

Reaching Stylesheet Nirvana

Web Design World Boston, 2008

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Sidebar Creative

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Hi!

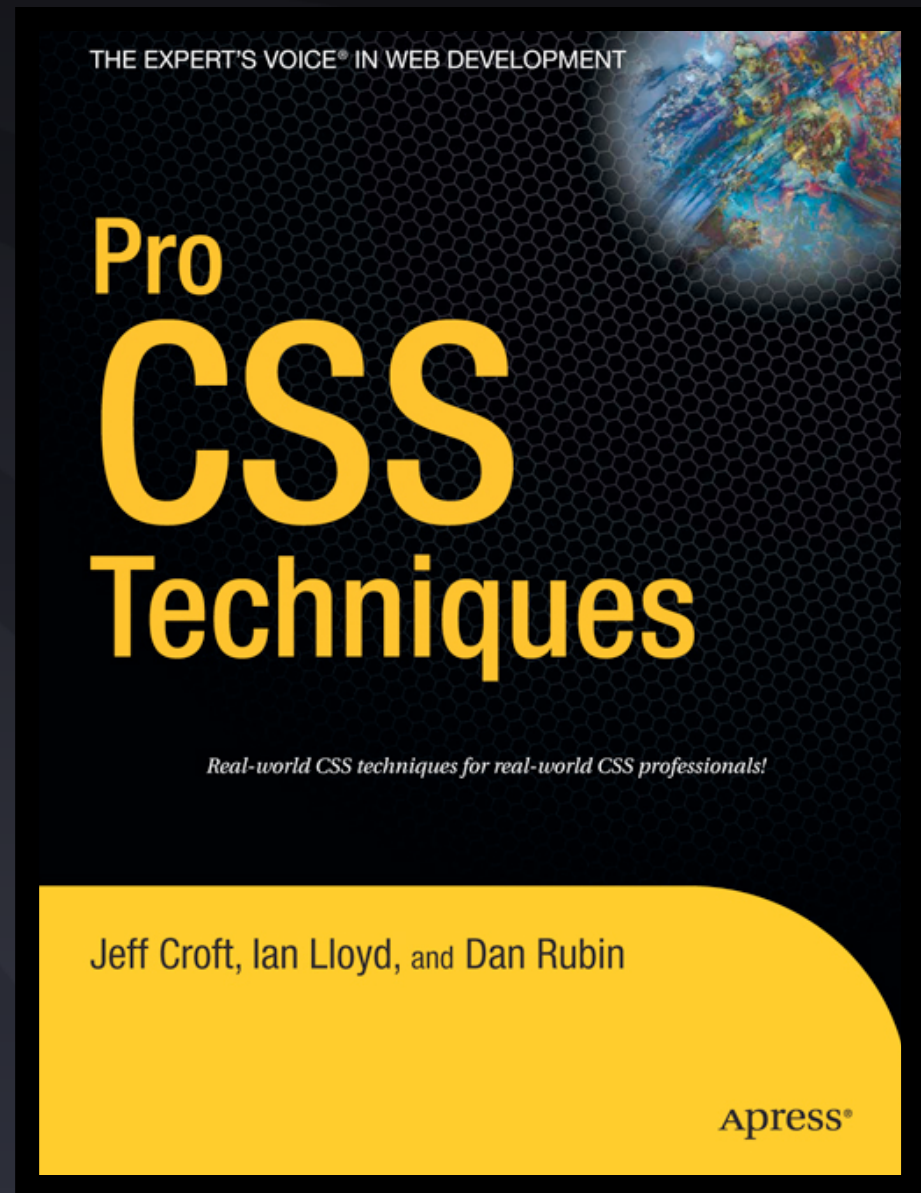


Me, according to nGen works @ <http://happywebbies.com/>

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Pro CSS Techniques

by Jeff Croft
Ian Lloyd
Dan Rubin



What you'll learn:

- ✓ Organization
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Optimization
- ✓ a TINY bit about **CSS3**

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Organize

Why?

Keeping your stylesheet organized makes your life easier and creates patterns which improve workflow.

How?

Patterns already exist in the markup, styles, and in the design, so let's start by looking at a few...

