //> 8994.199999988079
72
73
     performance.timeOrigin
74
     //> 1727181678939.8
75
     performance.timeOrigin + performance.now()
76
77
     //> 1727181763103.9001
78
```

Capturing Metrics / Performance API

performance.getEntries()

Timing information for

- 1. Page Navigation
- 2. Resource Requests
- 3. Performance Events
- 4. Custom Events

Performance API

<u>Developer Stickers Online</u> http://eu.devstickers.shop:3000/

performance.getEntries()



Capturing Metrics / Performance API

Observer Effect

Disturbance of Observed System by the act of observation

Source: Wikipedia

Performance Observer

Observe performance entries when idle

Source: MDN

Performance Observer

web-vitals.js

```
import { onLCP, onCLS, onINP } from "web-vitals";

onLCP(console.log);

onCLS(console.log);

onINP(console.log);

4
Google
```

Source: Github/web-vitals

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Measuring Web Performance

Performance Metric Browser Support

Browser Engines

Blink

- Chrome
- Edge
- Opera
- Samsung
- Brave
- Arc

Webkit

- Safari
- Mobile Safari
- Chrome on iOS

Gecko

- Firefox

Compatibility Table

	Blink	Webkit	Gecko
DOMContentLoaded (DCL)	✓	<u> </u>	<u>~</u>
Load (L)	✓	✓	✓
Largest Contentful Paint (LCP)	\checkmark		✓
Cumulative Layout Shift (CLS)	✓		
Interaction to Next Paint (INP)	✓		
Time to First Byte (TTFB)	✓	✓	✓
First Contentful Paint (FCP)	✓	✓	✓
Custom Metrics	✓	✓	✓

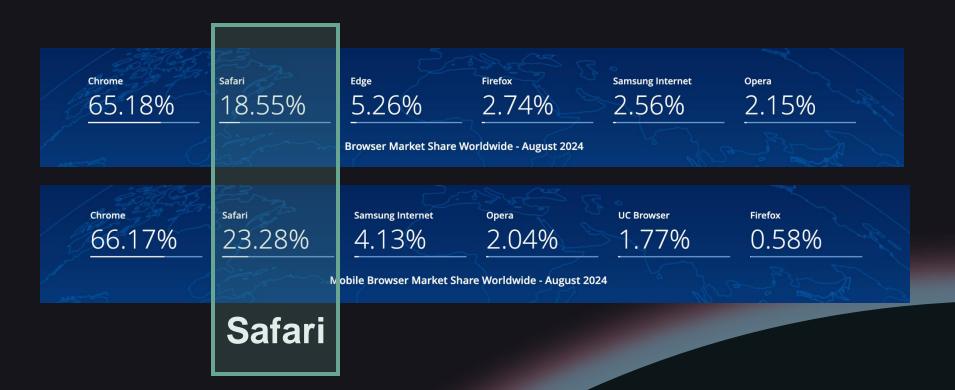
Sources: MDN, Web.dev

Market Share



Source: <u>StatCounter</u>

Market Share



Source: StatCounter

What do we do about Safari?

I don't know. Hope?

