Cascading Style Sheets

Introduction to CSS (CSS2)

- A **style sheet** is a collection of formatting rules that can be applied to multiple HTML documents
- it acts as a template, allows the same look for each occurrence of a particular element;
- it can be contained in a separate file, referenced with a <LINK REL="stylesheet"> tag, or embedded within an HTML document by using a <STYLE> tag

CSS Example



CSS Rules

- A CSS rule consists of two main parts: selector (e.g. 'H1') and declaration (e.g. 'color: blue'); the declaration has two parts: property (e.g. 'color') and value (e.g. 'blue')
- A selector is a chain of one or more simple selectors separated by combinators; combinators are: whitespace, ">", and "+"; whitespace may appear between a combinator and the simple selectors around it.
- If all conditions in the selector are true for a certain element, the selector *matches* the element

Selector Grouping

- When several selectors share the same declarations, they may be grouped into a comma-separated list; example:
 - we condense three rules with identical declarations into one:
 - H1 { font-family: sans-serif }
 - H2 { font-family: sans-serif }
 - H3 { font-family: sans-serif }
 - is equivalent to:
 - H1, H2, H3 { font-family: sans-serif }

Universal Selector and Type Selector

- The universal selector, written "*", matches the name of any element type; it matches any single element in the document tree
- If the universal selector is not the only component of a simple selector, the "*" may be omitted; for example:
 - *[LANG=fr] and [LANG=fr] are equivalent - *.warning and .warning are equivalent
 - *#myid and #myid are equivalent
- A type selector matches the name of a document language element type; a type selector matches every instance of the element type in the document tree; e.g. the following rule matches all H1 elements in the document tree: H1 { font-family: sans-serif }

Descendant Selector

• To match an element that is the descendant of another element in the document tree; made up of two or more selectors separated by whitespace; a descendant selector of the form "A B" matches when an element B is an arbitrary descendant of some ancestor element A; e.g.:

consider the following rules: H1 { color: red } EM { color: red }

although the intention of these rules is to add emphasis to text by changing its color, the effect will be lost in a case such as: <H1>This headline is very important</H1>

we address this case by supplementing the previous rules with a rule that sets the text color to blue whenever an EM occurs anywhere within an H1: H1 { color: red } EM { color: ferd } H1 EM { color: blue }

Child Selector and Adjacent Sibling Selector

- A child selector matches when an element is the child of some element; a child selector is made up of two or more selectors separated by ">"; e.g. the following rule sets the style of all P elements that are children of BODY: BODY > P { line-height: 1.3 }
- Adjacent sibling selectors have the syntax: E1 + E2, where E2 is the subject of the selector; matches if E1 and E2 share the same parent in the document tree and E1 immediately precedes E2, e.g. the following rule states that when a P element immediately follows a MATH element, it should not be indented:

MATH + P { text-indent: 0 }

Attribute Selectors

- Attribute selectors allows authors to specify rules that match attributes defined in the source document; may match in four ways:
 - [att] match when the element sets the "att" attribute, whatever the value of the attribute
 - [att=val] match when the element's "att" attribute value is exactly "val"
 - [att~=val] match when the element's "att" attribute value is a space-separated list of "words", one of which is exactly "val"
 - [att] =val] match when the element's "att" attribute value is a hyphen-separated list of "words", beginning with "val"
 Example, the selector matches all P elements whose "align" attribute

example, the selector matches all P elements whose "align" attribut has exactly the value "center":

P[align=center] { color: blue }

Class Selectors

 For style sheets used with HTML, authors may use the dot (.) notation as an alternative to the "~=" notation when matching on the "class" attribute; e.g. the following assigns style to H1 elements with class~="pastoral":

H1.pastoral { color: green }

- given these rules, the first H1 instance below would not have green text, while the second would:
 - <H1>Not green</H1>

<H1 class="pastoral">Very green</H1>

 to match a subset of "class" values, each value must be preceded by a ".", in any order; e.g. the following rule matches any P element whose "class" attribute has been assigned a list of space-separated values that includes "pastoral" and "marine":

P.pastoral.marine { color: green }

(This rule matches when class="pastoral blue aqua marine" but does not match for class="pastoral blue")

ID Selectors

• For style sheets used with HTML, authors may use the (#) notation as an alternative to the "=" notation when matching on the **"id"** attribute; e.g. the following ID selector matches the H1 element whose ID attribute has the value "chapter1":

H1#chapter1 { text-align: center }

- the following ID selector matches the any element whose ID attribute has the value "chapter1":
- *#chapter1 { text-align: center }

Pseudo Class Selectors - : first-child

 The :first-child pseudo-class matches an element that is the first child of some other element; e.g. in the following example, the selector matches any P element that is the first child of a DIV element (indentation for the first paragraph of a DIV):

