

CSS Best Practices

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During this presentation, I will discuss advanced CSS techniques with an emphasis on what's new in CSS3.

Ten CSS best practices

- Do not use inline formatting
- Organize definitions and use a naming convention
- Add comments
- Use a reset/normalize stylesheet - meyerweb.com/eric/tools/css/reset or necolas.github.io/normalize.css
- Use an auto-prefixer to support old browsers and new features
- Use DRY ("Don't Repeat Yourself") techniques
- Make selectors as specific as possible
- Remove unused CSS rules
- Test in multiple browsers on multiple devices
- Keep learning

What's new in CSS

- `::grammar-error` pseudo element
- `::spelling-error` pseudo element
- `:fullscreen` (aka full-screen) pseudo class
- `:target` pseudo class and `scroll-snap` property
- `calc()` function
- `@supports` rule
- variables

Browser compatibility

Auto prefixing

leaverou.github.io/prefixfree
github.com/ai/autoprefixer

Detect HTML, CSS, and JavaScript features

www.modernizr.com

Research CSS support in browsers

www.caniuse.com

IE compatibility

www.selectivizr.com
github.com/postcss/postcss

DRY coding

"Don't repeat yourself."

Grouping selectors

```
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 { color: green; }
```

rems measurement unit

```
ul { font-size: .9rem; }
```

Code samples — Prism

www.prismjs.com

Google Material Design

```
<link href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/icon?family=Material+Icons" />
```

```
<i class="material-icons">face</i>
```

See www.google.com/design/spec/material-design/introduction.html

Font Awesome

```
<link href="https://use.fontawesome.com/releases/v5.2.0/css/all.css" rel="stylesheet"
crossorigin="anonymous" />
```

```
<i class="fas fa-print fa-3x"></i>
```

Variables

Variables

```
:root { --main-bg-color: orange; }
.exBox {
  background-color: var(--main-bg-color);
  color: white;
}
```

```
.exText {
  background-color: var(--main-bg-color);
  color: white;
}
```

See also

SASS - <http://sass-lang.com>

LESS - <http://lesscss.org>

currentColor variable

```
p.example a {
  text-decoration: none;
  color: currentcolor;
  border-bottom: 1px dashed currentcolor;
}
```

calc() function

```
:root { --fontSize: 1rem; }  
h6 { font-size: calc(var(--fontSize) * 2); }
```

Responsive design

display:grid

```
.wrapper { display: grid; grid-gap: 20px; grid-template-columns: repeat(auto-fit,  
9rem); grid-template-rows: repeat(2, 12rem); }  
.wrapper div { background-color: green; color: white; border-radius: 6px; font-size:  
10rem; text-align: center; }
```

```
<div class="wrapper">  
  <div>1</div>  
  <div>2</div>  
  <div>3</div>  
</div>
```

system-ui font

```
body { font-family: system-ui, -apple-system, BlinkMacSystemFont, "Segoe UI", Roboto,  
Oxygen-Sans, Ubuntu, Cantarell, "Helvetica Neue", sans-serif; }
```

Link target formatting

```
*:target { background-color: yellow; }
```

Responsive images

```
img {  
  min-height : auto; min-width : 480px; /* max width of mobile medium */  
  max-height : auto;  
  max-width : 100%;  
}
```

Responsive tables

```
/* 47.9375em mobile landscape max width */  
@media (max-width: 47.9375em) {  
  table { display: block; width: 100%; }  
  table caption { display: block; }  
  table thead { display: none; visibility: hidden; }  
  table tbody, table tr, table th, table td { border: 0; display: block; text-align:  
left; }  
  table th[data-title]:before, table td[data-title]:before { content: attr(data-  
title) ": "; font-weight: bold; }  
  table td:empty { display: none; }  
}
```

What's next

- Breaks - spread, column, region
- Case insensitivity — `p[class$="example" i] {}`

- Colors — `gray()`, `color()`, HWB
- Float — `inline-start`, `inline-end`, `defer`, `reference`, `offset`
- Ligatures and kerning
- Media queries — `display size`, `color depth`, `aspect ratio`
- Overflow — `fade`, fragment formatting
- Nesting
- Pseudo classes — `:blank`, `:empty`, and `:has`
- `revert` keyword
- Selectors — `custom` and `parent`

www.w3.org/Style/CSS/current-work

Tracking CSS developments

- w3.org/style/css/current-work
- ishoudinireadyet.com

Where to find CSS examples

- codepad.co
- codepen.com
- css-tricks.com
- cssdeck.com
- lea.verou.me
- littlesnippets.net

About the presenter

Scott DeLoach is the Founder of Click**Start**, where he provides training and consulting for MadCap Flare, embedded user assistance, JavaScript/jQuery, CSS, and HTML5. He has been developing browser-based help systems for 20 years, and he has received four Best in Show awards for his work from STC.

Scott is a certified Flare and Doc-to-Help instructor, and he is the author of *MadCap Flare: The Definitive Guide*, *CSS to the Point*, and *HTML5 to the Point*. For more information about Scott's books, training, or consulting, see www.clickstart.net.

