What does the double colon (::) mean in CSS?

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105 For example:



input[type=text]::-ms-clear { display: none; }



CSS

edited Feb 11 '15 at 7:16

Salman A

195k 69 354 455

asked May 23 '13 at 1:04

Dilhan Jayathilake

3 Answers



It means pseudo element selector. It means the element to the right doesn't exist in the normal DOM, but can be selected.

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A pseudo-element is made of two colons (::) followed by the name of the pseudo-element.



Source



It was originally only a single colon, but was changed to differentiate it from *pseudo classes* (like :hover, :first-child, :not etc). It's best to use : for before and after pseudo elements since the single colon has better browser support, namely in earlier IE versions.

edited Feb 11 '15 at 7:14

Salman A

195k 69 354 45

answered May 23 '13 at 1:05



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The :: operator indicates you are selecting a *pseudo element*, one which does not actually exist as an element but can still be targeted for styling.

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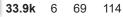
Example of this include several vendor-specific implementations such as the -ms-clear sample you provide, most browsers also have pseudo elements to style scroll bars and other native UI elements, but there are also a lot of <u>predefined pseudo elements</u> which can be referenced for practical reasons, such as first-line and first-letter.

The :before and :after pseudo elements even allow you to insert actual content into the page using CSS with the content rule.

answered May 23 '13 at 1:11



Niels Keurentjes





CSS3 changes the way pseudo-elements are selected, as the W3C wanted to distinguish pseudo-classes like a:visited from pseudo-elements like p::first-line . See Advanced CSS Selectors.

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answered May 23 '13 at 1:44



Eric Jablow

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