

# Pattern libraries

*How to make your back-end love your front-end*

# @iamkeir

- 15+ years freelance web developer in Bristol
- Wonderful people, agencies & brands
- Front-end, specialising in pattern libraries for scale
- Shopify, Perch, APIs...
- Snowboard instructor, breakdancer... lemur ranger?
- Various viral (mis)adventures including 52 animals



# WAT?!1

- A collection of modular UI elements
- Building blocks / pieces of a jigsaw
- ‘Bespoke Bootstrap’
- Logical, consistent, reusable, flexible, extensible, **sensible!**
- Very efficient approach to building large scale sites
- A solid foundation with ‘global awareness’
- Great for teams



# In the wild...

lonely planet STYLE GUIDE DOCUMENTATION PERFORMANCE MONITORING ABOUT RIZZO

Design Eleme... Design Elements UI Components JS Components Widgets CSS Utilities

DESIGN

- Design Palette >
- UI Colours >
- Destination Next Colors >
- Typography >

ICONS

- Destination >
- Interests >
- Interface >
- Need to Know >
- Weather >

## Colour Palette

Find closest color

This is the primary and secondary colour palettes as described in the PSD styleguide and in [colour\\_palette.sass](#)

### GRAY PALETTE

#2c3643	#3b444f	#67747c	#99a9b3	#dbe6ec
\$darkgray	\$titlegray	\$bodygray	\$lightgray	\$subduedgray

### PRIMARY PALETTE

#142b44	#1d508d	#297cbb	#288ad6	#0fdebd
\$darkblue	\$navblue	\$lblue	\$linkblue	\$teal
#16c98d	#feef6d	#ffc83f	#fa5e5b	#bf538d
\$green	\$yella	\$orange	\$red	\$plum

[ux.mailchimp.com](http://ux.mailchimp.com)

[rizzo.lonelyplanet.com](http://rizzo.lonelyplanet.com)

[codepen.io/guide](http://codepen.io/guide)

[bbc.co.uk/gel](http://bbc.co.uk/gel)

[style.bristol.gov.uk](http://style.bristol.gov.uk)

[gov.uk/service-manual](http://gov.uk/service-manual)

[lightningdesignsystem.com](http://lightningdesignsystem.com)

[styleguides.io](http://styleguides.io)



# Pattern spotting

- CSI Miami crime board
- See the big picture... squint!
- Universal naming convention / language
- ...even better if began in UX phase/wireframes
- All teams have input... problem spotting

