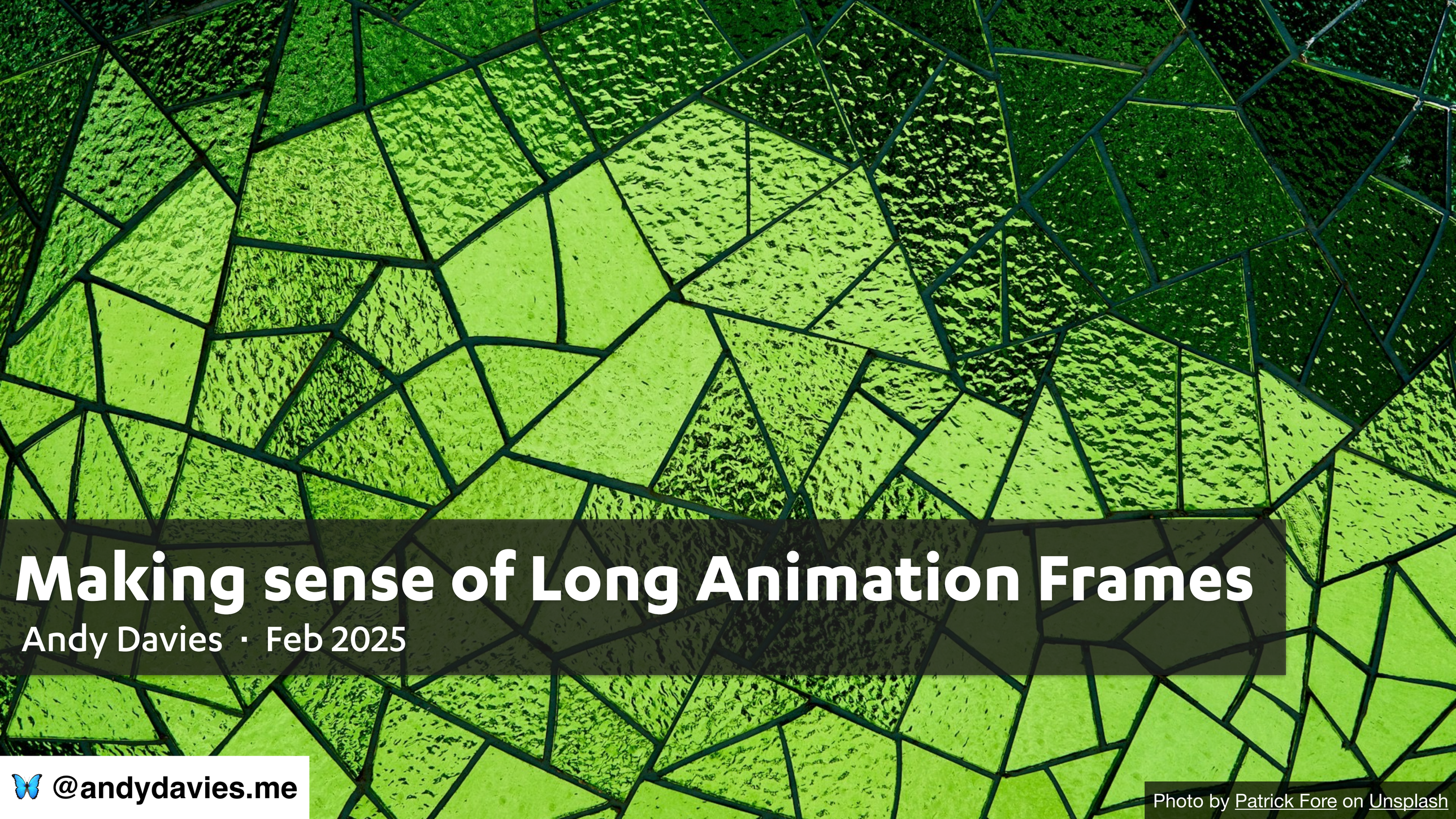


Making sense of Long Animation Frames

Andy Davies · Feb 2025

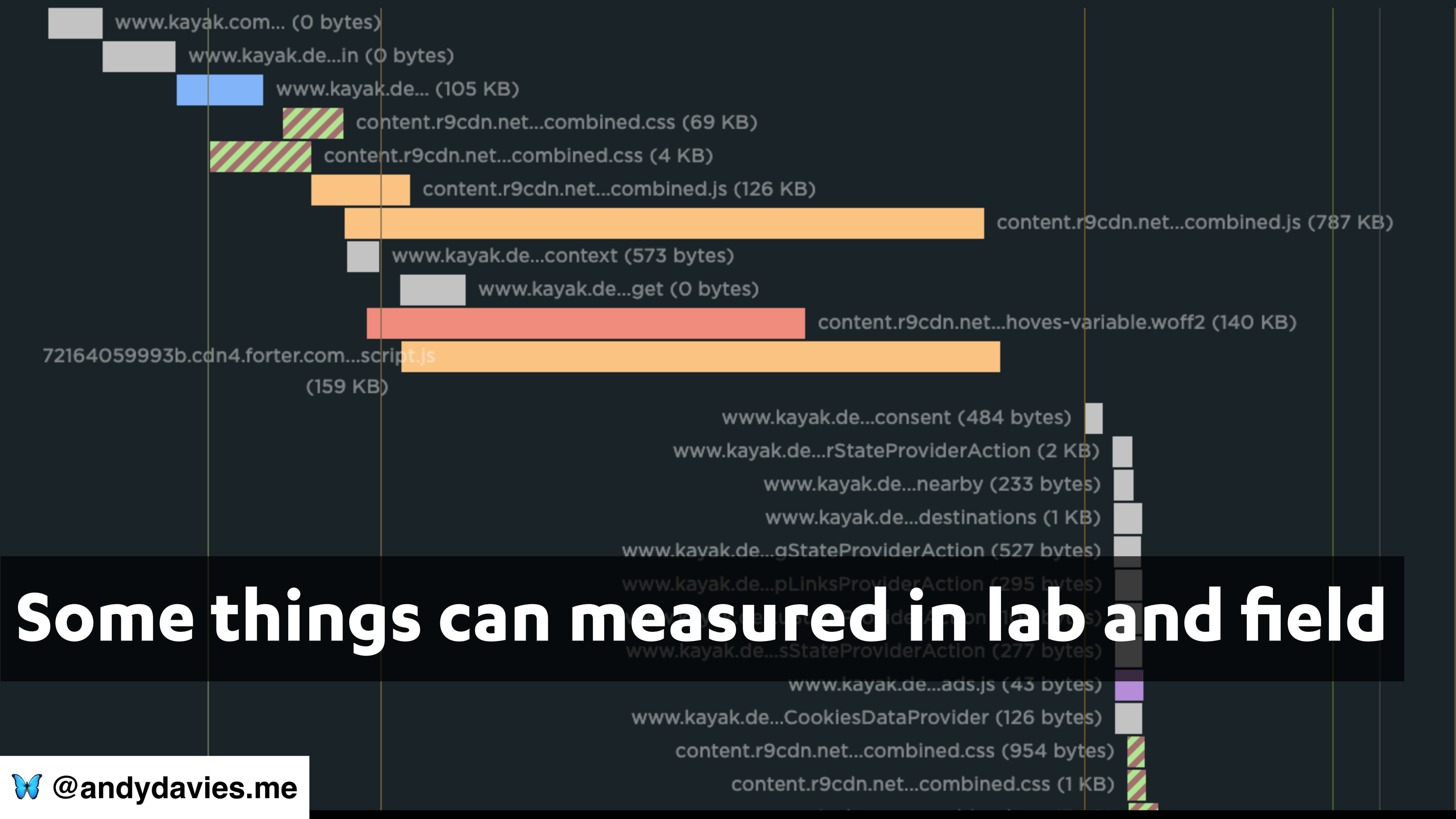
@andydavies.me

Photo by Patrick Fore on Unsplash

It’s tempting to focus on what we can easily measure

It’s tempting to focus on what we can easily measure

But what if we really need to focus on things that are harder to measure?



Some things can measured in lab and field

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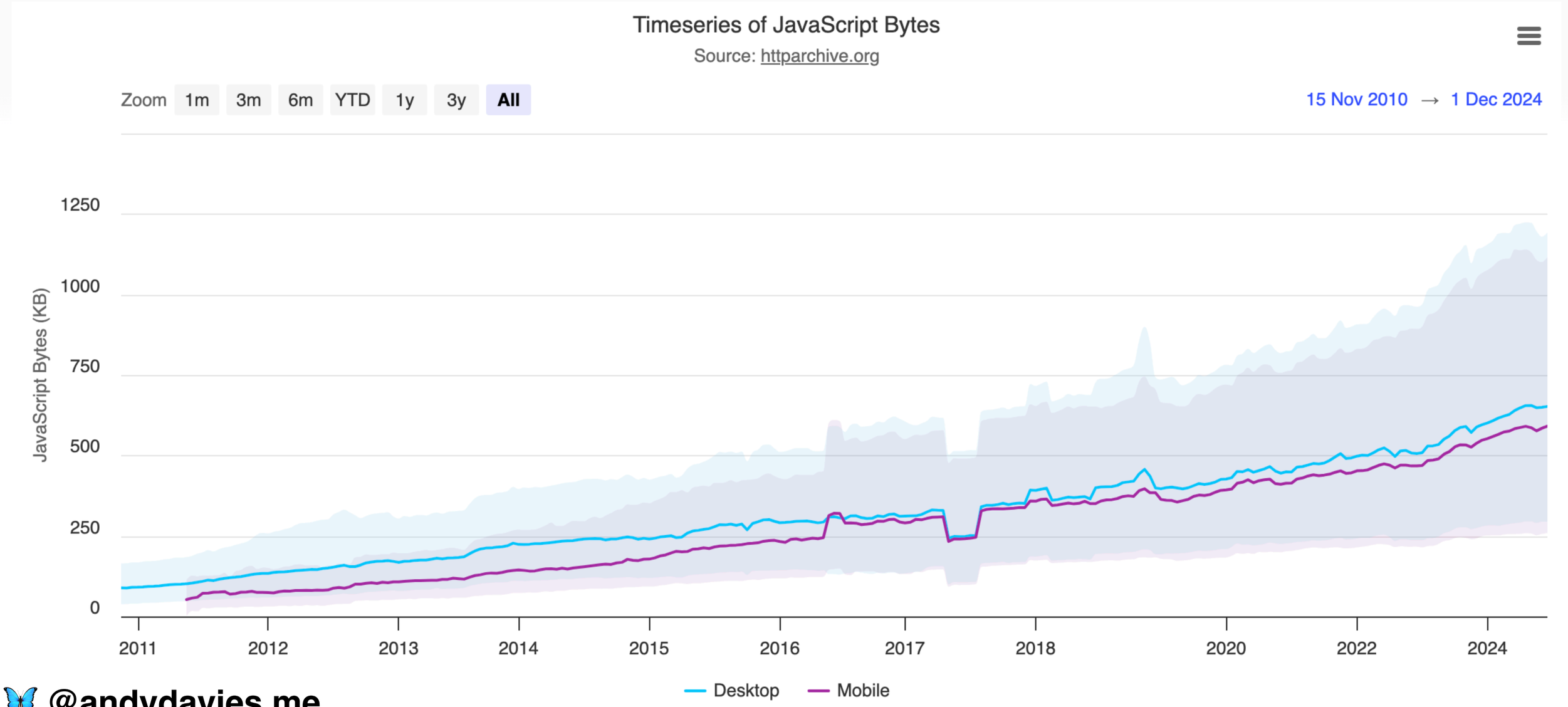
Others are more difficult…

We’re shipping more and more JavaScript



And download size is just the beginning!

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Photo by Felix M. Dorn on Unsplash

JavaScript's runtime costs matter too

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A long time ago… someone suggested…

“The solution to worrying about JS lib/framework size is to include one less .jpg on your site”

But have you seen a JPEG that can do this…

```
document.addEventListener("mousemove", function() {
    for(var a = Date.now() + 2E3; Date.now() < a;)
        ;
    });
```

OK, so it’s a bit of a silly example but you get the idea…

How do scripts affect visitors experience?

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Photo by Julien L on Unsplash

W3C Editor's Draft

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Long Tasks API

Editor's Draft, 24 May 2024

▼ **More details about this document**

This version:
https://w3c.github.io/longtasks/

Test Suite:
http://w3c-test.org/longtask-timing/

Issue Tracking:
GitHub
Inline In Spec

Editor:
Noam Rosenthal (Google)

Former Editors:
Shubhie Panicker (Google)
Ilya Grigorik (Google)
Domenic Denicola (Google)

We tried to measure scripts before…

Abstract

… that monopolize the UI thread for extended periods of time and block other critical tasks from being executed - e.g. reacting to user input.

