

Perpendicular Angel Design

Organizing and simplifying, one illumination at a time

An Event Apart Seattle 2017: 10 Things You Can and Should Do with SVG by Chris Coyer

Posted on [April 8, 2017](#)

While [Una's presentation](#) was on optimizing [raster images](#), Chris's presentation is on the things that can be accomplished when we use SVG files – a specific form of [vector images](#). (Neither speaker did a significant amount to explain the difference, and it's a core concept in design, so if you're new to the field or you need a refresher [read up on the difference](#).)



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Chris Coyer has 10 things you can and should do with SVGs

[#AEASEA](#)

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SVG is an image format, and you can use it in the same way you use all the others [#AEASEA](#)

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You don't have to know a heck of a lot about it to use SVG.... but it's different from the raster images [#AEASEA](#)

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It's a vector image, it's not made of pixels. Vectors are drawn with lines and fills and geometry [#AEASEA](#)

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An SVG is a syntax that looks like HTML
You can open an SVG in a text editor and look at it
It's resolution-independent [#AEASEA](#)

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SVG is animatable and scriptable.
SVG can be quite accessible.
It's an open standardized format.
It has good browser support. [#AEASEA](#)

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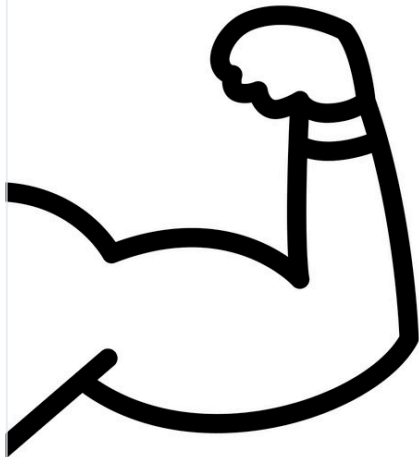
Lots of software for working with it
Many nice Javascript libraries #AEASEA
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SVGs are totally underused #AEASEA
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I want you
to learn to
reach for SVG.



Jacob Wayne Smith
@j8ke

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I will reach for SVG @chriscoyier I will #aeasea
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Reach for SVGs - make it part of your “muscle memory” for development [#AEASEA](#)

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Inline SVG is a very good way to use it, and most of the demos in today presentation uses inline SVG [#AEASEA](#)

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1. Make the logo bigger.

Really easy to make it bigger because it's resizable [#AEASEA](#)

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OK not really. Or maybe really.



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Raster images are jaggy and ugly when blown up, but SVGs look great at any size [#AEASEA](#)

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this is true of any other image #AEASEA

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The whole entire last talk was worrying about pixels. Not an issue here #AEASEA

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PIXEL ANXIETY



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We have a unique disorder to deal with. [@chriscoyier](#) #aeasea

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SVG images are also just fine on retina because they're vector, no 2x density images needed [#AEASEA](#)

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We didn't have SVG when retina came out because IE didn't support it thoroughly enough [#AEASEA](#)

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Today all browsers support SVGs [#AEASEA](#) "Even Opera Mini, which is always red!"

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OK, let's start numbering for real this time.



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1. Charts and Graphs

Just makes sense - they're lines and shapes anyway [#AEASEA](#)

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Pie charts are a trivial thing in SVG.

Line charts are easy to draw, text can be set, etc. [#AEASEA](#)

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Line charts can be animated in SVG.

Curves can be done in SVG.

