



CSS for Page Layout

Key Concepts

CSS Page Layout Advantages

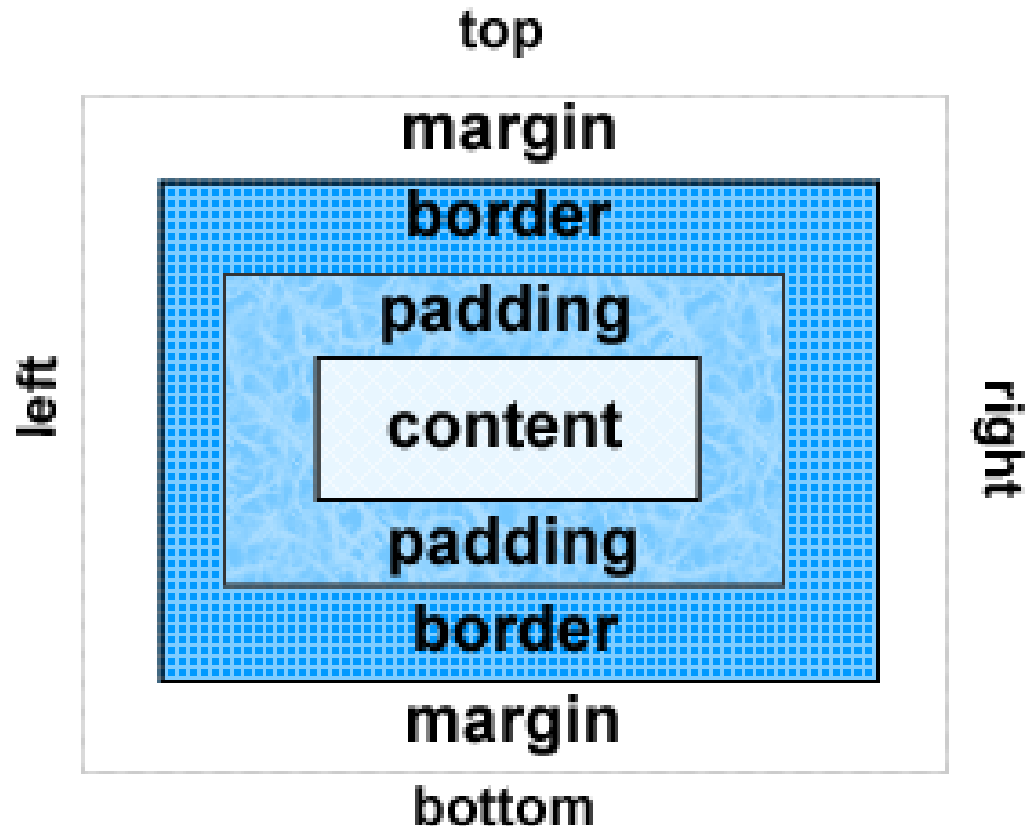
- Greater typography control
- Style is separate from structure
- Potentially smaller documents
- Easier site maintenance
- Increased page layout control
- Increased accessibility
- Ability to define styles for multiple media types
- Support of the Semantic Web

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

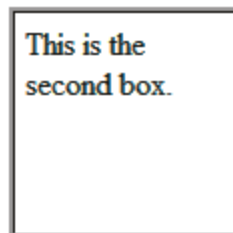
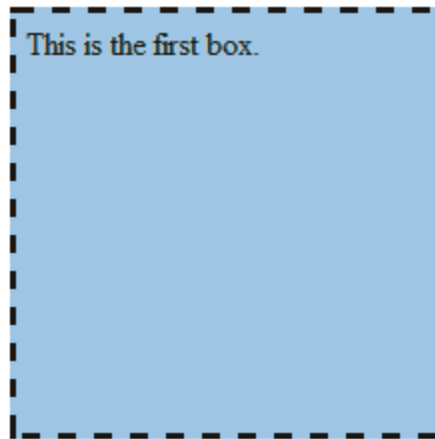


