CSS - Media Types

One of the most important features of style sheets is that they specify how a document is to be presented on different media: on the screen, on paper, with a speech synthesizer, with a braille device, etc.

We have currently two ways to specify media dependencies for style sheets −

* Specify the target medium from a style sheet with the @media or @import at-rules.
* Specify the target medium within the document language.

The @media rule

An *@media* rule specifies the target media types (separated by commas) of a set of rules.

Given below is an example −

<style tyle="text/css">

<!--

@media print {

body { font-size: 10pt }

}

@media screen {

body { font-size: 12pt }

}

@media screen, print {

body { line-height: 1.2 }

}

-->

</style>

The Document Language

In HTML 4.0, the *media* attribute on the LINK element specifies the target media of an external style sheet −

Following is an example −

<style tyle="text/css">

<!--

<!doctype html public "-//w3c//dtd html 4.0//en">

<html>

<head>

<title>link to a target medium</title>

<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="print, handheld" href="foo.css">

</head>

<body>

<p>the body...

</body>

</html>

-->

</style>

Recognized Media Types

The names chosen for CSS media types reflect target devices for which the relevant properties make sense. They give a sense of what device the media type is meant to refer to. Given below is a list of various media types −

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Value** | **Description** |
| all | Suitable for all devices. |
| aural | Intended for speech synthesizers. |
| braille | Intended for braille tactile feedback devices. |
| embossed | Intended for paged braille printers. |
| handheld | Intended for handheld devices (typically small screen, monochrome, limited bandwidth). |
| print | Intended for paged, opaque material and for documents viewed on screen in print preview mode. Please consult the section on paged media. |
| projection | Intended for projected presentations, for example projectors or print to transparencies. Please consult the section on paged media. |
| screen | Intended primarily for color computer screens. |
| tty | Intended for media using a fixed-pitch character grid, such as teletypes, terminals, or portable devices with limited display capabilities. |
| tv | Intended for television-type devices. |

**NOTE** − Media type names are case-insensitive.