Basics of CSS

Introduction

- CSS is **Cascading Style Sheet**

- CSS defines how to display HTML elements

- The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) created CSS

- Currently we are using **CSS 3**

- We can write CSS in a separate file and link it to our HTML file or embed CSS in HTML file itself

- CSS saves a lot of work. It can control the layout of multiple web pages all at once.

Why CSS?

- HTML was never intended to contain tags for formatting a web page. HTML was created to describe the content of a web page.

- When tags like <font> and color attributes were added to the HTML 3.2 specification, it started a nightmare for the web developers. Development of large websites, where fonts and color information were added to every single page, because a long expensive process.

- To solve this problem, the world wide web consortium (W3C) created CSS.

- CSS removed the style formatting from the HTML page

CSS Syntax

- A CSS rule has two main parts, a selector, and one or more declarations

- The selector is normally the HTML element you want to style.

- Each declaration consists of a property and its value.

```
p
{
        font-size:20px;
        color:blue;
}
```

Comments

- You can put CSS comments in C style using /* and */ to depict the start and end of the comment respectively

-

```
p
{
        color:red;  /* this sets color red */
        text-align:center;  /* this sets text at the center */
}
```

Selection of HTML element(s)

- Through tag Name

- Through id

- Through Class

Through Tag Name

- An HTML tag name can be used as HTML selector.

- This way you can apply properties to all the HTML elements with the same tag at once.

```
p
{
        font-size:20px;
        color:blue;
}
```

- In the above example, all the paragraphs have font-size 20 px and display text in blue color.

Through id

- id is a standard attribute for HTML elements.

- we need to style a particular HTML element, we can use id of that element in selector to distinguish it from other similar elements.

- The id selector uses the id attribute of the HTML element, and is defined with a "#".

```
#para1
{
text-align:center;
color:red;
}
```

- In the above code, CSS is applied to HTML element whose id attribute has value para1.

- You can use id attribute in any HTML tag

- No two HTML element have the same id value

Through Class

- The class selector is used to specify a style for a group of elements

- Unlike the id selector, the class selector is most often used on several elements.

- The class selector uses the HTML class attribute, and is defined with a "."

  ```
  .center
  {
   text-align:center;
  }
  ```

- In the above CSS, property is applied to all the HTML elements whose class attribute value is center.

Ways to insert CSS

- There are three ways of inserting a style sheet:

  - External style sheet

  - Internal style sheet

  - Inline style

External Style Sheet

- An external style sheet is ideal when the style is applied to many pages.

- With an external style sheet, you can change the look of an entire Web site by changing one file.

- The <link> tag goes inside the head section

  ```
  <head>
          <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="mystyle.css" />
  </head>
  ```

- Your style sheet should be saved with a .css extension.

- Suppose there are 100s of pages in your site and you want a common theme for all pages, like specific font for the text, color of the text, specific decoration to images and links, etc., It is better to write desired CSS in a separate file with extension .css and include this CSS file in all your web pages. At any time you can change your CSS and easily alter the appearance of entire website.

Internal Style Sheet

- An internal style sheet should be used when a single document has a unique style

- You define internal styles in the head section of an HTML page, by using the **<style>** tag

```
<head>
<style type="text/css">
        h1 {color:sienna;}
        p {margin-left:20px;}
        body {
                background-image: url("images/back40.gif");
            }
</style>
</head>
```

Inline Style

- To use inline styles you use the style attribute in the relevant tag.

- The style attribute can contain any CSS property

```
<p style="color:red;margin-left:10px;">
        This is a paragraph.
</p>
```