

Reaching Stylesheet Nirvana

WebDesign World Seattle, 2008

» Dan Rubin
Sidebar Creative

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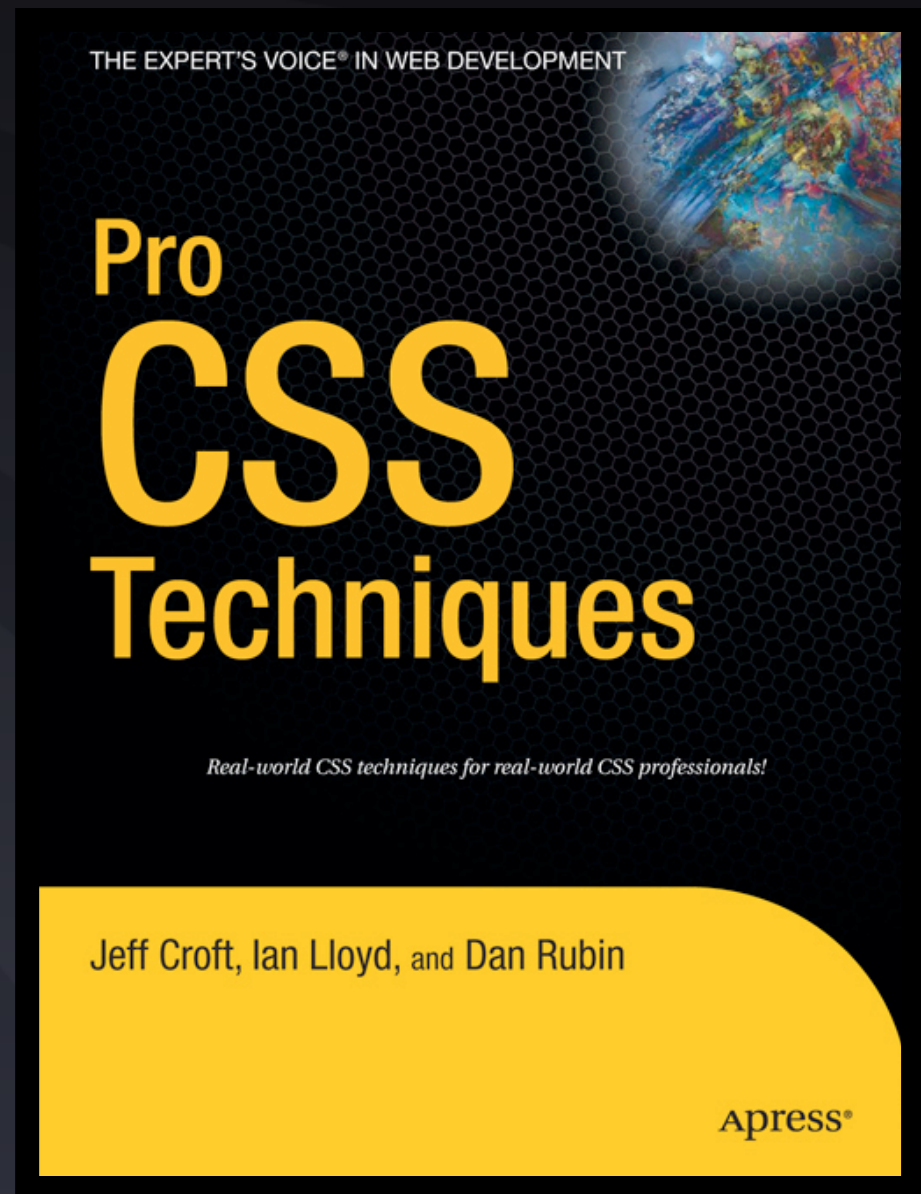


Me, according to nGen works @ <http://happywebbies.com/>

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Pro CSS Techniques

by Jeff Croft
Ian Lloyd
Dan Rubin



What you'll learn:

- ✓ Organization
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Optimization
- ✓ a 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

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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.

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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 their function,
e.g. *layout, text, colors*, etc.

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Example:

Styles

```
/* 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.

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Example:

Alphabetical

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

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Example:

Functional

```
h1 {  
  position;;  
  top;;  
  left;;  
  z-index;;  
  margin;;  
  padding;;  
  background;;  
  border;;  
  color;;  
  opacity;;  
  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.

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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 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.

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Optimize

Shorthand properties

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

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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 makes 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.*

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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/>

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Example:

Before

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

After

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


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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)

Q&A