

Are there any utilites that will help me refactor CSS [closed]

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago Modified 7 years, 9 months ago

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23



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I am working with some CSS that is poorly written to say the least. I am not a design/CSS expert, but I at least understand the **C** in CSS. While the builtin CSS support inside of VS-2008 is far improved over previous versions, it still doesn't quite do what I am looking for.

I was wondering if anyone know of a good program or utility that will help me to refactor and clean up my CSS like what ReSharper allows to do with C#.

Some features that would be nice to have:

- Examine CSS files and determine ways to extract common styles like font-style, color, etc...
- Plugin to VS-2008 would be awesome!
- Examine markup files and make some suggestions on improving the current use of classes and styles.

asp.net

css

refactoring

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edited Feb 24, 2017 at 22:19



Kirill Kobelev

10.5k ● 6 ● 32 ● 52

asked Sep 22, 2008 at 11:07



Josh

44.9k ● 7 ● 104 ● 124

13 Answers

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21

The [Dust-Me Selectors Firefox extension](#) can scan a website and tell you what CSS is used and what is not. Removing unused CSS is one good first step in refactoring.



I have often found that when some section is removed from a website, the HTML is removed but the CSS is not.





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edited Mar 2, 2009 at 20:51

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Ben Blank

56.5k ● 28 ● 131 ● 163



answered Sep 22, 2008 at 11:19



Liam

20.9k ● 24 ● 90 ● 129

It's worth noting that Dust-Me does *not* support checking inline stylesheets, only external ones. – Ben Blank Mar 2, 2009 at 21:20

- 1 There is a comment on the download page, which I quote; It NEEDS a tool to ACTUALLY clean the styles ...
jclaim.sourceforge.net Start it, ... go to menu: General/Handy Tools/Clean CSS ... Feed it the file from this plug-in and your css file and it will show you a clean css file – Vihung Mar 9, 2009 at 9:45
-



[TopStyle](#) is popular and always the one I hear recommended. It has recommendations on styles etc.

7



I use [Aptana](#) but this doesn't do an refactoring just flags up errors and allows you to target certain browsers. Using this a a decent CSS book may help.



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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 11:15

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Paul Shannon

1,163 ● 10 ● 15



[Firebug](#) is a very good Firefox extension that allows you to examine which CSS declarations are active for which

4 DOM element in your document tree.



Although it does not make any suggestions for improvements, it's a great help when debugging/simplifying CSS code by hand.



The [Web Developer](#) extension is also a great help.

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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 11:13

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vog

25.5k ● 11 ● 63 ● 81

I have Firebug and use it pretty extensively, but what I really need is something that will tell me which styles are just dumb. For example setting the font-style and color on every single class. I know this is dumb, but I am looking for a quicker way to get at this information. – [Josh](#) Sep 22, 2008 at 11:23



If you're using ASP.NET 2.0, there's [ReFactor! for ASP.NET](#)

3

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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 11:17

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Mitch Wheat

300k ● 44 ● 477 ● 550





2

I've had good luck using [Stylizer](#) in the past. It's nicer and only costs 1/6 of TopStyle.

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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 12:56



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[Joel Coehoorn](#)

415k ● 114 ● 577 ● 813



Not sure why this was voted down... that program looks pretty awesome! – [Josh](#) Oct 15, 2010 at 3:58



2

There's a Ruby gem called HAML that ships with an executable called css2sass. That executable translates CSS into [SASS](#), which is a metalanguage on top of CSS that makes it much easier to refactor (by better illustrating the relationships among your selectors). Might be worth taking a look.



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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 14:17

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[Ben Scofield](#)

6,418 ● 2 ● 25 ● 22



1

I used to use WestCiv's [StyleMaster](#), which is a pretty good CSS editor / inspector / debugger app. Combine that with the aforementioned Firebug, and you can't help but stay on top of your CSS.



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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 13:11



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David Heggie

2,878 ● 1 ● 24 ● 21



1

My attempt at playing around with [Less for .NET](#).

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edited Oct 16, 2009 at 10:27

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answered Sep 29, 2009 at 20:11



Owen

7,100 ● 7 ● 45 ● 79



The posted link has been dead for a while, but the github project seems to be being maintained:
github.com/dotless/dotless/wiki – [fordareh](#) Oct 27, 2010 at 16:36



1

I might be a little late but the ReSharper 6 early access preview (EAP) does this for you!



In a CSS file, entering "#" will auto-complete every ID from your project. Same with a period "." to list all your classes.



Best part: when you rename the selector it will rename it project-wide. It makes refactoring CSS much faster, if not pleasurable.

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answered May 5, 2011 at 17:57

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Benxamin

4,822 ● 3 ● 33 ● 30



0

I like Expression Web's CSS facilities. But it doesn't do much for minimizing or unifying your CSS. You have to understand how CSS works to use it properly.



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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 11:19

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user1228





EditCSS for firefox is amazing.

0

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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 11:22

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Michael Neale

19.5k ● 19 ● 78 ● 111



Looks interesting, but what can I do with this that I can't do with FireBug – Josh Sep 22, 2008 at 11:31



This site at least helps to sort and minimize your rules:

<http://www.cleancss.com/>

0

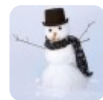
It doesn't get you to where you want to be, but it's a good first step.



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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 13:12

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Greg

16.7k ● 9 ● 54 ● 100



Maybe [CssTidy](#) or [CssOptimiser](#) can help to clean-up and make smaller

0

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answered Sep 22, 2008 at 13:21

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spinodal

4,027 ● 3 ● 31 ● 39



