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

PRESENTED BY

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Presenter Information



Mike Hamilton V.P. of Product Evangelism MadCap Software

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



Print Delivery = Fixed SizingTypically point sizes, pt

Browser Delivery = Relative SizingTypically 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 img { width: 600px; height: 500px; } **Relative/Keyword Sizes** img { max-width: 100%;

Decorating the Box Model

The Box Model – Review

- This page contains three elements
- Each element has in invisible box around it

Heading 1 Text

This is paragraph 1

This is paragraph 2

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

Heading 1 Text

This is paragraph 1

This is paragraph 2

Using the Box Model

Standard Hyperlink

Here is some sample

<u>Home Page</u>

Hyperlink with Box Model Styling

Here is some sample



Creating the Basic Button Our starting point

Here is some sample

<u>Home Page</u>

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

Creating the Basic Button a.basic-button{ background-color: blue; color: white;

Here is some sampl



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

Here is some samp

Home Page

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

Home Page

Creating the Basic Button a.basic-button{ background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 10px 20px; margin: 5px; Here is some sam border-radius:

Home Page

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; Here is some sam padding: 10px 20p **Home Page** margin: 5px; border: solid 1px manignatione, 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; }

a.advanced-button:hover { } a.advanced-button:active {

Modifying Pseudo-classes a.advanced-button:hover { color: powderblue; Here is some sam border: solid 1px n Home, Page background: blue;}

Modifying Pseudo-classes a.advanced-button:active { border: solid 1px b Here is some sam background: midni Home Page

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-r Link to Web Page padding-right 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," bu

"Smart Quotes" from a style

In this sentence, *"Quote this part,"* bu

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::before { e, Quote this part, k

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

"Quote this part,"

Header Bars Example Customer desire: H1 left aligned H2 centered between **Topic Title**

Heading 2 Subhead -

Header Bars Example Base H2 style H2 { font woight hold **Topic Title**

Heading 2 Subhead

Adding the left bar h2::before { display: inline-block; content: " **Topic Title**

Heading 2 Subhead

Adding the right bar h2::after { display: inline-block; content: **Topic Title**

Heading 2 Subhead

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

Purhing the Limits

• Dynamica.,



WARNING:

Mike Hamilton is about to violate the separation of content and formatting!

A rip in the space time continuum may result!

CSS Content Control First, we set up a SPAN class

span.Ulcontrol: {

position: absolute;

visibility: hidden; }

CSS Content Control

Apply Span to the space



Inject Text Using ::before span.Ulcontrol::before {

content: "CLICK". visibi ResponsiveText

Please CLICK the control.

Change Text for Tablets @media screen and (max-width: 650px) span.Ulco ResponsiveTe content visibility

Please TAP the control.

CSS Co

span.Ulcor position: visibility: span.Ulcor content: visibility: @media sc span.Ulco conter visibili

ResponsiveText

Please CLICK the control.

ResponsiveTe

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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Questions?

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Thank You!

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