

Render v Rank

...

SEO for ~~JavaScript~~ Everyone

The Foundations

Websites are made of **code**.
Code is written in **languages**.
3 languages are the **foundation**
of websites.

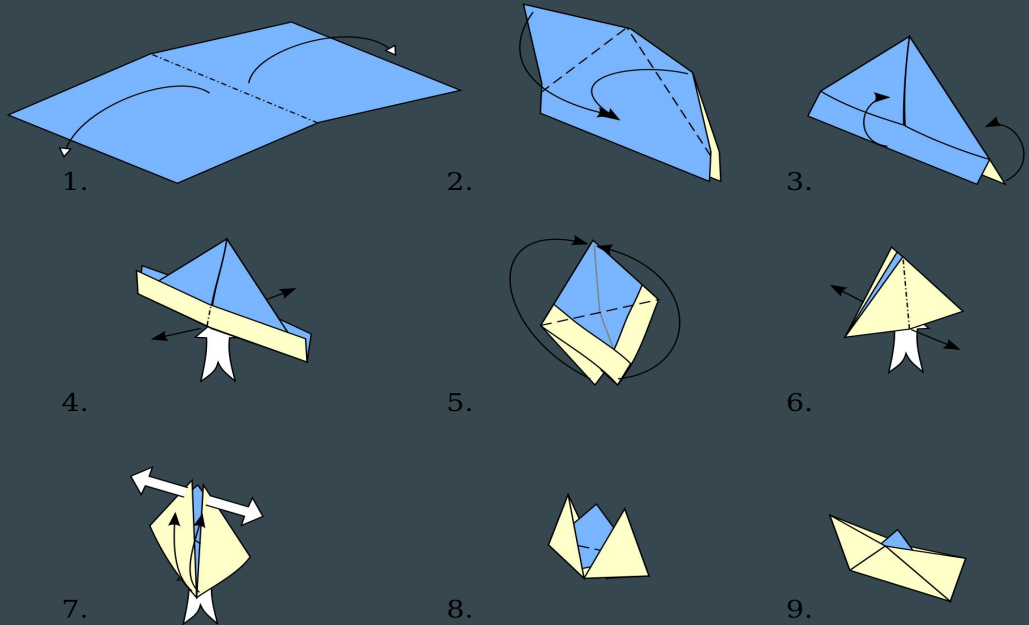
HTML = content

CSS = layout, design, &
visual effects

JavaScript = web version of
programming code

JavaScript executes in the browser to build rendered content.

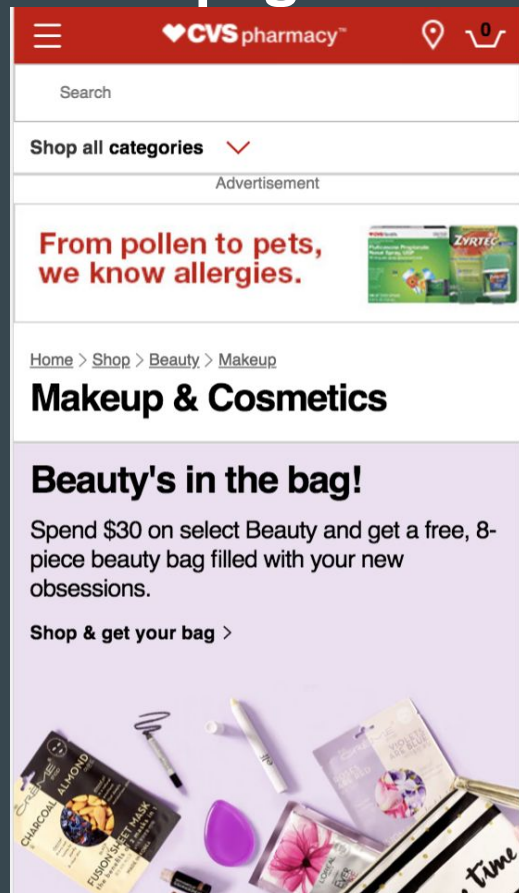
1. Load
2. Parse
3. Compile
4. Execute



JS can transform a few lines of code into a webpage

```
Original HTML
1 <!doctype html><html lang="en"><head><script>utag_data = null;
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hstNme = window.location.host;
11  OOO = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title></title><base href="/"><meta h
16  <script>var w=window;if(w.performance||w.mozPerformance||
17  </head><body><cv<root><div class="sprite logo"></div></c
```

```
Rendered HTML
1 <!DOCTYPE html><html lang="en"><head><iframe src="javascript:false" style=
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hstNme = window.location.host;
11  OOO = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title>Beauty, Vitamins, Medicine
16  <script async="" src="https://ds-aksb-a.akamaihd.net/
17  <style>[_nghost-c0]{height:100%;[_nghost-c0], cvs-hea
18  .wrapper[_ngcontent-c6] hi[_ngcontent-c6]{color:#000;font-weight:700;fo
19  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui i {
20    font-style: normal;
21  }
22
23  gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon_plus::after,
24  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon_plus::after {
25    content: "+";
26  }
27
28  gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon__minus::after,
29  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon__minus::after {
30    content: "-";
31  }
32
33  gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-outer-spin-button,
34  gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-inner-spin-button {
35    -webkit-appearance: none;
36    -moz-appearance: none;
37  }
```

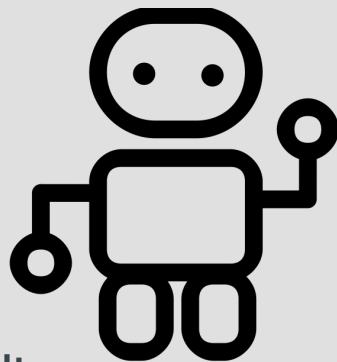


Googlebot is **code**.

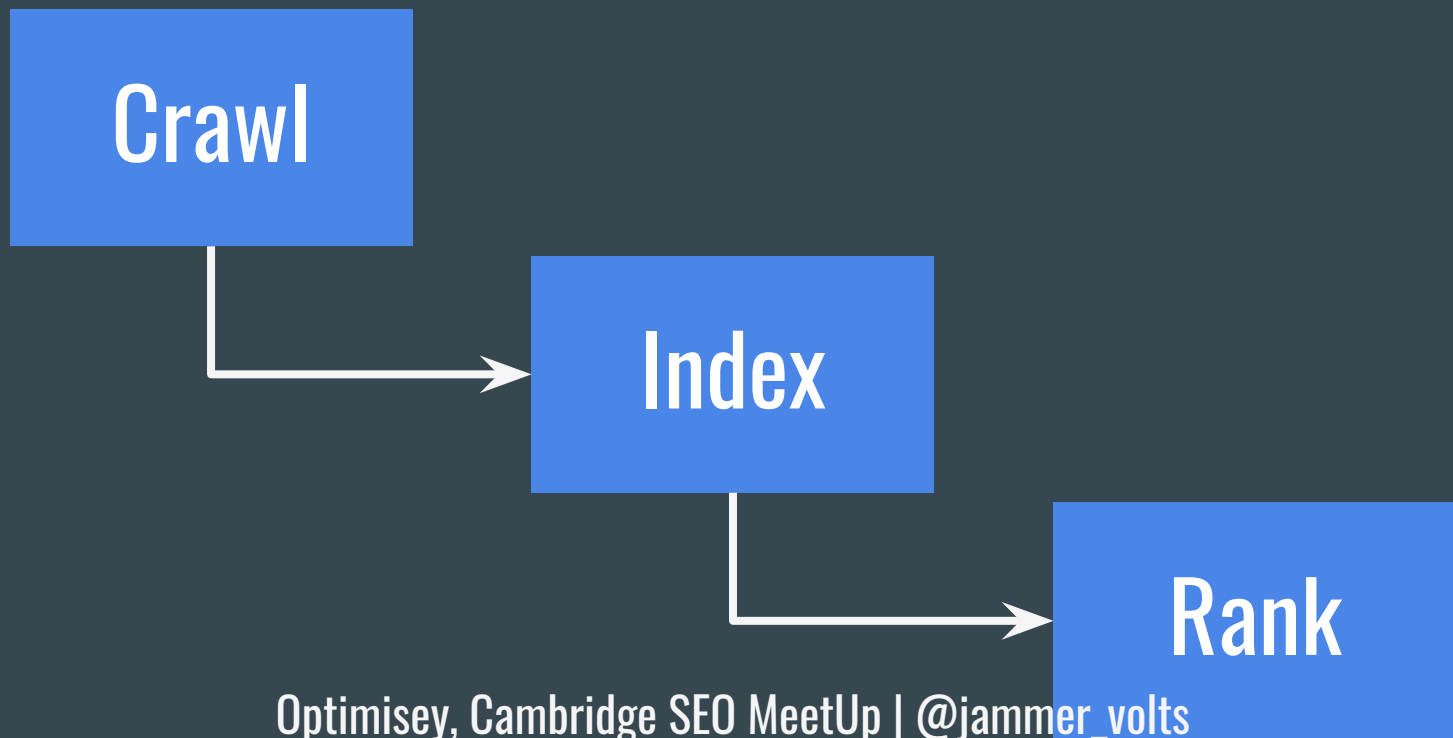
Code obeys **rules**.