Figure 6.5

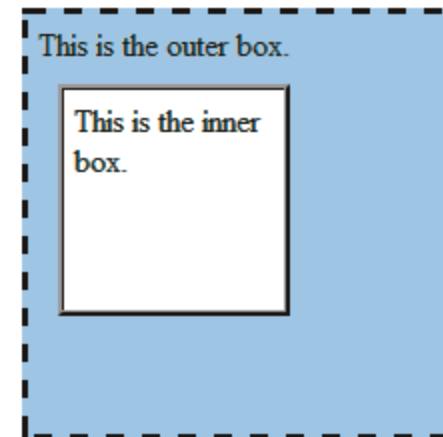
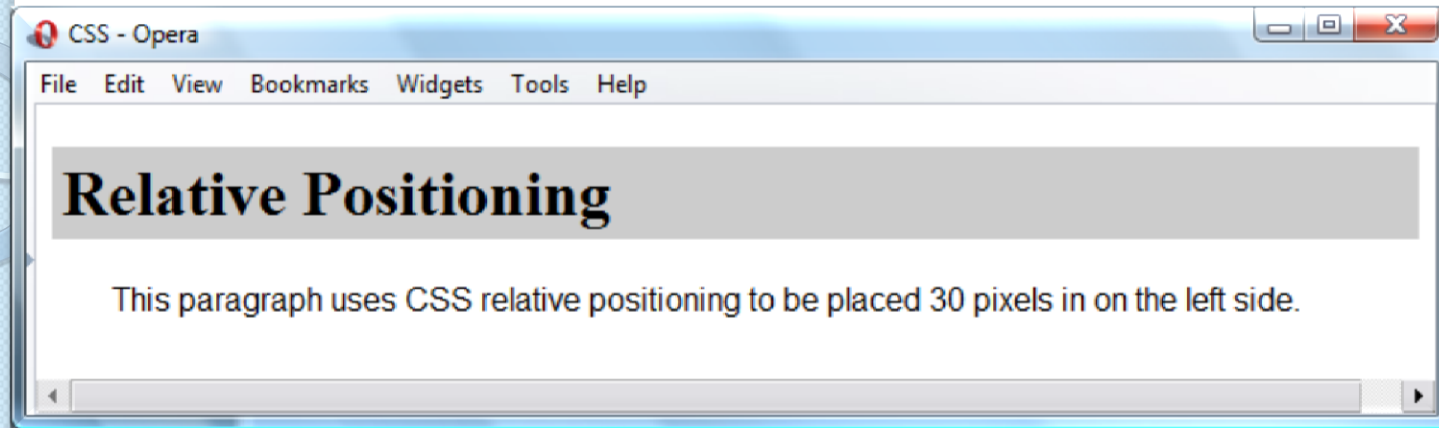


Figure 6.6

Relative Positioning



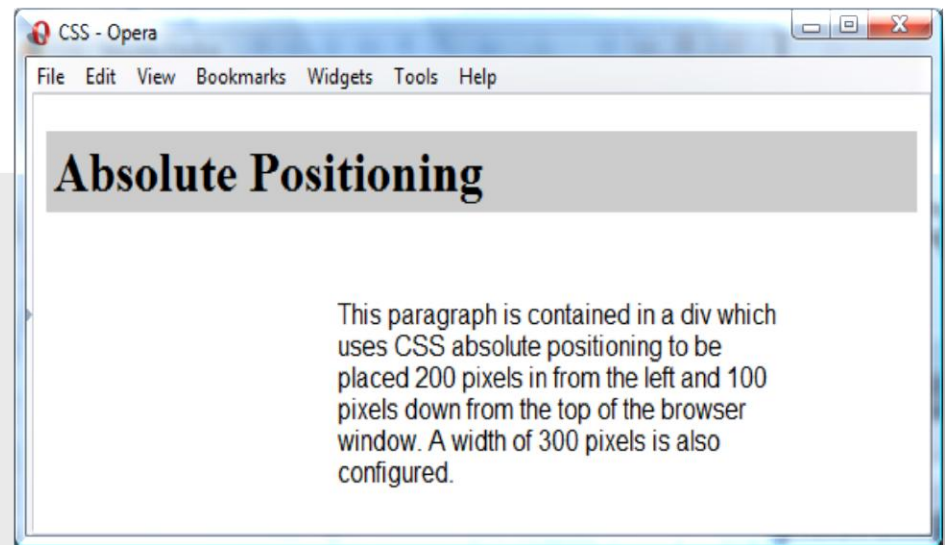
```
h1 { background-color:#cccccc;  
      padding:5px;  
      color: #000000;  
}  
#myContent { position: relative;  
              left:30px;  
              font-family:Arial,sans-serif;  
}
```

