

CHAPTER EIGHT

8.0 CSS LINK

Links can be styled in different ways.

8.1 Styling Links

Links can be styled with any CSS property (e.g. color, font-family, background, etc.).

In addition, links can be styled differently depending on what **state** they are in.

The four links states are:

- a:link - a normal, unvisited link
- a:visited - a link the user has visited
- a:hover - a link when the user mouses over it
- a:active - a link the moment it is clicked

Example

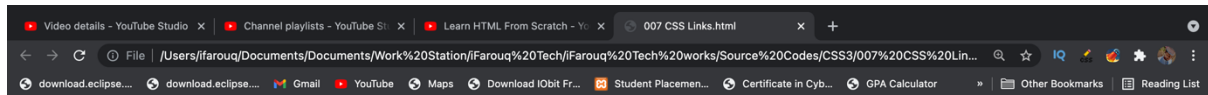
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <style>
      /* unvisited link */
      a:link {
        color: #FF0000;
      }
      /* visited link */
      a:visited {
        color: #00FF00;
      }
      /* mouse over link */
      a:hover {
        color: #FF00FF;
      }
      /* selected link */
      a:active {
        color: #0000FF;
      }
    </style>
```

```

</head>
<body>
  <p><b><a href="default.html" target="_blank">This is a
  link</a></b></p>
  <p><b>Note:</b> a:hover MUST come after a:link and a:visited in the
  CSS definition in order to be effective.</p>
  <p><b>Note:</b> a:active MUST come after a:hover in the CSS
  definition in order to be effective.</p>
</body>
</html>

```

Preview:



This is a link

Note: a:hover MUST come after a:link and a:visited in the CSS definition in order to be effective.

Note: a:active MUST come after a:hover in the CSS definition in order to be effective.

When setting the style for several link states, there are some order rules:

- a:hover MUST come after a:link and a:visited
- a:active MUST come after a:hover

8.2 Common Link Styles

In the example above the link changes color depending on what state it is in.

Lets go through some of the other common ways to style links:

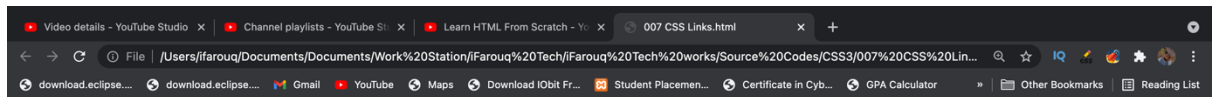
8.2.1 Text Decoration

The text-decoration property is mostly used to remove underlines from links:

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <style>
      a:link {
        text-decoration: none;
      }
      a:visited {
        text-decoration: none;
      }
      a:hover {
        text-decoration: underline;
      }
      a:active {
        text-decoration: underline;
      }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p><b><a href="default.html" target="_blank">This is a
link</a></b></p>
    <p><b>Note:</b> a:hover MUST come after a:link and a:visited in the
CSS definition in order to be effective.</p>
    <p><b>Note:</b> a:active MUST come after a:hover in the CSS
definition in order to be effective.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```

Preview:



[This is a link](#)

Note: a:hover MUST come after a:link and a:visited in the CSS definition in order to be effective.

Note: a:active MUST come after a:hover in the CSS definition in order to be effective.

8.2.2 Background Color

The background-color property specifies the background color for links:

Example

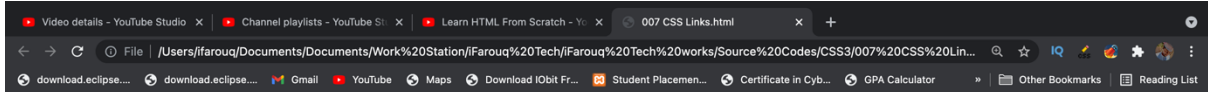
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <style>
      a:link {
        background-color: #B2FF99;
      }
      a:visited {
        background-color: #FFFF85;
      }
      a:hover {
        background-color: #FF704D;
      }
      a:active {
        background-color: #FF704D;
      }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <p><b><a href="default.html" target="_blank">This is a
    link</a></b></p>
```

```

<p><b>Note:</b> a: hover MUST come after a: link and a: visited in the
CSS definition in order to be effective.</p>
<p><b>Note:</b> a: active MUST come after a: hover in the CSS
definition in order to be effective.</p>
</body>
</html>

```

Preview:



Note: a: hover MUST come after a: link and a: visited in the CSS definition in order to be effective.

Note: a: active MUST come after a: hover in the CSS definition in order to be effective.

8.3 Add different styles to hyperlinks

```

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <style>
      a.one:link {color:#ff0000;}
      a.one:visited {color:#0000ff;}
      a.one:hover {color:#ffcc00;}

      a.two:link {color:#ff0000;}
      a.two:visited {color:#0000ff;}
      a.two:hover {font-size:150%;}

      a.three:link {color:#ff0000;}
      a.three:visited {color:#0000ff;}
      a.three:hover {background:#66ff66;}

      a.four:link {color:#ff0000;}

```

```

a.four:visited {color:#0000ff;}
a.four:hover {font-family:monospace;}

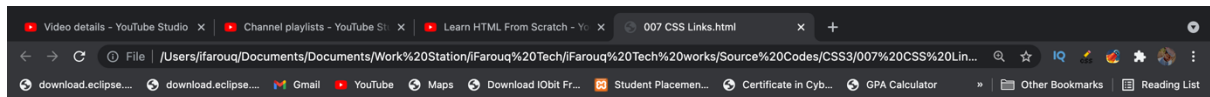
a.five:link {color:#ff0000;text-decoration:none;}
a.five:visited {color:#0000ff;text-decoration:none;}
a.five:hover {text-decoration:underline;}

</style>
</head>
<body>
<p>Mouse over the links and watch them change layout:</p>
<p><b><a class="one" href="default.html" target="_blank">This link
changes color</a></b></p>
<p><b><a class="two" href="default.html" target="_blank">This link
changes font-size</a></b></p>
<p><b><a class="three" href="default.html" target="_blank">This link
changes background-color</a></b></p>
<p><b><a class="four" href="default.html" target="_blank">This link
changes font-family</a></b></p>
<p><b><a class="five" href="default.html" target="_blank">This link
changes text-decoration</a></b></p>
</body>
</html>

```

This example demonstrates how to add other styles to hyperlinks.

Preview:



Mouse over the links and watch them change layout:

This link changes color

This link changes font-size

This link changes background-color

This link changes font-family

This link changes text-decoration

8.4 Advanced - Create link boxes

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <style>
      a:link, a:visited {
        display: block;
        font-weight: bold;
        color: #ffffff;
        background-color: #98bf21;
        width: 120px;
        text-align: center;
        padding: 4px;
        text-decoration: none;
      }
      a:hover, a:active {
        background-color: #7A991A;
      }
    </style>
  </head>
  <body>
    <a href="default.html" target="_blank">This is a link</a>
  </body>
</html>
```

This example demonstrates a more advanced example where we combine several CSS properties to display links as boxes.

Preview:

