

Django: Under the Hood  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016  
Aymeric Augustin

debugging  
performance

👋 I'm Aymeric

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**django**

Core Developer  
since 2011

- Time zones
- Python 3
- Transactions
- App loading
- Jinja2



Freelancing  
since 2015

Consulting  
on Django,  
big data, &  
architecture

👋 I'm Aymeric

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**django**

Core Developer  
since 2011

- Time zones
- Python 3
- Transactions
- App loading
- Jinja2

**OTHERWISE**

Founder & CTO  
since 2015

First collaborative  
insurance broker  
in France

<https://otherwise.fr/> [FR]



# response times

# Perception of response time

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- **fast** = up to **0.1s** = reacting instantaneously
  - just display the result
- **normal** = up to **1s** = not interrupting the user's flow of thought
  - user will notice the delay but no feedback is necessary
- **slow** = up to **10s** = keeping the user's attention focused
  - feedback is important, especially if response time is unpredictable

Source: <https://www.nngroup.com/articles/website-response-times/>



measuring  
page load time

# performance.timing

The screenshot shows the Chrome Developer Tools interface for a page at `http://localhost:8000/`. The **Console** tab is active, displaying the `performance.timing` object. The **Performance** panel is also open, showing a detailed view of the `PerformanceTiming` object.

**Console Output:**

```
>> performance.timing
< PerformanceTiming { navigationStart: 1476645264450, unloadEventStart: 1476645264551, unloadEventEnd: 1476645264564, redirectStart: 0, redirectEnd: 0, fetchStart: 1476645264455, domainLookupStart: 1476645264461, domainLookupEnd: 1476645264461, connectStart: 1476645264461, connectEnd: 1476645264462 }
```

**Performance Panel View:**

- connectEnd: 1476645264462
- connectStart: 1476645264461
- domComplete: 1476645264979
- domContentLoadedEventEnd: 1476645264966
- domContentLoadedEventStart: 1476645264955
- domInteractive: 1476645264950
- domLoading: 1476645264551
- domainLookupEnd: 1476645264461
- domainLookupStart: 1476645264461
- fetchStart: 1476645264455
- loadEventEnd: 1476645265004
- loadEventStart: 1476645264979
- navigationStart: 1476645264450
- redirectEnd: 0
- redirectStart: 0
- requestStart: 1476645264462
- responseEnd: 1476645264544
- responseStart: 1476645264544
- unloadEventEnd: 1476645264564
- unloadEventStart: 1476645264551
- \_\_proto\_\_: PerformanceTimingPrototype

# Time panel

## Time

### Resource usage

Resource	Value
User CPU time	37.485 msec
System CPU time	11.221 msec
Total CPU time	48.706 msec
Elapsed time	56.434 msec
Context switches	17 voluntary, 5 involuntary

### Browser timing

Timing attribute	Timeline	Milliseconds since navigation start (+length)
domainLookup		11 (+0)
connect		11 (+1)
request		12 (+82)
response		94 (+0)
domLoading		101 (+428)
domInteractive		500
domContentLoadedEvent		505 (+11)
loadEvent		529 (+25)

Hide »

Versions   
DJANGO 1.10

Time   
CPU: 48.71ms (56.43ms)

Settings

Headers

Request   
TEMPLATEVIEW

SQL   
0 QUERIES IN 0.00MS

Static files   
6 FILES USED

Templates   
HOME.HTML

Cache

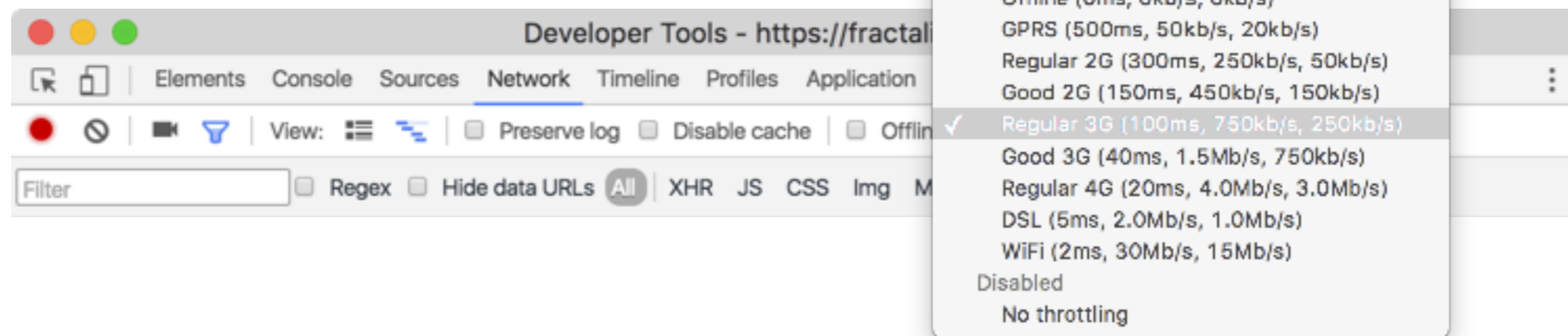


# In production

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- Google Chrome Developer Tools

