

Explaining Visual Changes in Web Interfaces

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Charlotte, NC
November 8-11, 2015

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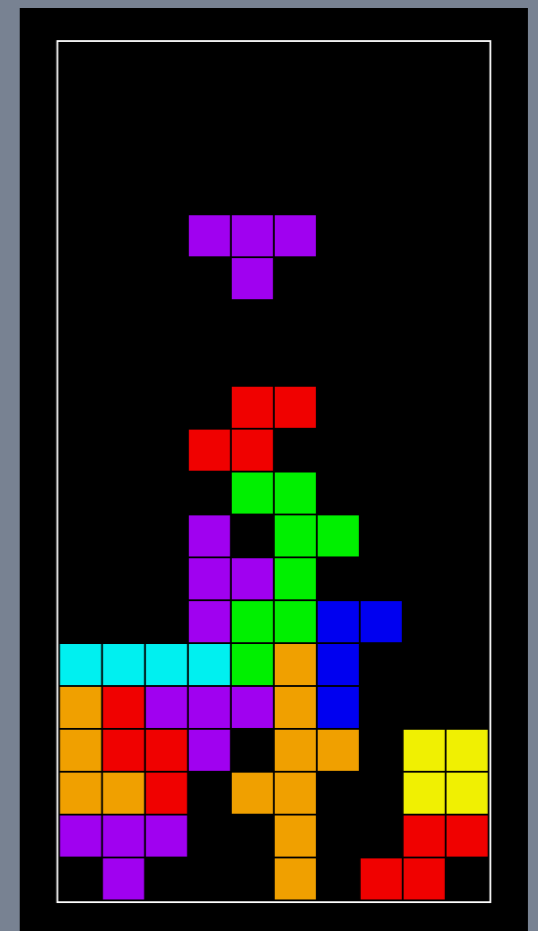
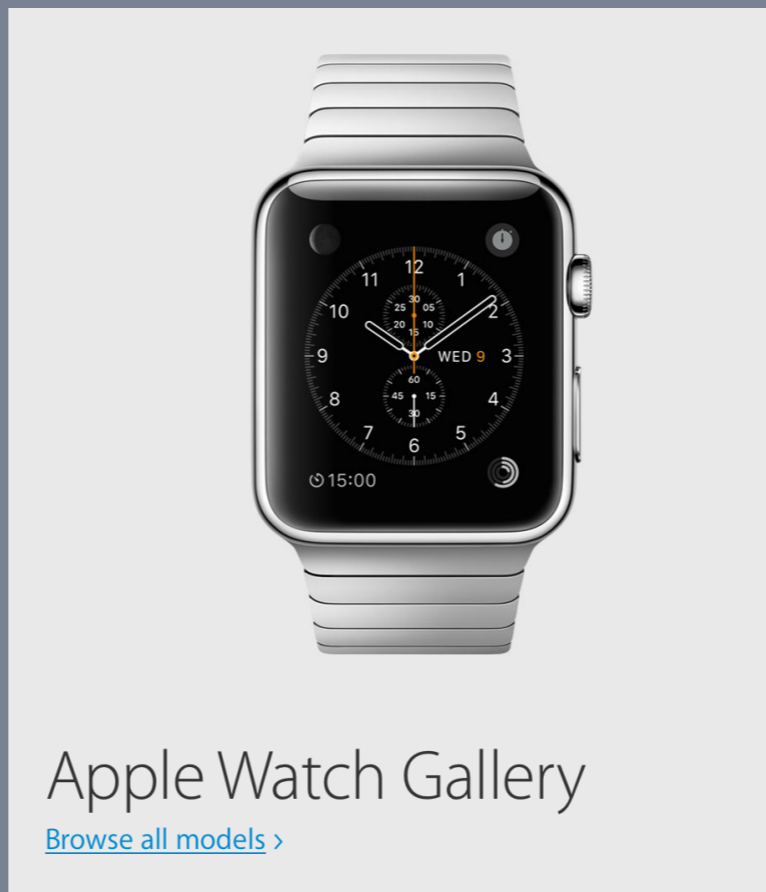
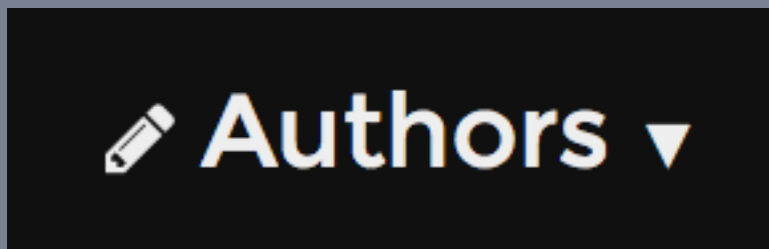
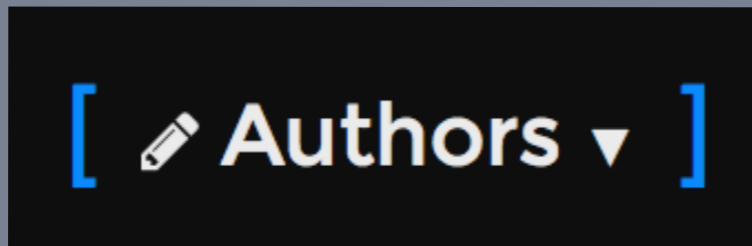
uist.acm.org/uist2015/about

