

XML/ CSS/ XHTML

“Future Proof” your Web site

Plan a Structured Site

- Standards-Compliant Code
 - Downloads Fast
- Instant site-wide changes
 - Using one CSS code change
- In Planning
 - Function Determines Form
 - Content Drives Design
 - User Benefits Trump Cute “Tech Tricks”

What is the Magic of a Structured Site

- **Reduced Markup**
 - This is why the site download fast
- **Separation of Content and Presentation**
 - This is why site redesigns work instantly
- **Accessibility**
 - Future access for Cell Phones, PDAs
 - Current legal requirements for Government Sites
- **Future Proof**
 - Standards now will ensure longer life for your work

Site Planning

- Content – (Static or Dynamic)
- Page Structure
- Navigation
- Compliant Code
- Graphic Design
- Optimization
- Testing and Documentation

Why Plan with XHTML

- Structure..
 - is stricter and less “forgiving”
 - is tighter and more controlled
- Language..
 - XML
 - More rules
 - Easier to learn?
- More likely to render accurately

Why Plan with XML

- XML is a content-only language
 - CSS or DTDs define “Presentation”
- Structure..
 - is stricter and less “forgiving”
 - is tighter and more controlled
 - More rules
- “Future Proof”
 - More likely to function with PDAs, Cell Phones

Why Plan with CSS

- “Future Proof”
 - More likely to function with PDAs, Cell Phones
 - Easier than creating multiple sites
 - However, “Browser Compatibility” is not easy
 - Easier to create a “print only” version of the site
- Changes instantly affect the entire site

What devices will CSS Work with?

- all:
 - All devices
- braille:
 - Braille tactile feedback devices
- embossed:
 - Braille page printers
- handheld:
 - PDAs (Small screen, limited bandwidth)

What devices will CSS Work with?

- **print:**
 - Printed documents and Onscreen Print Preview
- **projection:**
 - Projected presentations
- **screen:**
 - Color computer monitors

What devices will CSS Work with?

- speech:
 - Speech synthesizers
- tty:
 - Teletypes and terminals
- tv:
 - Televisions

Why do you say that CSS doesn't work?

- Variable browser support
 - No browser supports all of CSS
 - The most used browsers (I.E. 5, 5.5) make mistakes
 - Netscape™ 4 thinks it supports CSS
 - But it doesn't, really
- To make CSS work, you have to “hack” it

What is a Hack?

- The path of desperation
- A way of making the easy more complicated
- A non-standard way of making code work
- Tricking one browser to use code, while
 - Tricking other browsers to ignore code

Is a hack “good” or “bad”

- Good –
 - Allows design to work in many browsers
 - Works in CSS, so changes affect entire site
- Bad –
 - Non-standard
 - Gets really complicated
 - You have to become a “browser bug” expert

What do the “Standards” do?

- Separate “Content” from “Presentation”
- “Deprecated” certain elements
 - Suggest that we don’t use them
 - These elements will not be used in the future
- Examples:
 - `` -- (font tags)
 - `` -- (bold)
 - `<i></i>` -- (italics)

Where do we go from here?

- Learn XHTML
- Learn CSS
- Use a tool for XML
- Use a tool for RSS
- Start a blog

Study the tutorials

For more information...

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