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Research Paper

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Inheritance is a mechanism that passes on certain traits from parent to child. An element is a child of another element if it is nested inside of it. Not all CSS properties are passed down through inheritance, but many are. You can override inheritance with specificity. You can specify the exact path to an element (body p ul li) and this will apply the style directly to those li inside of ul inside of p inside of body. You can also use a universal selector (\*) to select everything in the document. Resets are ways to set defaults back to nothing or normal. Eric Meyer has a nice reset available that you can just copy/paste into your markup. You can also make your own resets, though, and just use them as a template that you start with. I would suggest the later, because Eric Meyers reset covers a lot of elements and properties that you may not be using on the particular site you are working on. Always take into consideration what your site needs and then write the markup and style based off of that. To do it the other way around is just lazy or your own personal whim, which is a killer to all good designers/developers.

The cascade is a system, which governs conflicts. If something is giving styles to the same element in two separate places, the later will override the earlier. Styles cascade three different ways: inherited styles accumulate, nearest ancestor wins, directly applied style (inline) always trumps other styles.

Specificity is a measure of how specific a rules selector is. Source order matters as well. If all other things are the same (same importance, same specificity) the source order has the final say. There are three different places a style can originate from: user agent, author, user. If there are conflicting declarations, the order of rank that they will be applied is as such:

* User Agent
* Author Normal
* User Normal
* Author Important
* User Important

One note on importance though, it should be used with all caution and as sparingly as possible. It is not a good idea to not allow the user to change things in your markup/CSS. For disability reasons it is a good idea to just style how you think, but still allow the user to override if they need to.

Works Cited

Imhoff, Kevin. "Lecture 2 DWS." United States, Winter Park. 31 May 2012. Lecture.

Meyer, Eric A. . *CSS*. Sebastopol (CA): O'Reilly, 2006. Print.