Web Development

Lecture 8 – CSS Techniques

CSS Techniques

- Centreing a Page
- Two Column Layouts
  - Floating
  - Absolute Positioning
- Three Column Layouts
  - Floating
  - Absolute Positioning
- Useful Websites

Centreing a Page

Method 1 – The Official CSS Way

```
<html>
  <head>
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="ExWD08A.css" />
  </head>
<body>

<div id="page">
<h1>This is the heading</h1>
This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text. ........
</div>

</body>
</html>
```

with this stylesheet

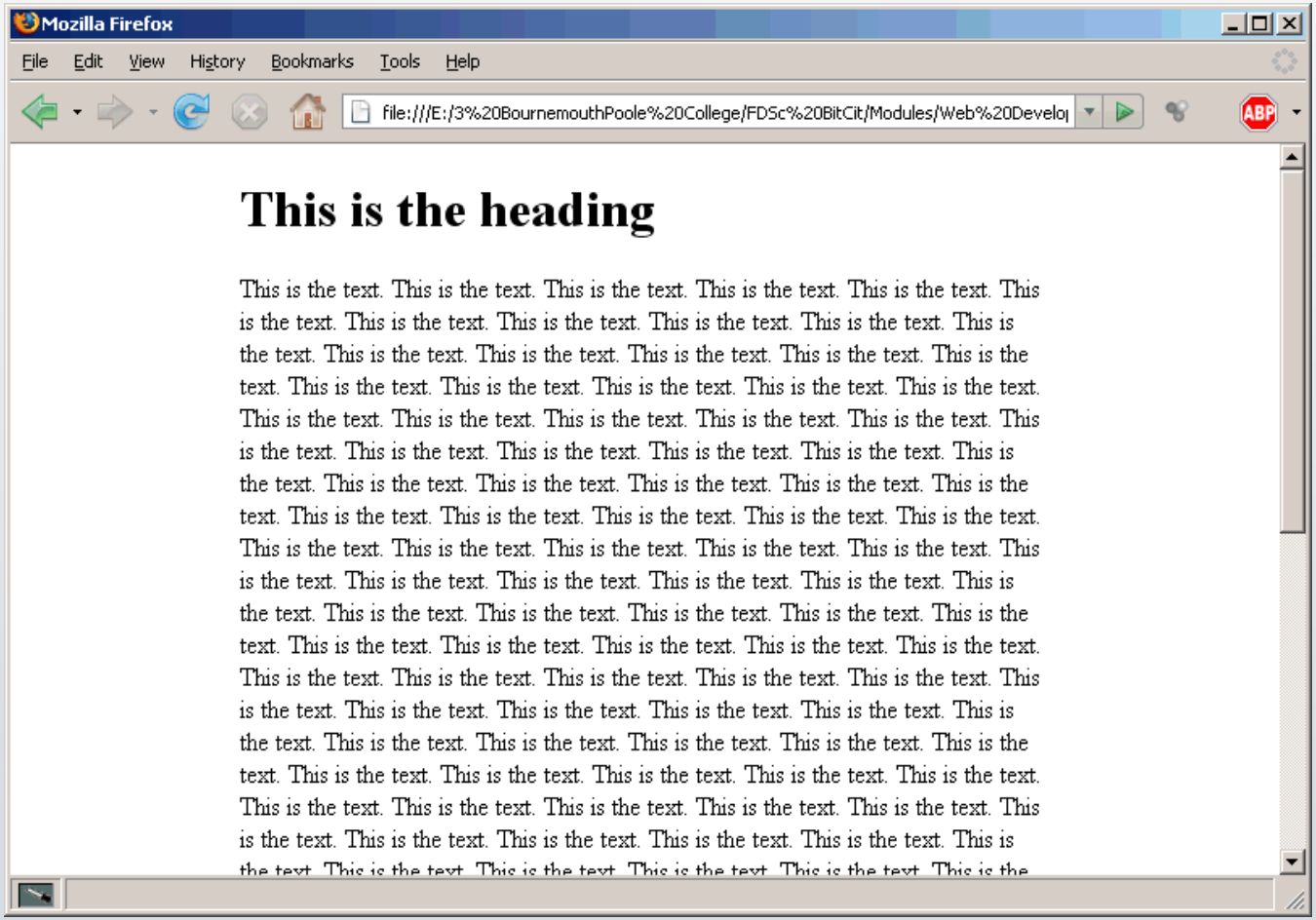
```
div#page
{
width: 500px;
margin-left: auto;
margin-right: auto;
}
```