Googlebot runs scripts in a set **order**.

We call this **crawling**.



Until 10 May 2018, we thought Googlebot worked like this



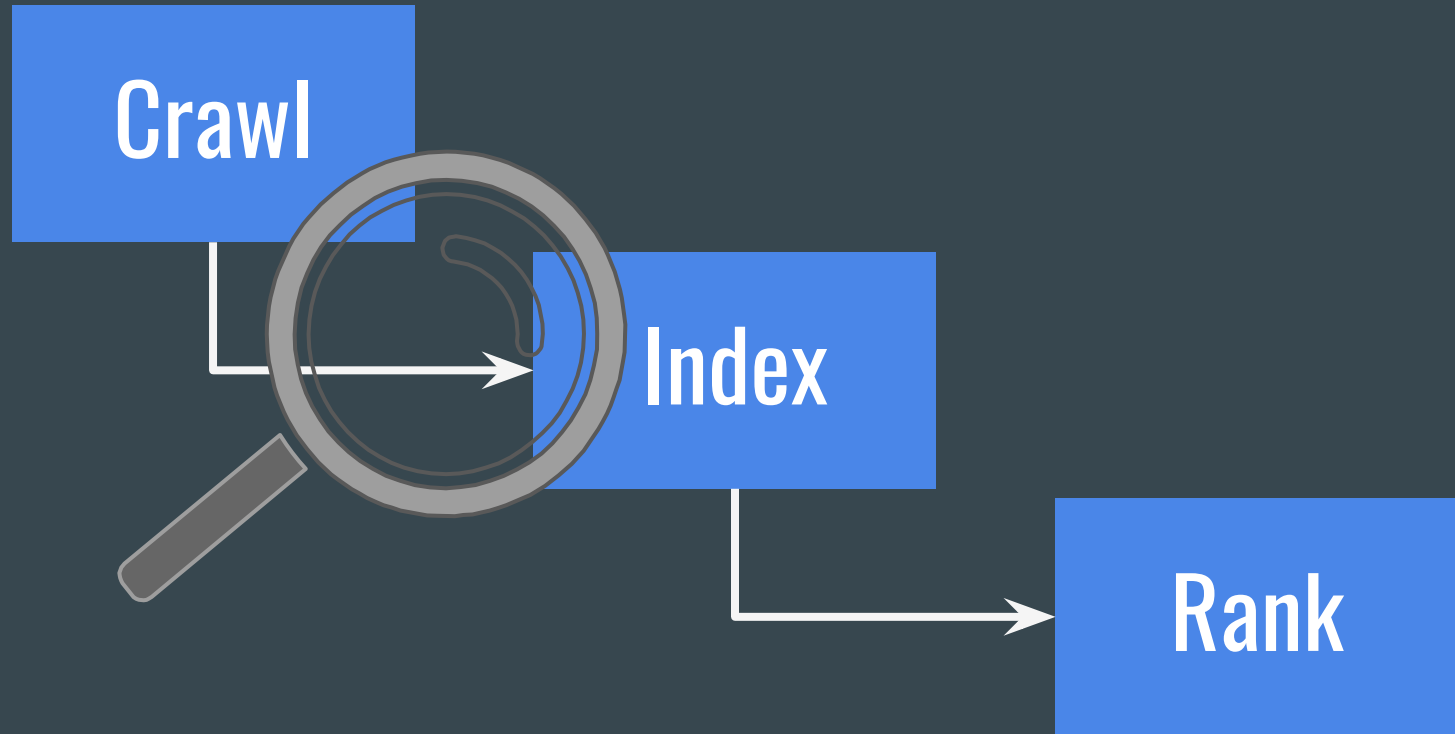
How Search works

For a typical query, there are thousands, even millions, of webpages with potentially relevant information.

So, how does Google figure out what to show in your search results? Well, the journey starts before you even type your search...



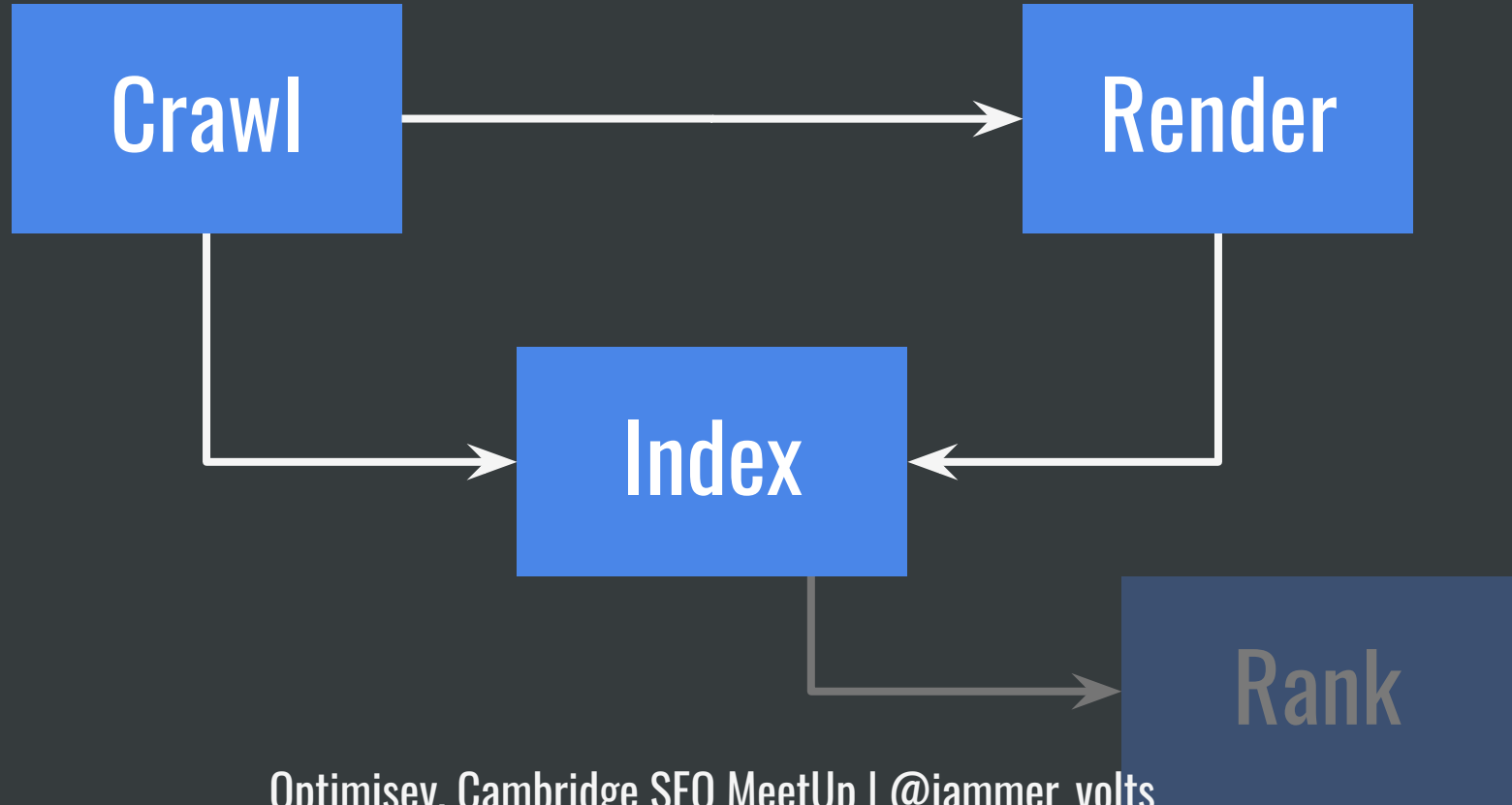
Spot the 3 hidden assumptions



This model assumes:

- 1. Googlebot renders JS as it crawls.**
- 2. Indexing is based on DOM content.**
- 3. These actions occur simultaneously in a single sequence.**

Googlebot is magic and does all the things instantly!

