

Designing Your Web Pages

CSS

1. In the MyEmptyWebSite folder, create a new Web Form called `CssDemo.aspx`. For this exercise, it doesn't matter if you choose inline code or Code Behind.
2. Make sure the page is in Source View and then locate the closing `</title>` tag in the source.

```
<head runat="server">  
    <title></title>  
</head>
```

Position your cursor at the end of the line and press Enter to create an empty line between the title and head tags. On this new line type the word `style` and then press Tab. Visual Web Developer completes the `<style>` element for you. Press Enter twice to create some room between the tags. You end up with the following bolded code:

```
<head runat="server">  
    <title></title>  
    <style type="text/css">  
    </style>  
</head>
```

NOTE This code completion feature uses code snippets that enable you to associate a piece of code (like the `<style>` element) with an identifier (like `style` in this example). Code snippets are very useful to quickly insert pieces of code by typing only the short identifier. The same applies to the `type` attribute; simply type the letters `ty` and the `type` attribute is preselected in the list. All you need to do to complete the word is press the Tab or Enter key. And, once more, the same help is available for the attribute value `text/css`. Simply select it in the list and press Tab or Enter, and the value is inserted for you automatically, nicely surrounded by the double quotes.

3. Next, between the opening and closing `<style>` tags, type the following bolded CSS code:

```

<style type="text/css">

    h1
    {
        font-size:20px;
        color:Green;
    }

    p
    {
        color:Blue;
        font-style:italic;
    }

    .RightAligned
    {
        text-align:right;
    }
</style>

```

The first item in the list is an `h1` tag to style a heading at the first level so it gets a size of 20 pixels and is displayed in a green font. Notice the colon between `font-size` and `20px` and that the line is closed with a semicolon.

The second item in the list simply contains the letter `p` and defines the look and feel for all `<p>` elements in the page.

The last item is prefixed with a period (.) followed by the text `RightAligned`. This item is used to right-align some text in the page.

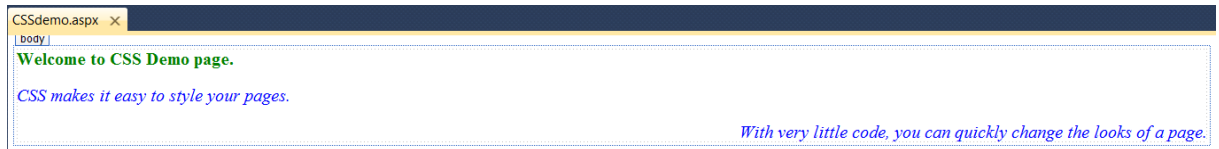
4. Scroll down in the page a bit until you see the opening `<div>` tag. Right after this tag, type the following bolded code:

```

<div>
    <h1>Welcome to CSS Demo page.</h1>
    <p>CSS makes it easy to style your pages.</p>
    <p class="RightAligned">With very little code, you can quickly change the looks of a page.</p>
</div>

```

5. If you switch to Design View (or Split View), you'll see that the designer shows your text with the formatting defined in the `<style>` element of the page.



NOTE CSS is case sensitive, there's a big difference between `RightAligned` and `rightaligned`.

6. Press `Ctrl+F5` to view `CssDemo.aspx` in your browser. The page you see in the browser is identical to the preview you got in the Design View of Visual Web Developer.

Welcome to CSS Demo page.

CSS makes it easy to style your pages.

With very little code, you can quickly change the looks of a page

Default.aspx

In this exercise you modify two files: First, you add the basic layout elements to the `Default.aspx` page to create room for a header, a menu, the main content area, a sidebar, and a footer. Then you modify the `Styles.css` file from the `Styles` folder to change the size and location of these elements. Finally, you attach the style sheet to the page, so the style information is applied when the page is viewed in the designer or in a browser.

1. Open the file `Default.aspx` from the root of your web site and if necessary switch to Source View.
2. Modify the code within the `<form>` element so it ends up like this:

```

<form id="form1" runat="server">
<div id="PageWrapper">
  <div id="Header">Header goes here.</div>
  <div id="MenuWrapper">Menu goes here.</div>
  <div id="MainContent">
    <h1>
      Hi there visitor! Welcome to my Web Site :-)</h1>
    </div>
  <div id="Sidebar">Sidebar goes here.</div>
  <div id="Footer">Footer goes here.</div>
</div>
<p>
  I'm glad that you are visiting my web site <a href="http://www.mywebsite.com">
  http://www.mywebsite.com</a>
</p>
<p>
  <strong>Feel</strong> <span class="style1"><strong>free</strong></span> to have a look around.</p>
</div>
</form>

```

3. Open the file `Styles.css` from the Styles folder.
4. At the top of the page, type the following code that uses an ID selector to select the Header `<div>`:

