INFO 151 Web Systems and Services

Week 3 (T2)

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Web-Page Layout Techniques and Design

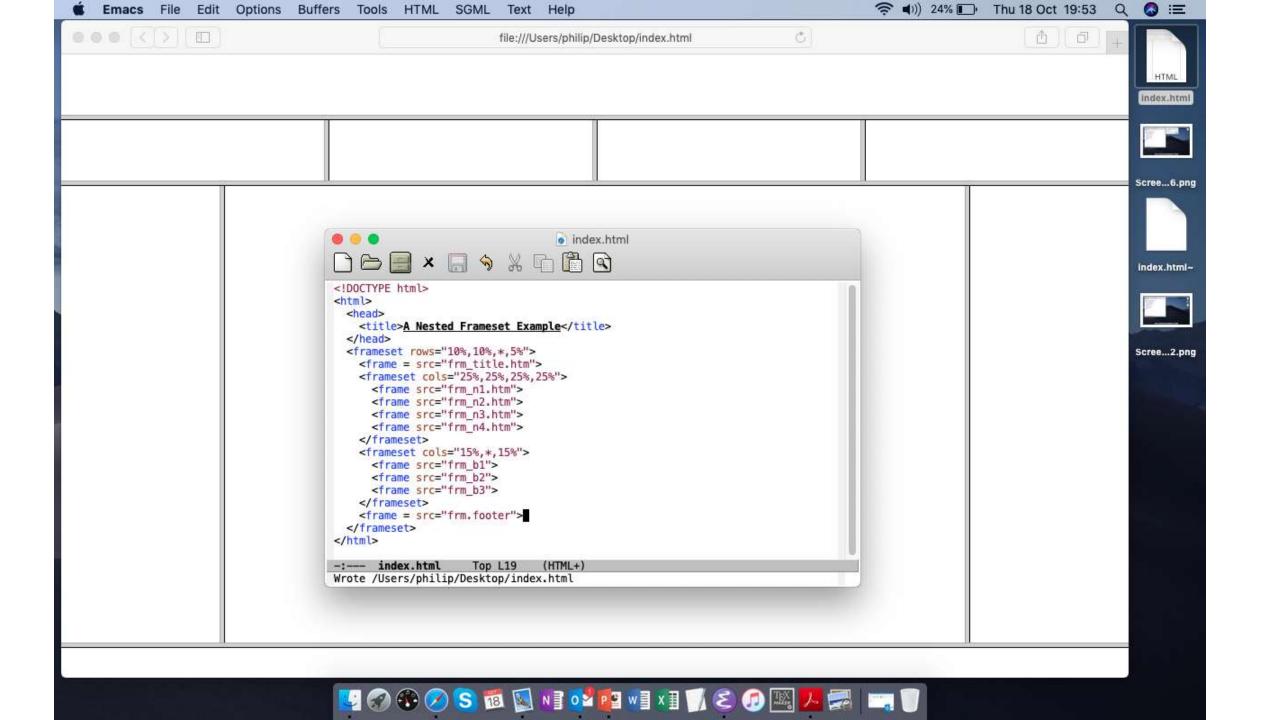
HTML Layout Techniques

- A multicolumn web-page layout may be created using 4 methods:
 - HTML tables
 - CSS float property
 - CSS flexbox
 - CSS frameworks
- The CSS float and flexbox frameworks
 - are similar to the GridBagLayout and FlowLayout page layout methods used in Java
- Details of the layout techniques can be found in the course resources

HTML Layout using Frames and Tables

HTML Layout using Frames and Tables

- HTML frames
 - Recall we have covered this method in week 2
 - This method is **NOT** recommended for the reasons identified in week 2
- The <frame> element was not designed to be a layout tool
- The purpose of the element is to display tabular data
- Additionally for frames:
 - There are problems with printing and bookmarking
 - These problems are the result of GUI *focus* issues
 - In computing the focus indicates the component of the GUI selected to receive input (or output)
 - While a user may wish to print or bookmark a web-page the focus may be on a specific frame resulting in an error (the users needs may not be implemented)



HTML Layout using CSS float

HTML Layout using CSS float

- The CSS float property specifies
 - How an element should float.
 - What elements can float beside the cleared element and on which side (left (or) right)
- The floating process must be known and understood to remember how the float and clear properties function
- It is common to create entire web layouts using the CSS float property
- Advantages
 - CSS float is a simple method to learn and implement
- Disadvantages
 - Floating elements are tied to the document flow
 - Document flows may impact the flexibility
- Full details of the CSS float property can be found in the course resources

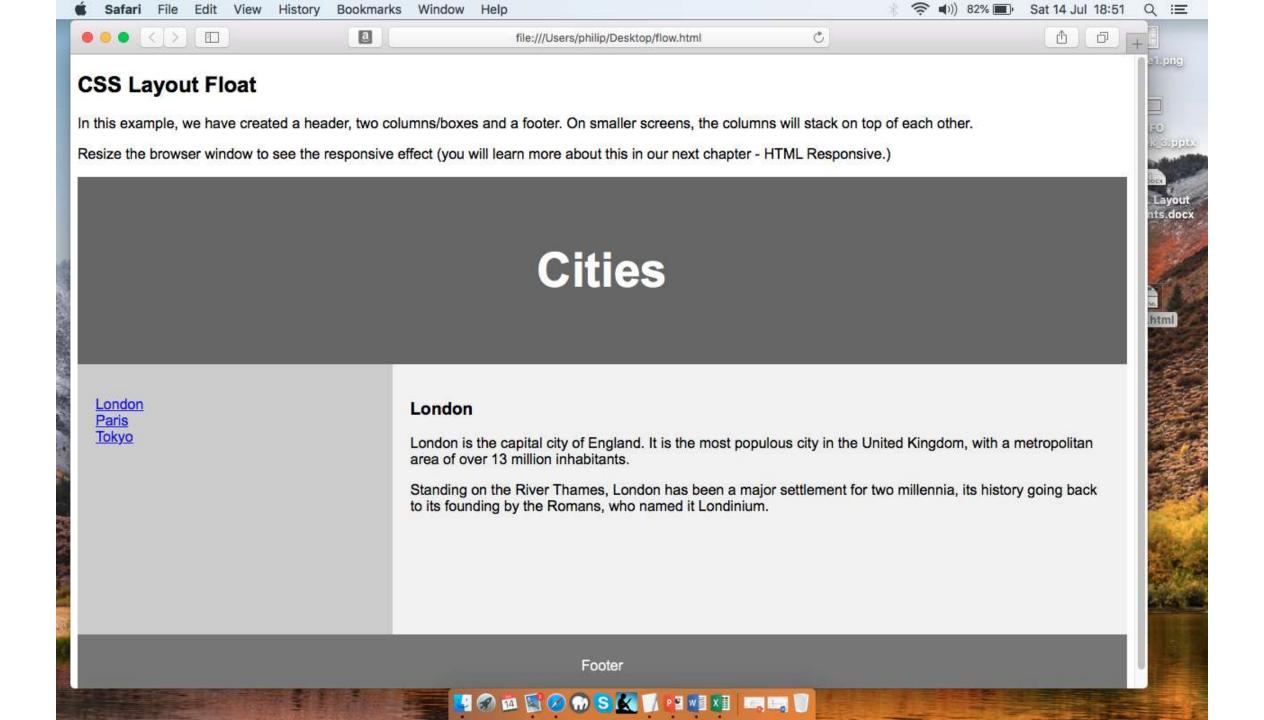
CSS Float Properties

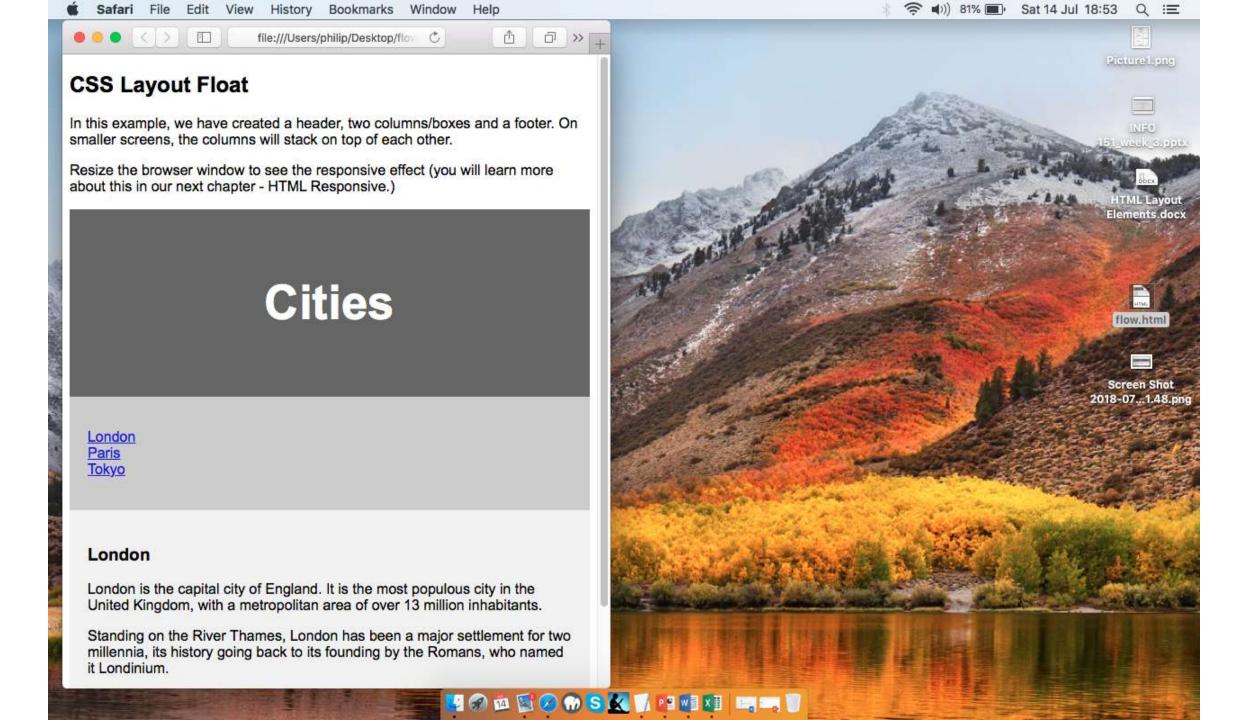
Full details of the CSS float property can be found at w3schools.com

