



# CSS for Page Layout

Key Concepts

# CSS Page Layout Advantages

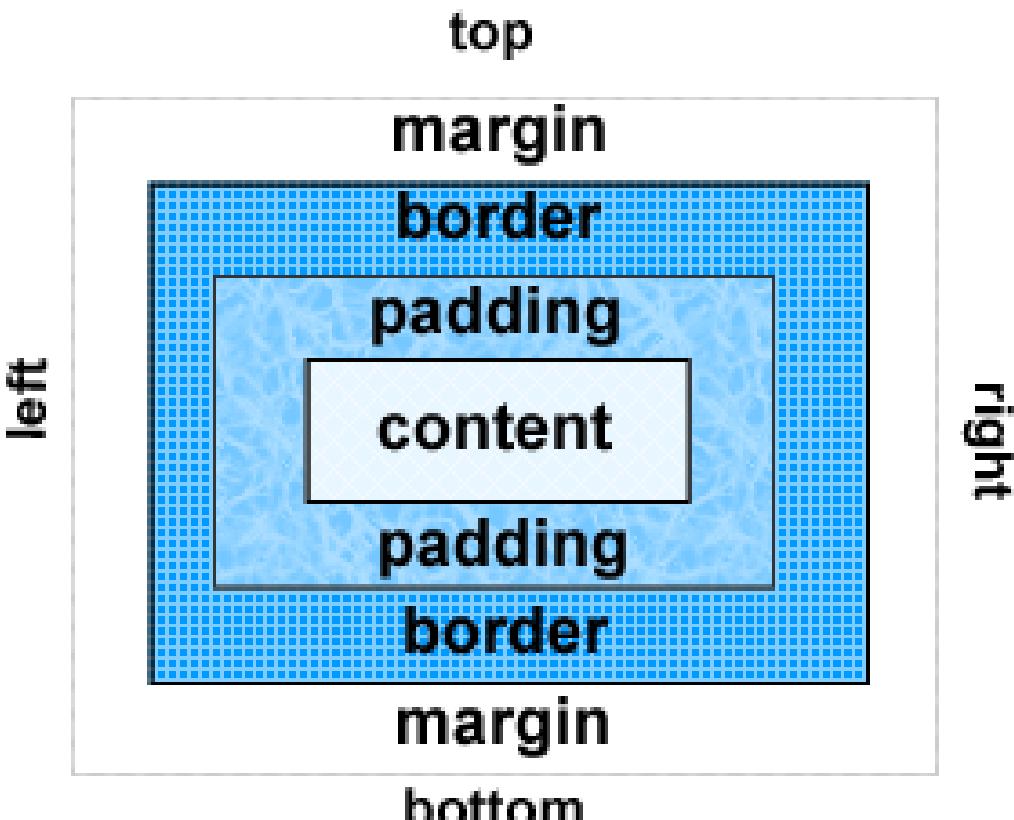
- Greater typography control
- Style is separate from structure
- Potentially smaller documents
- Easier site maintenance
- Increased page layout control
- Increased accessibility
- Ability to define styles for multiple media types
- Support of the Semantic Web

# CSS Page Layout Disadvantages

- There still remain issues with the lack of uniform browser support of CSS
- If you are already adept at designing page layout using XHTML tables, your productivity will temporarily drop as you learn to configure page layout with CSS.

- Content
  - Text & web page elements in the container
- Padding
  - Area between the content and the border
- Border
  - Between the padding and the margin
- Margin
  - Determines the empty space between the element and adjacent elements

# The Box Model



# Normal Flow

- Browser display of elements in the order they are coded in the Web page document

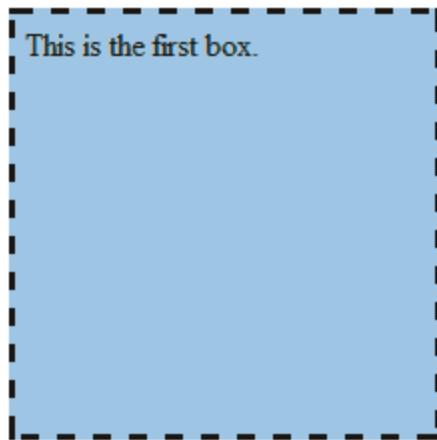


Figure 6.5

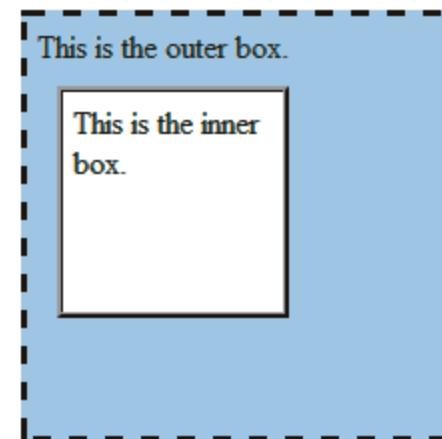
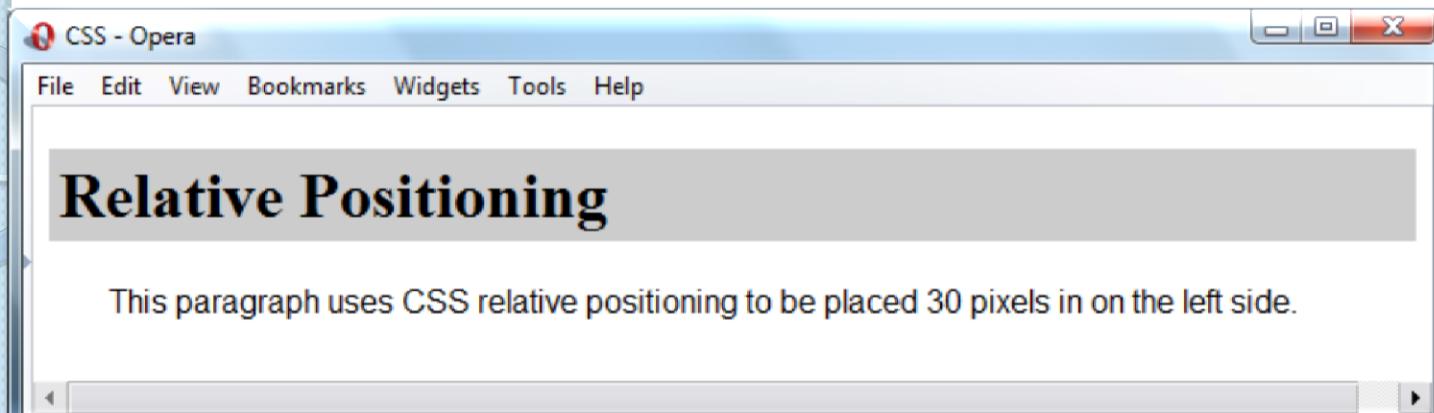


Figure 6.6

# Relative Positioning



```
h1 { background-color:#cccccc;  
     padding:5px;  
     color: #000000;  
}  
  
#myContent { position: relative;  
             left:30px;  
             font-family:Arial,sans-serif;  
}
```

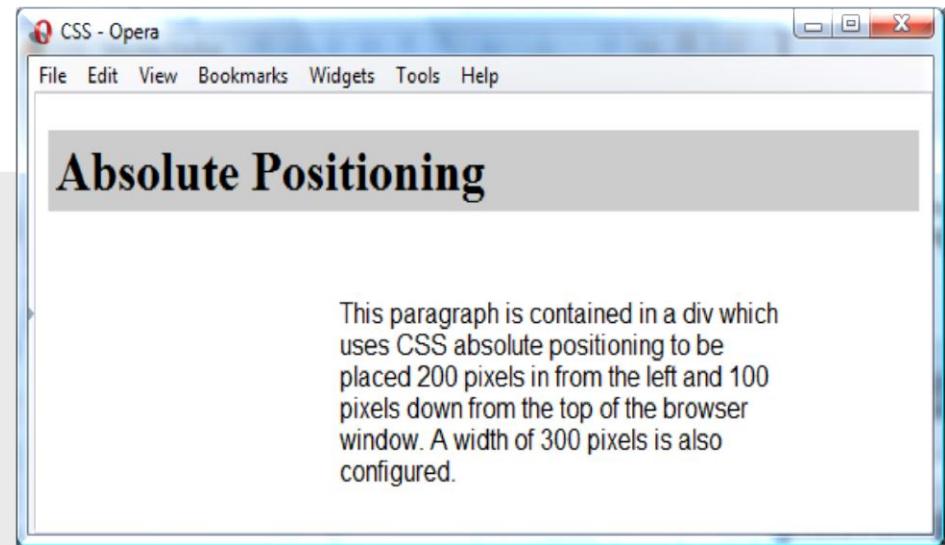
Changes the location of an element in relation to where it would otherwise appear

# Absolute Positioning

Precisely specifies the location of an element in the browser window

```
h1 { background-color:#cccccc;  
     padding:5px;  
     color: #000000;  
}  
#content {position: absolute;
```

```
     left:200;  
     top:100;  
     font-family:Arial,sans-serif;  
     width:300;
```



# Absolute Positioning Example

The image shows two side-by-side Opera browser windows illustrating the effect of CSS on absolute positioning.

