How to Style a HTML file upload button in Pure CSS
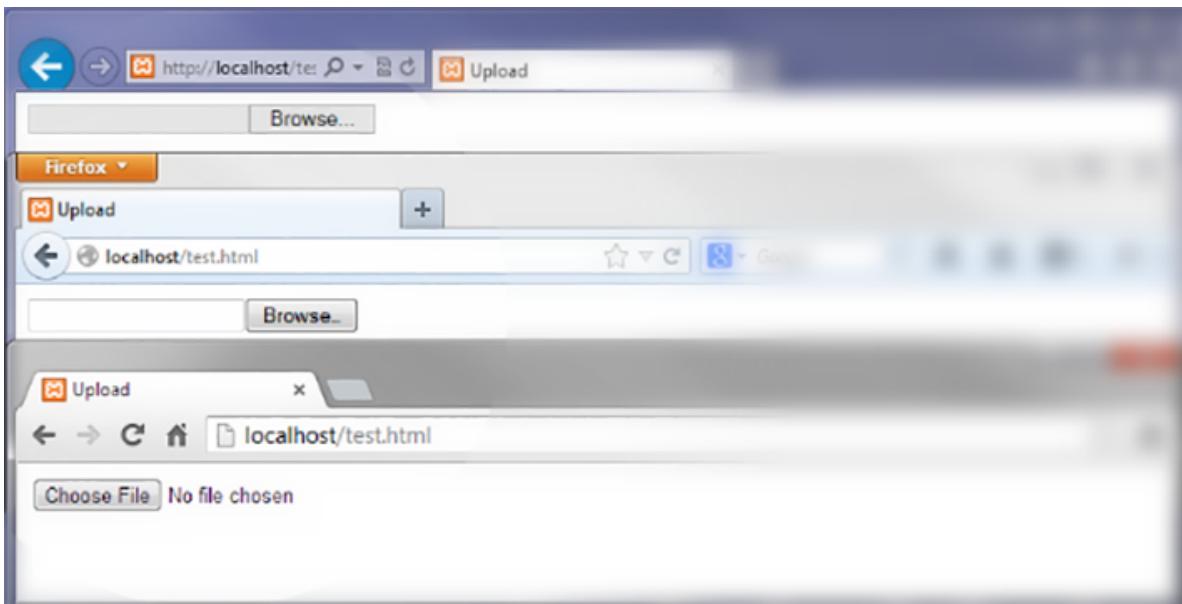
12 JUNE 2013 on css (/tag/css/)

Styling a html file upload button in pure css could be cumbersome if you've ever tried. Take a look at the following screenshot about how different browsers deal with the upload button. It's pretty obvious that there is a fair amount of variation.

We are aiming for creating a neat file upload button which behaves finely and consistently in pure css cross browsers. And here we go:

Step 1. Create a simple html markup

```
<div class="fileUpload btn btn-primary">
    <span>Upload</span>
    <input type="file" class="upload" />
</div>
```

Step 2. CSS: Tricky Part

```
.fileUpload {
    position: relative;
    overflow: hidden;
    margin: 10px;
}
.fileUpload input.upload {
    position: absolute;
    top: 0;
    right: 0;
    margin: 0;
    padding: 0;
    font-size: 20px;
    cursor: pointer;
    opacity: 0;
    filter: alpha(opacity=0);
}
```

For simplicity, I am using Bootstrap CSS to style the button (div.file-upload).

Demo:

| Upload | Upload | Upload | Upload | Upload | Upload |

Upload button with selected file

Unfortunately there is no PURE CSS way to do it. However, if you really want to display the selected file, the following JavaScript snippet could help for this case.

JavaScript:

```
document.getElementById("uploadBtn").onchange = function () {
    document.getElementById("uploadFile").value = this.value;
};
```

DOM change

```
<input id="uploadFile" placeholder="Choose File" disabled="disabled" />
<div class="fileUpload btn btn-primary">
    <span>Upload</span>
    <input id="uploadBtn" type="file" class="upload" />
</div>
```

Demo:

| Choose File | Upload |

Yang Zhao (/author/yang/)

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Name

Jaxx RR • 5 years ago

if the placeholder is inside the fileupload div it is not visible, if its outside its not clickable :(

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Yang Zhao Mod ➜ Jaxx RR • 5 years ago

Hope this helps: http://jsfiddle.net/geniusc...

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ydk2 • 4 years ago

Is simple solution:
<style>

.styled input[type="file"] {
display: none;
}

.styled input[type="file"] + label {
background: url('file.png') no-repeat;
}

.styled {
display: inline-block;
}
.styled label {
display: block;
width: 200px;
height:50px;
}

see more

10 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

My1 • 3 years ago

god why isnt there a consistent way to style a file input in the age of HTML5 and CSS3 without Javascript? W3

do something! there's a reason you exist...

4 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Guest • 4 years ago

Nice I m creating this one
Thanks .
http://jsfiddle.net/rohitaz...

4 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Beth Kiesel ➔ Guest • 3 years ago

Thank you! I got this working using jquery, and
added code to change the text of the button
from "browse" to "upload":

<script type="text/javascript">

$(function() {

$("input:file[id=uploadBtn]").change (function() {

$("#uploadFile").val($(this).val());

$("span.uploadBtn").text("upload");

});

});

</script>

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

David Khain ➔ Guest • 4 years ago

So ... Ok, but this script :

document.getElementById("uploadBtn").onchang
= function () {
document.getElementById("uploadFile").value =
this.value;
};

must be place at the end of the code - behind
the </html>

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Thomas Krcal • 4 years ago

Now I understand how it works, but i think its very
bewildering to use bootstrap.css in this example
There is no need of bootstrap.css in the idea of this
example !