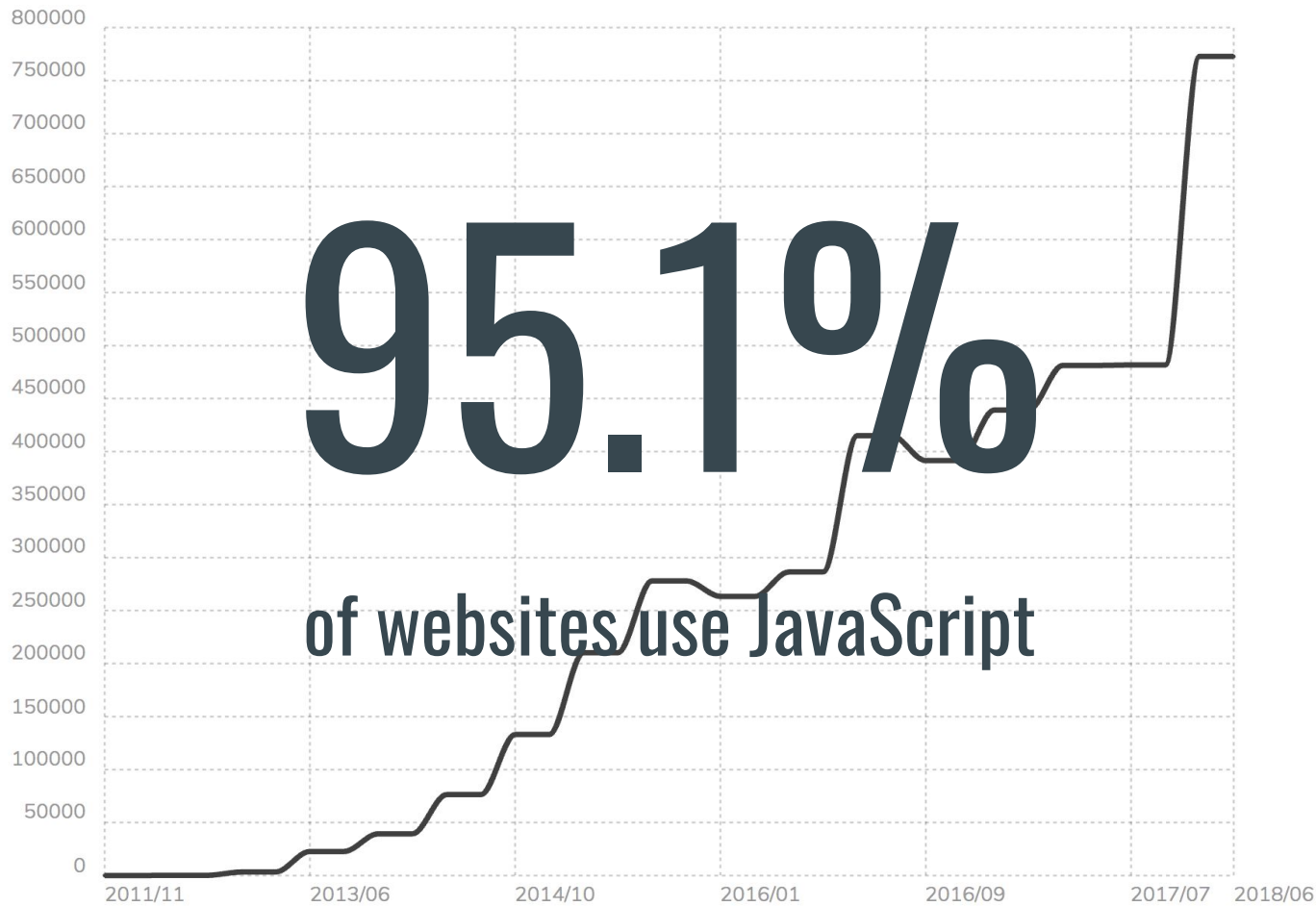


EXPECTATION



REALITY





Source: [W3 Usage of JavaScript for websites](#)

160,000,000,
000,000

pages on the web

Optimisey, Cambridge SEO MeetUp | @jammer_volts

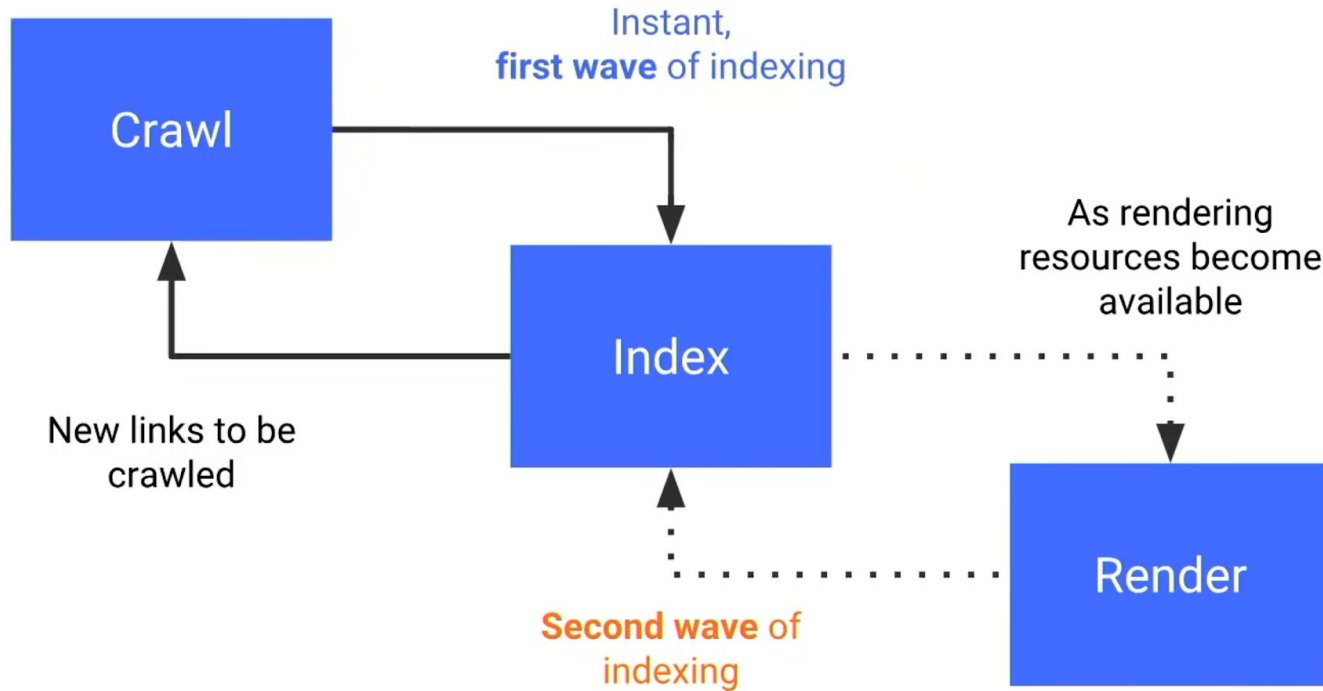


JavaScript
webpages

Googlebot
resources

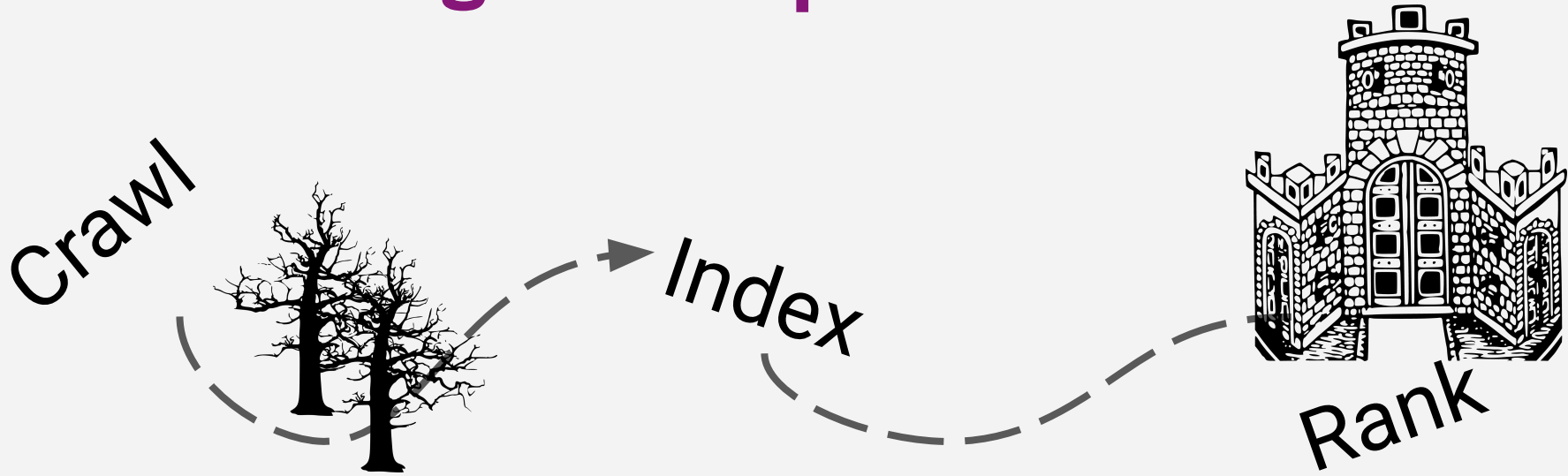
Optimisey, Cambridge SEO MeetUp | @jammer_volts

JavaScript generated
content is discovered by
Googlebot only
once the resources become
available.

