

New to HTMLGoodies?

[Sign In](#)

[Register](#)



Search

[Introduction](#)

[home](#)

[about](#)

[non-technical introduction](#)

[slideshows](#)    **"new"**

[newsletter archive](#)

[daily web news](#)

[HTML 5](#)

[html5 development center](#)

[html5 website gallery](#)

[Primers](#)

[html](#)

[social media and html](#)

[ad banners](#)

[perl & cgi](#)

[asp](#)

[javascript](#)

[database - sql](#)

[HTML & Graphics Tutorials](#)

[getting started](#)

[backgrounds](#)

[buttons](#)

[browser specific](#)

[colors](#)

[forms](#)

[frames](#)

[html 4.01 tags](#)

[html 4.01 ref](#)

[image maps](#)

[tables](#)

[web graphics](#)

[Beyond HTML](#)

[asp](#)

[cascading style sheets](#)

[css keyword ref](#)

[cgi scripting](#)

[developer research center](#)

[dhtml/layers](#)

[dot net](#)


















[java applets](#)

[javascript](#)

[javascript frameworks](#)  
[javascript keyword ref](#)  
[javascript script tips](#)  
[mobile web development](#)  
[open source cms](#)  
[php](#)  
[security](#)  
[SEO](#)  
[vb script keyword ref](#)  
[webmaster tips](#)  
[webmaster projects](#)  
[webmaster toolbox](#)  
[video](#)  
[xml](#)  
[general reference pieces](#)  
[the master list](#)  
[Need Help?](#)  
[discussion boards](#)  
[mentors](#)

[HTML Goodies](#) : [HTML5](#) : [Tutorials](#)

[Not having data governance can hurt your business. Download this eBook to learn how to take control now.](#)

- [Post a comment](#)
- [Email Article](#)
- [Print Article](#)
-  [Share Articles](#)▼
  -  [Reddit](#)
  -  [Facebook](#)
  -  [Twitter](#)
  -  [del.icio.us](#)
  -  [Digg](#)
  -  [Slashdot](#)
  -  [DZone](#)
  -  [StumbleUpon](#)
  -  [FriendFeed](#)
  -  [Furl](#)
  -  [Newsvine](#)
  -  [Google](#)
  -  [LinkedIn](#)
  -  [MySpace](#)
  -  [Technorati](#)
  -  [Yahoo Buzz](#)

# How To Create a CSS3 and jQuery Dashboard Menu

By [Michael Rohde](#)



Tweet

**Suka**

Today's article on how to create a dashboard menu with CSS3 and jQuery concludes HTMLgoodies' three-part series of articles that focused on code snippets from Webstuffshare.com. This particular approach to designing a website menu is ingenious and borrows heavily from the dashboard menu found on Apple machines, in particular, Leopard.

## The CSS3 & jQuery Dashboard Menu Demo

The dashboard menu focuses on icons to allow a visitor to navigate your site. The demo [can be found here](#). At first blush, you might think it an empty page. However, look closer at the bottom left of the screen and you'll see a plus symbol. Click that plus symbol and you'll see the dashboard that coder Hidayat Sagita created. Let's do a deep dive on the code.

Hidayat first explains that to hide the dashboard, you need to set its position to a minus point and define the overflow properties so that it's hidden. This will hide any other content that you have at the bottom of the page. But in this case, the white space is welcome in that it could potentially draw the visitors attention to the plus symbol. While the demo shows items like email, calendar and calculator on the dashboard, you are encouraged to think of these items as placeholders that you will update with your site's content menus.