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Flame Charts

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FUNDAMENTALS of **Web Performance**

Workshop Outline

Testing and Tools

- Testing Methods
- Common Tools

Real User Monitoring

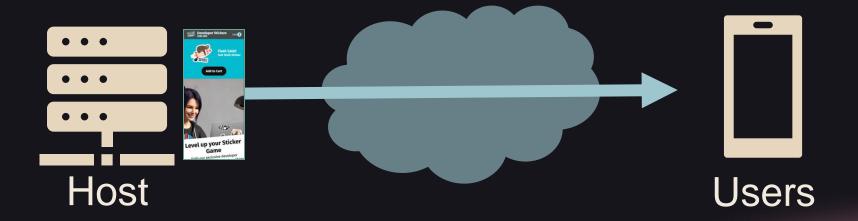
Statistics



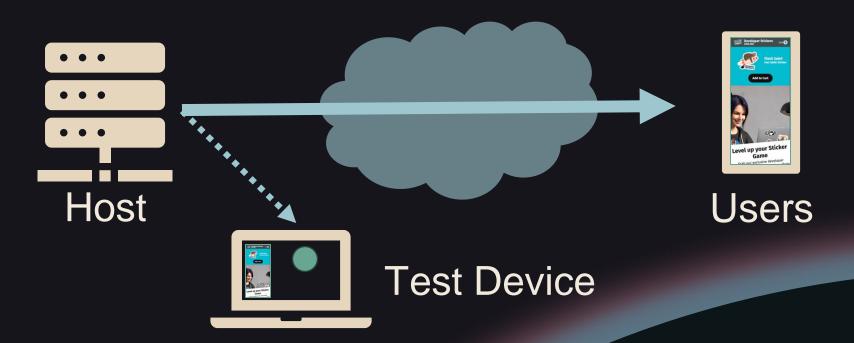
Testing Performance

Testing Performance

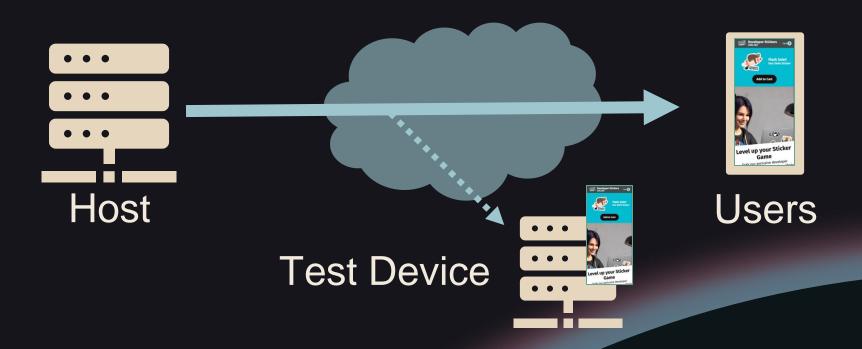
Where do we measure from?



Lab Data



Synthetic Data

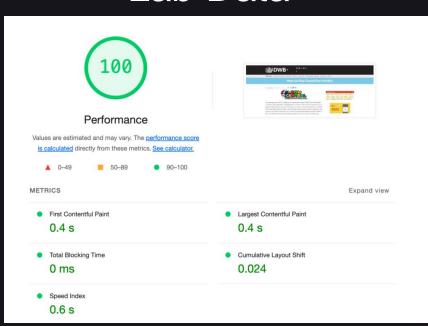


Field Data



Sample Size

Lab Data



Field Data



Sample Size





Field Data

Testing Performance

Statistics

Average Problems





Average Problems

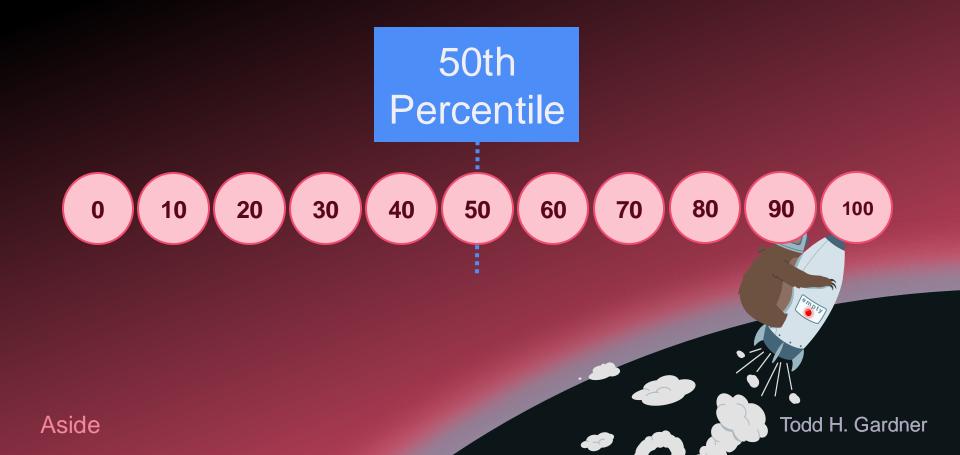


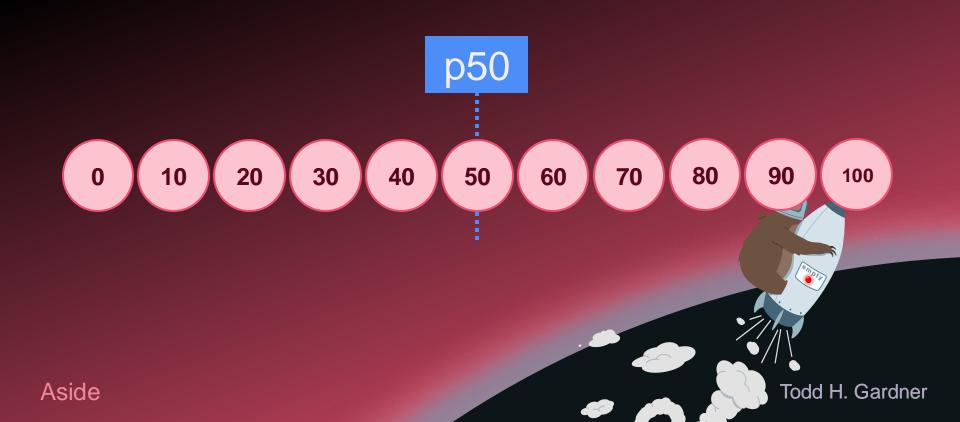


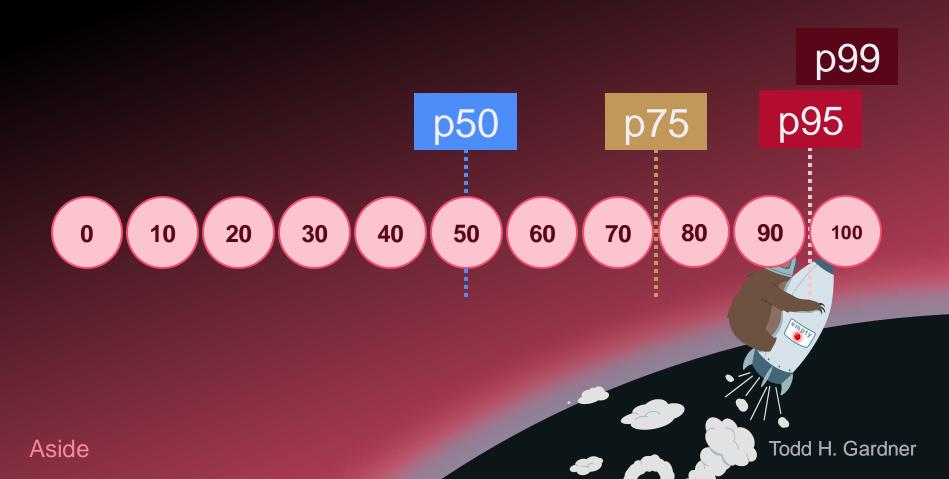
Percentiles

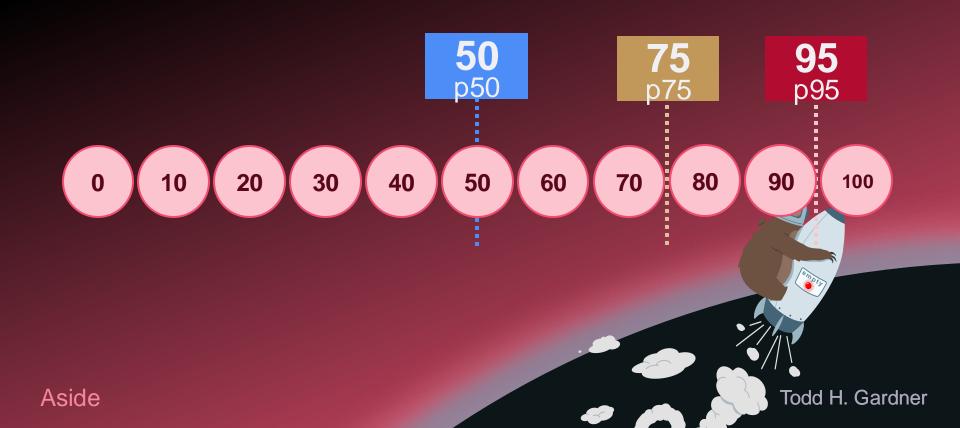


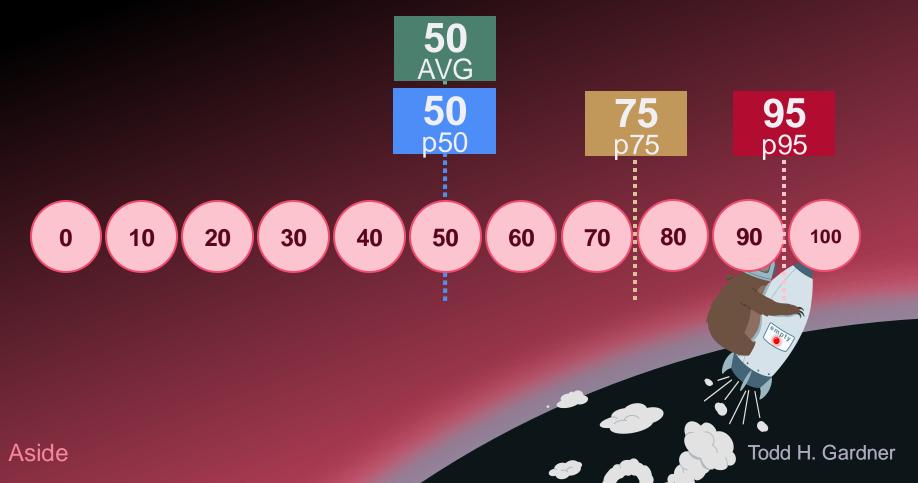
Percentiles













Testing Performance

Lab Data vs Field Data

Lab Data is easier

Field Data is more accurate

Testing Performance

Lab Data vs Field Data

Lab Data is diagnostic

Field Data is experience

