



# Why Use Bootstrap

By Jeannette Passanisi

Bootstrap has quickly become a staple in Web Development and I can understand why. You don't have to be an HTML5/CSS3 master to start using it. It's responsive, customizable and has a plethora of jQuery extras and it's easy to see why Web Developers are embracing it with open arms.

One of the questions I get from my students is what IS Bootstrap? For the record, it's the most popular framework for creating clean layouts quickly. My students are amazed that in less than an hour they have a basic Website laid out and that site is ready to be customized to their project needs. Bootstrap makes it easy and even provide a [basic template](#) to help get you up and running.

Bootstrap was the dream child of Mark Otto and Jacob Thornton sometime back in 2010 while working at Twitter. Yes Twitter, that social media site. It wasn't officially release until August 19, 2011 and since then it has become a staple for front-end development. It's no wonder with all you can do with it. Need a mobile-first site, no problem. Bootstrap is completely responsive. Want to add a carousel. Just make your way to the [Customize and Download](#) page and grab one of their jQuery plugins. It does help if you have some experience with JavaScript but you can learn it on the fly.

## Customize and download

Customize Bootstrap's components, Less variables, and jQuery plugins to get your very own version.

### So What Is A Framework?

Good question. A framework is a standardized set of concepts, practices and criteria for dealing with a common type of problem. For Web Developers that problem is creating a user friendly website that is easy to navigate and keeps the visitor coming back for more.

Bootstrap takes HTML, CSS and JS documents and packages them up in a nice structure of files and folders using standardized code. Voilà, now you have a framework that can be used to support the development of a website. The aim of a framework is to provide a common structure so that a web developer doesn't have to do everything from scratch. The code is reusable, or as I like to think of it, recyclable to be used over and over again with just add minor (or major) tweaking. Again, having the basics of HTML, CSS, and JS is helpful but that shouldn't discourage you.



### So Why Use Bootstrap In Web Development?

For me it's because of Bootstrap's responsive CSS and how easy it is to develop a site once and have it work on all devices. Nothing is more frustrating for a developer to have just finished creating a killer Website that looks totally awesome on a desktop or laptop but does not work well on a smartphone or [phablet](#). As a developer it's either create another site or rework the one you just spent days on.

Bootstrap has adapted a Mobile-first approach that is part of the framework. If you ask me, this is the wave of the future if you realize the love affair we here in the States have with our phones. As of the end of 2015 nearly two-thirds of Americans are smartphone owners and for many of these owners these are the devices that they use for their online surfing. \* People love their phones and they love being able to access the Web on their terms with their device. With that said Bootstrap is completely compatible with all the modern browsers out there. No need to write additional code to accommodate IE or Opera and is one less thing to worry about.



Another reason to use Bootstrap is that right from its introduction it had a warm welcoming from the Web Development community. When Twitter held its first [Hack Week](#) in October of 2010 where Bootstrap was introduced and it took off. Today Bootstrap has a huge community and friendly supporters. You can stay informed by checking out the [Bootstrap Expo](#) and see what people are doing with Bootstrap.

## Easy To Learn



So are you ready to learn how to use it? There is a plethora of documentation and tutorials on the web to make it easy to learn too. One of my favorite sites for this is W3Schools.com [Bootstrap 3 tutorial](#). I encourage my students to check out this site to learn everything from the basics, to tables, Navigation and more. A quick Google on Bootstrap Tutorials will give you hours of learning enjoyment as well. Some of the more noteworthy free tutorials are:

- [BOOTSTRAPBAY](#) This site is filled with tutorials, resources and more.
- [Code Academy](#) Sign-up, log-in and learn for Free. Self-pace tutorials you can fit into your schedule.
- [Web Design Tutorials](#) A practical approach to learning Bootstrap.
- [Tutorial Republic](#) Provides beginner tutorials, Code examples and advance features.

In closing, I have to admit that this framework is well worth learning and using to help bring more pages to more people on more devices.

Happy coding!