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

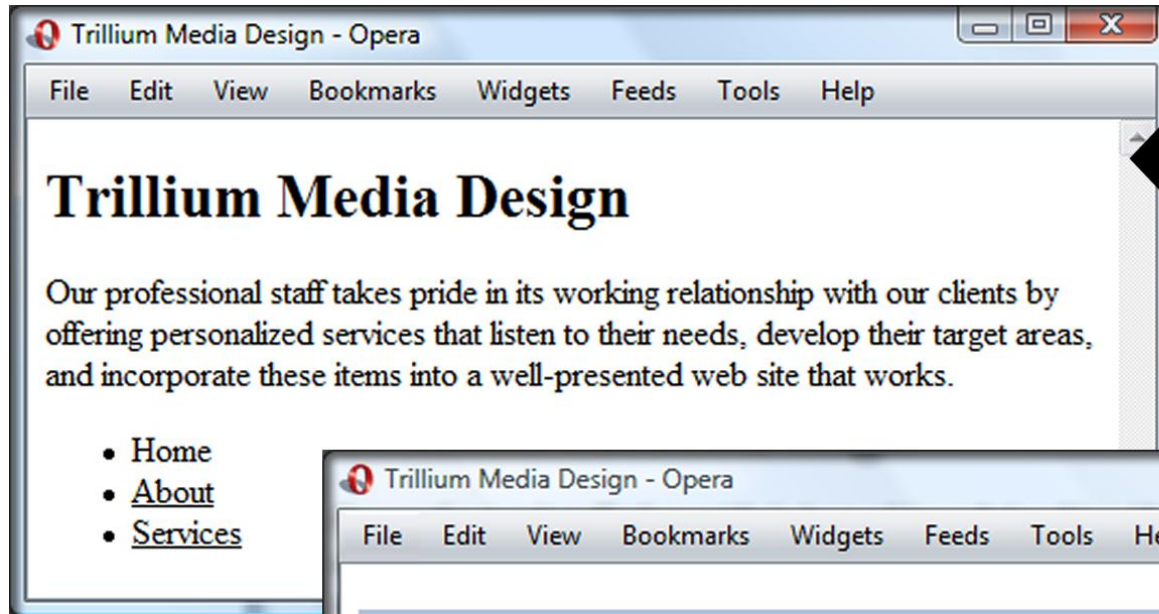
Absolute Positioning

Precisely specifies the location of an element in the browser window

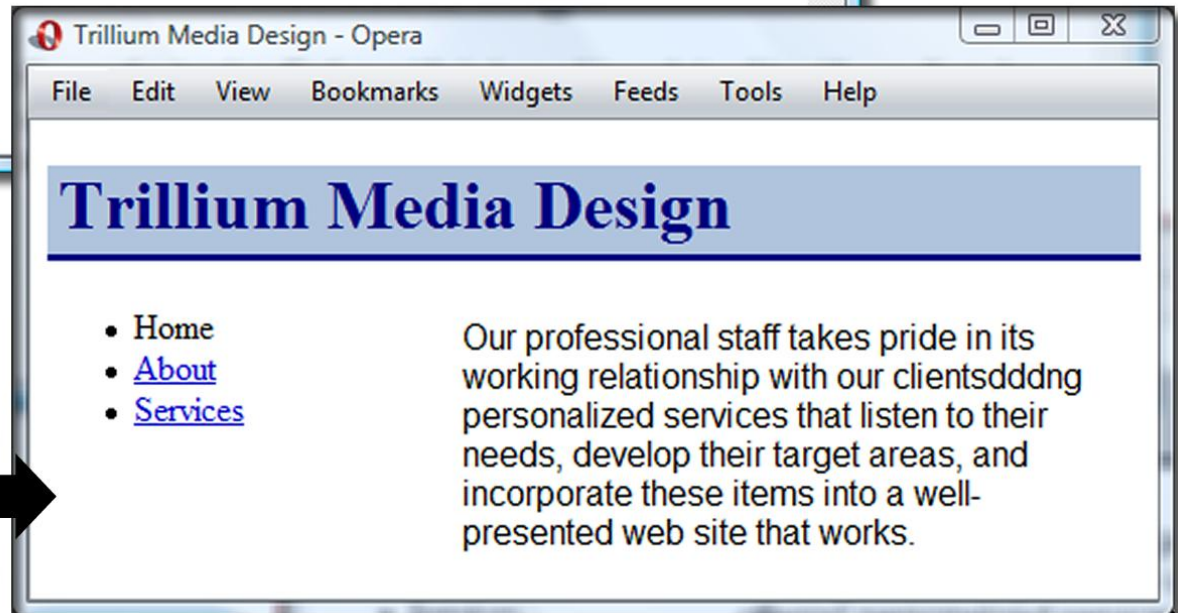
```
h1 { background-color:#cccccc;  
      padding:5px;  
      color: #000000;  
}  
#content {position: absolute;  
          left:200px;  
          top:100px;  
          font-family:Arial,sans-serif;  
          width:300px;  
}
```



