

The Latest Style

A Jump Start Guide to Designing with CSS

What is CSS?

Cascading Style Sheets is a means to separate the **presentation** from the **structural markup** of a web site. By applying a CSS style you have the ability to keep the structure of your document lean and fast, while controlling the appearance of the content.

Why Use CSS?

1. By editing a single CSS file, you can make sitewide design changes in seconds.
2. CSS lets you output to multiple formats quickly.
3. CSS lets you use logical names for page elements. You can, for example, give a DIV the name "header", or a H1 the class "headline". It's self-describing.
4. External CSS files are cached by browsers, improving load time.
5. CSS eliminates the need for messy code -- namely font tags, spacer gifs and nested tables. This improves load time and makes developers' lives easier.
6. CSS lets you do things normal HTML doesn't. Examples: better font control, absolute positioning, nifty borders.
7. Practical use of CSS encourages proper HTML structure, which will improve accessibility and search engine placement.
8. CSS's :hover PseudoClass cuts down on the need to use JavaScript onmouseover calls.

If a site reduces its markup weight by 35%, it reduces its bandwidth costs by the same amount.

Real World Examples

Commercial Websites

www.espn.com
www.pga.com/openchampionship/
www.wired.com
www.fastcompany.com

www.inc.com
www.quark.com
www.cingular.com
www.phish.com

Learning to use CSS?

There are three ways to include CSS in a Document.

1. Inline
2. Embedded
3. External (The preferred method)

The basics of Style Sheets

- Selectors (Body, H1, Table, Form, .headline, .rows, #content, #leftbar)
- Properties
 - Text
 - Backgrounds
 - Borders
 - Margin/Padding
 - Page Layout
 - Element Types
 - User Interface
 - Generated Content
 - Printing
 - Values

ESPN Savings

Page reduction (est.): 50KB

Page views/day: 40,000,000

Projected bandwidth savings:

- *2 terabytes/day*
- *61 terabytes/month*
- *730 terabytes/year*

Assigning selectors

- Element
- Class
- ID
- Inheritance reduces redundancy of code and file size because a rule only needs to be declared once for multiple instances.
- Pseudo-Class
 - Link (a:link) Applies to an unvisited hyperlink
 - Visited (a:visited) Applies to a visited hyperlink
 - First-child ((Elem):first-child) Applies to the first child/descendent of an element
 - Active ((Elem):active) The state during pointer activation (eg: press and release of a mouse)
 - Hover ((Elem):hover) The state during pointer movement within the rendering region of an element
- Pseudo-Element
 - First-letter ((Elem):first-letter) Indicates the first rendered letter/character for a block-level element
 - First-line ((Elem):first-line) Indicates the first rendered line on the output device of a block-level element

Tableless Layout Why?

- Semantics: (not intended for layout according to W3C recommendations)
- Accessibility: (Some devices struggle. Screen readers, some browsers, cellphones, TV browsers.)
- Efficiency: Only one file to edit, less page weight.

How to go tableless?

- Use Div tag <div>
- The positioning property.
 - Top
 - Left
 - Right
 - Bottom
 - z-index

- The float property.
 - Float: right or left
 - Clear

The Future of CSS

CSS2

```
body:lang(en){font-size: 12px;}
body:lang(es){font-size: 11px;}
```

CSS3

So if one wants to set the border for images from a particular:

```
img(src*='artwork'){
  border-color: #C3B087 #FFF #FFF #C3B087;}
```

:root is generic, it allows a designer to select the root element of an XML document without necessarily knowing it's name. To permit scrollbars when needed in a document, this rule would work:

```
:root{overflow:auto;}
```

Alternate Colors in a table row.

```
tr:nth-child(odd){background-color: maroon;}
tr:nth-child(even){background-color: tan;}
```

How Does IDI Move Forward?

www.americanlongevity.net
www.cougarconnexions.com -Portal Pages
www.arrayexpress.net
 IBOCity 4.0
 ARRAY Express Engine

Resources to help you with CSS

List of CSS properties and selectors: <http://www.blooberry.com/indexdot/css/index.html>

CSS templates and other stuff: <http://css-discuss.incutio.com/>

CSS Inspiration: www.csszengarden.com

Support Charts:

<http://devedge.netscape.com/library/xref/2003/css-support/>

<http://macedition.com/cb/resources/abridgedcsssupport.html>

Book: *HTML Utopia: Designing Without Tables Using CSS* by Dan Shafer. (IDI has purchased a copy and should be getting it soon) <http://www.sitepoint.com/books/css1/>

Book: *Designing With Web Standards* by Jeffrey Zeldman

<http://www.zeldman.com/dwws/>

Sources used in this presentation:

<http://www.blooberry.com/indexdot/css/index.html>

<http://www.zeldman.com/>

<http://devedge.netscape.com/viewsource/2003/espn-interview/01/>

<http://css-discuss.incutio.com/>

<http://www.xml.com/pub/a/2003/06/18/css3-selectors.html?page=1>