

Structuring information in a website

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HTML IFRAMES

iframes

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- An iframe is used to display a web page within a web page.
- Syntax:

```
<iframe src="url">  
content to show in case the browser does  
not support iframes  
</iframe>
```

iframe attributes

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- Set the width and/or height of the frame. Values in pixels or %:

```
<iframe src="demo_iframe.htm" width="200"  
height="20%"></iframe>
```

- Remove the surrounding border:

```
<iframe src="demo_iframe.htm"  
frameborder="0"></iframe>
```

Opening links to specific frames

An iframe can be used as the target frame for a link.

The target attribute of a link must refer to the name attribute of the iframe:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head></head>
<body>
```

```
<iframe width="100%" height="300px"
src="demo_iframe.htm" name="iframe_a"></iframe>
<p><a href="http://www.w3schools.com"
target="iframe_a">W3Schools.com</a></p>
```

<p>When the target of a link matches the name of an iframe, the link will open in the iframe.</p>

```
</body>
</html>
```

Advanced targeting: <base>

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- What if you want the majority of your links to point to a particular frame window? Each one of these links require a TARGET attribute that points to the big_window. You could make that easier with a **<base>** tag in the head of your document. Use this format:
- **<head>**
<base target="window_name">
</head>
- You don't have to specify the target window in each individual anchor in an HTML document that has this tag in its head. Now all links will default to the target defined in the **<base>** tag.

Magic targets

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- **target = "_blank"** -The URL specified in this link will always be loaded in a new blank browser window.
- **target = "_self"** -This is used for overriding a **<base>** tag, and forcing a link to load in the same window that it's clicked in.
- **target = "_parent"** -This causes the document to load in the current frames's parent (The window that immediately contains the iframe). If no parent exists, it acts like "_self".
- **target = "_top"** -The document is loaded in the topmost frame of the current browser window.

Uses of frames

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- **Table of Contents (TOC).** By placing the TOC in a "column" on your Web page, people can click around your site or your documentation pages without being forced to constantly move "back" to the contents page. Instead, users simply click a new content level in the static frame.
- **Fixed interface elements.** As mentioned previously, you can force clickable graphics, logos, and other information to stay in one fixed portion of the screen, while the rest of your document scrolls in another frame.
- **Better forms and results.** Frames also enable you to create a form in one frame and offer results in another frame. This is something we're beginning to see extensively with Web search pages. With the search text box always available, you're free to change search phrases or pinpoint your search more quickly, without moving back in the hierarchy of the Web pages

Thoughts on frame use

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- **Take special care that you're providing your user with enough controls to move around in your Web site.**
- **If you're using a specific frame window for controls, remember to give your user as many links in that window as possible.**
- **Let them go directly to the main pages of your site and never bury a user five or six pages deep without giving them an easy way back.**