Testing Performance

Making Lab Data Better

Simulation

- Mobile vs Desktop
- Network Conditions
- Processing Power



Workshop Outline

Testing and Tools

- Testing Methods
- Common Tools

Real User Monitoring

Statistics

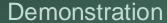


Google Chrome

Developer Stickers Online http://eu.devstickers.shop:3000/

- Lighthouse
- Device Toolbar
- Network Panel
 - Network Throttling

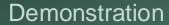
- Performance Panel
 - Waterfall Chart
 - Flame Chart
 - CPU Throttling



Web Vitals Extension

Web Vitals Extension

- Console Logging
- Field Data Comparison



Chrome User Experience Report

- Field Data
- Logged in Chrome Users
- Top 1M Public Websites
- Anonymous and Public
- 28 Day Rolling Average
- Google BigQuery,
 - API, PageSpeed Insights, Google Search Console

Source: Request Metrics

Chrome User Experience Report

Speed Check Tool

Compare Target.com to competitors

PageSpeed Insights

PageSpeed Insights

pagespeed.web.dev

- Run against Target.com
- Run against http://eu.devstickers.shop:3000/



WebPageTest.org

WebPageTest.org

- Simulating Real Users
- Run against http://eu.devstickers.shop:3000/
- Waterfall
- Opportunities



Workshop Outline

Testing and Tools

- Testing Methods
- Common Tools

Statistics

Real User Monitoring



RUM Real User Monitoring

CrUX vs Real User Monitoring

CrUX

- Field Data
- Logged in Chrome Users
- Top 1M Public Websites
- Anonymous and Public
- 28 Day Rolling Average
- Google BigQuery,

Real User Monitoring

- Field Data
- All Users
- Private sites
- Private details
- Realtime
- Custom Dashboard and Alerts

Source: Request Metrics

Installing RUM Tools

```
95
96 import { RM } from "@request-metrics/browser-agent";
97
98 RM.install({
99     token: "your-app-token",
100     /* other settings */
101 })
102
```

RUM Tools

Enterprise RUM

- Akamai mPulse
- Dynatrace
- AppDynamics
- DataDog
- Sentry

Project RUM

- Request Metrics
- SpeedCurve
- RUMVision
- Pingdom
- Raygun

Request Metrics

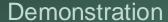


Request Metrics

RequestMetrics.com

- Real Time Data
- Filtering Views
- User Information
- Waterfall

- Core Web Vital Attribution
- CrUX Integration
