

LECTURE: INTRODUCTION CASCADING STYLE SHEET

INTRODUCTION

A CSS (cascading style sheet) file allows you to separate your web sites HTML content from its style. [CSS](#) is the language for describing the presentation of Web pages, including colors, layout, and fonts. It allows one to adapt the presentation to different types of devices, such as large screens, small screens, or printers. CSS is independent of HTML and can be used with any XML-based markup language. The separation of HTML from CSS makes it easier to maintain sites, share style sheets across pages, and tailor pages to different environments. This is referred to as the *separation of structure (or: content) from presentation*. Use CSS to define styles for your documents, including the design, layout and variations in display for different devices and screen sizes.

WAYS TO INSERT CSS

There are three ways of inserting a style sheet:

- External style sheet
- Internal style sheet
- Inline style

1) INTERNAL STYLESHEET

In this case you are simply placing the CSS code within the <head></head> tags of each HTML file you want to style with the CSS. The format for this is shown in the example below.

```
<head>
<title><title>
<style type="text/css">
CSS Content Goes Here
</style>
</head>
<body>
```

With this method each HTML file contains the CSS code needed to style the page. Meaning that any changes you want to make to one page will have to be made to all. This method can be good if you need to style only one page, or if you want different pages to have varying styles.

2) EXTERNAL STYLESHEET

An external CSS file can be created with any text or HTML editor such as “Notepad” or “Dreamweaver”. A CSS file contains no HTML, only CSS. You simply save it with the .css file extension. You can link to the file externally by placing one of the following links in the head section of every HTML file you want to style with the CSS file.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="Path To stylesheet.css" />
```

Or you can also use the @import method as shown below

```
<style type="text/css">@import url(Path To stylesheet.css)</style>
```

Either of these methods are achieved by placing one or the other in the head section as shown in example below.

```
<head>
<title><title>
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="style.css" />
</head>
<body>
```

or

```
<head>
<title><title>
<style type="text/css"> @import url(Path To stylesheet.css) </style>
</head>
<body>
```

By using an external style sheet, all of your HTML files link to one CSS file in order to style the pages. This means, that if you need to alter the design of all your pages, you only need to edit one .css file to make global changes to your entire website.

Here are a few reasons this is better.

- Easier Maintenance
- Reduced File Size
- Reduced Bandwidth
- Improved Flexibility

3) INLINE STYLES

I have not mentioned them until now because in a way they defeat the purpose of using CSS in the first place. Inline styles are defined right in the HTML file alongside the element you want to style. See example below.

```
<p style="color: #ff0000;">Some red text</p>
```

Some red text

Inline styles will NOT allow the user to change styles of elements or text formatted this way

CSS SYNTAX

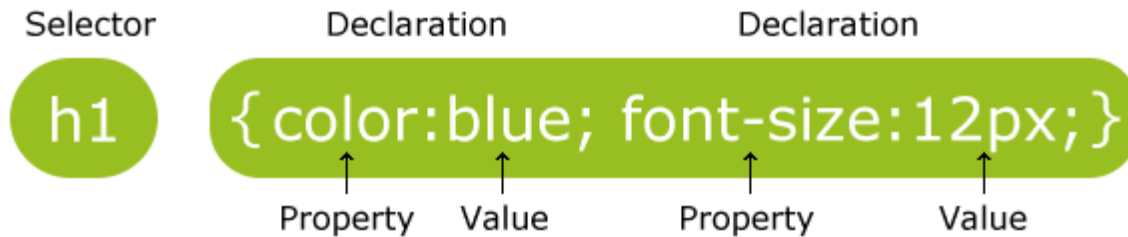
The syntax for CSS is different than that of HTML markup. It consists of only 3 parts:

- **Selector:** The selector is the HTML element that you want to style e.g. background, paragraph, font etc.
- **Property:** The property is the actual property title e.g. size, color etc.
- **Value:** the value is the style you apply to that property e.g. red, 12px etc.

Written as:

```
selector { property: value }
```

FOR EXAMPLE



Each selector can have multiple properties, and each property within that selector can have independent values. The property and value are separated with a colon and contained within curly brackets. Multiple properties are separated by a semi colon. Multiple values within a property are separated by commas, and if an individual value contains more than one word you surround it with quotation marks. As shown below.

```
body {  
  background: #eeeeee;  
  font-family: "Trebuchet MS", Verdana, Arial, serif;  
}
```

CSS Example

A CSS declaration always ends with a semicolon, and declaration groups are surrounded by curly braces:

```
p {color:red;text-align:center;}
```

To make the CSS code more readable, you can put one declaration on each line, like this:

Example

```
p {  
  color: red;  
  text-align: center;  
}
```

EXERCISE

- 1) Change the following elements
 - a. The background of your webpage to any colour you want
 - b. The font face of your text
 - c. The colour of the hyperlink to any other colour you want
- 2) Create a CSS file and save it as trial.css then link it to your webpage