

Dynamic HTML & CSS Checkers

Bill & Sara Newman - updated 09/29/2024 - <https://tinyurl.com/dynamic-html-css-checkers>

Background: It's nice to have a way to help troubleshoot our HTML & CSS. We're lucky that there are dedicated HTML & CSS checking websites that will display any errors and give hints to let us know how to enhance our pages and fix problems. Here are the base websites:

- [HTML Checker](#) - Checks the markup validity of Web documents in HTML, XHTML, SMIL, MathML, etc.
- [CSS Checker](#) - Checks Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and (X)HTML documents with style sheets.

Both of the services above check by URL, File Upload or Direct Input. When using these services always start with the HTML issues and then proceed to CSS.

While these services are excellent, for convenience, we'd like to place links on our pages so these checks can be done on our individual pages. Building links on our pages that automatically check the page we're on is not trivial, so this document is dedicated to the task of allowing us to build dynamic HTML & CSS Checkers on our pages.

HTML & JavaScript Required: As helpful as the HTML & CSS checkers are, we'd like to place a link on our pages that automatically check the current page. To do this, we'll need a bit of HTML & JavaScript.

Here's the HTML we can use for our HTML & CSS Checker Links:

```
<a id="html-checker" href="#" target="_blank">Check HTML</a> ~  
<a id="css-checker" href="#" target="_blank">Check CSS</a>
```

The important things above are the ids that will be triggered on click by JavaScript that will determine the file being clicked and add the appropriate data to the href attribute. Here's the JavaScript that does that:

```
document.getElementById("html-checker").setAttribute("href", "https://validator.w3.org/nu/?doc=" +  
location.href);  
  
document.getElementById("css-checker").setAttribute("href", "https://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/validator?  
uri=" + location.href);
```

The JavaScript above determines the current url using [location.href](#) and appends it to the validation (checker) links provided. In this way the checkers are triggered on click to the CURRENT page properly.

An Example Footer: Below you'll find the HTML & CSS Checkers embedded in a sample footer element and script tag that could go at the bottom of your page:

```
<footer>
  <p><small>&copy; 2023-<span id="this-year"></span> by
    YOUR NAME HERE, All Rights Reserved ~
    <a id="html-checker" href="#" target="_blank">Check HTML</a> ~
    <a id="css-checker" href="#" target="_blank">Check CSS</a></small>
  </p>
</footer>
<script>
  //https://tinyurl.com/dynamic-html-css-checkers
  document.getElementById("html-checker").setAttribute("href","https://validator.w3.org/nu/?doc=" +
location.href);

document.getElementById("css-checker").setAttribute("href","https://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/validator?
uri=" + location.href);

  //set current year in span with id of this-year
  let d = new Date(); let thisYear = d.getFullYear();
  document.getElementById("this-year").innerHTML = thisYear;

</script>
```

Dynamic Copyright added above: There's a dynamic copyright added to the footer above. The copyright will appear as 2023-2024 if the current year is 2024. The script tag should be added just before the CLOSING body tag, but the footer can go anywhere on your page.

Checker NOT Validator: The HTML & CSS checker websites used to be called validation websites, however they prefer the term checker over validator as they are not responsible for the effect of taking their advice. You will see the term validator, even on their websites, however!

Once you've uploaded **test.html** and can view it via a browser, you're ready to submit this web address as your assignment submission! Be sure you can see your picture. Feel free to click the Check HTML and Check CSS links at the bottom of the page, as when uploaded, these checkers can be used to see if things are broken and need repair in your pages. Here's a video on [HTML & CSS Checkers/Validators](#)