Introduction to CSS in Dreamweaver 8

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Agenda: The Dreamweaver CSS Toolbox

- CSS Styles Panel
- CSS Rules Creation
- CSS Rendering
- CSS Visual Aids

And along the way...

- CSS Primer
- Visualizing CSS layout
- CSS Concepts

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30 Second CSS Primer

- Selector
  - h1 { color: red; }
- Properties

> Separates style from content
> CSS rule has 2 main parts: Selector, Properties

- Basic types of selectors:
  - Tags – p, h1, h2, etc.
  - Classes - .errorText
  - IDs - #mainContent

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Visualizing your CSS layout

- Break your page into primary divisions – key for applying <div> tags
- One common approach
  - Divide the page horizontally first
  - Subdivide horizontal regions into two or more columns

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Set CSS Preferences for shorthand

- Automatically condense code
- Works with Font, Background, Margins and padding, Borders and lists

```css
#container {
  margin-top: 0px;
  margin-right: auto;
  margin-bottom: 0px;
  margin-left: auto;
}
```

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Creating a new CSS rule

- Button on CSS Styles panel
- New styles can be created:
  - In an external style sheet
  - Embedded on same page
  - Inline tag
  - Design-time: Embedded
  - Run-time: External

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New CSS Rule
Setting the selector

- Choose type of selector first
- Next name selector or tag
- Select where defined
  - External style sheet
  - Embedded in document
- Enter tag name in field
- Or choose from list

Defining the properties

- Choose category
- Set properties for each category
  - For tags, click Apply to preview

Create a layout style

- Layout styles use IDs or Classes
  - For IDs, use Advanced selector type
- IDs always start with a #
  - Pound sign, number sign
  - Hash mark, octothorpe
  - Used once per page
  - Frequently used with div tags

Setting box properties

- First stop for layout rules
- Set widths to pixels or percent
- Set heights some times
  - If content is fixed
  - Headers or footers
  - Margins
  - Offset box from outside
  - Padding
  - Offset box content inside

Applying your CSS rule to a <div> tag

- For Insert bar
  - Common category
  - Insert Div Tag
- Creates the div tag
- Applies the CSS style
  - Use with Classes or IDs
  - Once ID is applied, disappears from list

Group your selectors!

- Choose Advanced selector
- Separate each selector with a comma
  - Mix and match your selectors!
  - Apply to all IDs, all Classes, all Tags or mix ’em up
CSS Styles Visualized in Dreamweaver

- Placeholder content automatically added with Insert Div Tag
- Visual Aids > CSS Layout Outlines
- Tag Selector shows tag and CSS ID or class, like <div id='footer'>

Quick access through CSS styles panel

- All mode shows all styles
- Style sheets listed separately
- Embedded styles shown in <style> tag
- Choose a style to see its properties
- Quickly change existing properties
- Easily add new properties
- Demo

Hone in via Current mode

- Current mode shows all properties for current style
- Two views
  - About view
  - Rules view
- About view shows where selected property is found
- Rules view shows all rules that affect current style
- Hover over property in Summary pane to see where rule is defined
- Demo

Follow the Cascade in Rule view

- Cascade is a key CSS concept Hint: It’s in the name!
- The property closest to the style wins
- Properties not applied to selection are marked with strikethrough
- Demo

Specificity – how CSS resolves conflicts

When two selectors apply to the same selection, the most specific wins.
- Specificity example 1,1,0
- Each column represents a different selector type
- Column 1 is for IDs
  - #content = 1,0,0
- Column 2 is for Classes
  - .errorText = 0,1,0
- Column 3 is for Tags
  - body = 0,0,1
- Contextual selectors, too
  - body a:content .errorText = 1,1,1

CSS Layout Visual Aids make it clearer

Three different CSS visual aids available
- CSS Layout Backgrounds
- CSS Layout Box Model
- CSS Layout Outlines
- Demo
Advanced productivity available:
- Go to Code: Opens style sheet at CSS style, whether it's on the same page or an external file.
- Duplicate: Copies current style - a great time-saver!
- Design time: Sets up style sheets applied only when designing.
- Export: Stores embedded styles in an external style sheet.

Change media with the style rendering toolbar
- Re-style your page for any medium, right in Dreamweaver!
- Most often use Screen and Print
- Toggle CSS is great for displaying document flow and for screen reader checking
- Demo

Document flow: A key CSS concept
- Document flow is how the HTML page is written, top to bottom.
- Most CSS styles do not affect the document flow…
- Except for two notable categories:
  1) CSS positioning
  2) Floats

Positioning: The Designer’s CSS Power Tool
- Use position property to move page elements out of the document flow
- Key concept: the containing block
- 4 position values
  - Relative
  - Absolute
  - Static
  - Fixed
- Demo

The Float Property
- Float allows text and other page elements to flow around the “floated” item.
- Float objects left or right
- Two major uses
  - Integrating images and text
  - Setting up columns in layout
- Demo

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