IT101

CSS: Cascading Style Sheets

Cascading Style Sheets

- CSS, or Cascading Styles Sheets, is a way to **style and present HTML**. Whereas the HTML is the meaning for **content**, the style sheet is the **presentation** of that document..

- Styles have a format of '**property: value**' and most properties can be applied to most HTML tags (**selectors**).

- By externalizing styling information, CSS reduces the number of tags and attributes on the page.

- Styles can be applied in three different ways:

  1. Inline
  2. Internal (in the Head of the HTML document)
  3. External (in as separate CSS file)

- **Inline**

```
<p style="color: red">My red paragraph</p>
```

- **Internal**

```
<head>
<style>
          p {
                  color: red;
          }
          body {
                  background-color: #00FF00;
          }
</style>
</head>
```

- **External**
  - External styles are used for the whole, multiple-page website. There is a separate CSS file, which usually has a .css extension.
  - The stylesheet is linked from HTML as follows:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
```

  - No <style> tag is necessary for external stylesheets.

Selectors, Properties and Values

- For each selector there are "properties" inside curly brackets, which simply take the form of words such as color, font-weight or background-color.

- A value is given to the property following a colon (NOT an "equals" sign) and semi-colons separate the properties. Example:

```
body {

    font-size: 14px;

    color: #0000FF;

}
```

- There are some general size units that are used by a number of properties:

  - **px** (such as font-size: 12px) is the unit for pixels.

  - **em** (such as font-size: 2em) is the unit for the calculated size of a font. "1em" (ephemeral unit) is the current font size, "2em" is two times the current font size.

  - **pt** (such as font-size: 12pt) is the unit for points, for measurements typically in printed media.

  - **%** (such as width: 80%) is the unit for percentages.

Text Styling

- color: #<rgb value>

- background-color: #<rgb value>

- font-family: "Times New Roman", Helvetica

- font-weight: bold | normal

- font-style: italic | normal

- text-decoration: underline | line-through

- text-transform: capitalize | uppercase | lowercase | none

- text-align: left | right | center | justify

- border-width: 2px

- border-color: #<rgb value>

- border-style: solid | dashed | dotted | double | groove ...

- CSS Reference: http://www.w3schools.com/cssref/

Homework

- Style your website: create an external stylesheet and define the styles for all commonly used tags: body, table,paragraph, anchor (link), lists etc.
- Use online resources:
    - http://www.w3schools.com/cssref/
    - http://www.colorpicker.com

- If you want to see how other web page designers did it, right click on any element of your favorite web page and select "Inspect" (FireFox) or "Inspect Element" (Chrome).