



innoweb
INNOVATIVE WEB SOLUTIONS

Website Performance

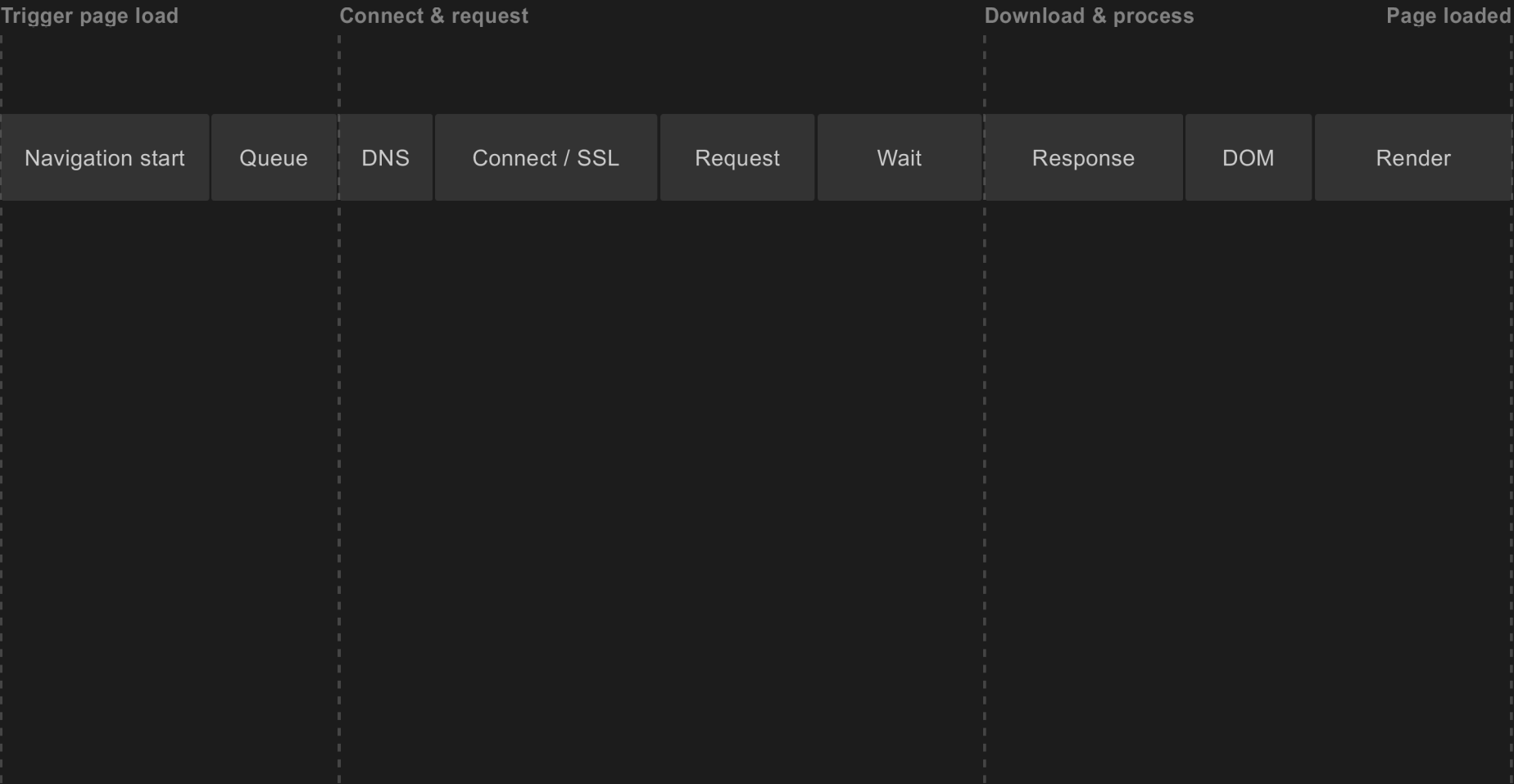
with Silverstripe

About me

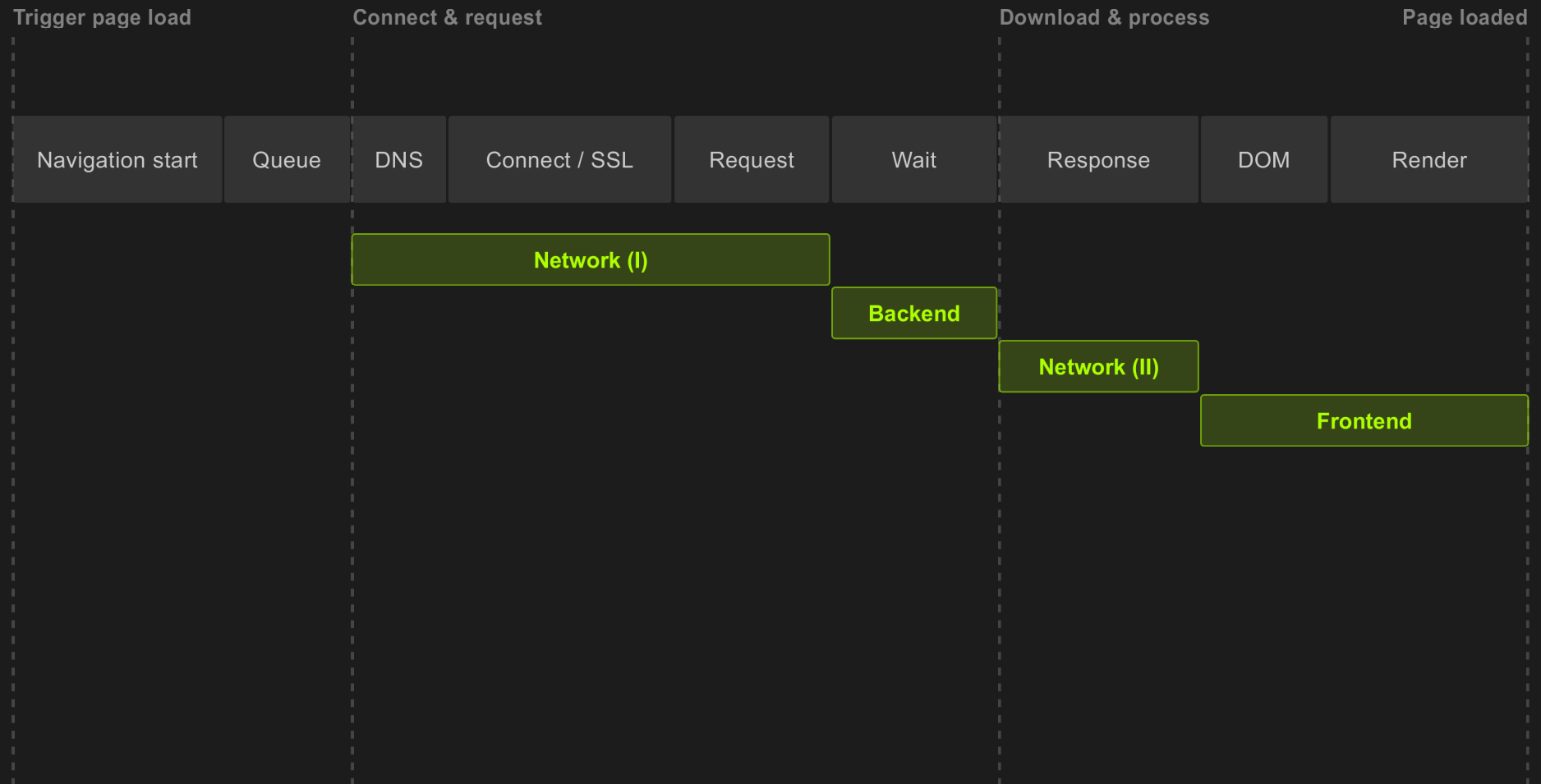
Florian Thoma

- Born in Switzerland, moved to [Sydney, Australia](#) 17 years ago.
- Silverstripe development agency innoweb.com.au
- [@xini](#) on GitHub