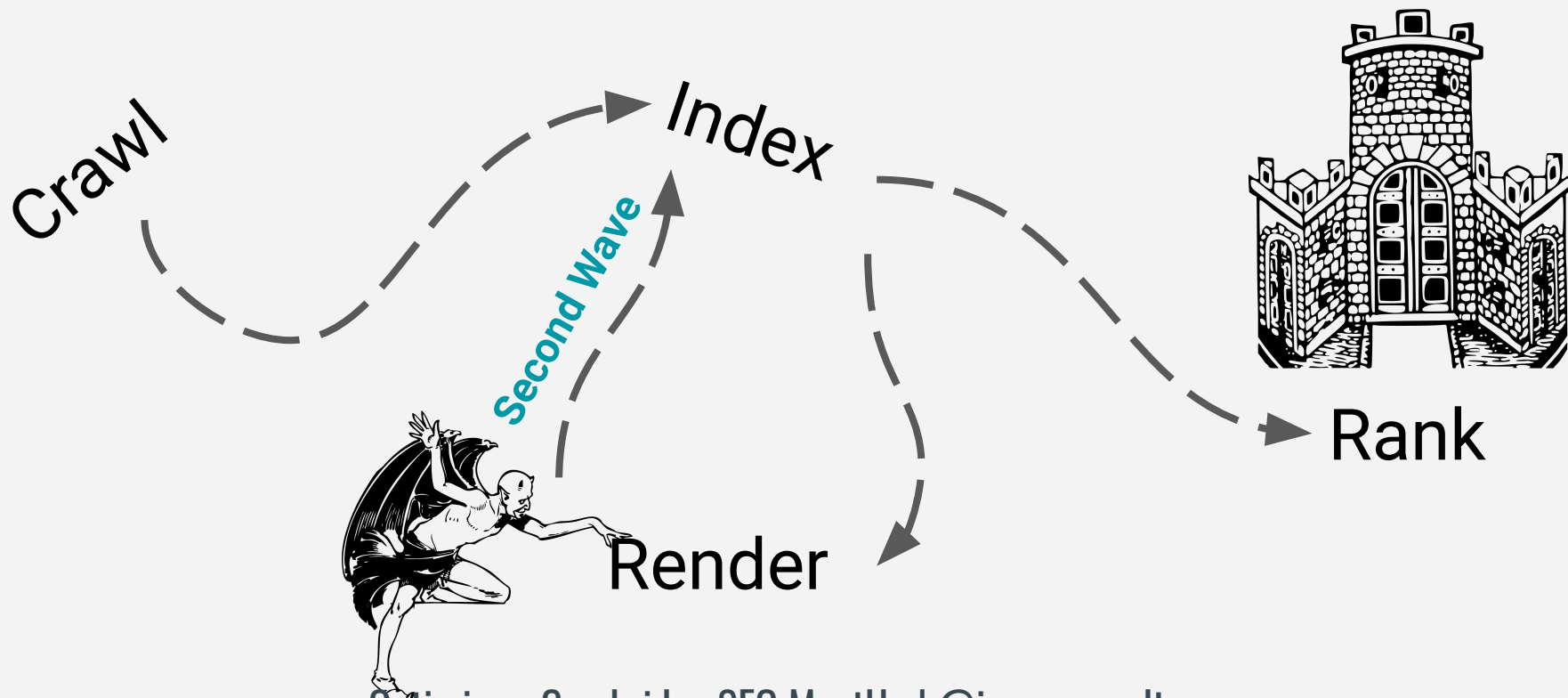


Source: [Google i/o 2018](#)

This changes our quest



Now, we know that **Rendering** is part of the process and that Google has **two waves** of indexing.



What is Rendering?

When Googlebot retrieves your pages, Googlebot runs your code, and assess your content to understand the layout or structure of your site.

Original HTML

```

1 <!doctype html><html lang="en"><head><script>utag_data = null;
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hatNme = window.location.host;
11  Ooo = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title></title><base href="/"><meta h
16    <script>var w=window;if(w.performance||w.mozPerformance||
17    </head><body><cv<root><div class="sprite logo"></div></c

```

Initial HTML

(1st wave of indexing)

Rendering



Rendered HTML

(2nd Wave of indexing)

Rendered HTML

```

1 <!DOCTYPE html><html lang="en"><head><iframe src="javascript:false" style^
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hatNme = window.location.host;
11  Ooo = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title>Beauty, Vitamins, Medicine
16    <script async="" src="https://db-akb-a.akamaihd.net/
17    <style>[_ngcontent-c0][height:100%][_ngcontent-c0], cvs-head
18  .wrapper[_ngcontent-c6] h1[_ngcontent-c0](color:#000;font-weight:700;fo
19  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui i {
20    font-style: normal;
21  }
22  .gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon_plus:after,
23  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon_plus:after {
24    content: "+";
25  }
26  .gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon_minus:after,
27  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon_minus:after {
28    content: "-";
29  }
30  }
31  }
32  }
33  gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-outer-spin-button,
34  gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-inner-spin-button {
35    -webkit-appearance: none;
36    -moz-appearance: none;
37    appearance: none;

```

Render's Role in Rank

All information Google collects during the rendering process is then used to rank the quality and value of your site content against other sites and what people are searching for with Google Search.

How Google Search Works, Search Console Help Center

Rendering Risks

If Google cannot render the pages on your site, it becomes more difficult to understand your web content because we are missing key visual layout information about your web pages.

As a result, the visibility of your site content in Google Search can suffer.

WRS, web rendering service


Googlebot queues pages for both crawling and rendering. It is not immediately obvious when a page is waiting for crawling and when it is waiting for rendering.

WRS is the name used to represent the collective elements involved in Google's rendering service. Many details are not publically available.

How Googlebot Renders

1. A URL is pulled from the crawl queue
2. Googlebot requests the URL and downloads the initial HTML

Use **View Page Source** to see the initial HTML



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'Original HTML'. The address bar contains a search field and navigation buttons. The main content area displays the source code of a web page, which is a mix of JavaScript and HTML. The code includes variable declarations, a function call to console.error, and a meta tag for charset. The code is line-numbered from 1 to 17.

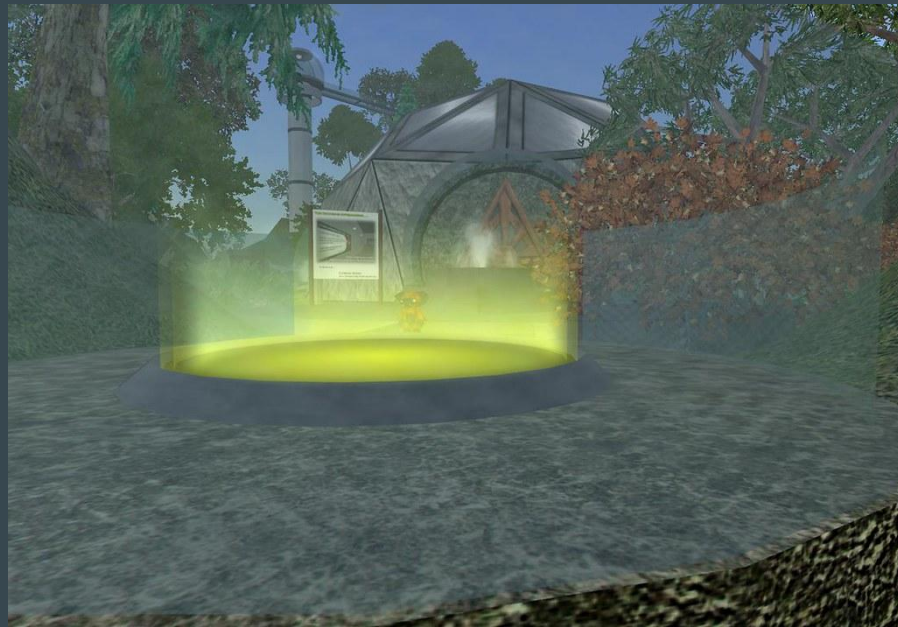
```
1 <!doctype html><html lang="en"><head><script>utag_data = null;  
2   jQuery = null;  
3   $ = null;  
4   MP = null;  
5   WT = null;  
6   vendorService = {};  
7   flyerData = {  
8     id: ''  
9   };  
10  hstNme = window.location.host;  
11  OOo = null;  
12  
13  window.document.write = function() {  
14    console.error("document.write error");  
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title></title><base href="/"><meta h  
16    <script>var w=window;if(w.performance||w.mozPerformance||  
17    </head><body><cv<root><div class="sprite logo"></div></c
```

How Googlebot Renders

3. The Initial HTML is passed to the processing stage

This is the First Wave of Indexing

```
Original HTML Search... [down] [up] [Export]
1 <!doctype html><html lang="en"><head><script>utag_data = null;
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hstNme = window.location.host;
11  OOo = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title></title><base href="/"><meta h
16    <script>var w=window;if(w.performance||w.mozPerformance||
17    </head><body><cvts-root><div class="sprite logo"></div></c
```










How Googlebot Renders

4. The processing stage extracts links from the initial HTML

5. Links go back on the crawl queue

Use **Network** tab to see how many resources a page calls

| Name | Status | Type |
|--|--------|----------|
|  beholder | 200 | docu... |
|  compiled.css | 200 | style... |
|  compiled.css | 200 | style... |
|  custom-css | 200 | style... |
|  api.js?onload=onloadCallback&render=explicit | 200 | script |
|  platform.js | 200 | script |
|  jquery?v=GcECUcJNx3XVVv_uJn199Nryz_0a... | 200 | script |
| 106 requests 3.0 MB transferred 9.1 MB resources Finish: 6.6 | | |

