

Chapter 55: Internet Explorer Hacks

Section 55.1: Adding Inline Block support to IE6 and IE7

```
display: inline-block;
```

The `display` property with the value of `inline-block` is not supported by Internet Explorer 6 and 7. A work-around for this is:

```
zoom: 1;  
*display: inline;
```

The `zoom` property triggers the `hasLayout` feature of elements, and it is available only in Internet Explorer. The `*display` makes sure that the invalid property executes only on the affected browsers. Other browsers will simply ignore the rule.

Section 55.2: High Contrast Mode in Internet Explorer 10 and greater

In Internet Explorer 10+ and Edge, Microsoft provides the `-ms-high-contrast` media selector to expose the "High Contrast" setting from the browser, which allows the programmer to adjust their site's styles accordingly.

The `-ms-high-contrast` selector has 3 states: `active`, `black-on-white`, and `white-on-black`. In IE10+ it also had a `none` state, but that is no longer supported in Edge going forward.

Examples

```
@media screen and (-ms-high-contrast: active), (-ms-high-contrast: black-on-white) {  
  .header {  
    background: #fff;  
    color: #000;  
  }  
}
```

This will change the header background to white and the text color to black when high contrast mode is active *and* it is in black-on-white mode.

```
@media screen and (-ms-high-contrast: white-on-black) {  
  .header {  
    background: #000;  
    color: #fff;  
  }  
}
```

Similar to the first example, but this specifically selects the `white-on-black` state only, and inverts the header colors to a black background with white text.

More Information:

[Microsoft Documentation](#) on `-ms-high-contrast`

Section 55.3: Internet Explorer 6 & Internet Explorer 7 only

To target Internet Explorer 6 and Internet Explorer 7, start your properties with `*`:

```
.hide-on-ie6-and-ie7 {  
  *display : none; // This line is processed only on IE6 and IE7  
}
```

Non-alphanumeric prefixes (other than hyphens and underscores) are ignored in IE6 and IE7, so this hack works for any unprefix property: `value` pair.

Section 55.4: Internet Explorer 8 only

To target Internet Explorer 8, wrap your selectors inside `@media \0 screen { }`:

```
@media \0 screen {  
  .hide-on-ie8 {  
    display : none;  
  }  
}
```

Everything between `@media \0 screen { }` is processed only by I