


MAX 2006 Beyond Boundaries

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Biography

- Founder/Principal - W3Conversions LLC - Redesigns for Web Standards and Accessibility
- Speaker and Corporate Trainer
- Consultant & sub-contractor for XHTML/CSS development
- Adobe Community Expert
- Dreamweaver Task Force for WaSP
- Partner - CommunityMX.com
- Author - DW MX 2004 Magic, Web Developer's & Designer's Journal (formerly WDDJ), Adobe's DevNet Center, and other web publications
- International Advisory Board for Web Developer's and Designer's Journal
- List Mom for WebWeavers

CSS Part 3: Advanced CSS Concepts and Theory
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Session Overview

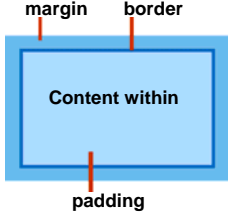
- Descendant Selectors
- Opacity
- Splitting images for reuse
- Using images for negative space
- Multiple backgrounds & wrappers
- Using Negative Margins
- Directory specific CSS for more control
- Common bugs and how to swat them



CSS Part 3: Advanced CSS Concepts and Theory
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Quick Review

- What is the Box Model?



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Quick Review

- What is an inline element?
- What is a block element?
- What is meant by the "flow of the document?"
- What are the different positioning methods?
 - Static
 - Relative
 - Absolute
 - Fixed

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Quick Review

- How do you write efficient CSS?
 - Class vs. ID
 - Avoid classitis using type and descendant selectors
 - Use shorthand
- What is a descendant selector?
 - #nav a:link
 - #content .pod h1
 - ul ul li

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Principles of Floating

- A float must be given a width
- A float must be given a directional value of left or right (there is no top or bottom)
- If you want a float to appear alongside another element, it must precede that element in the source order of the document
- A float never covers text or inline images
- Avoid using a width on a block element following a float; use a margin on the same side of the float instead
- Since a float is taken "out of the flow" of the document, a float inside another container must be cleared in order for the parent container to enclose it properly

Two-column Layout - Out of Bounds

Real World Examples - PopStick

- Faux columns, opacity & multiple wrappers

Real World Examples - PopStick

- Faux columns, opacity & multiple wrappers

Multiple Wrappers - XHTML

```

<div id="mostOuter">
  <div id="outerBox">
    <div id="boxContainer">
      <div>Content of column one</div>
      <div>Content of column two</div>
      <div>Content of column three</div>
      <br class="brclear" />
    </div>
  </div>
<br class="brclear" />
</div>
  
```

Multiple Wrappers - CSS

```

#mostOuter {
  background: #FFF url(assets/most_outer.gif) repeat-y left top; /* the narrow lines and boxes */
  margin-top: 25px;
}
#outerBox {
  background: url(assets/out.gif);
  position: relative;
}
#boxContainer {
  width: 620px;
}
#boxContainer div {
  float: left;
  width: 165px;
  padding: 3px 0 10px 15px;
  margin: 0 10px 0 0;
}
  
```

Opacity - CSS

```

#mostOuter {
background: #FFF url(assets/most_outer.gif) repeat-y left top; /* the
narrow lines and boxes */
margin-top: 25px;
position: relative; /* Forces the moz opacity to work */
filter: alpha(opacity=80); /* IE opacity */
-moz-opacity: 0.80; /* mozilla opacity */
opacity: 0.8; /* CSS3 opacity */
}
/* forces the proprietary alpha filter to work in IE */
* html #mostOuter {
height: 1t
}
/* end hack */

```

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Real World Examples - Anteo

- Multiple wrappers, sIFR & split backgrounds

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Real World Examples - Anteo

- Multiple wrappers

Rollovers

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Multiple Wrappers

```

<div id="navwrap">
<div id="nav">
<ul>
<li id="primaink"><a href="#">link one</a></li>
<li id="cooplnk"><a href="#">link two</a></li>
<li id="areelnk"><a href="#">link three</a></li>
</ul>
<hr class="hroleas" />
</div>
</div>

```

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Real World Examples - Anteo

- sIFR
 - Use any font - even when only on your machine
 - Uses JavaScript and Flash - falls back to pure text/CSS
 - Create Flash swf of a dynamic alphabet
 - Insert JavaScript, CSS and tune

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Real World Examples - Anteo

- Split backgrounds


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Split Backgrounds

```

<div id="content">
<div id="redpod"><!-- places colored top -->
<div id="pod"><!-- used on every pod -->
<h1>IFRIZED header</h1>
<p>Content of the pod</p>
<hr class="brclear" />
</div><!-- closes pod -->
</div><!-- closes redpod -->
</div><!-- closes content -->

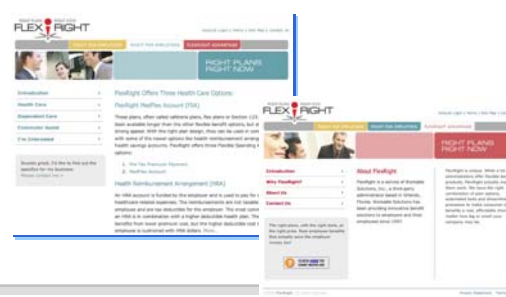
```



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Real World Examples - FlexRight

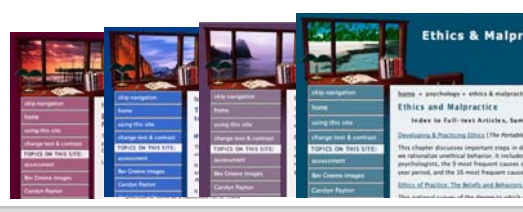
- Local CSS, dependant selectors and AP divs



