

css Resets

Learning Objective

- Figure out what CSS resets are and how they effect your web pages

*What happens when you
load a page with no CSS?*

The User Agent Stylesheet

- Even when no styles are supplied, a browser will supply default styles for your page.
- For example:
 - `<h1>` is bigger than `<h2>`
 - `` has bullets
 - `<a>` is underlined / has `:visited` state
- These styles are contained in the browser's **User Agent Stylesheet**

Why?

- Again, consider where the web came from!
- HTML used to be used to present academic documents.
- The writer didn't care what it looked like, so long as it was readable.
- UA stylesheets allowed for readable pages with no CSS!

So what?

UA Styles & Cross-Browser

- **Each browser uses their own, independent **UA Stylesheet.**
- What does this mean?
 - Styles in UA Stylesheets are not consistent amongst browsers.
 - Your CSS may not apply consistently across browsers :(

How do we fix this?

CSS Reset

- A **CSS reset** is a stylesheet
 - Meant to "reset" styles from UA Stylesheets
- Establishes a common baseline off of which you can confidently (and consistently) style elements using CSS!

How do I use a CSS Reset?

CSS Resets are available as libraries for your use.

1. Find one
2. Include it on your page before your CSS!

Common CSS Resets

"Eric Meyer" Reset

- The first widely accepted Reset library
- Very bare bones
- <http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/css/reset/reset.css>

Common CSS Resets

Normalize.css

- A newer (also widely accepted) library
- Customizable / meant for modern browsers
- <https://necolas.github.io/normalize.css/>

Demo

Including a CSS Reset

Simple, just include it in your head element of your HTML page:

```
<html>
  <head>
    <!-- Make sure to link the reset.css BEFORE your custom stylesheet! -->
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="/path/to/reset.css">
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="main.css">
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Hi mom! </h1>
  </body>
</html>
```

Exercise

Include the Eric Meyer reset on an existing web page. (Simply Google search "*Eric Meyer reset*" and it should be the first entry that comes up).

Consider the following questions:

1. Has anything changed?
2. Did you observe any cross-browser CSS issues before you included it? Have they been resolved?

Quiz

1. What does a CSS reset do?
2. Where should a CSS reset be placed in the HTML document?