Status of this document

This is a public copy of the editors' draft. It is provided for discuss… publication here does not imply endorsement of its contents by W… in progress.

https://w3c.github.io/longtasks/

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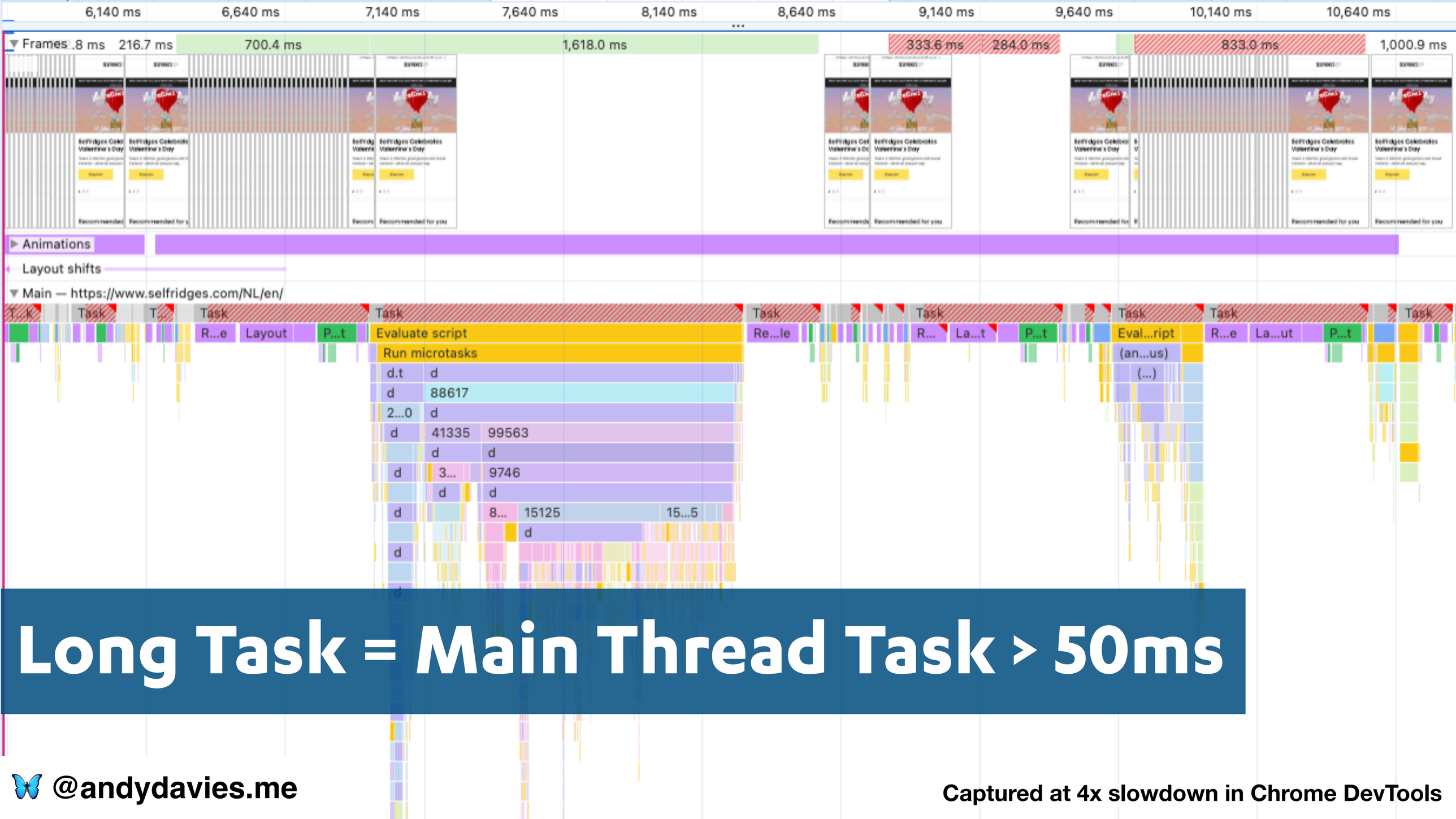

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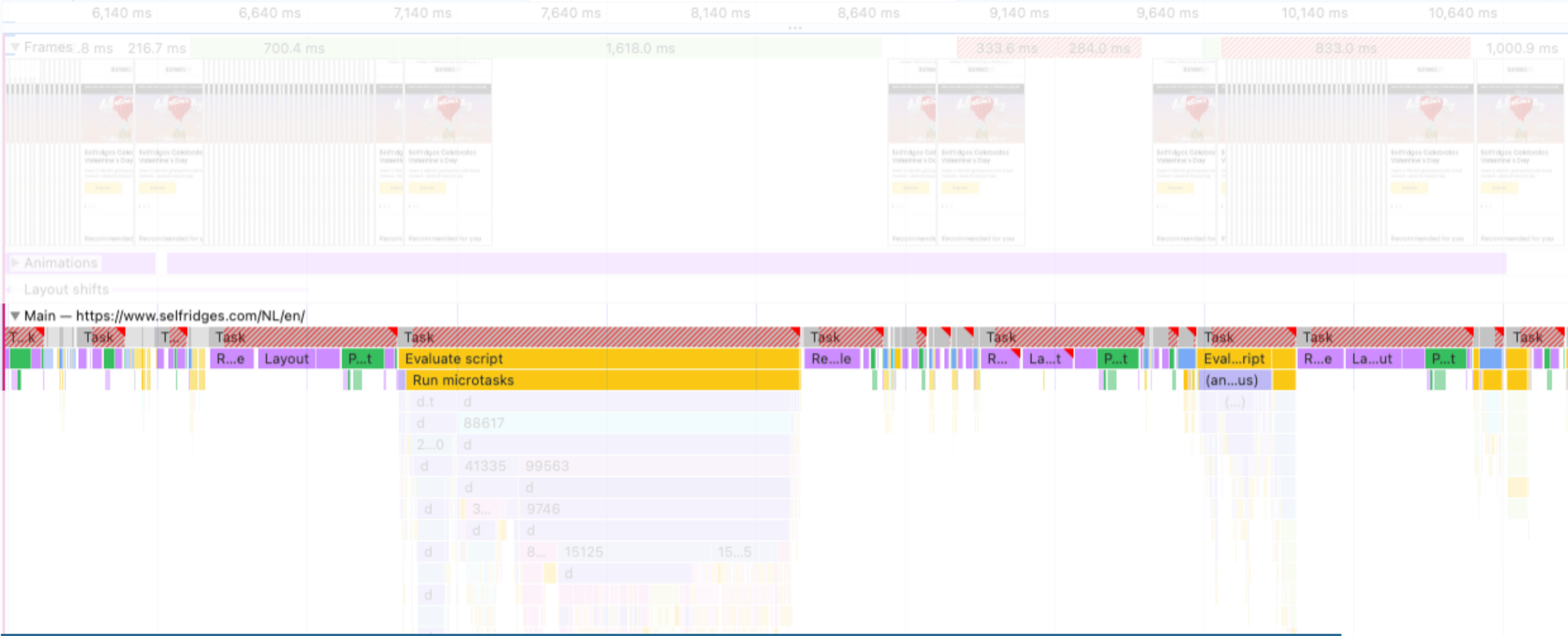
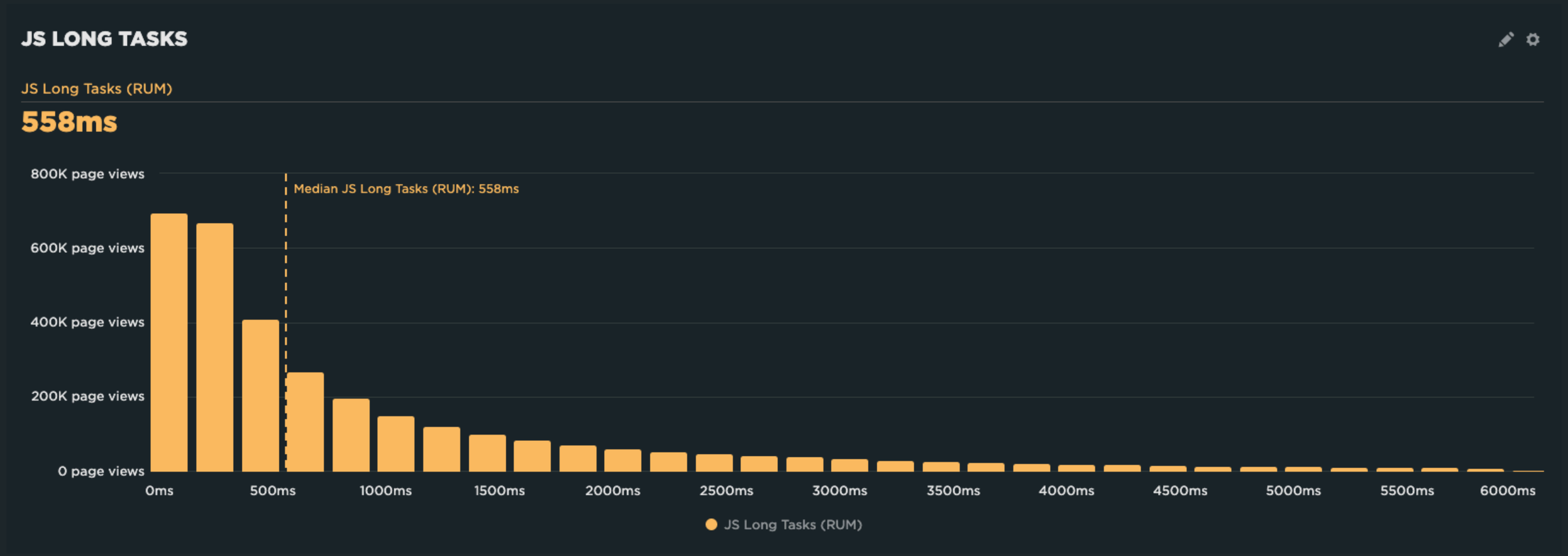
Captured at 4x slowdown in Chrome DevTools



Long Task = Main Thread Task > 50ms

Captured at 4x slowdown in Chrome DevTools

We can measure Long Tasks in the wild...



But we get no detail on their cause


```
{
    "name": "self",
    "entryType": "longtask",
    "startTime": 48723.60000002384,
    "duration": 67,
    "navigationId": "3ca0c548-7618-4423-87b7-41ae43415040",
    "attribution": [
        {
            "name": "unknown",
            "entryType": "taskattribution",
            "startTime": 0,
            "duration": 0,
            "navigationId": "3ca0c548-7618-4423-87b7-41ae43415040",
            "containerType": "window",
            "containerSrc": "",
            "containerId": "",
            "containerName": ""
        }
    ]
```

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Photo by Dušan veverkolog on Unsplash

Will Long Animation Frames rescue us?

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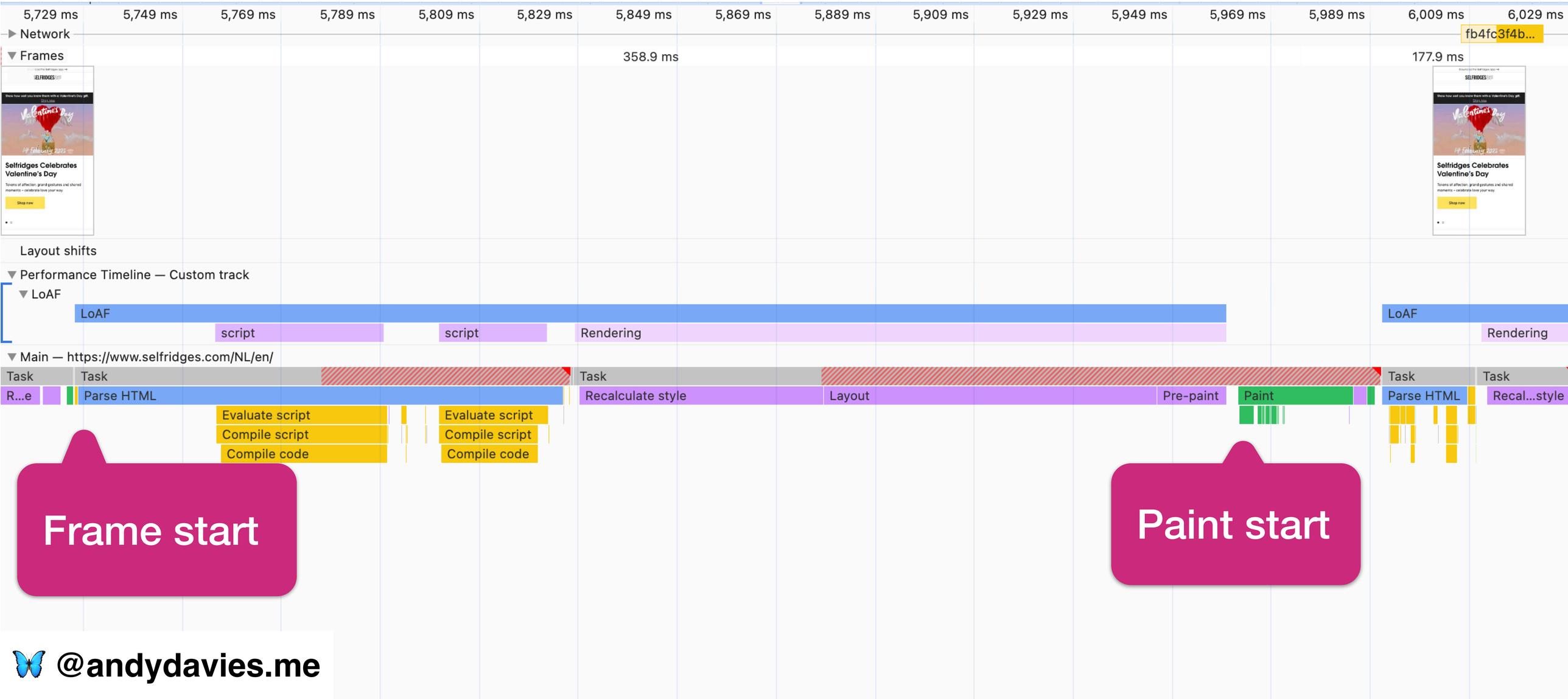
Photo by Matt Noble on Unsplash

Long Animation Frames (LoAF)

Measures when a frame render is delayed for more than 50ms

In DevTools terms...



