



CSS: Best Practices for Increasing Usability

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Overview

- Links
 - Tables and non-scrolling regions
 - Print
 - Required fields
 - Error messages
 - Customization
-

Formatting links

- ❑ Highlighting links on hover or when clicked
 - ❑ Using dotted underlines for popup links
 - ❑ Styling visited links
 - ❑ Styling external and email links
 - ❑ Styling document links
 - ❑ Adding link icons
-

Highlighting links on hover




```
a:hover {  
    background-color: #000000;  
    color: #ffffff;  
}
```

Using a dotted underline for popups

[Sample link](#)

```
a {  
    text-decoration: none;  
    border-bottom: 1px dotted #000000;  
}
```

Styling visited links

 My link

```
a:visited {  
    background: url(checked.png) left no-repeat;  
    padding-left: 20px;  
}
```

Styling external and email links

Send us an email at info@clickstart.net  for more information.

```
a[href^="mailto:"] {  
    background: url(email.gif) no-repeat right;  
    padding-right: 20px;  
}
```



Styling links to documents

For more information, open the User's Guide  Word document.





```
a[href$=".doc"] {  
    background: url(word.gif) no-repeat right;  
    padding-right: 20px;  
}
```



Formatting tables and non-scrolling regions

- Highlighting table rows or cells on hover
 - Rounding table corners
 - Adding a non-scrolling table header
 - Creating a non-scrolling region
-

Highlighting table rows or cells on hover

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
 Germany	8	2	0	26	5	26
 Russia	7	1	2	19	6	22
 Finland	5	3	2	14	14	18
 Wales	4	0	6	9	12	12
 Azerbaijan	1	2	7	4	14	5
 Liechtenstein	0	2	8	2	23	2




```
tr:hover { background-color: #ffff00; }
```

or

```
td:hover { background-color: #ffff00; }
```



Rounding table corners

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
 Germany	8	2	0	26	5	26
 Russia	7	1	2	19	6	22
 Finland	5	3	2	14	14	18
 Wales	4	0	6	9	12	12
 Azerbaijan	1	2	7	4	14	5
 Liechtenstein	0	2	8	2	23	2

```
table {  
    border: 1px solid #0000ff;  
    -moz-border-radius: 8px;  
    -webkit-border-radius: 8px;  
}
```

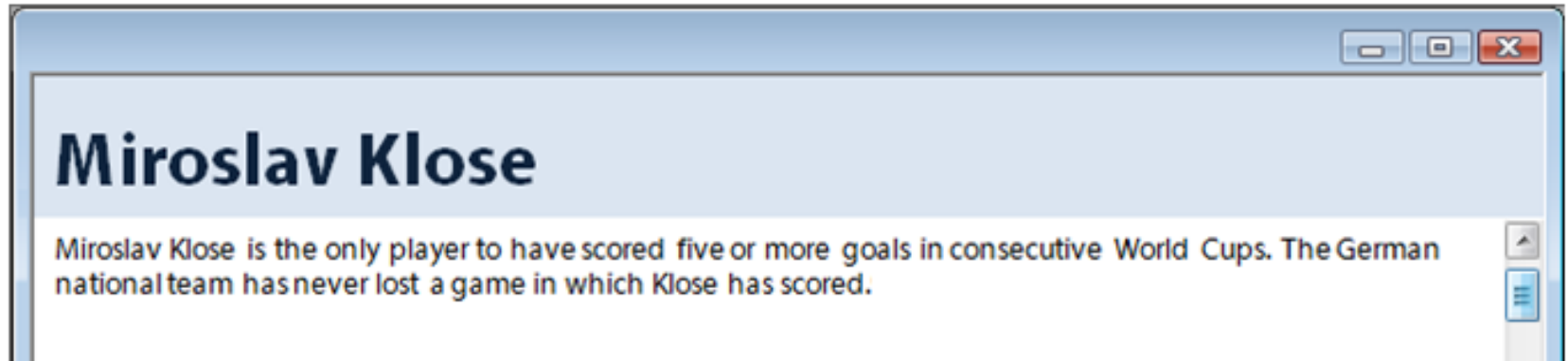


Adding a non-scrolling table header

```
div {  
  position: relative;  
  overflow-y: scroll; overflow-x: hidden;  
  height: 200px; width: 100%;  
  border: solid #000000; border-width: 1px;  
}  
table { border-width: 1px; width: 100%; }  
thead tr {  
  position: absolute;  
  top: expression(this.offsetParent.scrollTop);  
  background-color: #ffffcc;  
  text-align: left;  
}  
tbody { height: auto; }  
table tbody tr:first-child td { padding: 18px 4px 0px 2px; }
```



