

No Surprises

**Using PatternLab to Build the Design Your
Client Signed Off**

annertech

**Mark Conroy
- Annertech -**

@markconroy

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An Outline

- Does this sound familiar?
- Why not Photoshop
- Rapid Prototyping
 - Pen and Paper
 - Balsamiq
 - SketchApp
- Atomic Design with PatternLab
- PatternLab integrated with Drupal

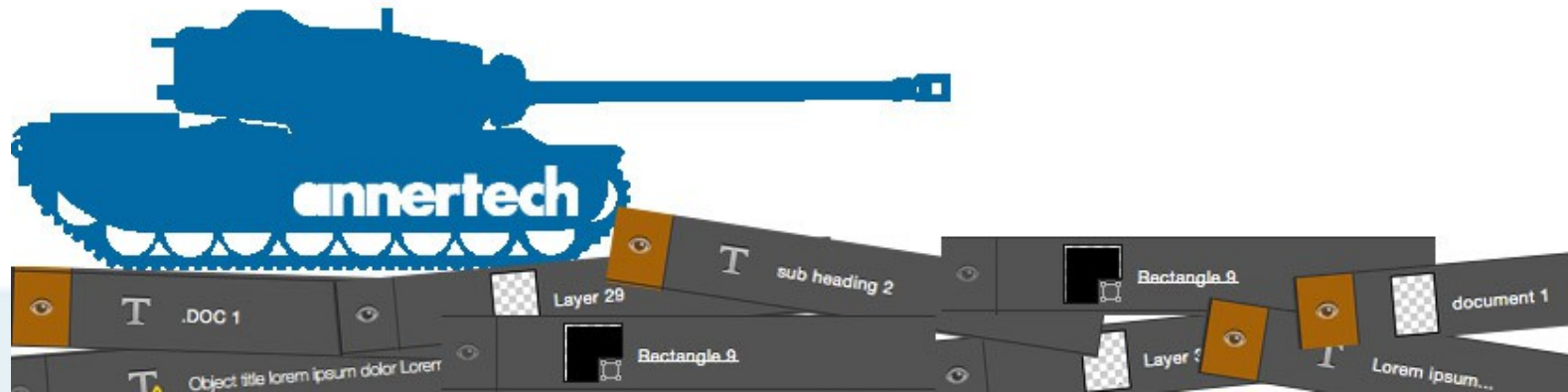
Does this Sound Familiar?

- Clients sign off on designs
- You build a website for them based on these designs
- It looks quite like the designs
- But not exactly like them (“pixel perfect”)
- It's not your fault
- It's not the client's fault
- But damn it, something is to blame!

The Problem

- Websites in the real world use real content
- Designs are in static (image) format so can't be tested on real devices and screen widths
- The designs were completed in my most hated design tool – Photoshop