Property	Description
box-sizing	Defines how the width and height of an element are calculated: should they include padding and borders, or not
<u>clear</u>	Specifies what elements can float beside the cleared element and on which side
float	Specifies how an element should float
<u>overflow</u>	Specifies what happens if content overflows an element's box
overflow-x	Specifies what to do with the left/right edges of the content if it overflows the element's content area
<u>overflow-y</u>	Specifies what to do with the top/bottom edges of the content if it overflows the element's content area

A CSS Float Example

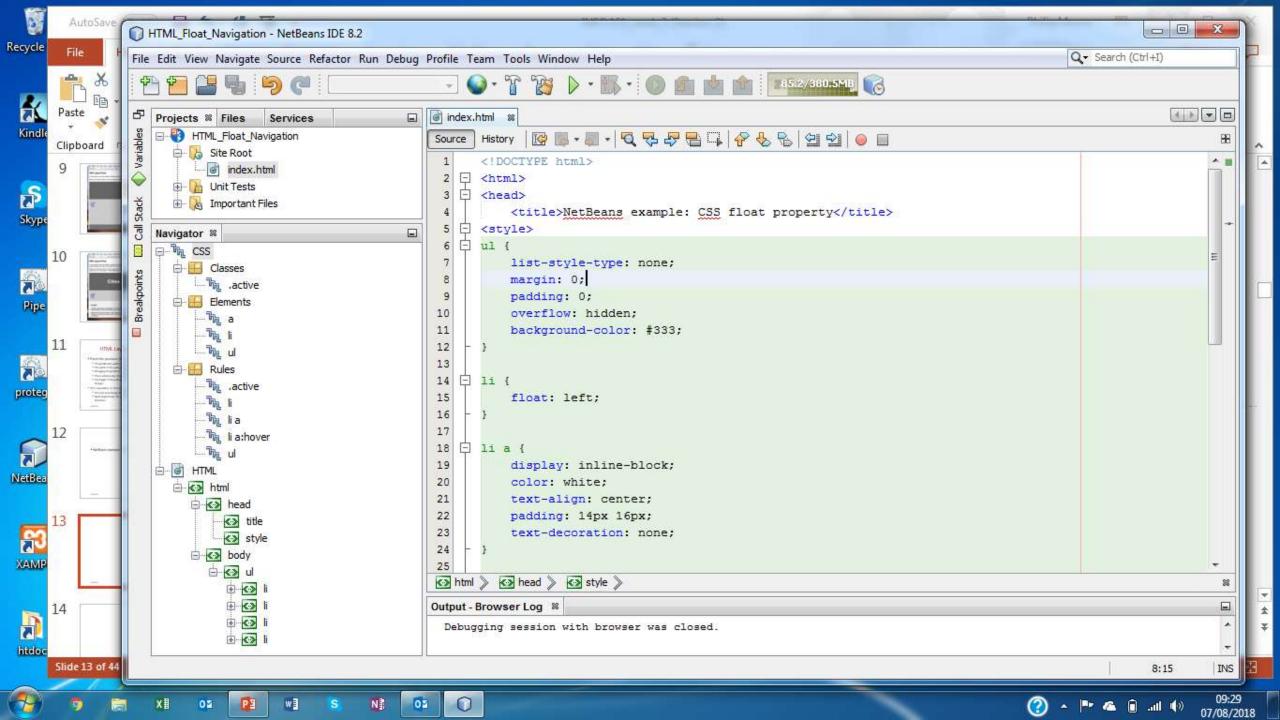
- From the following slides we can see that
 - The profile (the width) of the web-page dynamically changes
 - Changing the profile of the web-page also re-locates the sections in the web-page
 - This is achieved by 'dragging' the edges of the web-page to a desired size
 - The height of the web-page will also change as the width is reduced the height also changes
- This capability to change profile has benefits:
 - The user may change the profile 'on-the-fly' when viewing the web-page
 - The web-page will dynamically change to suit the GUI

