



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

PRESENTED BY

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*MadCap Software*

# *Presenter Information*



Mike Hamilton

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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

# *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

```
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 an invisible box around it

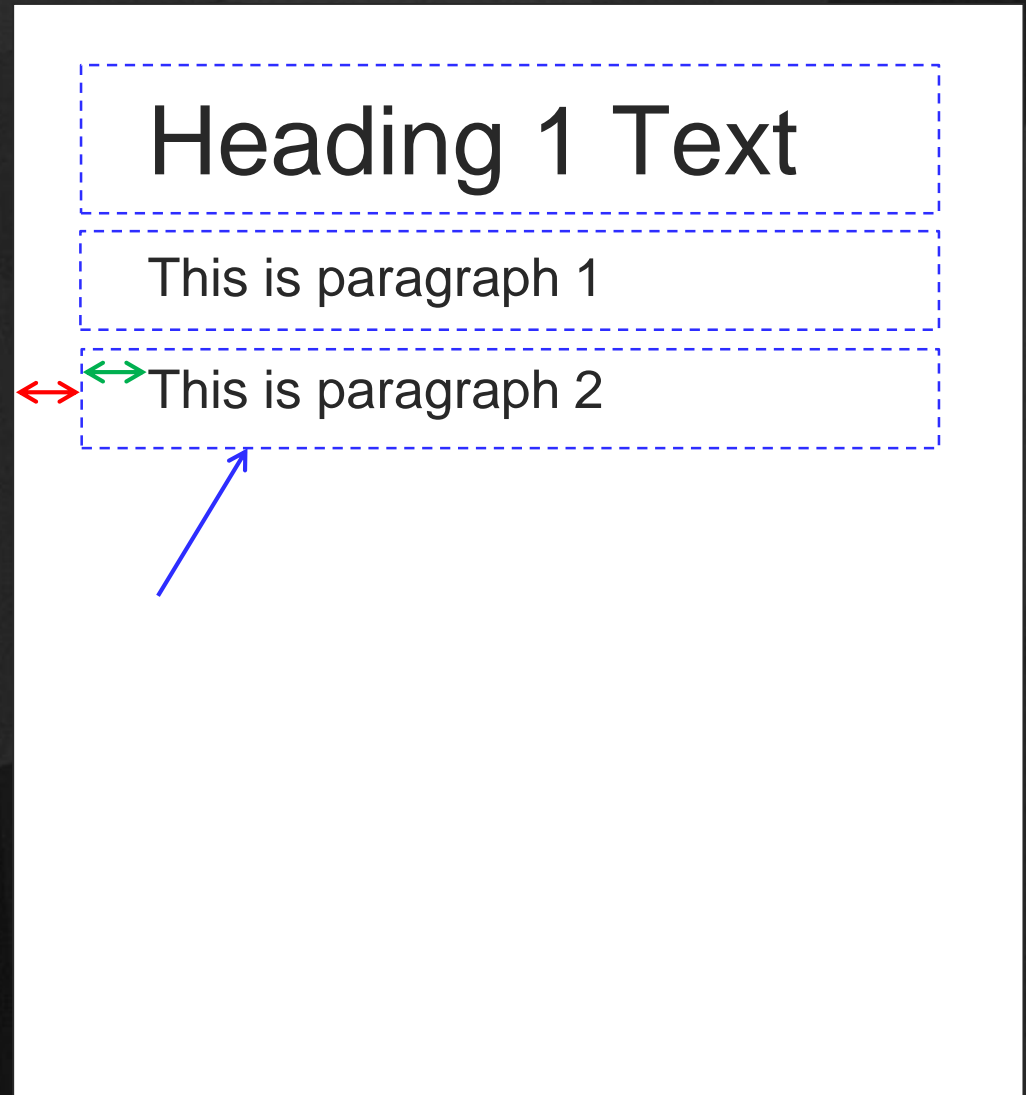
Heading 1 Text

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



# *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 sampl

Home Page

# *Creating the Basic Button*

```
a.basic-button{  
  background-color: blue;  
  color: white;  
  padding: 10px 20px;  
}
```

Here is some sample

[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;  
  border-radius: 10px;
```

Here is some sam

[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;  
  padding: 10px 20px;  
  margin: 5px;  
  border: solid 1px midnightblue,  
  border-radius: 10px; }
```

Here is some sam

[Home Page](#)



# *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;
```

```
  border: solid 1px m
```

```
  background: blue;}
```

Here is some sam



Home Page

# *Modifying Pseudo-classes*

```
a.advanced-button:active {
```

```
border: solid 1px black;
```

```
background: midnightblue;
```

Here is some sam



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

[Link to Web Page](#)

[Link to PDF](#) 

# *String Match Selector*

```
a[href$=".pdf"] {  
    background-image:  
        url('../Images/pdf-icon.png');  
    background-repeat: no-repeat;  
    background-position: right top;  
    padding-right: 20px;  
}
```

[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; }
```

e, Quote this part, b

, *“Quote this part,”*

# *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*

