THE MONOSPACE WEB

A minimalist design exploration

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CONTENTS

- Introduction
- The Basics
- Lists
- Tables
- Forms
- Grids
- ASCII Drawings
- Media
- Discussion

INTRODUCTION

Monospace fonts are dear to many of us. Some find them more readable, consistent, and beautiful, than their proportional alternatives. Maybe we're just brainwashed from spending years in terminals? Or are we hopelessly nostalgic? I'm not sure. But I like them, and that's why I started experimenting with all-monospace Web.

On this page, I use a monospace grid to align text and draw diagrams. It's generated from a simple Markdown document (using Pandoc), and the CSS and a tiny bit of Javascript renders it on the grid. The page is responsive, shrinking in character-sized steps. Standard elements should *just work*, at least that's the goal. It's semantic HTML, rendered as if we were back in the 70s.

All right, but is this even a good idea? It's a technical and creative challenge and I like the aestethic. If you'd like to use it, feel free to fork or copy the bits you need, respecting the license. I might update it over time with improvements and support for more standard elements.

Tufte CSS

Dave Liepmann

Tufte CSS provides tools to style web articles using the ideas demonstrated by Edward Tufte's books and handouts. Tufte's style is known for its simplicity, extensive use of sidenotes, tight integration of graphics with text, and carefully chosen typography.

Tufte CSS was created by Dave Liepmann and is now an Edward Tufte project. The original idea was cribbed from Tufte-LaTeX and R Markdown's Tufte Handout format. We give hearty thanks to all the people who have contributed to those projects.

If you see anything that Tufte CSS could improve, we welcome your contribution in the form of an issue or pull request on the GitHub project: tufte-css. Please note the contribution guidelines.

Finally, a reminder about the goal of this project. The web is not print. Webpages are not books. Therefore, the goal of Tufte CSS is not to say "websites should look like this interpretation of Tufte's books" but rather "here are some techniques Tufte developed that