- only affects the network



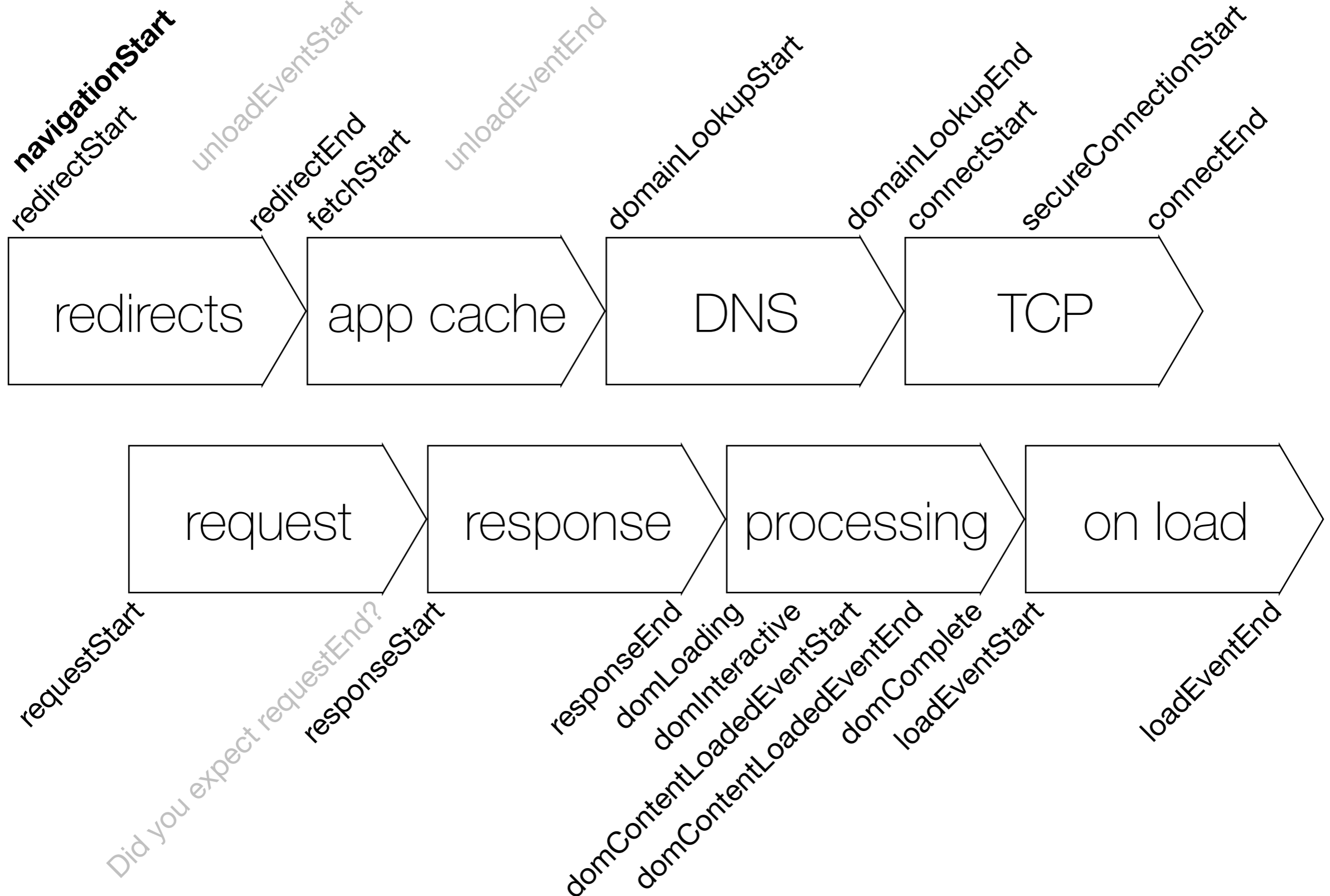
- Google Analytics Site Speed

- sampled on 1% of users by default

- Application Performance Monitoring solutions

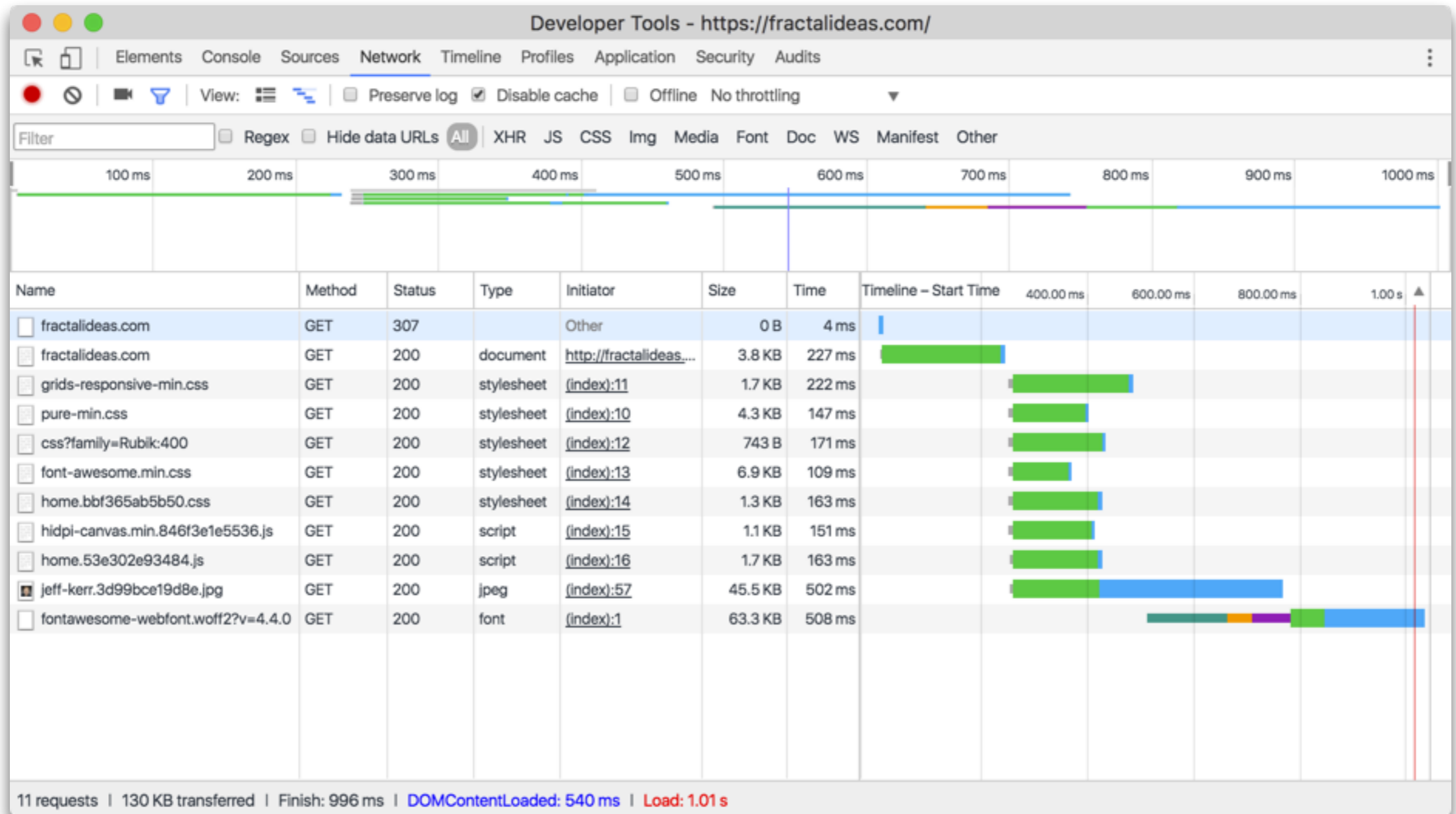
# Performance timeline

---

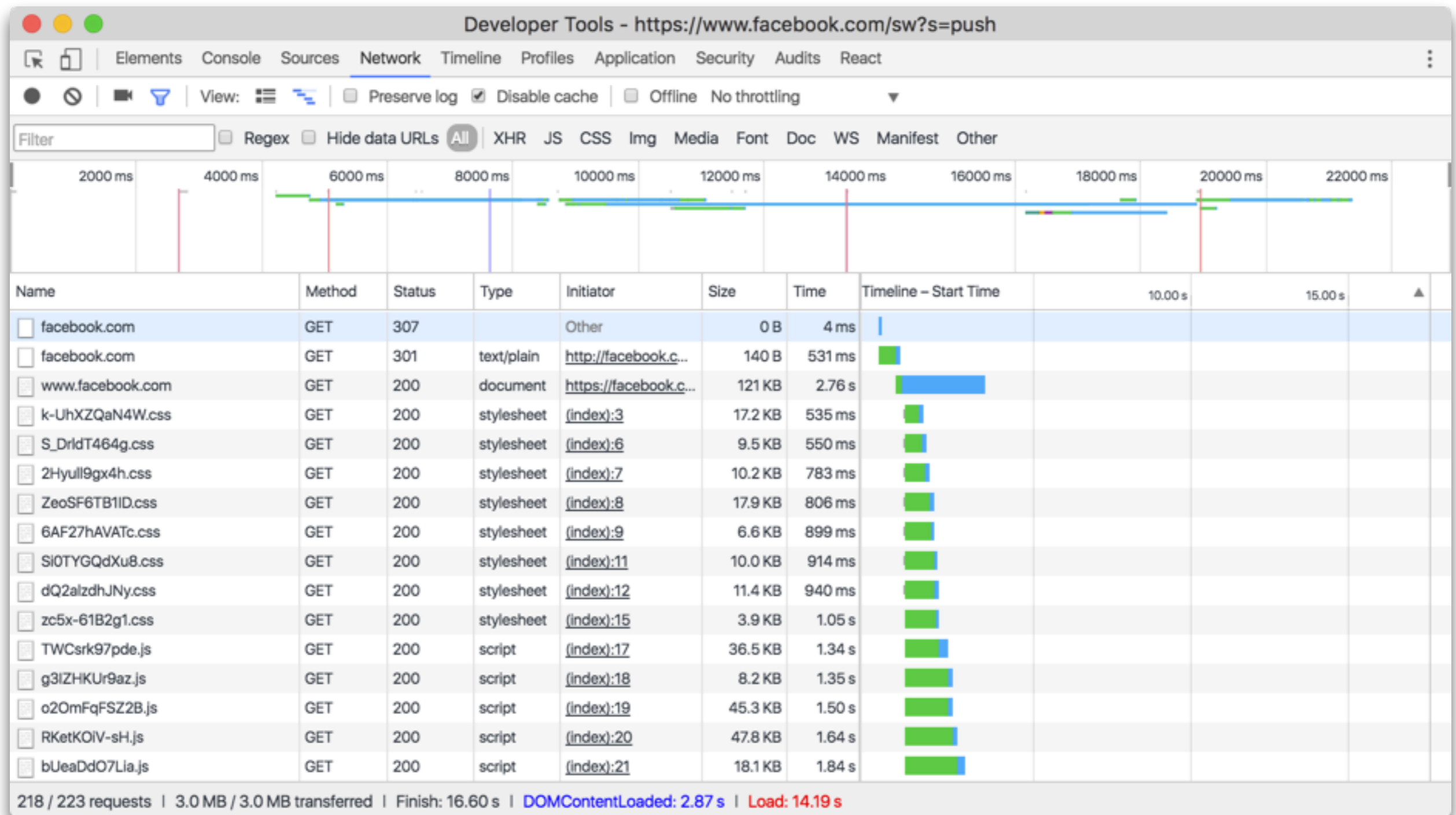


The backend makes ~15%  
of the total page load time.

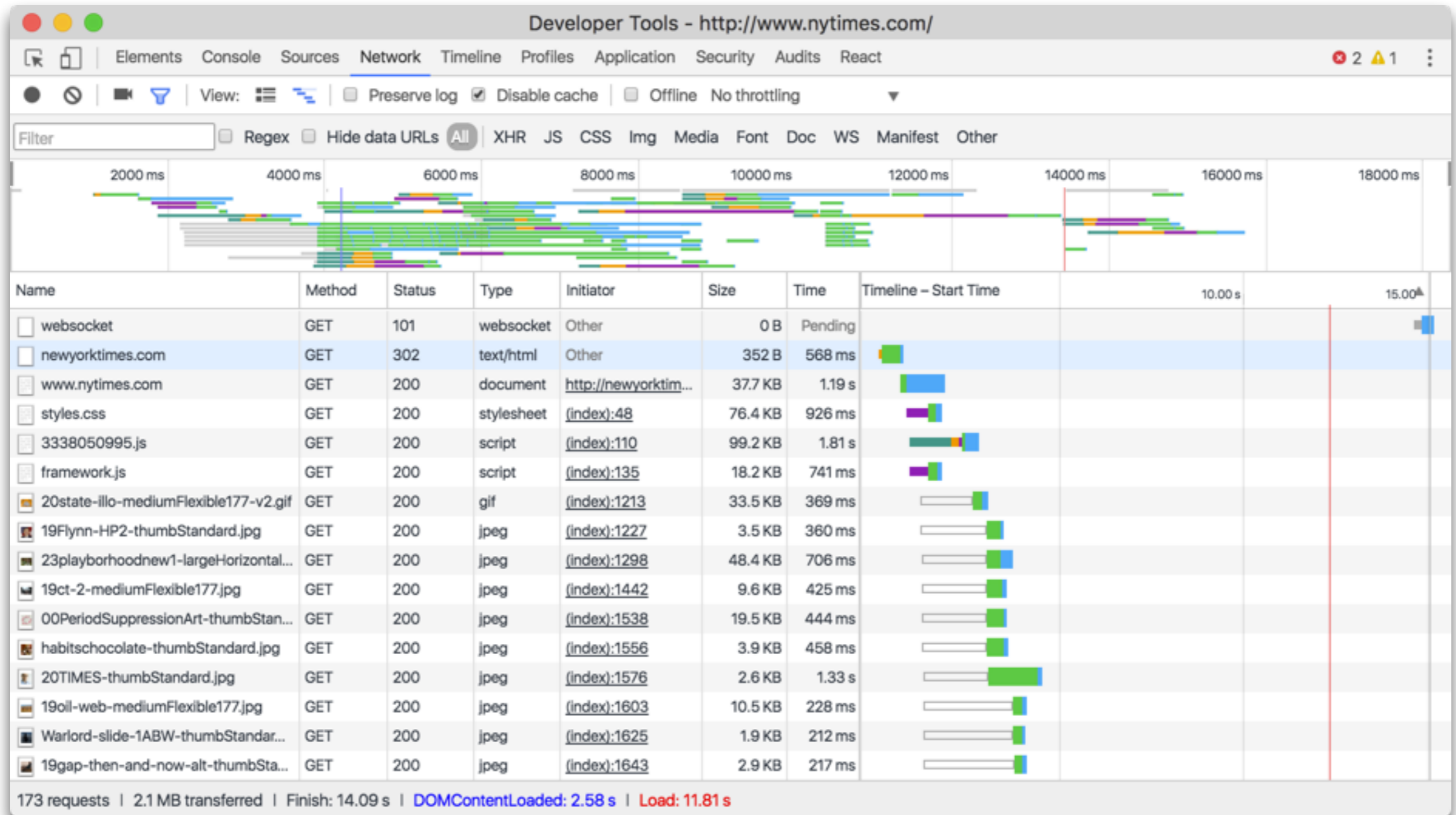
# Fractal Ideas - $0.23s / 1.0s = 23\%$



# Facebook - 2.8s / 14.2s = 20%



# New York Times - 1.2s / 11.8s = 10%



# HTTP/1.1 is bad at fetching many resources

---

- Client-side

- DNS pre-fetch
- TCP pre-connect
- keep-alive & pipelining
- parallel connections
- caching