Specify a width for the element that contains the page's contents.

Set the margins to auto.

This will automatically centre the element in the containing block (in this case, the body element).

will give this


Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
file:///E:/3%20BournemouthPoole%20College/FDSc%20BitCit/Modules/Web%20Develo
This is the heading
This is the text. This is the text. This is the text.

... Use this method

Another way of doing the same thing is to use this trick.

```
div#page
{
position: absolute;
left: 50%;
width: 500px;
margin-left: -250px;
}
```

Using absolute positioning, place the left side of the block half way across the containing block (ie the browser window).

Then set a negative margin of half the width of the block.

This will place the block in the centre, no matter how much you resize the window.

Two Column Layout Using Floats

I won't bother showing the <html> and <body> tags from now on...

```
<div class="masthead">
<h1>This is the masthead</h1>
</div>

<div class="main">
<h1>This is the heading</h1>
This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.
This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.  This is the text.
</div>

<div class="sidebar">
Link 1<br /><br />
Link 2<br /><br />
Link 3<br /><br />
Link 4<br /><br />
</div>

<div class="footer">
Copyright Information
</div>
```

The masthead will be at the top of the page because it comes first

The main content is placed before the sidebar for the benefit of non-graphical browsers.
Note the meaningful class names

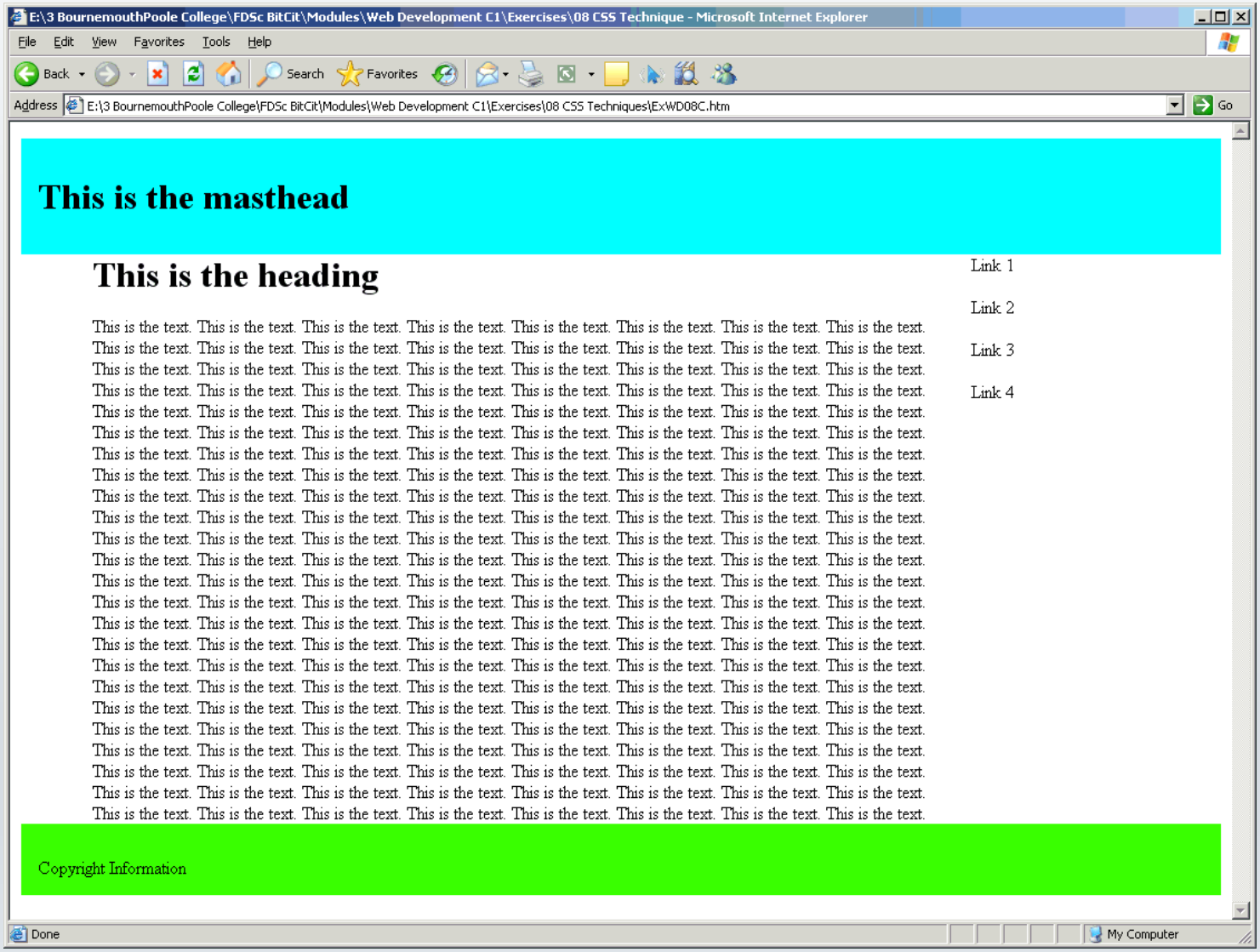
with this stylesheet

```
.masthead
{
background: #00FFFA;
padding: 15px;
}

.main
{
float: left;
width: 70%;
margin-right: 3%;
margin-left: 3%;
}

.footer
{
clear: left;
padding: 15px;
background: #3DFF00;
}
```

