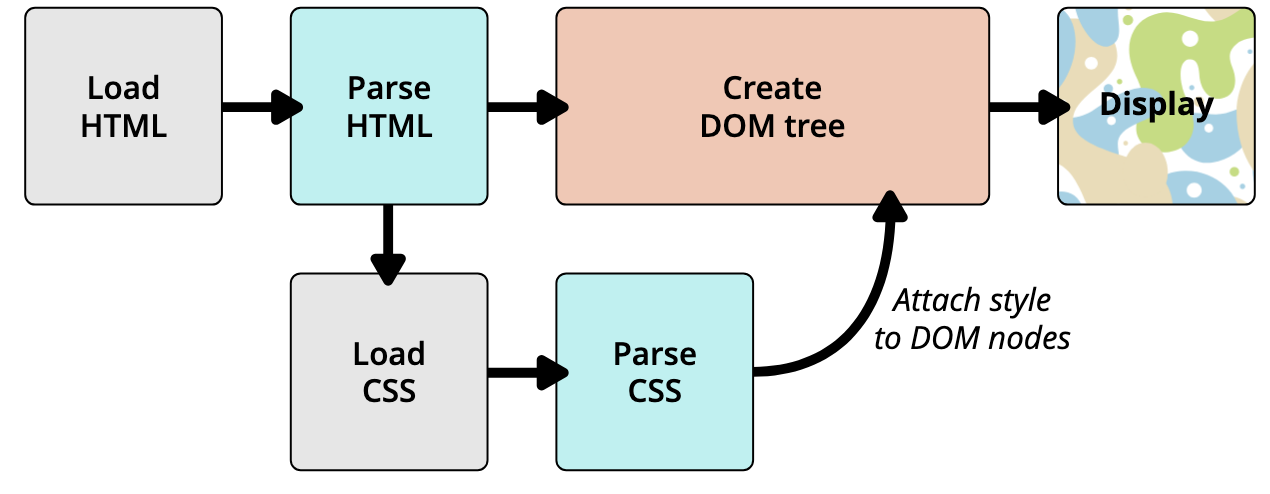
CSS

Overview

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) are used to define where things are on a webpage and make it look pretty.

CSS process:

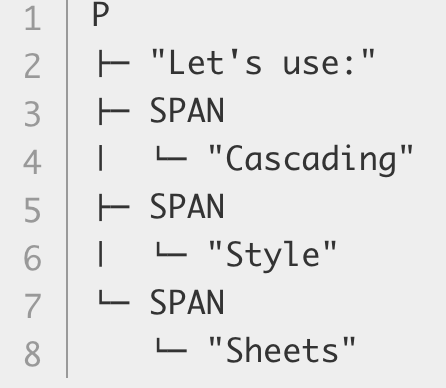
* Browser loads HTML
* Converts HTML into Document Object Model (DOM) - DOM represents the document in the computers memory
* Browser fetches resources that a linked to by the HTML document (images, videos, CSS)
* Browser parses CSS and sorts the different rules by their selector types into different ‘buckets’ (element, class, ID, etc), based on select it finds which rules should be applied to which nodes in the DOM and and attaches style as required
* Render tree is layed out after rules applied
* Visual display of page is shown on screen



DOM

Dom has a tree like structure with each element, attribute and bit of text becoming a node. Nodes are defined by their relationship to other nodes, some being parents and some children/siblings.

For example, the <p> element is a parent and its children would be a text node and three span elements, each span having their own text node children

Selectors

CSS can be applied by specifying the node which it affects using a selector. Nodes can be selected directly using element type or attributes added to an element:

* <element> - selected with element name
* type=”<type”> - selected with <element-name>[type=<type>]
* class=”<name” - selected with . before name
* id=”<anme>” - selected with # before name

The class attribute can be used to identify more than one element, where as id is unique and can only select one element.

*body {*

*font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;*

*}*

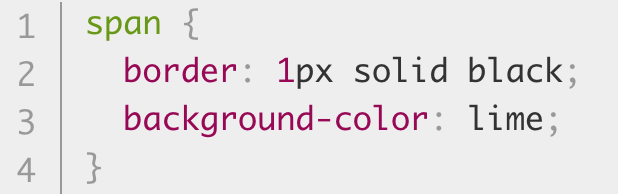
*.job-title {*

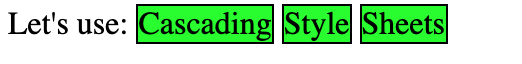
*color: #999999;*

*font-weight: bold;*

*}*

In the case below the selector picks all span elemetns and applies style to those in the document:





Selectors also have the abilty to chain attributes and values, such as a link can be selected then the attribute visited specified, to change the colour of the link once it has been visited.

*a:link, a:visited {*

*color: #fb6542;*

*}*

Incorrect CSS

If the browser encounters CSS it doesn’t understand, it will just fail silently and move on. Therefore, CSS can be used as an enhancement since any incorrect styling will be ignored.

Newer functions can be added after old ones which will then overwrite the old ones if supproted.

* class=”<name” - selected with . before name
* id=”<anme>” - selected with # before name