The lines have a lot more design control in strokes. #AEASEA

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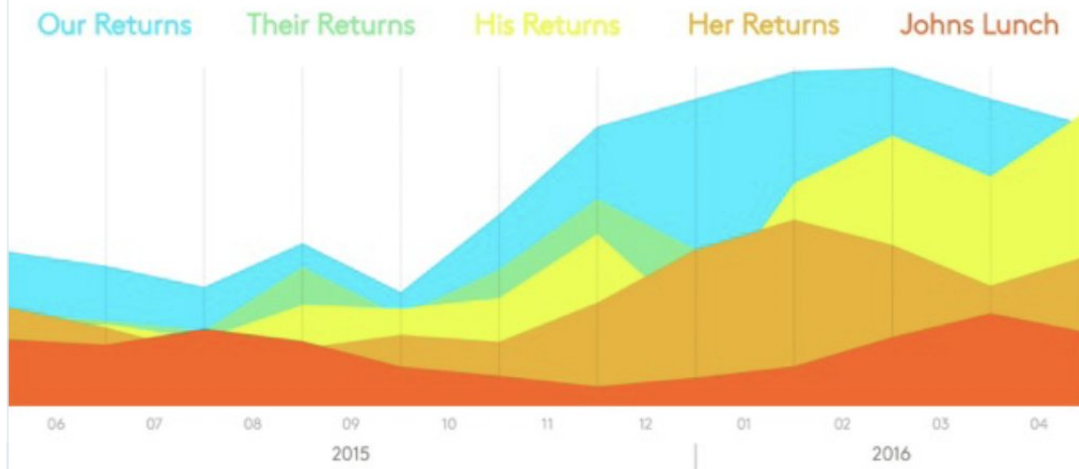
Lines can be animated themselves, can have glows.

Line charts can have fill underneath, and interactive data.

Mouse enter events #AEASEA

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Simple SVG Charts



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What's in John's lunch? #savejohnslunch @chriscoyier #aeasea

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2. Shape morphing

SVGs can bounce or change shape. Smile is the native technology to animate properties [#AEASEA](#)

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You can do opacity and position and scale and color and shapes in SVG [#aeasea](#)

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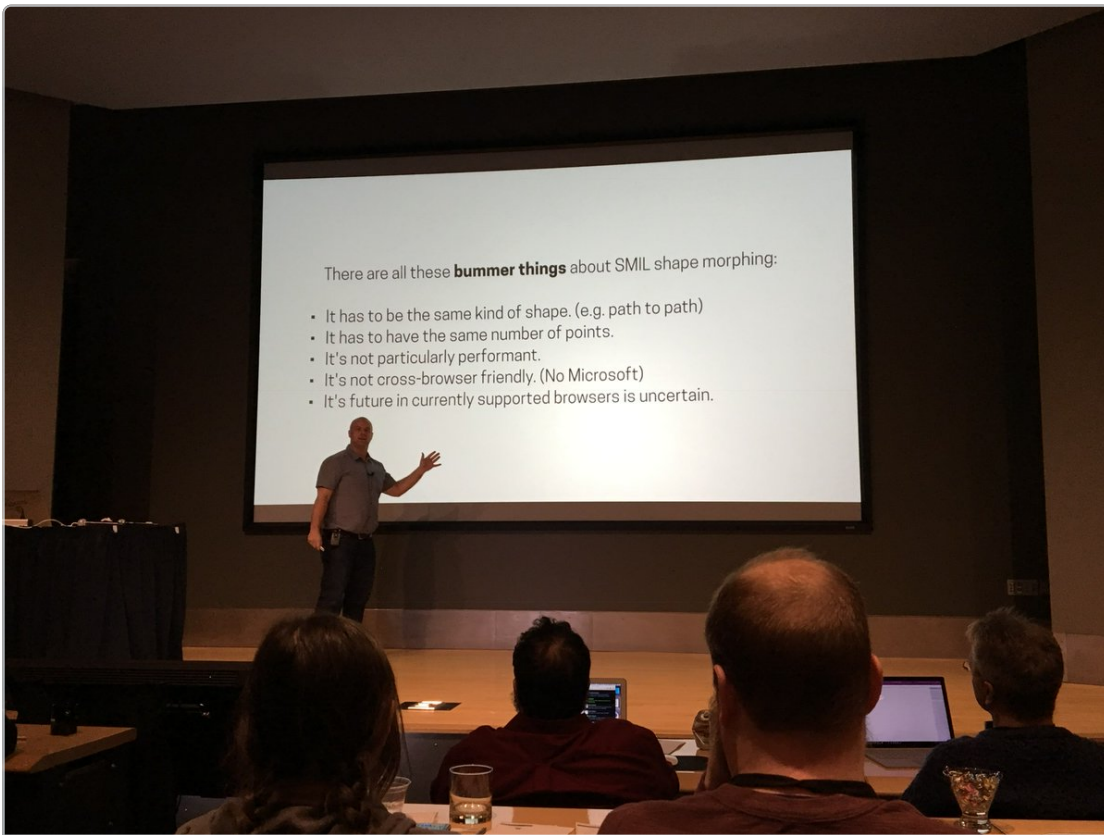
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Greensock is working on SVG shapes realtime animation through a plugin [#AEASEA](#)