The main div is floated to the left, and set to 70% of page width.
Sidebar will flow around it.

Clear property will ensure that the footer lies below any other element which has been floated to the left of the page.

will give this



Two Column Layout Using Absolute

Using the same structure as before. Order of the div elements is not so critical as with absolute postioning, we can put them where we want:

```
body
{
margin: 0;
padding: 0;
}
```

Clears any default browser formats

```
.masthead
{
margin-right: 30%;
margin-left: 5%;
background: #00FFFA;
}
```

Makes room for the positioned sidebar

Two Column Layout Using Absolute

```
.main
{
margin-right: 30%;
margin-left: 5%;
}
```

Makes room for the positioned sidebar

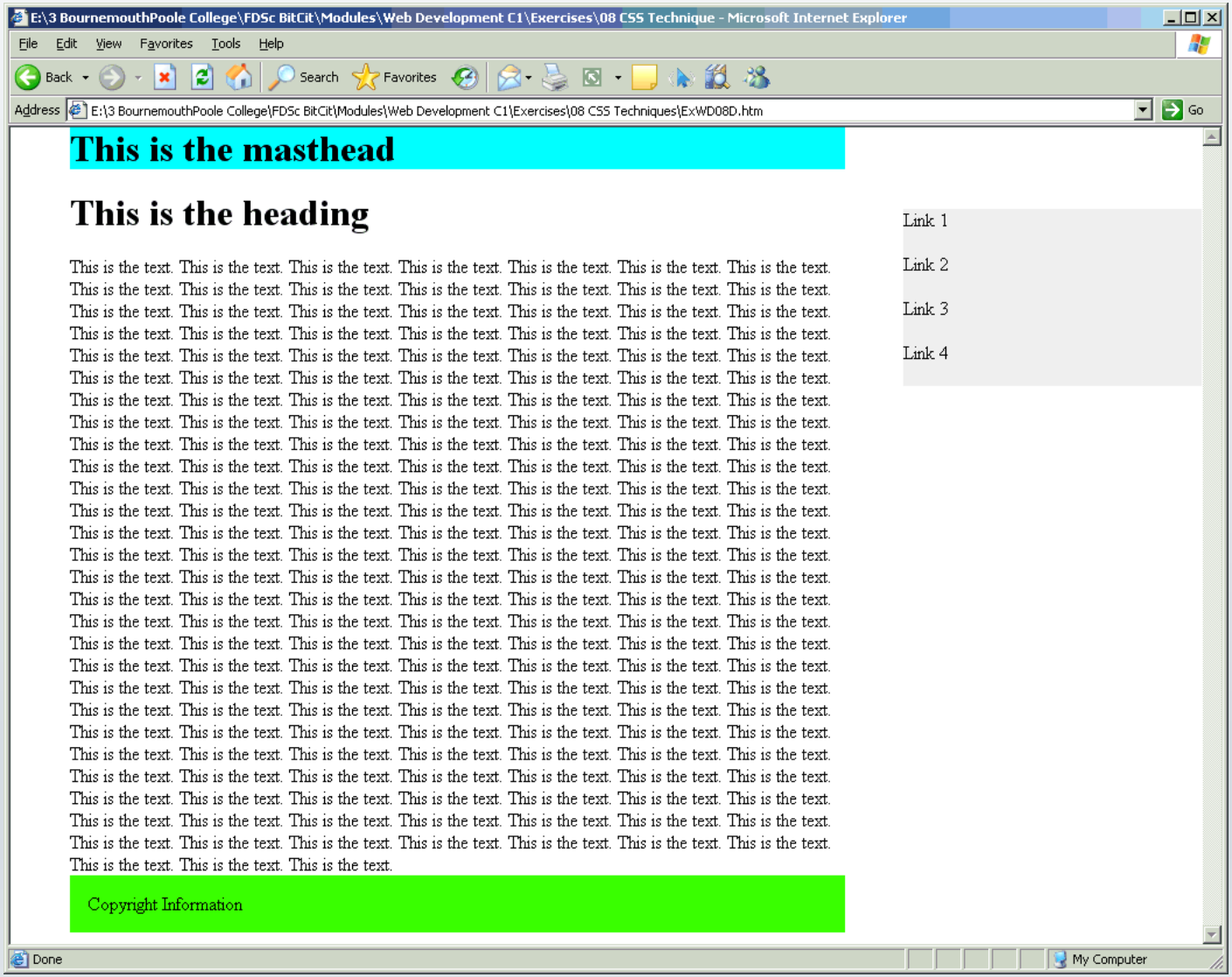
```
.sidebar
{
position: absolute;
top: 70px;
right: 0px;
width: 25%;
background: #EEEEEE
}
```

Places the sidebar below the masthead, and against the right edge of the window

```
.footer
{
padding: 15px;
background: #3DFF00;
margin-right: 30%;
margin-left: 5%;
}
```

Keeps the footer aligned with the main content

will give this...



Three Column Layout using Floats

```
<div id="container">

  <div id="masthead">
    <h1>This is the masthead</h1>
  </div>

  <div id="links">
    Link 1<br /><br />
    Link 2<br /><br />
  </div>

  <div id="main">
    <h1>This is the heading</h1>
    This is the text.  This is the text.
  </div>

  <div id="news">
    <h4>Announcements</h4>
    More news every day. </div>

  <div id="footer">
    Copyright Information
  </div>

</div>
```

A container div enables us to specify a width for our page, independent of the browser.

With floating, the order of the elements is important. Main has been moved.

with this stylesheet

```
#container
{
width: 705px;
border: solid 2px;
}

#masthead
{
padding: 15px;
background: #00FFFA;
}

#links
{
width: 150px;
float: left;
background: #FF7700;
}
```

Note that the container has been given a width.

This should place the links div on the left hand side of the page.

