

Reward & Punishment

or Progressive Enhancement & Intentional Degradation

by Elliot Jay Stocks

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What Is a Reward?

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Feature support can require complex hacks and it's often not necessary

What Is a Punishment?

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- The designer giveth... and the designer taketh away!
Just because a browser supports a feature doesn't mean you have to offer it
- Don't be forced into hacking
Feature support can require complex hacks and it's often not necessary
- Don't compromise the neatness of your code
Avoid littering markup with unnecessary classes and IDs

Reward & Punishment In Practice: elliottjaystocks.com

Reward & Punishment

In Practice: elliottjaystocks.com

To reduce the need for unnecessary class names, more advanced CSS selectors were used.

Reward & Punishment

In Practice: elliottjaystocks.com

To reduce the need for unnecessary class names, more advanced CSS selectors were used.

These selectors are not supported by IE6 and as a result it lacks some of the *visual treats*...

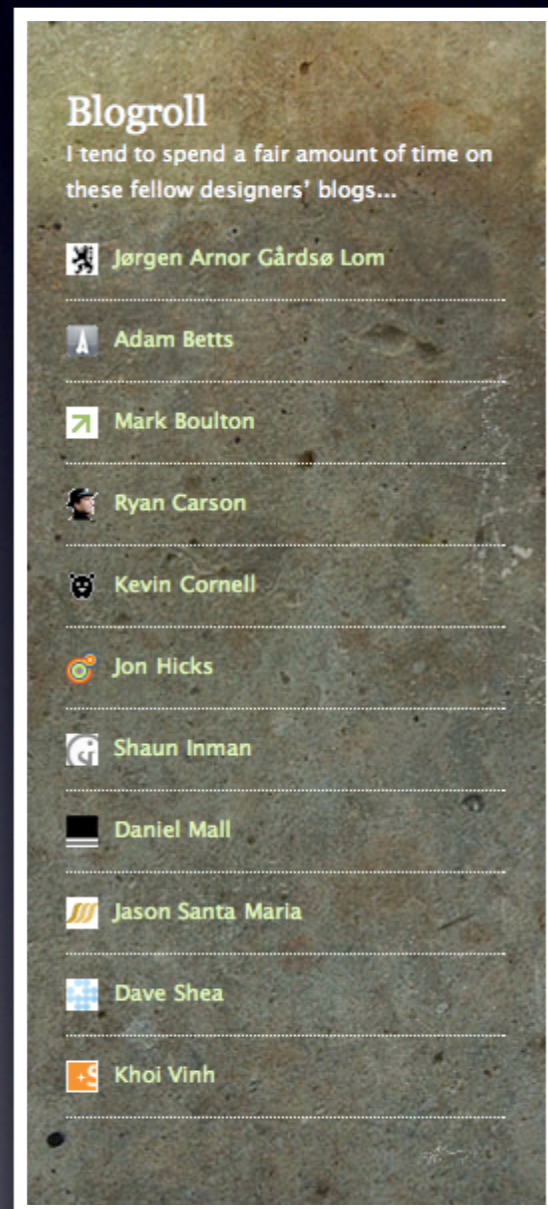
Attribute Selectors

```
ul.blogroll li a[href="http://hicksdesign.co.uk"]  
{ background:url(..images/hicksFavicon.ico) }
```