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SMIL morphing still have some bummers. Don't invest a lot of time.
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there are other competing tools than greensock that also do some
of this work [#AEASEA](#)

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CSS can do shape animation of SVGs in Chrome [#AEASEA](#)

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The path element can draw anything (literally) using points and lines and curves [#AEASEA](#)

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If you came from video and are used to AfterEffects, there's a tool to convert AfterEffects to SVG [#AEASEA](#)

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3. Line drawing.

Example of the PlayStation drawing itself in an article [#AEASEA](#)

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You can fade things in, move things, draw things, use different animation techniques [#AEASEA](#)

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👉 How SVG Line Animation Works [@chriscoyier](#) [#aeasea](#) [css-tricks.com/svg-line-anima...](#)

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How SVG Line Animation Works | CSS-Tricks

I bet all of you have seen that little trick where an SVG path is animated to look like it's drawing itself. It's super cool. Jake Archibald pioneered the [css-tricks.com](#)

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How line animation works:

- Dash the stroke
- Gap the dashes as long as the whole shape is
- Then animate the offset changes [#aeasea](#)

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Fitbit is a brand that is all about movement and data, and their logo can be animated in SVG to move [#AEASEA](#)

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4. Animate your interface.

Transitional interfaces - animate something sliding in or growing in to a list for example [#AEASEA](#)

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You can be whimsical in sliders or radio buttons that use SVGs [#AEASEA](#)

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Submit buttons that are also progress bars. SVG clipping masks on images to animate change of images [#AEASEA](#)

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Loaders are an obvious thing to animate [#AEASEA](#)

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Lots of loaders and spinners in SVG in Codepen [#AEASEA](#)

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SVG is able to be animated along a path, so that can be tied to a scroll bar for example [#AEASEA](#)

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With lines being so small in file size, you can provide little hints and guidance to things [#AEASEA](#)

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5. The very best icon system ever

There is a `<symbol>` element whose point is icons [#AEASEA](#)

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Symbols in an SVG can have different view boxes, accessibility info, etc. [#AEASEA](#)

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You put a folder of SVGs through Gulp to produce the SVG full of symbols [#AEASEA](#)