## Let's Dive Into the Code!

```
<div id="dashboard">

<div id="dashboard-menu">
<!--list of widgets-->
</div>
<div id="dot-container">
<!--dots groups-->
</div>
</div>
```

The code shown above defines a dashboard div, a dashboard-menu div and a div for the background dots. This provides you with three different divs: one for activating the dashboard; one for the widgets; and one for the background image--in the case of the demo--that would be the dots. The next step is to style the three divs as such:

```
#dashboard {
font-family: Arial;
font-style: normal;
background: #a3acb7;
display: block;
width: 100%;
height: 150px;
margin-right: auto;
margin-left: auto;
-webkit-box-shadow: inset 0px 0px 20px rgba(0, 0, 0, .6);
-moz-box-shadow: inset 0px 0px 20px rgba(0, 0, 0, .6);
box-shadow: inset 0px 0px 20px rgba(0, 0, 0, .6);
position: absolute;
bottom: 0px;
```

```
}

#dashboard-menu {
position: absolute;
display: block;
z-index: 2;
}

#dot-container {
display: block;
width: 200%;
text-align: left;
position: absolute;
left: 0;
top: 0;
z-index: 1;
}

#toggle {
display: inline-block;
margin-top: -3em;
left: 0;
position: absolute;
cursor: pointer;
}
```

While the above code does not feature anything new or groundbreaking, it does provide working code that you can use for your own site. Most of this [CSS code](#) is rather basic and the shadow technique has been covered before on HTMLgoodies. The z-index code might be considered a bit more rare. [W3Cschools.com](#) defines it as follows, "The z-index property specifies the stack order of an element. An element with greater stack order is always in front of an element with a lower stack order." In this case, the z-index places the dashboard-menu div in front of the dot-container div.

At this point, you've got yourself an empty gray box at the bottom of your web page. Let's see how Hidayat creates the metallic effect on the dashboard. To paraphrase his words, the most interesting technique in creating this dashboard effect is how to create the metallic effect on the dashboard's background using only CSS and jQuery. The effect is a grouping of black circle divs with white shadows on it. They are repeated horizontally until they are equal to the page width. After that, they are repeated vertically. Then move some of the odd dots to make it look more real.

Here's the CSS:

```
.dot {
background: #1f1f1f;
width: 4px;
height: 4px;
display: inline-block;
-webkit-border-radius: 4px;
-moz-border-radius: 4px;
border-radius: 4px;
-webkit-box-shadow: 0px 1px 0px #ffffff;
-moz-box-shadow: 0px 1px 0px #ffffff;
box-shadow: 0px 1px 0px #ffffff;
margin-right: .3em;
}
```

```
}
```

And here's how to implement the CSS in your HTML:

```
<!--example : 1 dot-->
<div id="dot-container">
<span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot">
</span><span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span>
</div>

<!--example : dot groups-->
<div id="dot-container">
<div style="margin-left:0em; margin-bottom: -.5em">
<span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot">
</span><span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span>
</div>
<div style="margin-left:0.4em; margin-bottom: -.5em">
<span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span><span class="dot"> </span>
</div>
</div>
```

Basically, you just created a black circle with a white shadow. You won't have to copy and paste ad nauseum to display multiple circles. Instead, Hidayat uses jQuery to repeat them dynamically. This is inserted into the dot container div:

```
//Create base variable, check document width and count how much dot per line.
```

```
var a, b, element = "";
documentWidth = $(window).width();
dotLength = parseInt(documentWidth/10);
```

```
//Loop dot per line
```

```
for(a=0; a<= 11; a++) {
```

```
//Check is even or odd to add some pixel to the margin left
```

```
className= ((a%2) == 0) ? '0' : '0.4em';
```

```
element = element + '
```

```
<div style="margin-left:'+className+'; margin-bottom: -.5em">n';
```

```
//Loop to create the dot
```

```
for(b=0; b<=dotLength; b++) {
```

```
element = element + 't<span class="dot"> </span>';
```

```
}
```

```
element = element + '</div>
```

```
;
```

```
}
```

```
//Insert dots on #dot-container
```

```
$('#dot-container').html(element);
```

Now it's time to insert the widgets:

```
<div id="dashboard-menu">
```

```
<ul>
<li>
 <br> Dashboard
</li>
<li>
 <br> E-Mail Client
</li>
<li>
 <br> Calendar
</li>
<li>
 <br> Geolocation
</li>
<li>
 <br> Sticky Note
</li>
<li>
 <br> AirPort
</li>
<li>
 <br> Calculator
</li>
</ul>
</div>
```