Creating a non-scrolling region



Creating a non-scrolling region

```
body {
    padding: 5em 0 0 0;
    background:url(nothing) fixed;
}

h1 {
    position:fixed;
    _position:absolute;
    top:0;
    _top:expression(eval(document.body.scrollTop));
    margin-top:0;
    padding-top:0;
    left: 0;
    padding-left: 10px;
    width: 100%;
    _width:expression(eval(document.body.clientWidth));
    background:gray;
}
```

Creating a print-specific layout

- ❑ Specifying a print-specific stylesheet
- ❑ Controlling page breaks
- ❑ Showing link URLs when the user prints

Specifying a print-specific stylesheet

Separate 'print' CSS files

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="print.css" media="print">
```

Print-specific styles in a general CSS file

```
@media print {
```

```
...
```

```
}
```


Controlling page breaks

```
h1 { page-break-before: always; }
```

```
table { page-break-inside: avoid; }
```

Showing link URLs in print

Visit Click**Start** (<http://www.clickstart.net>) ...

```
a:link:after, a:visited:after {  
    content: " (" attr(href) ") ";  
}  
a[href^="/"]:after {  
    content: " (http://www.yourwebsite.com" attr(href) ") ";  
}
```



Formatting required fields

Requestor: *

```
input.req:after { content: "*";}
```



Requestor:

```
input.req { border-color: #00ff00;}
```


Requestor:

```
input.req {  
    background-color: #ffffc0;  
    color: #000000;  
}
```

Formatting error messages

My Application

- Create project
- View projects
- View schedule
- Search



Please provide the following information:

- Project Number
- Requestor

Create Project

Project Number:

Description:

Start Date:

Completion Date:

Requestor:
first and last name

```
.errLabel { color: #ff0000; }
```

```
.errField { background-color: #ff0000; }
```

Customizing content

- ❑ Changing the font size
- ❑ Changing the stylesheet
- ❑ Showing and hiding content



Changing the font size

- Use ems or % (percentage), not pts (points)



Changing the stylesheet

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="default.css" id="default" />  
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="larger.css" id="larger" />
```

```
<script>
```

```
document.getElementById('larger').disabled=true;
```

```
function changeCSS(reqCSS) {
```

```
if (reqCSS == 'larger') { document.getElementById('larger').disabled=false;  
document.getElementById('default').disabled=true; }
```

```
else { document.getElementById('larger').disabled=true;  
document.getElementById('default').disabled=false; }
```

```
}
```

```
</script>
```

Hiding content

Verbergen

Falsches Üben von Xylophonmusik quält jeden größeren Zwerg.

```
.hide { display: none; }
```


Resources

CSS to the Point

Scott DeLoach

Cascading Style Sheets: Designing for the Web

Hakon Lie and Bert Bos

CSS Web Site Design Hands on Training

Eric Meyer

CSS Mastery: Advanced Web Standards Solutions

Andy Budd, Simon Collison, and Cameron Moll

Discussion group

www.css-discuss.org

CSS validator

jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator

Questions?

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Author,

MadCap Flare Certified Test Review + Developers Guide

CSS to the Point

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ClickStart

The logo for ClickStart is displayed in a white, sans-serif font. The word 'Click' is in a lighter weight, while 'Start' is in a bold weight. A black mouse cursor arrow is positioned at the bottom right, pointing towards the final 't' in 'Start'. The logo is set against a background of several large, semi-transparent, light blue arrows pointing upwards and to the right.