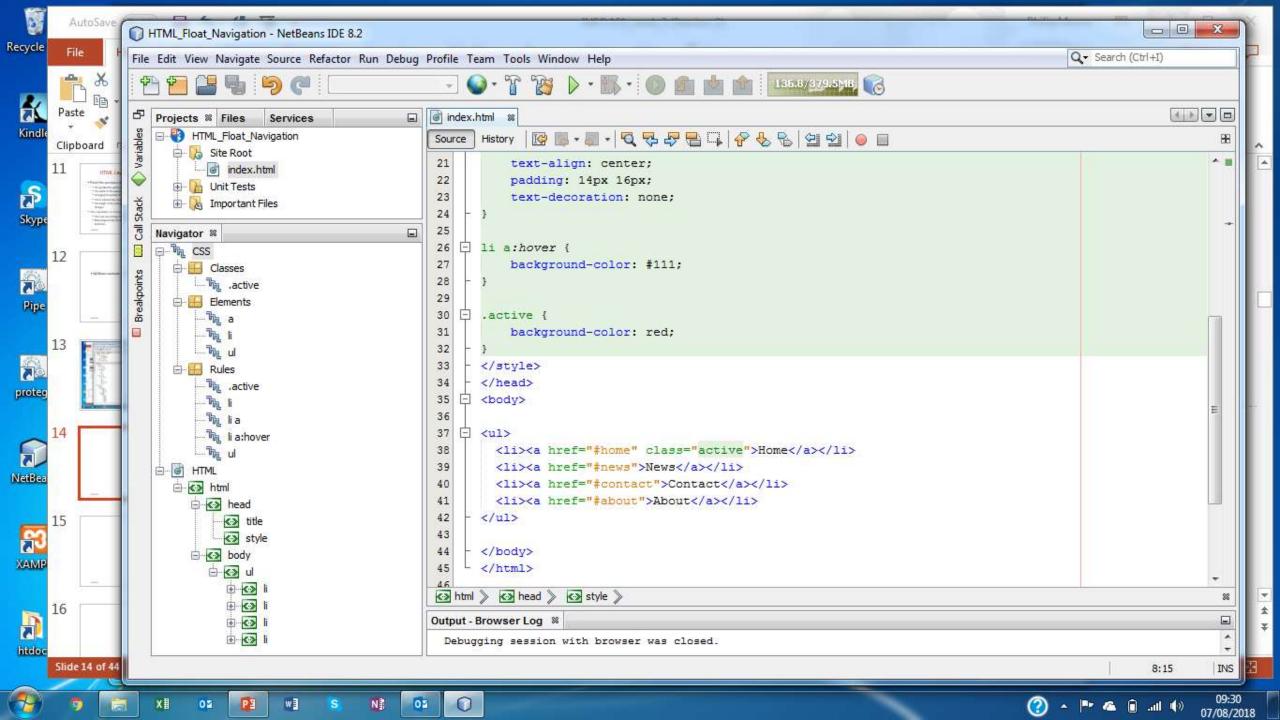


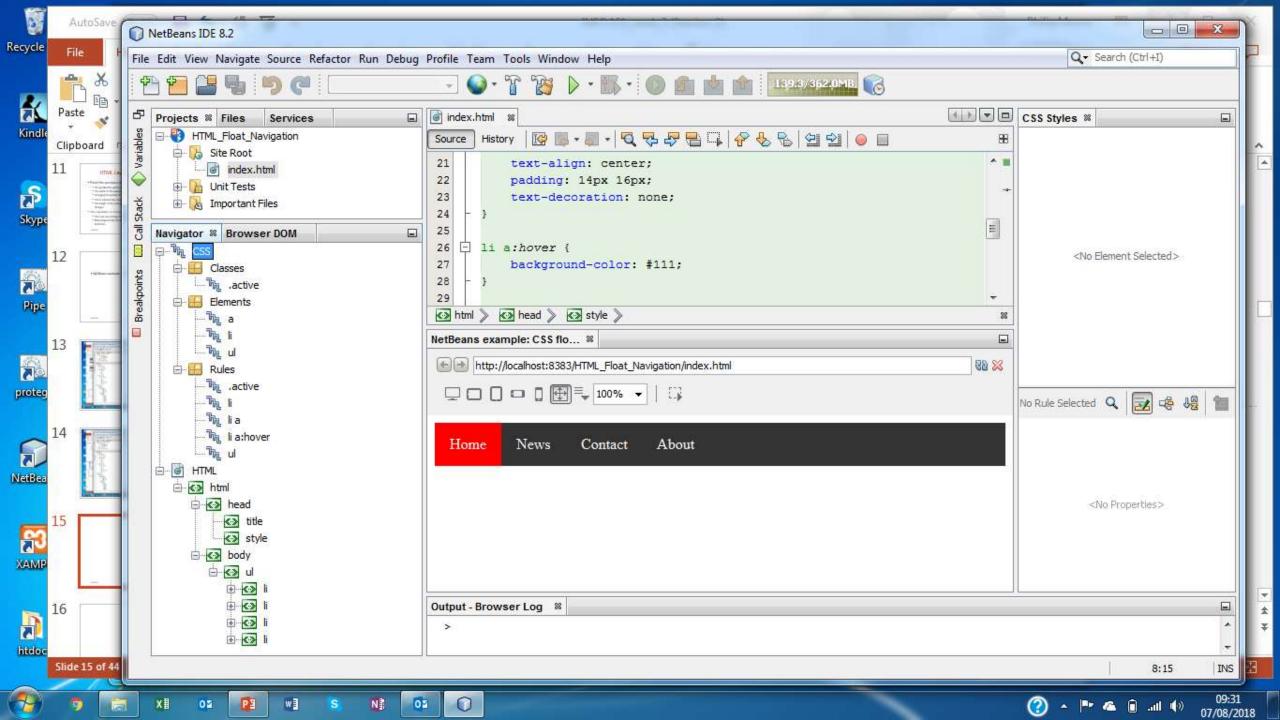


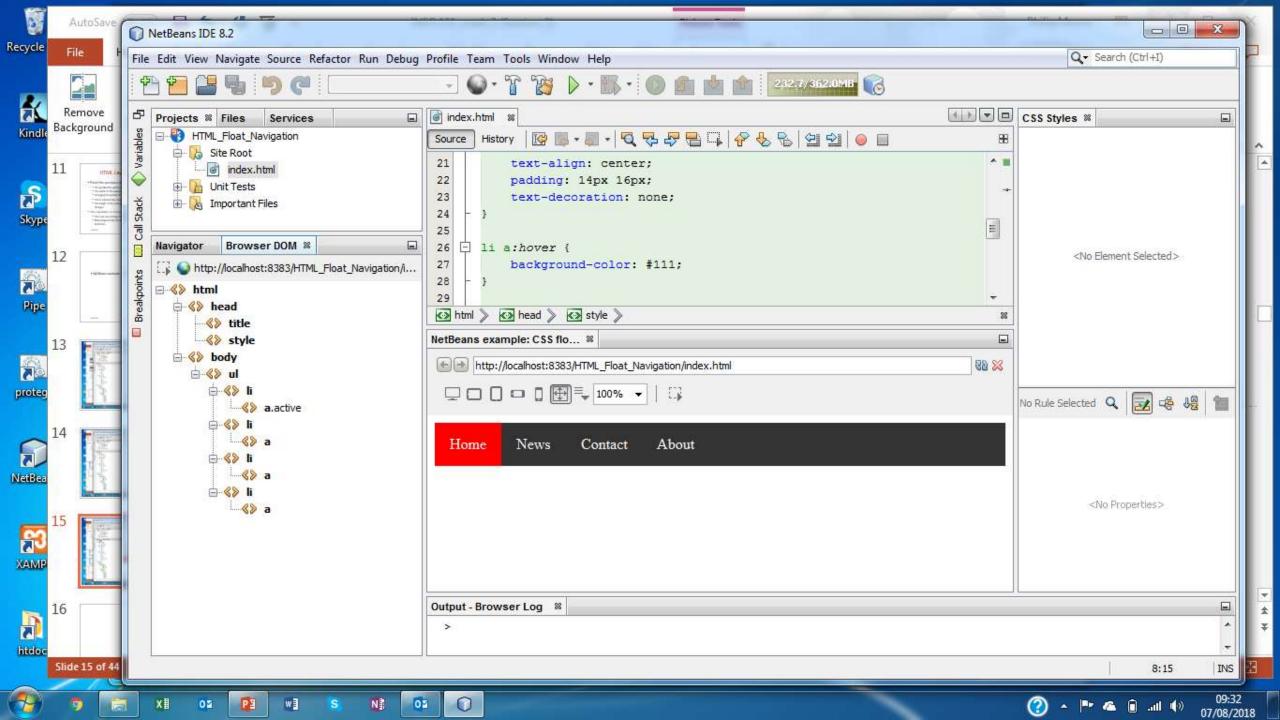
A CSS float Example in NetBeans the IDE

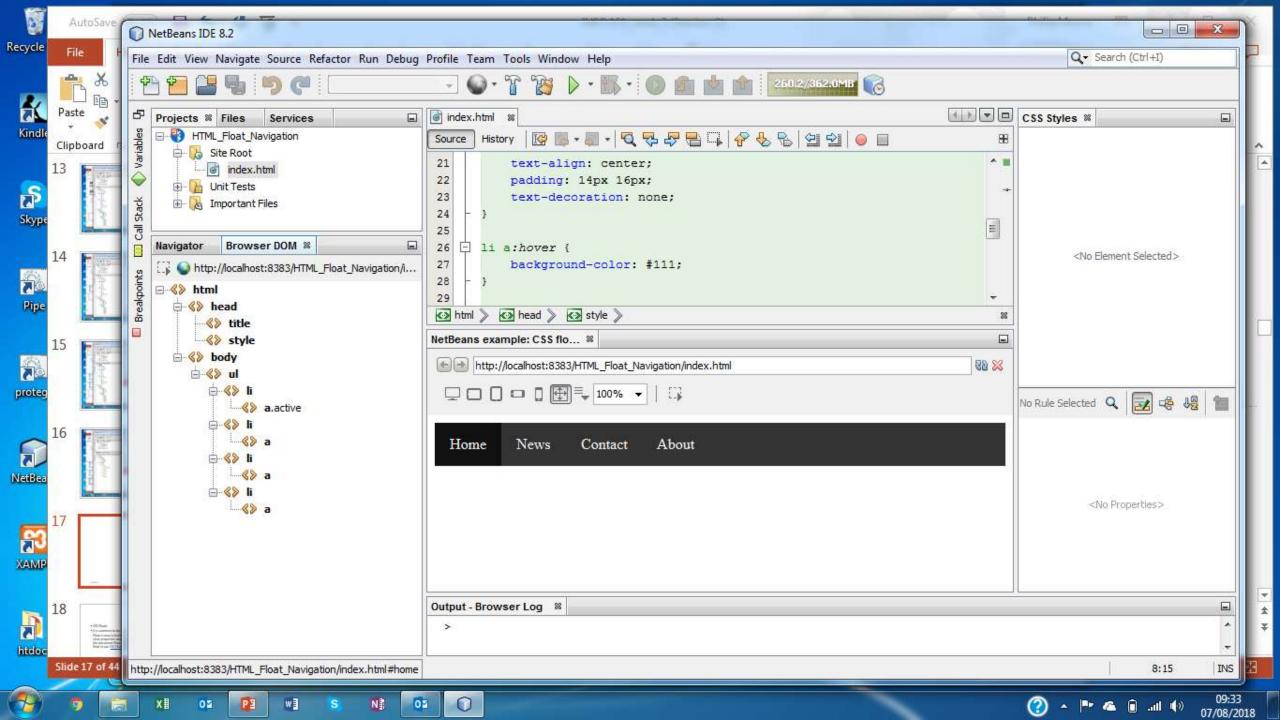
- The following slides show CSS float implemented in the NetBeans IDE
 - An example using the HTML CSS float layout
- We can see from the NetBeans IDE
 - The Projects, Navigator and Browser Dom information and elements
- The HTML and style rules that define the output are shown in the NetBeans editor
- The output shows
 - the navigator bar formatted with the *Home* link changing colour (red to black) when in *mouseover*
 - The width of the navigator bar changes dynamically to match the browser

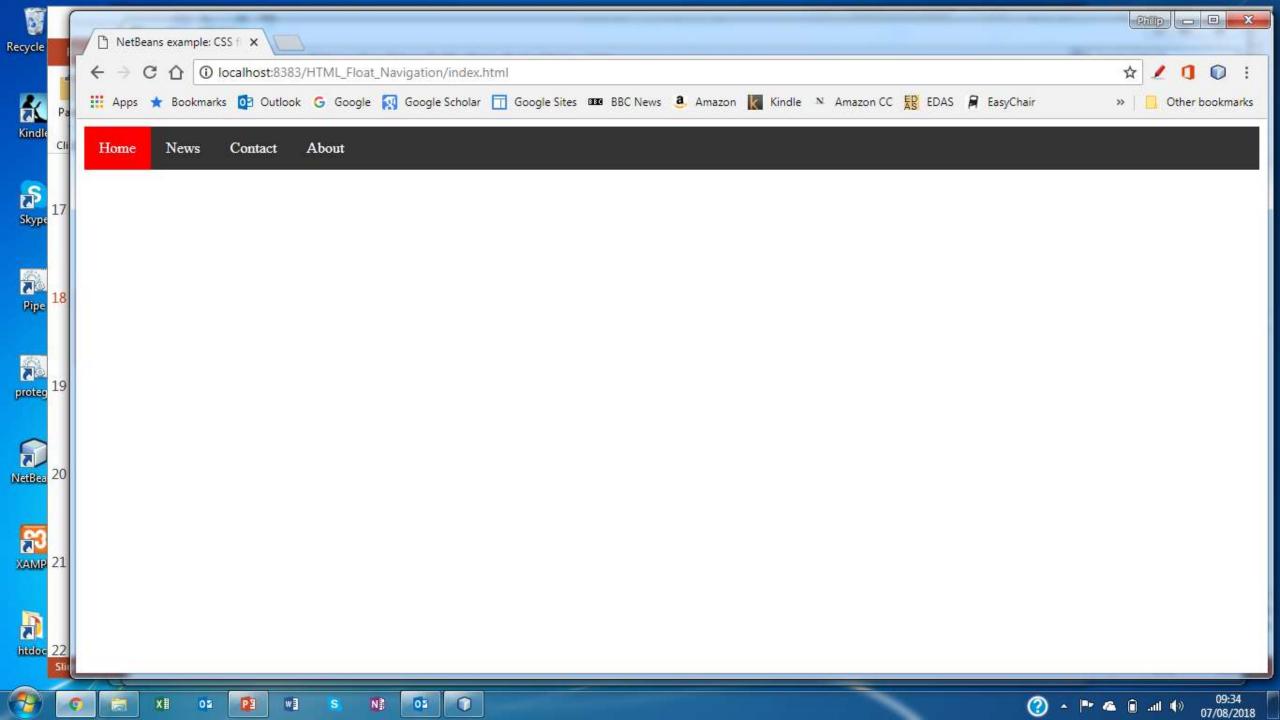












CSS flexbox

HTML Layout using CSS flexbox

- CSS flexbox is a new layout mode in CSS3
- Advantages
 - Use of flexbox ensures that elements behave predictably when
 - The web-page layout must accommodate different interfaces and screen sizes
 - The web-page layout must present the optimal layout on different devices
- Disadvantages
 - CSS flexbox is not supported by older browsers (IE10 and earlier)
- Details of CSS flexbox may be found in the course resources