- Server-side

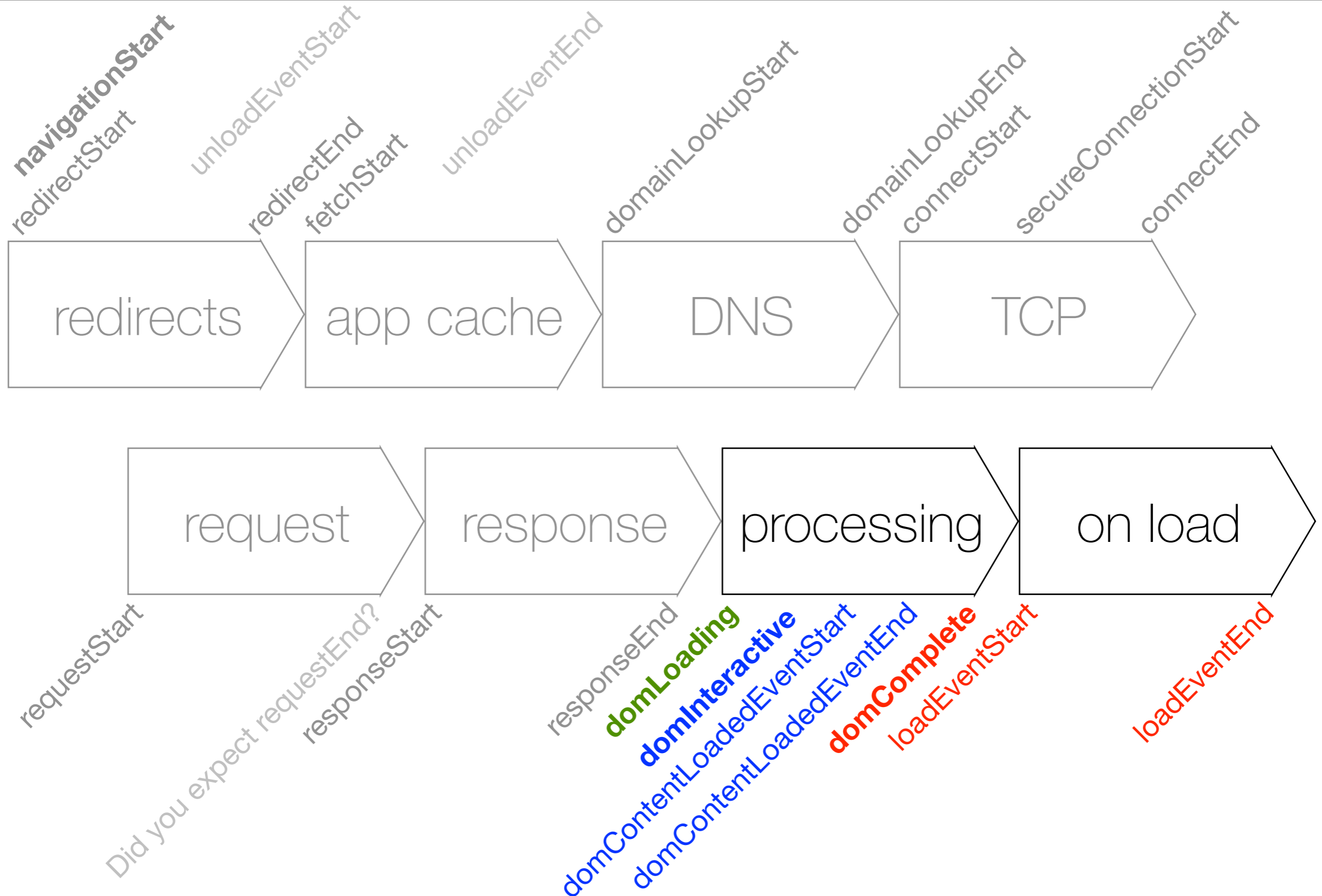
- concatenation
- spriting
- inlining
- domain sharding
- allow caching

Let's talk about  
the frontend.



# Performance timeline

---



# document.readyState & page load events

---

## 'loading'

- **domLoading**
- No event (no JS yet!)
- Parse HTML & build DOM
- Download & run sync JS

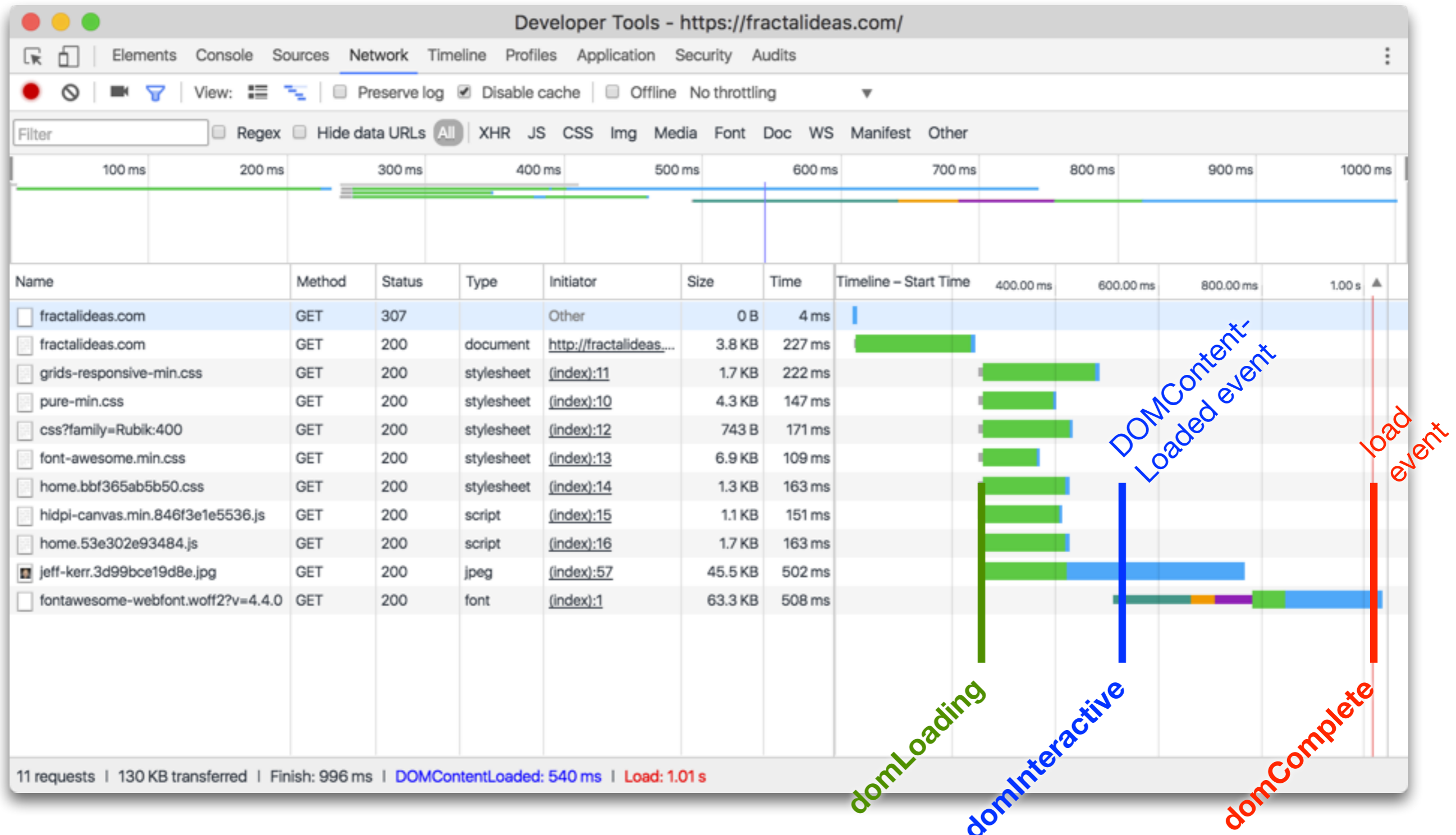
## 'interactive'

- **domInteractive**
- DOMContentLoaded event
- Download CSS & images
- Parse CSS & build CSSOM

## 'complete'

- **domComplete**
- load event
- Page is fully loaded

# document.readyState & page load events



# Listen to DOMContentLoaded — not load

```
Terminal — -zsh — 82x22
(fractalideas_com)myk@mYk fractalideas_com % git show
commit 3b2e461deef9ff7d30be08cd45db47f8ebbf2ce
Author: Aymeric Augustin <aymeric.augustin@fractalideas.com>
Date: Mon Oct 17 22:34:32 2016 +0200

    I'm supposed to teach this stuff.

diff --git a/showcase/static/home.js b/showcase/static/home.js
index ab07c45..eb0b39f 100644
--- a/showcase/static/home.js
+++ b/showcase/static/home.js
@@ -270,7 +270,7 @@
         window.requestAnimationFrame(run);
     };

-    window.addEventListener('load', debouncedRun);
+    window.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded', debouncedRun);
     window.addEventListener('resize', debouncedRun);

 }(document, window));
(fractalideas_com)myk@mYk fractalideas_com % ~/Documents/dev/fractalideas_com
```