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Safari



IE6



Adjacent Sibling Selectors

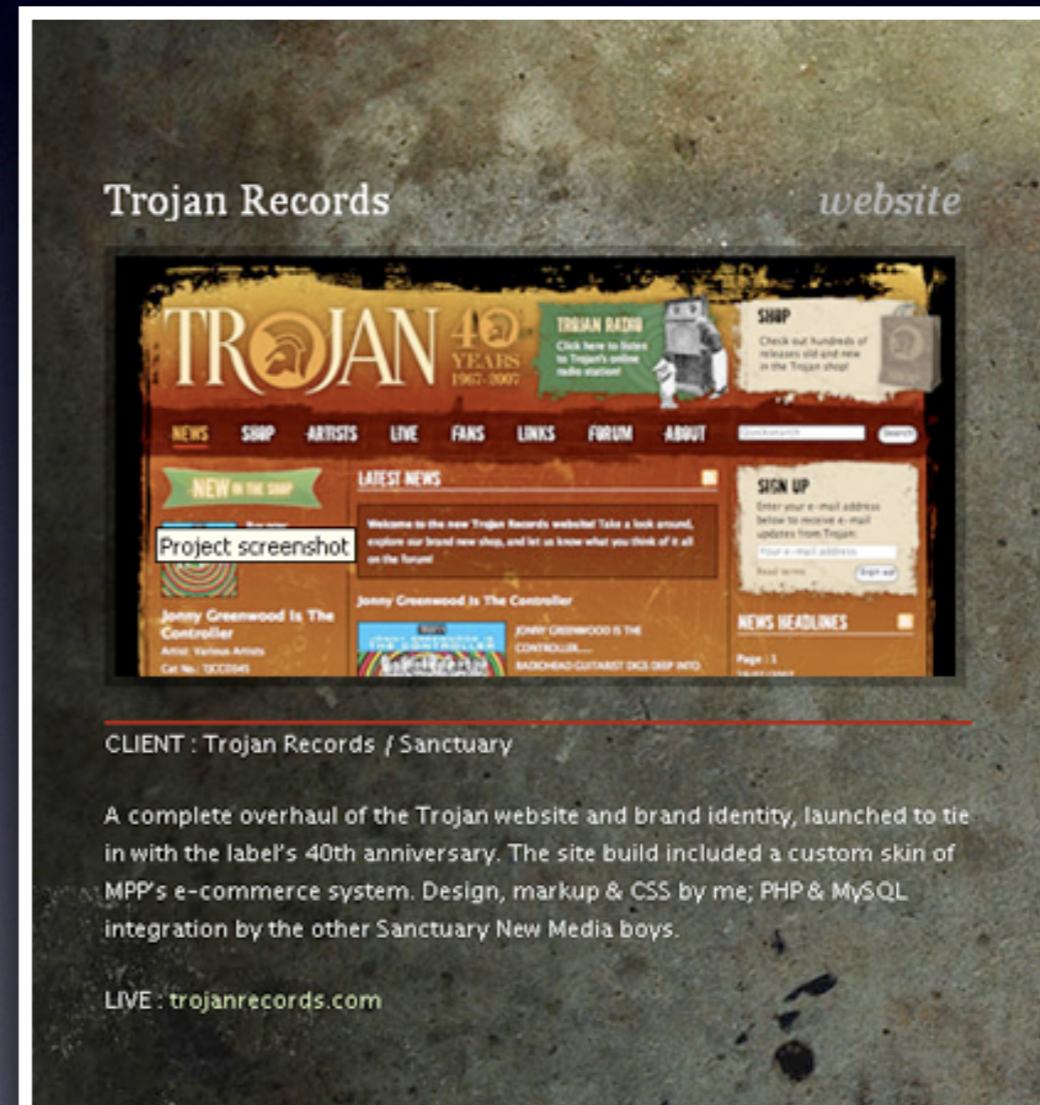
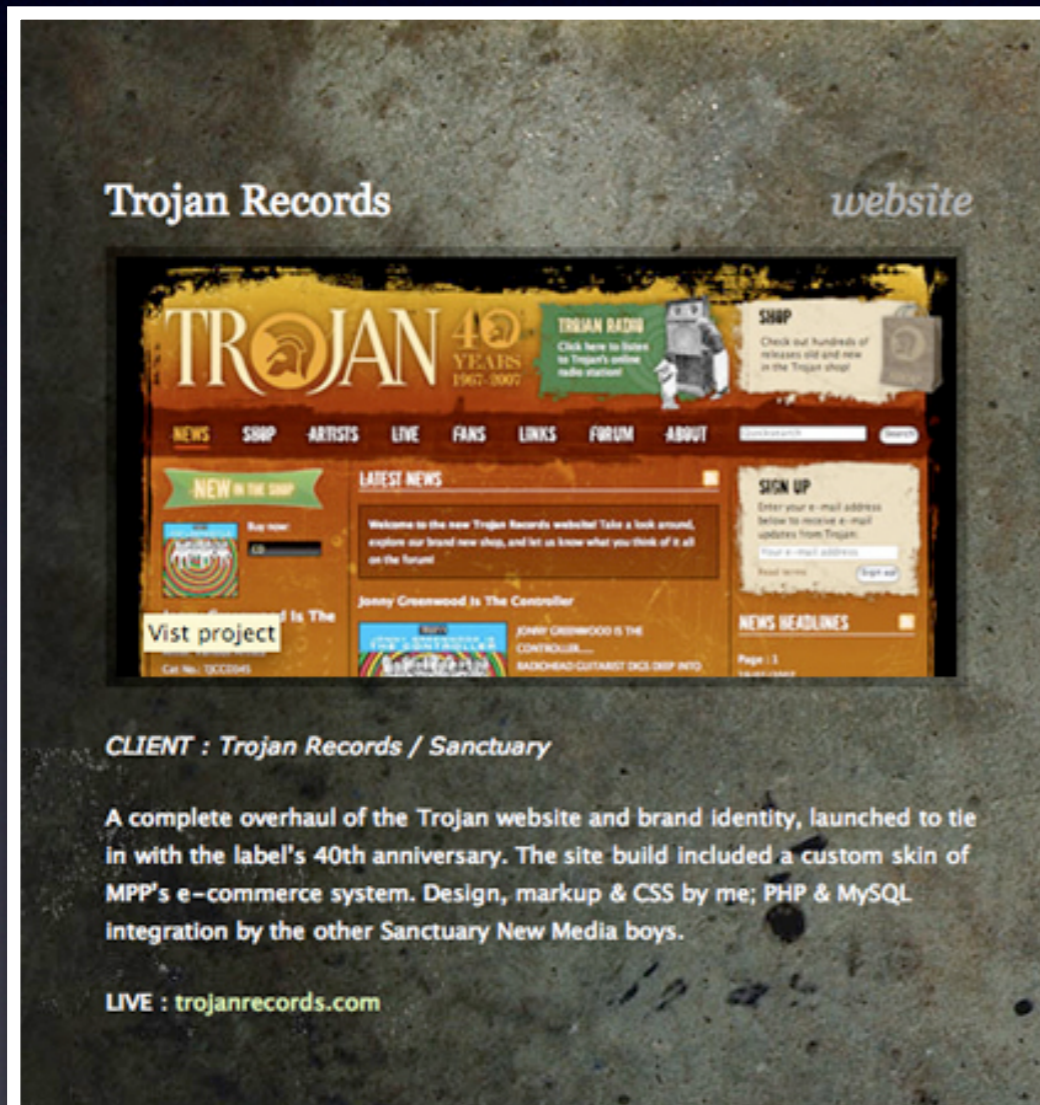
```
ol.portfolioList li h2+a:hover { border:none }
```

