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Linking Stylesheets

By Webmonkey Staff

Local (inline) stylesheet declarations, specific to a single instance on a page, can be used instead of tags to specify font size, color, and typeface and to define margins, leading, etc.

```

1 <p style="font size:small; color:red; font-weight:bold;
2 font-family:Arial, Helvetica, non-serif">
3 This is a local stylesheet declaration.
4 </p>
    
```

Global (embedded) stylesheet declarations, applicable to an entire document, are defined within the <style> and </style> tags, which precede the <body> tag in the HTML document and are usually placed in the header. To embed a global stylesheet in your HTML document:

```

01 <html>
02 <head>
03 <title>Title</title>
04 <style type="text/css">
05 <!--
06 [STYLE INFORMATION GOES HERE]
07 -->
08
09 </style>
10 </head>
11 <body>
12 [DOCUMENT BODY GOES HERE]
13 </body>
14 </html>
    
```

Linked stylesheet declarations use a single stylesheet (in a separate file, saved with the .css suffix) to define multiple pages. A typical .css file is a text file containing style rules, as here:

```

1 P {font-family:non-serif; font-size:medium; color:red}
2 H1 {font-family:serif; font-size:x-large; color:green}
3 H2 {font-family:serif; font-size:large; color:blue}
    
```

To apply a .css stylesheet ("style.css" in the example below) to an HTML page, a <link> tag is added to the page header:

```

1 <head>
2 <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css" type="text/css">
3 </head>
    
```

Inheritance

In cases where local, global, and linked style definitions conflict, the most specific stylesheet will generally take precedence:local overrides global, global overrides linked. Similarly, inline style attributes override ID, ID overrides class, and class overrides stylesheet-defined HTML elements.

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