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Available in Chromium based browsers

Two ways to fetch the data

Query performance timeline:

```
performance.getEntriesByType("long-animation-frame");
```

Via a PerformanceObserver:

```
const observer = new PerformanceObserver((list) => {
    for (const entry of list.getEntries()) {
        console.log(entry)
    }
});

observer.observe({ type: 'long-animation-frame', buffered: true });
```

Example LoAF entry


```
{
    "name": "long-animation-frame",
    "entryType": "long-animation-frame",
    "navigationId": “95558f7f-38d7-4a06-b15e-67ccf1dec62e",
    "startTime": 300.39999997615814,
    "duration": 1573.4000000357628,
    "blockingDuration": 605.986,
    "renderStart": 1540,
    "styleAndLayoutStart": 1540.1000000238419,
    "paintTime": 1873.800000011921,
    "firstUIEventTimestamp": 0,
    "scripts": []
},
```

Example LoAF entry


```
{
    "name": "long-animation-frame",
    "entryType": "long-animation-frame",
    "navigationId": “95558f7f-38d7-4a06-
    "startTime": 300.39999997615814,
    "duration": 1573.4000000357628,
    "blockingDuration": 605.986,
    "renderStart": 1540,
    "styleAndLayoutStart": 1540.1000000238419,
    "paintTime": 1873.800000011921,
    "firstUIEventTimestamp": 0,
    "scripts": []
},
```


When the frame started and how long it was

Example LoAF entry


```
{
    "name": "long-animation-frame",
    "entryType": "long-animation-frame",
    "navigationId": “95558f7f-38d7-4a06-b15e-67ccf1dec62e",
    "startTime": 300.39999997615814,
    "duration": 1573.4000000357628,
    "blockingDuration": 605.986,
    "renderStart": 1540,
    "styleAndLayoutStart": 1540.100000
    "paintTime": 1873.800000011921,
    "firstUIEventTimestamp": 0,
    "scripts": []
},
```


Sum of each (Long Task - 50ms)

Essentially a summary of how long the Main Thread was blocked

Example LoAF entry


```
{
    "name": "long-animation-frame",
    "entryType": "long-animation-frame",
    "navigationId": “95558f7f-38d7-4a06-b15e-67ccf1dec62e",
    "startTime": 300.39999997615814,
    "duration": 1573.4000000357628,
    "blockingDuration": 605.986,
    "renderStart": 1540,
    "styleAndLayoutStart": 1540.100000023
    "paintTime": 1873.800000011921,
    "firstUIEventTimestamp": 0,
    "scripts": []
},
```


Timestamps for when the work to render and paint the frame stared

Example LoAF entry


```
{
    "name": "long-animation-frame",
    "entryType": "long-animation-frame",
    "navigationId": “95558f7f-38d7-4a06-b15e-67ccf1dec62e",
    "startTime": 300.39999997615814,
    "duration": 1573.4000000357628,
    "blockingDuration": 605.986,
    "renderStart": 1540,
    "styleAndLayoutStart": 1540.100000023
    "paintTime": 1873.800000011921,
    "firstUIEventTimestamp": 0,
    "scripts": []
},
```


Non-zero if the visitor interacted during the frame

Example LoAF entry


```
{
    "name": "long-animation-frame",
    "entryType": "long-animation-frame",
    "navigationId": “95558f7f-38d7-4a06-b15e-67ccf1dec62e",
    "startTime": 300.39999997615814,
    "duration": 1573.4000000357628,
    "blockingDuration": 605.986,
    "renderStart": 1540,
    "styleAndLayoutStart": 1540.1000000238419,
    "paintTime": 1873.800
    "firstUIEventTimestar
    "scripts": []
},
```


Details of scripts that executed for longer than 5ms during the frame

In aggregate LoAFs give us useful data

- How many frames were delayed and how long for?
- What was the approximate frame rate (with caveats)
- How long was the main thread unable to respond to user input?
- What was the longest time a visitor might wait for a response?

But I’m most interested in what they tell us about script execution

Example ScriptTiming Entry


```
{
    "name": "script",
    "entryType": "script",
    "navigationId": "24906018-979c-465f-972d-a1039f81037f",
    "startTime": 8546.5,
    "duration": 94,
    "forcedStyleAndLayoutDuration": 2,
    "executionStart": 8546.5,
    "pauseDuration": 0,
    "invoker": "MessagePort.onmessage",
    "invokerType": "event-listener",
    "windowAttribution": "self",
    "sourceURL": “https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe/_next/static/chunks/a.js",
    "sourceFunctionName": "M",
    "sourceCharPosition": 98556
}
```

Example ScriptTiming Entry


```
{
    "name": "script",
    "entryType": "script",
    "navigationId": "24906018-979c-465f-972d
    "startTime": 8546.5,
    "duration": 94,
    "forcedStyleAndLayoutDuration": 2,
    "executionStart": 8546.5,
    "pauseDuration": 0,
    "invoker": "MessagePort.onmessage",
    "invokerType": "event-listener",
    "windowAttribution": "self",
    "sourceURL": “https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe/_next/static/chunks/a.js",
    "sourceFunctionName": "M",
    "sourceCharPosition": 98556
}
```


When the script executed, how long it executed for and whether it forced Layout and Style calculations

Example ScriptTiming Entry


```
{
    "name": "script",
    "entryType": "script",
    "navigationId": "24906018-979c-465f-972d-a1039f81037f",
    "startTime": 8546.5,
    "duration": 94,
    "forcedStyleAndLayoutDuration": 2
    "executionStart": 8546.5,
    "pauseDuration": 0,
    "invoker": "MessagePort.onmessage
    "invokerType": "event-listener",
    "windowAttribution": "self",
    "sourceURL": “https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe/_next/static/chunks/a.js",
    "sourceFunctionName": "M",
    "sourceCharPosition": 98556
}
```


When the script started executing and how long it paused for synchronous operations

Example ScriptTiming Entry


```
{
    "name": "script",
    "entryType": "script",
    "navigationId": "24906018-979c-465f-972d-a1039f81037f",
    "startTime": 8546.5,
    "duration": 94,
    "forcedStyleAndLayoutDuration": 2,
    "executionStart": 8546.5,
    "pauseDuration": 0,
    "invoker": "MessagePort.onmessage",
    "invokerType": "event-listener",
    "windowAttribution": "self",
    "sourceURL": “https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe/_next/static/chunks/a.js",
    "sourceFunctionName": "M",
    "sourceCharPosition": 98556
}
```

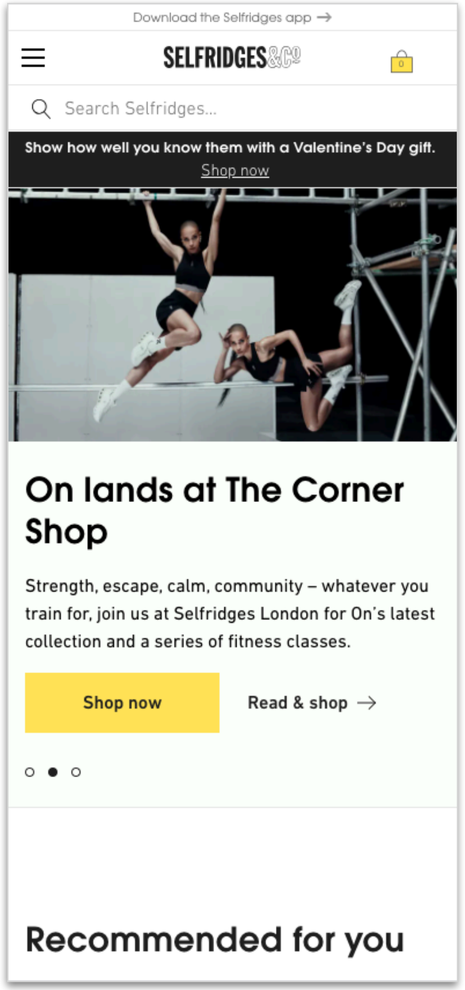

Why the script was executed

Example ScriptTiming Entry


```
{
    "name": "script",
    "entryType": "script",
    "navigationId": "24906018-979c-465f-972d-a1039f81037f",
    "startTime": 8546.5,
    "duration": 94,
    "forcedStyleAndLayou
    "executionStart": 85
    "pauseDuration": 0,
    "invoker": "MessagePort.onmessa
    "invokerType": "event-listener",
    "windowAttribution": "self",
    "sourceURL": “https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe/_next/static/chunks/a.js",
    "sourceFunctionName": "M",
    "sourceCharPosition": 98556
}
```


What script was executed and what was it’s entry point

May generate many entries per page



CPU Slowdown	**0x**	**4x**	**6x**
LOAF Entries	**21**	**32**	**37**
ScriptTiming Entries	**31**	**39**	**47**

For example only:

Real world values will depend on device CPU, network connectivity and duration of observation

Fortunately it’s easy to aggregate

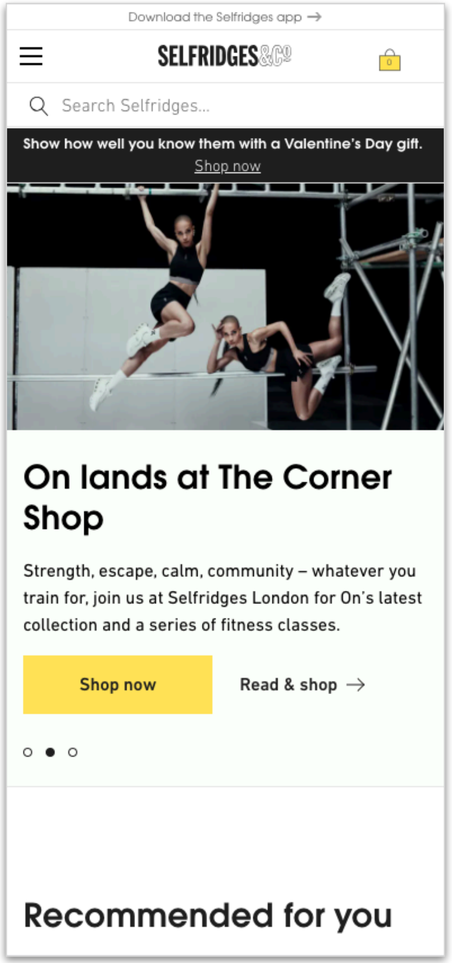
Script	Total Duration (ms)	Total ForcedStyleAndLayout Duration (ms)	Occurences
https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe-clp/_next/static/chunks/webpack-9d	1,729	0	1
https://js-cdn.dynatrace.com/jstag/164ae1b51de/bf67380nlf/fb4fc3f4b31ef	1,377	35	12
https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe-clp/_next/static/chunks/997-992c5b	1,134	0	9
https://www.selfridges.com/NL/en/	346	0	12
https://www.googletagmanager.com/gtag/js?id=G-R05V82D63H&l=gDataLa	284	0	1
https://www.googletagmanager.com/gtag/js?id=AW-989335448&l=gDataLa	280	0	3
https://t.contentsquare.net/uxa/20f13f9109b5d.js	147	0	4
https://www.selfridges.com/NL/en/features/etc/designs/zg/selfridges-new/e	128	1	2
https://analytics.tiktok.com/i18n/pixel/static/main.MTAxMGIxNjZiMA.js	67	0	1
https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag/selfridges/main/prod/utag.328.js?utv=ut4.51.2	53	0	1
https://www.googletagmanager.com/gtag/js?id=DC-5921516&l=gDataLayer	46	0	1
https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe-clp/_next/static/chunks/1dd3208c-e	24	0	4
https://f.monetate.net/trk/4/s/a-26b02505/p/selfridges.com/1308266154-0?	18	0	1
https://sb.monetate.net/img/1/p/1581/5518499.js/monetate.c.cr.js	10	0	1
https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe-clp/_next/static/chunks/662-deb68a	8	1	1
https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe-clp/_next/static/chunks/455-e8317e	7	0	1
https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe-clp/_next/static/chunks/61721e05-e	7	0	1
https://www.selfridges.com/static-mfe-clp/_next/static/chunks/d8ec93b9-b	6	0	1

Captured at 6x slowdown in Chrome DevTools

Can help us answer questions such as

- Which scripts have the most impact on visitors experience?
- Which scripts are forcing style and layout operations?
- Which scripts delay FCP or LCP?
- Are my 1st Party or 3rd-party scripts a problem?

