Specificity

About

CSS specificity is a concept that determines which CSS rule is applied when multiple rules could apply to the same element. It helps resolve conflicts by giving priority to certain types of selectors.

How Specificity Works

Each CSS selector has a specificity value, which is usually represented as four numbers separated by commas (a,b,c,d). The specificity is calculated based on the types of selectors used:

- a: Inline styles (e.g., style="color: red;") have the highest specificity. This value is either 1 or 0.
- b: IDs have a high specificity. Each ID selector increases this value by 1.
- c: Classes, attributes, and pseudo-classes (e.g., .class, [attribute], :hover) have a medium specificity. Each of these increases this value by 1.
- d: Element selectors (e.g., div, h1, p) and pseudo-elements (e.g., ::before, ::after) have the lowest specificity. Each of these increases this value by 1.

How Specificity Works

1. div p : This selector targets a p element inside a div. It has a specificity of 0,0,1,1.
2. #main : This selector targets an element with the ID main. It has a specificity of 0,1,0,0.
3. .container .content : This selector targets elements with the class content inside an element with the class container. It has a specificity of 0,0,2,0.
4. Inline style : The inline style has the highest specificity, 1,0,0,0.

When multiple rules apply to the same element, the one with the highest specificity is applied. If two selectors have the same specificity, the last one defined in the CSS is used.

Key Points to Remember

- Inline styles always override external and internal styles.
- ID selectors have more weight than class selectors.
- Class, attribute, and pseudo-class selectors are more specific than element selectors.
- Element and pseudo-element selectors have the lowest specificity.

Understanding specificity helps you write more effective CSS and debug styling issues more efficiently.

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