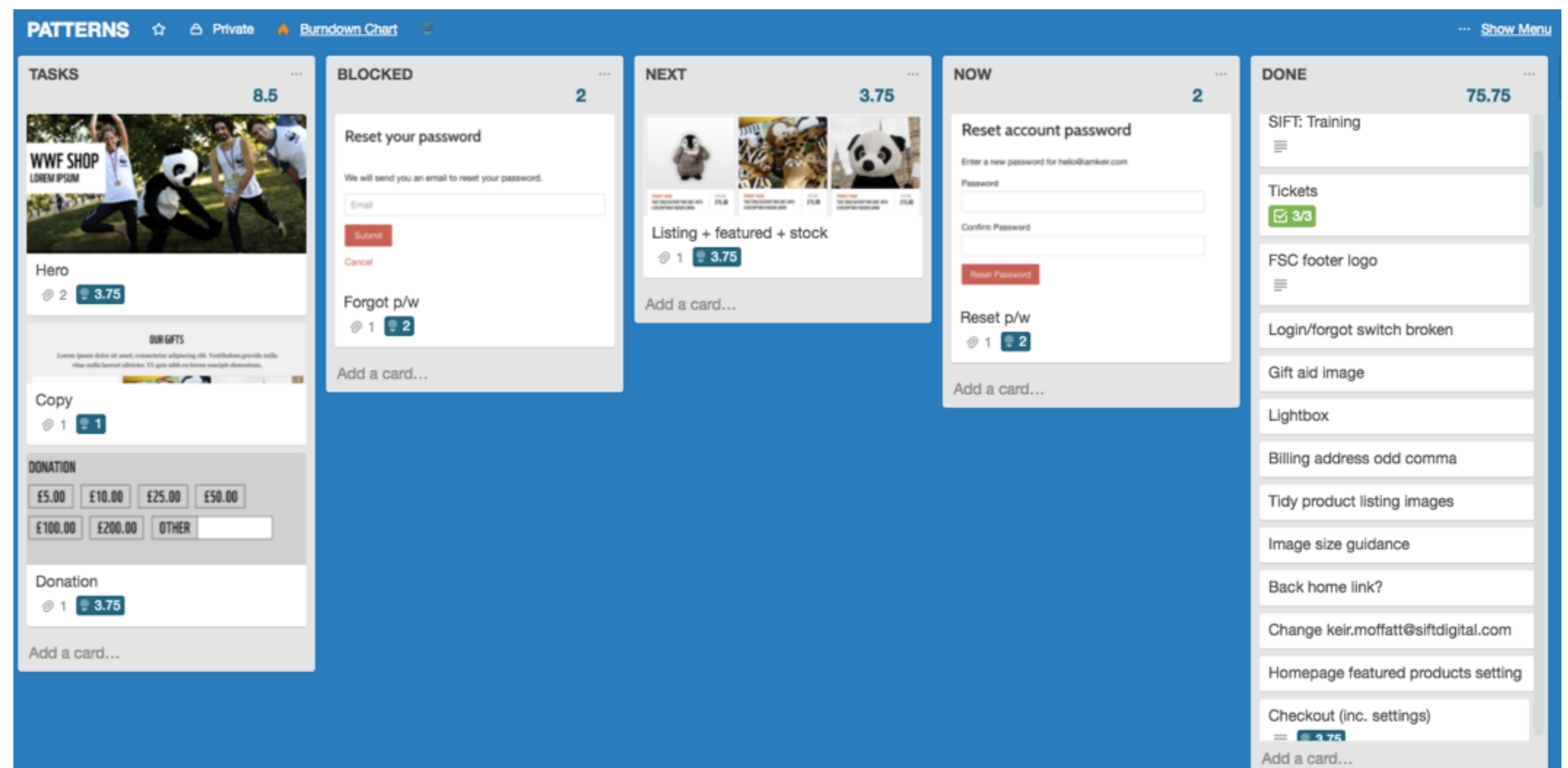


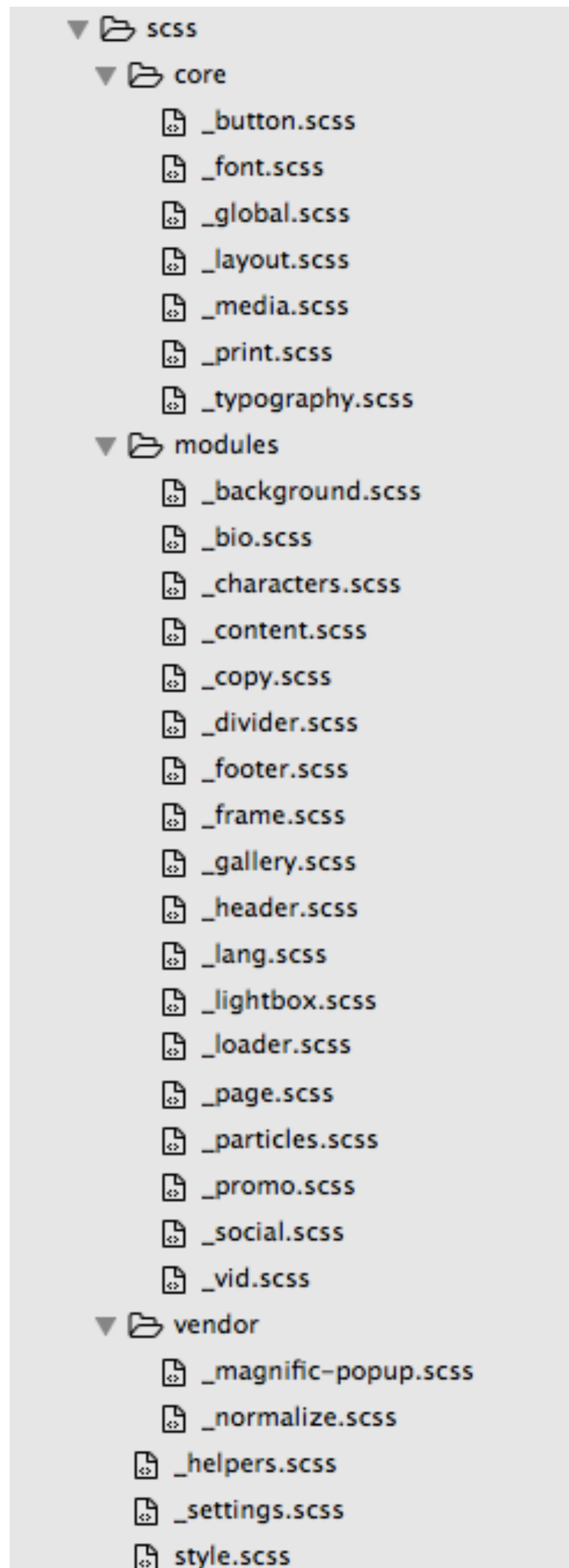
**'From pages to patterns' - Charlotte Jackson, Clearleft (ALA)**



# To-do, doing, done

- Tasks, Blocked, Next, Now, QA, Done
- Trello, JIRA, etc. ...KISS!
- Screenshots & specification
- Comments & time tracking
- Team - grab & go!





# MODULE ALL THE THINGS!!!

- Naming convention for filenames, classes, modules, js, etc.
- BEM namespace- no cognitive overhead, no conflicts, no problem!
- Easy to find what you need
- Comments are king + README
- Core + modules... more granular?
- Rows / content slices (<https://www.edo.co/our-thinking/content-slices>)
- Atomic Design - *Brad Frost* (Atoms, molecules, organisms, templates, pages)





# Tool up!

- Grunt, Gulp, Fabricator, Jekyll, Handlebars, PHP, roll your own...
- Includes for modules (bonus if content API)
- Sass compiling + JS concatenation
- Low barrier to entry, easy setup + README
- Be agnostic
- Obvious, not clever!

Brad Frost's [patternlab.io](http://patternlab.io)