Follow the markup

Mimic the flow of your markup from top to bottom, grouping related rules as you go.

Example:

Markup

```
<body>  
  <div id="header">...</div>  
  <div id="content">...</div>  
  <div id="footer">...</div>  
</body>
```

Styles

```
body {...}  
#header {...}  
#content {...}  
#footer {...}
```

Separate by purpose

Group rules based on what they control, e.g. *layout, text, colors, etc.*

Example:

Styles

```
/* layout */  
#header {...}  
#content {...}  
#footer {...}
```

```
/* navigation */  
#nav {...}  
#nav li {...}  
#nav li a {...}
```

```
/* text headings */  
h1 {...}  
h2 {...}  
h3 {...}
```

Sort your properties

Use a consistent method to order the properties within each rule to speed creation and editing.

Example:

Alphabetical

```
h1 {  
    background:;  
    border:;  
    color:;  
    font-family:;  
    left:;  
    margin:;  
    opacity:;  
    padding:;  
    position:;  
    text-align:;  
    top:;  
    z-index:;  
}
```

Example:

Functional

```
h1 {  
    position;;  
    top;;  
    left;;  
    z-index;;  
    margin;;  
    padding;;  
    background;;  
    border;;  
    opacity;;  
    color;;  
    font-family;;  
    text-align;;  
}
```

Comment, comment, comment.

Use comments to keep your rules grouped, and make it easier for multiple people to maintain the same stylesheet.

Example:

Structural

```
/* layout */  
#header {...}  
#content {...}  
#footer {...}
```

```
/* navigation */  
#nav {...}  
#nav li {...}  
#nav li a {...}
```

Maintenance

```
/* hook for extra background image */  
#header li a em span {...}
```

Do what works
best for *you.*

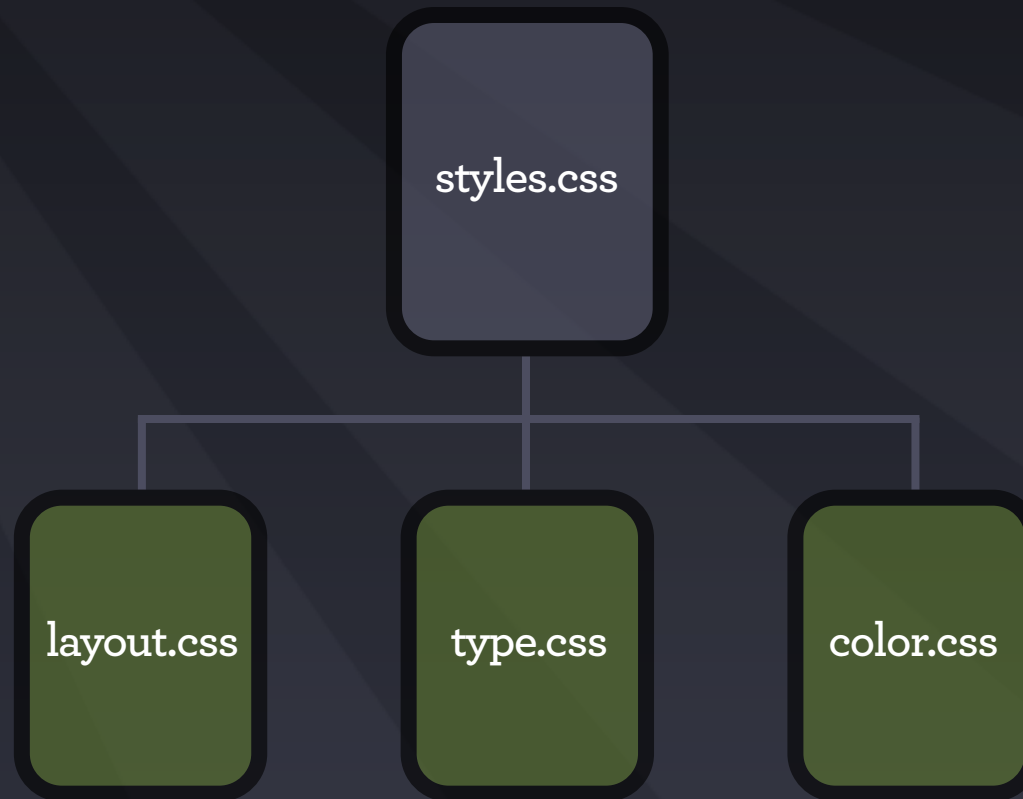
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Manage

Multiple stylesheets

Use separate stylesheets to organize layout, typography, and colors into their own files.