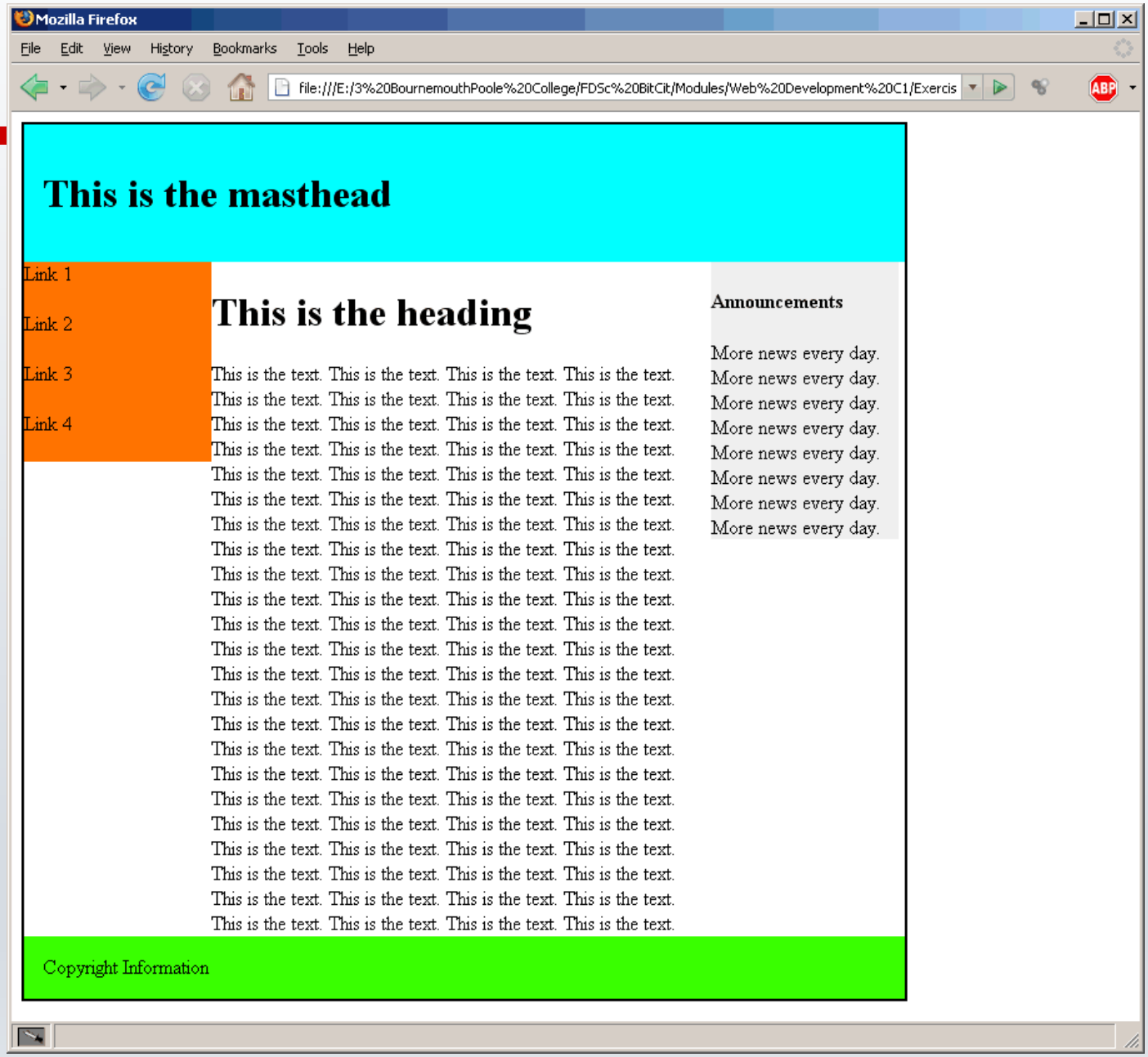
```
#main
{
float: left;
width: 400px;
}

#news
{
float: left;
width: 150px;
background: #EEEEEE
}

#footer
{
clear: both;
padding: 15px;
background: #3DFF00;
}
```

The main content div will then float to the left of the page, bumping up against the links.

