WEB DESIGN CRASH COURSE

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SETUP

For today’s workshop, you will need:

**TEXT EDITOR** I suggest Sublime Text (free), but you can also use Text Wrangler (also free), or the built-in text editor on your computer (Text Edit for Mac users, Notepad for Windows)

**BROWSER** The program you view websites in! Firefox will be used in this demo because it has some very useful developer features, but you should really be testing your sites on all current browsers.

**EXAMPLES** Today, rather than type along, we’ll be using example files found here:

<http://www.github.com/jeffthompson/webdesignexamples>

TERMINOLOGY

**HTML** The “nouns” of the web – things like paragraphs and images. HTML elements are called “tags”, denoted by < >.

**CSS** Styles apply to elements across your site – they form the adjectives to HTML nouns, setting things from color, size, and placement of elements, as well as fancier things like animations and transitions (which we won’t cover today).

**PHP** A server-side scripting language to create dynamic HTML pages. Takes a bit of getting used to but is very powerful, especially for larger, more complex sites.

**JAVASCRIPT** A client-side scripting language for everything from basic user interaction to dynamic content like animated transitions and full-on videogames! Often extended with the popular JQuery library.

**SERVER** The hard-drive that stores and “serves” your website’s files to visitors.

**DOMAIN NAME** The address to your site (like amazon.com) – this is essentially “rented” on a yearly basis.

COLOR

There are several ways of defining color in websites – the two easiest to learn are:

**COLOR NAMES**

Basic, built-in colors can be used by name, such as:

white, black, red, blue

**RGB VALUES**

Red, green, and blue (RGB) can be mixed to create all the colors; values are between 0 (no color) – 255 (full amount). For example:

white rgb(255,255,255) black rgb(0,0,0)

red rgb(0,0,0) yellow rgb(255,255,0)

BASIC PAGE STRUCTURE

There are a few basic things a web page must have in order to work:

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<title>This is my awesome website</title>

</head>

<body>

<!-- this where your page content goes! -->

<p>Welcome to my new website.</p>

</body>

</html>

Note that HTML tags have an opening and closing tag. For more details, see the example files.

CSS STYLES

Styles separate content (the HTML) from its visual presentation, making updates to your site easier and more flexible. They can be applied to:

**HTML ELEMENTS p {**

Tags like paragraphs (right), font-size: 12px;

images, links, etc }

**IDs** #blog-post {

Unique items on the page, given color: rgb(255,0,0);

name and noted by a “#” in CSS }

**CLASSES** .thumbnails {

Items used multiple times on width: 250px;

a page; noted by a “.” }

**SOME COMMON CSS PROPERTIES**

While certainly nowhere near exhaustive, here are some common properties:

background color or image width/height defines size of elements

font-family font to use text-align left, center, right , justify

font-size in pixels or ems border around an element

color font color text- underline, none, etc

decoration most-used for links

FURTHER RESOURCES

**THE INTERNET!** Seriously. Google is your best friend. Also…

**W3 SCHOOLS** Run by the authority that sets web standards.

**STACK OVERFLOW** A site for questions-and-answers relating to all things code.

**VISUAL QUICKSTART** This series by Peachpit Press is excellent without being too

**SERIES** beginner-focused – I suggest their title *HTML And CSS* as a good reference.