CSS Flexbox Properties

Full details of the CSS flexbox properties can be found at <u>w3schools.com</u>

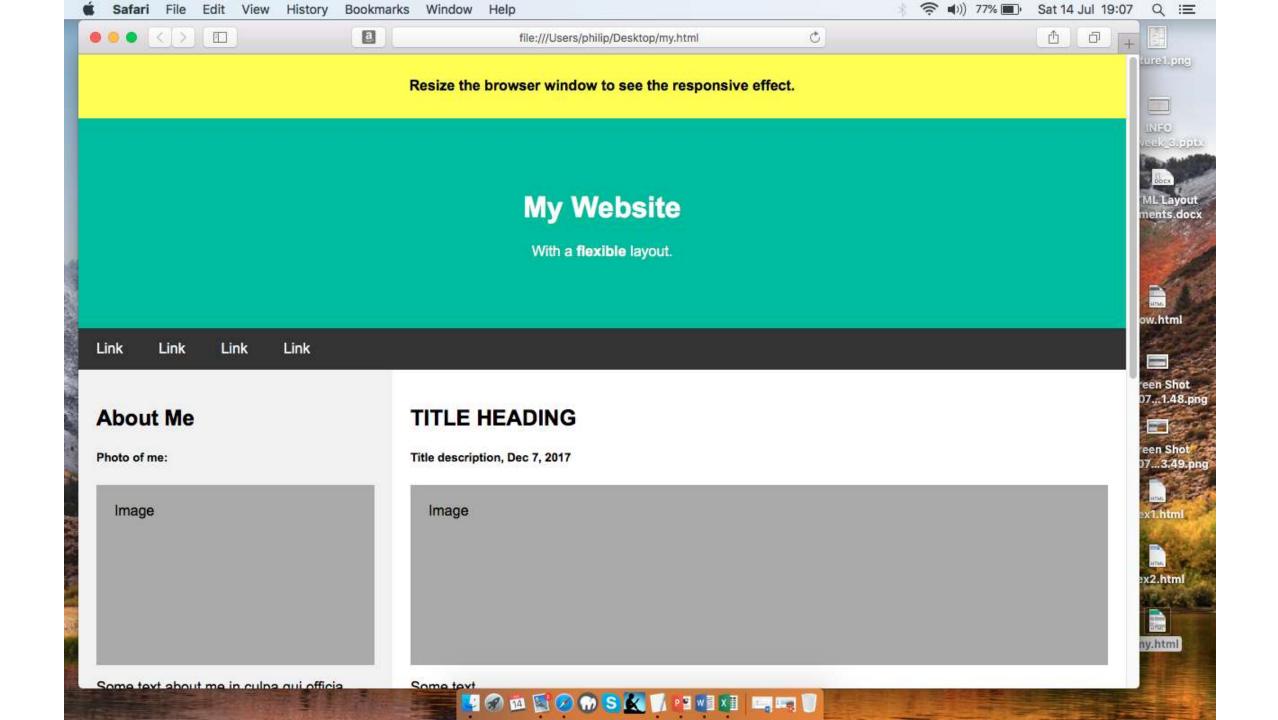
Value	Description
flex-grow	A number specifying how much the item will grow relative to the rest of the flexible items
flex-shrink	A number specifying how much the item will shrink relative to the rest of the flexible items
flex-basis	The length of the item. Legal values: "auto", "inherit", or a number followed by "%", "px", "em" or any other length unit
auto	Same as 11 auto.
initial	Same as 0 1 auto. Read about initial
none	Same as 0 0 auto.
inherit	Inherits this property from its parent element. Read about inherit

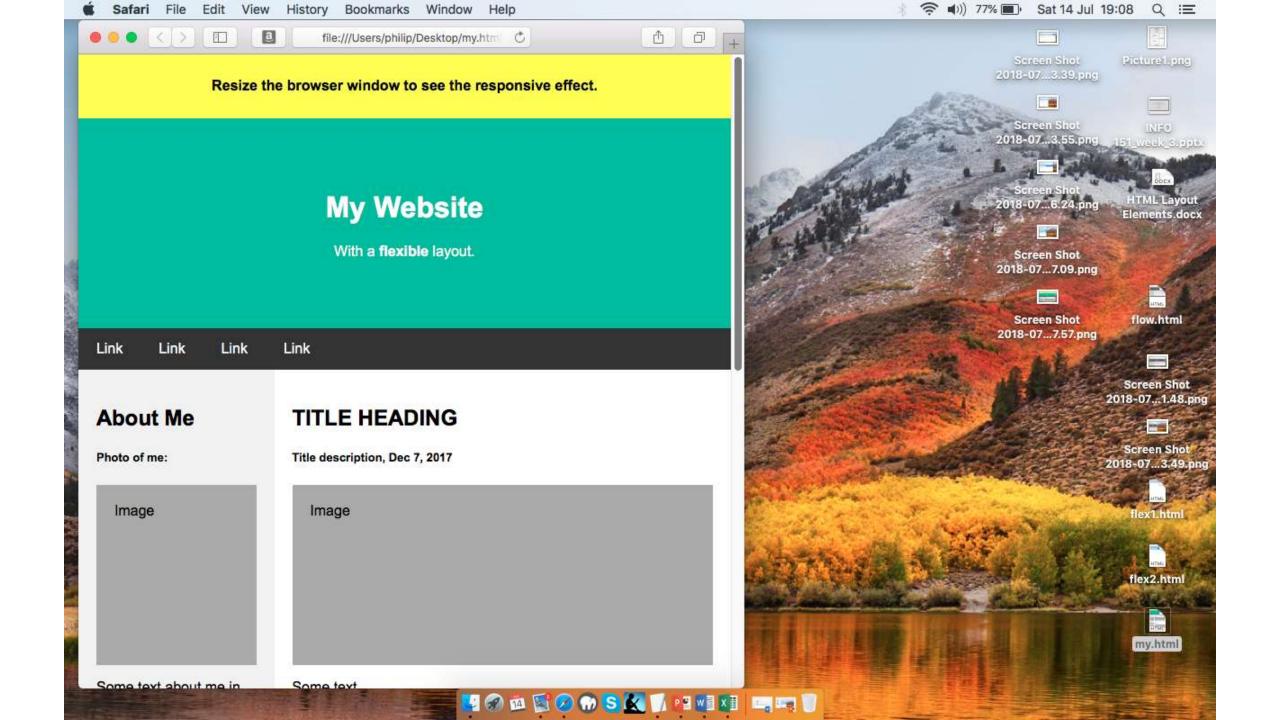
CSS Properties used in flexbox

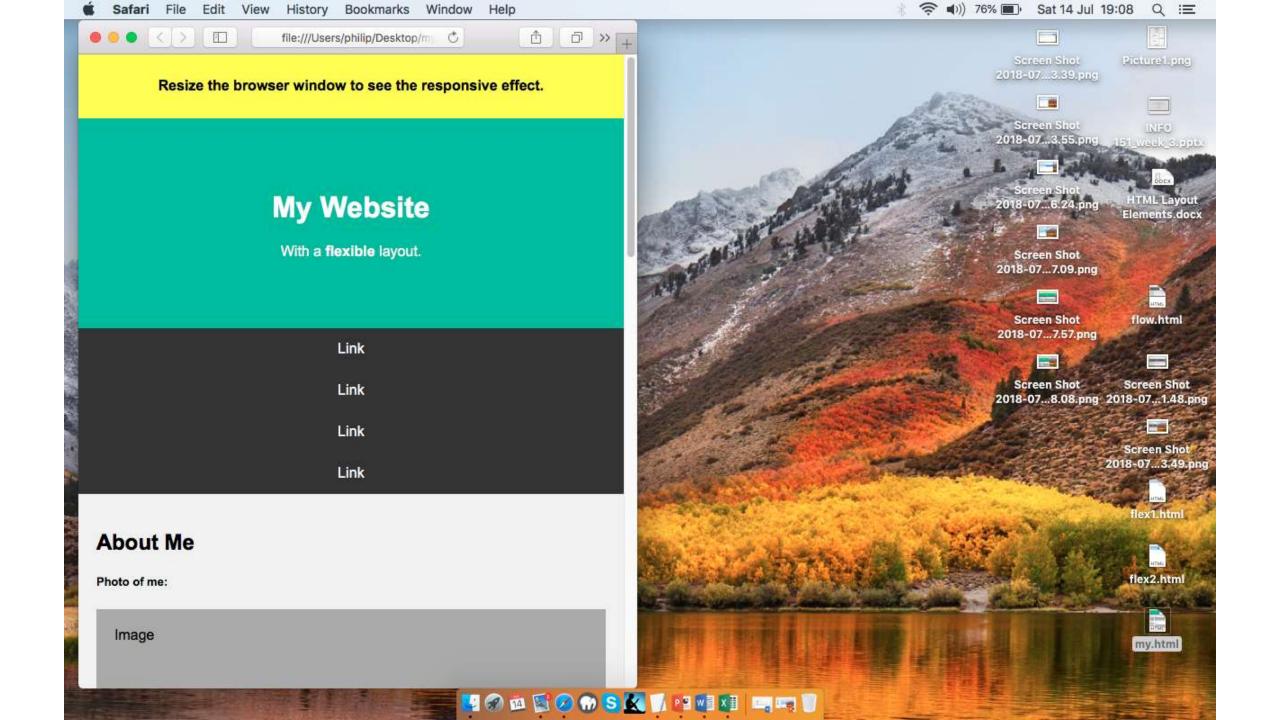
Property	Description
display	Specifies the type of box used for an HTML element
<u>flex-direction</u>	Specifies the direction of the flexible items inside a flex container
justify-content	Horizontally aligns the flex items when the items do not use all available space on the main-axis
align-items	Vertically aligns the flex items when the items do not use all available space on the cross-axis
flex-wrap	Specifies whether the flex items should wrap or not, if there is not enough room for them on one flex line
align-content	Modifies the behavior of the flex-wrap property. It is similar to align-items, but instead of aligning flex items, it aligns flex lines
<u>flex-flow</u>	A shorthand propert for flex-direction and flex-wrap
<u>order</u>	Specifies the order of a flexible item relative to the rest of the flex items inside the same container
align-self	Used on flex items. Overrides the container's align-items property
flex	Specifies the length of a flex item, relative to the rest of the flex items inside the same container