- Resource Reports



Workshop Outline

- 1. Importance
- 2. Measuring
- 3. Tests and Tools
- 4. Setting Goals
- 5. Improving

Waterfall Charts

Flame Charts

Statistics



Workshop Outline

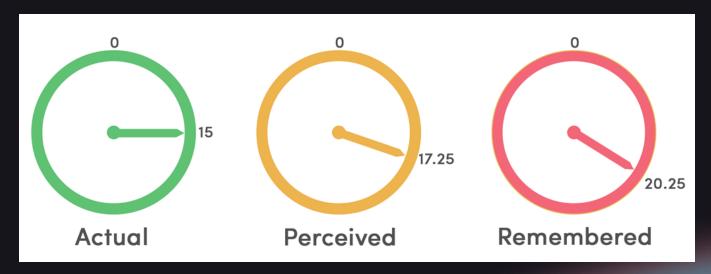
Setting Goals

- How fast is enough
- Who gets to decide
- Understanding users



Fast is subjective user perception

Perceived Performance



They remember it slower

Source: Velocity 2010, Stoyan Stephanov

How Fast is Fast Enough / Perceived Performance

The Psychology of Waiting

- 1. People want to start
- 2. Bored waits feel slower
- 3. Anxious waits feel slower
- 4. Unexplained waits feel slower
- 5. Uncertain waits feel slower
- 6. People will wait for value

Source: Simon Hearne

How Fast is Fast Enough / Perceived Performance

Intentionally Slow

"TurboTax's 'Looking over every detail' loading animation was fixed.

It didn't appear to be communicating with the site's servers at all once it began playing."

People want to wait for value

Source: The Atlantic

Workshop Outline

Setting Goals

- How fast is enough
- Who gets to decide
- Understanding users



