What makes a good domain specific language?

- I don't know!
- "know it when I use it"
- Some heuristics
- Let's discover some more . . .



Exercise: The Store

- Teams of 3-5
- I customer
- Specify website (front end)
 - Find products
 - Add to cart
 - Checkout (payment, shipping, discounts, etc)
 - NOT admin or notifications





Hints

- Any representation
- Separate concerns
- Partial solution (why?)
- Write down something quickly, and then refactor it
- "Wrong" beats nothing!





May have noticed:

- It's hard!
- Domain expert required
- Tends towards GPL
- Hard to scope language small enough
- Start with specific example statements
- Visual vs textual
- Bounded vs. unbounded
- Lots of little languages
- Unambiguous, expressive
- Fluent interfaces (vs terse or api)
- Learn from others (XML schema, OSS solutions ...) Systems Forge



Custom Web Application Development