DIV > P:first-child { text-indent: 0 }

this selector would match the P inside the DIV of the following fragment: <P> The last P before the note. <DIV class="note"> <P> The first P inside the note. </DIV> but would not match the second P in the following fragment: <P> The last P before the note. <DIV class="note"> <H2>Note</H2> <P> The first P before the note. </DIV and the first P inside the note. </DIV>

Pseudo Class Selectors - :link and :visited

- The :link pseudo-class applies for links that have not yet been visited
- The **:visited** pseudo-class applies once the link has been visited by the user
 - The document language determines which elements are hyperlink source anchors; e.g. in HTML 4.0, the link pseudo-classes apply to A elements with an "href" attribute; thus, the following two CSS2 declarations have similar effect:
 - A:link { color: red }
 - :link { color: red }
 - E.g. if the following link:
 - external link has been visited, this rule:
 - A.external:visited { color: blue }
 - will cause it to be blue

Pseudo Class Selectors - :hover, :active, :focus

- The :hover pseudo-class applies while the mouse pointer hovers over a box generated by the element
- The **:active** pseudo-class applies while an element is being activated by the user; e.g. between the times the user presses the mouse button and releases it
- The :focus pseudo-class applies while an element has the focus
- Examples:
 - A:hover { color: yellow } A:active { color: lime } A:focus { background: yellow } A:focus:hover { background: white }

Pseudo Element Selectors - : first-line and :first-letter

• The :first-line pseudo-element applies special styles to the first formatted line of a paragraph; e.g.:

P:first-line { text-transform: uppercase }

• The :first-letter pseudo-element may be used for "initial caps" and "drop caps", which are common typographical effects; e.g.:

P:first-letter { font-size: 200%; font-weight: bold; float: left }

THE FIRST few words of an article in the Economist

Pseudo Element Selectors - :before and :after

- The :before and :after pseudo-elements can be used to insert generated content before or after an element's content; e.g.: H1:before {content: counter(chapno, upper-roman) ". "}
- When the :first-letter and :first-line pseudo-elements are combined with :before and :after, they apply to the first letter or line of the element including the inserted text; e.g.:

P.special:before { content: "Special! "}

P.special:first-letter {color: #ffd800} (This will render the "S" of "Special!" in gold)

```
Other examples
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- H1:before { content: "Chapter " counter(chapter) ". "; counter-increment: chapter; /* Add 1 to chapter */ counter-reset: section; /* Set section to 0 */ }
- P.note:before { content: "Note: " }

Selector Matching Summary

- * matches any element
- E matches any E element (i.e., an element of type E)
- _ E F matches any F element that is a descendant of an F element
- _ E > F matches any F element that is a child of an element E
- E:first-child matches element E when E is the first child of its parent
- E:link and E:visited matches element E if E is the source anchor of a hyperlink of which the target is not yet visited (:link) or already visited (:visited) _
- E:active, E:hover, and E:focus matches E during certain user actions
- E:lang(c) matches element of type E if it is in (human) language c (the document language specifies how language is determined)
- E + F matches any F element immediately preceded by an element E
- E[foo] matches any E element with the "foo" attribute set (whatever the value)
- E[foo="warning"] matches any E element whose "foo" attribute value is exactly equal to "warning"
- E[foo~="warning"] matches any E element whose "foo" attribute value is a list of space-separated values, one of which is exactly equal to "warning"
- E[lang | ="en"] matches any E element whose "lang" attribute has a hyphen-separated list of values beginning (from the left) with "en".
- _
- DIV.warning is the same as DIV[class~="warning"]. - E#myid matches any E element ID equal to "myid".

Calculating a Selector's Specificity

- When many rules match the same element, a selector's specificity is calculated as follows:
 - count the number of ID attributes in the selector (= a)
 - count the number of other attributes and pseudo-classes in the selector (= b)
 - count the number of element names in the selector (= c)
 - ignore pseudo-elements.

concatenating the three numbers a-b-c gives the specificity; the rule with maximal specificity wins; examples:

*	{}	/*	a=0	b=0	c=0	->	specificity =	0	*/
LI	{}	/*	a=0	b=0	c=1	->	specificity =	1	*/
UL LI	{}	/*	a=0	b=0	c=2	->	specificity =	2	*/
UL OL+LI	{}	/*	a=0	b=0	c=3	->	specificity =	3	*/
H1 + *[REL=up	o]{}	/*	a=0	b=1	c=1	->	specificity =	11	*/
UL OL LI.red	{}	/*	a=0	b=1	c=3	->	specificity =	13	*/
LI.red.level	{}	/*	a=0	b=2	c=1	->	specificity =	21	*/
#x34y	{}	/*	a=1	b=0	c=0	->	specificity =	100	*/

CSS Example



CSS Descriptors

- Box model
- · Visual formatting model
- Visual effects
- · Generated content, automatic numbering, lists
- Colors and backgrounds
- Fonts
- Text
- Tables
- User interface

CSS Box Model

- The CSS **box model** describes the rectangular boxes that are generated for elements in the document tree and laid out according to the **visual formatting model**
- Each box has a content area (e.g., text, an image, etc.) and optional surrounding padding, border, and margin areas



CSS Box Model: Margins

 Margin properties: margin-top, margin-right, marginbottom, margin-left, margin; example:

BODY { margin: 2em } /* all margins set to 2em */ BODY { margin: 1em 2em } /* top & bottom = 1em, right & 1eft = 2em */ BODY { margin: 1em 2em } /* top=1em, right=2em, bottom=3em, left=2em */ the last rule of the example above is equivalent to the example below:

BODY {
 margin-top: lem;
 margin-right: 2em;
 margin-bottom: 3em
 margin-left: 2em;
}

Note: '1em' is equal to the size of the font in use

CSS Box Model: Padding

- Padding properties: padding-top, padding-right, padding-bottom, padding-left, and padding; example:
 - H1 {
 background: white;
 padding: lem 2em;
 }

The example above specifies a '1em' vertical padding (padding-top and paddingbottom) and a '2em' horizontal padding (padding-right and padding-left)

CSS Box Model: Border

- Border width properties: border-top-width, borderright-width, border-bottom-width, border-leftwidth, and border-width; values: thin, medium, thick, or explicit thickness value; e.g. H1 {border-width: thin}
- Border color properties: border-top-color, border-rightcolor, border-bottom-color, border-left-color, and border-color; e.g. H1 {border-color: red}
- Border style properties: border-top-style, border-rightstyle, border-bottom-style, border-left-style, and border-style; values: none, dotted, dashed, solid, double, groove, ridge, inset, outset; e.g. H1 {borderstyle: solid dotted}

Box Positioning Schemes

• Normal flow

- Floats in the float model, a box is first laid out according to the normal flow, then taken out of the flow and shifted to the left or right as far as possible; content may flow along the side of a float.
- Absolute positioning in the absolute positioning model, a box is removed from the normal flow entirely (it has no impact on later siblings) and assigned a position with respect to a containing block

Choosing a Positioning Scheme

- Box positioning property: position; values:relative, absolute
- · Box offset property: top, right, bottom, and left
- Float positioning property: float; values: left, right, and none
- Controlling flow next to floats: clear property; values: left, right, both, and none

Positioning Schemes: Example



<P class=one> First paragraph box. First paragraph box. First paragraph box </P> <P class=two> Second paragraph box. Second paragraph box. Second paragraph box </P>

Font Specification

- font-family property; Values: serif, sans-serif, cursive, fantasy, monospace, or any other font family name
- font-style property; values: normal, italic, oblique
- font-variant property; values: normal, small-caps
- font-weight property; values: normal, bold, bolder, lighter, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900
- font-stretch property; values:ultra-condensed, extracondensed, condensed, semi-condensed, normal, semiexpanded, extra-expanded, ultra-expanded
- font-size property; values: xx-small, x-small, small, medium, large, x-large, xx-large, larger, smaller, absolute font size, percentage (relative font size)

Text Properties

- Indentation property: text-indent; e.g. P {text-indent: 3em}
- Alignment property: text-align; values: left, right, center, justify; e.g. P {text-align: center}
- Decoration property: text-decoration; values: none, underline, overline, line-through, blink; e.g. P {textdecoration: line-through}
- Text shadow property: text-shadow; e.g. H1 {text-shadow: 0.2em 0.2em}
- Letter and word spacing properties: letter-spacing and word-spacing; e.g. H1 {letter-spacing: 0.1em; word-spacing: 1em}
- Capitalization property: text-transform; values: capitalize, uppercase, lowercase, and none

Colors and Backgrounds

- Foreground color property: color; e.g.: EM { color: red } /* predefined color name */ EM { color: rgb(255,0,0) } /* RGB range 0-255 */
- Background properties: background-color, backgroundimage, background-repeat, background-attachment, background-position, and background; e.g.:

H1 { background-color: #F00 }

- BODY { background-image: url("marble.gif") }
- BODY { background: white url("pendant.gif"); background-repeat:
- repeat-y; background-position: center;}
- background: red url("pendant.gif"); background-repeat: repeat-y; background-attachment: fixed;}

CSS - References

- www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS1-961217.html
- www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2