Are 3rd-party tags really the problem?



	1st Party	3rd Party
Total Script Duration (ms)	**7,430**	**2,282**

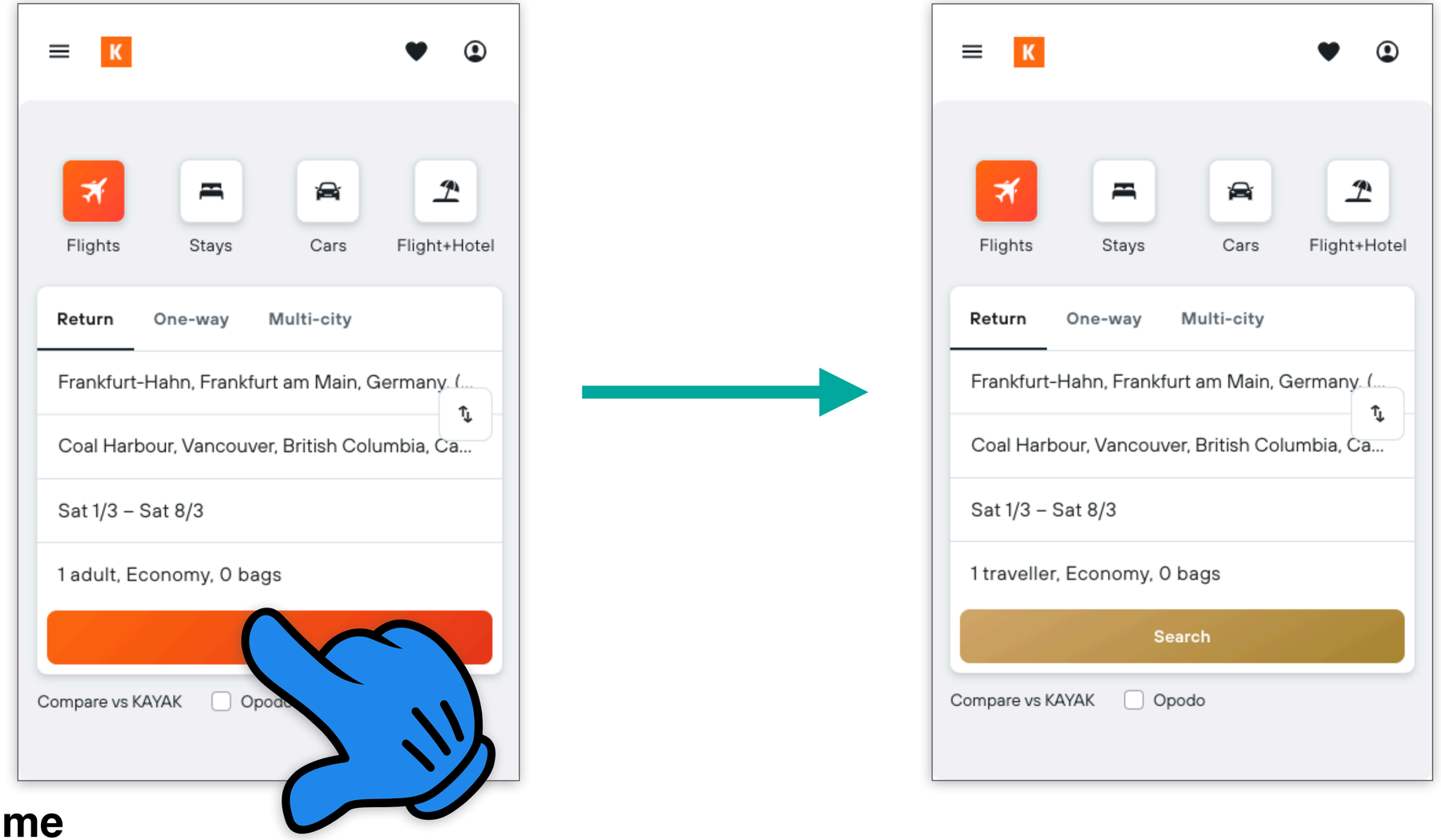
Captured at 6x slowdown in Chrome DevTools

LoAF can help with slow interactions too

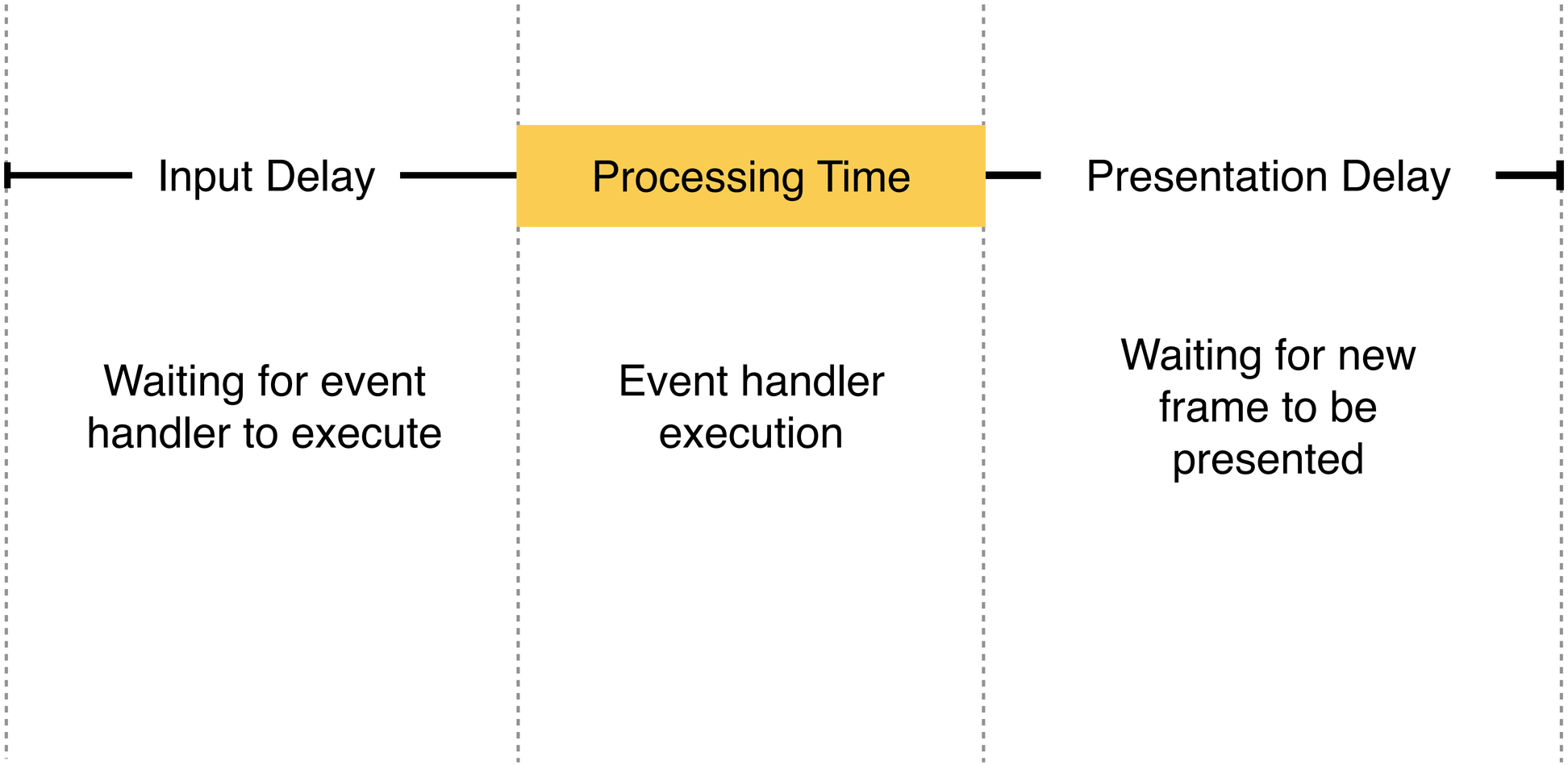
Photo by Nik on Unsplash

Interaction to Next Paint (INP)

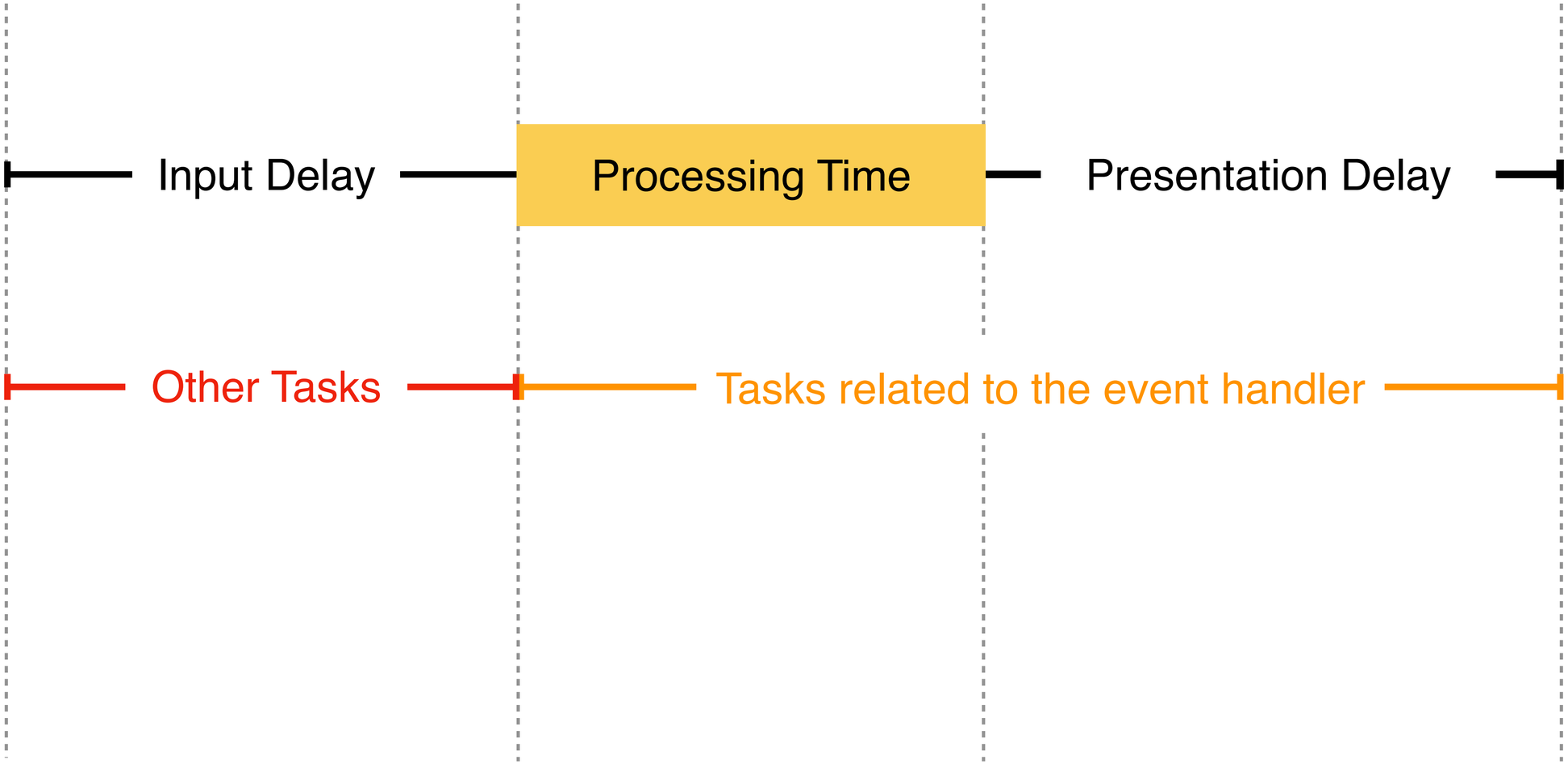
Time between a visitor interacting and the next frame being presented