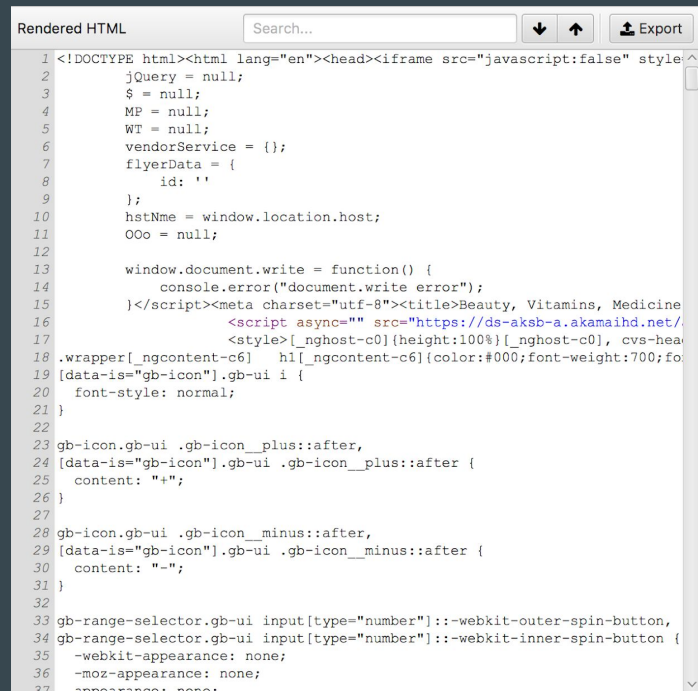
How Googlebot Renders

6. Once resources are crawled, the page queues for rendering
7. When resources become available, the request moves from the render queue to the renderer

How Googlebot Renders

8. Google assembles the page using the crawled links

Use **Inspect** to see rendered HTML

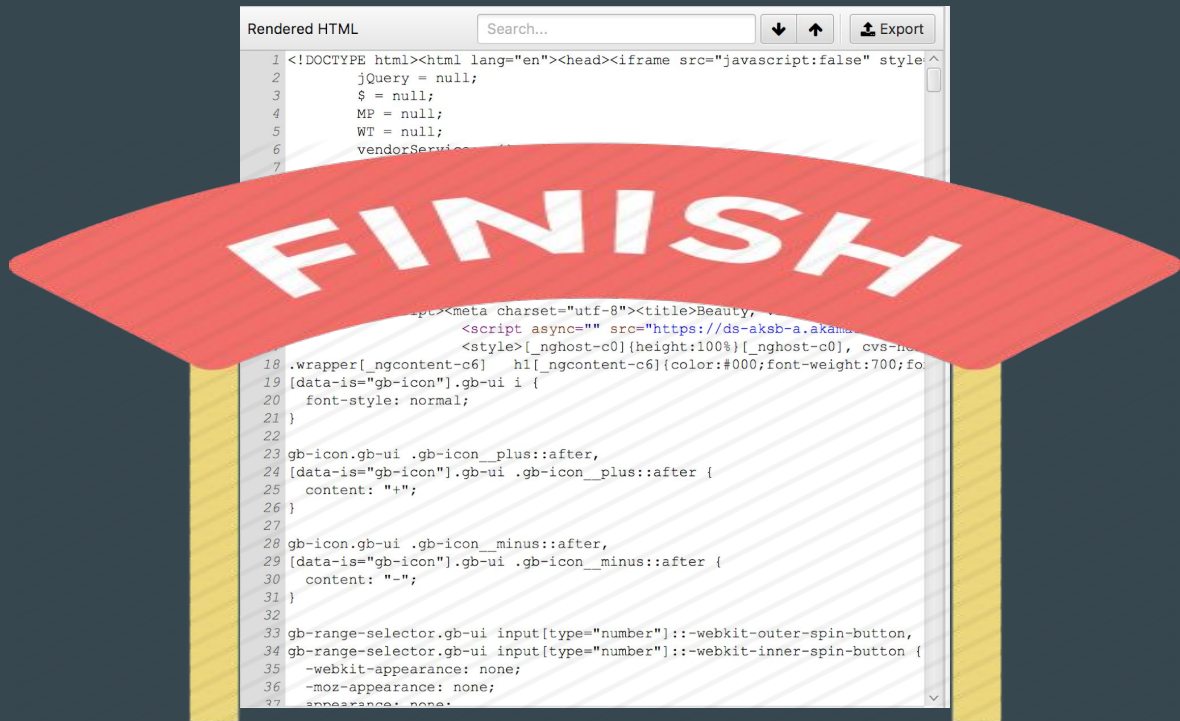


```
1 <!DOCTYPE html><html lang="en"><head><iframe src="javascript:false" style="
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hstNme = window.location.host;
11  Oo = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title>Beauty, Vitamins, Medicine
16  <script async="" src="https://ds-aksb-a.akamaihd.net/
17  <style>[_ngghost-c0](height:100%)[_ngghost-c0], cvs-hea
18  .wrapper[_ngcontent-c6] hl[_ngcontent-c6]{color:#000;font-weight:700;fo
19  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui i {
20    font-style: normal;
21  }
22
23  gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon__plus::after,
24  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon__plus::after {
25    content: "+";
26  }
27
28  gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon__minus::after,
29  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon__minus::after {
30    content: "-";
31  }
32
33  gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-outer-spin-button,
34  gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-inner-spin-button {
35    -webkit-appearance: none;
36    -moz-appearance: none;
37    appearance: none;
```

