Five CSS Techniques That Every Technical Writer Should Know – Part 1
Presenter Information

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V.P. of Product Evangelism
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Before joining MadCap Software as a founding member of the executive team, Mike was the Product Manager for the RoboHelp product line since the days of Blue Sky Software, eHelp, and Macromedia. Mr. Hamilton joined the RoboHelp team in the mid ’90s as a founding member of the Training Solutions Program team, where he co-authored the certified training materials supporting the RoboHelp family.

Mike has over 20 years of experience in training, technical communication, multimedia development, and software development at several organizations including Macromedia, eHelp/Blue Sky Software, Cymer, a leading supplier of laser illumination sources in the semiconductor industry, National Steel and Shipbuilding, and the US Navy.
Agenda

• Set Your Sizes Correctly
• Decorating the Box Model
• Modifying Pseudo-Classes
• Using Selectors
• Pushing the Limits
Set Your Sizes Correctly
CSS Units

Fixed Sizes
• pt, pica, inch, mm, cm, etc.

Relative Sizes
• em, %, named (xx-small – xx-large)
• (new to CSS3) rem, vh, vw

Keyword Sizes
• auto, initial, inherit
Sizing Text

Print Delivery = Fixed Sizing
• Typically point sizes, pt

Browser Delivery = Relative Sizing
• Typically percentages or em units
Sizing Images

Static Delivery = Fixed Sizing
• Typically pixels, inches, or mm

Responsive Delivery = Relative or Keyword Sizing
• Typically percentages
Combining Relative/Keyword Sizes

Static Image Sizing

```css
img {
  width: 600px;
  height: 500px;
}
```

Relative/Keyword Sizes

```css
img {
  max-width: 100%;
}
```
Decorating the Box Model
The Box Model – Review

• This page contains three elements
• Each element has an invisible box around it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading 1 Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is paragraph 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is paragraph 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Box Model – Review

- There are three primary attributes to the box model:
  - Border
  - Margin
  - Padding
- Each can be set in total, or by top, bottom, right, or left.
Using the Box Model

Standard Hyperlink

Here is some sample text.

Home Page

Hyperlink with Box Model Styling

Here is some sample text.

Home Page
Creating the Basic Button

Our starting point

Here is some sample text:

Home Page

First we create a new link style class

a.basic-button
Creating the Basic Button

a.basic-button{
  background-color: blue;
}

Here is some samp

Home Page
Creating the Basic Button

a.basic-button{
  background-color: blue;
  color: white;
}

Here is some sample

Home Page
Creating the Basic Button

```css
a.basic-button{
  background-color: blue;
  color: white;
  padding: 10px 20px;
}
```
Creating the Basic Button

a.basic-button{
    background-color: blue;
    color: white;
    padding: 10px 20px;
    margin: 5px;
}
Creating the Basic Button

a.basic-button{
    background-color: blue;
    color: white;
    padding: 10px 20px;
    margin: 5px;
    border-radius: 10px;
}
Modifying Pseudo Classes
Definition

Class:
A CSS Class supports styling of SPECIFIC items on the page

Pseudo-class:
A Pseudo-Class supports styling of a specific items unique STATE
Pseudo-classes

For links:

a:link
a:visited
a:hover
a:active
Modifying Pseudo-classes

a.basic-button{
  background-color: blue;
  color: white;
  padding: 10px 20px;
  margin: 5px;
  border-radius: 10px;
}
Modifying Pseudo-classes

a.basic-button{
    background-color: blue;
    color: white;
    padding: 10px 20px;
    margin: 5px;
    border-radius: 10px;
}
Modifying Pseudo-classes

a.advanced-button{
  background-color: powderblue;
  color: blue;
  padding: 10px 20px;
  margin: 5px;
  border: solid 1px midnightblue,
  border-radius: 10px;
}
Modifying Pseudo-classes

```css
a.advanced-button {
  background-color: powderblue;
  color: blue;
  padding: 10px 20px;
  margin: 5px;
  border: solid 1px midnightblue;
  border-radius: 10px;
}

a.advanced-button:hover {
}

a.advanced-button:active {
}
```
Modifying Pseudo-classes

a.advanced-button:hover {
  color: powderblue;
  border: solid 1px midnightblue;
  background: blue;
}
Modifying Pseudo-classes

```
.a.advanced-button:active {
  border: solid 1px black;
  background: midnightblue;
}
```
Using Selectors
Definition

