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Basic Cascading Style Sheets

CSS

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Course Objectives

- Student will understand what a style sheet is.
- Student will be able to make simple text links behave in advanced ways using a very simple style sheet.

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Course Outline

- Why Cascading Style Sheets.

- Basic concepts of style sheets.

- Examine a simple style sheet.

- Build a text based navigation system using the simple style sheet.

- Demonstrate how changes to style sheets affect the look of the page.

Why Cascading Style Sheets

- Commonly known as CSS.
- Mark up languages like Style sheets have been around for a long time.
- Increasingly important on the internet.
- Very powerful..
- Encourage consistency in look and feel of web pages.
- Provide features that would be hard to achieve any other way.

Concepts of Style Sheets

- Separate page content from how the information is displayed.

- Style sheet is a separate file.

- Style sheets can effect more than one page.

- Each page must reference the style sheet.

- Style sheets are like a programming language.

Examples of Style Sheets

- These are advanced examples, bragging rights for geeks.
  - http://www.csszengarden.com/
  - Separate content.
  - Separate style sheet.
- Online training
  - http://w3schools.com/
- *The style sheet for this course will be much simpler!*

Overview of Today's Example

- Making text links that behave like graphical buttons.
  - Easier to maintain.
  - Better for search engine optimization.
- Remove the default underlining.
- Change the font and the color.
- Change "mouse over" behaviors.

Preparations to Facilitate Work

- Use the text editor to edit the style sheet.

- Use two browsers.

  - One to view the page.

  - One to make the changes to the style sheet.

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Review Our Simple Style Sheet

- Syntax (funny characters) is important.

- Class names.

- Links have 4 states or conditions.

  - In the beginning.

  - Hover.

  - Visited.

  - Active.

- Some characteristics of all states.

- Special characteristics for some states.

Build Navigation Header

- Starting with page partial completed.

- This page will become the header.

- Add text blocks, adding the class name.

  - Note: each block can have different class name.

- Activate the style sheet in the head code of page options.

- Demonstrate how changing the style sheet effects the page.

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Conclusion

- This is a very simple style sheet.
- For the beginner this will take some patience.
- This can be some fun.
- Use wisdom. Just because you can do something does not mean you should.
- EZ-NetTools – complexity versus simplicity.
- This is an advanced feature. Tech support help will be limited.