What is CSS?

- CSS is an acronym for Cascading Style Sheets. It is a language that describes how markup languages are displayed on screen, paper, or in other media and also the layout of presentation. It is also been used to design user interfaces of applications. With the help of CSS, presentations may adapt to the different types of devices used. CSS files are separated from HTML files but can be used with XML –based markup language.

HISTORY

Hakon Wium Lie, the father of CSS, first proposed CSS on October 10, 1994. He was working at the time at CERN with Tim Berners-Lee. CSS was then proposed as web styling language for solving problems of HTML 4. Bert Bos who also proposed Argo, a browser with a style sheet ,at the time became a co-author of CSS1 and was then regarded as co-creator of CSS.

The first proposal of Lie for the CSS was presented in Chicago, Illinois at the Mosaic and the Web conference which was later called as WWW2. The W3C being organized at the time, took interest in the development of the CSS. As a result, CSS works were added by W3C to the deliverables of HTML Editorial Review Board(ERB). Lie and Bos are the ones handling this aspect of the project, with the help of Thomas Readon from Microsoft. Alternative language for style sheet was presented in August 1996 by the Netscape Communication Corporation which is the JavaScript Style Sheet(JSSS) but its specification was not finished. CSS has become official by the end of 1996 and in December, CSS level 1 Recommendation was published.

VERSION HISTORY

CSS Level 1:

The CSS Level 1 W3C Recommendation was released in December 1996. This release supports:

* Font properties
* Text attributes
* Images
* Text and background colors
* Spacing(words, letters, lines, margins, borders, padding & positioning, etc.)
* Alignment of text
* Tables

A group was formed by the W3C, Formatting Properties Working Group, which focuses only in CSS.

CSS Level 2

CSS 2 was released in May 1998. This version’s new feature includes:

* Z-index
* Media types
* Bidirectional text
* Absolute
* Relative and fixed positioning
* Aural style sheet support

After the release of CSS 2, a new browser was released which supports CSS, the Opera.

CSS 2.1

-was released in June of 2011 that can fix errors and has better capabilities aligned with the functions of the browser. But before that, to be able to comply with it, it went back and forth between Working Draft status and Candidate Recommendation status for many years. It was at first a Candidate Recommendation on February 25,2004 but on June 13, 2005, it was reverted to a Working Draft for further review. On July 19, 2007, it was returned to Candidate Recommendation and in 2009, it was updated two times. On December 7, 2010, it returned to Last Call Working Draft for the changes and clarifications made. Then it went to Proposed Recommendation on April 12, 2011 and then finally published as a Recommendation on June 7, 2011.

CSS Level 3:

A level of CSS which is separated into modules which extends capabilities of CSS 2 or adds new feature. This version has already started at the time the CSS 2 original recommendation was published. Four modules were released as formal recommendations between June 2011 and June 2012. These four modules are: color, selectors level 3, namespaces and media queries.