Drive Photoshop into the Ground



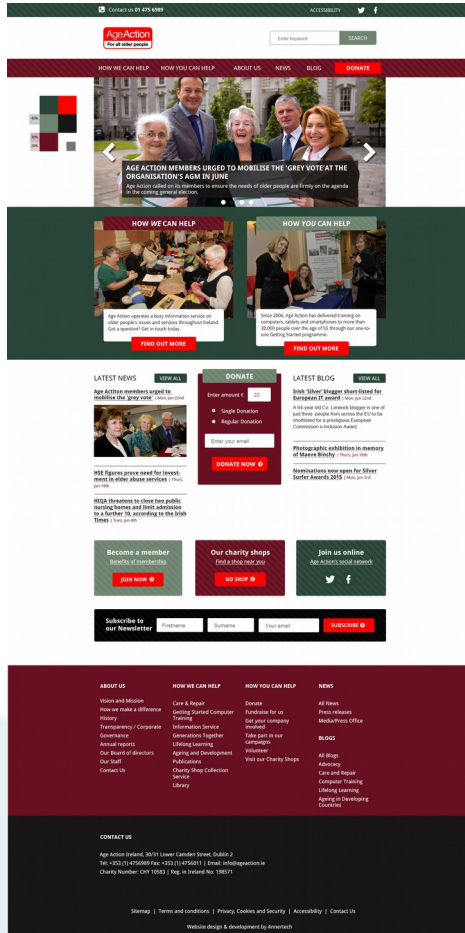
Death to Photoshop

- Photoshop is a great tool (for editing photos)
- It is a terrible tool for designing websites
- In 2016, if your designer is using Photoshop, you hired the wrong designer
- Browsers render fonts differently to how Photoshop does
- Making minor changes is not sustainable
- ... and here's 3 more reasons ...

Reason 1 – Not Responsive

- You will probably receive more desktop designs than mobile ones
- But ... 50%+ of your users will be on mobile devices
- Your mobile designs will be an afterthought
- Tablet designs will be a guess between mobile and desktop
- Designs will be for one specific browser size – responsive design needs to from watch size to billboards

Reason 2 – Designs are Zoomed Out



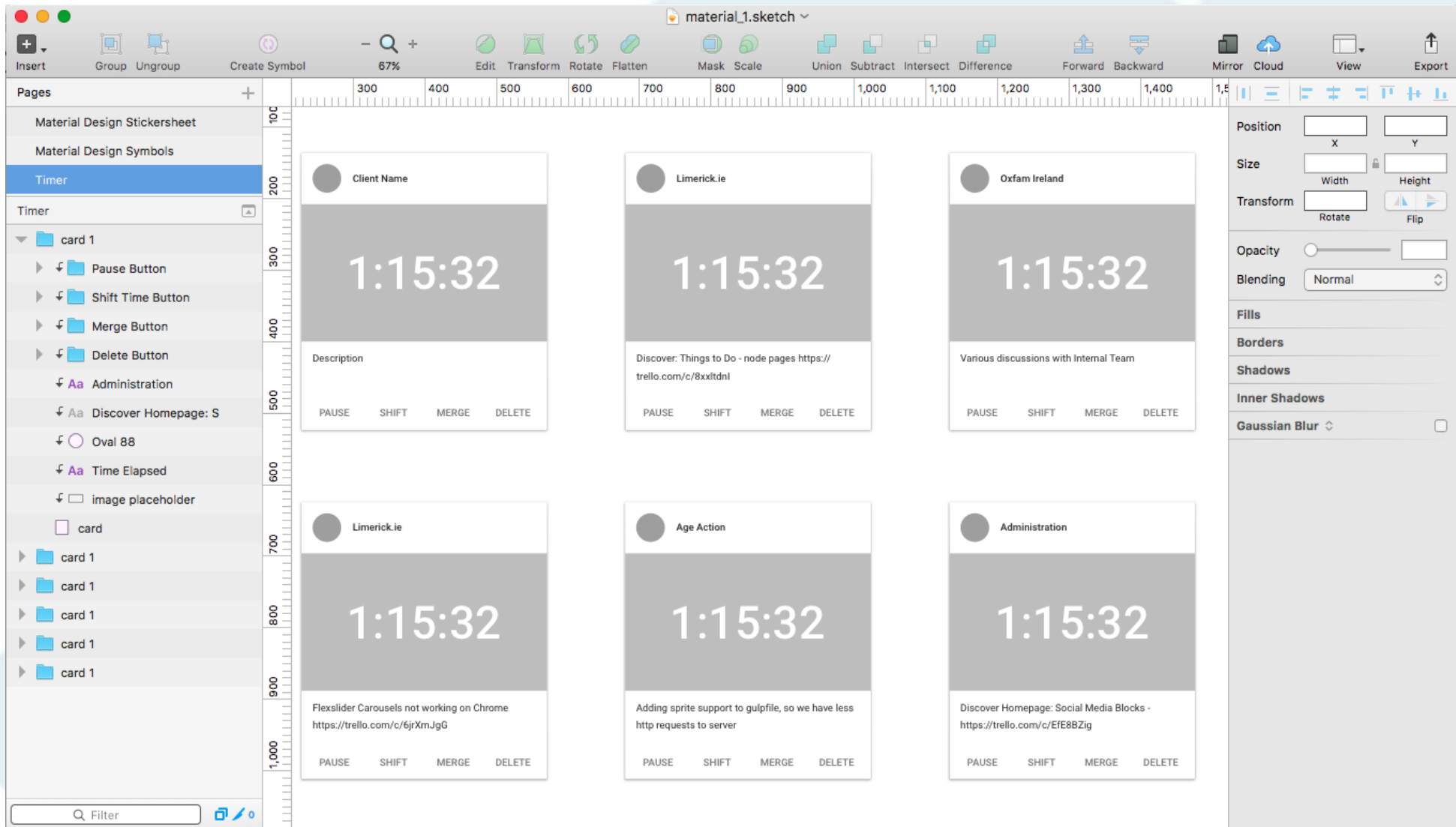
- Who looks at a website like that?
- You should see the website as it's going to look – 100% of size
- Realistically, this means only above the fold items on first look