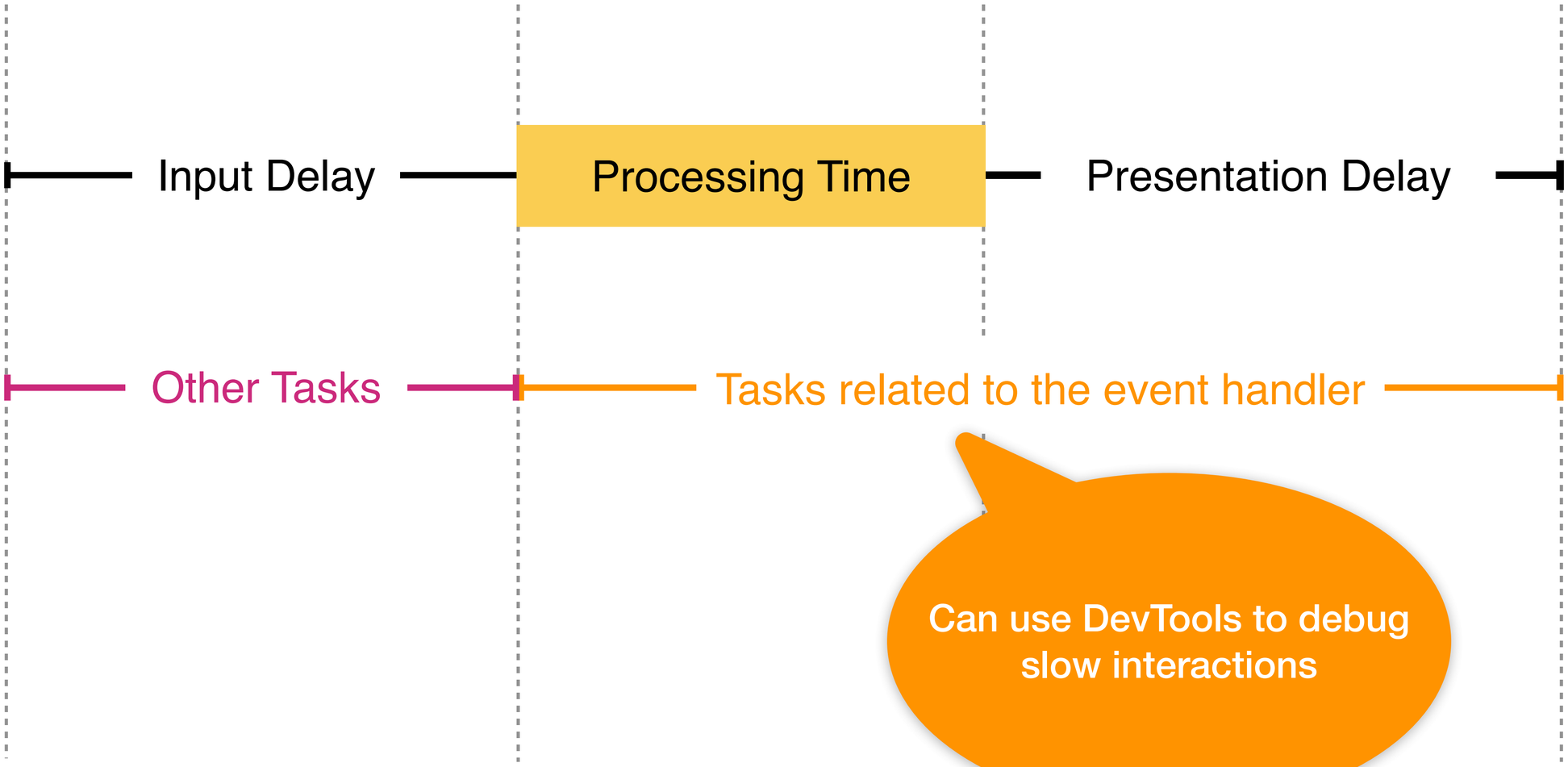
INP has Three Phases



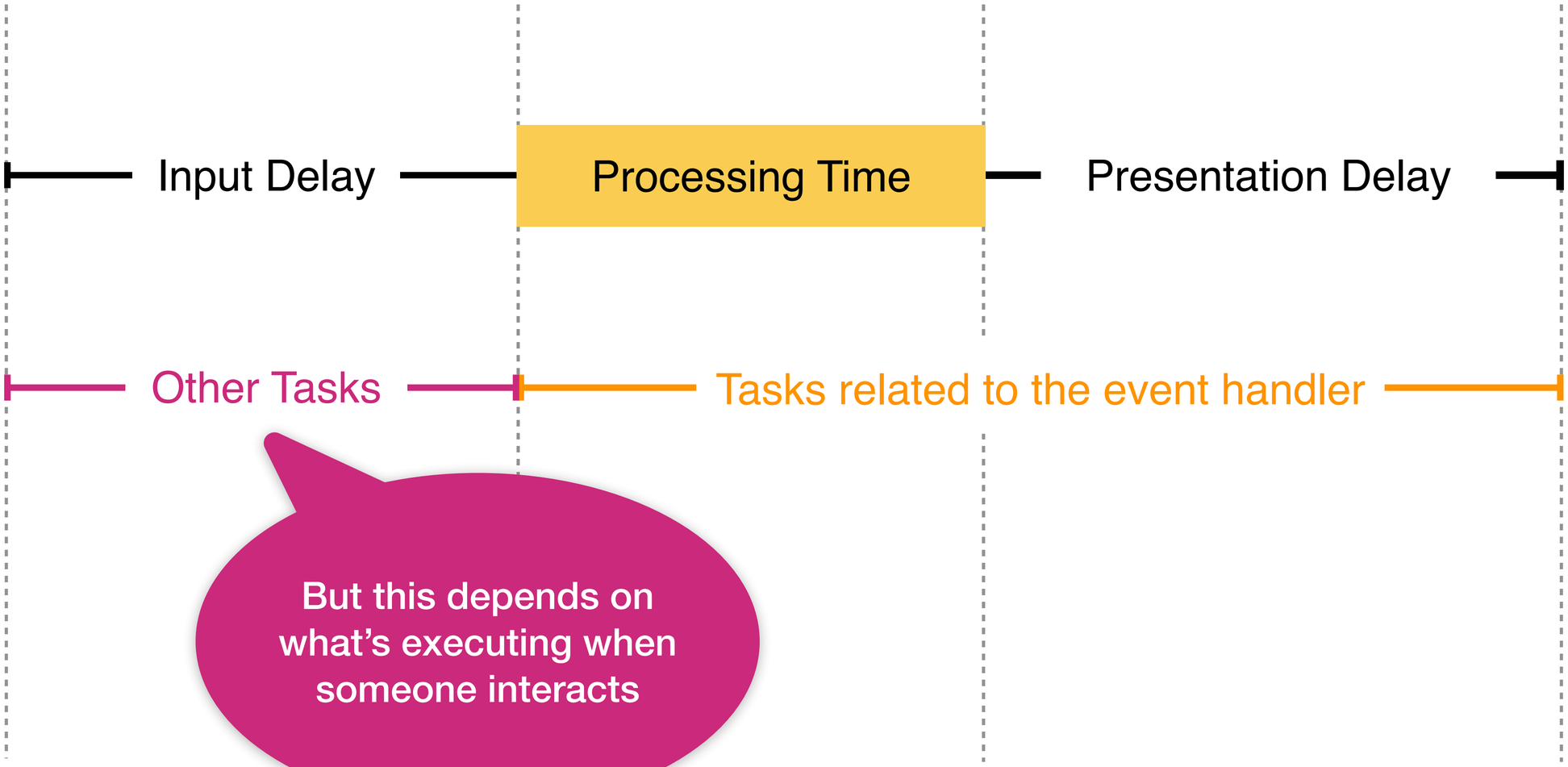
INP has Three Phases



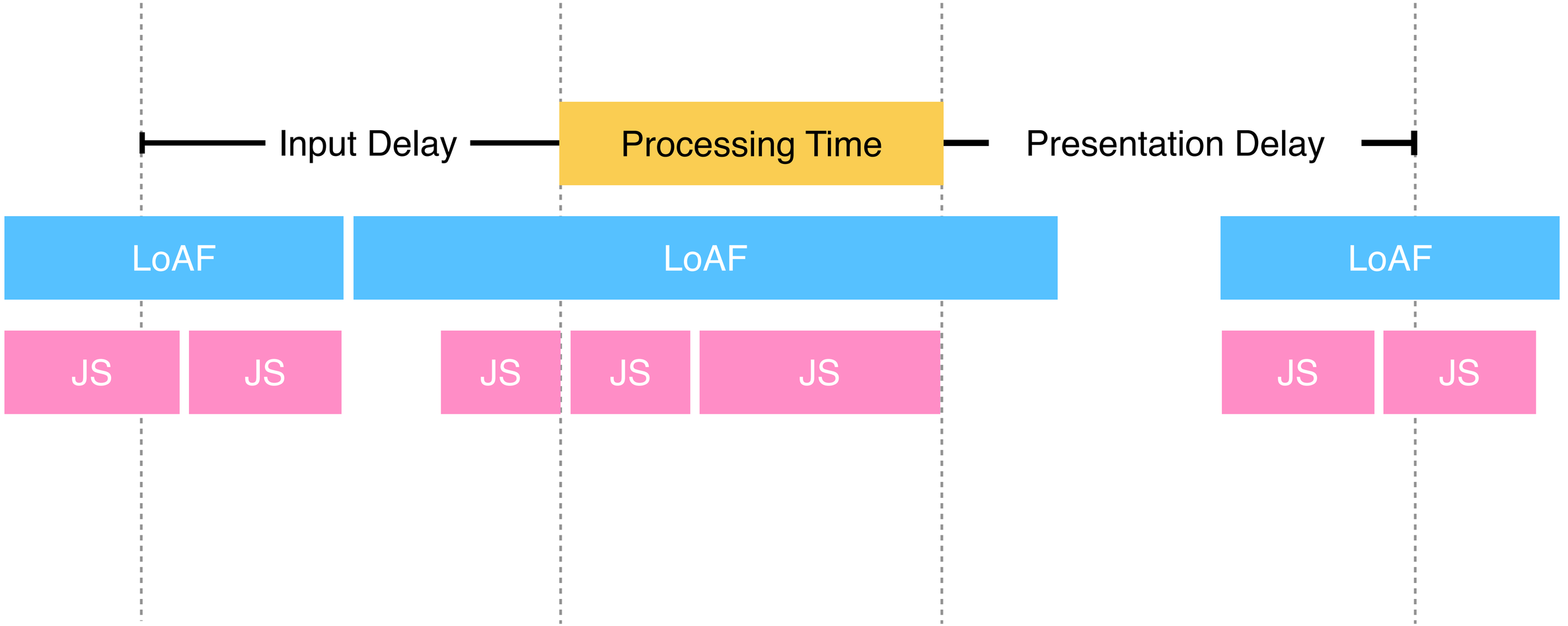
INP has Three Phases



INP has Three Phases

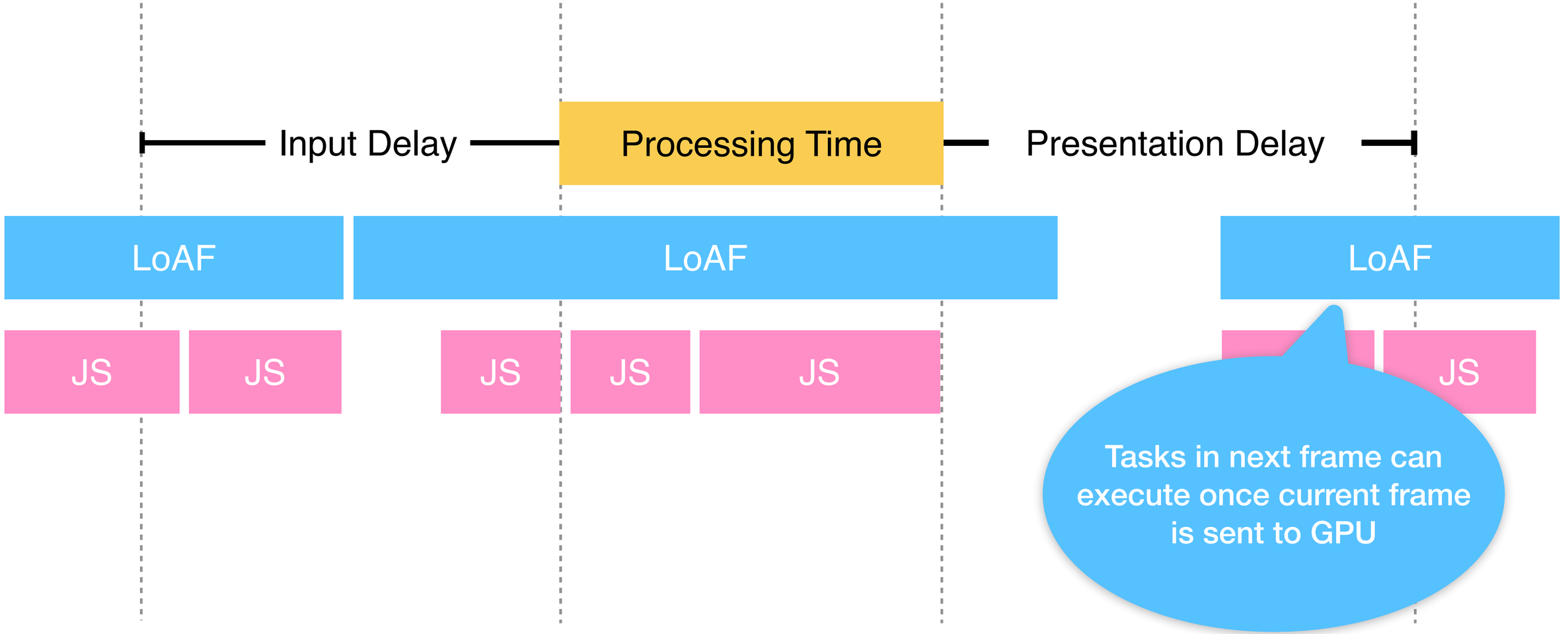


Identifying relevant scripts

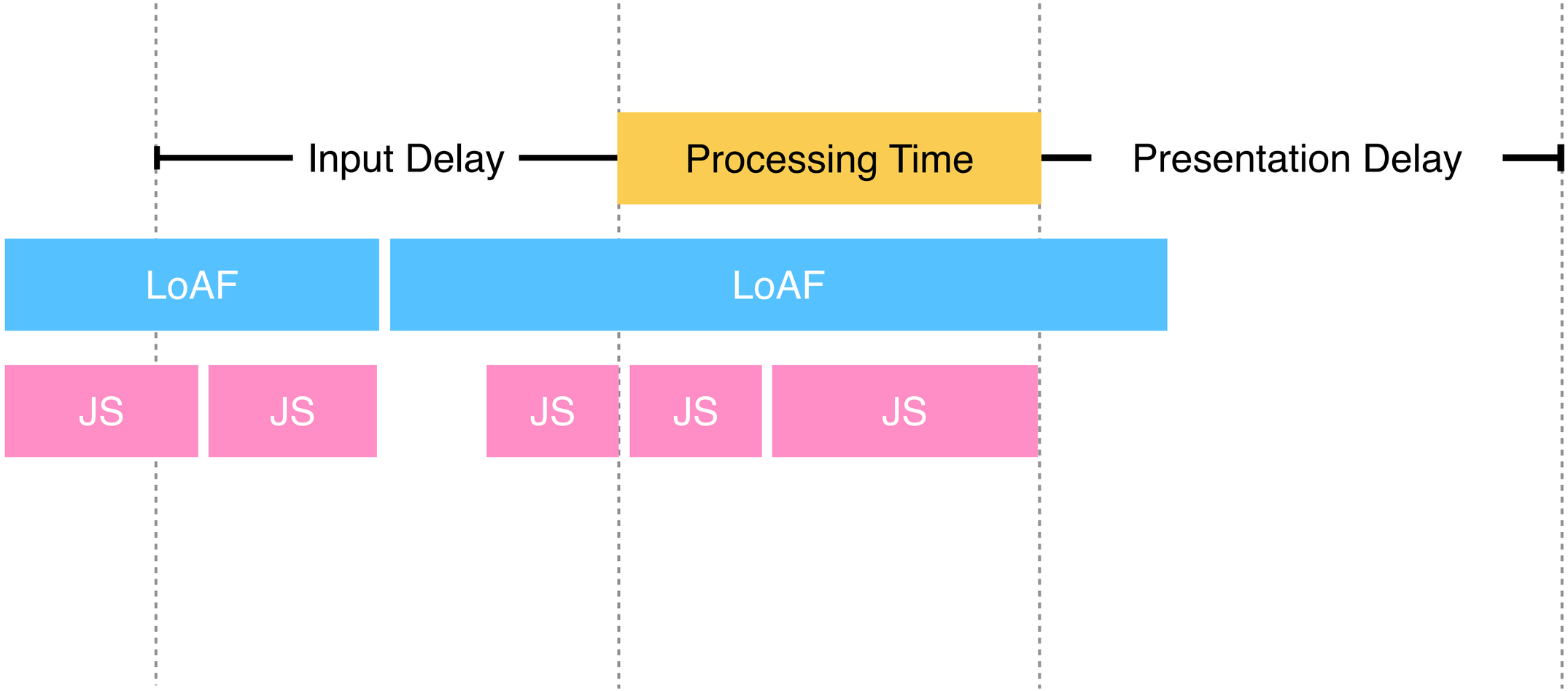


Identifying relevant scripts

1. Discard LoAFs that end after the INP window

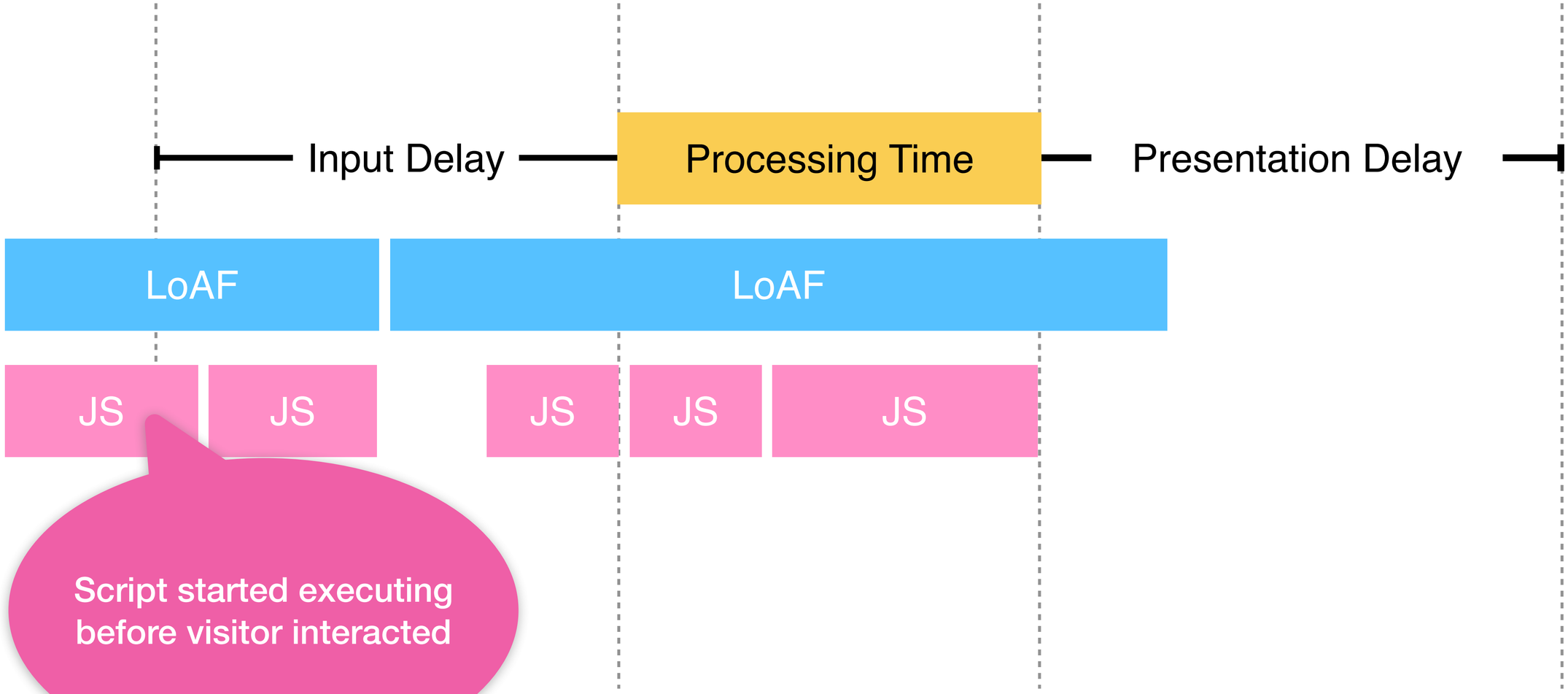


Identifying relevant scripts

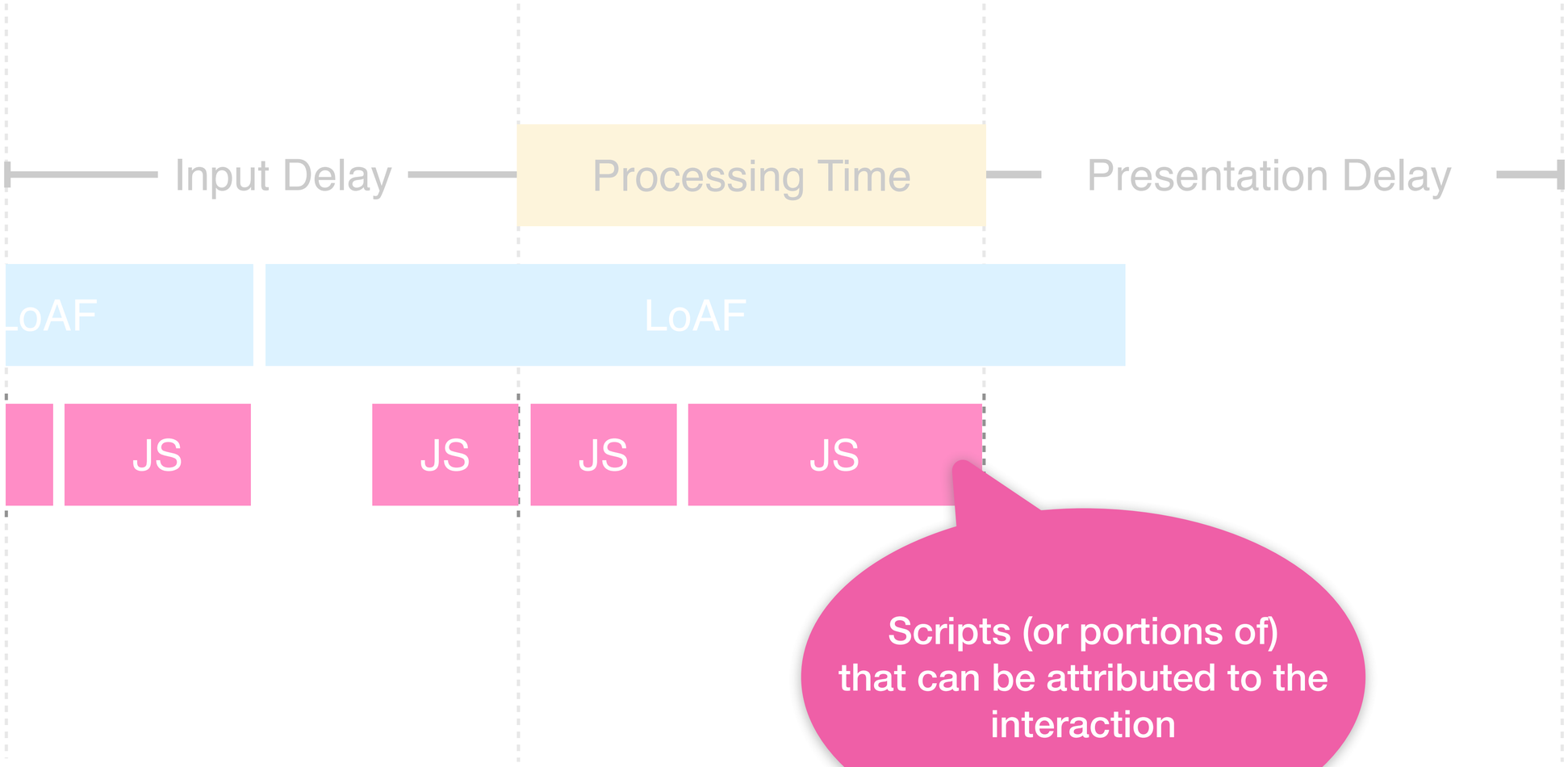


Identifying relevant scripts

2. Only portion of script that executed within the INP window is relevant



Identifying relevant scripts



Map to INP phases using timestamps

(No direct way to link EventTiming and LoAF entries)

phase	invoker	invokerType	entryPoint	duration (ms)	sourceURL
ID	https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag	classic-script		119	https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag/selfridges/main/p
ID	SCRIPT[src=//tags.tiqcdn.co	event-listener		10	
ID	#document.ontouchstart	event-listener		5	https://js-cdn.dynatrace.com/jstag/164ae1b51
ID	#document.ontouchstart	event-listener		12	https://www.selfridges.com/NL/en/features/et
PT	BODY#selfridges-app.onclic	event-listener		12	https://www.selfridges.com/NL/en/features/et