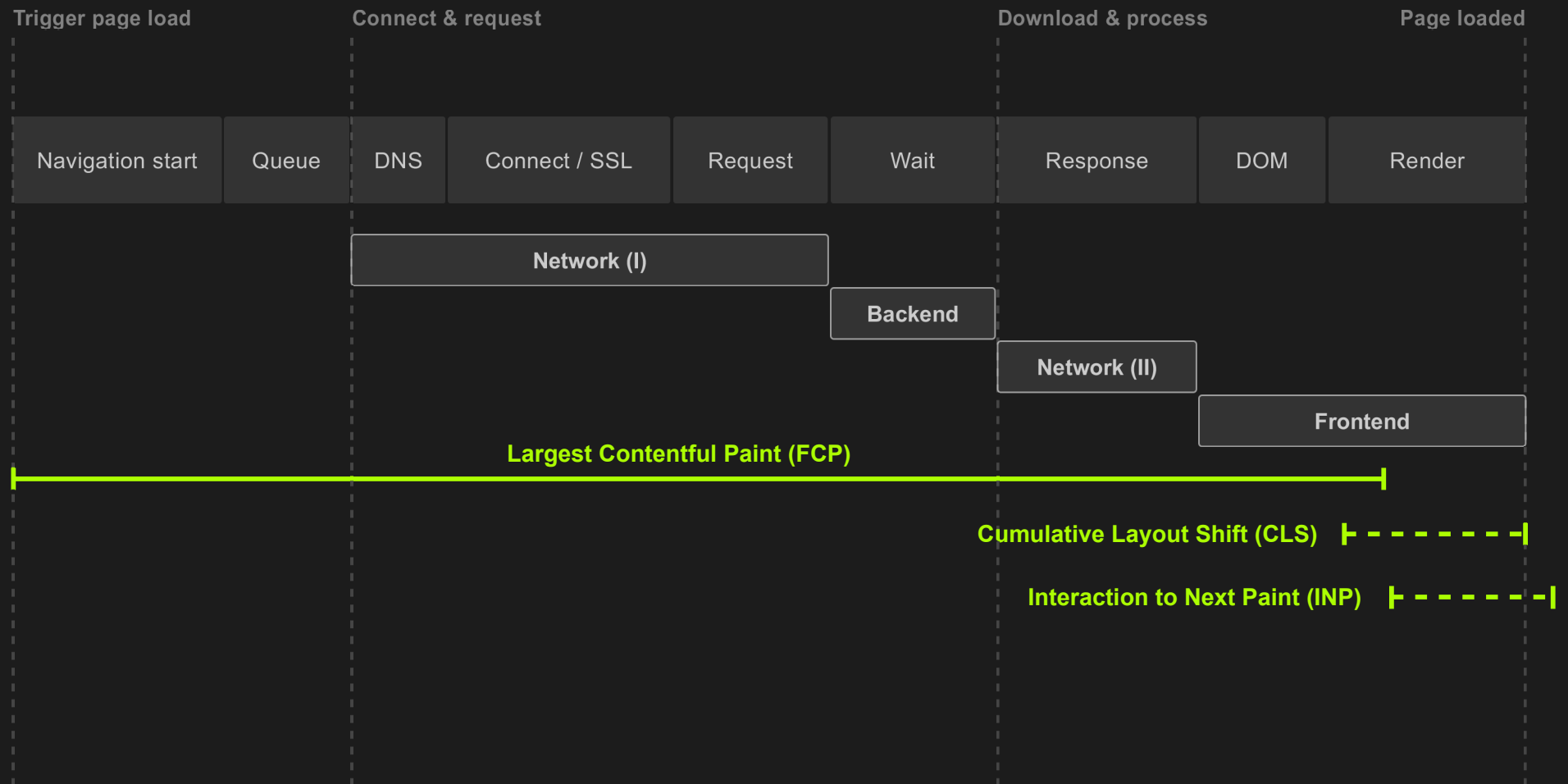
Page load timeline



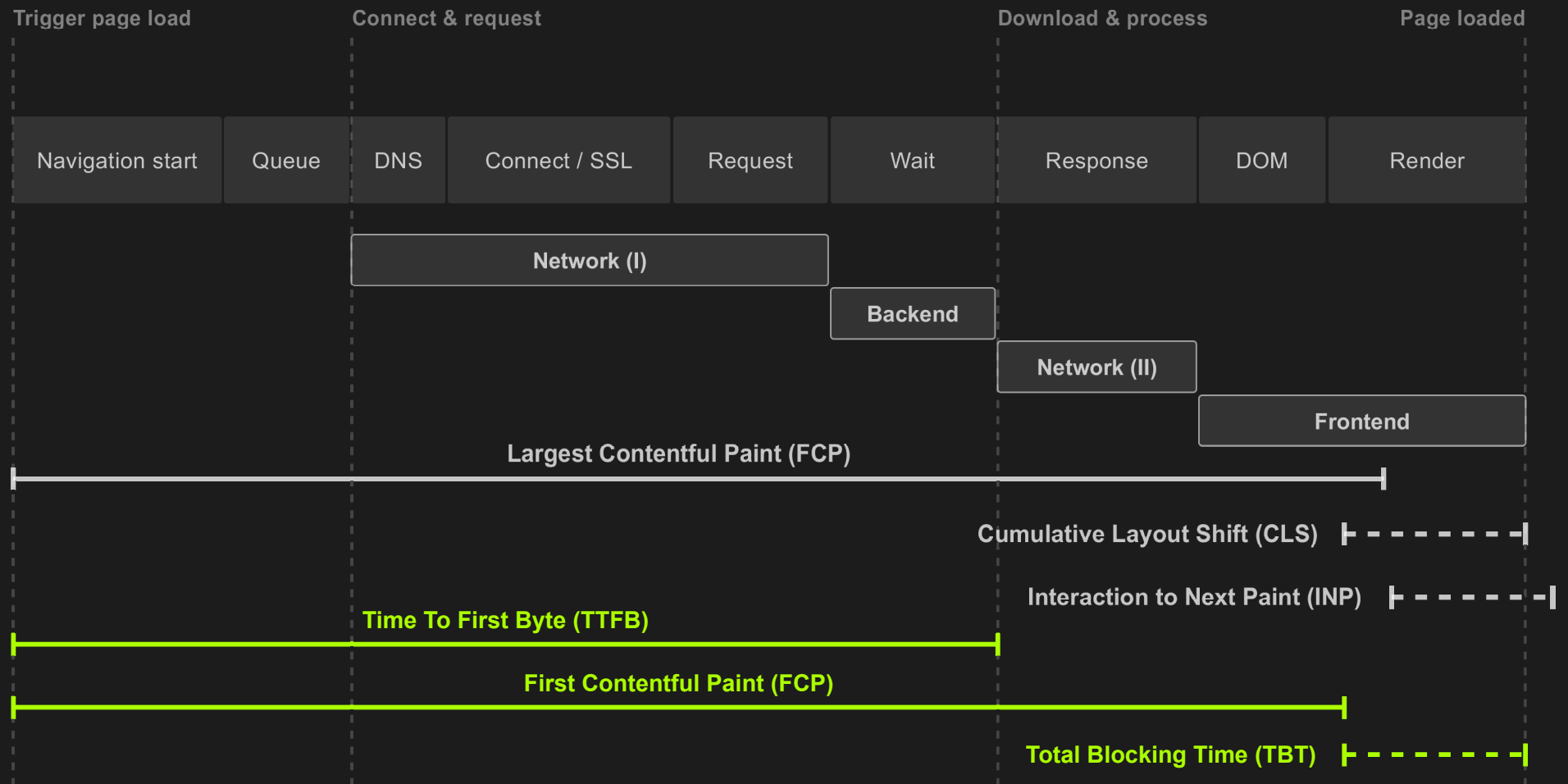
Page load timeline



Page load timeline



Page load timeline



WHERE WE ARE

Backend

BACKEND

RESPONSE

FRONTEND

TTFB

FCP

LCP

CLS

TBT

INP

Answer the request quickly, or try and skip it altogether.

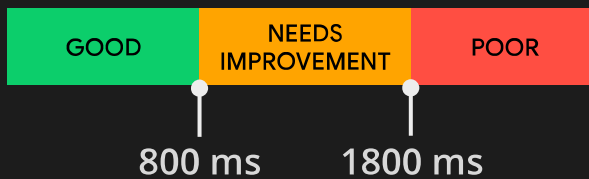
METRIC

Time To First Byte

(Loading)

TTFB

Time To First Byte



Everything after has to wait for this.

HTTP caching

The fastest requests are the ones we don't make.

HTTP CACHING

Add caching headers to your web server configuration

HTTP CACHING

For public-facing websites, you can also cache the HTML page itself.

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3   protected function init()
4   {
5     HTTPCacheControlMiddleware::singleton()
6       ->publicCache()
7       ->setMaxAge(600); // 10 minutes
8
9     parent::init();
10
11     ...
12   }
13 }
```

Silverstripe forms disable the page cache automatically.

CDN

- Network of geographically distributed caching servers
- Examples: Cloudflare, Fastly
- Reduce network latency
- Reduce the load on your server
- Improve the availability of your website

