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How to override !important?

Asked 7 years, 3 months ago   Active 1 month ago   Viewed 344k times

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I have created a custom style sheet that overrides the original CSS for my Wordpress template. However, on my calendar page, the original CSS has the height of each table cell set with the `!important` declaration:

```
td {height: 100px !important}
```

Is there some way I can override this?

`css`

edited Apr 16 '14 at 11:18   asked Jun 24 '12 at 15:28

Patrick Hofman   user1444027

134k 18 190 254   **1,702** 6 20 31

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3   Have you tried using `!important`, too? If your CSS sheet is defined after the original template, it should work well. — Petr Janeček Jun 24 '12 at 15:30

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59   This is why `!important` is considered harmful. — Spudley Jun 24 '12 at 15:30

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6   Rewrite your css. Avoid `!important`. But for now: the last applied style with `!important` wins. — mAu Jun 24 '12 at 15:33

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8   The most powerful way is like so: td[style] { height: 110px !important; }. it acts as if you injected the style inline to the html because you are applying the styles to the actual style attribute of the tag. — DMTintner Jun 14 '13 at 21:56

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5   Regarding all the sanctimony here, the question was how to *override* an *existing* `!important`, which means that criticizing the practice of using `!important` is irrelevant. It's like "how do I repair my shed that someone smashed with a hammer" and answering "using hammers is bad, and don't use a hammer when fixing it". — Beejor Dec 2 '18 at 22:13

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8 Answers

~~Overriding the !important modifier.~~

313

Simply add another CSS rule with `!important` , and either give the selector a higher specificity (adding an additional tag, id or class to the selector), or add a CSS rule with the same selector at a later point than the existing one (in a tie, the last one defined wins).

Some examples with a higher specificity:

```
table td    {height: 50px !important;}
.myTable td {height: 50px !important;}
#myTable td {height: 50px !important;}
```

Or add the same selector after the existing one:

```
td {height: 50px !important;}
```

Disclaimer:

It's almost never a good idea to use `!important` . This is bad engineering by the creators of the WordPress template. In viral fashion, it forces users of the template to add their own `!important` modifiers to override it, and it limits the options for overriding it via JavaScript.

But, it's useful to know *how* to override it, if you sometimes have to.

edited May 18 '14 at 19:03	answered Jun 24 '12 at 15:36
Lucas	Matt Coughlin
2,317 5 23 40	**15.3k** 3 36 54

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5   I know that this is a bit on the older side of answers, but can you perhaps add a comment that this is an extremely bad way of authoring your CSS (or state why it is acceptable if you disagree)? I've seen people refer to this answer... :) – ZenMaster Jan 12 '13 at 5:51

Great answer. I agree, its a mess. It forces me to hack around their hack, then someone to hack around my hack, etc.. In my case I have to deal with templates that pull their CSS from a database somewhere. I grep the DB dump and it shows me it comes from a 1MB json blob. Not very useful to me in finding where to change it, forcing me to add CSS to a code file, the way it should be done, except with these nasty hacks. – Josh Ribakoff Oct 17 '13 at 14:52

See also: Relationship between !important and CSS specificity – BoltClock ♦ May 13 '14 at 5:19

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it might be a good idea to add the tag identifier also even though it slows down the css. Just had to fix one where I had to put in div#header.class { style: ; } in order for it to take.. very annoying – Sparatan117 Aug 12 '14 at 19:53

The `!important` should only be used when you have selectors in your style sheet with conflicting [specificity](.).

29

But even when you have conflicting specificity, it is better to create a more specific selector for the exception. In your case it's better to have a `class` in your HTML which you can use to create a more specific selector which doesn't need the `!important` rule.

```
td.a-semantic-class-name { height: 100px; }
```

I personally never use `!important` in my style sheets. Remember that the C in CSS is for cascading. Using `!important` will break this.

edited Mar 31 '14 at 11:39   answered Sep 17 '12 at 9:12

Jasper de Vries
9,700   5   38   76

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7   Im gonna quote that "Remember that the C in CSS is for cascading." :) – mika Nov 15 '13 at 17:52

15   This is not true. An `!important` rule in the stylesheet will override a normal rule in a `style` tag, for example. However, in some situations it will appear that a more specific rule overrides it. For example, if you set a `font-size: 24pt !important` on `body`, you can still override it with a `font-size: 12pt` on `p`. This is because you are not overriding the `!important` rule, you are overriding the implicit `font-size: inherit` on `p`. – meustrus Mar 27 '14 at 19:24 ✏️

Okay here is a quick lesson about CSS Importance. I hope that the below helps!