Reason 3 – Too Easy for Bonkers Ideas

- When you click this link, it opens Wikipedia (but themed to look like our site) – simple in photoshop
- I don't like the look of my ads on Done Deal, here's a new design – simple in photoshop
- We need lens flare when you click on a button – simple in photoshop

What's Better? SketchApp.

- SketchApp was designed to design interfaces
- It's a beautiful tool to work with
- Does a better job than photoshop, but ultimately fails



Solution? Design in the Browser

- Your clients end product is going to be
 - HTML
 - CSS
 - JavaScript
- Why are you giving them PSDs or PDFs?
- Why not give a URL?
- Here's an approach...

The Solution

- Discovery: find out what your client wants
- Research: find out what your client needs (what their users want)
- Rapid prototyping 1 – pen, paper, post-it notes, etc
- Rapid prototyping 2 – Balsamiq, SketchApp, etc
- Agree on design components ... what?

Atomic Design

- Seeks to break down design into reusable components
- Five levels
 - Atoms
 - Molecules
 - Organisms
 - Templates
 - Pages

PatternLab + Drupal

- Free, open source application to build static websites using atomic design principles
- PatternLab2 can use Twig – so your patternlab build can be your Drupal theme (#mindblown)

PatternLab + Drupal

- Create the component designs in PatternLab2
- Create templates in the Drupal theme to match these
- What ends up in Drupal will be a 1to1 match of the static site
- When the Design is complete and signed off, THAT will be your Drupal theme
- You will get what you signed off

PatternLab + Drupal – Main Menu

BASE ▾ ATOMS ▾ MOLECULES ▾ ORGANISMS ▾ TEMPLATES ▾ PAGES ▾ ALL

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This is the title of the article



A paragraph of article text. Nullam tempor ex vitae est scelerisque ultrices in eget massa. In a congue augue! Curabitur felis quam, eleifend sit amet sem eget, laoreet blandit lorem. Fusce dapibus finibus purus, ut pulvinar sem semper nec. Vivamus scelerisque consectetur sagittis. Integer ac.

