



Web Design 4

Dreamweaver - Intro to CSS

Web Design Series - Session 4

CAL People and Computer Training
University of California, Berkeley

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Use this
space for notes

Introduction

Welcome to **Dreamweaver - Intro to CSS!** If you're here today, you've already completed *Web Design 3*, which means you're ready to expand your XHTML/Dreamweaver skills. Today we'll continue developing our website for the Bear Net-Works department.

Skills you need for this course

- Text editing
- How to use the mouse
- Familiarity with the Windows or Mac operating systems
- Familiarity with the Internet
- Experience using web browsers, such as Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Understanding of the material covered in *Web Design 3*

Skills and concepts you will learn in this class

- Cascading Style Sheets Basics
- Internal vs External Style Sheets
- Creating Tag and Class Styles
- Editing Styles

Conventions used in this document

Menus and menu commands are separated by a vertical bar (|). In the document they will appear as **Menu|Command**. An example of this is: "Select **File|New....**"

Introduction

Today in Dreamweaver - Intro to CSS, we'll be turning our bland XHTML web pages into stylish pages. Cascading style sheets (CSS) overcomes many of the style shortcomings of HTML. The typographic and layout control in HTML pales in comparison with the power of using Cascading Style Sheets. With CSS you can add margins to paragraphs, stylish borders to images, and dynamic rollover effects to text links.

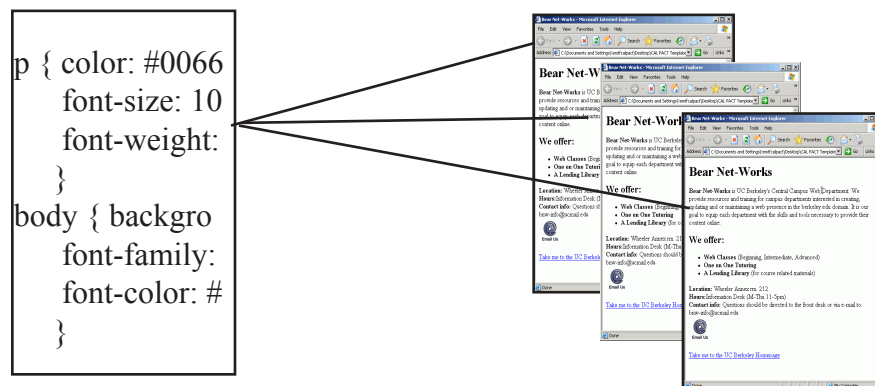
Dreamweaver MX 2004 takes full advantage of CSS. Most web designers will learn how to hard code their HTML and CSS codes in order to have a sense of full control over their web designs. While that is an ideal goal, in this series, we will show you how to take control of Dreamweaver's powerful and easy to use tools to create the same types of pages with the least amount of labor.

How does using Dreamweaver affect accessibility? Using XHTML and CSS to create web pages in Dreamweaver will let you be well on your way to creating web pages that are accessible. By following certain rules, all pages made in Dreamweaver can easily be made accessible. Let's jump right in!

Cascading Style Sheets Basics

If you've used styles in word processing programs like Microsoft Word or layout programs like Indesign CS, Cascading Styles Sheets will feel familiar. A style is a rule that determines how an element in XHTML will be formatted. A stylesheet is a file that contains all these styles and applies them to a web page.

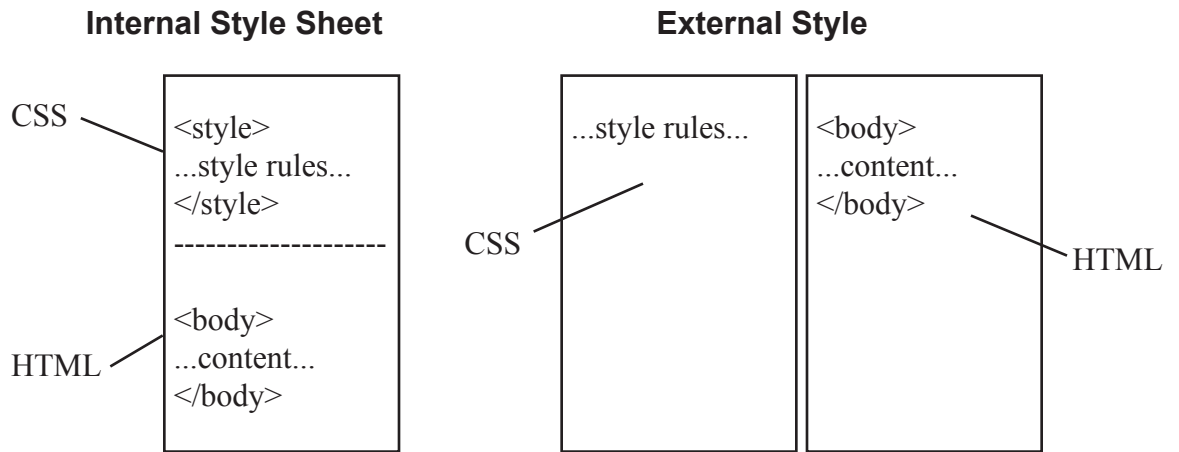
You might create a style that formats text with the font Verdana, colored green, and with a left margin of 60 pixels. Once you've created this style, you can select a paragraph of text and apply this style to instantly change the text's font, color and indentation. Styles can be applied to a whole group of tags, like all <p> tags in your web page or just one specific <p> tag that you want to be different than the others.