Multiple stylesheets



Hacks & conditional comments

If you use hacks to fix Internet Explorer bugs, place them in their own stylesheet(s), and reference the hack in the main stylesheet.

Example:

Targeting all versions of IE

```
<!--[if IE]>  
    <link href="/css/ie.css" />  
<![endif]-->
```

Targeting IE6 only

```
<!--[if IE 6]>  
    <link href="/css/ie6-only.css" />  
<![endif]-->
```

Targeting IE6 or lower

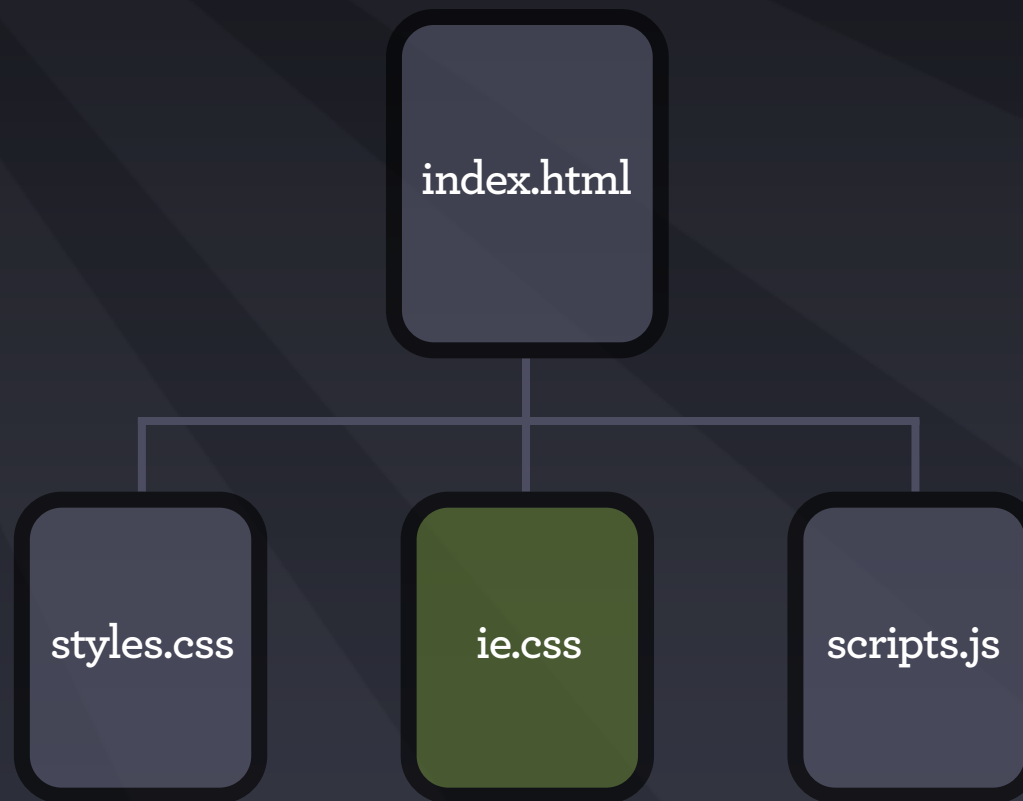
```
<!--[if lte IE 6]>  
    <link href="/css/ie6-older.css" />  
<![endif]-->
```

Example:

Reference your hacks with comments

```
#header ul#nav li {...}  
/* IE6 float bug fixed (see ie6.css) */
```

Hacks & conditional comments



Don't use **!important** or **inline styles**

!important makes editing and testing more difficult, and gets in the way of user stylesheets.

Inline styles defeat the purpose of using a common stylesheet.