**With no CSS (Left Window):**

- Header:** Trillium Media Design - Opera
- Menu Bar:** File, Edit, View, Bookmarks, Widgets, Feeds, Tools, Help
- Content Area:**
  - Title:** Trillium Media Design
  - Text:** Our professional staff takes pride in its working relationship with our clients by offering personalized services that listen to their needs, develop their target areas, and incorporate these items into a well-presented web site that works.
  - Navigation:**
    - Home
    - [About](#)
    - [Services](#)

**With CSS (Right Window):**

- Header:** Trillium Media Design - Opera
- Menu Bar:** File, Edit, View, Bookmarks, Widgets, Feeds, Tools, Help
- Content Area:**
  - Title:** Trillium Media Design
  - Text:** Our professional staff takes pride in its working relationship with our clients by offering personalized services that listen to their needs, develop their target areas, and incorporate these items into a well-presented web site that works.
  - Navigation:**
    - Home
    - [About](#)
    - [Services](#)

**Annotations:**

- A blue rounded rectangle labeled "With no CSS" points to the left window.
- A blue rounded rectangle labeled "With CSS" points to the right window.
- A black arrow points from the "With no CSS" annotation to the right window.
- A black arrow points from the "With CSS" annotation to the left window.

## Wildflowers

The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The Yellow Lady Slipper pictured on the right is a wildflower. It grows in wooded areas and blooms in June each year. The Yellow Lady Slipper is a member of the orchid family.



```
h1 { background-color:#cccccc;  
     padding:5px;  
     color: #000000;  
}  
p { font-family:Arial,sans-serif;  
}  
#yls {float:right;  
      margin: 0 0 5px 5px;  
      border: solid;  
}
```

# float Property

- Elements that seem to “float” on the right or left side of either the browser window or another element are often configured using the float property.

# clear Property

The h2 text is displayed in normal flow.



- Useful to “clear” or terminate a float
- Values are left, right, and both



clear: left; was applied to the h2. Now the h2 text displays AFTER the floated image.

# overflow Property

The background does not extend as far as you'd expect.



- Intended to configure the display of elements on a Web page.
- However, it is useful to “clear” or terminate a float before the end of a container element
- Values are auto, hidden, and scroll

