

The Rationale of Website Sketch CSS

This is a simple webpage that contains the heading, navigation bar, links to every topic, grids, text contents, back to top item and images. The main colours of this webpage are dark green, black, white and grey, which looks comfortable for the audiences to navigate. For the images, all of them are set in the centre of the webpage and are put in dark green dotted grids, so it matches the colour tone with the navigation bar. As for the navigation bar, the colour of hover is light green, which makes each option more distinctive and attractive. When the audiences scroll down to the end of the webpage, there's a back to top item, which is easier for them to jump to the top of the page. In total, the webpage doesn't contain lots of elements and contents in it. However, every element is fundamental.

During the development process, there were two main difficulties that I faced. First, the menu bar looks ugly and the colour of it mix with the header area. Other than that, the big grid that contains all the contents doesn't align with the menu bar, so it looks like there's a blank area next to the right line. To deal with these problems, I separated the CSS styling of the header and the menu bar and selected colours that are able to differentiate every element. With the blank area, adjusting the width of the grid makes it look a lot better, but the limitation is that when you zoom in and out or navigate without using the full screen, the same problem still exists. The second difficulty that I faced is to put two or three images in a row. After several times of experiment, it turns out that if you want to put several images in a row, the sizes of them should be similar, or else the images will appear in two rows. In order to separate the settings with other images, I created "twoinrow" and "threeinrow" tags to adjust the rows. According to the article Practical CSS Grid: Adding Grid to an Existing Design (Meyer, 2017), grid means more responsive layouts, far more accessible documents, and far cleaner markup than even floats and positioning ever afforded us. From the process of adjusting images, it appears that CSS is usable for positioning.

It's also a new concept for me that all the codes for styling should be put in a CSS page, which totally separated from an HTML page, and it can still match perfectly with the HTML contents. Originally, I put a body colour setting in HTML, and then change the exactly same coding to CSS, and the result turns out the same. As the article Beginner Concepts: How CSS Selectors Work (Coyler, 2014) mentioned, HTML and CSS are separate files, which is the great thing about CSS, keeping the design away from the document. I think this is the biggest advantage of CSS file, which can make people work efficiently on the site. Moreover, as the article The Moment CSS Started Making "Sense" (Graham, 2016) addresses, every page element is a box. As long as we realize the rules of how the boxes in CSS works, designing the

webpage with the CSS rules become more reasonable.

Designing the webpage is challenging for me because I've never learned to code before. Therefore, it's easy to make mistakes. Especially the design of the element will change due to a tiny typing error and English isn't my first language. All in all, it's an interesting process to design a webpage and I'd like to learn more to develop a responsive website.

References

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