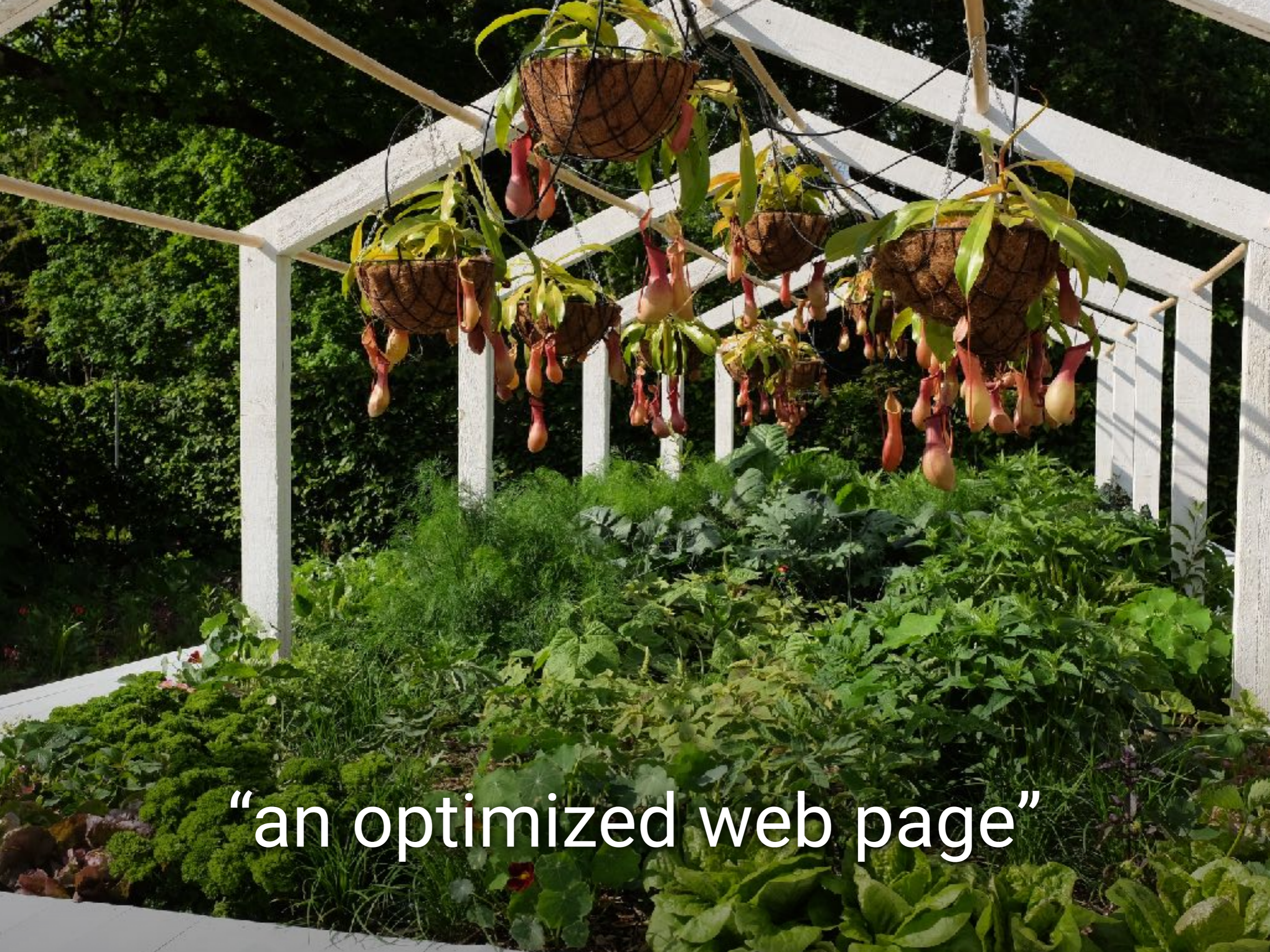
client-side:  
loading pages



CSS



JS

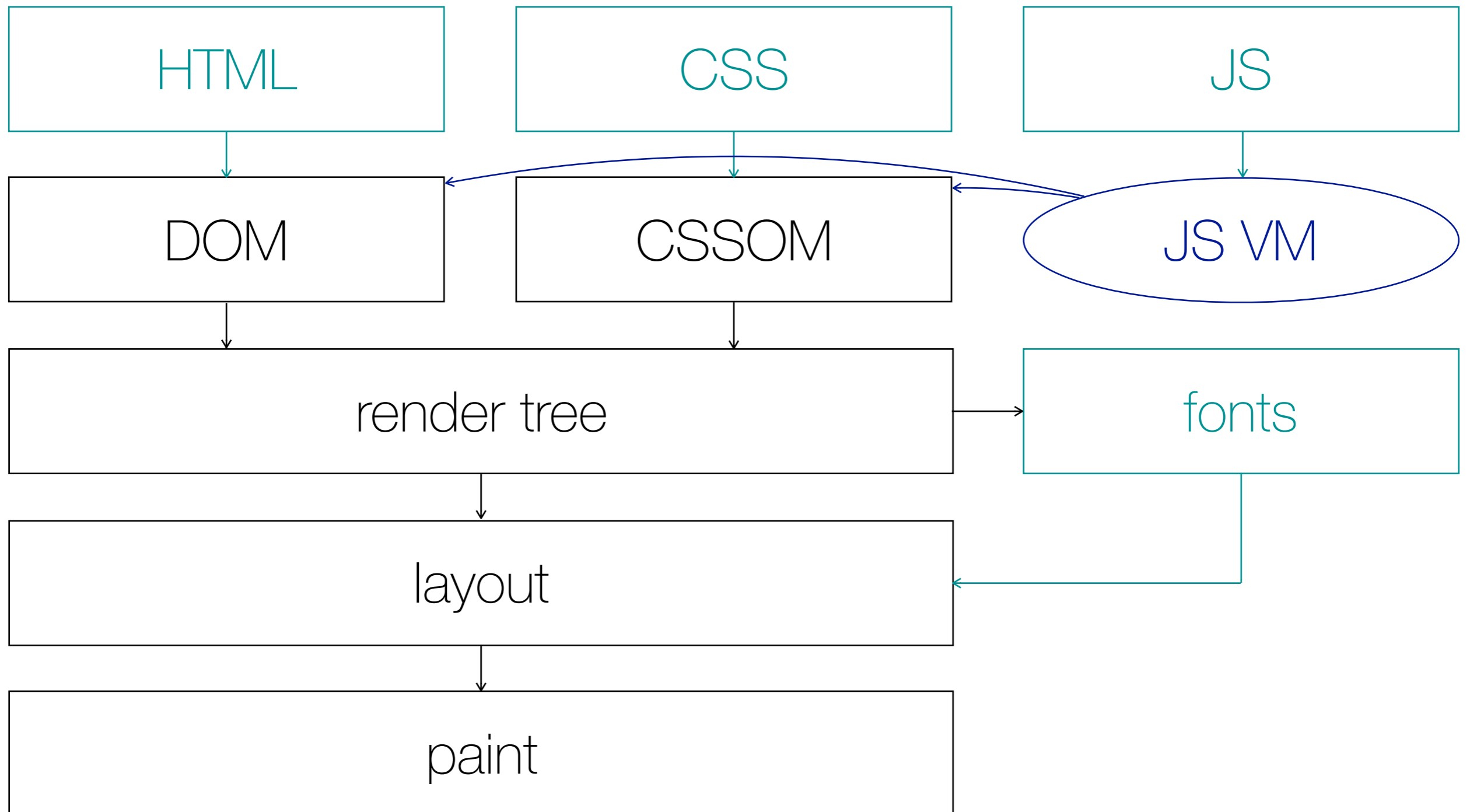


“an optimized web page”



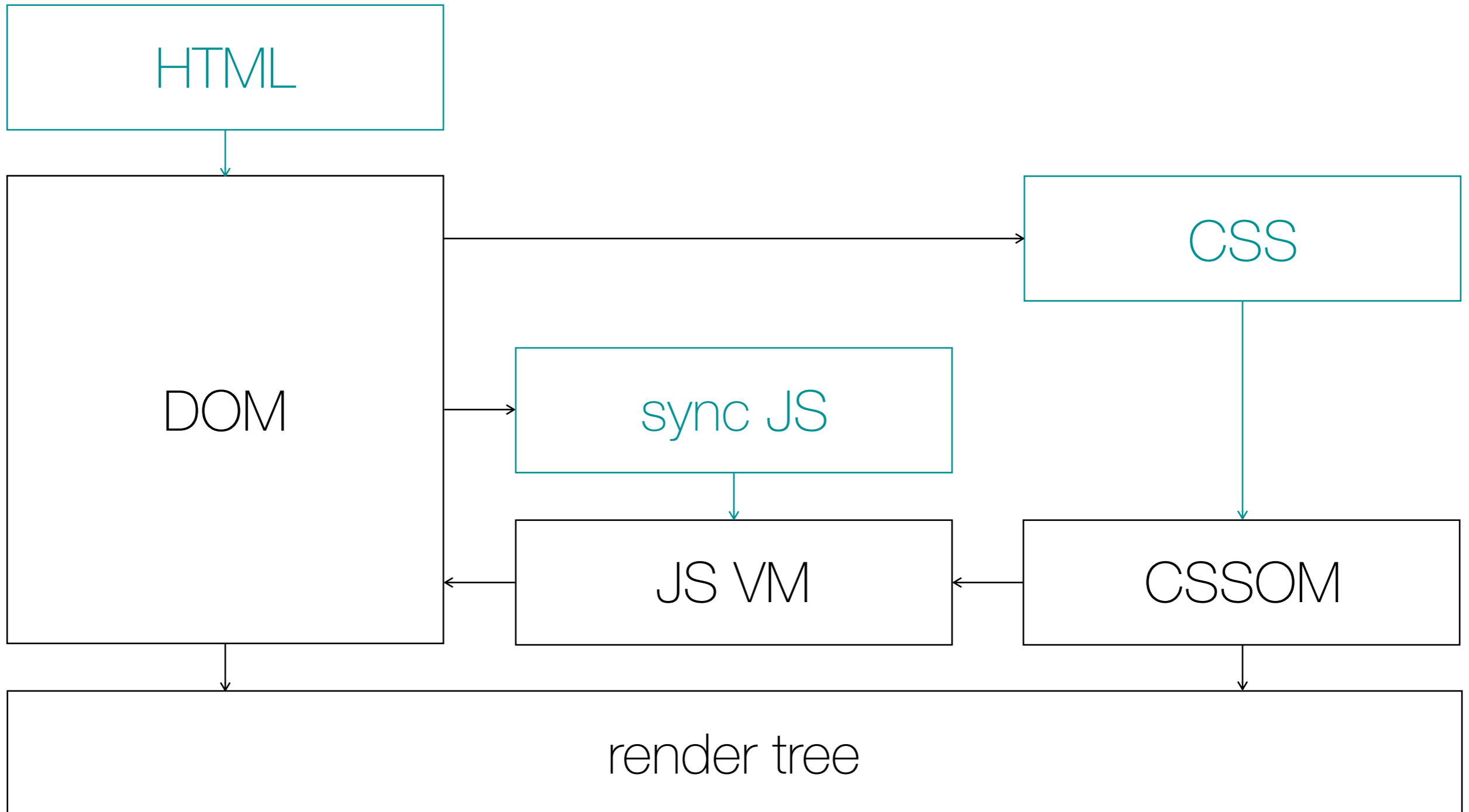
# Rendering pipeline

---



# Critical path - visual edition

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# Critical path - text edition