- Static files: uses caching headers
- More advanced: caching whole pages

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3   protected function init()
4   {
5     HTTPCacheControlMiddleware::singleton()
6       ->publicCache()
7       ->setMaxAge(600) // 10 minutes
8       ->setSharedMaxAge(3600); // 1 hour
9
10    parent::init();
11
12    ...
13  }
14 }
```

Silverstripe integration:

- Fastly:
[innoweb/silverstripe-fastly](#)
- Cloudflare:
[nswdpc/silverstripe-cloudflare-boilerplate](#),
[catalyst.net.nz/silverstripe-cloudflare](#)

PHP OPcache

- Caches compiled bytecode of PHP scripts in memory
- Reduces overhead of parsing and compiling PHP scripts

PHP OPCACHE

```
1 [opcache]
2 opcache.enable=1
3 opcache.enable_cli=1
4 opcache.memory_consumption=256
5 opcache.max_accelerated_files=20000
6 opcache.validate_timestamps=1
7 opcache.revalidate_freq=30
8 opcache.revalidate_path=1
```

- PHP 8: OPCache Just-In-Time compilation (JIT)
- Compiles PHP bytecode directly into CPU native machine code
- `opcache.jit_buffer_size`: half of OPCache memory size
- `opcache.jit`: flags for CPU, register allocation, trigger and optimisation Level
- standard: "tracing" (1254); recommended: 1235

