

The module-based CSS Level 3 Recommendation adds support for vertical flowing text, improved table handling, international languages, and better integration with other XML technologies such as SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics), MathML, and SMIL (Synchronized Multimedia Interchange Language). The W3C is also working on special CSS sets targeted to specific media such as CSS Mobile, CSS Print, and CSS TV. It is clear that CSS is an integrated part of the W3C's vision for the future of web content.

To keep up to date with the W3C's CSS-related activities, visit [www.w3.org/Style/CSS/](http://www.w3.org/Style/CSS/).

**selector { property: value; }**

*declaration*

Figure 16-1. Parts of a style sheet rule

applied to that element). In the previous sample code, the `h1` and `p` elements are the selectors. The complete list of selectors in the CSS 2.1 specification is covered in Chapter 17.

The declaration is made up of a *property* and its *value*. The curly braces allow for multiple declarations, which make up a *declaration block*. A property is a stylistic parameter that can be defined, such as `color`, `font-family`, or `line-height`. Properties are separated from their values by the colon (`:`) character followed by a space. Style properties are the real meat of CSS; therefore, they are treated in detail in Chapters 18 through 23.

A declaration may contain several property/value pairs. Multiple properties must be separated by semicolons (`;`), as shown in this example.

```
p {font-size: 11px; font-weight: bold; color: #C06; }
```

Note that because CSS ignores whitespace and line returns, this same rule could be written like this to make the properties easier to find on the page.

```
p {  
  font-size: 11px;  
  font-weight: bold;  
  color: #C06;  
}
```

Technically, the last property in a declaration block does not require a semicolon, but developers usually include it anyway to make it easy to append the rule later. In addition, the inclusion of the trailing semicolon avoids a rare bug in older browsers.

Properties take several types of values, including predefined keywords, percentage values, specific length measurements, color values, integers, and URLs. When