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- Rendering a page requires a DOM and a CSSOM
  - Download and parse HTML
  - Download and parse CSS
- Building the DOM blocks on sync JS
  - Download and execute sync JS
- Executing JS blocks on the CSSOM
  - Wait until CSS is parsed to execute sync JS

# Browsers optimize heavily page load time

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- Parse HTML incrementally
- Paint while waiting for sync JS
  - After CSS is available
- Paint while waiting for web fonts
  - With a default font — browser dependent
- Preload scanner

# Guidelines

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1. Optimize HTML load time

2. Optimize CSS load time

- Unblock first paint
- Avoid blocking JS execution

3. Avoid sync JS, including inline JS, or put it at the bottom

- Avoid blocking DOM construction
- Trigger DOMContentLoaded as early as possible



client-side:  
aysnc scripts

# “The JavaScript tracking snippet”

---

```
<!-- Google Analytics -->
<script>
(function(i,s,o,g,r,a,m)
{i['GoogleAnalyticsObject']=r;i[r]=i[r]||function()
{(i[r].q=i[r].q||[]).push(arguments)},i[r].l=1*new
Date();a=s.createElement(o),m=s.getElementsByTagName(o)
[0];a.async=1;a.src=g;m.parentNode.insertBefore(a,m)}
(window,document,'script','https://www.google-
analytics.com/analytics.js','ga'));

ga('create','UA-XXXXX-Y','auto');
ga('send','pageview');
</script>
<!-- End Google Analytics -->
```

# Script-injected scripts

---

```
window.GoogleAnalyticsObject = 'ga'
window.ga = window.ga || function () {
  window.ga.q = window.ga.q || []
  window.ga.q.push(arguments)
}
window.ga.l = 1 * new Date()

var script = document.createElement('script')
script.async = 1
script.src = \
  'https://www.google-analytics.com/analytics.js'

var otherScript = \
  document.getElementsByTagName('script')[0]
otherScript.parentNode.insertBefore(script, otherScript)
```



# “Alternative async tracking snippet”

---

```
<!-- Google Analytics -->  
<script>  
window.ga=window.ga||function(){(ga.q=ga.q||  
[]).push(arguments)};ga.l=+new Date;  
ga('create', 'UA-XXXXX-Y', 'auto');  
ga('send', 'pageview');  
</script>  
<script async src='https://www.google-analytics.com/  
analytics.js'></script>  
<!-- End Google Analytics -->
```

# Async scripts

---

```
window.ga = window.ga || function () {  
    ga.q = ga.q || []  
    ga.q.push(arguments)  
}  
ga.l = +new Date
```

// plus an async script:

```
<script async src='https://www.google-analytics.com/  
analytics.js'></script>
```

# New best practice?

---

```
<html>
  <head>
    <script> /* Async function queuing */ </script>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
    <script async src="critical.js"></script>
    <style> /* For above-the-fold content */ </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <script async src="non-critical.js"></script>
  </body>
</html>
```

# Credits: Ilya Grigorik

<https://developers.google.com/web/fundamentals/performance/>

<https://www.igvita.com/slides/2012/webperf-crash-course.pdf>

<https://www.igvita.com/2014/05/20/script-injected-async-scripts-considered-harmful/>

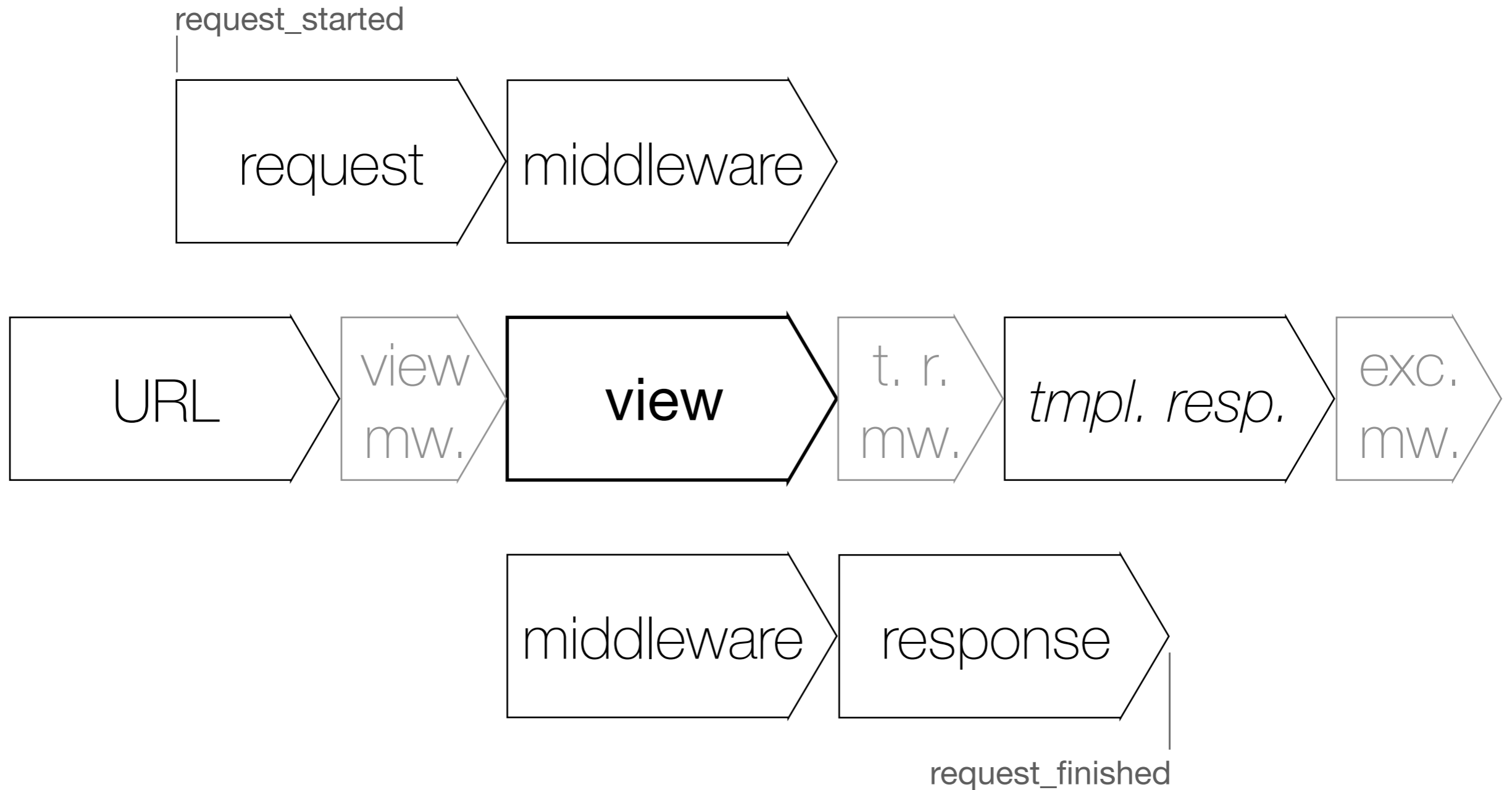
<https://www.igvita.com/2015/04/10/fixing-the-blank-text-problem/>



server-side:  
serving requests

# Request-response cycle

---



Slow page?  
SQL queries!



test  
setup



# pgbench (1/2)

---

```
$ pgbench -i --foreign-keys duth16dp
```

```
creating tables...
```

```
100000 of 100000 tuples (100%) done (elapsed 0.11 s, remaining  
0.00 s)
```

```
vacuum...
```

```
set primary keys...
```

```
set foreign keys...
```

```
done.
```

# pgbench (2/2)

---

```
$ pgbench -c 30 -T 180 duth16dp
```

```
starting vacuum...end.
```

```
transaction type: TPC-B (sort of)
```

```
scaling factor: 1
```

```
query mode: simple
```

```
number of clients: 30
```

```
number of threads: 1
```

```
duration: 180 s
```

```
number of transactions actually processed: 313568
```

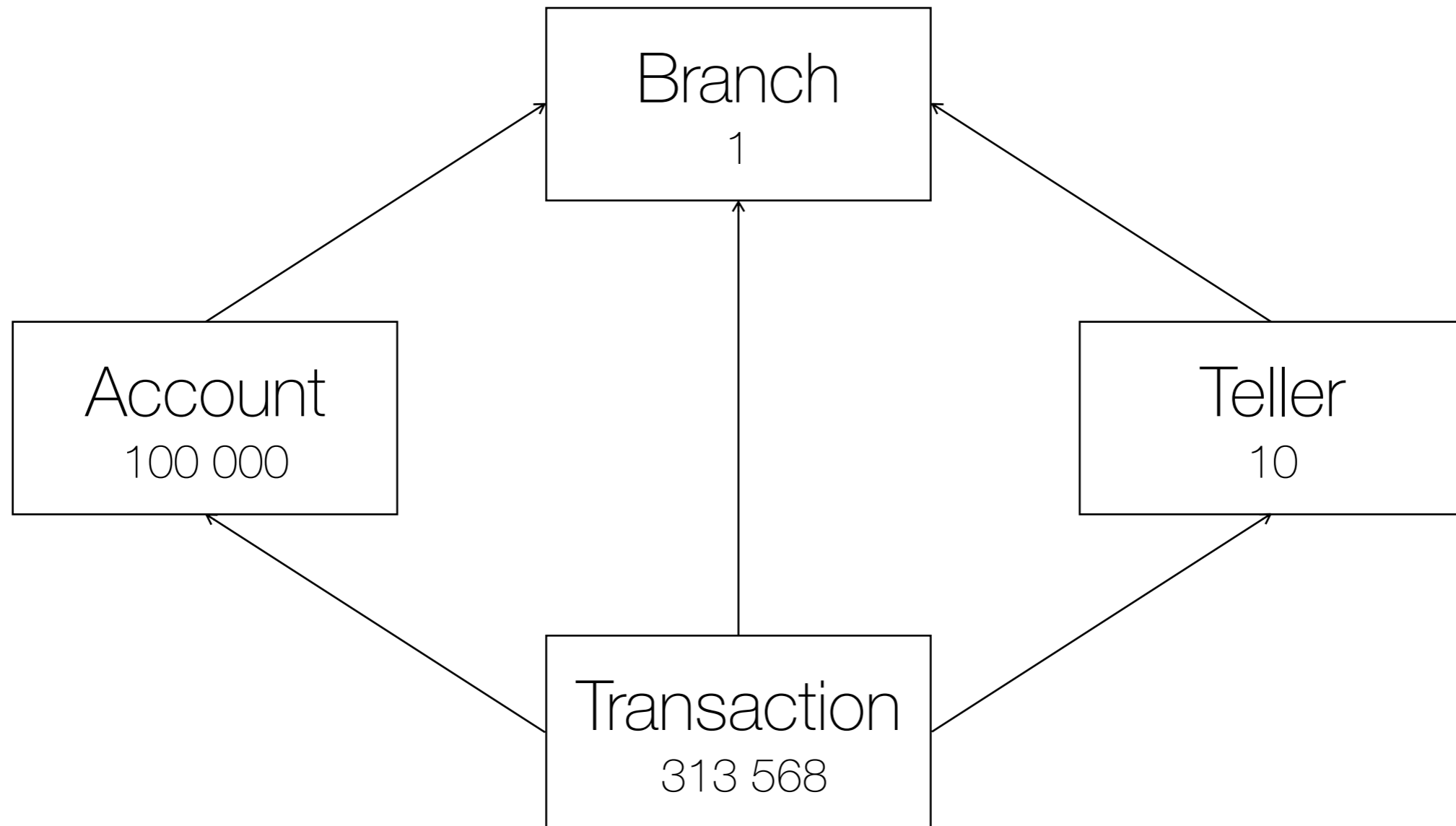
```
latency average: 17.221 ms
```

```
tps = 1741.538334 (including connections establishing)
```

```
tps = 1741.569697 (excluding connections establishing)
```