PHP OPCACHE

```
1 [opcache]
2 opcache.enable=1
3 opcache.enable_cli=1
4 opcache.memory_consumption=256
5 opcache.max_accelerated_files=20000
6 opcache.validate_timestamps=1
7 opcache.revalidate_freq=30
8 opcache.revalidate_path=1
9 opcache.jit_buffer_size=128M
10 opcache.jit=1235
```

PHP OPCACHE

More on OPCache JIT:



<https://php.watch/articles/jit-in-depth>

Partial caching

- Caches parts of the page
- Uses cache keys set in template

PARTIAL CACHING

```
1 <% cached
2 'navigation',
3 $List('SilverStripe\CMS\Model\SiteTree').max('LastEdited'),
4 $List('SilverStripe\CMS\Model\SiteTree').count()
5 %>
6 <nav aria-label="Main">
7   <ul>
8     <% loop $Menu(1) %>
9       <li>
10         <a href="$Link">$MenuTitle</a>
11       </li>
12     <% end_loop %>
13   </ul>
14 </nav>
15 <% end_cached %>
```

PARTIAL CACHING

- Multiple aggregate methods available: count, max, min, avg and sum
- \$CurrentReadingMode, and \$CurrentUser.ID are included by default

```
SilverStripe\View\SSViewer:  
  global_key: '$CurrentReadingMode, $CurrentUser.ID, $CurrentLocale'
```

PARTIAL CACHING

Calculated cache key fragments

```
private function FiveMinuteFragment()
{
    // Returns a new number every five minutes
    return (int)(time() / 60 / 5);
}
```

```
1 <% cached 'datablock', $FiveMinuteFragment %>
2 <section>
3     <h2>Some data</h2>
4     $SomeData
5 </section>
6 <% end_cached %>
```

Database indexing

- Adding a database index can improve data retrieval speed.

DATABASE INDEXING

```
1 class BlogCategory extends DataObject
2 {
3     ...
4
5     private static $db = [
6         'URLSegment' => 'Varchar(255)',
7         'Title' => 'Varchar(50)',
8         'Description' => 'Varchar(255)',
9     ];
10
11     ...
12
13 }
```

DATABASE INDEXING

```
1 class BlogCategory extends DataObject
2 {
3     ...
4
5     private static $db = [
6         'URLSegment' => 'Varchar(255)',
7         'Title' => 'Varchar(50)',
8         'Description' => 'Varchar(255)',
9     ];
10
11     private static $indexes = [
12         'URLSegment' => true,
13     ];
14
15     ...
16
17 }
```

Query caching

- Store the results of database queries in memory
- Per request only

```
$cachedList = MyDataObject::get()->setUseCache(true);
```

QUERY CACHING

- Automatically cached aggregates: `max`, `avg`, `count` and pagination
- Cleared on:
 - `write()`, `delete()`, `destroy()`, `flushCache()` for `DataObject`
 - `add()`, `remove()` for `DataList`
- Use `?showqueries` to identify repeated/slow queries

Object caching

- Uses the PSR-16 standard "SimpleCache"
- Used by core for class manifest, yaml config and yaml translations

```
1 SilverStripe\Core\Injector\Injector:  
2   Psr\SimpleCache\CacheInterface.myCache:  
3     factory: SilverStripe\Core\Cache\CacheFactory  
4     constructor:  
5       namespace: "myCache"
```

OBJECT CACHING

usage:

```
1 use Psr\SimpleCache\CacheInterface;
2 use SilverStripe\Core\Injector\Injector;
3
4 $cache = Injector::inst()->get(CacheInterface::class . '.myCache');
5
6 // save a value in the cache
7 $cache->set('myCacheKey', 1234);
8
9 // retrieve a value from the cache
10 $myValue = $cache->get('myCacheKey');
11
12 // check if a value has been stored for a given cache key
13 if (!$cache->has('myCacheKey')) {
14     // ... item does not exists in the cache
15 }
```

Cache adapters

- Used by object and partial caching
- Default: `PhpFilesCache` when OPcache is available, else `FilesystemCache`
- In-memory options: Memcached, Redis

CACHE ADAPTERS

Redis:

- Install and configure Redis server
- Install `predis/predis` or `cachewerk/relay` via composer OR use the Redis PHP extension

```
SS_IN_MEMORY_CACHE_FACTORY="SilverStripe\Core\Cache\RedisCacheFactory"  
SS_REDIS_DSN="redis://verysecurepassword@yourserver:6379"
```

RECAP

Backend

- HTTP caching
- CDN
- PHP OPcache
- Partial caching
- Database indexing
- Query caching
- Object caching
- Cache adapters

WHERE WE ARE

Response

BACKEND

RESPONSE

FRONTEND

TTFB

FCP

LCP

CLS

TBT

INP

Send less.