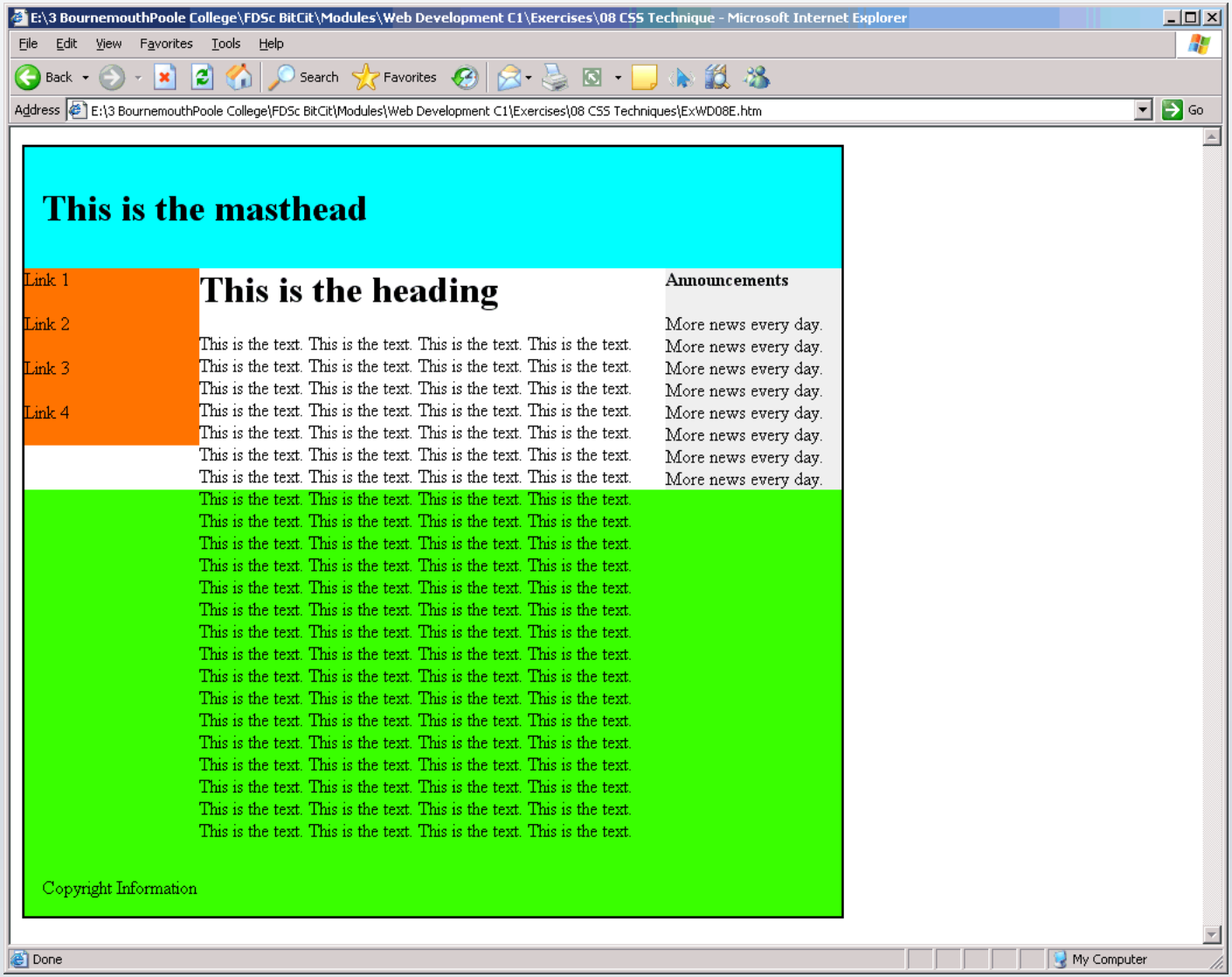
And then the news div, which will bump up against the main div.
What would happen if width was 300px?