Can help us answer questions such as

- How are scripts affecting our visitors interactions?
- Which scripts have have the most impact across all interactions?
- Which are our slowest interaction handlers?
- Which scripts commonly delay our interaction handlers

There may be gaps in the data

phase	invoker	invokerType	entryPoint	duration (ms)	sourceURL
ID	https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag	classic-script		119	https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag/selfridges/main/p
ID	SCRIPT[src=//tags.tiqcdn.co	event-listener		10	
ID	#document.ontouchstart	event-listener		5	https://js-cdn.dynatrace.com/jstag/164ae1b51
ID	#document.ontouchstart	event-listener		12	https://www.selfridges.com/NL/en/features/et
PT	BODY#selfridges-app.onclic	event-listener		12	https://www.selfridges.com/NL/en/features/et

There may be gaps in the data

phase	invoker	invokerType	entryPoint	duration (ms)	sourceURL
ID	https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag	classic-script		119	https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag/selfridges/main/p
ID	SCRIPT[src=//tags.tiqcdn.co	event-listener		10	
ID	#document.ontouchstart	event-listener		5	https://js-cdn.dynatrace.com/jstag/164ae1b51
ID	#document.ontouchstart	event-listener			ps://www.selfridges.com/NL/en/features/et
PT	BODY#selfridges-app.onclic	event-listener			www.selfridges.com/NL/en/features/et

Entry points may be empty or minified function names

There may be gaps in the data

phase	invoker	invokerType	entryPoint	duration (ms)	sourceURL
ID	https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag	classic-script		119	https://tags.tiqcdn.com/utag/selfridges/main/p
ID	SCRIPT[src=//tags.tiqcdn.co	event-listener		10	
ID	#document.ontouchstart	event-listener		5	https://…om/istag/164ae1b51
ID	#document.ontouchstart	event-listener		12	https:…/features/et
PT	BODY#selfridges-app.onclic	event-listener		12	htt…atures/et

Sometimes sourceURLs are empty

There may be gaps in the data

Currently there’s no Script Timing entries for:

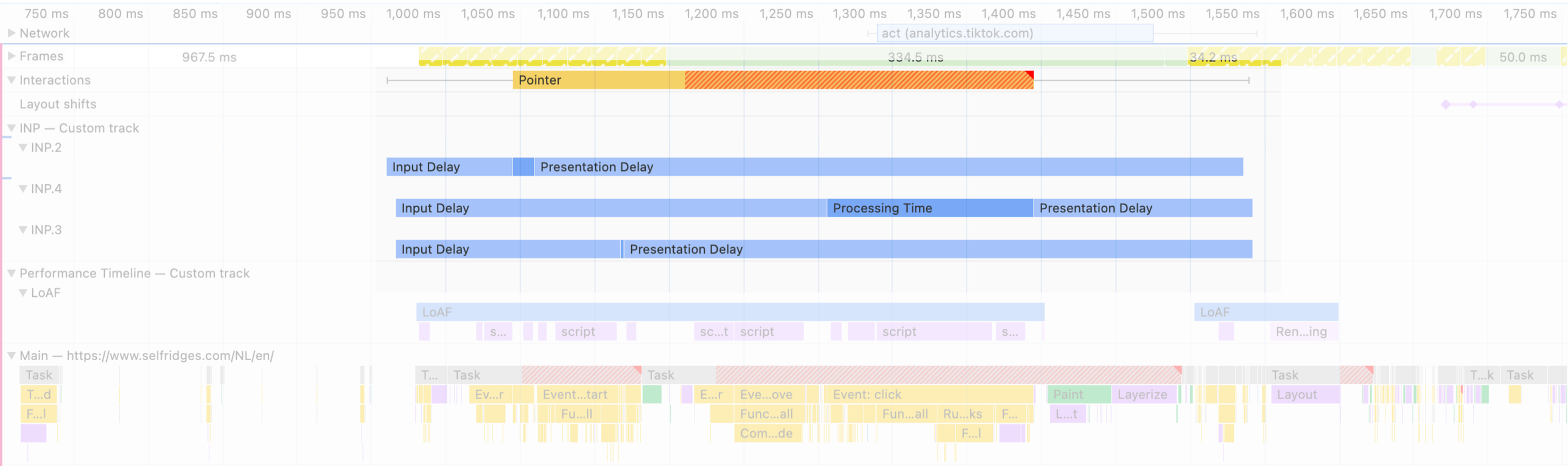
- extensions (for privacy reasons)
- garbage collection

We may get opaque attribution for these at some point in the future

Times are also ‘coarsened’ for privacy / security reasons

DevTools combines interactions in the same frame

And so does web-vitals.js for script attribution… I have reservations…

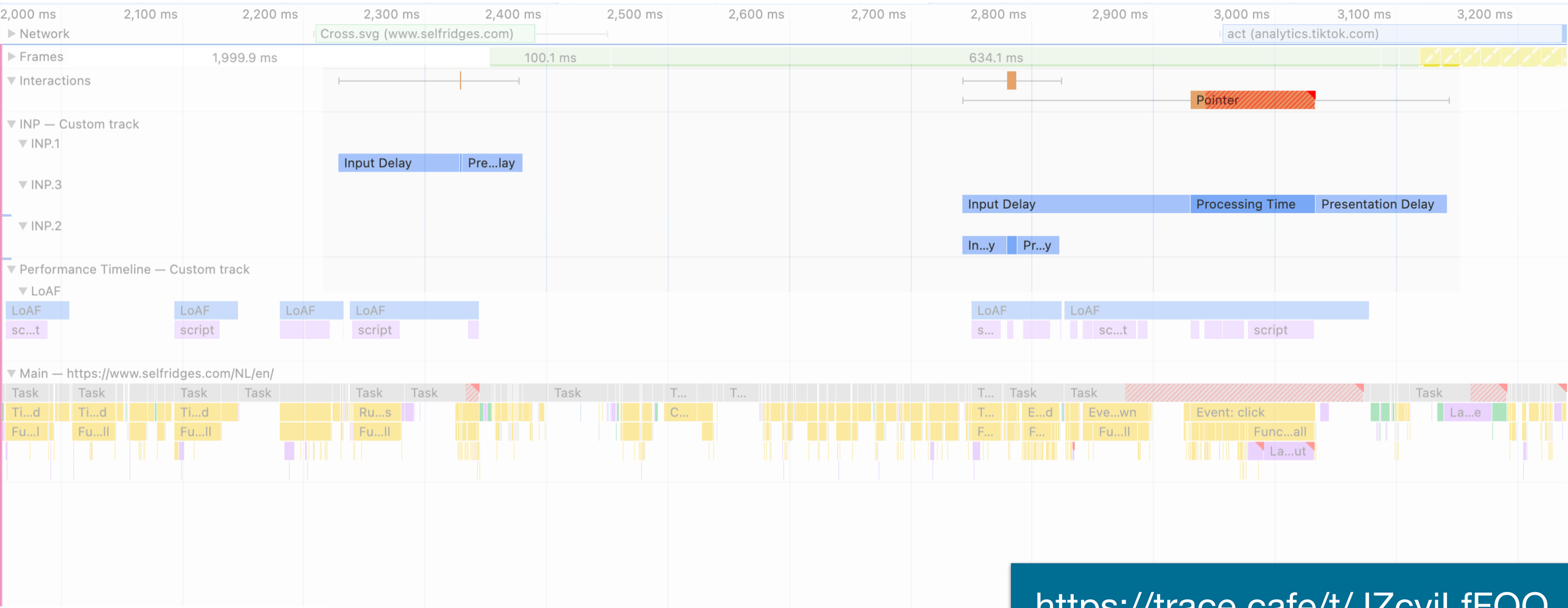


https://trace.cafe/t/GNFeZJrGVU

@andydavies.me

Same interaction but slightly longer pointer down

Speed of interaction may affect the phase a script is attributed to



https://trace.cafe/t/JZcyiLfFQO

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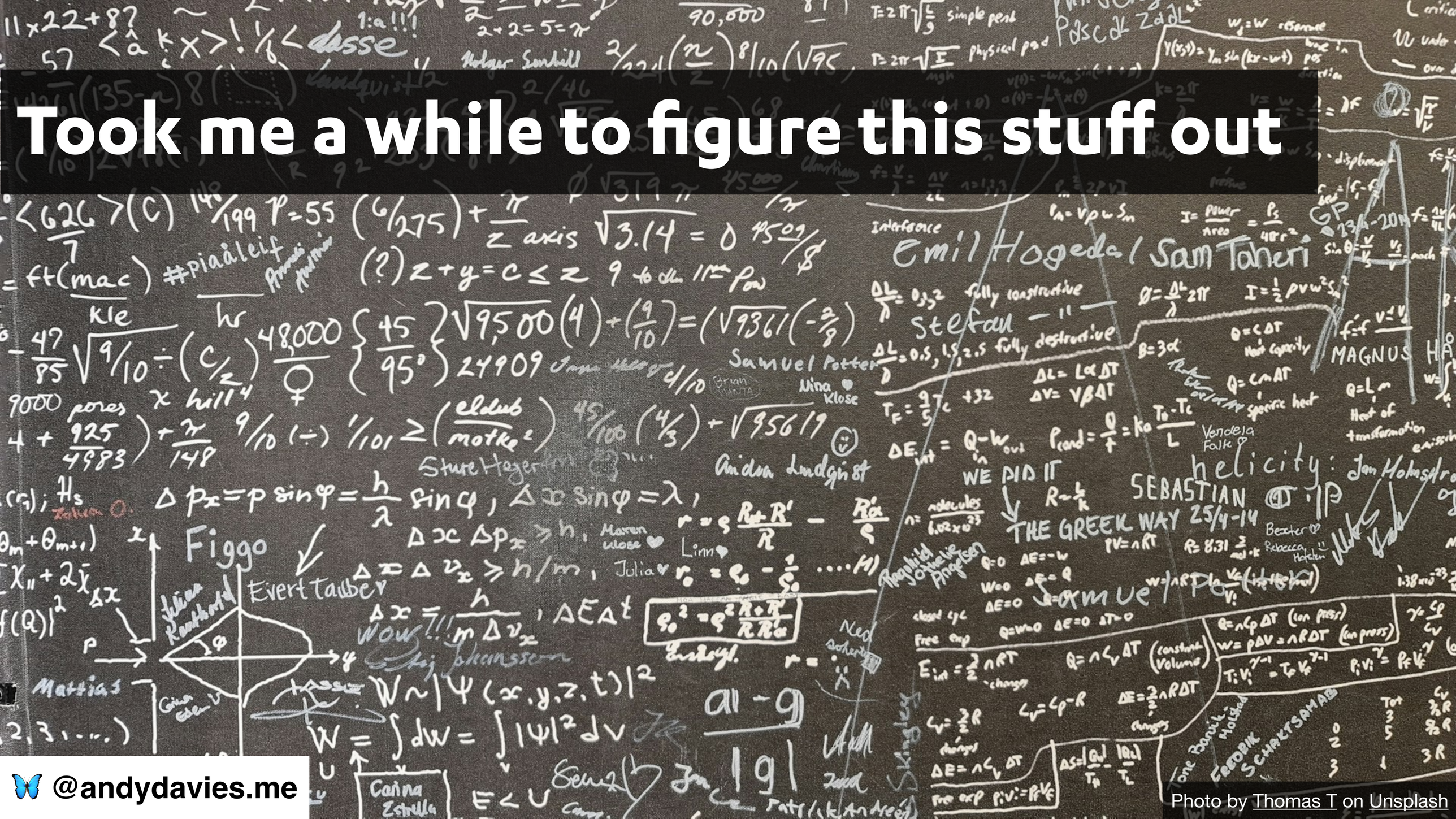
Took me a while to figure this stuff out