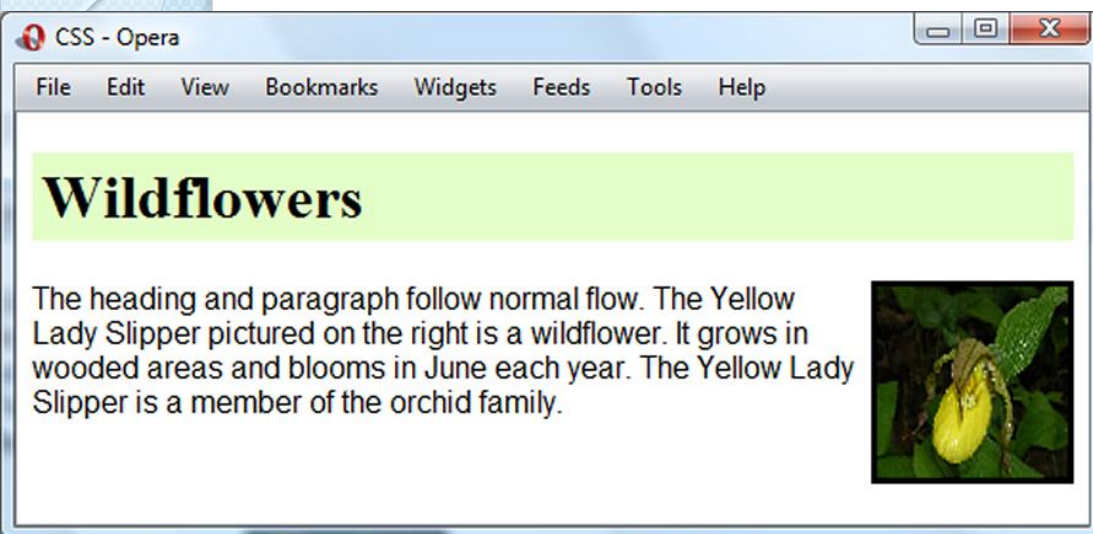
Absolute Positioning Example



With no
CSS



With
CSS



float Property

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

- 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.

The h2 text
is displayed
in normal
flow.



clear Property

- 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 .
 - You'll work with the display property in Hands-On Practice 6.6 and in Chapter 7.

