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Introduction

CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) is a cornerstone technology of the World Wide Web, alongside HTML and JavaScript. While HTML is used for structuring content, **CSS is used to control the presentation, formatting, and layout of web pages.** It allows developers to apply styles to web documents, including fonts, colors, spacing, and positioning.

What is CSS?

CSS stands for **Cascading Style Sheets**. It is a style sheet language used to describe the appearance and formatting of a document written in HTML.

Key Benefits of Using CSS:

- Separates content from design
 - Reduces code repetition
 - Enables consistent styling across multiple web pages
 - Improves website maintenance and load speed
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Types of CSS

CSS can be implemented in **three main ways**, each with its own use case, advantages, and limitations. These are:

Inline CSS

Definition:

Inline CSS is used to apply a unique style to a **single HTML element**. It is written directly in the element's style attribute.

Syntax Example:

```
html
<p style="color: blue; font-size: 16px;">This is an inline styled paragraph.</p>
```

Advantages:

- Quick to implement
- Useful for testing or applying one-time styles

Disadvantages:

- Not reusable
 - Makes the HTML code messy
 - Difficult to maintain in large projects
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Internal CSS

Definition:

Internal CSS is defined within a `<style>` tag inside the `<head>` section of an HTML document. It is used to style a **single HTML page**.

Syntax Example:

```
html
<head>
  <style>
```

```
p {  
  color: green;  
  font-family: Arial;  
}  
</style>  
</head>  
<body>  
  <p>This is an internally styled paragraph.</p>  
</body>
```

Advantages:

- Styles are kept in one place within the HTML document
- Suitable for individual pages with unique styling

Disadvantages:

- Cannot be reused across multiple pages
 - Increases page load time slightly if styles are large
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External CSS

Definition:

External CSS involves linking an **external .css file** to the HTML document using the <link> tag. It is the most recommended and widely used method for applying styles, especially in large-scale web development.

Syntax Example:

HTML File:

```
html  
<head>  
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">  
</head>  
<body>  
  <p>This is a paragraph styled using external CSS.</p>  
</body>  
p {
```

```
color: red;
font-size: 18px;
}
```

Advantages:

- Styles can be reused across multiple pages
- Keeps HTML clean and easier to maintain
- Enhances website performance by caching the CSS file

Disadvantages:

- Requires additional HTTP request to load the CSS file
 - If the external file fails to load, styling will not apply
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. Comparison Table			
Feature	Inline CSS	Internal CSS	External CSS
Location	Inside HTML tag	Inside <style> tag	In separate .css file
Scope	Single element	Single page	Multiple pages
Reusability	No	Limited	High
Maintenance	Difficult	Moderate	Easy
Performance	Low	Medium	High

Conclusion

Understanding the different types of CSS is essential for any web developer.

- **Inline CSS** is best for quick fixes or testing.
- **Internal CSS** works well for single-page applications.
- **External CSS** is the most efficient and scalable way to style websites.

As an intern, I've learned that the **best practice is to use external CSS** whenever possible to ensure clean code, easy maintenance, and better performance across websites.

References

w3schools.com – CSS Introduction