A heading in the article

Manage Shortcuts admin Edit


Content Structure Appearance Extend Configuration People Reports Help

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Maecenas ut vehicula augue, ac condimentum augue. Morbi hendrerit condimentum tellus et mattis. Aliquam consectetur, nisi sit amet porta

PatternLab + Drupal (the code) – Main Menu

```
horizontal-menu.twig x menu--main.html.twig x
30 {% macro menu_links(items, attributes, menu_level) %}
31   {% import _self as menus %}
32   {% if items %}
33     {% if menu_level == 0 %}
34       <ul{{ attributes }} class="menu menu__horizontal">
35     {% else %}
36       <ul class="menu menu__horizontal">
37     {% endif %}
38     {% for item in items %}
39       {%
40         set classes = [
41           'menu-item',
42           item.is_expanded ? 'menu-item__expanded',
43           item.is_collapsed ? 'menu-item__collapsed',
44           item.in_active_trail ? 'menu-item__active-trail',
45         ]
46       %}
47       <li{{ item.attributes.addClass(classes) }}>
48         {{ link(item.title, item.url) }}
49         {% if item.below %}
50           {{ menus.menu_links(item.below, attributes, menu_level + 1) }}
51         {% endif %}
52       </li>
53     {% endfor %}
54   </ul>
55 {% endif %}
```

```
1 {% include "@atoms/menus/horizontal/horizontal-menu.twig" %}
2
```

PatternLab + Drupal (the code) – Branding

```
branding.twig x
1 <aside class="branding">
2   {% if site_logo %}
3     <div class="branding__logo">
4       <a href="{{ url }}" title="{{ 'Home'|t }}" rel="home">
5         
6       </a>
7     </div>
8   {% endif %}
9
10  {% if site_name %}
11    <h2 class="branding__name visually-hidden">
12      <a href="{{ path('<front>') }}" title="{{ 'Home'|t }}" rel="home">{{ si
13    </h2>
14  {% endif %}
15
16  {% if site_slogan %}
17    <h6 class="branding__slogan">{{ site_slogan }}</h6>
18  {% endif %}
19 </aside>
20

block--system-brandi... o
1 {% extends "block.html.twig" %}
2
3 {% block content %}
4   {% include "@molecules/branding/branding.twig"
5     with {
6       "url": path('<front>')
7     }
8   %}
9 {% endblock %}
10
```

PatternLab + Drupal (the code) – Article

```
article.twig x
1 {% extends "@templates/site-layout.twig" %}
2 {% block content %}
3
4 <article class="article">
5
6   <div class="article__title">
7     <h1>{{ title }}</h1>
8   </div>
9
10  <div class="article__image">
11    
12  </div>
13
14  <div class="article__body">
15    {{ body }}
16  </div>
17
18  <div class="article__tags">
19    {{ tags }}
20  </div>
21
22 </article>
23
24 {% endblock %}
25

node--article--full.ht... o
1 {% embed "@pages/content-types/article.twig"
2   with {
3     "title": label,
4     "body": content.body,
5     "tags": content.field_tags,
6     "image": file_url(node.field_image.entity.fileuri)
7   }
8   %}
9 {% embed %}
10
```

Why So Good? Sustainable

- Client doesn't like background colour on buttons
- Designer needs to open EVERY psd with a button and edit, save, send back to client
- Designer charges by the hour
- Client doesn't like background colour on buttons
- Developer changes the CSS for .button
- URL/Design is automatically updated
- One line of code changed, minimal cost

Why So Good? QA

- Designer designs website
- Developers build it
- Client does QA/UAT
- Bugs are reported
- Bugs are fixed
- Client tests again
- More bugs reported
- Eventually ... sign off
- Designer designs website in browser
- Client is testing designs on real devices as it's being designed
- QA/UAT is part of design process
- Finished design = finished frontend

Why So Good? Living Styleguide

- Designer updates design
- Styleguide not updated
- Was there ever a styleguide?
- Developers guess which design is most up-to-date
- Designer updates a component
- The URL/styleguide is automatically updated
- All design components related to this are automatically updated
- No one has to wonder what is the present up-to-date design

Why So Good? Regression Testing

- A new design component is added
- It looks great
- Three weeks later we realise it breaks another part of the website
- A new design component is added
- Each pre-existing component is automatically tested to make sure it's not affected by the new change
- The CEO doesn't have a heart attack three weeks later
- Everyone is happy!

QUESTIONS?

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