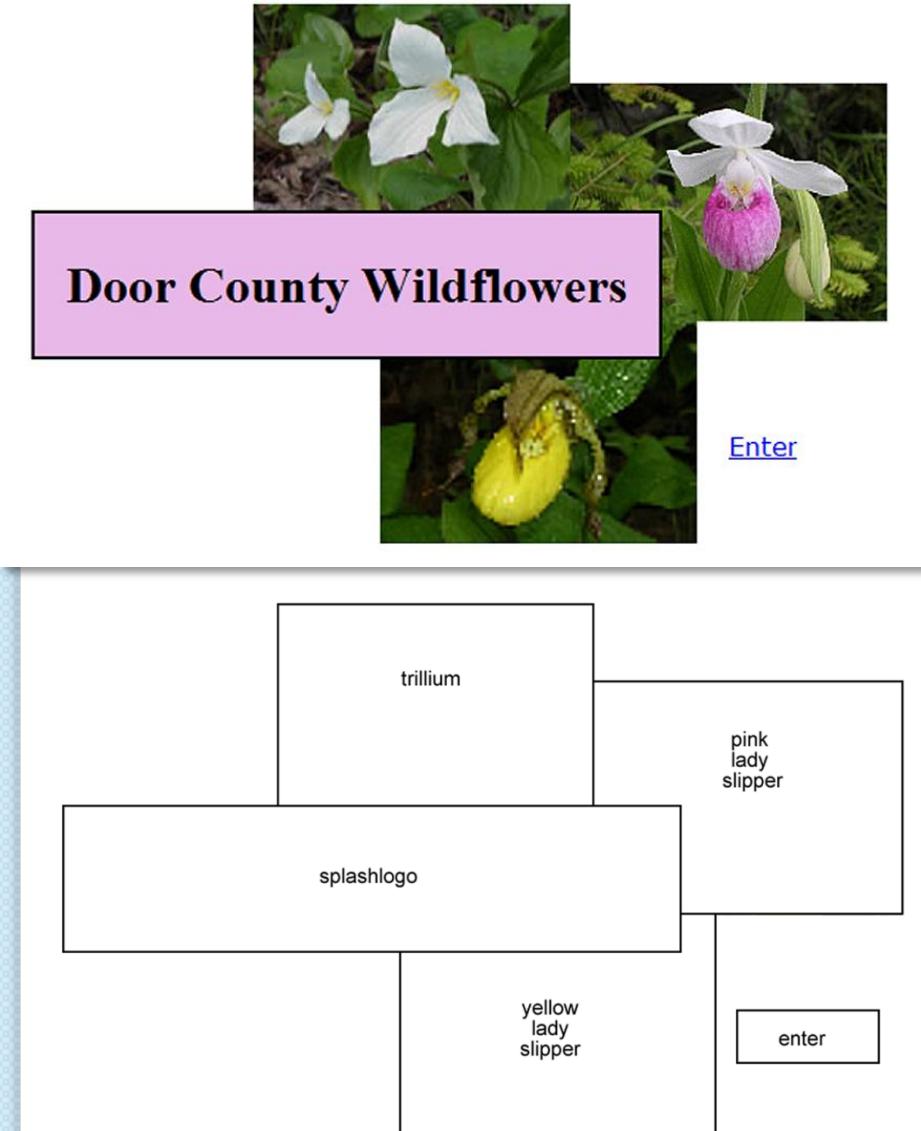


`overflow: auto;` was applied to the `div` that contains the image and paragraph. Now the background extends and the `h2` text displays AFTER the floated image.

# Display Property

- Configures how and if an element is displayed
  - **display:none ;**
    - The element will not be displayed.
  - **display:block ;**
    - The element is rendered as a block element – even if it is actually an inline element, such as a hyperlink.
  - **display:inline;**
    - The element will be rendered as an inline element – even if it is actually a block element – such as a <li>.
  - You'll work with the display property in Hands-On Practice 6.6 and in Chapter 7.

# Z-Index Property



- Modifies the stacking order of elements on a Web page.
- default z-index value is “0”
- Elements with higher z-index values will appear stacked on top of elements with lower z-index values rendered on the same area of the page.

wrapper

contentlogo  
nav

content

footer

# CSS Page Layout Example

Except for imagelogo, all elements on this page follow normal flow

Door County Wildflowers - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Delicious Bookmarks Accessibility Tools Help

# Door County Wildflowers

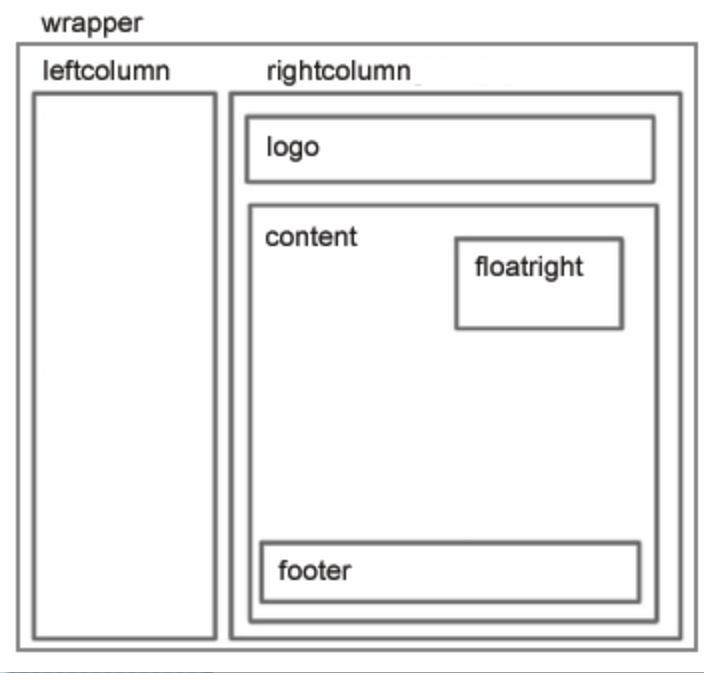
[Home](#) [Spring](#) [Summer](#) [Fall](#) [Winter](#)



Wisconsin's Door County Peninsula is a unique, ecologically diverse place with upland and boreal forest, bogs, swamps, sand and rock beaches, limestone escarpments, and farmlands. A wide array of wildflowers grow in the county because of this variety of ecosystems.

Explore the beauty of Door County Wildflowers.

