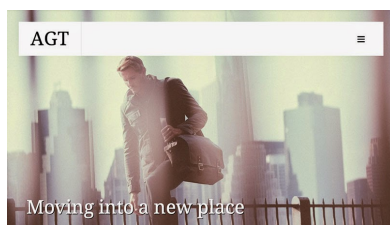# Creative Technologist (http://kmturley.blogspot.com/)

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Responsive mobile dropdown navigation using css only

(http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-_dFPkrTWSo4/VG9fo5FQN_I/AAAAAAAACMg/-
ge_7su3IqY/s1600/Screen-Shot-2014-11-21-at-10.50.54-AM.jpg)

When you are building a fully responsive site, you want the same code to work from mobile to tablet and desktop. With navigations this becomes complicated as the functionality usually changes between mobile and desktop.

One common example is when the desktop navigation is fixed horizontal items, but on mobile it is a drop-down using a menu icon. Lets run through an example of how to build this without using JavaScript and css only!

First you will need to nest the main navigation items inside a single parent item. The top navigation item we are going to also use a unicode character to represent the icon as a ≡

```
1   <ul class="nav">
2       <li><a class="btn">&#9776;</a>
3           <ul class="menu">
4               <li><a href="/">Home</a></li>
5               <li><a href="/portfolio">Portfolio</a></li>
6               <li><a href="/contact">Contact</a></li>
7           </ul>
8       </li>
9   </ul>
```

Next we will add some css to hide the top item and align the other navigation items for desktop:

```
1   ul {
2       margin: 0;
3       padding: 0;
4       list-style: none;
```

```
 5        overflow: hidden;;
 6        background-color: #666;
 7    }
 8
 9    ul .btn {
10        display: none;
11        cursor: pointer;
12    }
13
14    ul li {
15        float: left;
16    }
17
18    ul li a {
19        display: block;
20        padding: 15px 0 15px 20px;
21        text-decoration: none;
22        color: #bbb;
23    }
24
25    ul li a:hover {
26        color: #fff;
27    }
```

Next we add some simple css to handle the mobile view:

```
 1    @media (max-width: 30em) {
 2        ul li {
 3            float: none;
 4        }
 5        ul .btn {
 6            display: block;
 7        }
 8        ul .menu li a {
 9            padding: 0px 20px 10px 20px;
10        }
11        ul .menu {
12            display: none;
13        }
14        ul li:hover .menu {
15            display: block;
16        }
17    }
```

And that's it, a responsive dropdown navigation using css only! Some people will suggest that we go for mobile first and put the desktop code inside the media query. I would do this if I was not supporting IE8, but in this case I want IE8 to use the desktop code and ignore the media queries.
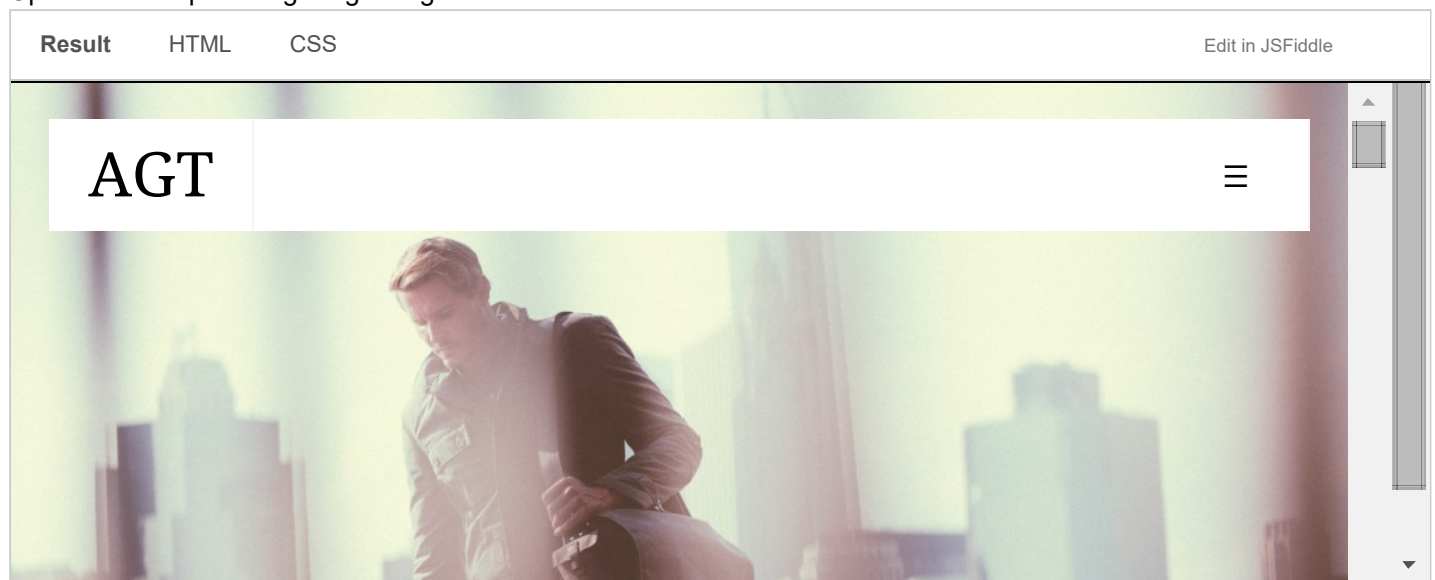
(http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-2jqkkdPGIFo/VFjrbHOkSrI/AAAAAAAACBQ/Scu1I88MQ4w/s1600/Screen%2BShot%2B2014-
11-04%2Bat%2B10.06.02%2BAM.png)

You can view a working example here:

Result	HTML	CSS		Edit in JSFiddle

Home   Portfolio   Contact

http://jsfiddle.net/kmturley/88HRF/ (http://jsfiddle.net/kmturley/88HRF/)

Updated example using a right-aligned mobile icon:

Result	HTML	CSS		Edit in JSFiddle

AGT   ☰

http://jsfiddle.net/kmturley/04L0dkcj/10/ (http://jsfiddle.net/kmturley/04L0dkcj/10/)

6 comments

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AKSHAY SHARMA 2 weeks ago · Shared publicly

Really a great post but is it possible to hold the drop down menu until user again click on the menu icon or in you code click on ☰ again to reverse the whole process in mobile view ....

1

Shaun Dowling (Slick) 2 months ago · Shared publicly

I already have a drop down menu on my blog but it doesn't show up in the mobile view. How can I correct that?

+2   1   · Reply

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Shaun Dowling (Slick)
2 weeks ago
It's not a problem now. I migrated to WordPress and it all worked a dream.

Kim T 2 weeks ago
+Shaun Dowling cool!

Kim T 1 year ago · Shared publicly

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