HTML Layout using CSS flexbox

- From the following slides we can see that
 - The profile (the width) of the web-page dynamically changes
 - Changing the profile of the web-page also redefines he sections defined in the web-page
 - This is achieved by 'dragging' the edges of the web-page to a desired size
 - The height of the web-page will also change dynamically
- As for the CSS float the capability to change profile has a number of benefits
 - The user may change the profile 'on-the-fly' when viewing the web-page
 - Again: the layout of the webpage can be changed to suit different devices and interfaces

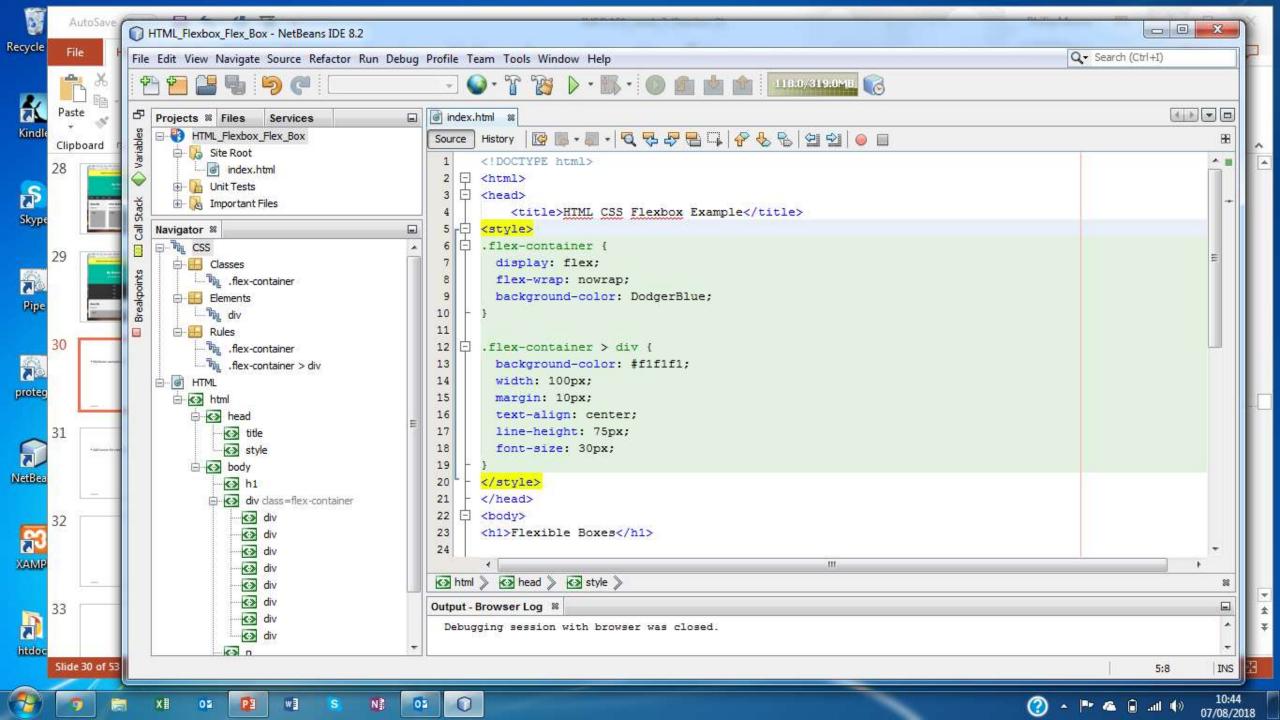


