

Introduction to CSS in Dreamweaver 8

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Agenda: The Dreamweaver CSS Toolbox

- CSS Styles Panel
- CSS Rules Creation
- CSS Rendering
- CSS Visual Aids

And along the way...

- CSS Primer
- Visualizing CSS layout
- CSS Concepts



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30 Second CSS Primer


```

Selector h1 {
    color: red;
}
    
```

- Separates style from content
- CSS rule has 2 main parts:
 - Selector
 - Properties
- Basic types of selectors:
 - Tags - p, h1, h2, etc.
 - Classes - .errorText
 - IDs - #mainContent

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Visualizing your CSS layout

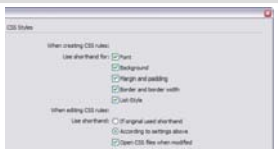


- Break your page into primary **divisions** – key for applying <div> tags
- One common approach
 - Divide the page horizontally first
 - Subdivide horizontal regions into two or more columns

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Set CSS Preferences for shorthand

- Automatically condense code
- Works with
 - Font
 - Background
 - Margins and padding
 - Borders and lists



```

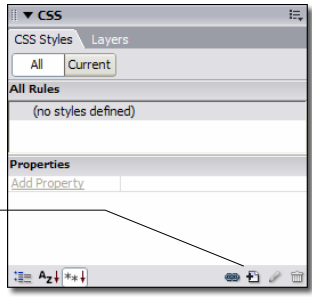
#container {
    margin-top: 0px;
    margin-right: auto;
    margin-bottom: 0px;
    margin-left: auto;
}

#container {
    margin: 0px auto;
}
    
```

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Creating a new CSS rule

- Button on CSS Styles panel
- New styles can be created:
 - In an external style sheet
 - Embedded on same page
 - Inline tag
 - Design-time: Embedded
 - Run-time: External



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Setting the selector

- Choose type of selector first
 - Next name selector or tag
 - Select where defined
 - External style sheet
 - Embedded in document
- Enter tag name in field
 - Or choose from list

Defining the properties

- Choose category
- Set properties for each category
- For tags, click Apply to preview

Create a layout style

- Layout styles use IDs or Classes
 - For IDs, use Advanced selector type
- IDs always start with a #
 - Pound sign, number sign
 - Hash mark, octothorpe
 - Used once per page
 - Frequently used with div tags

Setting box properties

- First step for layout rules
- Set widths to pixels or percent
- Set heights some times
 - If content is fixed
 - Headers or footers
- Margins
 - Offset box from outside
- Padding
 - Offset box content inside

Applying your CSS rule to a <div> tag

- For Insert bar
 - Common category
 - Insert Div Tag
- Creates the div tag
 - Applies the CSS style
 - Use with Classes or IDs
 - Once ID is applied, disappears from list

Group your selectors!

- Choose Advanced selector
- Separate each selector with a comma
- Mix and match your selectors!
 - Apply to all IDs, all Classes, all Tags or mix 'em up

CSS Styles Visualized in Dreamweaver

- Placeholder content automatically added with Insert Div Tag
- Visual Aids > CSS Layout Outlines
- Tag Selector shows tag and CSS ID or class, like <div #footer>

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Quick access through CSS styles panel

- All mode shows all styles
- Style sheets listed separately
- Embedded styles shown in <style> tag
- Choose a style to see its properties
- Quickly change existing properties
- Easily add new properties
- Demo

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Hone in via Current mode

- Current mode shows all properties for current styles
- Two views
- About view
- Rules view
- About view shows where selected property is found
- Rules view shows all rules that affect current style
- Hover over property in Summary pane to see where rule is defined
- Demo

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Follow the Cascade in Rule view

- Cascade is a key CSS concept Hint: It's in the name!
- The property closest to the style ...wins
- Properties not applied to selection are marked with ~~through~~
- Demo

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Specificity – how CSS resolves conflicts

- When two selectors apply to the same selection, the most specific wins.
- Specificity example: **1,1,0**
- Each column represents a different selector type
- Column 1 is for **IDs**
#content = 1,0,0
- Column 2 is for **Classes**
.errorText = 0,1,0
- Column 3 is for **Tags**
body = 0,0,1
- Contextual selectors, too
body #content .errorText = 1,1,1

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CSS Layout Visual Aids make it clearer

- CSS Layout Backgrounds
- CSS Layout Box Model
- CSS Layout Outlines
- Layer Outlines
- Table Widths
- Table Borders
- Frame Borders
- Image Maps
- Sortable Elements

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CSS shortcut menu for advanced control

Advanced productivity available:

- Go to Code
Opens style sheet at CSS style, whether it's on the same page or an external file
- Duplicate
Copies current style – a great time-saver!
- Design-time
Sets up style sheets applied only when designing.
- Export
Stores embedded styles in an external style sheet.

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Change media with the style rendering toolbar

- Re-style your page for any medium, right in Dreamweaver!
- Most often use Screen and Print
- Toggle CSS is great for displaying document flow and for screen reader checking
- Demo

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Document flow: A key CSS concept

- Document flow is how the HTML page is written, top to bottom.
- Most CSS styles do not affect the document flow...
- Except for two notable categories:
 - 1) CSS positioning
 - 2) Floats

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Positioning: The Designer's CSS Power Tool

- Use position property to move page elements out of the document flow
- Key concept: the containing block
- 4 position values
- Relative
- Absolute
- Static
- Fixed
- Demo

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The Float Property

- Float allows text and other page elements to flow around the "floated" item.
- Float objects left or right
- Two major uses
 - Integrating images and text
 - Setting up columns in layout
- Demo

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