Feature Location

Feature location is the activity of identifying an initial location in the source code that implements functionality in a software system.

Dit, B., Revelle, M., Gethers, M., and Poshyvanyk, D., "Feature Location in Source Code: A Taxonomy and Survey", Journal of Software: Evolution and Process (JSEP), vol. 25, no. 1, January 2013, pp. 53–95

Feature Location *for Interactive Web Content*



How can I interact with it?




Visual Output




Scry

Staged, Interactive Feature Location


Staged, Interactive Feature Location

 Authors ▼


[ Authors ▼]

Output Examples

Staged, Interactive Feature Location

 Authors ▼

$\Delta(pre, post)$


[ Authors ▼]

```
</div>
▼<div style="position: absolute; top: 168px; left: 72px;
width: 72px; height: 72px;">
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color:
rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 0px; top: 0px;"></div>
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rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 0px; top: 24px;"></div>
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rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 0px; top: 48px;"></div>
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rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 24px; top: 48px;"></div>
</div>
</div>
<div class="tetris-block" style="background-color:
rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 120px; top: 0px;"></div>
</div>
▼<div style="position: absolute; top: 456px; left: 0px;
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  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color:
rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 216px; top: 0px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color:
rgb(160, 0, 240); left: 48px; top: 0px;"></div>
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rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 120px; top: 0px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color:
rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 144px; top: 0px;"></div>
</div>
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240, 0); left: 24px; top: 24px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(0,
240, 0); left: 48px; top: 24px;"></div>
</div>
</div>
```

Output Examples

State Differences






























Staged, Interactive Feature Location

 Authors ▾

$\Delta(pre, post)$

[ Authors ▾]

```
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240, 0); left: 24px; top: 0px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(0,
240, 0); left: 24px; top: 24px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(0,
240, 0); left: 48px; top: 24px;"></div>
</div>
</div>
```

Responsible Code	
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	460
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	461
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	462
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	463
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	464
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	465
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	466
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	467
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	468
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	469
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	470
 cycle — tetris.js:160	471
 updateNextPiece — tetris.js:392	472
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	473
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	474
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	475
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	476
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	477
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	478
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	479
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	480
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	481
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	482
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	483
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	484
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	485
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	486
 createBlock — tetris.js:469	487
 rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432	488

```
case 2:
  var py =
case 3:
  var py =
}
return py;
}
function createBlock
var div = dc("di
div.className =
div.style.backgr
// div.style.border
div.style.left =
div.style.top =
return div;
}
function serialize()
var fieldString
for (var y=0;y<h
for (var x=0;x<w
fieldStr
}
}
fieldString += "
var pieceString
```

Output Examples

State Differences

JavaScript Mutations



National Geographic Magazine

SORT BY ▾



3 ▾



Web Inspector — timothy.hatcher.name — tetris

Resources Timelines Debugger Console

Timeline Recording 1

Time	Event
------	-------

timothy.hatcher.name

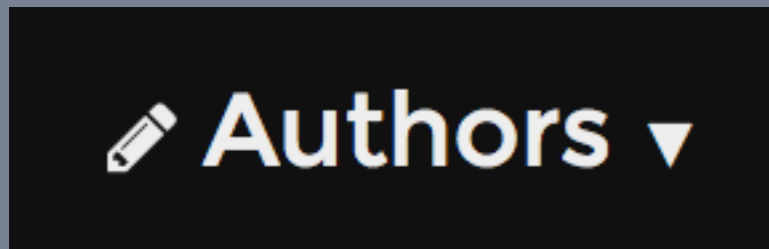
Press Space to start.