```
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*

- *What?*
- *Device*
- *Dynamically*

**WHAT!!!!!!**

# 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*

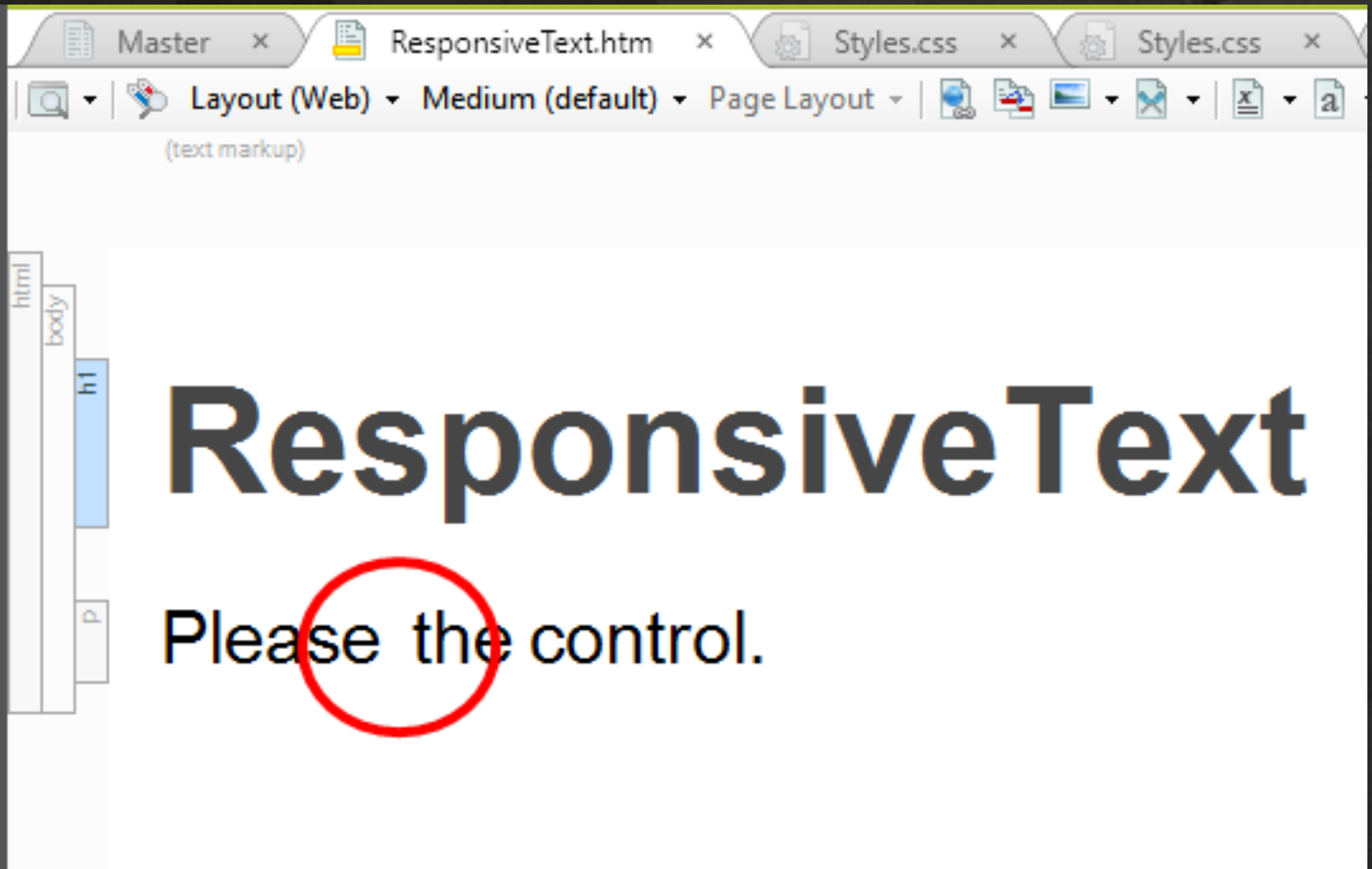
First, we set up a SPAN class

```
span.Uicontrol: {  
    position: absolute;  
    visibility: hidden; }
```



# *CSS Content Control*

## Apply Span to the space



# *Inject Text Using ::before*

```
span.UIcontrol::before {
```

```
  content: "CLICK".
```

```
  visibility: hidden;
```

```
}
```

## ResponsiveText

Please CLICK the control.

# *Change Text for Tablets*

```
@media screen and (max-width:  
650px)
```

```
{  
span.Uicontrol:before
```

```
{  
content  
visibility
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

**Responsive Text**

Please TAP the control.

# CSS Co

span.Ulcon

position:

visibility:

span.Ulcon

content: "

visibility: v

@media sc

span.Ulco

center

visibili

}

# ResponsiveText

Please CLICK the control.

# ResponsiveText

Please TAP the control.

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UPCOMING WEBINAR



# Five Advanced CSS Techniques That Every Technical Writer Should Know, Part 2



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

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**PRESENTED BY:**

Mike Hamilton, VP of Product Evangelism  
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**REGISTER NOW -->**



# Questions?

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# Thank You!

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