

CSS Overview

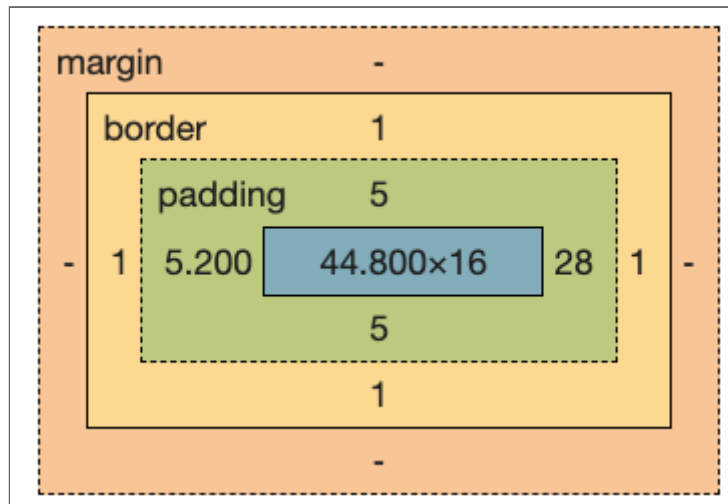
CSS provides

- Rules for appearance of HTML
- Based on structure

CSS Box Model

Every rendered element is a box:

- content has **height** and **width**
- padding around it has size in four directions
- a border on all four sides has a width
- margins between the border and adjacent boxes has a width in four directions



Box Sizing

How wide is the below element?

```
p {  
  width: 100px;  
  padding: 10px;  
}
```

- With `box-sizing: content-box;` (default) = 120px
- With `box-sizing: border-box;` = 100px;

Common to see:

```
* {  
  box-sizing: border-box;  
}
```

Stylesheets

There are a few ways to apply CSS to HTML

- inline CSS on element (don't do)
- `<style>` element (don't do)
- A stylesheet file linked via `<link>`

Inline CSS

(Generally don't do this)

CSS can be applied to an element as an attribute

```
<div style="color: red;">Example</div>
```

Example

Why not use Inline CSS?

- Hard to override
- Impossible to reuse
- Really annoying to edit

Using a style element

(Generally don't do this)

```
<head>
  <style>
    #demo {
      color: red;
    }
  </style>
</head>
<body>
  <div id="demo">Example</div>
</body>
```

Example

Why not use style element?

- Makes for big files
- Impossible to reuse between files
- Annoying to edit

Using a stylesheet file

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="example.css"/>  
// in example.css
```

```
#demo {  
  color: red;  
}  
  
.selected {  
  color: black;  
  background-color: red;  
}
```

How many stylesheets?

Varies, but typical to have:

- 1 file for site-wide standards
- 1 file for page-specific css

Sites might have 1 stylesheet, might have 5

- all about level of abstraction and reuse

Exceptions

Okay to use style element

- if tools build it for you
- You don't suffer any of the downsides
- fewer requests

Okay to use inline CSS

- if assigned with JS *and*
- values aren't just class names
 - such as changing position by dragging

CSS Rules

CSS is made up of **rules**

- A rule is **selector(s)** and **declarations**

```
p {  
  color: #C0FFEE;  
}  
  
li {  
  border: 1px solid black;  
  padding: 0px;  
}
```

invalid rules/declarations are skipped and the next rule/declaration tried.

Selectors

A rule has one or more comma separated **selectors**

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/CSS/Building_blocks/Selectors

```
p, li {  
  background-color: #BADA55;  
}
```

- tag name: `p {...}`
- id `#demo {...}`
- a class `.example {...}`
- descendants `div .wrong {...}`
- direct children `div > .wrong {...}`
- many other options

Declarations

The "body" of a CSS rule is declarations.