# Database structure

---



# Testing environment

---

- <https://github.com/aaugustin/duth16dp>
- <https://duth16dp.herokuapp.com/>
- Hobby Dyno
- Hobby Basic Postgres
- `pg_dump -0 duth16dp | heroku pg:psql`



select & prefetch  
related instances

# select\_related()

[https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/stable/ref/models/querysets/#django.db.models.query.QuerySet.select\\_related](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/stable/ref/models/querysets/#django.db.models.query.QuerySet.select_related)

# The $k * N + 1$ queries problem

Django administration

WELCOME, TEST. [VIEW SITE](#) [CHANGE PASSWORD](#) / [LOG OUT](#)

Home > Pgbench > Transactions

Select transaction to change

Action:   0 of 100 selected

<input type="checkbox"/>	ID	TELLER	BRANCH	ACCOUNT	CHANGE	TIME
<input type="checkbox"/>	313568	<Teller: 10>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 3560>	-917	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313567	<Teller: 4>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 50448>	736	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313566	<Teller: 10>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 50750>	-2203	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313565	<Teller: 10>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 48223>	-999	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313564	<Teller: 7>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 62642>	3326	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313563	<Teller: 9>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 85655>	-4980	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313562	<Teller: 1>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 3358>	3327	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313561	<Teller: 4>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 28741>	-2757	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313560	<Teller: 4>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 91706>	3627	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.

Hide »

- Versions   
DJANGO 1.10.2
- Time   
ADD TRANSACTION  
CPU: 7667.39MS (8278.18MS)
- Settings
- Headers
- Request   
CHANGELIST\_VIEW
- SQL   
304 QUERIES IN 392.28MS
- Static files   
10 FILES USED
- Templates   
ADMIN/CHANGE\_LIST.HTML
- Cache

# The $k * N + 1$ queries problem

The screenshot displays the Django Debug Toolbar interface. The main panel, titled "SQL queries from 1 connection", shows a list of queries with their execution times and actions. The sidebar on the right contains various navigation options, with "Time" and "SQL" highlighted by orange circles.

**SQL queries from 1 connection**

default  
392.28 ms (304 queries including 302 duplicates )

QUERY	TIMELINE	TIME (MS)	ACTION
+ SELECT ... FROM "auth_user" WHERE "auth_user"."id" = 1		1.82	Sel Expl
+ SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history"   Duplicated 2 times.	■	28.93	Sel Expl
+ SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history"   Duplicated 2 times.	■	27.24	Sel Expl
+ SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history" ORDER BY "pgbench_history"."hid" DESC LIMIT 100		1.70	Sel Expl
+ SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_tellers" WHERE "pgbench_tellers"."tid" = 10   Duplicated 100 times.		1.27	Sel Expl
+ SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_branches" WHERE "pgbench_branches"."bid" = 1   Duplicated 100 times.		1.61	Sel Expl
+ SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_accounts" WHERE "pgbench_accounts"."aid" = 3560   Duplicated 100 times.		1.50	Sel Expl
+ SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_tellers" WHERE "pgbench_tellers"."tid" = 4   Duplicated 100 times.		1.04	Sel Expl

**k = 3**  
**N = 100**

Hide »  
Versions   
DJANGO 1.10.2  
Time   
CPU: 7667.39ms (8278.18ms)  
Settings   
Headers   
Request   
SQL   
304 QUERIES IN 392.28MS  
Static files   
10 FILES USED  
Templates   
ADMIN/CHANGE\_LIST.HTML  
Cache



# select\_related() to the rescue

```
Terminal — -zsh — 82x22
~/Documents/dev/duth16dp
(duth16dp) myk@mYk duth16dp % git show
commit 0cdf807b1542b308856ed92fd2aec8d253fb09fc
Author: Aymeric Augustin <aymeric.augustin@m4x.org>
Date: Sat Oct 29 12:20:22 2016 +0200

    select_related in transactions admin

diff --git a/pgbench/admin.py b/pgbench/admin.py
index 96a334f..ae04c7c 100644
--- a/pgbench/admin.py
+++ b/pgbench/admin.py
@@ -21,3 +21,7 @@ class Teller(admin.ModelAdmin):
     @admin.register(models.Transaction)
     class Transaction(admin.ModelAdmin):
         list_display = ['id', 'teller', 'branch', 'account', 'delta', 'mtime']
+
+     def get_queryset(self, request):
+         queryset = super().get_queryset(request)
+         return queryset.select_related('teller', 'branch', 'account')
(duth16dp) myk@mYk duth16dp %
```

# select\_related() to the rescue

```
Terminal — -zsh — 82x22
~/Documents/dev/duth16dp
(duth16dp) myk@mYk duth16dp % git show
commit 93acb4cf2f4eec7925ae04cb9f77d69aecdf3e38
Author: Aymeric Augustin <aymeric.augustin@m4x.org>
Date: Fri Oct 28 22:56:38 2016 +0200

    select_related in transactions admin

diff --git a/pgbench/admin.py b/pgbench/admin.py
index 96a334f..7b0241f 100644
--- a/pgbench/admin.py
+++ b/pgbench/admin.py
@@ -21,3 +21,4 @@ class Teller(admin.ModelAdmin):
     @admin.register(models.Transaction)
     class Transaction(admin.ModelAdmin):
         list_display = ['id', 'teller', 'branch', 'account', 'delta', 'mtime']
+        list_select_related = ['teller', 'branch', 'account']
(duth16dp) myk@mYk duth16dp %
```

# The $k * N + 1$ queries problem, solved

The screenshot shows the Django administration interface for a 'Pgbench' application. The main content area displays a table of transactions with columns for ID, TELLER, BRANCH, ACCOUNT, CHANGE, and TIME. The sidebar on the right contains several sections, with 'Time' and 'SQL' highlighted by yellow and green circles respectively.

**Django administration** WELCOME, TEST. VIEW SITE / CHANGE PASSWORD / LOG OUT

Home > Pgbench > Transactions

Select transaction to change

Action: [-----] Go 0 of 100 selected

<input type="checkbox"/>	ID	TELLER	BRANCH	ACCOUNT	CHANGE	TIME
<input type="checkbox"/>	313568	<Teller: 10>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 3560>	-917	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313567	<Teller: 4>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 50448>	736	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313566	<Teller: 10>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 50750>	-2203	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313565	<Teller: 10>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 48223>	-999	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313564	<Teller: 7>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 62642>	3326	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313563	<Teller: 9>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 85655>	-4980	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313562	<Teller: 1>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 3358>	3327	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313561	<Teller: 4>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 28741>	-2757	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	313560	<Teller: 4>	<Branch: 1>	<Account: 91706>	3627	Oct. 27, 2016, 10:22 p.m.

**Hide »**

- Versions**   
DJANGO 1.10.2
- Time**   
CPU: 395.16ms (488.52ms)
- Settings**
- Headers**
- Request**   
2 CHANGELIST\_VIEW
- SQL**   
24 QUERIES IN 85.03ms
- Static files**   
10 FILES USED
- Templates**   
ADMIN/CHANGE\_LIST.HTML
- Cache**

# The $k * N + 1$ queries problem, solved

The screenshot displays the Django Debug Toolbar's SQL panel. The main panel shows a list of queries with their execution times and actions. The right sidebar contains various tool settings, with 'Time' and 'SQL' highlighted by yellow and green circles respectively.