How Googlebot Renders

9. Renderer passes the rendered HTML back to processing
10. Processing indexes the content.

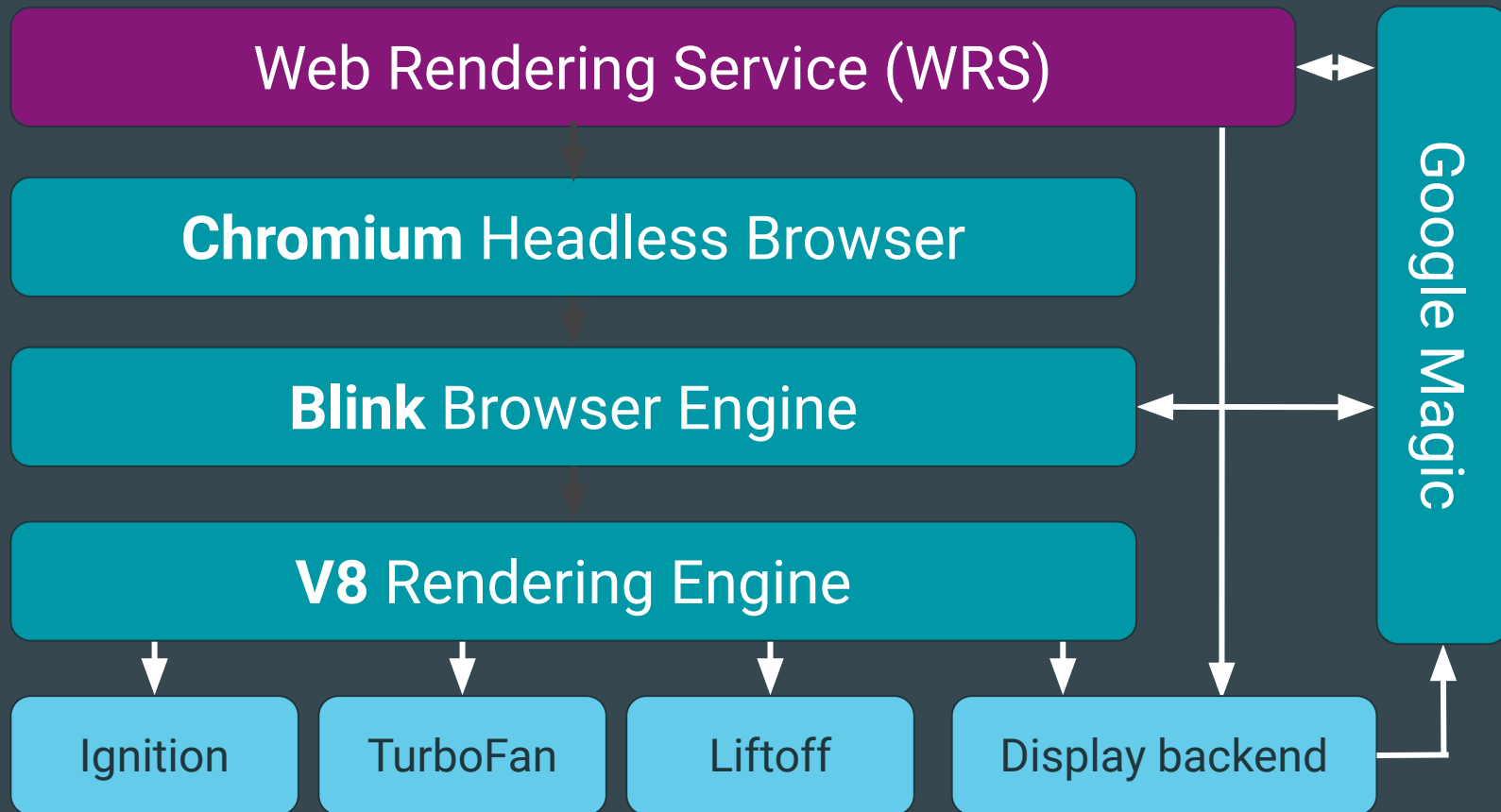
Second Wave of Indexing



How Googlebot Renders

11. Extracts links from the rendered HTML to put them into the crawl queue.

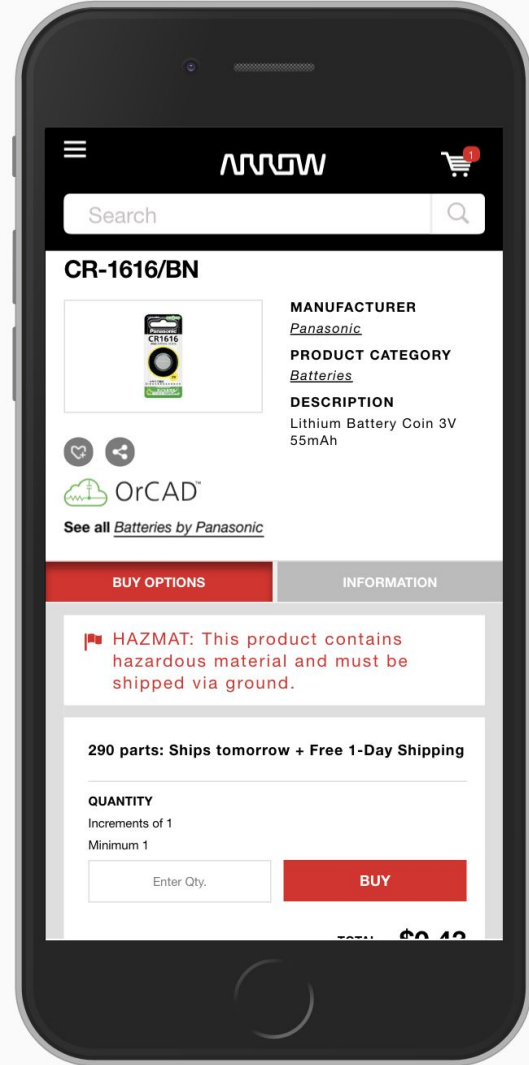
Web Rendering Service Anatomy



What should SEOs care about a little JavaScript?

Meet Arrow.com

- 5.2M products
- 7 languages
- 8 Asynchronous Javascript and XML (AJAX) calls per page




Arrow minus AJAX



With JavaScript



CR-1616/BN




MANUFACTURER
[Panasonic](#)

PRODUCT CATEGORY
[Batteries](#)

DESCRIPTION
Lithium Battery Coin 3V
55mAh






[See all Batteries by Panasonic](#)

BUY OPTIONS

INFORMATION

 **HAZMAT:** This product contains hazardous material and must be shipped via ground.

290 parts: Ships tomorrow + Free 1-Day Shipping


QUANTITY
Increments of 1
Minimum 1

BUY

7071 \$0.42

Without JavaScript


NEW!
BEAGLEBOARDX15






MANUFACTURER
[BeagleBoard.org](#)

PRODUCT CATEGORY
[Embedded System Development Boards and Kits](#)

DESCRIPTION
BeagleBoard X15







[See all Embedded System Development Boards and Kits by BeagleBoard.org](#)

BeagleBoard X15 is the top performing, mainline Linux enable, power-users' dream board with a core tailored for every computing task and a highspeed interface for every connectivity need. Give your algorithms rooms to stretch!

Processor: TI AM5728 2x1.5-GHz ARM Cortex-A15

- 2GB DDR3 RAM
- 4GB 8-bit eMMC on-board flash storage
- 2D/3D graphics and video accelerators (GPUs)
- 2x700-MHz C66 digital signal processors (DSPs)
- 2xARM Cortex-M4 microcontrollers (MCUs)
- 4x32-bit programmable real-time units (PRUs)





Product detail pages are designed
to meet a **transactional intent**.

If a Googlebot can't see pricing or product
availability, it can't understand our PDPs purpose.

The 4 Truths of Optimized Rendering

Optimisey, Cambridge SEO MeetUp | @jammer_volts




















Credit: [@itsienmiller](https://twitter.com/itsienmiller)

THE SUN

I

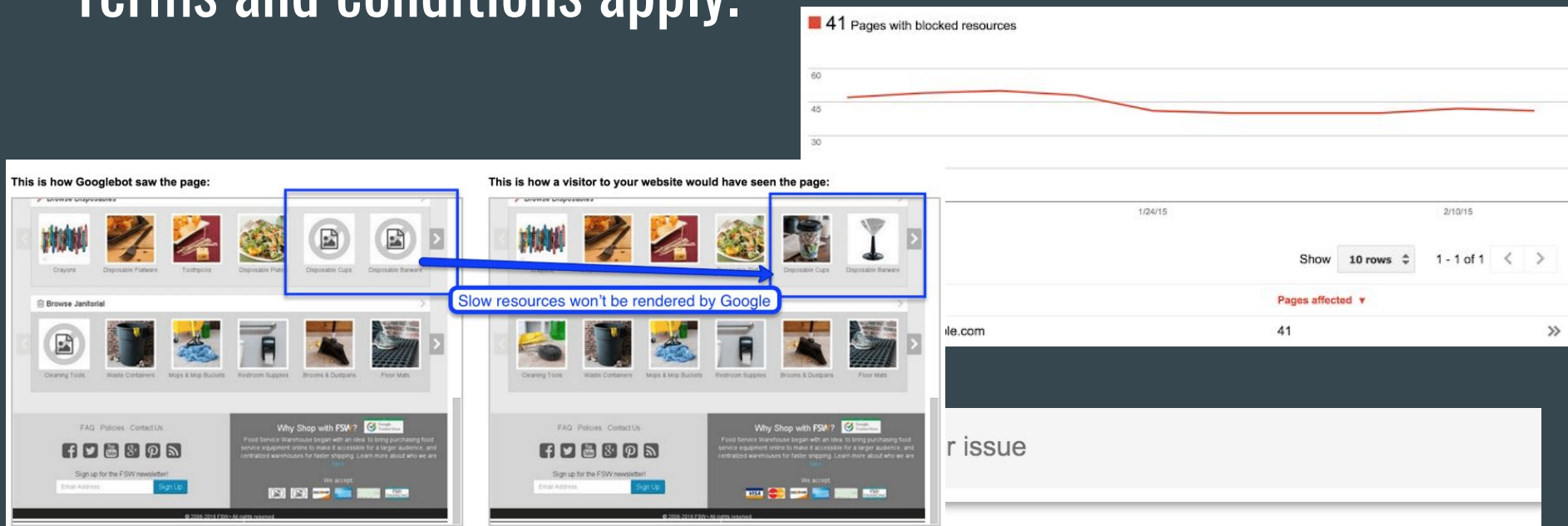
For content to **rank**, it
needs to be **seen**.

Which search engines can see JavaScript content?

| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | plain  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
|  | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
|  | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
|  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
|  | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
|  | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
|  | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
|  | Not indexed | | | | | | | | |

Source: [Bartosz Góralewicz via Moz](#)

*Terms and conditions apply.



Requirements for structured data markup

- Structured data markup must be present in the HTML returned from the web server. The structured data markup can't be generated with Javascript after the page has loaded.

Know the difference between your HTML and Rendered HTML

Original HTML

Search...

↓ ↑ Export

```
1 <!doctype html><html lang="en"><head><script>utag_data = null;
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hstNme = window.location.host;
11  OOo = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title></title><base href="/"><meta h
16    <script>var w=window;if(w.performance||w.mozPerformance||
17    </head><body><cv<div class="sprite logo"></div></c
```

Rendered HTML

Search...