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Last Updated on 06/07/10



Door County Wildflowers - Opera

File Edit View Bookmarks Widgets Tools Help

Home  
Spring  
Summer  
Fall  
Winter

## Door County Wildflowers

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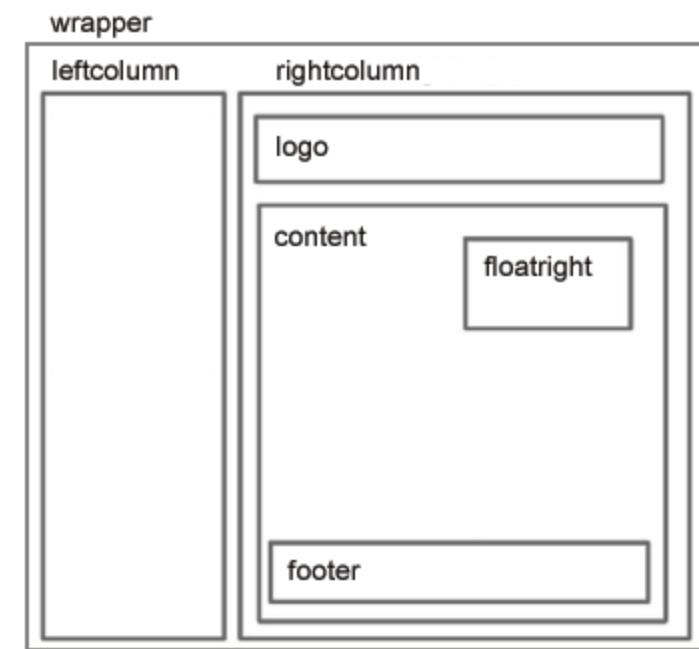
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Last Updated on 07/07/07

# Two Column Page Layout

- wrapper contains the two columns – sets default background color
- Left-column navigation
  - float: left;
  - width: 100px;
- Right-column content
  - margin-left: 100px;
- floatright (flower photo)
  - float: right;

# Two Column Page Layout

```
body {margin: 0;  
      font-family: Verdana, Arial, sans-serif; }  
  
#wrapper { background-color :#e8b9e8;  
            color: #000066;  
            width: 100%;  
            min-width :800px; }  
  
#leftcolumn { float: left;  
              width: 100px; }  
  
#rightcolumn { margin-left :100px;  
               background-color :#ffffff;  
               color :#000000; }  
  
#logo { background-color :#eeeeee;  
        color: #cc66cc;  
        font-size :x-large;  
        border-bottom: 1px solid #000000;  
        padding: 10px; }  
  
.content {padding :20px 20px 0 20px; }  
  
#floatright {margin :10px;  
             float: right; }  
  
#footer {font-size: xx-small;  
          text-align: center;  
          clear: right;  
          padding-bottom: 20px; }  
  
div#leftcolumn a { text-decoration :none;  
                   margin: 15px; display :block; }
```



# Deciding to Configure a class or id

- **Configure a class:**
  - If the style may apply to more than one element on a page
  - Use the . (dot) notation in the style sheet.
  - Use the class attribute in the XHTML.
- **Configure an id:**
  - If the style is specific to only one element on a page
  - Use the # notation in the style sheet.
  - Use the id attribute in the XHTML.

# Choosing a Name for a class or an id

- A class or id name should be descriptive of the purpose:
  - such as nav, news, footer, etc.
  - Bad choice for a name: redText, bolded, blueborder, etc.
- The the 10 most commonly used class names are:  
footer, menu, title, small, text, content,  
header, nav, copyright, and button
- Source: <http://code.google.com/webstats>

# CSS Debugging Tips

- Manually check syntax errors
- Use W3C CSS Validator to check syntax errors
  - <http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>
- Configure temporary background colors
- Configure temporary borders
- Use CSS comments to find the unexpected

```
/* the browser ignores this code */
```
- Don't expect your pages to look exactly the same in all browsers!
- Be patient!

# CSS Page Layout Resources

- For additional study:
- <http://glish.com/css/>
  - Large collection of CSS page layouts and links to tutorials
- <http://www.websitetips.com/css/index.shtml>
  - Comprehensive list of tutorials and CSS-related sites
- <http://www.meyerweb.com/eric/css/>
  - The web site of Eric Meyer, a leading-edge web developer
- <http://www.w3.org/Style/CSS/learning>
  - W3C's list of CSS resources
- <http://www.bluerobot.com/web/layouts/>
  - A “reservoir” of CSS page layouts
- <http://www.blooberry.com/indexdot/css/>
  - CSS syntax reference list