CSS – Cascading StyleSheets

HTML captures the structure of your web page.

CSS make your page *look good.*

Responsibility for CSS rests with the *World Wide Web Consortium* (W3C).

The current version is CSS3.

But why a separate language for web site appearance?

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('Small print' means text that present disclaimers, caveats, legal restrictions, copyrights or attribution.)

Adding CSS to Web Pages

Three ways to add CSS styles to a web page:

* Inline styles
* Embedded stylesheets
* External stylesheets (we will only use this one)

Inline Styles

In HTML, style is a *global* attribute.

You can put CSS declerations as the value of this attribute

AVOID inline styles – they bloat web pages and make it hard for web developers to make changes.

Embedded Stylesheets

You can put the CSS into your HTML, inside a <style> element, usually in the head

AVOID embedded stylesheets – they are ideal, especially when several web pages should have a common look-and-feel.

External Stylesheets

Put your CSS rules in a separate file, e.g. styles.css

A shared look-and-feel across multiple pages is now easy but at the expense of an HTTL request/response.

CSS Terminology

A CSS stylesheet contains:

* zero, one or more rules
* zero, one or more @rules
* comments

*/\* This is an example of a comment in CSS \*/*

A rule comprises:

* one or more selectors and
* a block of zero, one or more declerations in curly braces

A declaration comprises of:

* a property and
* its value, separated by a colon and is usually terminated by a semi-colon

Inheritance in CSS

Many CSS properties (but not all) are inherited:

*For a given property, an element’s value for that property comes from its parent.*

By exploiting this, our stylesheets can be more concise.

Blocking Inheritance

An improved definition of:

*For a given property, when no value for that property has been specified, and element’s value for that property comes from its parent.*

Not Everything is Inherited

Some properties are not inherited, defined in the CSS3 specification.

*For a given inherited property, when no value for that property has been specified, an element’s value for that property comes from its parent.*

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