Clear multiple lines in one go for more points.

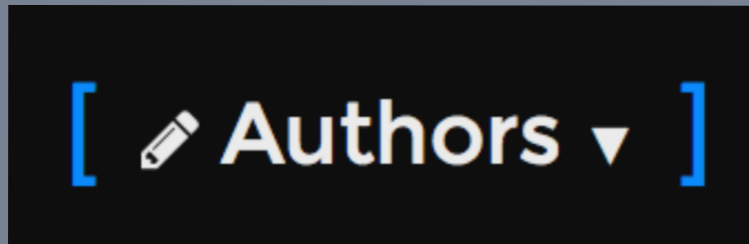
Level: 1

Lines: 0

Score: 0



$\Delta(pre, post)$



```
</div>
  <div style="position: absolute; top: 168px; left: 72px; width: 72px; height: 72px;">
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 0px; top: 0px;"></div>
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 0px; top: 24px;"></div>
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 0px; top: 48px;"></div>
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 24px; top: 48px;"></div>
  </div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 120px; top: 0px;"></div>
  <div style="position: absolute; top: 456px; left: 0px; width: 240px; height: 24px;">
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 168px; top: 0px;"></div>
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 192px; top: 0px;"></div>
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 216px; top: 0px;"></div>
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 120px; top: 0px;"></div>
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 144px; top: 0px;"></div>
  </div>
  <div style="position: absolute; top: 0px; left: 72px; width: 72px; height: 72px;">
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    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(0, 240, 0); left: 24px; top: 24px;"></div>
    <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(0, 240, 0); left: 48px; top: 24px;"></div>
  </div>
</div>
```

```
Responsible Code
f rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432
f createBlock — tetris.js:469
f rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432
f createBlock — tetris.js:469
f rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432
f cycle — tetris.js:160
f updateNextPiece — tetris.js:392
f createBlock — tetris.js:469
f rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432
f createBlock — tetris.js:469
f rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432
f createBlock — tetris.js:469
f rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432
f createBlock — tetris.js:469
f rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432

460     var py =
461     case 3:
462     var py =
463   }
464   }
465   }
466 }
467 function createBlock
468   var div = dc("di
469   div.className =
470   div.style.backgr
471   // div.style.border
472
473   div.style.left =
474   div.style.top =
475
476   return div;
477 }
478
479 function serialize()
480   var fieldString
481   for (var y=0;y<h
482     for (var x=0
483       fieldStr
484     }
485   }
486   fieldString += "
487
488   var pieceString
```

Output Examples

State Differences

JavaScript Mutations

What determines visual appearance?

```
▼ <div id="search-wrap" class="expanded">
  " "
  <button id="search-btn"></button>
  " "
  ▼ <form id="search-form">
    " "
    <input placeholder="search">
    " "
```