Naturally, you'll want to update these images to fit your own site's content. Of course, per the nature of HTML lists, your widgets will appear in a vertical row. Here's how Hidayat adjusts the design to accommodate for a horizontal design:

```
#dashboard-menu {
position: absolute;
display: block;
left: -65em;
z-index: 2;
}

#dashboard-menu ul li {
display: inline-block;
text-align: center;
margin-right: 2em;
margin-top: 1em;
color: #313235;
text-shadow: 0px 1px 0px #fff;
font-weight: bold;
}

li img {
margin-bottom: .7em;
border: 0;
cursor: pointer;
}
```

Now it's time to set the dashboard so the visitor can make it appear and disappear. This is used with jQuery as well. First, you have to hide the dashboard:

```
#dashboard {  
font-family: Arial;  
font-style: normal;  
background: #a3acb7;  
display: block;  
width: 100%;  
height: 150px;  
margin-right: auto;  
margin-left: auto;  
-webkit-box-shadow: inset 0px 0px 20px rgba(0, 0, 0, .6);  
-moz-box-shadow: inset 0px 0px 20px rgba(0, 0, 0, .6);  
box-shadow: inset 0px 0px 20px rgba(0, 0, 0, .6);  
position: absolute;  
bottom: -150px;  
}
```

And now for the jQuery to allow for the hiding and the showing of the dashboard:

```
//Add event toggle on #toggle  
$('#toggle').toggle(  
  
function() {  
  
//Rotate toggle  
$(this).stop().animate({rotate : '-45deg'});  
$('#dashboard').stop().animate({bottom : '0px'});  
$('#dashboard-menu').stop().animate({left : '3em'});  
},  
  
function() {  
  
//Revert rotate toggle  
$(this).stop().animate({rotate : '0deg'});  
$('#dashboard').stop().animate({bottom : '-150px'}, 700);  
$('#dashboard-menu').stop().animate({left : '-65em'});  
}  
);
```

And there you have it: a dashboard menu using CSS3 and jQuery to mimic the effect used by Leopard!

### [Make a Comment](#)

- **richardsaid on September 21, 2011 at 6:53 am**

Works well. I tested it on the iPhone and it works well however there is a grey box at the bottom of the screen when the page loads

[Reply](#)

## Web Development Newsletter Signup

Submit

Invalid email

You have successfully registered to our newsletter.

**Download Now**



## Top White Papers and Webcasts

### IDC Research: Veeam Drives Virtual Infrastructure Adoption and Service-Level Attainment



The results are clear, this new Veeam-sponsored IDC white paper validated what Veeam customers have said for years: A combined Veeam and VMware environment is both symbiotic and

beneficial for driving virtualization adoption. The study surveyed more than 1,200 Veeam customers worldwide and found: Recovery time objectives (RTOs) using Veeam were more than 2x better in VMware environments without Veeam. The average RTO achieved when using Veeam routinely exceeded business SLAs. Recovery point objectives (RPOs) ...

### Gartner Unveils 2016 ITSSM Vendor Evaluation



ServiceNow Named a Magic Quadrant Leader for Three Years Running. The Gartner Magic Quadrant is an invaluable tool for those seeking an unbiased, third-party evaluation of IT service support management (ITSSM) vendors. By better understanding

the viability and competitive strength of each vendor, potential customers can get insight into tool capabilities, integration with IT operations management solutions, and many other factors to determine which solution best fits their needs. This year, ServiceNow is ...

## Discover the New Standard

Download the free eBook:  
**HTML5: An Introduction**



Download Now



### Related Articles

[Learn HTML5 in 5 Minutes!](#)

[How to Embed Video Using HTML5](#)

[12 Cool HTML5 Geolocation Ideas](#)

[3 Breakthrough Ways to Visualize HTML5 Audio](#)

[How to Build Asteroids with the Impact HTML5 Game Engine](#)

**Get unlimited IT resources with a free membership**

- White papers
- Webcasts
- eBooks
- Newsletters

 **developer.com**  
**Sign me up**



Property of QuinStreet Enterprise.

[Terms of Service](#) | [Licensing & Reprints](#) | [About Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertise](#)

Copyright 2016 QuinStreet Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Thanks for your registration, follow us on our social networks to keep up-to-date