```
{  
  css-property: value;  
  another-property: value;  
}
```

If a property doesn't exist, the next will be tried

Browsers have specific properties with "prefixes"

- example: `--webkit-transform-style: flat;`
- you generally should avoid these in modern CSS

Shorthand properties

Some properties accept multiple values to apply to multiple properties:

```
p {  
  border: 1px solid black;  
}  
  
p {  
  border-width: 1px;  
  border-style: solid;  
  border-color: black;  
}
```

Use these where the meaning is understood

Nothing wrong with being more explicit for clarity

CSS colors

- A named color <https://drafts.csswg.org/css-color/#named-colors>
- a hexadecimal RGB color (e.g. `#BADA55`)
 - 3, 4, 6, and 8 character varieties
 - 3 or 4 have hex chars doubled
 - e.g. `#639` is `#663399`
 - 4 or 8 include alpha aka opacity
- `rgb()` or `rgba()` passing 3 RGB vals and an alpha
 - passed RGB values are decimal
 - alpha is 0-1 or 0%-100%
- non-RGB systems like `hsl()` or `hwb()`

Property Inheritance

Some properties on parents are inherited by children unless overridden.

- Some other properties are not inherited
- e.g. "color" is inherited. "width" is not.

What If?

If an element matches different selectors?

```
p {  
  color: aqua;  
}  
.wrong {  
  color: red;  
}
```

Resolve via **specificity**

CSS Specificity

- `!important` is the most specific (overrides all)
 - *Only* use this to override an external library
- Inline CSS is the next most specific
 - You should also not be doing this
- id selectors (`#example`) are next
- class selectors (`.example`) are next
- element selectors (`p`) are next

Selectors can combine to increase specificity

- `.example.wrong` is more specific than `.example`
 - still less specific than `#example`

Same Specificity?

If two selectors have the same specificity

- the winner will be the "most recent"
 - later in the file or page

Avoid Specificity War

If you have multiple sources of CSS

- the different sources will use specificity to override one another
- This can lead to "specificity wars":
 - one source will make a selector more specific
 - but that breaks another place
 - so the source of the other place raises THEIR specificity
- There is only pain and tears in a specificity war
 - avoid by having a way to target each "level" of source

Scoping on a shared page

A semi-common pattern:

- Your content container has an id
- Use classes (not ids) for lower levels
- Use `#YOUR-ID .YOUR-CLASS` as your CSS pattern

Means you only have to have one unique id per source of content

- Ensures your class styling won't impact outside your content

Summary - CSS Purpose

CSS provides rules for appearance

- based on structure
- where structure matches rules, appearance applies

Summary - Box Model

Every element is a "box" of "boxes"

- content width and height
- padding width and height
- border width and height
- margin width and height

`box-sizing` property

- `content-box`: `width` and `height` are content
- `border-box`: $w + h$ are content+padding+border?

Summary - Stylesheets

CSS added to your page:

- inline in elements
 - rare except for specific needs
 - can't reuse
- in `<style>` element
 - rare without tools
 - can't reuse
- as a separate `.css` file
 - via `<link>` element with `href` attribute
 - common
 - multiple CSS files when different reuse cases

Summary - Rules

- Rules are selector(s) + declarations
- invalid rules skipped over

Summary - Selectors

- comma separated
- if any selectors match, declarations applied
- symbols indicate type of selector, no symbol = element selector
- Connected symbols = must match all:
 - `div#root.active`
 - "div with id root and class of active"
- space = descendant, easiest to read backwards
 - `div .wrong`
 - "element with a class of wrong that is a descendant of a div"

Summary - Declarations

- kebab-case, each ends in semicolon
- "prefixes" (`--webkit-*`) mostly retired
- "shorthand" properties set multiple properties
 - use where understandable
 - avoid where confusing (be explicit then)
- Color values can be
 - RGB 3,4,6,8 hex characters starting with `#`
 - `rgb()` or `rgba()` (decimal values)
 - `hsl()` or `hwb()`
 - transparency/opacity is "alpha"
 - 0.0-1.0 or 0%-100%

Summary - Cascade

All matching rules are applied

- some properties are inherited from parent element
 - generally text and color related properties
 - not size, display, or layout related properties

Summary - Specificity

If a property gets two different values, which takes effect?

- both do, but one is overridden
- Selector Specificity
 - which rules have properties overridden
 - `!important` > inline > id > classes > element
- Same specificity:
 - most "recent" overrides
 - order of file loading
 - place in file