DOM Tree Structure

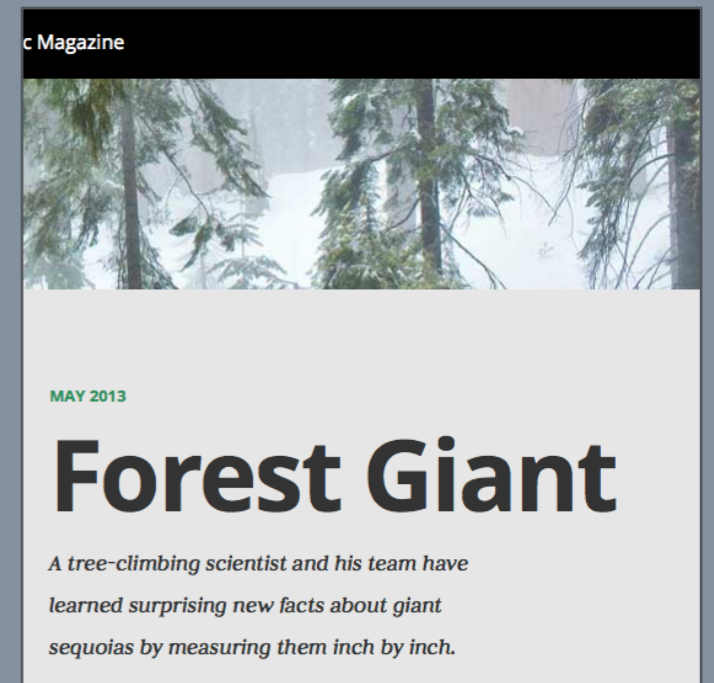
```
▼ Properties Show All 
-webkit-font-smoothing: antialiased;
color: ■ rgb(51, 51, 51);
display: none;
font-family: 'Myriad Set Pro', 'Lucida Grande', 'Helvetica Neue', Helvetica, Arial, Verdana, sans-serif;
font-size: 18px;
font-style: normal;
font-weight: normal;
```

CSS Style Properties

Color, layout mode, visual styling, text rendering, handling of children



Rendering Engine

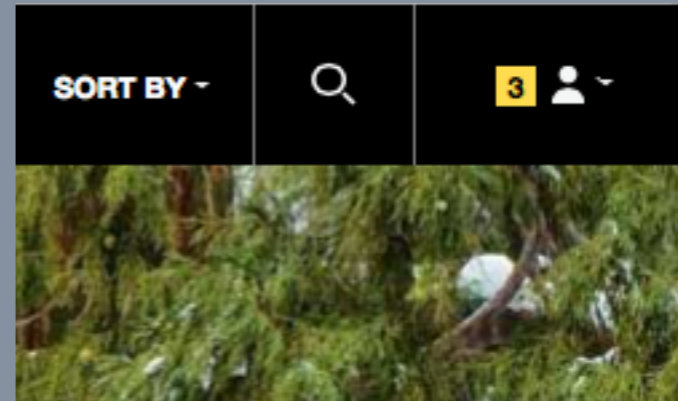


Visual State

Target Element Snapshots

```
▼ <div id="search-wrap" class="expanded">
  " "
  <button id="search-btn"></button>
  " "
  ▼ <form id="search-form">
    " "
    <input placeholder="search">
    " "
  </form>
  " "
</div>
```

DOM Subtree



Element Screenshots

```
▼ Properties Show All ☐
-webkit-font-smoothing: antialiased;
color: ■ rgb(51, 51, 51);
display: none;
font-family: 'Myriad Set Pro', 'Lucida Grande', 'Helvetica Neue', Helvetica, Arial, Verdana, sans-serif;
font-size: 18px;
font-style: normal;
font-weight: normal;
height: auto;
line-height: 26px;
text-rendering: optimizelegibility;
width: auto;
```

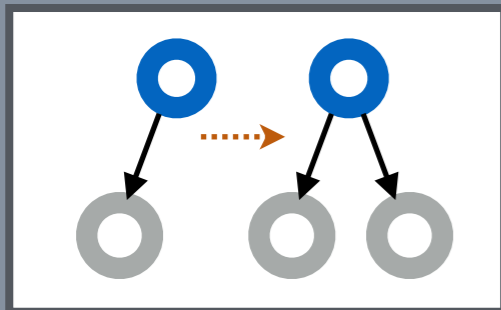
Computed Styles & Related Rules

Attribute Modified	createBlock — tetris.js:469
Element Inserted	rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432
Element Removed	rebuildPiece — tetris.js:421
Element Removed	rebuildPiece — tetris.js:421
Element Removed	rebuildPiece — tetris.js:421
Element Removed	rebuildPiece — tetris.js:421
Attribute Modified	createBlock — tetris.js:469
Element Inserted	rebuildPiece — tetris.js:432
Attribute Modified	createBlock — tetris.js:469

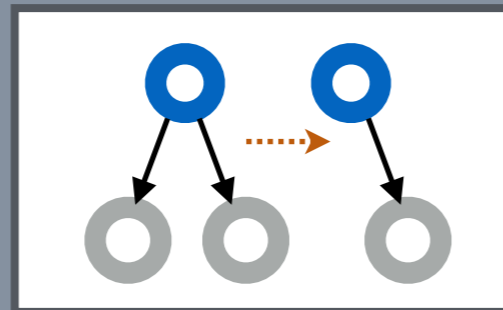
Mutation Operations

Why does visual appearance change?