A style sheet applied to three web pages.

Internal vs. External Style Sheets

Styles can be embedded within the XHTML web page itself as an internal style sheet or be contained on a separate CSS file called an external style sheet. The major difference between an internal and an external style sheet is that an internal style sheet's rules only applies to the page that it resides on. With an external stylesheet you may apply those style rules to any web page in your site. External style sheets allow you to make broad changes to many web pages while an internal style sheet is limited to changing the presentation of the web page that it resides in.

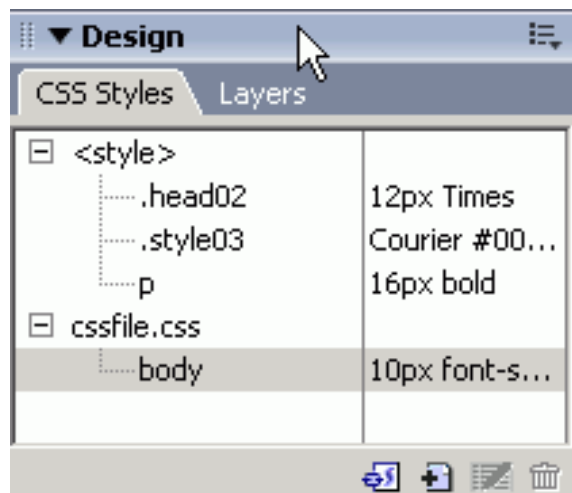


Dreamweaver gives you the option of creating a style sheet internally or externally. Internal style sheets can also be exported and be made into an external style sheet. We will be creating an internal style sheet to start off with and then eventually exporting it as an .css file later on.

CSS Panel

Our style sheet will be created inside an existing web page as an internal style sheet. To start, you may create a new HTML web page from scratch or open up an existing web page to apply styles to. We will be continuing our work on the Bear Net-Works home page that we have been using in class. To open a web page goto **File|Open** and navigate to the index.html file home page that we have been working on in class.

You will be using the **CSS Styles** panel to create and manage your styles. To open the panel, choose **Window|CSS Styles** (or press Shift+F11).



Types of Styles

Styles come in a variety of forms and the two most common are tag and class styles.

A tag style applies globally to a group of XHTML tags, as opposed to an individual selection of tags. For example, if you wanted every <h1> heading tag to display in the Arial font, you would create a tag style for the <h1> tag. The new style will apply to all <h1> tags in your web page. Whenever a Web browser encounters an <h1> tag, it will display the text in Arial as described in the style sheet.

Note



Class styles were called custom styles in previous versions of Dreamweaver.

A class style applies to a specific XHTML element that you name. For example, say that you want the name of your company to be displayed in bold and red wherever it appears in the text of a Web page, you can create a class style named “company” with boldface and red text formatting. You would then select your company’s name on the page and apply this style. You can also apply different styles to various paragraphs on the same page using class styles. Simply redefining the <p> tag with a tag style won’t let you apply different styles to various paragraphs, since that would affect all paragraphs. Instead, you’d have to create a class style for each paragraph format, and then apply the styles by hand.

Tag Styles

Applies to all tags in that group:


```
<p>
<table>
<h2>
<ul>
```

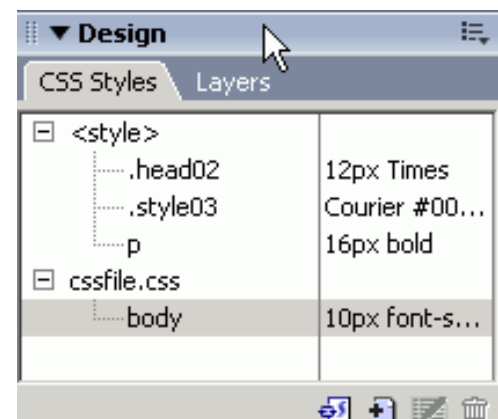
Class Styles

Applies to specified tags with class names:

```
<p class="unnamed">
<table class="unnamed">
<h2 class="bluebold">
<ul class="bodytext">
```