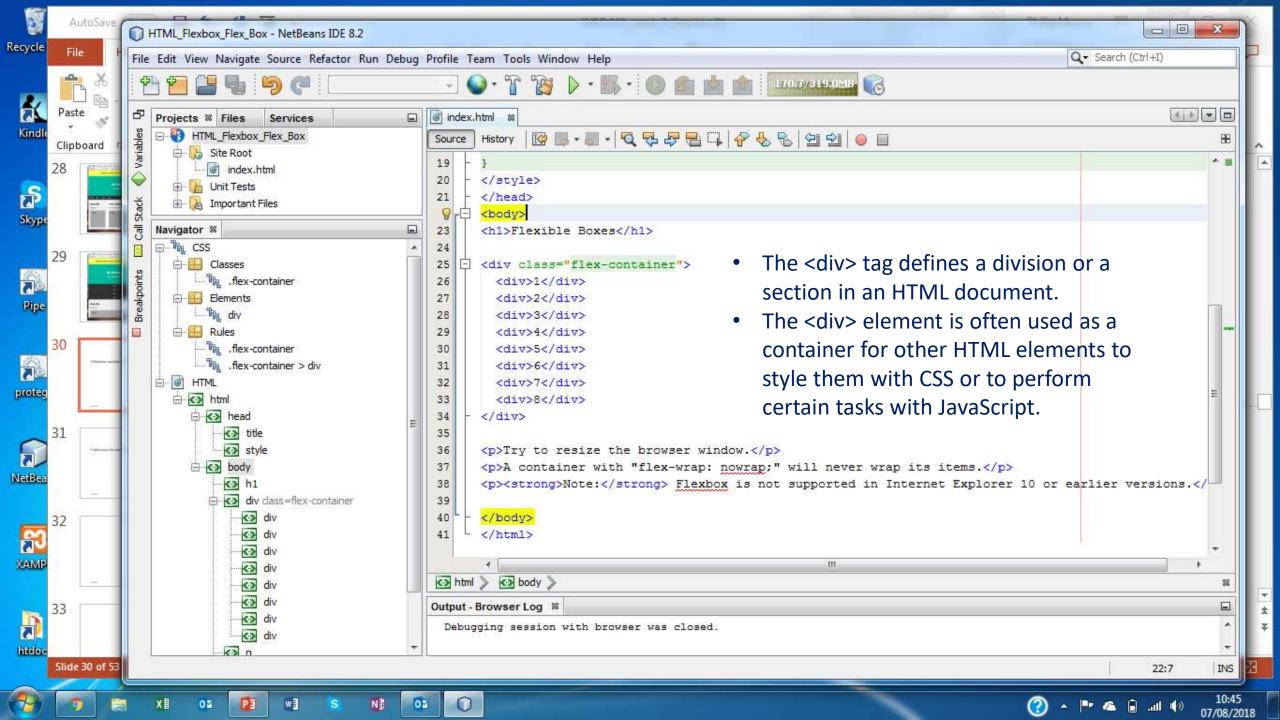


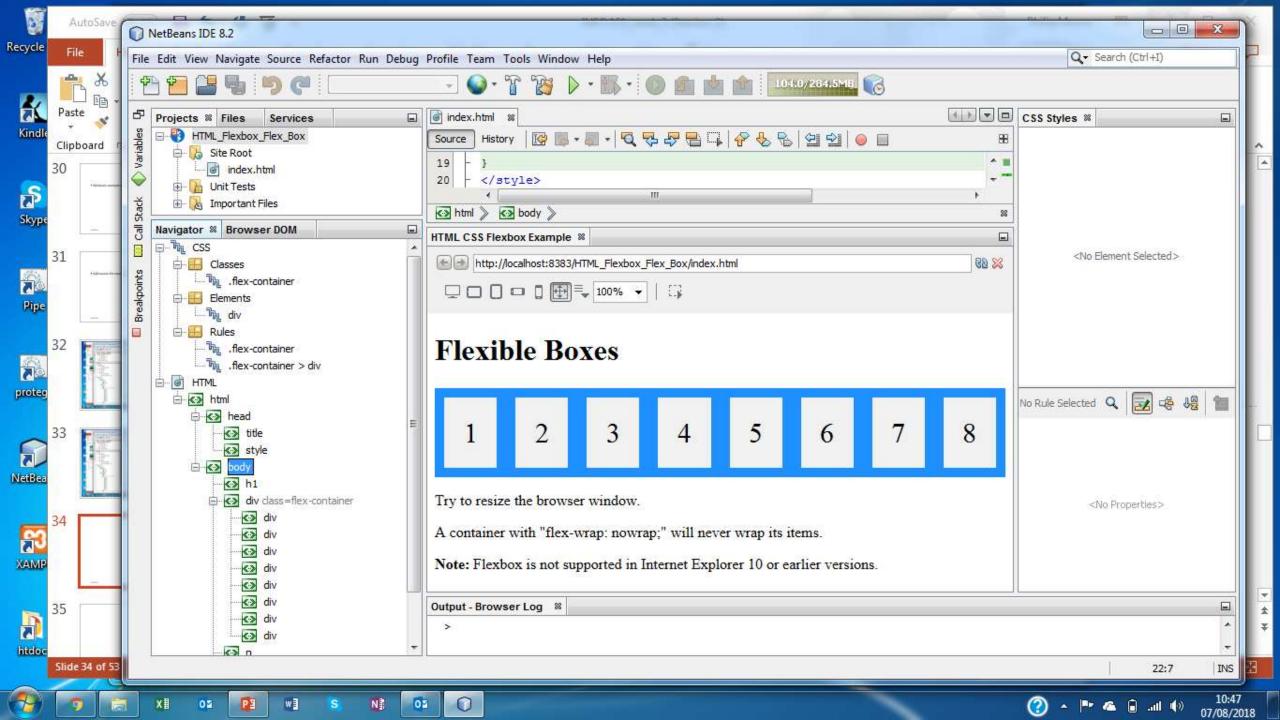


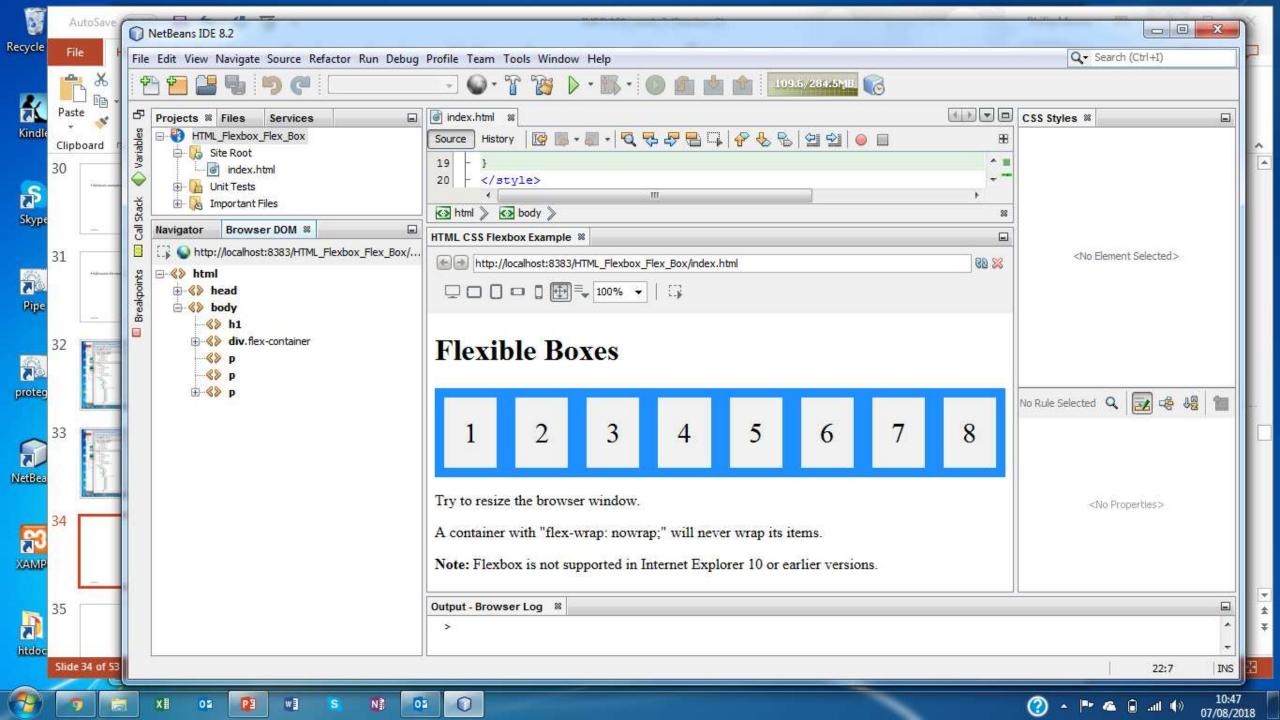
A CSS flexbox Example in NetBeans IDE

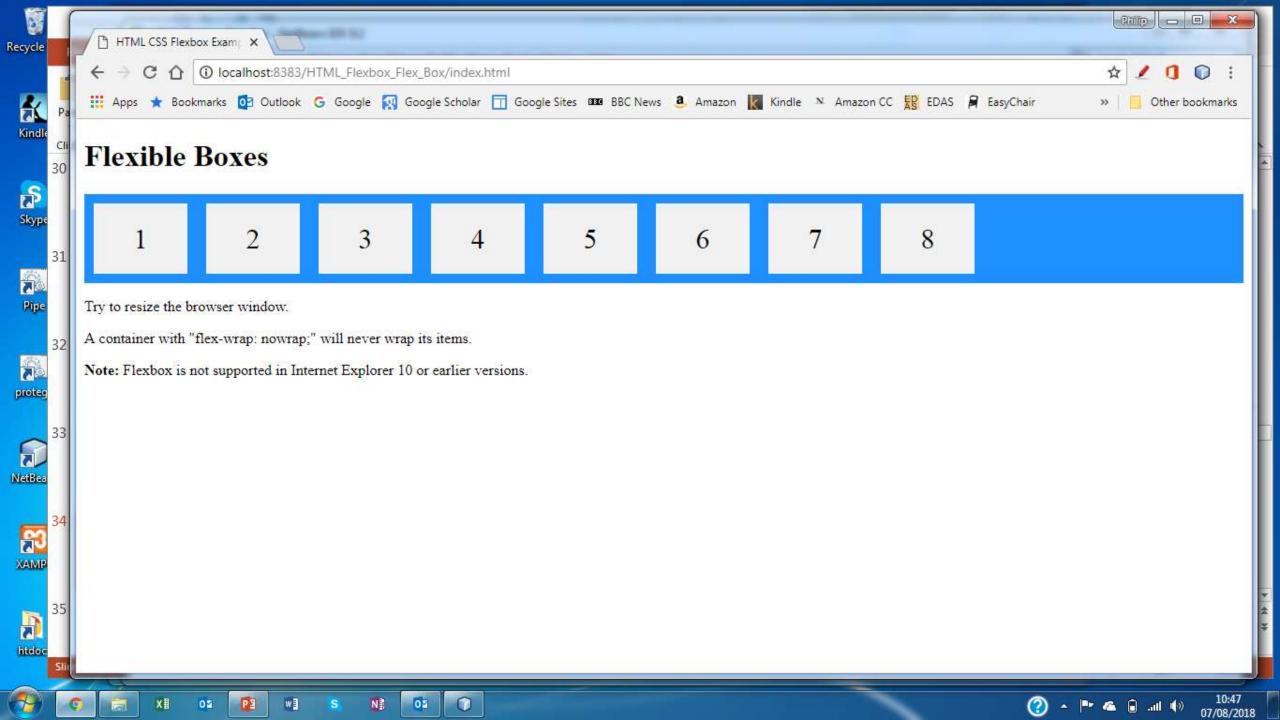
- The following slides show an example of the CSS flexbox layout implemented in the NetBeans IDE
- We can see from the NetBeans IDE
 - The Projects, Navigator and Browser Dom information and elements
- The HTML and style rules that define the output are shown in the NetBeans editor
- The output shows
 - The dynamically changing output to match the web-browser profile
 - The width and size of the elements change dynamically to match the width of the display