↓ ↑ Export

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html><html lang="en"><head><iframe src="javascript:false" style="display: none;"></iframe>
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hstNme = window.location.host;
11  OOo = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title>Beauty, Vitamins, Medicine
16    <script async="" src="https://ds-aksb-a.akamaihd.net/
17    <style>[_ngghost-c0]{height:100%;[_ngghost-c0], cvs-hea
18  .wrapper[_ngcontent-c6] h1[_ngcontent-c6]{color:#000;font-weight:700;font-size:24px;}
19  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui i {
20    font-style: normal;
21  }
22
23  gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon__plus::after,
24  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon__plus::after {
25    content: "+";
26  }
27
28  gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon__minus::after,
29  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon__minus::after {
30    content: "-";
31  }
32
33  gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-outer-spin-button,
34  gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-inner-spin-button {
35    -webkit-appearance: none;
36    -moz-appearance: none;
37    appearance: none;
38  }
```

Parse content **critical** to user
intent in initial HTML

HTML

1st wave of indexing

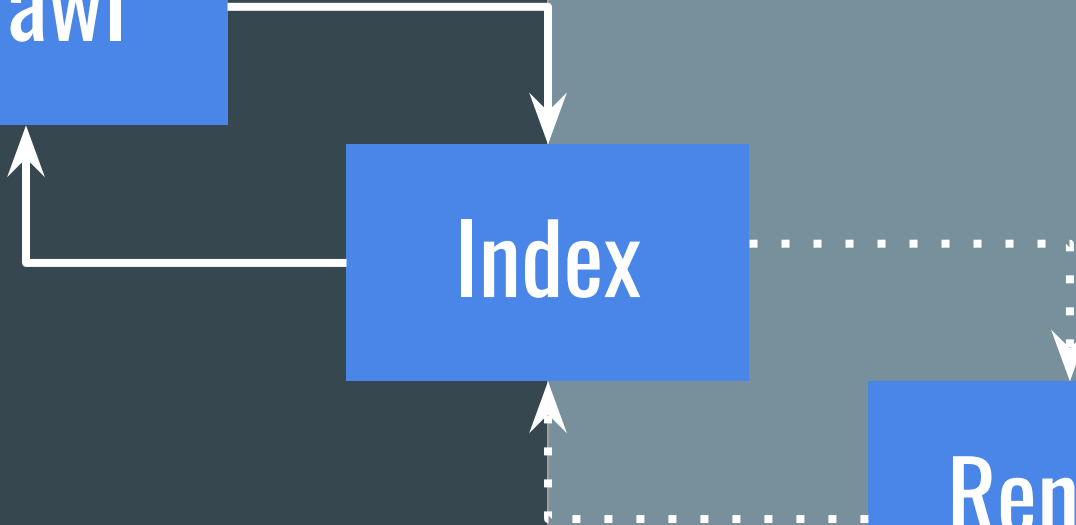
Crawl

Index

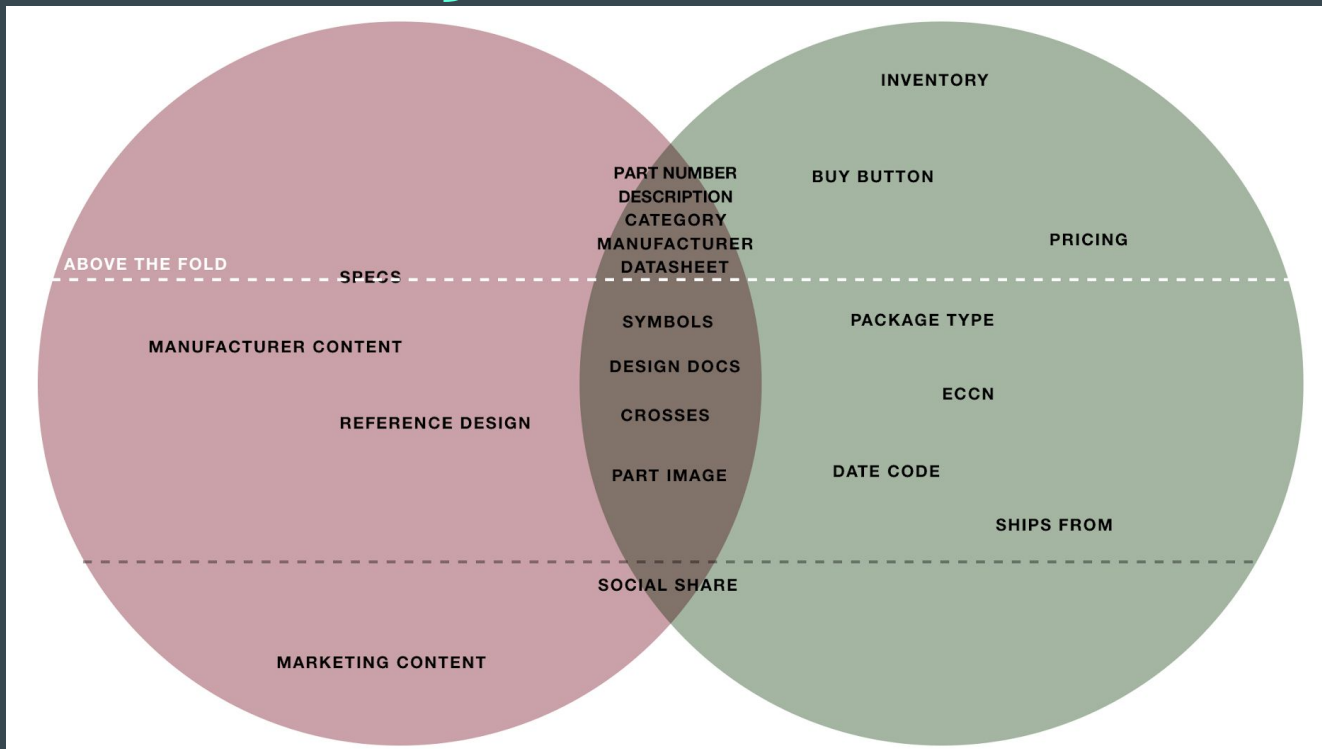
2nd wave of indexing

DOM

Render



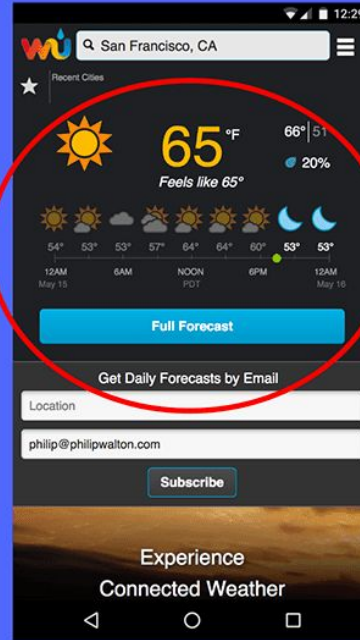
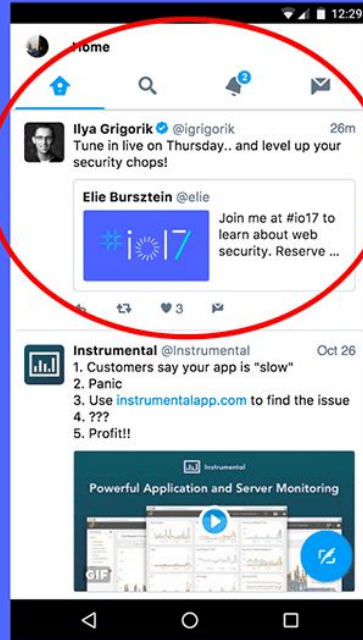
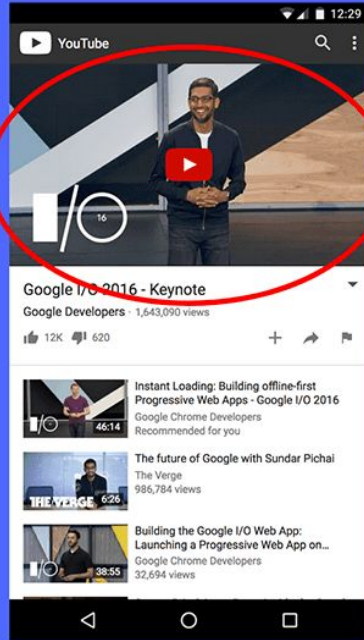
Critical = why the user came



Arrow moved buying elements to html and saw an 80% increase in indexed product detail pages



Define it for your site, by template



Source: User-centric Performance Metrics



Be consistent.

Use clean, consistent signals

Googlebot won't see past a noindex directive in initial HTML to see an index placed in DOM.

Use clean, consistent signals

Duplicative content without a canonical in initial HTML is crawl waste until rendering.

Use clean, consistent signals

Inconsistent title tags and descriptions can result from overwriting the initial HTML with rendered HTML.

Mobile vs Desktop Rendering

Layout matters for both.

If you want to rank for position zero, remember that the content must be exposed on initial mobile load.



Marie Haynes ✓

@Marie_Haynes

Following



If content is the same on desktop and mobile, but reordered, does that matter? "How the page is structured matters for ranking".

The main content is the most important thing. If it changes for mobile, you will rank differently.

[@methode](#) [#Pubcon](#)

7:40 AM - 21 Feb 2018

39 Retweets 78 Likes



1



39



78





**Load what matters
when it matters.**



Everyone has to wait while JS does it's thing.





Load scripts & images without blocking

Asynchronous calls are supported with async attributes

```
<rel="myscript.js" async defer>
```

Lazy load images in Chrome with native attributes