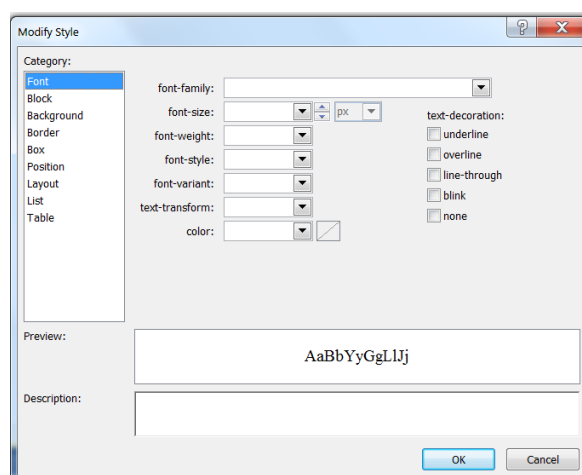
```

#Header
{

}

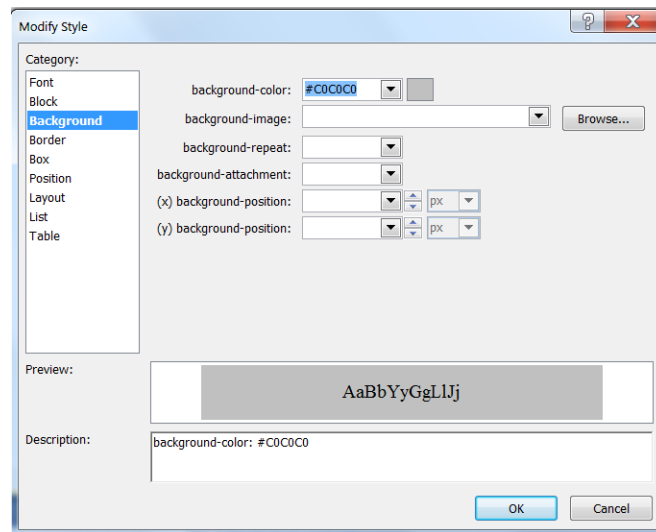
```

5. Position your mouse between the curly braces and then choose Styles ⇌ Build Style from the main menu. Alternatively, you can choose the same item by right-clicking the ID selector, or clicking the Build Style button on the Styles toolbar. The Modify Style Box:



6. In the Category list on the left, click Background and then open the drop-down list for the background color. From the color picker that appears, click the Silver

color. Alternatively, you can type the hexadecimal color code for Silver (#C0C0C0) in the backgroundcolor text box directly.



7. Switch to the `Position` category by clicking it in the list on the left. The panel that appears enables you to set position-related information, including the height and width. Under `width`, enter 844 and make sure that `px` is selected in the drop-down list at the right. For the `height`, enter 86. Click `OK` to dismiss the dialog box and to insert the declarations into your code, which now looks like this:

```
#Header
{
    background-color: #C0C0C0;
    width: 844px;
    height: 86px;
}
```

8. Repeat steps 4 through 7, this time creating the following rules:

```

*
{
    font-family: Arial;
}

h1
{
    font-size: 20px;
}

#PageWrapper
{
    width: 844px;
}

#MenuWrapper
{
    width: 844px;
}

#MainContent
{
    width: 664px;
    float: left;
}

#Sidebar
{
    background-color: #808080;
    width: 180px;
    float: left;
}

#Footer
{
    background-color: #C0C0C0;
    width: 844px;
    clear: both;
}

```

The `float` and `clear` properties are found in the layout category of the Modify Style dialog box.

9. When you're done creating the rules, save and close the `Styles.css` file, because you're done with it for now.
10. Open the file `Default.aspx` again and switch to Design View. From the Solution Explorer, drag the file `Styles.css` from the Styles folder onto the page. You should immediately see the Design View change to reflect the code you wrote in the style sheet. When you dropped the style sheet on the page, VS inserted code in the `<head>` section of the page in Source View that attaches the style sheet to the document:

```

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head runat="server">
  <title></title>
  <style type="text/css">
    .style1
    {
      color: #0066FF;
    }
  </style>
  <link href="Styles/Styles.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
</head>

```

You can also drag an existing style sheet from the Solution Explorer directly in the <head> section of a page in Source View. When you do that, VS adds the same <link> element.

11. Finally, save the changes to all open documents (press Ctrl+Shift+S) and then request Default.aspx in your browser.

Header goes here.

Menu goes here.
Hi there visitor! Welcome to my Web Site :-)
 Footer goes here.
 I'm glad that you are visiting my web site <http://www.mywebsite.com>
 Feel **free** to have a look around.

Sidebar goes here.

NOTE Note that the Header, PageWrapper, MenuWrapper, and Footer have an exact width of 844 pixels. This way, the site fits nicely on screens with a size of 1024 × 768 pixels, a common screen size for many of today's computers, without being squeezed between the Windows borders. Systems with bigger screens will simply expand the white background at the right of the page.

NOTE Note also that the `MainContent` area and the `Sidebar` are positioned next to each other. This is done with the CSS `float` property:

```
#MainContent
{
    width: 664px;
    float: left;
}

#Sidebar
{
    background-color: Gray;
    width: 180px;
    float: left;
}
```

This tells the `MainContent` to “float” on the left side of the `Sidebar`, effectively placing the `Sidebar` to the right of it. You need to tell the `Sidebar` to float as well; if you leave it out, it will be placed at the left of the page, right where it was before you applied the CSS.

The combined width of the two elements adds up to 844 pixels, which is exactly the width of their parent element: the `PageWrapper`.

To end the float and tell the `Footer` element to be placed directly under the `MainContent` and `Sidebar` elements, the `clear` property is used to clear any float (left or right) that may be in effect:

```
#Footer
{
    background-color: #C0C0C0;
    width: 844px;
    clear: both;
}
```

The gray backgrounds are just temporarily added to the code, so it’s easier to see what `<div>` ends up where.

To tell the browser what styles to apply, you link the style sheet in the head of the page:

```
<link href="Styles/Styles.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
```

This tells the browser to look in the `Styles` folder for a file called `Styles.css` and apply all rules in that file to the current document. Once the browser has downloaded the CSS file, it applies all the styles it finds in there to your HTML elements.