handlebars





*“Simple rarely breaks -  
but if it does,  
simple is easy to fix”*

# QA + testing

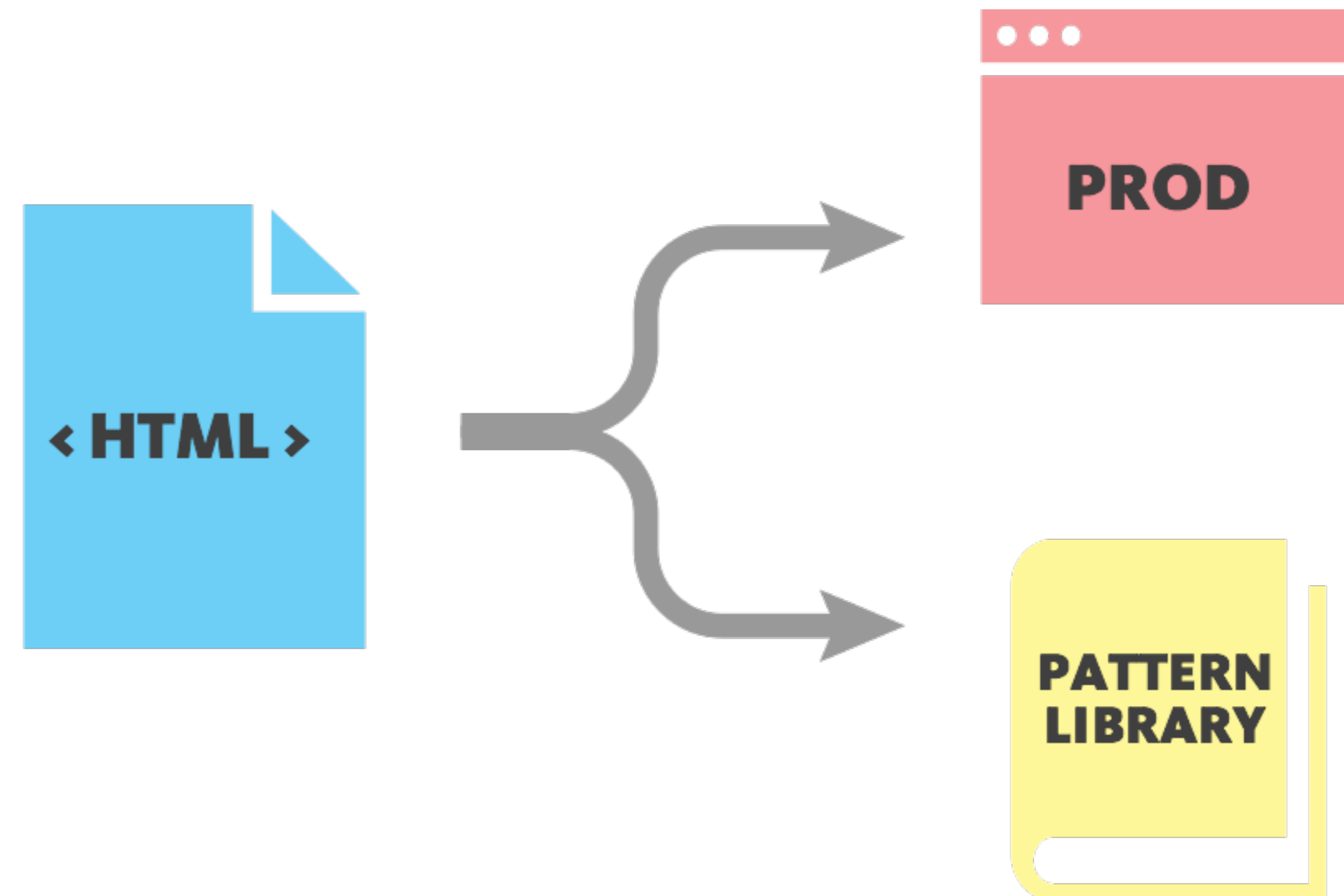
- Testers will love you!
- Isolated test case
- Easy to diagnose problems
- Test when module is ready
- Develop-test-develop cycle
- Modular unit testing



Pattern library testing - *Jim Newbery, Tinned Fruit*

# Handing over

- Export/build out HTML/CSS/JS
- Usage guidelines + examples
- System agnostic (data attributes)
- Content slices
- ‘Living style guide’ (Rizzo, APIs)
- Managing updates can be tricky



Get your docs in a row - *Stu Charlton, cxpartners*



# Conclusion

- Not always appropriate
- Slow to start, then ramps up
- Not the norm, get 'buy in'
- 'Style collide'
- Part of workflow, not a graveyard (APIs)
- Pattern library vs design system vs style guide

Styling components within components - *ME!*



*“Code obvious,  
not clever”*



# Hat-tips & thanks

- Brad Frost, Anna Debenham & Harry Roberts
- Stu Charlton & cpartners
- Frank West & The Real Adventure
- Gary Lake & Shift Active Media
- Luke Whitmore & Sift/Edo
- South West Front-end Slack team