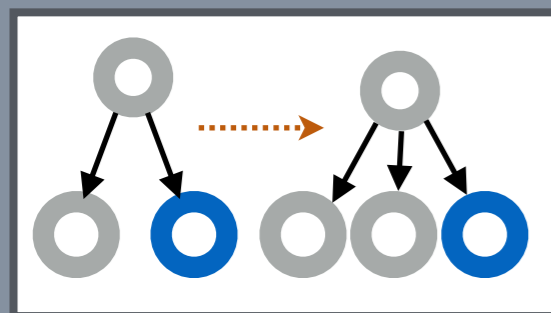
DOM Tree Mutations



Insertion



Deletion



Ordinal Change

class="active"
textContent = ...
:hover, :focus

Attributes & States

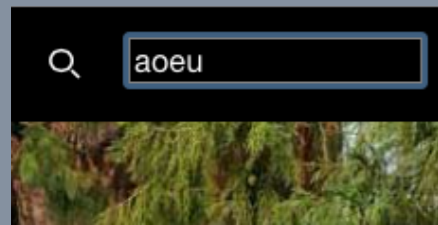
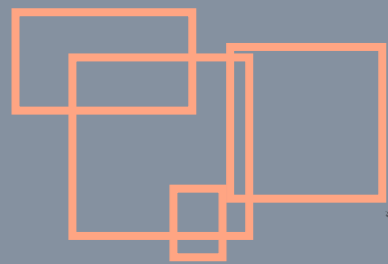
Style Property Changes

Rule Changes
Inline Styles
Animations

```
▼ Properties Show All  
-webkit-font-smoothing: antialiased;  
color: ■ rgb(51, 51, 51);  
display: none;  
font-family: 'Myriad Set Pro', 'Lucida Grande', 'Helvetica Neue', Helvetica, Arial, Verdana, sans-serif;  
font-size: 18px;  
font-style: normal;  
font-weight: normal;  
height: auto;  
line-height: 26px;  
text-rendering: optimizelegibility;  
width: auto;
```

Detecting changes in appearance

Painted Rects



Snapshot of Target Element

Do they intersect?

YES

Visual Diff >1%?

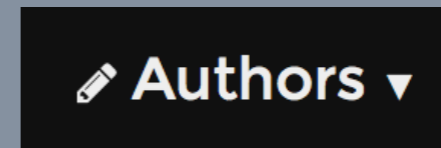
YES

Commit New Snapshot

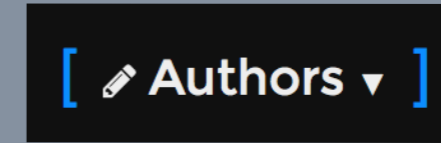
NO

NO

Comparing State Snapshots



$\Delta(pre, post)$



```
<div style="position: absolute; top: 168px; left: 72px; width: 72px; height: 72px;">
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 0px; top: 0px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 24px; top: 24px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 48px; top: 48px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 24px; top: 48px;"></div>
</div>
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  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 192px; top: 0px;"></div>
  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(240, 160, 0); left: 216px; top: 0px;"></div>
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  <div class="tetris-block" style="background-color: rgb(0, 240, 240); left: 48px; top: 24px;"></div>
</div>
```