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Then you just need to say

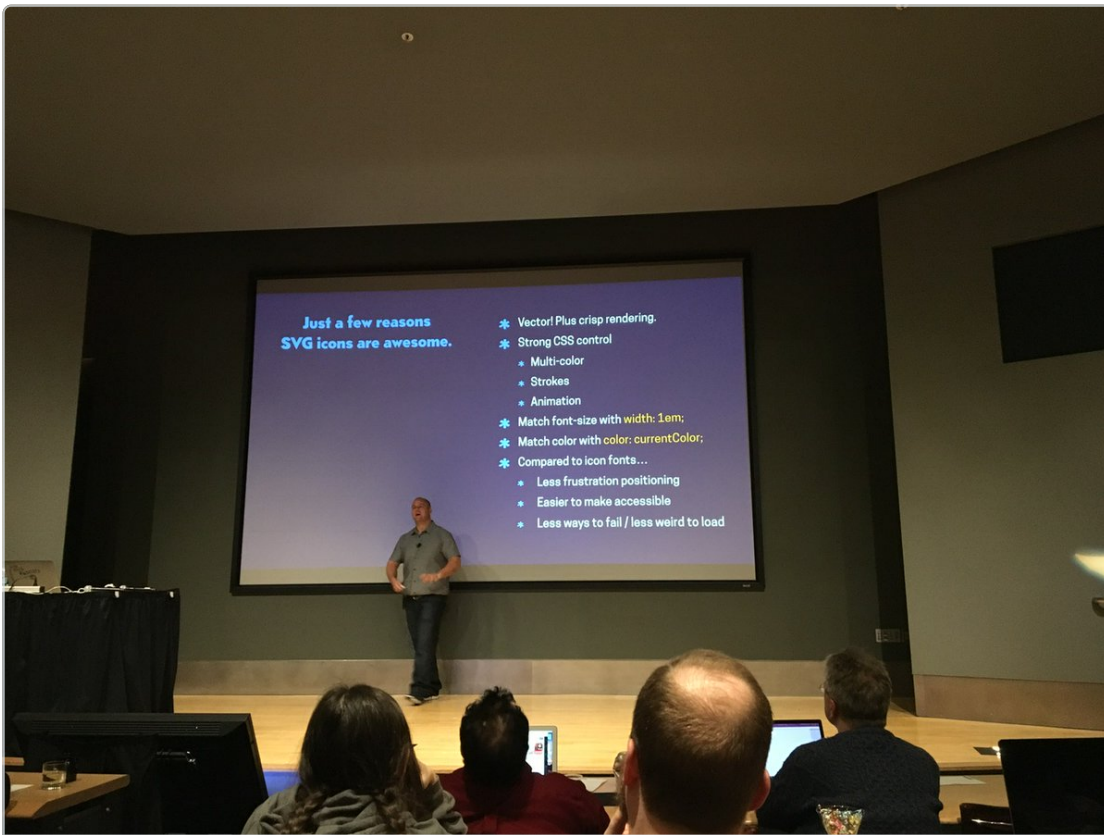
```
<SVG>
```

```
<use xlink:href="#mag">
```

```
</SVG>
```

To call it [#AEASEA](#)

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All the reasons svgs are better than icon fonts [#aeasea](#)

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CSS-tricks uses SVG icons and symbols to build their iconography.

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6. Do art

Great animation of BB8 all done in SVG,

Animate fire

Make Mr. Potato Head [#AEASEA](#)

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There are a ton of Codepen demos in [@chriscoyier](#)'s slides you should check out [#AEASEA](#)

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christopher hincks

@chincks

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Reaching for SVG when creating illustration assets can assist designers in solving a multitude of image and optimization issues.

[#aeasea](#)

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Combine tons of different techniques for neat effects [#AEASEA](#)

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7. Diagrams - you can make lots of data and then make it interactive [#AEASEA](#)
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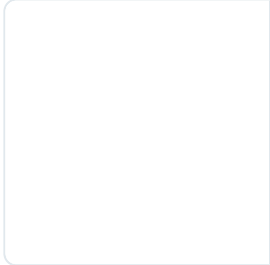
Take a piece of code, wrap it in an SVG, add comments and text and custom fonts, then add arrows to explain the code [#AEASEA](#)
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The anatomy of responsive images [@jaffathecake](#) [@chriscoyier](#)
[#aeasea](#) [jakearchibald.com/2015/anatomy-o...](#)
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The anatomy of responsive images

I just had my responsive images epiphany and I'm writing it all down before I forget everything. This is what I know...
[jakearchibald.com](#)

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Explanations of code, content, etc, can be enhanced with SVG
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Easier to set type and have it display exactly the way you want it to
if you do it in an SVG [#AEASEA](#)

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8. Headline Lock-up

You can set text in whole new ways for headlines. Things we can't
do easily w/o png files [#AEASEA](#)

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SVGs allow you to still use media queries to shift elements around
if you want to [#AEASEA](#)

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Inscape for open-source vector editing software [#aeasea](#)

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“One student made a unicorn on another unicorn. The world is going to be fine.” [#AEASEA](#)

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Boxcar Press lets you make a polymer plate from an SVG to letterpress designs into paper [#AEASEA](#)

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10. Explain your product. Animation of how your product works or instructions [#AEASEA](#)

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Explain how gear differentials work, give tutorials, etc. #AEASEA

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View box - you can move the location of the view across the SVG drawing area and then animate moving the camera #AEASEA

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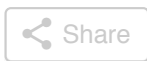
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Polygons + view box animation + shape morphs = interesting animations #AEASEA

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