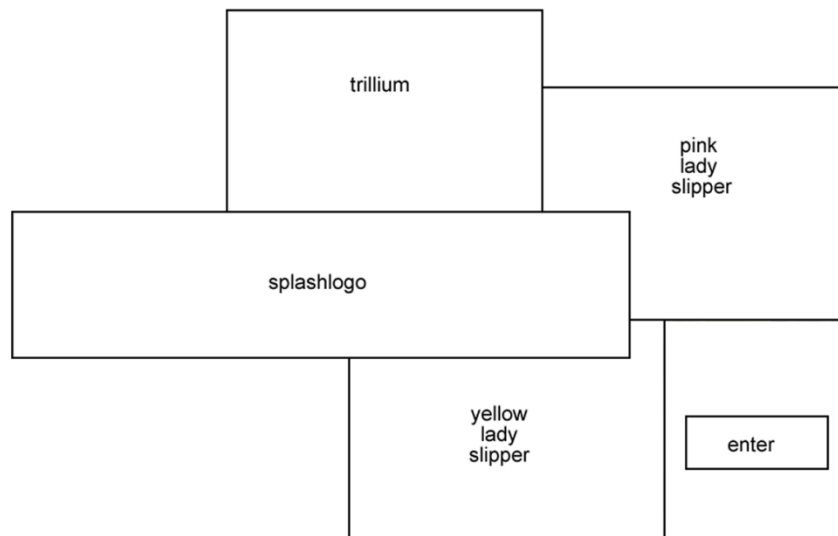
Z-Index Property



Door County Wildflowers

[Enter](#)

- 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

imagelogo

nav

content

footer

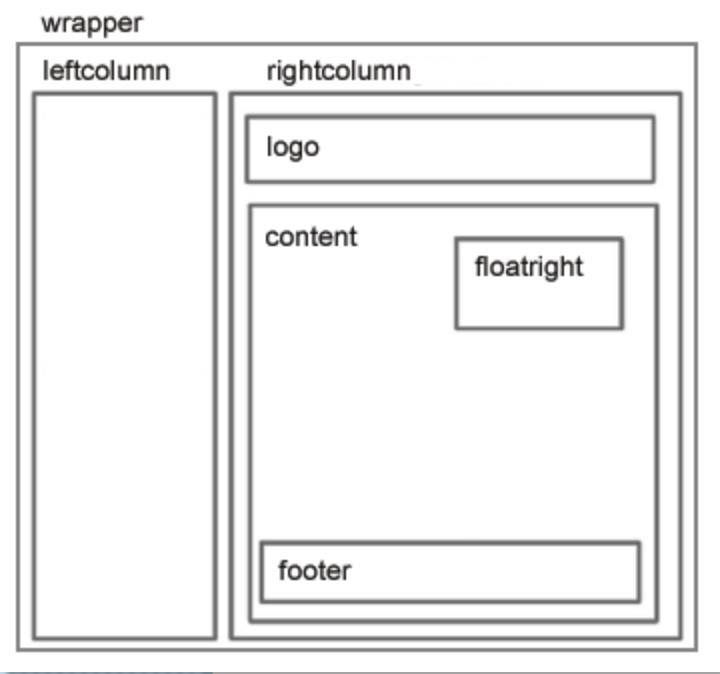
CSS Page Layout Example

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



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;

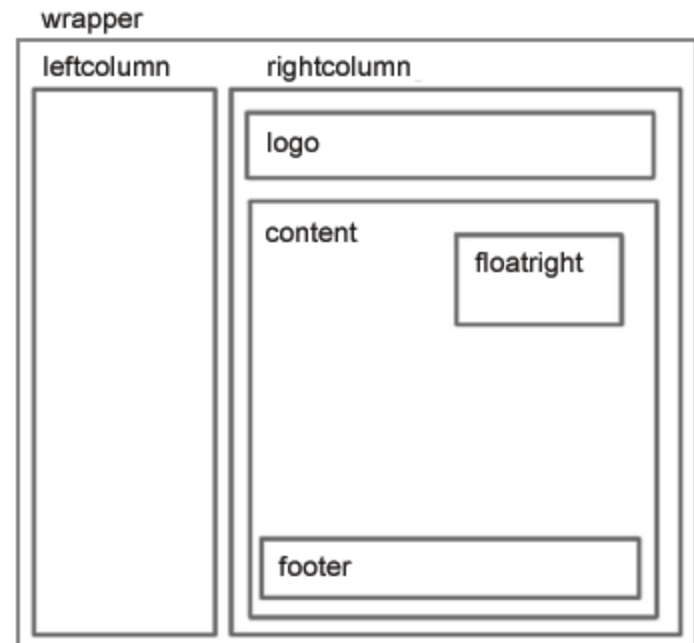


```

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; }

```

Two Column Page Layout



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.bloobery.com/indexdot/css/>
 - CSS syntax reference list