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Optimize

Shorthand properties

Use shorthand properties to streamline your rules and remove unnecessary clutter.

Available shorthand properties

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ✓ background | ✓ border-top | ✓ font |
| ✓ border | ✓ border-right | ✓ list-style |
| ✓ border-color | ✓ border-bottom | ✓ margin |
| ✓ border-style | ✓ border-left | ✓ outline |
| ✓ border-width | | ✓ padding |

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Start here,
moving clockwise

Before

```
margin-top:10px;  
margin-right:25px;  
margin-bottom:20px;  
margin-left:15px;
```

After

```
margin:10px 25px 20px 15px;
```



Example:

Before

```
#header {  
    background-color:#fff;  
    background-image:url(bg.png);  
    background-repeat:no-repeat;  
    margin-top:0;  
    margin-right:25px;  
    margin-bottom:20px;  
    margin-left:25px;  
}
```

After

```
#header {  
    background:#fff url(bg.png) no-repeat;  
    margin:0 25px 20px;  
}
```

Format rules on a single line

Using single-line rules can make it easier to read your stylesheet and see its structure.

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Example:

Before

```
#header {  
    background:#fff url(bg.png) no-repeat;  
    margin:0 25px 20px;  
}
```

```
#content {  
    float:left  
    padding:20px;  
}
```

After

```
#header {...}  
#content {...}  
#footer {...}
```

Let's see that
in *real life*.

More on single-line CSS

- <http://orderedlist.com/articles/single-line-css>
- <http://superfluousbanter.org/archives/2008/08/regex-patterns-for-single-line-css/>

Tools for optimization

- <http://cssoptimiser.com>
- <http://codebeautifier.com>
- [http://iceyboard.no-ip.org/
projects/css_compressor](http://iceyboard.no-ip.org/projects/css_compressor)

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CSS3

What CSS3 will give us

- ✓ Multiple background images
- ✓ Multi-column layout
- ✓ Grid positioning
- ✓ Advanced selectors (nth-child, nth-last-child, nth-of-type)

But how soon can
we *use* CSS3?

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Browser support for CSS3 properties:

Property	Safari 2	Safari 3	iPhone (2.0)	Mozilla 1.7	Opera 9	IE 7
text-shadow	supported	supported	supported	not supported	supported	not supported
box-shadow	not supported	supported with -webkit-prefix	supported with -webkit-prefix	not supported	not supported	not supported
multiple backgrounds	supported	supported	supported	not supported	not supported	not supported
border-image	not supported	supported with -webkit-prefix	??? - more info needed	not supported	not supported	not supported
text-stroke [1]	not supported	supported with -webkit-prefix	supported with -webkit-prefix	not supported	not supported	not supported
text-fill-color [1]	not supported	supported with -webkit-prefix	supported with -webkit-prefix	not supported	not supported	not supported
border-radius	not supported	supported with -webkit-prefix	supported with -webkit-prefix	supported with -moz-prefix	not supported	not supported
opacity	supported	supported	supported	supported	supported	supported
text-overflow	supported ('clip' and 'ellipsis')	supported ('clip' and 'ellipsis')	supported ('clip' and 'ellipsis')	partially supported (always 'clip')	supported ('clip') and ('ellipsis' with -o-prefix)	supported
appearance	not supported	partially supported with -webkit-prefix	partially supported with -webkit-prefix	not supported	not supported	not supported

[1] Webkit-only, not part of CSS3

Source: <http://westciv.com/iphonetests/>

Example:

Before

```
<div class="rounded-box">  
  <div>  
    <div>  
      <div>...</div>  
    </div>  
  </div>  
</div>
```

After

```
<div class="rounded-box">...</div>
```

Example:

```
.rounded-box {  
    background-image:  
        url(top-left.gif),  
        url(bottom-left.gif),  
        url(top-right.gif),  
        url(bottom-right.gif);  
  
    background-repeat:no-repeat;  
  
    background-position:  
        top left,  
        bottom left,  
        top right,  
        bottom right; }
```

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[http://superfluousbanter.org/
presentations/2008/](http://superfluousbanter.org/presentations/2008/)

(download the slides here)

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Q&A