

CSS specificity

Why this is still broken?!

Where to put css

Inline – usually applied in some very specified cases by JS

Head – inside style tag

Linked css files – most common

OK, but what is specificity

Following W3school there are four categories which each next is less important than previous.

Inline styles - An inline style is attached directly to the element to be styled. Example: `<h1 style="color: #ffffff;">`.

IDs - An ID is a unique identifier for the page elements, such as `#navbar`.

Classes, attributes and pseudo-classes - This category includes `.classes`, `[attributes]` and pseudo-classes such as `:hover`, `:focus` etc.

Elements and pseudo-elements - This category includes element names and pseudo-elements, such as `h1`, `div`, `:before` and `:after`.

Also w3school

Memorize how to calculate specificity!

Start at 0, add 1000 for style attribute, add 100 for each ID, add 10 for each attribute, class or pseudo-class, add 1 for each element name or pseudo-element.

This is not entirely true! If we consider example with 11 (or more) classes vs 1 id. Following upper rule we should have applied styles from 11 classes selector but instead 1 id is still winning. This is because it is number system but nth system not decimal.

This is something that relatively small amount of developers know. Probably because when you have selector with 11 classes, you probably doing something wrong with your css, but it is worth to know that.

!important

When to use it?

Almost nowhere!

If you have more than one important for 500lines of css it could be refactor to skip using it.

In absolutely most cases you don't need to use important at all. You just need to use specificity properly and your problem is solved.

Only place to use important should be situation when you have to override some inline styles added by library javascript.