2 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Martin • 5 years ago

Might be just me, but in the DOM change to show selected file, should the input id 'uploadFile' not be OUTSIDE the div class 'fileUpload'? Otherwise your 'Choose File' bit will become part of the button instead of it being placed next to it.

Apart from that, great piece, thanks!

2 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

> **Yang Zhao** Mod ➔ Martin • 5 years ago
>
> Good catch. Thanks. I've fixed in my post.
>
> 3 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Emil Gram Jensen • 3 years ago

Where is the c:/fakepath come from?

3 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

> **Yang Zhao** Mod ➔ Emil Gram Jensen
> • 2 years ago
>
> http://stackoverflow.com/qu...
>
> 16 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

> **Scott Agirs** ➔ Emil Gram Jensen • 2 years ago
>
> I join the waiting list.
>
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> **Sa Ba** ➔ Emil Gram Jensen • 3 years ago
>
> pending for answer
>
> ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Arthur G N McLean • 3 years ago

This is beautiful, but doesn't work at all in Firefox on the Mac. Click the button, nothing happens. Any ideas?

This was absolutely my own fault! I had installed a pop-up blocker plug-in that was also blocking the file field. Please disregard, it works perfectly!

1 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Jaxx RR • 5 years ago

and why would you put here the class upload when you dont even declare it ?

`<input id="uploadBtn" type="file" class="upload"/>`

~~input id="uploadBtn" type="file" class="upload"~~

total fail ... if you do something do it right

2 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

> **Yang Zhao** Mod ➜ Jaxx RR • 5 years ago
>
> .fileUpload input.upload
>
> 17 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

> **Syn** ➜ Jaxx RR • 5 years ago
>
> Jaxx, know your CSS... *facepalm*
>
> 6 ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

> **hestroy** ➜ Jaxx RR • 2 years ago
>
> If you read something read it right. Total fail.
>
> ∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Celso Ferreira • a year ago

Does not work for multiple files?

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Ravishankar • 2 years ago

If i want to show a selected File name on right side of upload button then how its possible.

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arua • 2 years ago

Hello, is there a way to show up which file already been selected when choose file?

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Fatah Iskandar • 2 years ago

if i change the button with icon, is possible?

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Wei Li • 2 years ago

It works. Thanks!

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Hex • 2 years ago

Simple cool solution. Thanks!

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Anmol • 2 years ago

Hi,

How to customize css when i use this for input="file"

button:

CSS:

```
.fileUpload {
position: relative;
overflow: hidden;
margin: 10px;
}
.fileUpload span{
background:red;
color:#fff;
width:80px;
height:80px;
line-height:80px;
display:inline-block;
```

see more

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Dima Taras • 2 years ago
thanks, that's definitely good for me as I use bootstrap
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ganesh • 2 years ago
i want to upload file originaly in web server how can i
uplaod it like fb
˄ | ˅ • Reply • Share ›

UMESH SHEJOLE • 2 years ago
Good working.....
˄ | ˅ • Reply • Share ›

Steve • 2 years ago
Nice this worked great in my projekt - thank you! (I
have similar tutorials on my blog http://meshfields.de
maybe you are interested)
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Jibran • 3 years ago
superb... thanks
˄ | ˅ • Reply • Share ›

Nguyễn Minh Khôi • 3 years ago
I tried and it works smoothly! Thanks so much!
˄ | ˅ • Reply • Share ›

chKyu • 3 years ago

Good!!
it's perfect to me

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PakkaLocal • 3 years ago

Usefull.. It helped me. Thanks

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Sébastien Lorber • 3 years ago

When the width of the button is something like 400px, the cursor: pointer is not applied to the whole button surface. How do you solve this?

Demonstrated here: http://jsfiddle.net/ree58wo8/

Seems to be fixed by the "font size" hack described by another comment (see http://jsfiddle.net/4w3kpfa1/) However when hovering the item for a while we have a "no file choosen" tooltip, I wonder how I can get rid of it

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johnwlong • 3 years ago

To get this to work in IE you will need a file input with a button that is larger than any button that you might use this for. The easiest way to do this is to set the font size of the input to something really large. 5em would probably do the trick in most cases.

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Sorin Pantiș • 3 years ago

Right at the very soul of the problem. Thanks! :)

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Lan Đặng • 3 years ago

Thanks you

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

mike • 3 years ago

Where does it get colors, I have been trying to trace your code?

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

Joseph Rex → mike • 3 years ago

It uses bootstrap default button colors

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mike ➜ Joseph Rex • 3 years ago

thank you got it :)

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Miguel G. Rodríguez-Díez • 3 years ago

Nice code and nice solution.

Thanks!

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Mohan • 3 years ago

Thanks for the solution mentioned in
"http://jsfiddle.net/rohitaz...". It is ultimate and it is
working fine.
I was trying this from the last one week. Thanks again.

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Priyanka Rao • 3 years ago

I like it! Thank you for the post. Here is another
example rhetorical to this blog. Check it out!
http://webmuch.com/how-to-c...

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Cimo • 4 years ago

class="upload" ????????

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Max Mercer ➜ Cimo • 3 years ago

Defined at .fileUpload input.upload

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Michał Grynkiewicz • 4 years ago

```
<script type="text/javascript">
$(document).ready(function(e) {
$('#fileUpload').on('click',function(){
$('#file').click();
});
$('#file').on('change',function(){
if($('#file').val()!=''){
$('#fileUpload').html($('#file').val());
}else{
$('#fileUpload').html($('Add File').val());
}
```

```
});
});
</script>

<style>

#fileUpload{
```

see more

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