13

First of all the every part of the styles name as a weighting, so the more elements you have that relate to that style the more important it is. For example

```
#P1 .Page {height:100px;}
```

is more important than:

```
.Page {height:100px;}
```

So when using important, ideally this should only ever be used, when really really needed. So to override the declaration, make the style

```
td {width:100px !important;}
table tr td .override {width:150px !important;}
```

I hope this helps!!!

two `!important` can be override by re-define **.old-class-name {bla bla bla}** as **.old-class-name.overrided {bla bla bla}** in `<style></style>` tag above the component, it's work for me – Tarek Kalaji Sep 24 at 8:44

Disclaimer: Avoid !important at all cost.

13

This is a dirty, dirty hack, but you can override an !important, without an !important, by using an (infinitely looping or very long lasting) animation on the property you're trying to override the importants on.

```css
@keyframes forceYellow {
  from {
    background-color: yellow;
  }
  to {
    background-color: yellow;
  }
}

div {
  width: 100px;
  height: 100px;
  margin: 0 auto;
  background: red !important;
  animation: 1s linear infinite forceYellow;
}


<div></div>
```

answered Dec 14 '17 at 0:47

mariomc
547 1 5 12

3 One of the brilliant solution I have ever seen 👍 — Mo. Nov 8 '18 at 9:54

Override using JavaScript

9

```
$('.mytable td').attr('style', 'display: none !important');
```

Worked for me.

Cheers!

answered Oct 9 '14 at 11:01

Manish Shrivastava
20.2k 13 85 98

2 Well, Its not good practice to use `!important` . — Manish Shrivastava Oct 9 '14 at 11:03 ✏

I thought inline styles always override a parent's important! flag. — Joshua Ramirez May 28 '15 at 19:26

3 @JoshuaRamirez No they actually don't override an important flag unless you put the !important flag inline as well — Cam Mar 3 '16 at 18:37

1 If you're going to use JS, you might as well just delete the element entirely, unless there's a remote possibility you'll need it again. Stacking !important via JS just brings you back to the original question. — SilverbackNet Jun 6 '16 at 10:37

@SilverbackNet As per my understanding, Overriding using JS is more accurate and usually works as CSS loads in sequence and JS jquery block loads after everything gets loaded. So, It overrides the changes done by css independent of css sequences. — Manish Shrivastava Jun 6 '16 at 10:56

This can help too

This will override any **inline style**

edited Oct 12 '17 at 13:06

Musakkhir Sayyed
4,390   8   32   58

answered Aug 31 '16 at 14:02

DiChrist
195   2   10

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A couple of answers worked for me here. Thanks. One thing I should mention is that in my own experience, and probably in the experience of a big chunk of people looking here for an answer, I'm sure most people don't want to use !important, but they have to. I use Joomla CMS in a number of projects and template developers spray their codes with !important. It is very hard to work around their code and in the override file we end up using !important more times than we really want to.

answered Aug 14 at 8:28

LizardKG
108   1   7

-5

I would like to add an answer to this that hasn't been mentioned, as I have tried all of the above to no avail. My specific situation is that I am using semantic-ui, which has built in `!important` attributes on elements (extremely annoying). I tried everything to override it, only in the end did one thing work (using jquery). It is as follows:

```
$('.active').css('cssText', 'border-radius: 0px !important');
```

answered Oct 26 '16 at 13:25

IWI
419   9   26

This does not work, see answer by Manish which uses `attr('style', ...` instead – Christophe Roussy Feb 20 '17 at 14:41