Selector:
A pattern used to select the elements you want to style

Selectors we have already seen:
• Class
• Pseudo-Class
New Selectors

String match
If certain characters, then style
::before
Insert before styled element
::after
Insert after styled element
String Match Selector

- Detect links to PDF files
- Auto-add correct icon
String Match Selector

a[href$=".pdf"] {
  background-image: url('../Images/pdf-icon.png');
  background-repeat: no-repeat;
  background-position: center right;
  padding-right: 35px;
}

Link to Web Page

Link to PDF
::before and ::after

- Selector pseudo-classes
- Injects any content before or after an element
- Two examples
  - Smart Quotes
  - Header bars
Smart Quotes Example

Standard typed quotes

In this sentence, "Quote this part," but

“Smart Quotes” from a style

In this sentence, “Quote this part,” but

NOTE: This is a “Crazy Mike” technique…
First the Class

span.quoted {
  font-style: italic;
}

}
::before for Opening Quote

span.quoted::before {
  content: """;
  font-size: 40px;
  color: dimgray;
  display: inline-block;
}
::after for the Closing Quote

span.quoted::after {
  content: "";  
  font-size: 40px; 
  display: inline-block; 
  color: dimgray; 
}
Span Quote Style

span.quoted {  
  font-style: italic; }

span.quoted::before {  
  content: """;  
  font-size: 40px;  
  color: dimgray;  
  display: inline-block; }

span.quoted::after {  
  content: """;  
  font-size: 40px;  
  display: inline-block;  
  color: dimgray; }
Header Bars Example

Customer desire:
• H1 left aligned
• H2 centered between

Topic Title

----------------------------------
Heading 2 Subhead

Here is some sample text for really cool demonstration files.
Header Bars Example

Base H2 style

H2 {
  font-weight: bold;
}

Topic Title

Heading 2 Subhead

Here is some sample text for really cool demonstration files.
Adding the left bar

h2::before {
display: inline-block;
content: " ";
}

Topic Title

---

Heading 2 Subhead

Here is some sample text for really cool demonstration files.
Adding the right bar

```css
h2::after {
  display: inline-block;
  content: " ";
}
```

Topic Title

---

Heading 2 Subhead

---

Here is some sample text for really cool demonstration files.
Header Bars Example

H2 {
  font-weight: bold;
  font-size: 1.7em;
  text-align: center;
}
H2:before {
  display: inline-block;
  content: " ";
  background-color: dimgray;
  width: 140px;
  margin: 0px 20px 14px 0px;
  height: 4px;
}
H2:after {
  display: inline-block;
  content: " ";
  background-color: dimgray;
  width: 140px;
  margin: 0px 0px 14px 20px;
  height: 4px;
}
Pushing the Limits
Pushing the Limits

Using CSS:

• Detect the display device

• Dynamically change content
Pushing the Limits

• Detect the display device
• Dynamically change content
WARNING:
Mike Hamilton is about to violate the separation of content and formatting!
A rip in the space time continuum may result!
First, we set up a SPAN class:

```css
span.UIcontrol: {
  position: absolute;
  visibility: hidden;
}
```
CSS Content Control

Apply Span to the space
Inject Text Using ::before

```css
span.UIcontrol::before {
  content: "CLICK";
  visibility: visible;
}
```

Please CLICK the control.
Change Text for Tablets

@media screen and (max-width: 650px)
{
    span.UIcontrol::before,
    
    content: "TAP",
    visibility: visible;

}
Please CLICK the control.

Please TAP the control.
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Five Advanced CSS Techniques That Every Technical Writer Should Know, Part 2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017
10:00 AM (PACIFIC TIME)

PRESENTED BY:
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REGISTER NOW →
Questions?

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Thank You!

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