

Appendix D

CSS Properties and Values

Style Sheet Properties and Values

This appendix provides a listing of the CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) level 1 and 2 properties and values supported by most browsers. Tables D–1 through D–6 show the property names, descriptions, and valid values for various categories of CSS properties. Values listed in bold are the default.

A newer version of Cascading Style Sheets, CSS3, is currently being defined. CSS3 is therefore not covered in this appendix. CSS3 utilizes a modularized approach to style sheets, which allows CSS to be updated in a more timely and flexible manner.

For a more comprehensive list of CSS properties and values, see the www.w3.org Web site. In addition to an abundance of information about CSS levels 1 and 2, the w3 site also has extensive information about CSS3, from its history to its use with browsers today. The Web site also includes many online tutorials available for learning CSS levels 1 and 2 as well as CSS3.

Background and Color Styles

Colors and subtle backgrounds can enhance the style of a Web page significantly. You can set the background or color of an element using these style sheet properties. Not all browser versions support these style attributes, however, so be aware that not all users will be able to see the background and color styles set by these properties. Table D–1 provides a list of background and color properties.

Table D–1 Background and Color Properties		
Property Name	Description	Values
background-attachment	Sets the background image to fixed, or scrolls with the page	scroll fixed
background-color	Sets the background color of an element	transparent [color]
background-image	Sets an image as the background	none [url]
background-position	Sets the starting position of a background image	[length] [percentage] bottom center left right top
background-repeat	Sets if/how a background image will be repeated	repeat repeat-x repeat-y no-repeat
color	Sets the foreground color of an element	[color] transparent

Border Styles

Many changes can be made to the style, color, and width of any or all sides of a border using the border properties listed in Table D–2. Using the border-color, border-width, or border-style border properties allows you to set the style for all sides of a border. Using style properties such as border-top-width, border-right-color, or border-bottom-style gives you the option to set the width, color, or style for only the top, right, bottom, or left border of a table cell. If you do not make changes to the border style using style sheet properties, the default border will be displayed.

Table D–2 Border Properties

Property Name	Description	Values
border-color	Sets the color of the four borders; can have from one to four colors	[color] transparent
border-top-color border-right-color border-bottom-color border-left-color	Sets the respective color of the top, right, bottom, and left borders individually	[color]
border-style	Sets the style of the four borders; can have from one to four styles	none dashed dotted double groove inset outset ridge solid
border-top-style border-right-style border-bottom-style border-left-style	Sets the respective style of the top, right, bottom, and left borders individually	none dashed dotted double groove inset outset ridge solid
border-width	Shorthand property for setting the width of the four borders in one declaration; can have from one to four values	medium [length] thick thin
border-top-width border-right-width border-bottom-width border-left-width	Sets the respective width of the top, right, bottom, and left borders individually	medium [length] thick thin

Font Styles

An element’s font can be changed using the font attribute and various font properties. When you set the font family for an element, you can set one or more fonts or font families by using a comma-delimited list. Each font family generally includes several font definitions. For example, the Arial font family includes Arial Black and Arial Narrow. If you specify more than one font, the browser assesses the user’s system and finds the first font family installed on the system. If the system has none of the font families specified in the style sheet, the browser uses the default system font. Table D–3 lists common font properties.

Table D–3 Font Properties		
Property Name	Description	Values
font-family	A prioritized list of font-family names and/or generic family names for an element	[family-name] cursive fantasy monospace sans-serif serif
font-size	Sets the size of a font	[length] [percentage] large medium small x-large x-small xx-large xx-small
font-style	Sets the style of a font	normal italic oblique
font-variant	Displays text in a small-caps font or a normal font	normal small-caps
font-weight	Sets the weight of a font	normal bold bolder lighter

List Styles

Using the properties associated with list styles allows you to set the kind of marker that identifies a list item. An unnumbered list marker, for example, can be a filled disc, an empty circle, or a square. A numbered list marker can be a decimal, lower-alpha, lower-roman numeral, upper-alpha, or upper-roman numeral. Table D–4 provides compatible browser list properties.

Table D–4 List Properties		
Property Name	Description	Values
list-style-image	Sets an image as the list-item marker	none url
list-style-position	Indents or extends a list-item marker with respect to the item's content	outside inside
list-style-type	Sets the type of list-item marker	disc circle square decimal lower-alpha lower-roman upper-alpha upper-roman

Margin and Padding Styles

Many changes can be made to the width and spacing around an element using the margin and padding properties listed in Table D–5. Padding is the space that occurs between the edge of an element and the beginning of its border. If you increase padding around an element, you add space inside its border. The border, therefore, has a larger area to cover.

You can use the margin or padding property to set the widths of margins and padding amounts along all four sides of an element. Using margin and padding properties such as margin-top, margin-right, padding-left, or padding-bottom gives you the option to set the margin or padding for only the top, right, bottom, or left side of an element.

Table D–5 Margin and Padding Properties		
Property Name	Description	Values
margin	Shorthand property for setting margin properties in one declaration	[length] [percentage] auto
margin-top margin-right margin-bottom margin-left	Sets the top, right, bottom, and left margin of an element individually	[length] [percentage] auto
padding	Shorthand property for setting padding properties in one declaration	[length] [percentage]
padding-top padding-right padding-bottom padding-left	Sets the top, right, bottom, and left padding of an element individually	[length] [percentage]

Text Styles

Text styles can be used to change the letter-spacing, alignment, line-height (not recommended), and text decoration, along with other text properties. The text-transform property can change text into all uppercase, all lowercase, or be used to change the first letter of each word to uppercase. With text-align, you can align text left, right, center, or justify the text. The text style properties are listed in Table D–6.

Table D–6 Text Properties		
Property Name	Description	Values
letter-spacing	Increases or decreases the space between characters	normal [length]
line-height	Sets the spacing between text baselines	normal [length] [number] [percentage]
text-align	Aligns the text in an element	left right center justify
text-decoration	Adds decoration to text	none blink line-through overline underline

Table D–6 Text Properties (*continued*)

Property Name	Description	Values
text-indent	Indents the first line of text in an element	[length] [percentage]
text-transform	Controls text capitalization	none capitalize lowercase uppercase
vertical-align	Sets the vertical positioning of text	baseline [length] [percentage] bottom middle sub super text-bottom text-top top
white-space	Sets how white space inside an element is handled	normal pre nowrap
word-spacing	Increases or decreases the space between words	normal [length]