Adjacent Sibling Selectors

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ol.portfolioList li h2+a:hover { border:none }
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Safari

IE6



Reward & Punishment

In Practice: stuffandnonsense.co.uk

Safari

IE6

This screenshot shows the website in Safari. The navigation menu is a dark red bar with white text and circular icons. The main content area features a large illustration of a person on a scooter with multiple cameras attached. The text is clear and well-organized, with a clean layout.

This screenshot shows the website in Internet Explorer 6. The navigation menu is a dark grey bar with white text and circular icons. The main content area features a large illustration of a person on a scooter with multiple cameras attached. The text is clear and well-organized, with a clean layout.

But Why Reward or Punish?

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- Encourage *users* to adopt modern browsers

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- Encourage *users* to adopt modern browsers
- Encourage *browser vendors* to create modern browsers

But Why Reward or Punish?

- Encourage *users* to adopt modern browsers
- Encourage *browser vendors* to create modern browsers
- Push technology and ideologies forward

A Word of Warning

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- Not suitable in some commercial environments

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- Pay attention to client requirements


A Word of Warning

- Not suitable in some commercial environments
- Pay attention to client requirements
- Adapt to suit your *target audience*

When In Doubt...

When In Doubt...

... use a badge!



**UH
OH**

DEAR VIEWER, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE USING INTERNET EXPLORER. DUE TO YOUR BROWSER'S POOR SUPPORT FOR WEB STANDARDS, THIS SITE WILL NOT DISPLAY CORRECTLY. PLEASE SWITCH TO A STANDARDS-COMPLIANT BROWSER SUCH AS FIREFOX OR SAFARI.



Elliot Jay Stocks
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Elliot Jay Stocks is Senior Designer at Carson Systems and his work is regularly published worldwide. He's also a writer and musician... of sorts

Accessibility:
Catering For Users *Without*
Resorting To Punishment

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In some circumstances, a browser's lack of support for certain features can *ruin* the user experience.

Accessibility: Catering For Users *Without* Resorting To Punishment

In some circumstances, a browser's lack of support for certain features can *ruin* the user experience.

In this instance, alternative display systems should be considered.

Problem: JS Tab Navigation

The absolute positioning used to display the different information boxes on rollover is rendered *useless* if the user has Javascript disabled.

MORNING SESSIONS AM
You can choose one morning session..

- Designing Web Applications**
Ryan Singer
- Improving Interface Design
Speaker TBC
- The Importance of Iconography
Josh Williams
- Grids 101
Khoi Vinh

Fast & Funky Flash
David Martin

The Art of Creative Inspiration
Joshua Davis

Advanced CSS
Jina Bolton

Branding from the Ground Up
Speaker TBC

Full details

**Solution: Specific Styles For
Javascript-Disabled Users**

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1. Use Javascript to write the class of `hasJavaScript` to the `<body>` tag. No Javascript? No `hasJavaScript` class!

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1. Use Javascript to write the class of `hasJavaScript` to the `<body>` tag. No Javascript? No `hasJavaScript` class!

2. Use CSS to style descendants of `hasJavaScript` differently; e.g:

```
body div { background:#000 }  
body.hasJavaScript div { background:#fff }
```

Solution: Specific Styles For Javascript-Disabled Users

Users without Javascript see a completely different navigation system. Hurrah!

MORNING SESSIONS AM

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Designing Web Applications Ryan Singer	Improving Interface Design Speaker TBC	The Importance of Iconography Josh Williams	Grids 101 Khoi Vinh
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AFTERNOON SESSIONS PM

You can choose one morning session...

Fast & Funky Flash David Martin	The Art of Creative Inspiration Joshua Davis	Advanced CSS Jina Bolton	Branding from the Ground Up Speaker TBC
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 - *Proceed with caution*
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Conclusion

- Decide whether to reward or punish:
 - *What are the browser's capabilities?*
 - *Who is the target user / browser?*
- Be gentle:
 - *Proceed with caution*
 - *Consider displaying a warning 'badge'*
- Stay accessible:
 - *Usability is more important than punishment*
 - *If necessary, offer alternative styling for different browsers*

Thank You

elliottjaystocks.com/geeknight