The clear property will ensure that the footer will not try to float up to the side of the other divs, but stay at the bottom.

In Firefox


Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
file:///E:/3%20BournemouthPoole%20College/FDSc%20BitCit/Modules/Web%20Development%20C1/Exercis
This is the masthead
Link 1
Link 2
Link 3
Link 4
This is the heading
This is the text. This is the text. This is the text. This is the text.
Announcements
More news every day.
Copyright Information

and in old versions of Internet Explorer.



Some browsers adhere to the standards better than others.

All browsers have little quirks, which must be worked around.

See http://www.quirksmode.org/css/contents.html

The new version of Internet Explorer is much better at adhering to standards.

For an example of the sort of information this website contains, see:

http://www.quirksmode.org/css/clearing.html

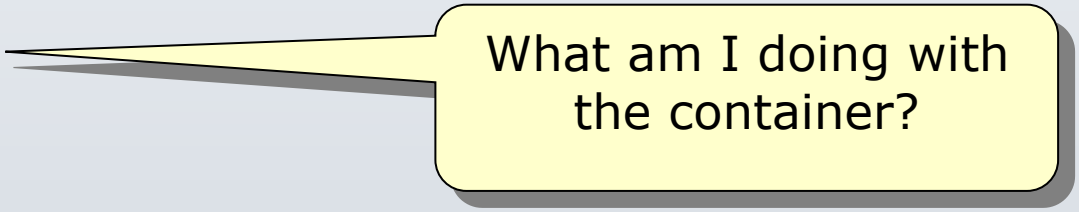
Three Column Layout using Absolute

```
<div id="container">

  <div id="masthead">
    <h1>This is the masthead</h1>
  </div>

  <div id="links">
    Link 1<br /><br />
    Link 2<br /><br />
  </div>

  <div id="main">
    <h1>This is the heading</h1>
    This is the text.  This is the text.
  </div>

  <div id="news">
    <h4>Announcements</h4>
    More news every day. </div>


</div>
```

I've decided to do without the footer for this example

with this stylesheet

```
body:
{
margin: 0;
padding: 0;
}

#container
{
position: relative;
width: 700px;
left: 50%;
margin-left: -350px;
}

#masthead
{
height: 70px;
background: #00FFFA;
}
```