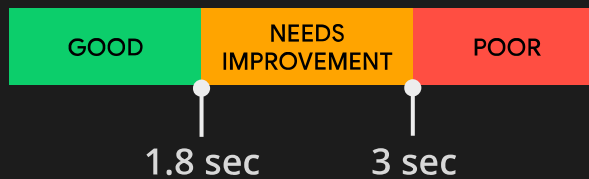
METRIC

First Contentful Paint

(Loading)

FCP

First Contentful Paint



Nothing paints before the HTML and the render-blocking CSS have been received and parsed.

Compression

- Main technique to reduce the size of the data
- gzip or brotli algorithms
- Reduces the size by up to 80%
- Easy to set up

COMPRESSION

```
1 # Try Brotli First
2 <IfModule mod_brotli.c>
3     # Core web assets
4     AddOutputFilterByType BROTLI_COMPRESS text/html text/plain text/css text/xml
5     AddOutputFilterByType BROTLI_COMPRESS application/javascript application/json application/manifest+json
6     # Feeds and Vector Graphics
7     AddOutputFilterByType BROTLI_COMPRESS application/xml application/rss+xml application/xhtml+xml image/svg+xml
8     # Web Fonts
9     AddOutputFilterByType BROTLI_COMPRESS font/ttf font/otf font/opentype application/vnd.ms-fontobject
10 </IfModule>
11 # Fallback to Gzip if Brotli is missing/unsupported
12 <IfModule mod_deflate.c>
13     # Core web assets
14     AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE text/html text/plain text/css text/xml
15     AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/javascript application/json application/manifest+json
16     # Feeds and Vector Graphics
17     AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE application/xml application/rss+xml application/xhtml+xml image/svg+xml
18     # Web Fonts
19     AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE font/ttf font/otf font/opentype application/vnd.ms-fontobject
20 </IfModule>
```

Minification

Reduce the amount of data that gets shipped to the client.

- CSS: Use `sass` or `cssnano`
- JS: Use `terser` or `uglifyjs`
- HTML: Use `innoweb/silverstripe-minify-html`

MINIFICATION

before:

```
1 <!doctype html>
2 <html lang="en-NZ">
3   <head>
4
5     <meta charset="utf-8">
6     <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1, shrink-to-fit=no">
7     <meta name="generator" content="Silverstripe CMS 6.2">
8     <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8">
9     <meta name="description" content="Silverstripe is the trusted design and technology partner, delivering digital solutions and experiences that have a positive impact for the people of Aotearoa and beyond.">
10    <link rel="alternate" hreflang="x-default" href="https://www.silverstripe.com/" />
11
12
13
14
15    <link rel="canonical" href="https://www.silverstripe.com" />
16
17
18
19    <title>Home - Silverstripe</title>
20
21    <link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="180x180" href="/resources/themes/app/dist/images/favicon/apple-touch-icon.png?m=1787711619">
22    <link rel="icon" type="image/png" sizes="32x32" href="/resources/themes/app/dist/images/favicon/favicon-32x32.png?m=1787711619">
23    <link rel="icon" type="image/png" sizes="16x16" href="/resources/themes/app/dist/images/favicon/favicon-16x16.png?m=1787711619">
24    <link rel="manifest" href="/resources/themes/app/dist/images/favicon/site.webmanifest?m=1787711619">
25    <link rel="mask-icon" href="/resources/themes/app/dist/images/favicon/safari-pinned-tab.svg?m=1787711619" color="#005ae1">
26    <link rel="shortcut icon" href="/resources/themes/app/dist/images/favicon/favicon.ico?m=1787711619">
27    <meta name="apple-mobile-web-app-title" content="Silverstripe">
28    <meta name="application-name" content="Silverstripe">
29    <meta name="msapplication-TileColor" content="#005ae1">
30    <meta name="msapplication-config" content="/resources/themes/app/dist/images/favicon/browserconfig.xml?m=1787711619">
31    <meta name="theme-color" content="#ffffff">
32
33    <meta property="og:locale" content="en_NZ">
34    <meta property="og:site_name" content="Silverstripe">
35    <meta property="og:url" content="https://www.silverstripe.com/home/">
36    <meta property="og:type" content="article">
37    <meta property="og:title" content="Home">
38
39    <meta property="og:image" content="https://www.silverstripe.com/assets/Uploads/silverstripe-stacked-logo-white.png">
40
41    <meta property="og:description" content="Silverstripe is the trusted design and technology partner, delivering digital solutions and experiences that have a positive impact for the people of Aotearoa and beyond.">
42
43
44
45
46
47    <meta name="google-site-verification" content="JMdeaYQgd_uV6K_0WtpT_LbCQgDNYeqVY8ZK69CS4zY">
48
49
50
51    <!-- Google tag (gtag.js) -->
```

after:

[illegible]

MINIFICATION

Example:

HTML minification of innoweb.com.au

- from 20.52 kB to 18.95 kB (compressed)
- reduction by 8%

Combining CSS and JS

HTTP/2 multiplexing allows multiple files to download simultaneously.

