Reaching Stylesheet Nirvana
WebDesign World Seattle, 2008

» Dan Rubin
Sidebar Creative
Reaching Stylesheet Nirvana  

WDW Seattle, 2008

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

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Pro CSS Techniques
by Jeff Croft
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What you’ll learn:

✓ Organization
✓ Management
✓ Optimization
✓ a little bit about CSS3
This is not:

✗ an introduction to CSS
✗ a bug-fixing tutorial
✗ a discussion about fixed vs liquid or em vs px
✗ a cooking show
Organize
Why?

Keeping your stylesheet organized makes your life easier and creates patterns which streamline workflow.
Follow the markup

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

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

**Styles**

```css
body {...}  
#header {...}  
#content {...}  
#footer {...}  
```
Separate by purpose

Group rules based on their function, e.g. *layout, text, colors*, etc.
Example:

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

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

/* text headings */
h1 { ... }
h2 { ... }
h3 { ... }
```
Order your properties

Use a consistent method to organize your 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: ;
}
**Functional**

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

Example:
Comment, comment, comment.

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

```css
/* 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.
Manage
Multiple stylesheets

Use separate stylesheets to organize typography, layout, colors, etc. into their own files.
Hacks & conditional comments

If you use hacks for specific browsers, place them in their own stylesheets, and reference the hack in the main stylesheet.
Don't use `!important` or inline styles

*Inline styles* defeat the purpose of using a common stylesheet.

`!important` makes editing and testing more difficult.
Shorthand properties

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

**Before**

```css
#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**

```css
#header {
  background: #fff url(bg.png) no-repeat;
  margin: 0 25px 20px;
}
```
Format rules on a single line

Using single-line rules makes it easier to read your stylesheet and see its structure.
Example:

Before

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

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

After

```css
#header {...}
#content {...}
#footer {...}
```
Let’s see that in real life.
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?
## Browser support for CSS3 properties:

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

[1] Webkit-only, not part of CSS3


Example:

**Before**

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

**After**

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

```css
.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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Invisible High Five

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(download the slides here)
Q&A