**SQL queries from 1 connection**

default  
85.03 ms (4 queries including 2 duplicates )

QUERY	TIMELINE	TIME (MS)	ACTION
<code>SELECT ... FROM "auth_user" WHERE "auth_user"."id" = 1</code>		1.56	Sel Expl
<code>SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history"</code> Duplicated 2 times.		29.00	Sel Expl
<code>SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history"</code> Duplicated 2 times.		50.71	Sel Expl
<code>SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history" LEFT OUTER JOIN "pgbench_tellers" ON ("pgbench_history"."tid" = "pgbench_tellers"."tid") LEFT OUTER JOIN "pgbench_branches" ON ("pgbench_history"."bid" = "pgbench_branches"."bid") LEFT OUTER JOIN "pgbench_accounts" ON ("pgbench_history"."aid" = "pgbench_accounts"."aid") ORDER BY "pgbench_history"."hid" DESC LIMIT 100</code>		3.76	Sel Expl

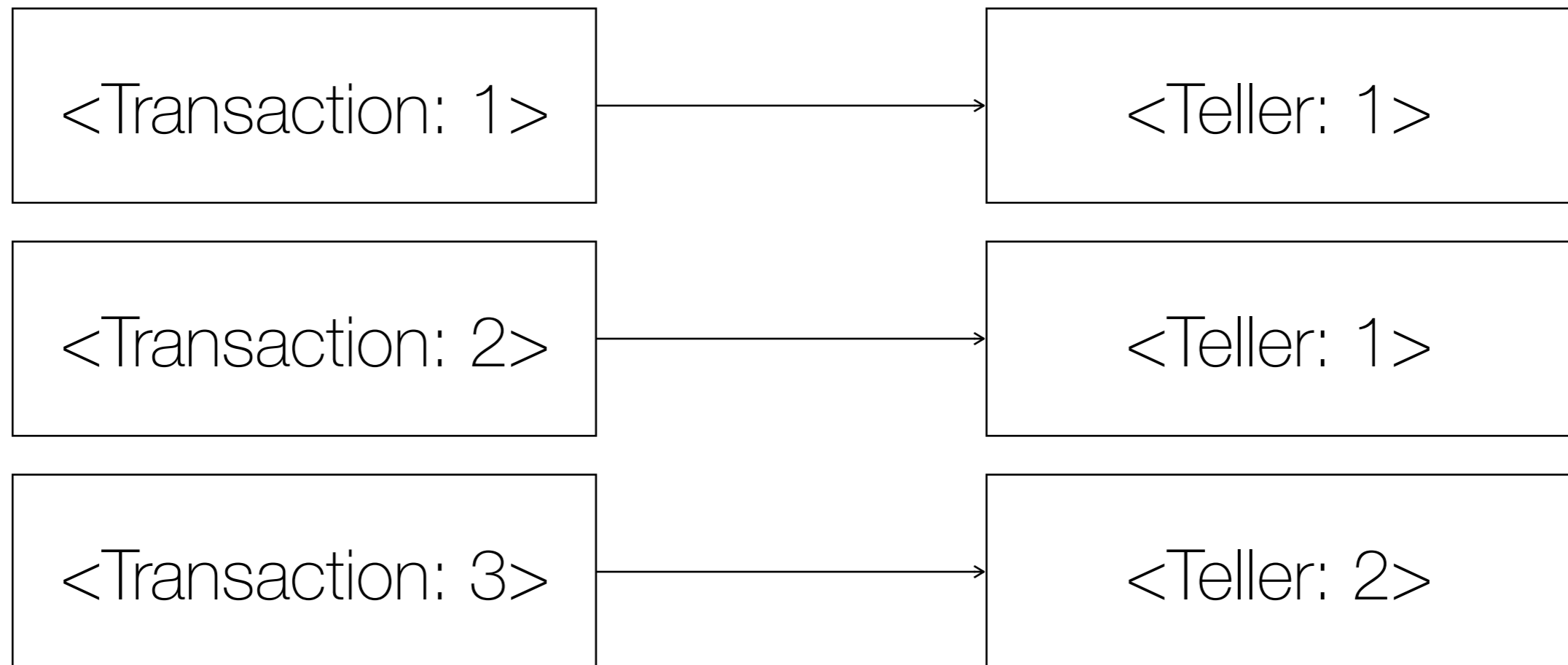
**Time** (highlighted in yellow)  
CPU: 395.16MS (488.52MS)

**SQL** (highlighted in green)  
4 QUERIES IN 85.03MS

# select\_related()

---

## JOIN



# Sprint idea

---

- Figure out if pathological performance of LEFT OUTER JOIN vs. INNER JOIN still happens these days
- Make the case for treating FKs identically in `select_related` regardless of whether they're nullable
- Many projects would benefit from a default `select_related` that includes nullable FKs in the admin
- Think about backwards compatibility — no easy answer there
- Search: “`site:code.djangoproject.com select_related nullable`”

# prefetch\_related()

[https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/stable/ref/models/querysets/#django.db.models.query.QuerySet.prefetch\\_related](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/stable/ref/models/querysets/#django.db.models.query.QuerySet.prefetch_related)

# The $k * N + 1$ queries problem, again

The screenshot shows the Django administration interface for a 'Pgbench' application. The main content area displays a table of accounts with columns for ID, BRANCH, ACCOUNT BALANCE, and TRANSACTIONS. The table contains 10 rows of data. Above the table, there is a form to select an account to change, with an 'Action:' dropdown menu and a 'Go' button. The sidebar on the right contains several sections, each with a 'Hide »' link and a checked checkbox. The 'Time' section is circled in orange and shows 'CPU: 2038.48ms (5260.06ms)'. The 'SQL' section is circled in red and shows '104 QUERIES IN 3227.58MS'. Other sections include 'Versions', 'Settings', 'Headers', 'Request', 'Static files', 'Templates', and 'Cache'.

Django administration

WELCOME, TEST. [VIEW SITE](#) / [CHANGE PASSWORD](#) / [LOG OUT](#)

Home > Pgbench > Accounts

Select account to change

Action:   0 of 100 selected

<input type="checkbox"/>	ID	BRANCH	ACCOUNT BALANCE	TRANSACTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	100000	<Branch: 1>	-2869	-2902, 4766, -4733
<input type="checkbox"/>	99999	<Branch: 1>	819	-2337, 3635, -1526, -2488, 841, 2694
<input type="checkbox"/>	99998	<Branch: 1>	-3291	-4979, -161, 1849
<input type="checkbox"/>	99997	<Branch: 1>	-3156	2888, 1627, -4259, -3412
<input type="checkbox"/>	99996	<Branch: 1>	951	951
<input type="checkbox"/>	99995	<Branch: 1>	3704	3704
<input type="checkbox"/>	99994	<Branch: 1>	3106	3106
<input type="checkbox"/>	99993	<Branch: 1>	-5335	-2867, -92, -362, -2014
<input type="checkbox"/>	99992	<Branch: 1>	6157	601, 4002, 562

Hide »

Versions   
DJANGO 1.10.2

Time   
CPU: 2038.48ms (5260.06ms)

Settings

Headers

Request   
CHANGELIST\_VIEW

SQL   
104 QUERIES IN 3227.58MS

Static files   
10 FILES USED

Templates   
ADMIN/CHANGE\_LIST.HTML

Cache



# The $k * N + 1$ queries problem, again

SQL queries from 1 connection

default  
3227.58 ms (104 queries including 102 duplicates )

QUERY	TIMELINE	TIME (MS)	ACTION
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "auth_user" WHERE "auth_user"."id" = 1		2.05	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_accounts"     Duplicated 2 times.		11.14	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_accounts"     Duplicated 2 times.		9.34	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_accounts" LEFT OUTER JOIN "pgbench_branches" ON ("pgbench_accounts"."bid" = "pgbench_branches"."bid") ORDER BY "pgbench_accounts"."aid" DESC LIMIT 100		1.82	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history" WHERE "pgbench_history"."aid" = 100000     Duplicated 100 times.		32.90	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history" WHERE "pgbench_history"."aid" = 99999     Duplicated 100 times.		31.67	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history" WHERE "pgbench_history"."aid" = 99998     Duplicated 100 times.		31.08	Sel Expl

**k = 1**  
**N = 100**

Hide »  
Versions   
DJANGO 1.10.2  
Time   
CPU: 2038.48ms (5260.06ms)  
Settings   
Headers   
Request   
CHANGELIST\_VIEW  
SQL   
104 QUERIES IN 3227.58MS  
Static files   
10 FILES USED  
Templates   
ADMIN/CHANGE\_LIST.HTML  
Cache

# prefetch\_related() to the rescue

```
Terminal — -zsh — 82x22
~/Documents/dev/duth16dp
(duth16dp) myk@mYk duth16dp % git show
commit 65762dc717ad56a02fd87089e71016ceac798950
Author: Aymeric Augustin <aymeric.augustin@m4x.org>
Date: Fri Oct 28 23:25:46 2016 +0200

    prefetch_related in accounts admin

diff --git a/pgbench/admin.py b/pgbench/admin.py
index 4701ed6..244991c 100644
--- a/pgbench/admin.py
+++ b/pgbench/admin.py
@@ -17,6 +17,9 @@ class Account(admin.ModelAdmin):
     transactions = account.transaction_set.all()
     return ', '.join(str(transaction.delta) for transaction in transactions)

+    def get_queryset(self, request):
+        return super().get_queryset(request).prefetch_related('transaction_set')
+

@admin.register(models.Teller)
class Teller(admin.ModelAdmin):
(duth16dp) myk@mYk duth16dp %
```

# The $k * N + 1$ queries problem, solved again

The screenshot shows the Django administration interface for the 'Pgbench' application. The main content area displays a table of accounts with columns for ID, BRANCH, ACCOUNT BALANCE, and TRANSACTIONS. The table contains 10 rows of data. The sidebar on the right shows various performance metrics, with 'Time' and 'SQL' highlighted by yellow and green circles respectively.

**Django administration** WELCOME, TEST. [VIEW SITE](#) [CHANGE PASSWORD](#) / [LOG OUT](#)

Home > Pgbench > Accounts

Select account to change

Action:   0 of 100 selected

<input type="checkbox"/>	ID	BRANCH	ACCOUNT BALANCE	TRANSACTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	100000	<Branch: 1>	-2869	-2902, 4766, -4733
<input type="checkbox"/>	99999	<Branch: 1>	819	-2337, 3635, -1526, -2488, 841, 2694
<input type="checkbox"/>	99998	<Branch: 1>	-3291	-4979, -161, 1849
<input type="checkbox"/>	99997	<Branch: 1>	-3156	2888, 1627, -4259, -3412
<input type="checkbox"/>	99996	<Branch: 1>	951	951
<input type="checkbox"/>	99995	<Branch: 1>	3704	3704
<input type="checkbox"/>	99994	<Branch: 1>	3106	3106
<input type="checkbox"/>	99993	<Branch: 1>	-5335	-2867, -92, -362, -2014
<input type="checkbox"/>	99992	<Branch: 1>	6157	601, 4002, 562

**Hide »**

- Versions**   
DJANGO 1.10.2
- Time**   
CPU: 737.22ms (1066.03ms)
- Settings**
- Headers**
- Request**   
CHANGELIST\_VIEW
- SQL**   
5 QUERIES IN 303.96ms
- Static files**   
10 FILES USED
- Templates**   
ADMIN/CHANGE\_LIST.HTML
- Cache**

# The $k * N + 1$ queries problem, solved again

SQL queries from 1 connection

default  
303.96 ms (5 queries including 2 duplicates )