```

```

Focus rendering efforts with nofollow

If a resource is not valuable to the construction of the page, add a nofollow directive to resources that are not necessary or beneficial to page construction.

Don't load stupid sh*t

More pages resources require more rendering resources.
Each resource must be fetched independently before the page can be accurately rendered.

Choose the rendering strategy that's right for your business and stack.

You don't have to be 100% client-side, 100% server-side, or 100% both (dynamic).

Server



Browser



Server Rendering

"Static SSR"

SSR with
(Re)hydrationCSR with
Prerendering

Full CSR

Overview:

An application where input is navigation requests and the output is HTML in response to them.

Built as a Single Page App, but all pages prerendered to static HTML as a build step, and the JS is **removed**.

Built as a Single Page App. The server prerenders pages, but the full app is also booted on the client.

A Single Page App, where the initial shell/skeleton is prerendered to static HTML at build time.

A Single Page App. All logic, rendering and booting is done on the client. HTML is essentially just script & style tags.

Authoring:

Entirely server-side
(request-response, HTML)

Built as if client-side
(components, DOM*, fetch)

Built as client-side

Client-side

Client-side

Rendering:

Dynamic HTML

Static HTML

Dynamic HTML
and JS/DOM

Partial static HTML,
then JS/DOM

Entirely JS/DOM

Server role:

Controls all aspects.
(thin client)

Delivers static HTML

Renders pages
(navigation requests)

Delivers static HTML

Delivers static HTML

Pros:

👍 TTI = FCP
👍 Fully streaming

👍 Fast TTFB
👍 TTI = FCP
👍 Fully streaming

👍 Flexible

👍 Flexible
👍 Fast TTFB

👍 Flexible
👍 Fast TTFB

Cons:

👎 Slow TTFB
👎 Inflexible

👎 Inflexible
👎 Leads to hydration

👎 Slow TTFB
👎 TTI >>> FCP
👎 Usually buffered

👎 TTI > FCP
👎 Limited streaming

👎 TTI >>> FCP
👎 No streaming

Scales via:

Infra size / cost

build/deploy size

Infra size & JS size

JS size

JS size

Examples:

Gmail HTML, Hacker News

Docusaurus, Netflix*

[Next.js](#), [Razzle](#), etc

Gatsby, Vuepress, etc

Most apps

IV

DON'T BE AFRAID
TO LEARN IN PUBLIC

(_/)

||

(・^・)

||

/ づ

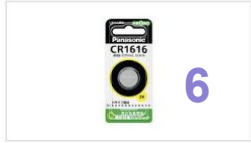
Thank you <3

@jammer_volts
/in/jamie-alberico





CR-1616/BN 5



MANUFACTURER 7
Panasonic

PRODUCT CATEGORY 8
Batteries

DESCRIPTION 9
Lithium Battery Coin 3V 55mAh

10 11

OrCAD™ 12

See all Batteries by Panasonic 13

14 BUY OPTIONS

15 INFORMATION

HAZMAT: This product contains hazardous material and must be shipped via ground. 16

17 290 parts: Ships tomorrow + Free 1-Day Shipping

QUANTITY
Increments of 1 18
Minimum 1

19 Enter Qty.

20 BUY

1 Menu

2 Logo

3 Mini Cart

4 Search

13 See all Cat x

14 Manufacturer
Buying Options

15 Information

16 Hazmat Alert

5 SKU

6 Image

7 Manufacturer

8 Category

17 Stock Count

18 Quantity Info

19 Quantity Input

20 Buy CTA button

9 Description

10 Favorite

11 Share

12 ORCAD

```
Original HTML
1 <!doctype html><html lang="en"><head><script>utag_data = null;
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hatNme = window.location.host;
11  Ooo = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title></title><base href="/"><meta h
16    <script>var w=window;if(w.performance||w.mozPerformance||
17    </head><body><cv<root><div class="sprite logo"></div></c
```

Initial HTML (1st wave of indexing)

Rendering



Rendered HTML (2nd Wave of indexing)

```
Rendered HTML
1 <!DOCTYPE html><html lang="en"><head><iframe src="javascript:false" style^
2   jQuery = null;
3   $ = null;
4   MP = null;
5   WT = null;
6   vendorService = {};
7   flyerData = {
8     id: ''
9   };
10  hatNme = window.location.host;
11  Ooo = null;
12
13  window.document.write = function() {
14    console.error("document.write error");
15  }</script><meta charset="utf-8"><title>Beauty, Vitamins, Medicine
16    <script async="" src="https://ds-akb-a.s.kanashid.net/
17    <style>[_ghost-c0][height:100%][_ghost-c0], cvs-head
18  .wrapper[_ngcontent-c6] h1[_ngcontent-c6]{color:#000;font-weight:700;fo
19  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui i {
20    font-style: normal;
21  }
22
23  .gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon_plus:after,
24  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon_plus:after {
25    content: "+";
26  }
27
28  .gb-icon.gb-ui .gb-icon_minus:after,
29  [data-is="gb-icon"].gb-ui .gb-icon_minus:after {
30    content: "-";
31  }
32
33  .gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-outer-spin-button,
34  .gb-range-selector.gb-ui input[type="number"]::-webkit-inner-spin-button {
35    -webkit-appearance: none;
36    -moz-appearance: none;
37    appearance: none;
```



Humans and search engines must wait on scripts



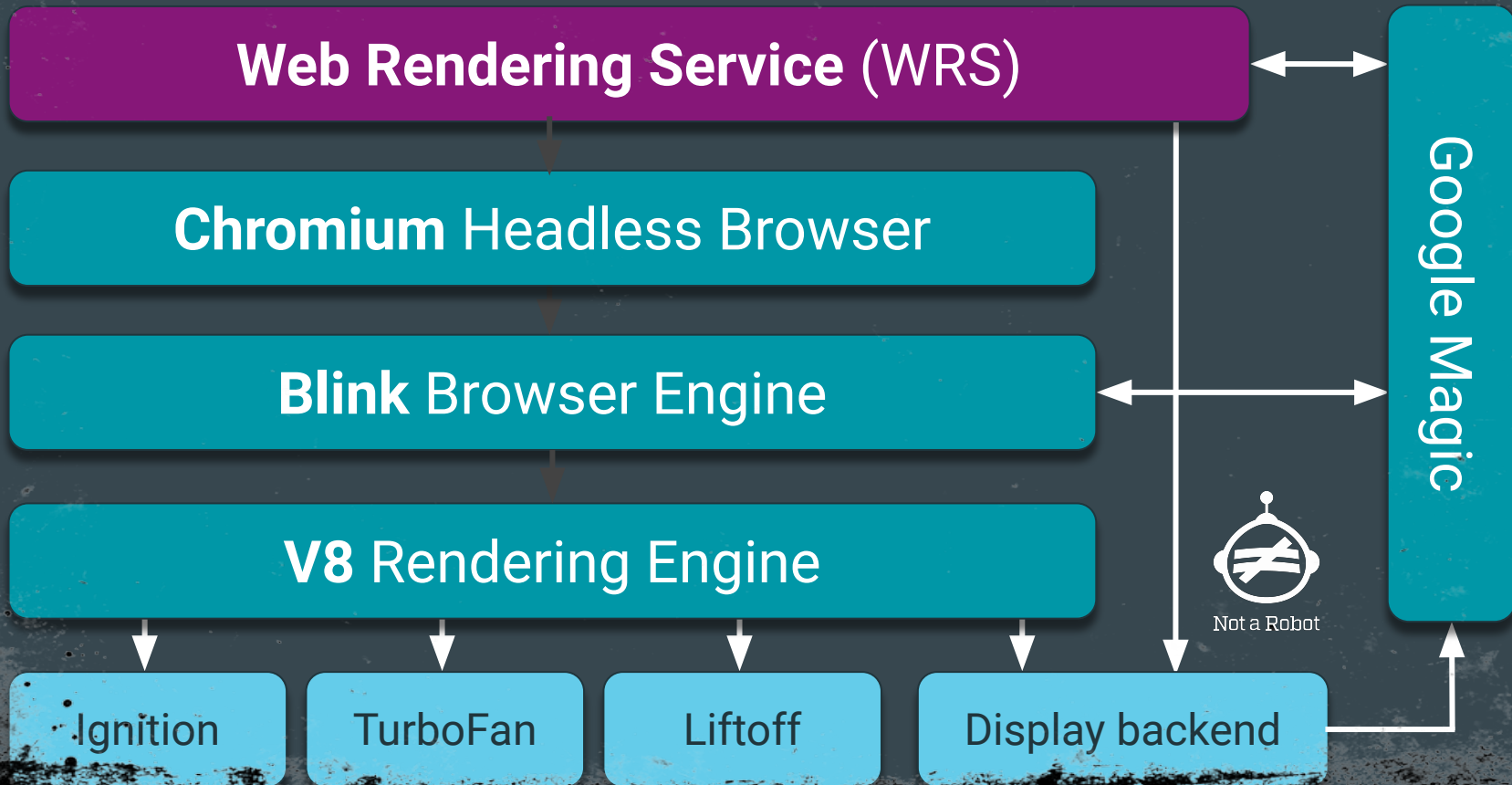


Everyone has to wait while JS does it's thing.



#searchcon | @jammer_volts

Anatomy of Google's Web Rendering Service



Features & Traits

Actions

Equipment

V8's components

- **Ignition**, a fast low-level register-based JavaScript interpreter written using the backend of TurboFan
- **TurboFan**, one of V8's optimizing compilers
- **Liftoff**, a new baseline compiler for WebAssembly

HTML

1st wave of indexing

Crawl

Index

2nd wave of indexing

Render

DOM