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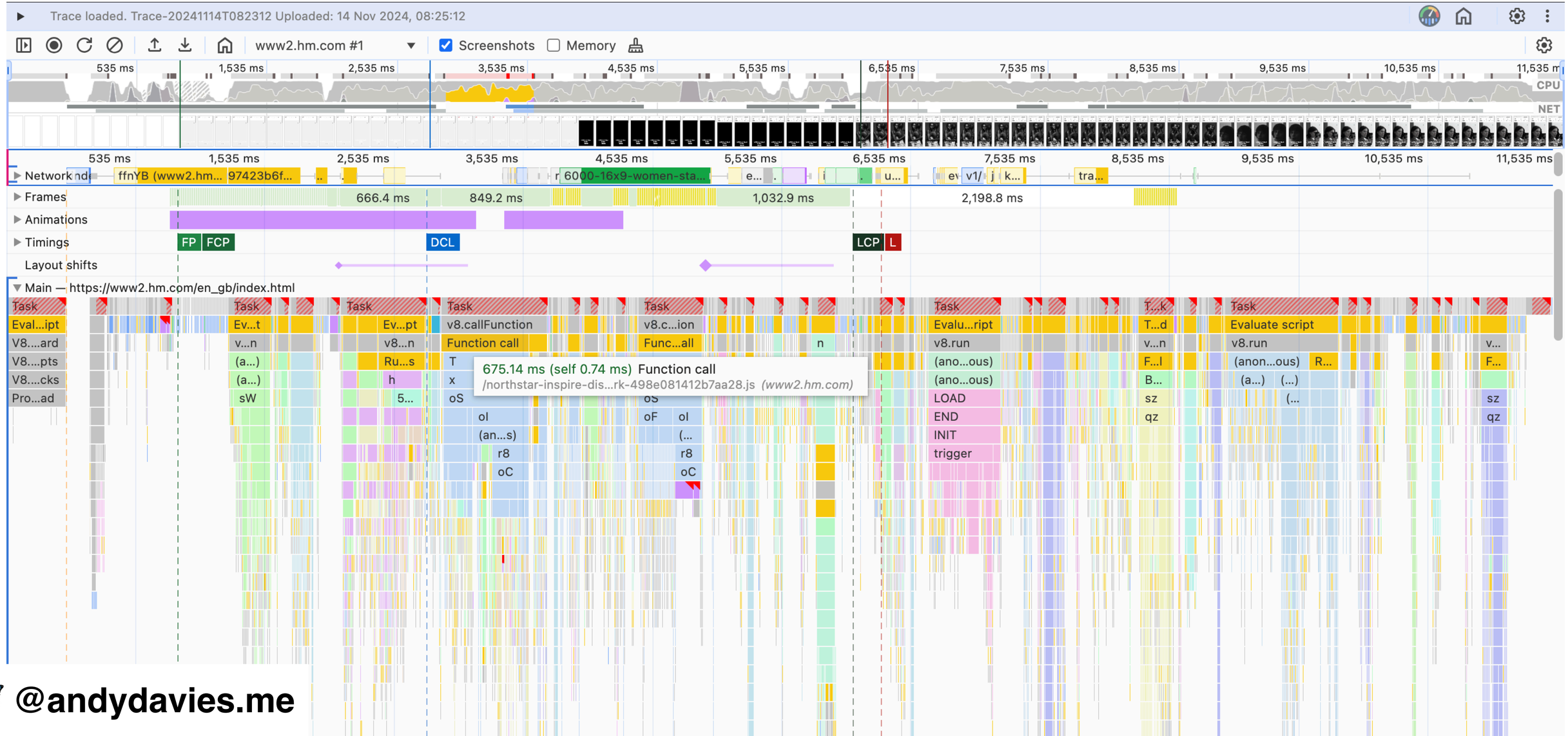
Tried visualising the data

Hard to match with Main Thread activity



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Customize your performance data with extensibility API


Andrés Olivares


Sofia Emelianova

Overview

The **Performance** panel supports the performance extensibility API that lets you add your own custom data to the performance timeline.

This API leverages the exi

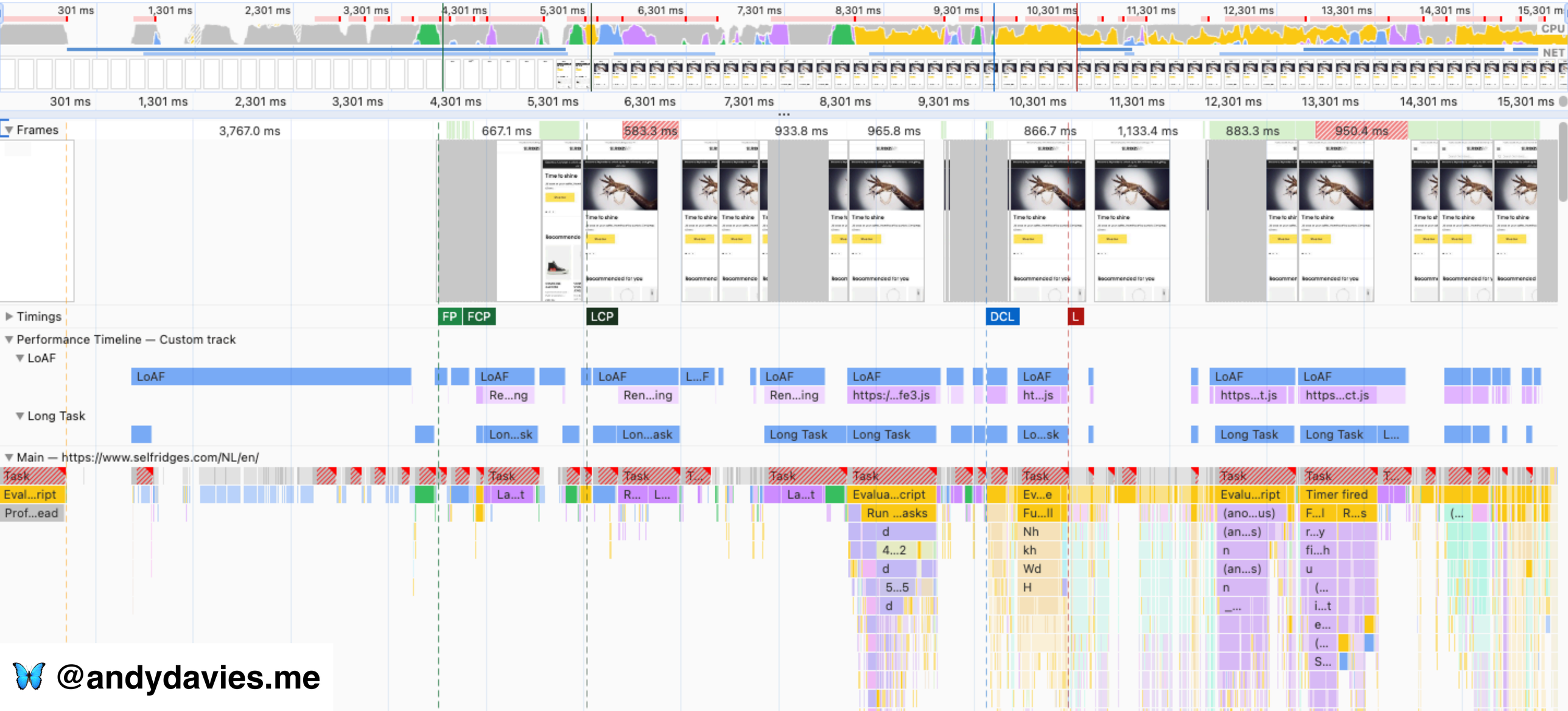
https://developer.chrome.com/docs/devtools/performance/extension

ıe as a custom track or in the **Timings** track. This may be useful for developers of frameworks,

```
const observer = new PerformanceObserver((list) => {
    for (const entry of list.getEntries()) {
        performance.measure('LoAF', {
          start: entry.startTime,
          end: entry.startTime + entry.duration,
          detail: {
            devtools: {
              dataType: 'track-entry',
              track: 'LoAF',
              trackGroup: 'Performance Timeline',
              color: 'secondary',
              tooltipText: 'LoAF'
            }
          }
        });
      }
    });

observer.observe({ type: 'long-animation-frame', buffered: true });
```

Build an extension... profile pages...



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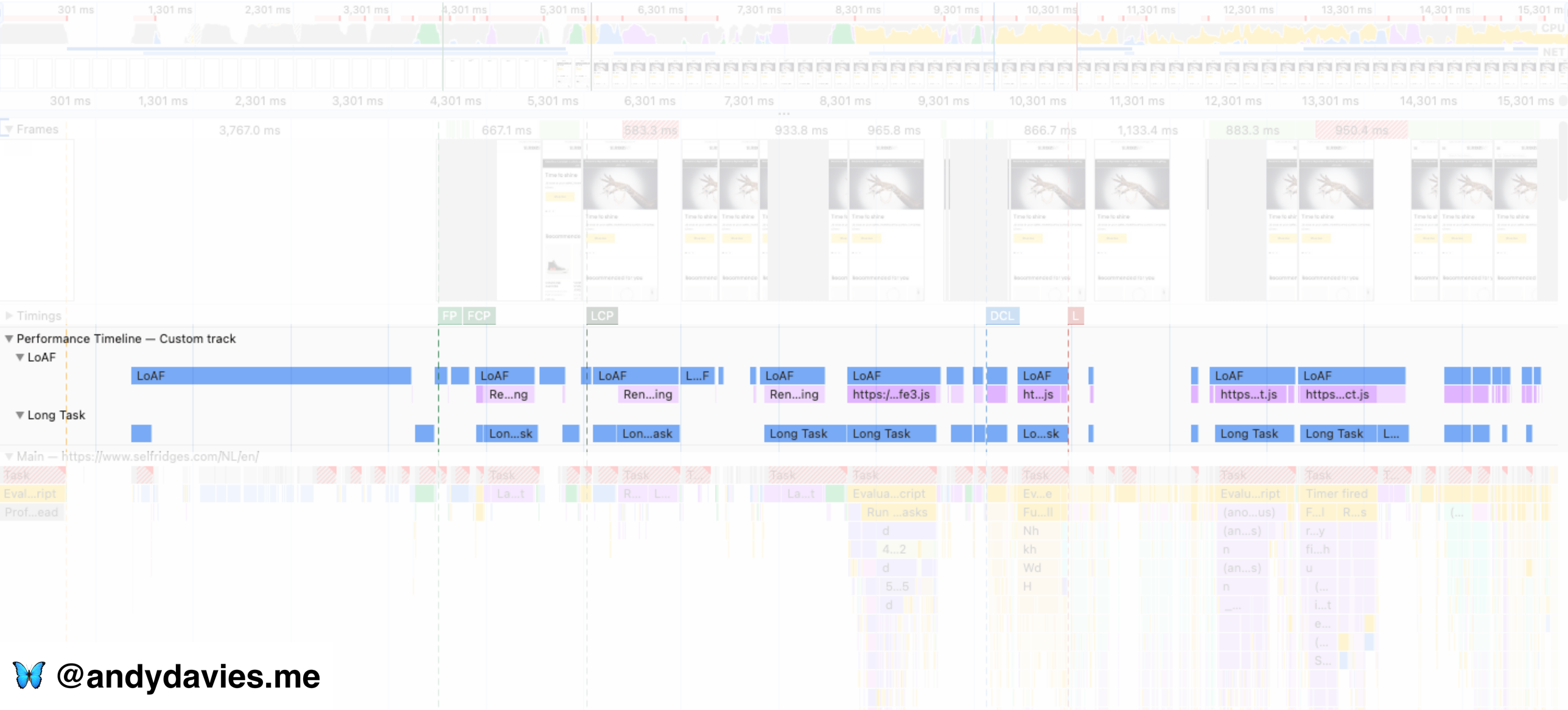
Build an extension... profile pages...



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andydavies / perf-timeline-to-devtools-profile

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main 1 Branch 0 Tags Go to file t Add file Code

andydavies Update readme 275d6c6 · 2 months ago 5 Commits

images	Update readme	2 months ago
LICENSE	Initial commit	2 months ago
README.md	Update readme	2 months ago
content-script.js	Add more detail to LoAF and script timing events. Normali...	2 months ago
manifest.json	Initial commit	2 months ago

README MIT license

perf-timeline-to-devtools-profile

Chrome Extension that creates a custom track in the DevTools Performance Panel populated with entries from the Performance Timeline

visualise the LoAF

observers for the following Events and adds performance marks / measures annotated with

About

Creates custom DevTools Performance Panel populated with entries from the Performance Timeline

Readme
MIT license
Activity
7 stars
1 watching
0 forks

Releases

No releases published
Create a new release

Packages

No packages published

https://github.com/andydavies/perf-timeline-to-devtools-profile

@andydavies.me

Helped identify some missing attributions

@andydavies.me

I Like Long Animation Frames

They give us an insight into the runtime costs of the code we ship

And allow us to indentify our problem scripts

Within the context of our visitors environment

Feel like I’ve just scratched the surface…

… and there’s more for LoAF to reveal

🦋 @andydavies.me

Areas to explore

- What can LoAF tells us about the work that’s needed before FCP or LCP?
- How much Style and Layout work is happening?
- What’s the overhead of script compilation?
- How much synchronous work are our scripts doing?

Further Reading

W3C Spec
https://w3c.github.io/long-animation-frames/

MDN
https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Performance_API/Long_animation_frame_timing

Chrome Developers
https://developer.chrome.com/docs/web-platform/long-animation-frames

Thanks!

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