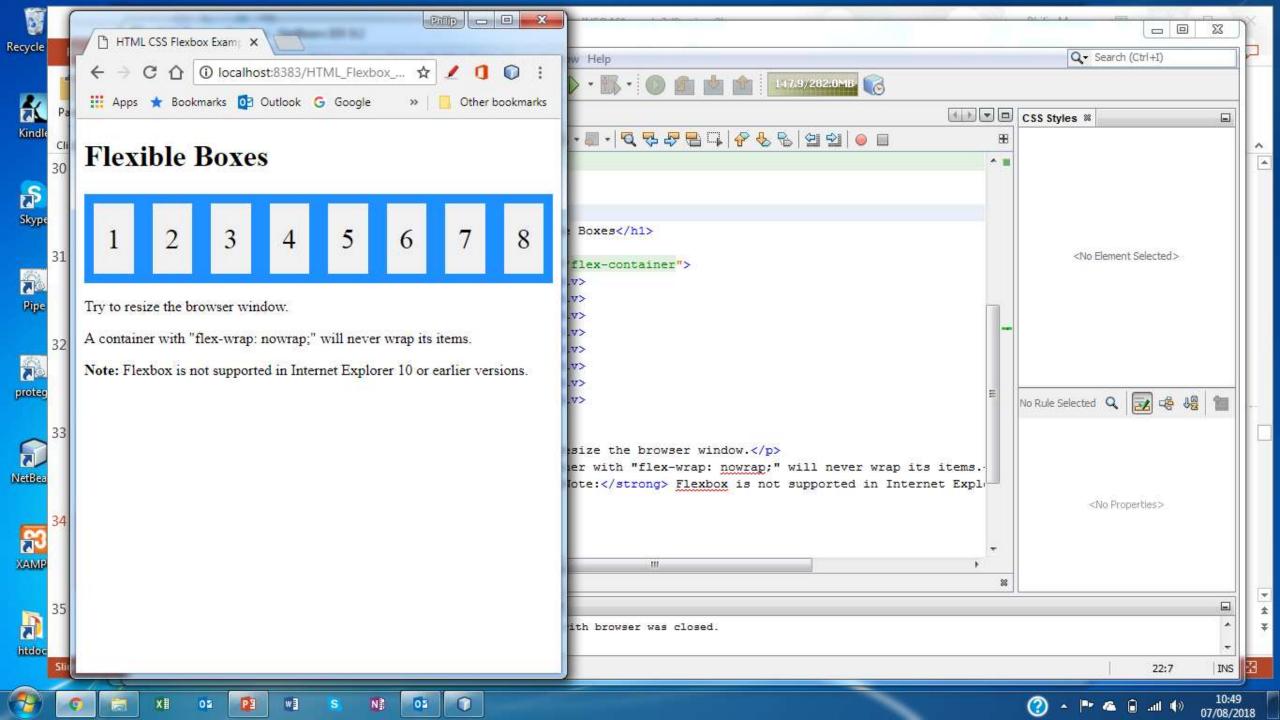


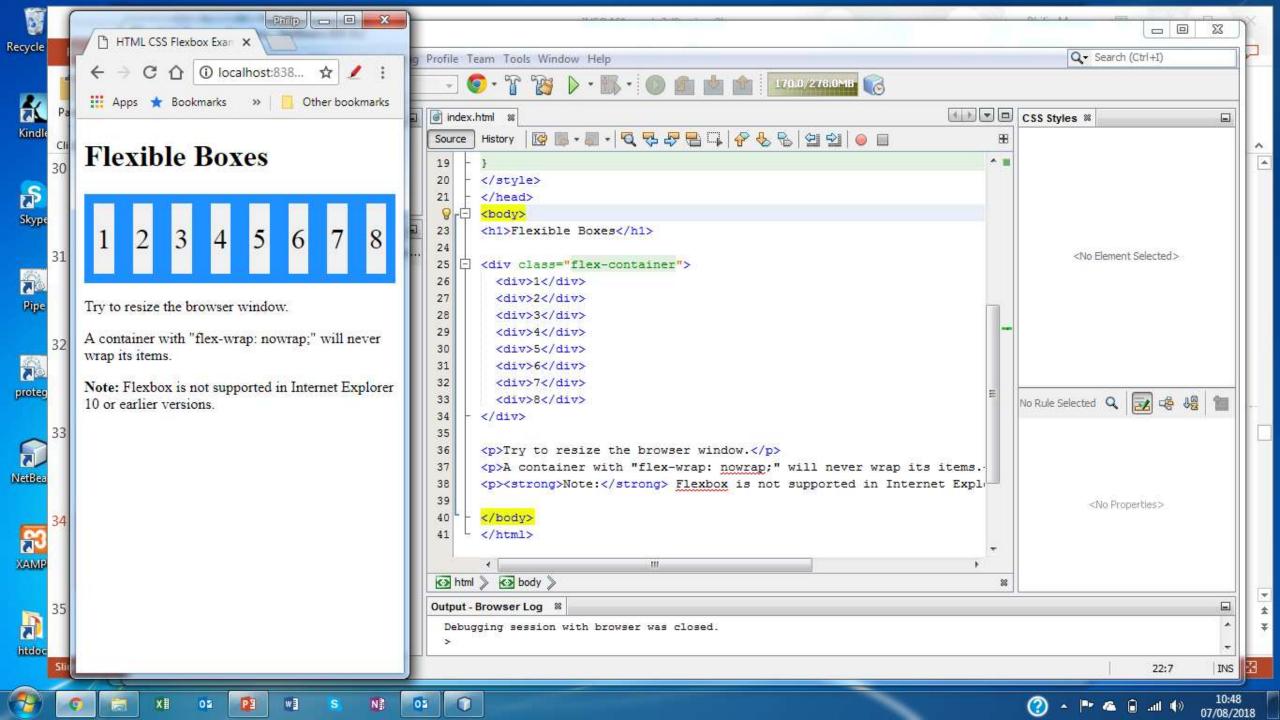












HTML Layout using a CSS framework

What is a Framework?

- Recall that in Week #1 we introduced the concept of a programming framework
- NetBeans has a built-in framework of pre-programmed code modules (application programming interfaces (or API's)
- The aim of such a framework is to promote modular computer programming using re-usable code modules
- The CSS framework operates on the same principle where regularly used components are available in pre-programmed HTML CSS components

HTML Layout using a CSS framework

- What is a CSS framework?
 - CSS frameworks provide a basic structure for designing consistent solutions
 - Addresses common recurring issues across front end web development.
 - CSS frameworks provide generic functionality which can be overridden to create domain-specific applications
 - There are many existing CSS Frameworks that offer Responsive Design.
- A typical CSS framework is the W3.CSS framework
- The W3.CSS enables development of web-sites across a range of devices and interfaces

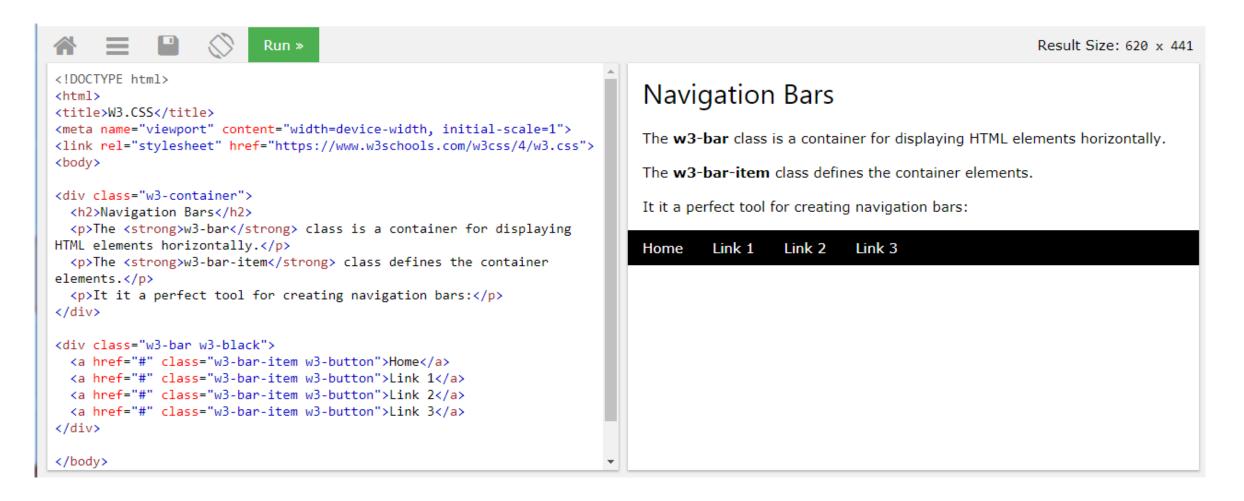
W3.CSS

- W3.CSS is a modern CSS framework with built-in responsiveness
 - Smaller and faster than other CSS frameworks
 - Easier to learn, and easier to use than other CSS frameworks
 - Better cross-browser compatibility than other CSS frameworks
 - Uses standard CSS only (No jQuery or JavaScript library)
 - Supports modern responsive mobile first design by default
 - Provides CSS equality for all browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Edge, IE, Safari, Opera, ...
 - Provides CSS equality for all devices: desktop, laptop, tablet, and mobile
 - Speeds up and simplifies web development

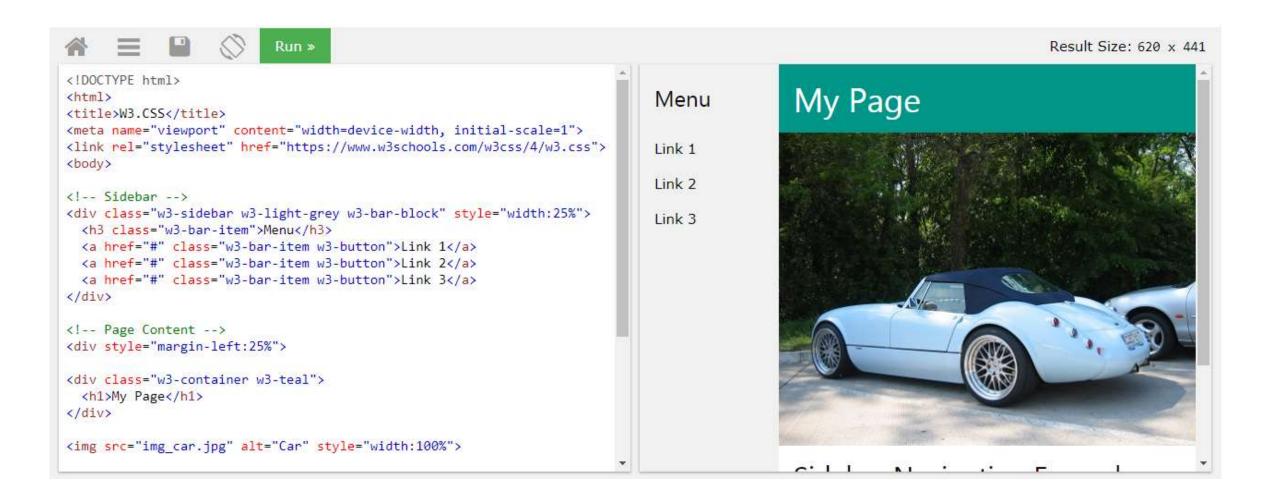
W3.CSS Examples

- W3.CSS cover the majority of HTML elements examples include
 - W3.CSS Navigation
 - W3.CSS Sidebar
 - W3.CSS Panels
 - W3.CSS Text
 - W3.CSS Round
 - W3.CSS Buttons
 - W3.CSS Tables
 - W3.CSS Lists
- The following slides demonstrate the implementation of these elements using W3.CSS

