

7. Web Dev Topic: Responsive Design

CSS Media Queries

The CSS Media Query lies at the heart of the power of the Bootstrap framework. As we continue to advance our exploration into the framework, we can examine the CSS ruleset that gives Bootstrap the responsive flexibility we have grown accustomed to using.

The CSS Media Query, available since CSS2.1, gives Bootstrap the power, through CSS, to group rules together based on browser criteria like device display width. The Media Query was only truly brought into its own right after Ethan Marcotte's 2010 article "Responsive Web Design." The article is still relevant today and available online at its original published URL, within the Web development resource [A List Apart](http://alistapart.com/article/responsive-web-design), at <http://alistapart.com/article/responsive-web-design> (<http://alistapart.com/article/responsive-web-design>).

The **@media** rule directive lets us use CSS to group sets of rules together and create conditions for the application of the ruleset.

```
@media screen and (max-device-width: 480px) {  
  .column {  
    float: none;  
  }  
}
```

In the example above, the media must be screen output (as opposed to print for instance) and the browser's device screen width must be 480 pixels or less. If those two conditions are met, the class-based rule for .column will apply.

By incorporating CSS media queries into your custom CSS rulesets, you can make the browser conditionally apply rules just like Bootstrap does. The Bootstrap framework's CSS media queries are as follows.

```
/* Extra Small Devices, Phones */  
@media only screen and (min-width : 480px) {
```

```
}
```

```
/* Small Devices, Tablets */  
@media only screen and (min-width : 768px) {
```

```
}
```

```
/* Medium Devices, Desktops */  
@media only screen and (min-width : 992px) {
```

```
}
```

```
/* Large Devices, Wide Screens */  
@media only screen and (min-width : 1200px) {
```

```
}
```

classmates' posts.