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Discussion 9.1

Web 430

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LESS

Less is a CSS preprocessor. Much like SASS, these languages are not readible by the browser thus they need to be compiled. I like to use the "watchsass" extension in VS Code when working with SASS. With LESS, you write less CSS and it complies to regular CSS. Some other advantages of LESS is the ability to create variables, nesting, mixing and functions. Variables are created using the @ symbol unlike SASS which uses the $ symbol. After creating the variable, that style can be reused on multiple element properties rather than writing it out. Nesting makes the stylesheet look more clean as you can write styles of elements within their parent elements. Mixins are a bit similar to variables with the exception that we are copying an entire set of rules into what looks like a function call. Something that reminds of including in EJS, with LESS we can include other files. This is very important when wanting to include variables from other stylesheets because we can import them from one file to the other. Maps are interesting as well as they allow the ability to use different properties within the same rulset. For example, a rule can have two colors, a primary and a secondary.

To use LESS in NPM, install it by running *npm i less -g*. After creating the LESS file and writing the styles, we can compile the file into a css file by writing *lessc*, the LESS file name and the name of the CSS file. That is, *lessc lessfile.less cssfile.css.*

Reference List

Less Documentation. "LESS." Less.org. Accessed 4 March 2021.

[http://lesscss.org/#maps](http://lesscss.org/" \l "maps)