Who gets to decide? Not you.

Who Get's to Decide

- 1. User Experience
- 2. Competitors
- 3. SEO PageRank

User Experience

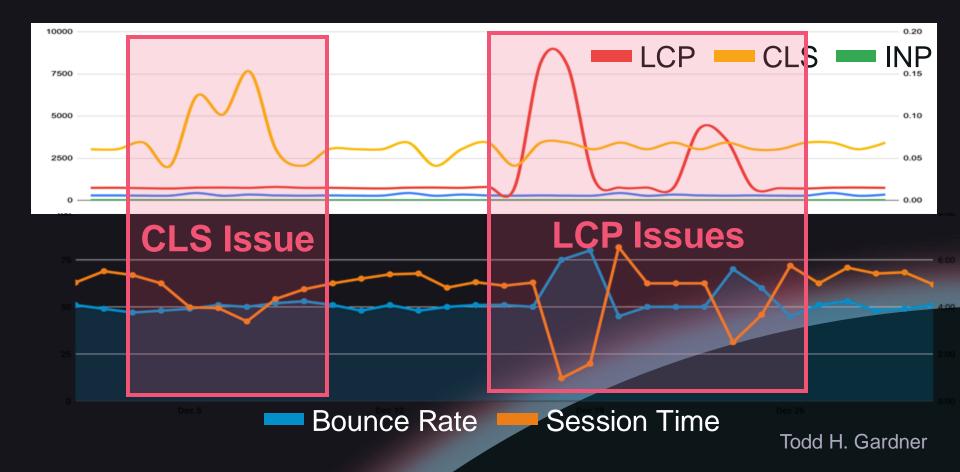
Follow Your Business Metrics

- Bounce Rate
- Session Time
- Add-to-Cart Rate
- Cart Abandonment Rate
- Conversion Rate

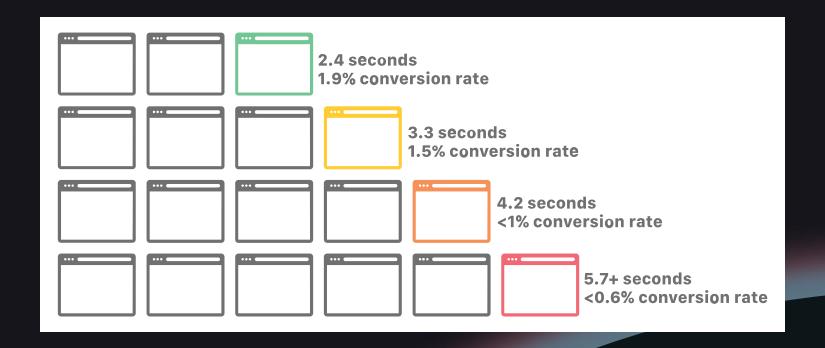
Follow Your Business Metrics



Follow Your Business Metrics



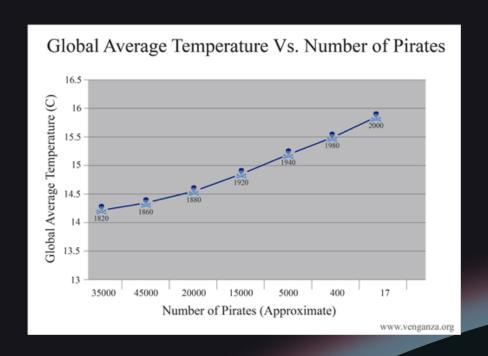
Follow Your Business Metrics



Source: Cloudflare

How Fast is Fast Enough / UX / Metrics

Correlation !== Causation



Source: Wikipedia

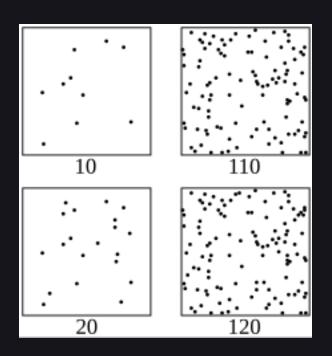
How Fast is Fast Enough

Competitors

You need to be 20% Faster

How Fast is Fast Enough / Competitors

Weber's Law (the 20% Rule)

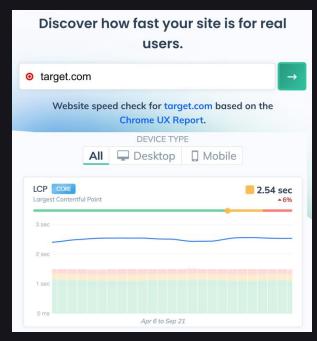


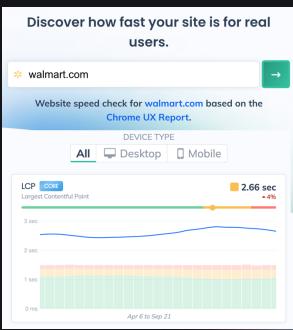
- Top and Bottom changed same amount
- Left changed proportionally more
- 20% Difference minimum for people to notice

Source: Wikipedia

How Fast is Fast Enough / Competitors

Weber's Law (the 20% Rule)





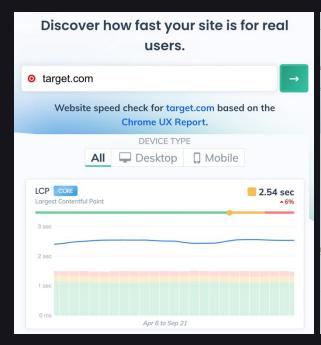
Target is only 4% Faster

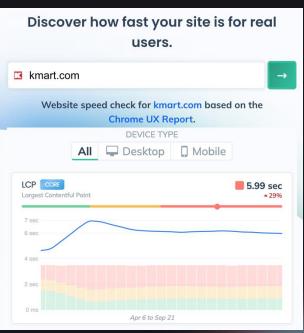