Combining files still has benefits:

- Improved compression efficiency
- TCP Slow Start
- Shortened dependency "waterfall"
- Less load on the server

Best solution: "smart bundling".

Loading of CSS

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3     protected function init()
4     {
5         parent::init();
6
7         Requirements::themedCSS('dist/styles/app.css');
8
9         ...
10    }
11 }
```

LOADING OF CSS

include CSS link in the HTTP header of the page:

`dorsetdigital/silverstripe-enhanced-requirements`

Solution:

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3   protected function init()
4   {
5     parent::init();
6
7     Requirements::css(
8       ThemeResourceLoader::inst()->findThemedCSS(
9         'dist/styles/app.css'
10      ),
11      'all',
12      [
13        'push' => true,
14      ]
15    );
16
17    ...
18  }
19 }
```

LOADING OF CSS

- Reduce CSS for mobile by splitting CSS by media query
- All styles above 480px get moved to separate CSS file

LOADING OF CSS

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3   protected function init()
4   {
5     parent::init();
6
7     Requirements::css(
8       ThemeResourceLoader::inst()->findThemedCSS(
9         'dist/styles/app.css'
10      ),
11      'all',
12      [
13        'push' => true,
14      ]
15    );
16    Requirements::css(
17      ThemeResourceLoader::inst()->findThemedCSS(
18        'dist/styles/app-above-480.css'
19      ),
20      'screen and (min-width:480px)'
21    );
22    ...
23  }
24 }
25 }
```

Image optimisation

- Install `axllent/silverstripe-image-optimiser`
- The module relies on the JpegOptim, Optipng, Pngquant 2 & Gifsicle binaries
- Debian: `sudo apt-get install jpegoptim optipng pngquant gifsicle`
- WEBP (save 30%) and AVIF (save 50%) supported by all modern browsers.

Modern image formats

Override `SilverStripe/Assets/Storage/DBFile_Image.ss`:

```
1 <picture>
2   <source type="image/avif" srcset="$Convert('avif').Quality(60).URL">
3   <source type="image/webp" srcset="$Convert('webp').Quality(80).URL">
4   <img $AttributesHTML>
5 </picture>
```

MODERN IMAGE FORMATS

Remove WEBP and AVIF from uploadable MIME types:

```
HTTP::config()->set(  
    'MimeTypes',  
    array_diff_key(  
        HTTP::config()->get('MimeTypes'),  
        [  
            'webp' => 'image/webp',  
            'avif' => 'image/avif',  
        ]  
    )  
);
```

Lazy loading of images

- Content images should be lazy loaded
- Native lazy loading in Silverstripe since 2021 (version 5.4)

```
1 
```

RESPONSE

Responsive images

heyday/silverstripe-responsive-images

RESPONSIVE IMAGES

```
1 <picture>
2   <% loop $Sizes %>
3     <source media="$Query" srcset="$Image.URL">
4   <% end_loop %>
5    class="$ExtraClasses"<% end_if %>>
8 </picture>
```

Combination of techniques

```
1 <picture>
2   <% loop $Sizes %>
3     <source media="$Query"
4       type="image/avif"
5       srcset="$Image.Convert('avif').Quality(60).URL"
6       width="$Image.Width" height="$Image.Height">
7     <source media="$Query"
8       type="image/webp"
9       srcset="$Image.Convert('webp').Quality(80).URL"
10      width="$Image.Width" height="$Image.Height">
11     <source media="$Query"
12       srcset="$Image.URL"
13       width="$Image.Width" height="$Image.Height">
14   <% end_loop %>
15    class="$ExtraClasses"<% end_if %>
18     loading="lazy">
19 </picture>
```

RECAP

Response

- Compression
- Minification
- Combining CSS and JS
- Loading of CSS
- Image optimisation
- Modern image formats
- Lazy loading of images
- Responsive images

WHERE WE ARE

Frontend

BACKEND

RESPONSE

FRONTEND

TTFB

FCP

LCP

CLS

TBT

INP

Render what we've received.

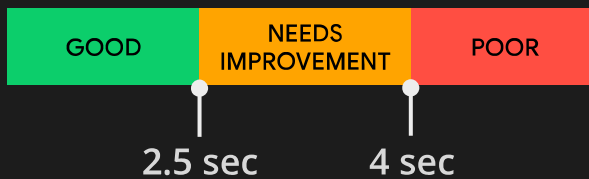
METRIC

Largest Contentful Paint

(Loading)

LCP

Largest Contentful Paint



Represents the most important content for the user.

Loading of LCP images

- Never lazy-load LCP images
- Browser considers multiple candidates to determine LCP element
- Threshold introduced to ignore low-entropy images
- At least 0.05 bits of data per pixel displayed

Loading of LCP images

- Harry Roberts' "The Ultimate Low-Quality Image Placeholder Technique"



<https://csswizardry.com/2023/09/the-ultimate-lqip-lcp-technique/>

- [innoweb/silverstripe-image-placeholders](#) "LCP Low Quality Image Placeholder" method `LCPLQIP()`

LOADING OF LCP IMAGES