QUERY	TIMELINE	TIME (MS)	ACTION
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "auth_user" WHERE "auth_user"."id" = 1		1.59	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_accounts" <b>Duplicated 2 times.</b>	█	12.43	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_accounts" <b>Duplicated 2 times.</b>	█	9.55	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_accounts" LEFT OUTER JOIN "pgbench_branches" ON ("pgbench_accounts"."bid" = "pgbench_branches"."bid") ORDER BY "pgbench_accounts"."aid" DESC LIMIT 100		1.89	Sel Expl
<b>+</b> SELECT ... FROM "pgbench_history" WHERE "pgbench_history"."aid" IN (99901, 99902, 99903, 99904, 99905, 99906, 99907, 99908, 99909, 99910, 99911, 99912, 99913, 99914, 99915, 99916, 99917, 99918, 99919, 99920, 99921, 99922, 99923, 99924, 99925, 99926, 99927, 99928, 99929, 99930, 99931, 99932, 99933, 99934, 99935, 99936, 99937, 99938, 99939, 99940, 99941, 99942, 99943, 99944, 99945, 99946, 99947, 99948, 99949, 99950, 99951, 99952,	█	278.49	Sel Expl

Hide »

Versions   
DJANGO 1.10.2

**Time**   
CPU: 737.22ms (1066.03ms)

Settings

Headers

Request   
CHANGELIST\_VIEW

**SQL**   
5 QUERIES IN 303.96MS

Static files   
10 FILES USED

Templates   
ADMIN/CHANGE\_LIST.HTML

Cache

# prefetch\_related()

---

## first query

<Account: 1>

<Account: 2>

## second query

<Transaction: 1>

<Transaction: 2>

<Transaction: 3>

# Prefetch objects

```
Terminal — -zsh — 82x22
~/Documents/dev/duth16dp
(duth16dp) myk@mYk duth16dp % git show
commit 51ecc754121c702823d5f5ef8f705c384fbc2ecf
Author: Aymeric Augustin <aymeric.augustin@m4x.org>
Date: Sat Oct 29 09:22:27 2016 +0200

    order prefetched transactions

diff --git a/pgbench/admin.py b/pgbench/admin.py
index 244991c..e9d7750 100644
--- a/pgbench/admin.py
+++ b/pgbench/admin.py
@@ -18,7 +18,8 @@ class Account(admin.ModelAdmin):
     return ', '.join(str(transaction.delta) for transaction in transactions)

     def get_queryset(self, request):
-         return super().get_queryset(request).prefetch_related('transaction_set')
+         return super().get_queryset(request).prefetch_related(Prefetch(
+             'transaction_set', models.Transaction.objects.order_by('-mtime')))

@admin.register(models.Teller)
(duth16dp) myk@mYk duth16dp %
```

# Prefetch objects

---

- `Prefetch(lookup, queryset=None, to_attr=None)`
- Specify a relation to follow
- Can filter, order, etc. the target queryset
  - Required to filter, order, etc. prefetched querysets
- Can attach the result to an attribute with another name
  - Recommended when the target queryset is filtered

# prefetch\_related\_objects()

---

- Like prefetch\_related
- Works on any iterable of model instances
- New in Django 1.10



`select_related()`

vs.

`prefetch_related()`

# select\_related() vs. prefetch\_related()

---

	1/N to 1	1/N to N
select_related()	YES	NO
prefetch_related()	YES	NO

# `select_related()` vs. `prefetch_related()`

---

- “Generally you’ll want to use `select_related()`”
  - It’s more elegant but it isn’t always faster
- `select_related()` fetches more data
  - Consequences depend on the database schema and content
- `prefetch_related()` makes several queries
  - Transactional consistency isn’t guaranteed (#27403)
- Depends mostly on the latency of database queries

# select\_related() vs. prefetch\_related()

---

```
from pgbench.models import Transaction
transactions = Transaction.objects.all()
```

```
# Many distinct related objects
```

```
transactions.select_related('account')
```

```
# Database = 1.32s - Total = 11.4s
```

```
transactions.prefetch_related('account')
```

```
# Database = 0.62s + 0.58s = 1s - Total = 14.5s (+26%)
```

# select\_related() vs. prefetch\_related()

---

```
from pgbench.models import Transaction
transactions = Transaction.objects.all()
```

```
# Few distinct related objects
```

```
transactions.select_related('teller')
```

```
# Database = 0.87s - Total = 12.6s
```

```
transactions.prefetch_related('teller')
```

```
# Database = 0.66s + ~0s = 0.66s - Total = 12.3s (-2.4%)
```

“How do I check query patterns  
with Django Rest Framework?”

<https://www.dabapps.com/blog/api-performance-profiling-django-rest-framework/>

# Log database queries to the console

---

```
LOGGING = {
    'version': 1,
    'disable_existing_loggers': False,
    'handlers': {
        'console': {
            'class': 'logging.StreamHandler',
        },
    },
    'loggers': {
        'django.db.backends': {
            'handlers': ['console'],
            'level': 'DEBUG',
        },
    },
}
```





# Log database queries to the console

```
Terminal — python3.5 • python3.5 ~/.virtualenvs/duth16dp/bin/django-admin runserver — 82x22
(0.001) SELECT "auth_user"."id", "auth_user"."password", "auth_user"."last_login",
"auth_user"."is_superuser", "auth_user"."username", "auth_user"."first_name", "au
th_user"."last_name", "auth_user"."email", "auth_user"."is_staff", "auth_user"."is
_active", "auth_user"."date_joined" FROM "auth_user" WHERE "auth_user"."id" = 1; a
rgs=(1,)
(0.019) SELECT COUNT(*) AS "__count" FROM "pgbench_accounts"; args=()
(0.012) SELECT COUNT(*) AS "__count" FROM "pgbench_accounts"; args=()
(0.001) SELECT "pgbench_accounts"."aid", "pgbench_accounts"."bid", "pgbench_accoun
ts"."abalance", "pgbench_accounts"."filler", "pgbench_branches"."bid", "pgbench_br
anches"."bbalance", "pgbench_branches"."filler" FROM "pgbench_accounts" LEFT OUTER
JOIN "pgbench_branches" ON ("pgbench_accounts"."bid" = "pgbench_branches"."bid")
ORDER BY "pgbench_accounts"."aid" DESC LIMIT 100; args=()
(0.324) SELECT "pgbench_history"."hid", "pgbench_history"."tid", "pgbench_history"
."bid", "pgbench_history"."aid", "pgbench_history"."delta", "pgbench_history"."mti
me", "pgbench_history"."filler" FROM "pgbench_history" WHERE "pgbench_history"."ai
d" IN (99901, 99902, 99903, 99904, 99905, 99906, 99907, 99908, 99909, 99910, 99911
, 99912, 99913, 99914, 99915, 99916, 99917, 99918, 99919, 99920, 99921, 99922, 999
23, 99924, 99925, 99926, 99927, 99928, 99929, 99930, 99931, 99932, 99933, 99934, 9
9935, 99936, 99937, 99938, 99939, 99940, 99941, 99942, 99943, 99944, 99945, 99946,
99947, 99948, 99949, 99950, 99951, 99952, 99953, 99954, 99955, 99956, 99957, 9995
8, 99959, 99960, 99961, 99962, 99963, 99964, 99965, 99966, 99967, 99968, 99969, 99
970, 99971, 99972, 99973, 99974, 99975, 99976, 99977, 99978, 99979, 99980, 99981,
```



# other ORM optimizations

# Baseline

---

```
from collections import defaultdict
balances = defaultdict(lambda: 0)

from pgbench.models import Transaction
txs = Transaction.objects.all()

for tx in txs:
    balances[tx.teller_id] += tx.delta

# Database = 630ms - Total = 6900ms
```

# only() and defer()

---

```
from collections import defaultdict
```

```
balances = defaultdict(lambda: 0)
```

```
from pgbench.models import Transaction
```

```
txs = Transaction.objects.only('teller_id', 'delta')
```

```
for tx in txs:
```

```
    balances[tx.teller_id] += tx.delta
```

```
# Database = 220ms (-65%) - Total = 7900ms (+15%)
```

# Use `only()` or `defer()` when...

---

- you need model instances
- you don't need all columns
  - especially columns containing large amounts of data
- Not a common use case
- Consider moving rarely needed data to a separate model

# values\_list() and values()

---

```
from collections import defaultdict
balances = defaultdict(lambda: 0)

from pgbench.models import Transaction
txs = Transaction.objects.values_list('teller_id', 'delta')

for teller_id, delta in txs:
    balances[teller_id] += delta

# Database = 160ms (-75%) - Total = 550ms (-92%)
```

# Use `values_list()` or `values()` when...

---

- you don't need model instances
- you need to manipulate large amounts of data
  - large starts between 1 000 and 10 000 rows :-)
- Common use case: reports
- Huge, easy improvement for queries that return lots of rows

# aggregate() and annotate()

---

```
from django.db.models import Sum
from pgbench.models import Transaction
```

```
balances = dict(
    Transaction.objects
        .values_list('teller_id')
        .annotate(Sum('delta'))
)
```

```
# Database = 75ms (-88%) - Total = 77ms (-99%)
```



# Pro-tip: `print(queryset.query)`

---

**SELECT**

`"pgbench_history"."tid",`

**SUM**`("pgbench_history"."delta") AS "delta_sum"`

**FROM**

`"pgbench_history"`

**GROUP BY**

`"pgbench_history"."tid"`

# Use `aggregate()` or `annotate()` when...

---

- you can perform a calculation in the database
- you need to manipulate large amounts of data
  - large starts between 1 000 and 10 000 rows :-)
- Common use case: dashboards
- There's a learning curve

# iterator()

---

- Iterates over instances
- Doesn't cache results
- Not a common use case
- The whole dataset is still fetched from the database at once
- Live references to instances still prevent garbage collection

# Baseline

---

```
txs = Transaction.objects.all()
```

```
import tracemalloc
```

```
tracemalloc.start()
```

```
for tx in txs:
```

```
    balances[tx.teller_id] += tx.delta
```

```
tracemalloc.get_traced_memory()
```

```
# (166775984, 166824045) => current: 159MB, peak: 159MB
```

# iterator()

---

```
txs = Transaction.objects.iterator()
```

```
import tracemalloc
```

```
tracemalloc.start()
```

```
for tx in txs:
```

```
    balances[tx.teller_id] += tx.delta
```

```
tracemalloc.get_traced_memory()
```

```
# (187159, 234230) => current: 183kB, peak: 229kB
```



Thank you!

Questions?