Nobody Cares

Source: Speed Check

How Fast is Fast Enough / Competitors

Weber's Law (the 20% Rule)





Target is 57% Faster

Clearly Faster

Source: Speed Check

How Fast is Fast Enough

SEO PageRank





Source: web.dev

Workshop Outline

Setting Goals

- How fast is enough
- Who gets to decide
- Understanding users



Device Share



Source: StatCounter

Screen Size



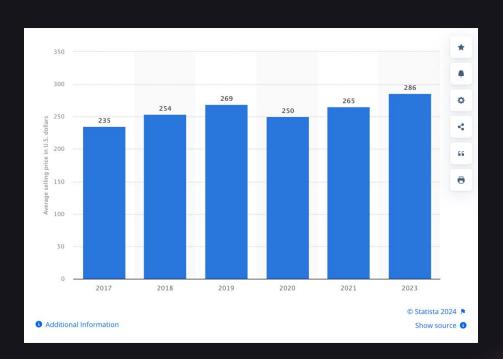
Source: StatCounter

OS Share



Source: StatCounter

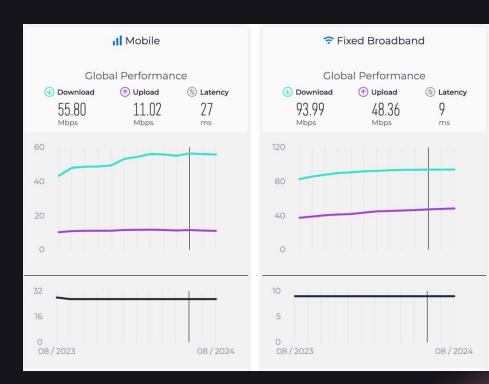
Device Cost



\$286 Android Phones

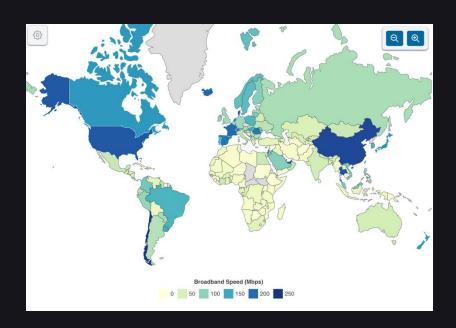
Source: Statistica Todd H. Gardner

Network Speed



Source: SpeedTest.net

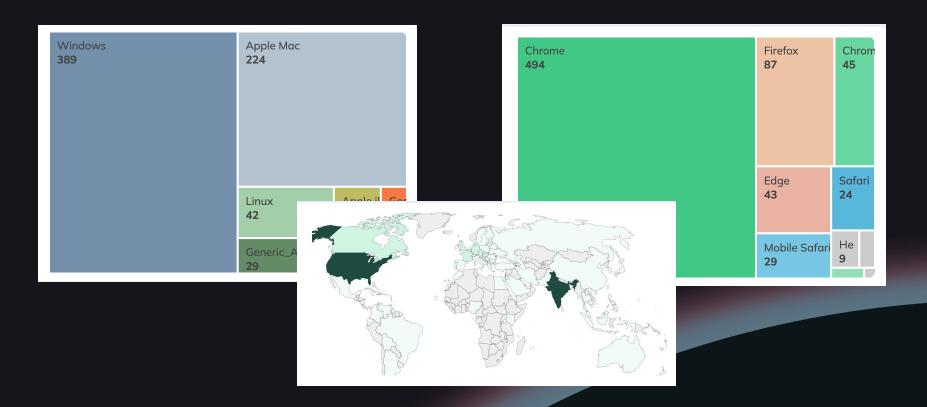
Network Speed



The Future is not evenly distributed yet.

Source: SpeedTest.net

Understand Your Users



Source: Request Metrics

Workshop Outline

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Waterfall Charts

Flame Charts

Statistics



FUNDAMENTALS of **Web Performance**

FUNDAMENTALS of Web Performance

End of Part 1

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