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Local CSS

- Site's CSS is broken into two pages
 - flex.css (main structure and all universal selectors)
 - local.css (placed in individual directories - color only)
- KSPope.com



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Dependant Selectors (on Body Element)

- Create two or three columns

```

<body class="two">
#flex {
background: url(images/divider.gif) repeat-y 490px 0px;
margin: 25px 0;
}
body.two #flex {
background: url(../);
}
body.two #callout {
display:none;
}

```

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Descendant Selectors (on Body Element)

- Navigation/Site section indicator (you are here)

```

<body id="employer" class="two">
body#employer #employerlink a {
/*selectors for button */
}


```

- Pay attention to specificity
 - #about .about a
 - body#aboutpg #nav li#aboutlink a
- There are many creative, powerful uses for descendant selectors

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Absolutely Positioned (AP) divs

- AP elements
 - should be used sparingly and appropriately
 - should rarely contain resizable content like text
 - should not be routinely styled inline (DW layers)
 - are positioned within the last positioned parent (relative)



- Dual wrappers for "end caps"
- grey color between as background color
- logo placed over the bar as an AP image

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Common Bugs and Coding Issues



- Is it really a bug?
- Use Tag selector & CSS Styles panel
 - Click into element and select it with the tag selector
 - View the properties and rules panes of the CSS panel for a value farther up the cascade that overrides your desired outcome (hover to view specificity)
- Validate your HTML and CSS to verify they are to standards with no errors
 - It's simpler to code to standards and hack as needed for IE

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Ways to Debug



- Use div visualization feature
 - Place background colors on each div
 - Show box model
- Use individual browser extensions to visualize
 - Firefox -- Chris Fiederick's Web Developer's Toolbar
 - Internet Explorer -- Developer Toolbar (beta)
 - Safari -
- Create a test case with only the basic divs

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Most Common Bugs



- IE - Float Drop due to 3px bug or doubling margins (star filter)
- List white space, and other *unaccounted* for white space differences (strip white space - tags touching)
- IE - requires a container to have dimensions/layout (Holly hack) -- <http://positioniseverything.net> for IE PC info
- IE Mac - various issues - many relating to dimensions (tan hack) -- <http://www.l-c-n.com> for IE Mac info
- Mozilla-based - issue with margin collapse - protruding from a container causing extra space (remove top and/or bottom margins of element inside)

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Magic Bullets - sometimes



- Add position: relative; to the element
- Use the Holly hack

```
/* Hides from IE5-mac */
* html .buggybox { height: 1%; }
/* End hide from IE5-mac */
```
- And now, with the looming release of IE 7 - IE CC

```
<!--[if IE]>
<style>
#buggybox { zoom: 1; }
</style>
<![end if]-->
```
- Create your own bug snippets (or download from CMX)

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Summary



- Take advantage of the flow of the document
Go with the flow -- not against it
- Use creative methods of display:
 - Multiple divs and backgrounds
 - Negative margins
 - Faux backgrounds
 - Negative space
 - Opacity
 - Break-up CSS and background images
 - Get to know siFR
- Validate pages and be sure it's a bug with DW's CSS panel and visualization features
- Use snippets to speed up work

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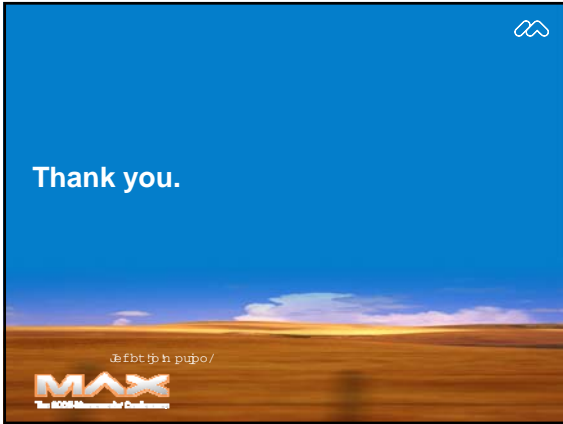
Resources



- Position is Everything
<http://www.positioniseverything.net/>
- Mac IE 5: oddities
<http://l-c-n.com/IE5tests/>
- Community MX
<http://communitymx.com/>
- CSS Zen Garden
<http://csszengarden.com/>
- W3Conversions
<http://w3conversions.com/>
- siFR Information
<http://mikeindustries.com/sifr/>

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Real World Examples - Wild Spirit Gallery

- Negative margins

Real World Examples - Wild Spirit Gallery

- Negative margins
 - Must have positioning
 - Goes in the opposite direction from a normal margin
 - margin-top: -10px; pulls the element up 10px

Negative Margins - XHTML

```

<div id="content">
  <div id="welcome">
    <div class="podtext">
      <p>This area is provided for introduction text where you can provide a brief description of the gallery and the type of artists represented.</p>
    </div> <!-- closes welcome podtext-->
    <div class="pod">
      <h1>Welcome</h1>
      
    </div> <!-- closes pod-->
    <hr class="clearrt" />
  </div> <!-- closes welcome-->
</div> <!-- closes content-->

```

Negative Margins - CSS

```

#welcome {
  margin: 1.4em 0 0;
  border-top: 1px solid #5D3528;
}
#welcome .pod {
  background: #5D3528 url(images/pod_gradient.jpg) repeat-y top right;
  width: 217px;
  padding: 0 0 20px 10px;
  margin-top: -1.6em; /* this pulls the pod up so that the lines are aligned */
  position: relative; /* this allows the negative margin */
}
#welcome .podtext {
  float: right;
  width: 245px;
}
#welcome h1 {
  border-bottom: 1px solid #FFF; /* followed by more values - */
}

```