Per-element change summaries

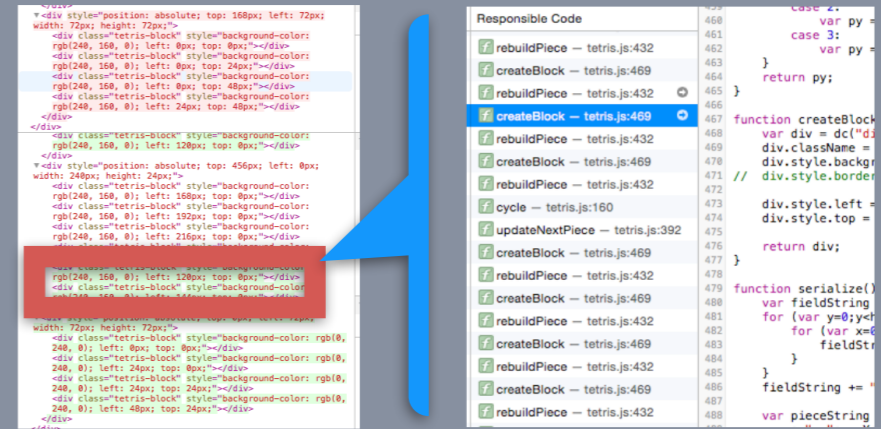
Structure: Insertion, Deletion, Attributes, ...

Styles: Added, Removed, Value Change

Relies on stable DOM element identity

Doesn't work well when view state is split from DOM

Change-Relevant Operation Slicing



1. Instrument and record mutation operations.
2. Build a dependency graph for operations between the pre-state and post-state.
3. Based on change summary, find an *equivalent mutation operation* to explain the change.
4. Return *equivalent operation + dependencies*

Technical Challenges

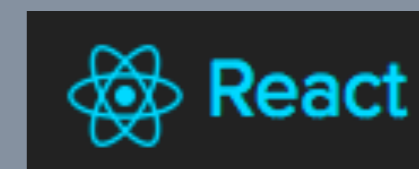
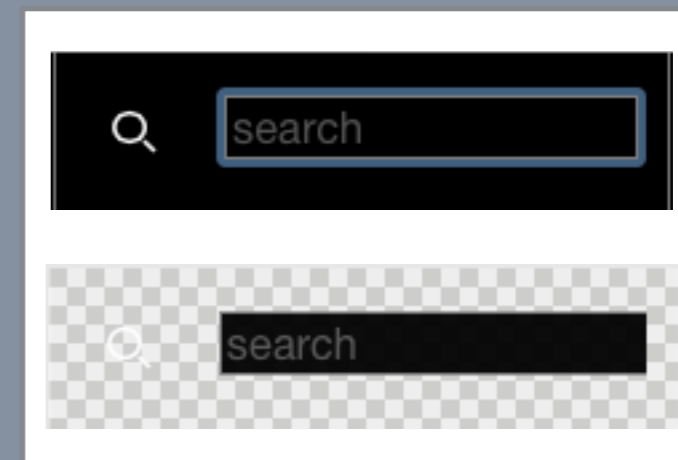
Visual containment, stacking

Software vs hardware rendering

Unstable DOM element identities

Megamorphic call sites in library code

Pruning ineffective styles and attributes



Summary

Feature Location via Visual States

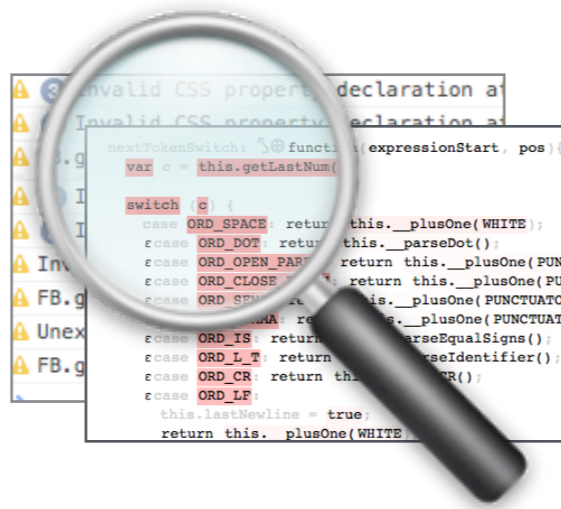
States can be automatically captured when drawing.

Juxtapose Captured Inputs and Outputs

State and output snapshots help explain each other.

Diff Markers Filter Relevant Operations

Slicing algorithms can show responsible operations.



Explaining Visual Changes in Web Interfaces

Brian Burg, Andrew J Ko, Michael Ernst

University of Washington