

The 'media' and 'download' attributes

THE 'MEDIA' ATTRIBUTE

The 'media' attribute was introduced in HTML5. We will look at it briefly here. It is used to specify what kind of media or device the URL you linked to in href is optimized for. The URL could be targeted for special devices like projectors, speech synthesizers or pages meant to be printed. It is useful if you want to cater your target document that the URL points to a particular device type.



Imagine you have a page scattered with multiple images and you want to display this page on a handheld device. Handheld devices are known to have small screens and limited bandwidth. We want to align the page better for a small screen and reduce the size of images. So the media attribute allows us to tell the anchor element that this page is targeted for handheld devices. You do this by providing a value for the attribute. This value could be any valid [media query](#) and is a combination of **device type** and **media rendering values**.

You can learn more about the different device types allowed and the media rendering values [here](#).

Let's look at another example - you could create a print link to a long content heavy page that will redirect you to a print version of the same. You want this print version to be formatted into one page ideal for printing and with resolution of 250 dpi. Here is how the HTML5 code will look like:

```
<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_queries?
output=print" media="print and (resolution:250dpi)">Print
```

wiki page about media queries

THE 'DOWNLOAD' ATTRIBUTE

The 'download' attribute is also new in HTML5 and it makes a link download a file instead of navigate to another location. It takes in the filename as value but the value is optional. So the download attribute can be specified in the following ways:

```
<a href="/assets/hello.txt" download>  
<a href=/assets/hello.txt" download="new-name-for-text-file">
```

If you do not specify a value for download, it will download the file with name unchanged. Else it will download the file with file name modified according to value specified.

```
<a href="/assets/hello.txt" download>
```

... will download the file with the same name - 'hello.txt'.

```
<a href=/assets/hello.txt" download="new-name-for-text-file">
```

... will download the file after altering its name to - 'new-name-for-text-file.txt'.

Example (try the hyperlink below in Google Chrome):

[Click to Download](#)

Note: Download attribute will only works on Chrome, Firefox and Opera. It is [not supported in all browsers](#). Try the download attribute in a html file of your own and run it in different browsers to see how it behaves.

Knowledge check 2.5.3 (not graded)

True or False? The extension of the file name is not needed for download attribute's value.

☐ True

☐ False