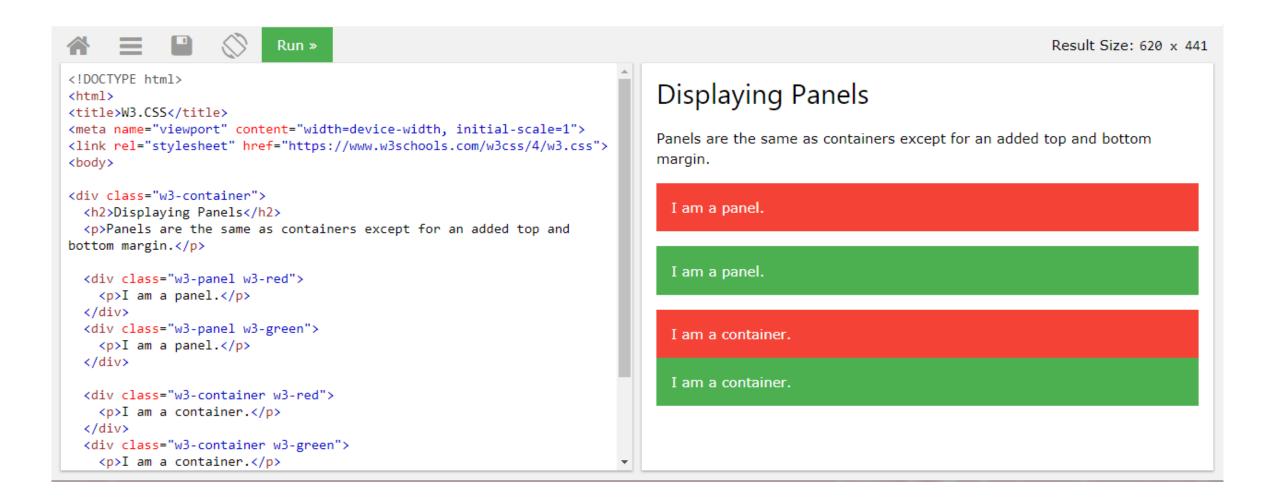
W3.CSS - Navigation



W3.CSS - Sidebar



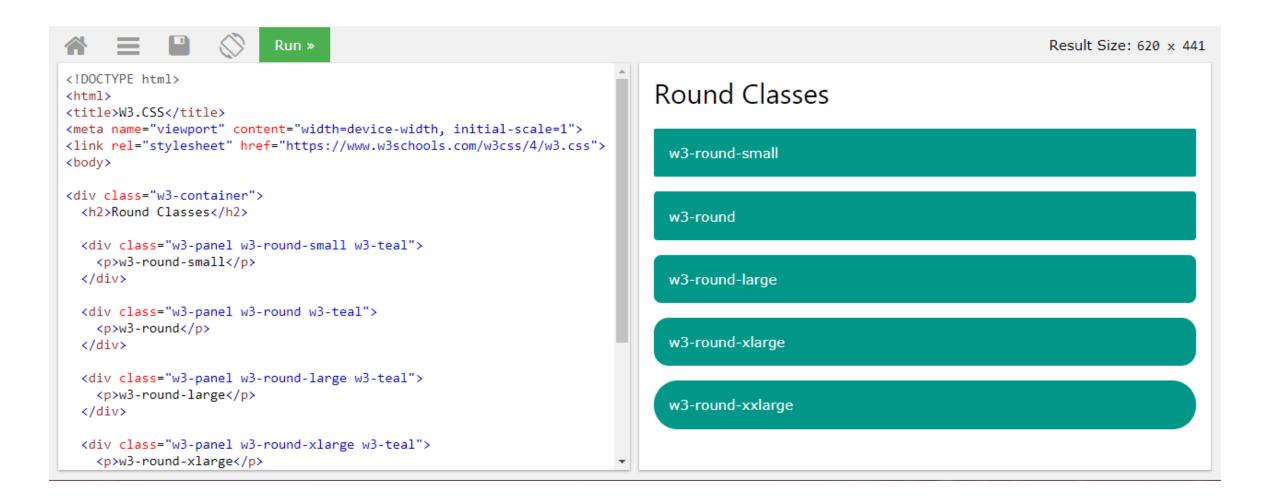
W3.CSS - Panels



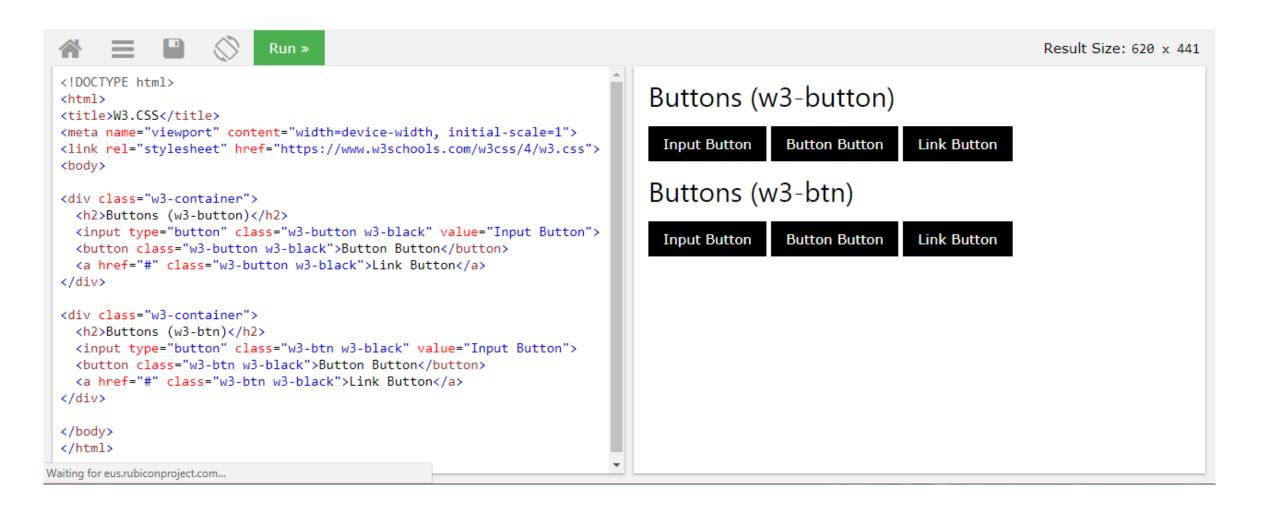
W3.CSS - Text

```
Run »
                                                                                                                                       Result 9
<!DOCTYPE html>
                                                                                Heading 1 (36px)
<html>
<title>W3.CSS</title>
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://www.w3schools.com/w3css/4/w3.css">
                                                                                Heading 2 (30px)
<body>
<div class="w3-container">
                                                                                Heading 3 (24px)
  h1>Heading 1 (36px)</h1>
  <h2>Heading 2 (30px)</h2>
                                                                                Heading 4 (20px)
  <h3>Heading 3 (24px)</h3>
  \langle h4 \rangleHeading 4 (20px)\langle h4 \rangle
                                                                                Heading 5 (18px)
  \langle h5 \rangleHeading 5 (18px)\langle h5 \rangle
  <h6>Heading 6 (16px)</h6>
                                                                                Heading 6 (16px)
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

W3.CSS – Round Classes



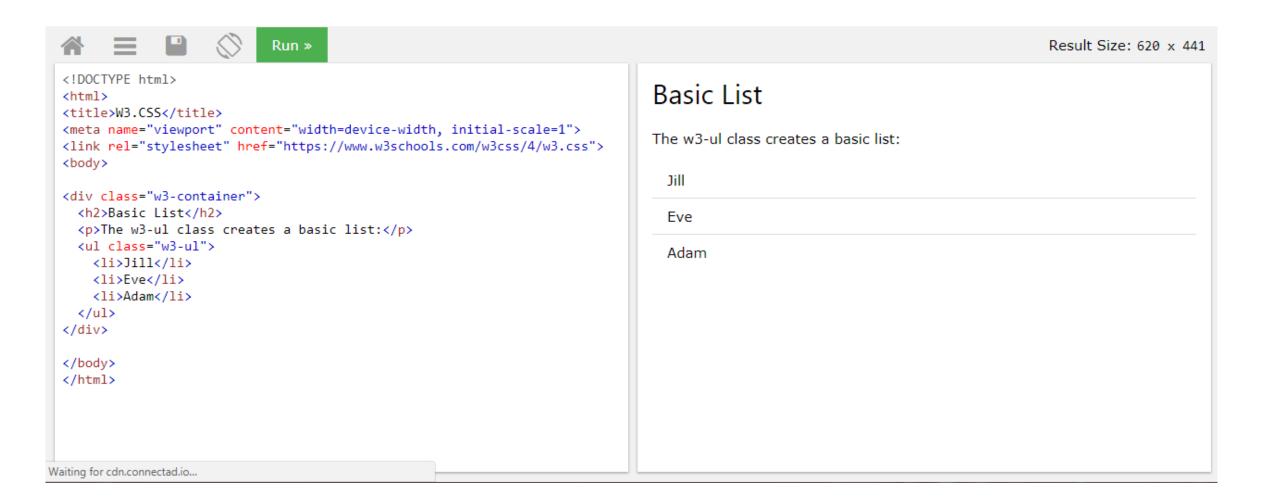
W3.CSS - Buttons



W3.CSS – Basic Table



W3.CSS – Basic List



Conclusions

Browser Support Reference

- We have introduced the CSS web-page layout techniques
- In previous sessions we have identified the potential variability of web browser support for HTML and HTML 5
- There may be similar problems with web-browser support variability for CSS and CSS3 style sheets
- For details of web-browser support see w3schools.com
- For specific details regarding CSS3 CSS support see
 - https://www.quanzhanketang.com/cssref/css3_browsersupport.html

Feedback

- When designing and developing a web-page (or web-site) we have in previous sessions introduced
 - Usability and security considerations and the 'trade-off'
- A further important consideration is 'feedback' to users
- We have seen in this session a CSS float example where a navigation bar was created with links to other web-pages
 - In this example we saw that when the cursor *hovered* over the home link (*mousover*) the colour changed from red to black
 - This is an example of feedback which informs the user of an action
- When developing web-pages and web-sites user feedback is important

bringing it all together

- Knowing how to create HTML files and run web-pages / web-sites does not address the need for good web-site design
- Bringing it all together is the process of design where
 - The requirements are investigated
 - The appropriate features are selected
 - The features selected are combined into a web-page / web-site that is
 - Attractive / easy to use / effective in presenting the information / provides user interactive feedback
- It is the task of the designer to
 - Meet the user requirements specification
 - Provide a multi-page web-site with clear navigation that users will want to visit

Review

- In this lecture we have:
 - Introduced Web-Page Layout and Design
 - Introduced HTML layout elements
 - Introduced HTML tables
- Shown muti-column web-page layouts using the following 4 methods:
 - HTML tables
 - CSS float property
 - CSS flexbox
 - CSS framework
- Adding style and Cascading Style Sheets in web-page layout and design
- Introduced HTML / CSS layout techniques with examples implemented in the Net Beans IDE