**Style Sheets**

A style sheet is a form of separation of visual layout or presentation of a webpage to its content which is defined by using a style sheet language like CSS. Style sheet contains rules created by a web designer that can be applied to different HTML elements. This method helps Web page designers to expand their ability to improve the interface or appearance of their web pages.

**Benefits:**

* Flexibility/Maintainability – defining a style sheet separate from html content makes it easy to reuse and be applied to other html files.
* Alternate Styles – readers may have different options to view a webpage by using or defining different style sheets.
* Cascading – some style sheet languages like CSS is capable of allowing style information from different sources to be blended together.

**Why Do They Cascade?**

Basically, style sheets are cascading. It allows you to override previous defined styles by adding or defining another style to your webpage. When you have more than one style specified in your HTML file the style with the highest priority will be applied to your webpage.

Style Priority:

1.  Inline style – a style specified inside a specific HTML element and has the highest priority.

2. External and internal style sheets – styles specified either externally or internally.

3. Browser default – a style which browser applies by default for every page that it loads.

**3 Types of Style Sheets:**

1. **Author Styles** - the style sheet that is defined by the author.

                       - there are three kinds of author styles:

* **In-line:** a style defined inside a HTML tag itself (e.g. *<div style=”background-color:whitesmoke;”></div>*)
* **Internal/Embedded**: a type of author style that is defined in *<style>* tag inside the*<head>* tag of an html file.
* **External:** a style that is defined in a separate CSS file which are applied by using link tag inside the *<head>* tag in an html web page (e.g. *<link rel=”stylesheet” type=”text/css” href=”style.css”>*).

**2. User Styles –** auser may specify a style sheet or a user-agent may provide a user style sheets like how some browsers provide alternative styles through plug-ins/extensions.

**3. User Agent Styles –**a style that a browser applies to a webpage by default also known as *Default Style* or *Browser Style.*