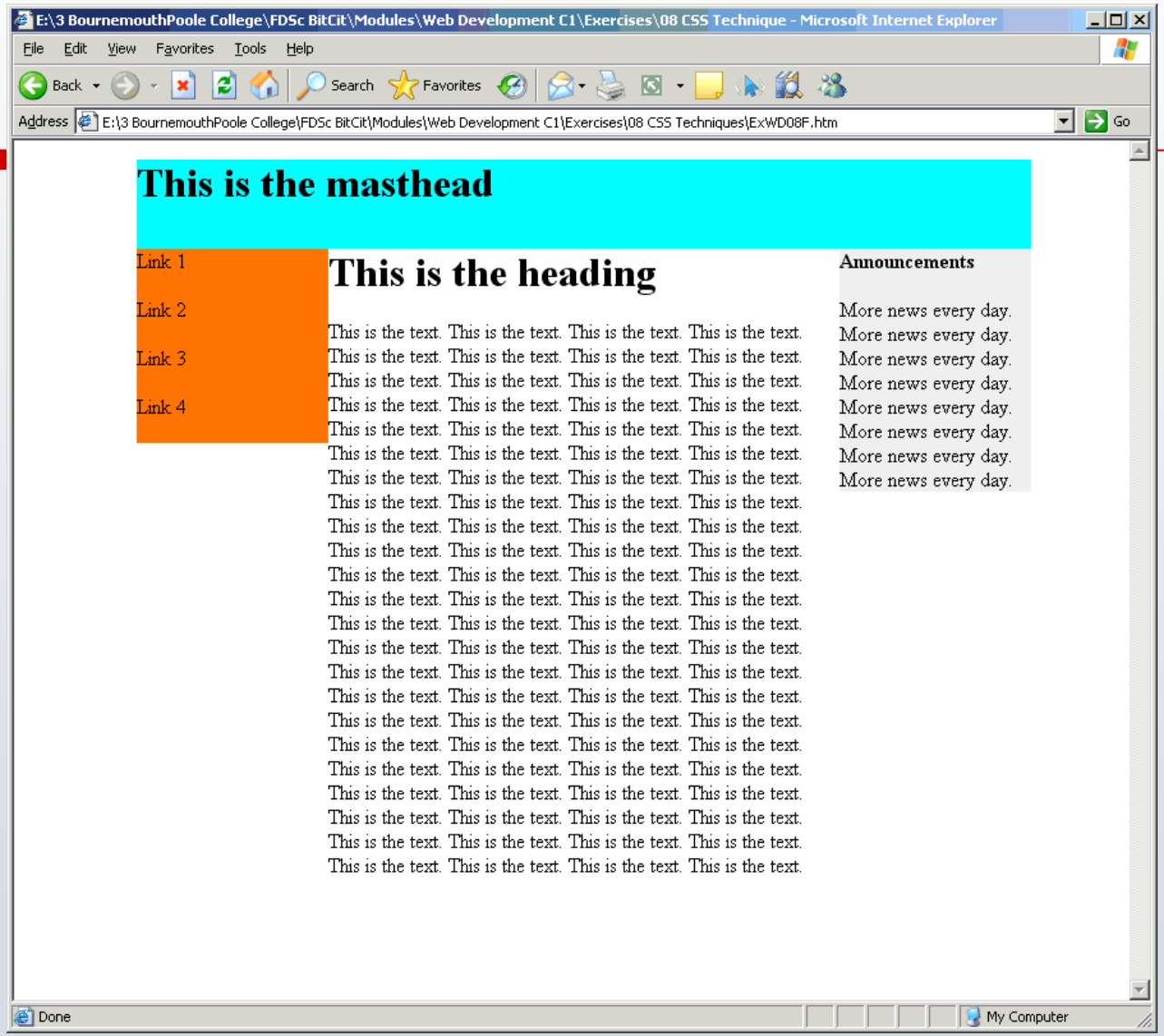


```
#links
{
position: absolute;
top: 70px;
left: 0px;
width: 150px;
background: #FF7700;
}

#main
{
position: absolute;
top: 70px;
left: 150px;
width: 400px;
}

#news
{
position: absolute;
top: 70px;
left: 550px;
width: 150px;
background: #EEEEEE
}
```

Position below the masthead.
Up against the left side of the window.

Leave room for the links sidebar

Position below the masthead.
Leave room for the links and the main content.


E:\3 BournemouthPoole College\FDSc BitCit\Modules\Web Development C1\Exercises\08 CSS Technique - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites
Address E:\3 BournemouthPoole College\FDSc BitCit\Modules\Web Development C1\Exercises\08 CSS Techniques\ExWD08F.htm
Go
This is the masthead
Link 1
Link 2
Link 3
Link 4
This is the heading
This is the text. This is the text. This is the text. This is the text.
Announcements
More news every day.
Done
My Computer

Useful Websites

Browser Compatibility Charts

http://www.quirksmode.org/compatibility.html
http://www.w3schools.com/cssref/css3_browsersupport.asp
http://fmbip.com/litmus/

Showcase Sites

http://www.csszengarden.com
http://www.cssbeauty.com

Personal Sites

http://www.meyerweb.com

Useful Books

Cascading Style Sheets: The Definitive Guide

- Eric Meyer
- O'Reilly

Web Standards Solutions: The Markup and Style Handbook

- Dan Cederholm
- Friends of Ed

The Zen of CSS Design: Visual Enlightenment for the Web

- Dave Shea and Molly Holzschlag
- New Riders

Eric Meyer on CSS: Mastering the Language of Web Design

- Eric Meyer
- New Riders