**Difference between table and div**

As we see from the example, the table-based layout contains more code than the div-based version. Imagine now if this difference in size stays consistent as the code base grows (by a ratio as much as 2:1). In a div-based structure, it is also possible to skip the menu div and use an unordered list (ul) as a container instead.

Nested tables are [code smell](http://c2.com/xp/CodeSmell.html) that a website is stuck in table hell. The number of lines of code is endless, and the **complexity** is overwhelming. Tables are far from clean code and don’t bring anything semantic to the content unless you’re dealing with actual tabular data. And if you’ve happened to inherit the maintenance of a website that has poor readability, it’s a nightmare. Nested tables are a poor substitution for semantically meaningful, block-level elements.

Another drawback to tables is that they make it harder to separate content from design. The border, width, cellpadding and cellspacing tags are used in about 90% of all websites that use tables, according to MAMA. This adds code to the HTML that should instead go in the style sheet.

Excess code slows down development and raises **maintenance** costs. There’s a limit to how many lines of code a programmer can produce per hour, and excess code is more complicated for others to understand. Developers may not even understand their own code after a while.

Introduction

Most of the web designers directly chose the table-based layout for their websites. The reason behind this is it's very easier to design a webpage rather than going for div based layout or the web designers are not that much familiar with CSS. But there are lots of drawbacks to it.

Page Size will Increase

The table has a lot of inner tags like TR, TD, TH and each inner tag will have separate styles in it. We need to write styles for each and every tag. Surely it will increase the page size and because of that downloading speed and the network bandwidth will get increased.

Whereas in Div layout, it's just the single tag Div, all the styles can be declared in the CSS files, which reduce the web page size.

Page rendering will be slow

Page rendering will be slower in table-based layout because page content won't be displayed until the end tag of the table reached. But in Div based layout, rendering will be faster since it won't wait for the end tag for the content display.

Difficult to maintain

When we want to change the design in an existing page, it's very difficult in table-based layout, because code impact will be more. Whereas in div based layout, it's very easy to change the design, because everything will be handled in the CSS.

No Consistency in pages

In Div layout, there will be a consistency in all the pages, but in the table layout if we miss any parameter like table-border, padding or anything, the entire content will be changed and will not be consistent in all the pages.

Separating Content and Visual Presentation

In div layout, we are separating the HTML content and the visual presentation, so it makes the search spider of the web page act in a quick manner. Whereas in table layout, extra HTML pushes the important content further down to the page which increases the time to render the page.

Search Engine Tools

Div layout helps the search engine tools to search faster when compared with table layouts, since its need to traverse several HTML tags.

Div Layout - Less Code

1. <div id="Header">...</div>
2. <div id="Menu">...</div>
3. <div id="Content">...</div>
4. <div id="LeftPane">...</div>
5. <div id="footer">...</div>

**Table Layout - More Code**

1. <table cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" border="0">
2. <tr>
3. <td colspan="3" height="120px">....</td>
4. </tr>
5. <tr>
6. <td class="Menu" valign="top">...</td>
7. <td class="Content" valign="top">...</td>
8. <td class="LeftPane" valign="top">...</td>
9. </tr>
10. <tr>
11. <td colspan="3">...</td>
12. </tr>
13. </table>

Excess code slows down development and raises maintenance costs. More lines of code means larger size which means longer download times.

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|  | **Table** | **Div** |
| Definition | Table, better known as <table> tag is an HTML tag that is used adding tables and data on a website. | Div, or <div> tag, defines a division or a section in an HTML document. |
| Purpose | To display Text and in fewer cases images as well. | Group block-elements to format them with CSS. |
| Layout | Is a fixed type tag and consists of rows and columns. Can be used to display text in a certain place on a webpage. | Is a floating type tag and can divide the webpage into many divisions. They do not fix the content to a strict layout. |
| Alignment | Website alignment cannot be controlled by CSS as the table tag does not use CSS. | Website alignment can be controlled using CSS. |
| Website Changes | In table, the user would have to manually modify the table and its properties for the elements. | Single change only needs to be made to the CSS, which will modify the rest of the website. |
| Knowledge of CSS | CSS knowledge is not required. Only, HTML knowledge is required. | CSS knowledge is required to control the elements of div tag. |
| Search Engine Friendly | Not search engine friendly | Is more search engine friendly |
| Loading Time | Loading time is slower compared to div tag. | Loading time is faster compared to table tag. |