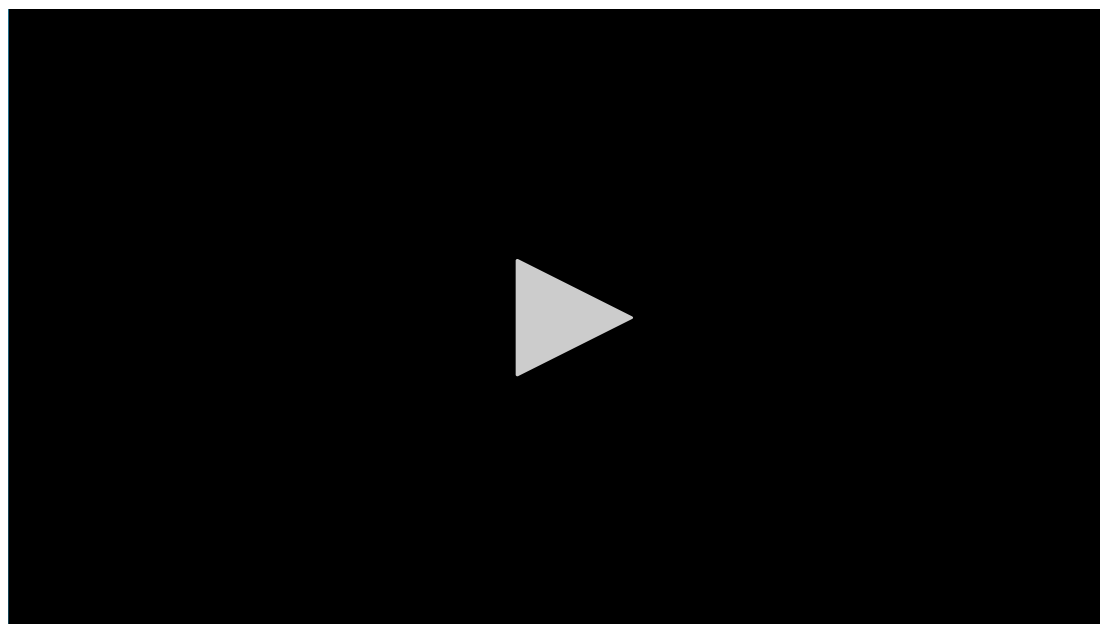


## Video Commentary: What is CSS, and how does it integrate with HTML?



[View the Transcript](#)

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## CSS Background

**Cascading Style Sheets** (CSS) is a World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) standard that defines how documents written in **HTML** should appear on a webpage. Whereas the HTML protocol defines the structure of a web document, CSS is a styling language that defines the appearance of elements on a web page. The appearance of web elements includes such items as color, background, dimensions, formatting text, position, and the behavior of those elements.

Click on the following tab to learn more about the evolution of CSS.

### ▸ Evolution of CSS

The CSS file type was originally proposed in 1996 by Dr. Håkon Wium Lie, a Norwegian web developer. That first version was called the CSS Level 1 Recommendation or CSS1. Although the first version of CSS had features for setting and displaying page style elements, there was a lack of dependable browser support at that time. As a result, CSS was not adopted to a significant degree for many years.

In 1998, CSS Level 2 (CSS2) was released, featuring page layout properties and styles for other media types. Then, CSS Level 2, Revision 1 (CSS2.1) was released with minor adjustments to CSS2.

In contrast to earlier versions, CSS Level 3 (CSS3) is divided into individual modules. Each module addresses a separate feature, whether it is borders, animation, or multiple column layouts, for example. Some modules are being standardized and released one at a time while others will be

experimental. This allows developers to start using one feature at a time instead of having to wait for a complete specification to be "ready." Updates and additional information are available on the W3C website: <https://www.w3.org/>.

## Advantages to Using CSS

CSS provides the following benefits:

- **Streamlined work** By editing one style sheet, changes made to its appearance will extend to an entire site.
- **Control over type and layout properties** CSS allows you to exert greater control over the type and layout of content on a page.
- **Widespread browser support** All current browsers support CSS.
- **Better accessibility** With CSS, content is more accessible to non-visual learners and those using mobile devices.

### Quick Tips: Keep Code Simple and Do not Repeat

You may already know the acronym "KISS" (keep it simple stupid) applied to just about everything, including writing CSS code. There is another acronym you should know that developers know well: DRY (don't repeat yourself). The DRY principle is crucial to reducing the complexity in code and making it easier to maintain. Imagine you have several lines of repetitive code. Let's say that the code could have been written with fewer lines. One advantage to using shorter code is that you won't have to find and replace every instance of it when you need to change or upgrade it.



## Style Sheets

Style sheets are comprised of **rules** and rule sets. These rules define how elements and groups of elements will be displayed on a page. A rule both selects an element and defines how the element should look on a webpage. There are three types of style sheets available: inline, embedded, and external. However, we will feature the majority of examples in this course using **external style sheets**, the most common and effective way to write style sheets.

## What is HTML?

**HTML** (Hypertext Markup Language) is a markup protocol that helps define the formatting of a web page. Click on the following tab to learn more about HTML.

### ▸ HTML Syntax

Code written in HTML tells the browser how content on a page should be displayed. For example, a `<section>` tag tells the browser that there is a new section of a page. There is also **semantic HTML**, which communicates not just presentation information to the browser, but meaning as

well. In addition to the various tags that explain how content should appear, semantic HTML uses tags such as `<code>` tags to convey meaning about content, not just information about its appearance.

Throughout this course, we will be writing both an HTML file and a CSS file in order to create an external style sheet for most examples and exercises. HTML syntax includes **elements** surrounded by **tags**. The following is a basic HTML document. This and other HTML documents have the following characteristics:

- Must start with a document type declaration, such as `<!DOCTYPE html>`
- Begins with a `<html>` tag and closes with a `</html>` tag
- The portion of the document that becomes visible to a webpage viewer is contained within the `<body>` and `</body>` tags (in the example below)

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1>This is an h1 heading</h1>
<p>This is sample text between paragraph tags.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

The example above features a variety of start and end tags: `<h1>` and `</h1>`, `<p>` and `</p>`, `<body>` and `</body>`, etc. An HTML element contains everything from the start tag to the end tag, such as `<h1>This is an h1 heading</h1>`. Also, HTML elements are nested within other HTML elements. For example, inside of the `<html>` element is a `<body>` element.

HTML5 is a newer version of HTML that features more semantic and multimedia elements. It provides more functionality in the way of incorporating video, audio, and `<canvas>` tags, which are elements that allow you to draw graphics.

## Review Checkpoint

To test your understanding of the content presented in this assignment, please click on the Question icon below. Click your selected response to see feedback displayed below it. If you have trouble answering, you are always free to return to this or any assignment to re-read the material.



1. The \_\_\_\_ type of style sheet allows you to link and set styles for more than one page. This type is also the most common style sheet used on websites today.

a. Internal

***Incorrect. Try again.***

b. Inline

***Incorrect. Try again.***

c. Outline

***Incorrect. Try again.***

d. External

***Correct. External, or linked, style sheets allow all the files on a website to share the same style sheet, providing code uniformity and efficiency in the development of a website. These are also the most commonly used style sheet.***

2. True or False?

The presentation of content on a website is controlled through the use of HTML.

a. True

***Incorrect. Try again.***

b. False

***Correct. This is a false statement. The presentation of content on a website is best controlled through the use of style sheets, in the "markup."***