```
1 
```

```
<link rel="preload" as="image" href="$Image.LCPLQIP.URL.ATT" fetchpriority="high">
```

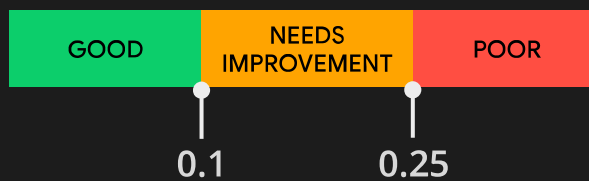
METRIC

Cumulative Layout Shift

(Visual stability)

CLS

Cumulative Layout Shift



Reserve the space before the content arrives.

Aspect ratio

- images: width and height attributes

```
1 
```

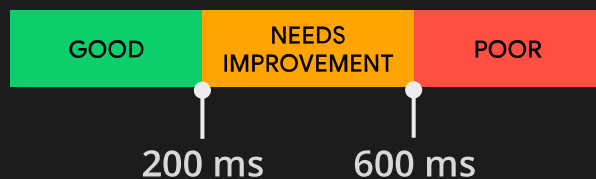
- frame, object, embed:
width and height attributes or CSS aspect-ratio

Total Blocking Time and Interaction to Next Paint

(Interactivity)

TBT

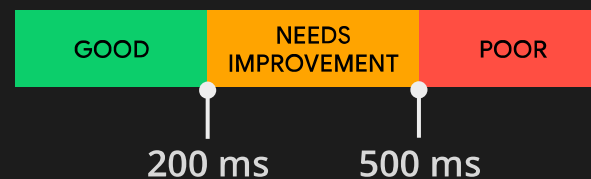
Total Blocking Time



(Interactivity)

INP

Interaction to Next Paint



TBT is the lab proxy for INP.

Loading of JavaScript

Render blocking by default.

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3   protected function init()
4   {
5     parent::init();
6
7     Requirements::themedJavascript('dist/js/main.js');
8
9     ...
10  }
11 }
```

LOADING OF JAVASCRIPT

Solution for older browsers:

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3   protected function init()
4   {
5     parent::init();
6
7     Requirements::set_force_js_to_bottom(true);
8
9     Requirements::themedJavascript('dist/js/main.js');
10
11     ...
12   }
13 }
```

LOADING OF JAVASCRIPT

Solution for newer browsers:

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3   protected function init()
4   {
5     parent::init();
6
7     Requirements::set_force_js_to_bottom(true);
8
9     Requirements::javascript(
10       ThemeResourceLoader::inst()->findThemedResource('dist/js/main.js'),
11       ['defer' => true]
12     );
13
14     ...
15   }
16 }
```

LOADING OF JAVASCRIPT

Solution for newer browsers using JS modules:

```
1 class PageController extends ContentController
2 {
3   protected function init()
4   {
5     parent::init();
6
7     Requirements::set_force_js_to_bottom(true);
8
9     Requirements::javascript(
10       ThemeResourceLoader::inst()->findThemedResource('dist/js/main.js'),
11       ['type' => 'module']
12     );
13
14     ...
15   }
16 }
```

Lazy loading of embeds

- iFrames: Use the `loading="lazy"` attribute
- Other embeds: use JavaScript and IntersectionObserver

CSS content-visibility

Problem: Browsers render every block.

- Long tasks in the rendering pipeline
- High Total Blocking Time (TBT)
- A sluggish feel for users, especially on mobile devices

Solution: CSS `content-visibility`

```
.block {  
  content-visibility: auto;  
  contain-intrinsic-size: 800px;  
}
```

- `content-visibility: auto;` skips layout and paint of off-screen content.
- `contain-intrinsic-size: 800px;` provides a placeholder height

RECAP

Frontend

- Loading of LCP images
- Aspect ratio
- Loading of JavaScript
- Lazy loading of embeds
- CSS content-visibility

Performance optimisation is a compromise

- Optimisation trade-offs
- Test every change
- Every website is different
- Find compromise that delivers meaningful improvements for users

Danke schön!

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<https://tmp.innoweb.com.au/stripecon-2026/>

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