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Mobile Web Development

Flexbox Layouts

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Overview

❖ Flexbox is a group of CSS styles that arrange boxes of HTML content in rows and columns.

❖ It can specify order, and allow boxes to shrink or grow as their container changes.

❖ It is ideal for the typical multi-column layouts of many web pages.

❖ It is reasonably well supported by browsers since IE 11. IE 10 had partial support.

Using Flexbox

- Place `display:flex` and `flex-flow:row wrap` on a container.

- Place `flex:`*n* on each child of the container, where *n* is the relative width of its column compared to the other columns. For example, a column with `flex:2` would be twice as wide as a column with `flex:1`.

- If a column needs a minimum width, add a `min-width` style to it alongside the `flex` style.

Example

```
.column-container {

    display: flex;

    flex-flow:row wrap;

}

.column {

    flex: 1;

}
```

Example

```
.column-container {

    display: flex;

    flex-flow:row wrap;

}
.column {

    flex: 3;

}

.navigation-column {

    flex: 1;

    min-width: 200px;

}
```

Setting Box Order

- ❖ Place `order:`*n* on each child of the container, where *n* sets the child's value in the container's ascending layout order.

- ❖ For example, a column with `order:2` would be rendered after a column with `order:1`.

Example

```
// On phones only, make the medium sized
bricklets display first

@media only screen and (min-device-width :
320px) and (max-device-width : 568px) and
(orientation : portrait) {

    .bricklets.medium {order: -1;}

}
```

Alternatives to Flexbox

- ❖ Using `display:inline-block` to allow blocks of content to be arranged next to each other. Popular for the last few years.

- ❖ Using the CSS `float` style to trick a browser into arranging objects next to each other. Popular from about 2005 to 2015.

- ❖ Using a `table` tag to lay out content in columns and rows. Popular from about 1995 to 2005.

Why is it Called FlexBox?

❖ Because the W3C called it the *CSS Flexible Box Layout Module*

❖ https://www.w3.org/TR/css-flexbox-1/

❖

Flexbox Examples

- http://webpage.pace.edu/hsahakian/examples/flex-simple/

- http://webpage.pace.edu/hsahakian/examples/flex-mariner/