CourtBouillon presents

Using Web Technologies for Publishing

Open Formats & Open Tools
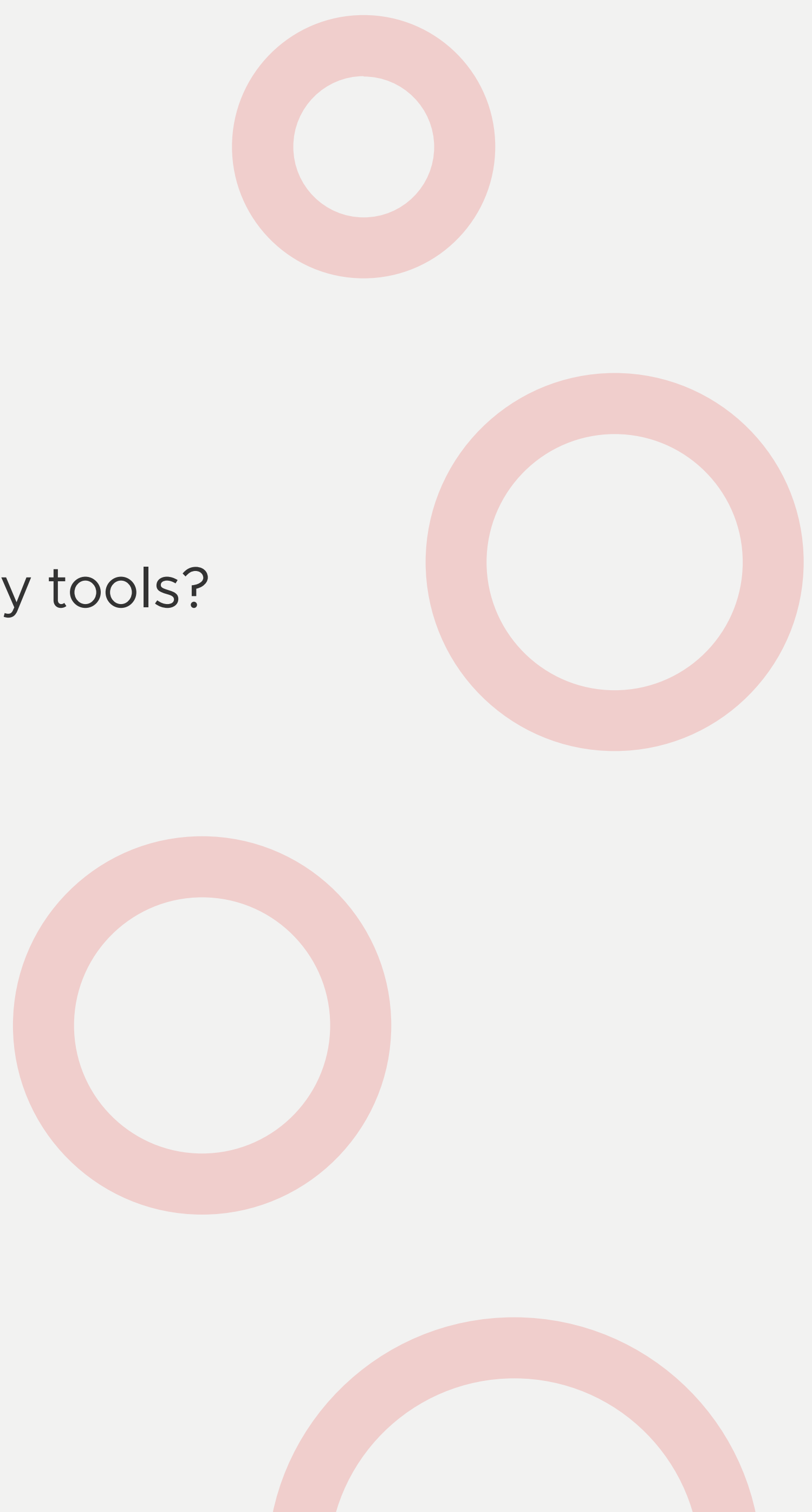
Open Publishing Fest – November 18, 2021

Hello! My name is Guillaume Ayoub.

I'm a member of CourtBouillon. We're authentic people growing open source code with taste.

Our main project is called WeasyPrint. It generates printable documents from HTML and CSS.

1. HTML & CSS for print? Seriously?

2. But why should I change my workflow and my tools?

3. OK, Show me what's possible!

HTML & CSS for Print? Seriously?

Yes. Seriously.

But, nobody does that, right?

It's hard to tell who uses CSS for print.

You can believe us

We've been creating and using tools for <u>more than 10 years</u>. For professional use, we have generated tons of:

- invoices,
- reports,
- training booklets,
- slideshows,
- posters,
- letters…

You can believe our users and our customers

They have surprising ideas!

They generate university diplomas, electronic-ink labels, role-play books, leaflets for home appliance, menus for hotels (yummy!)...

You can believe big companies

You can be sure that at least <u>Hachette sells millions of books</u> printed thanks to HTML and CSS.

Millions. You may own one of these books.

And, no, it doesn't include only pocket editions.

CSS is not what you think

CSS is used for web pages, for sure.

CSS is (also) designed for paged media

But since CSS2 in 1998 (20th century, were you born yet?), it includes a "paged media" chapter.

What you could do

In CSS2.1, standard since 2011, you can:

- force page breaks,
- avoid page breaks,
- define how many widow and orphan lines are allowed,
- select first, left, right pages,
- add text and page numbers in margins.

But Why Should I Change my Workflow and my Tools?

You don't have to. But you can try.

What you can do now

A lot of features for paged documents have been added in newer CSS specifications:

- crop marks,
- selection of specific pages,
- running elements,
- footnotes,
- leaders,
- bookmarks,
- named links...

Actually, there's more…

CSS features for everybody

A lot of features have been added in HTML and CSS, not only for paged media. It doesn't mean that these features are not useful for printed documents!

Advanced typography, including fonts with variable width or variable height, ligatures, tabular and old-style numbers, subscript and superscript, alternate glyphs… Color management, including linear, radial and conic gradients, opacity, color schemes, color profiles, vector and raster images, shadows… Advanced layouts, with collapsing margins, flexible boxes, grids, floating elements, columns…

Counters and markers, for page numbers, lists and chapters, with various styles and counting possibilities… Mathematical notations that can be automatically adapted to the user's language… Different languages supporting right-to-left and top-to-bottom scripts, bidirectional text, ruby, Unicode characters (including emojis 😁), hyphenation, justification, automatic ellipsis, horizontal and vertical alignment, quotes… 2D and 3D transformations: translation, scale, rotation, skew, perspective…

Actually, there's more...

Generate your content with computers

The whole web is built on HTML generators. It means that you can generate the content with a lot of tools, simple or complex, solid or experimental, in any language, with any laptop or any web server.

You can do better than Microsoft Word's mailing tools, and than its "search and replace" option, let's be honest.

Actually, there's more...

HTML & CSS have been designed for hacking

Developers know how to create, edit, automate, invent with code. They create incredible tools.

HTML and CSS files are code. It means that you can use these tools for your content and your design.

Actually, there's more…

There are lots of CSS creators

You can now accept your graphic designer's crazy ideas...

... and actually let your graphic designer write the CSS!

Actually, there's more…

You'll discover this by your own, as billions of web users already do daily.

OK, Show Me what's Possible!

(It's already late, we won't see everything.)

Books

A full book with a nice cover, a simple table of contents and running elements.

Comes with an alternate style!

Reports

A <u>small report</u> with customized headers, different page layouts and nice typography features.

Slideshow

Of course, you can edit this slideshow.

Of course, you can generate a PDF too!

Actually, there's more...

- Our <u>samples</u> created using WeasyPrint.
- A <u>wonderful playground</u> provided by printcss.live.
- <u>Lessons and samples</u> provided by print-css.rocks.