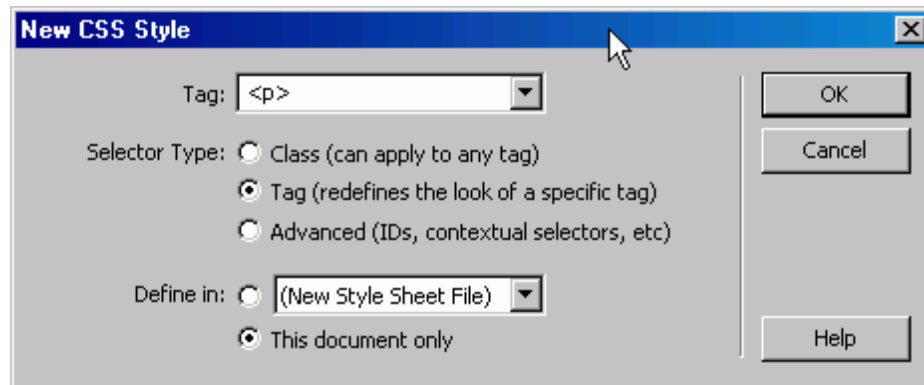
Creating a New Style

To create a new style, click the **New Style** button  on the **CSS Styles** panel or choose **Text|CSS Styles|New CSS Style**. Inside the **CSS Style** dialog box select the appropriate radio button for the kind of style you’re creating under **Selector Type: Class, Tag or Advanced**. Under the **Define In** section, select **This document only** as we will be making the stylesheet internally first before we export it. If you want to create an external stylesheet, you can select (**New Style Sheet...**) and create a separate .css file to contain all your styles.



Creating a Tag Style

To create a tag style in the **New CSS Style** window, select the **Tag (redefines the look of a certain tag)** radio button. Next, select the HTML tag you want to redefine from the **Tag** pop-up menu at the top. You can also manually type in p for <p> tags or h1 for <h1> tags. At the bottom in the **Define in** section, make sure to select **This document only** to create an internal style sheet.

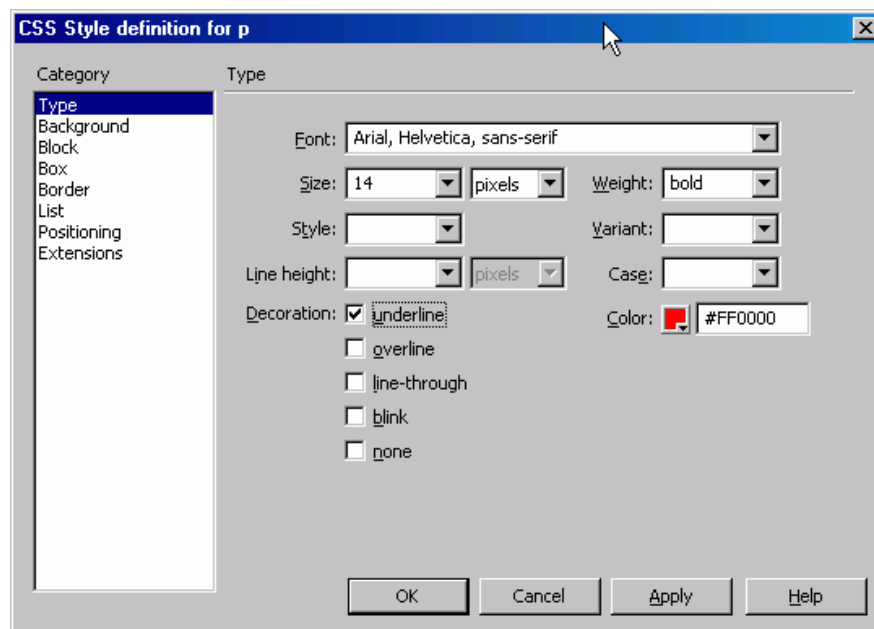


After you click **OK**, you'll be asked to choose the different styling formats that you want to apply for that tag style. Once you've finished creating the tag style, all the tags with that tag you've named will be formatted in the style you chose.

Tip




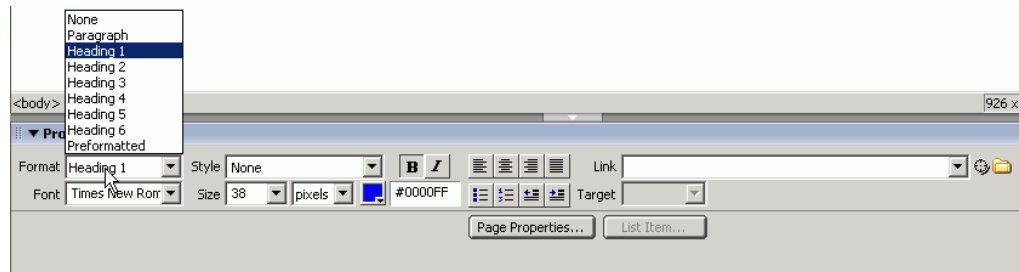
Dreamweave lets you set 67 different CSS properties using the Style Definition window. Don't miss the built-in CSS reference available from **Window|Reference**. In the **Book** field, look for the CSS reference to help you sort out all the different CSS properties and their functions.



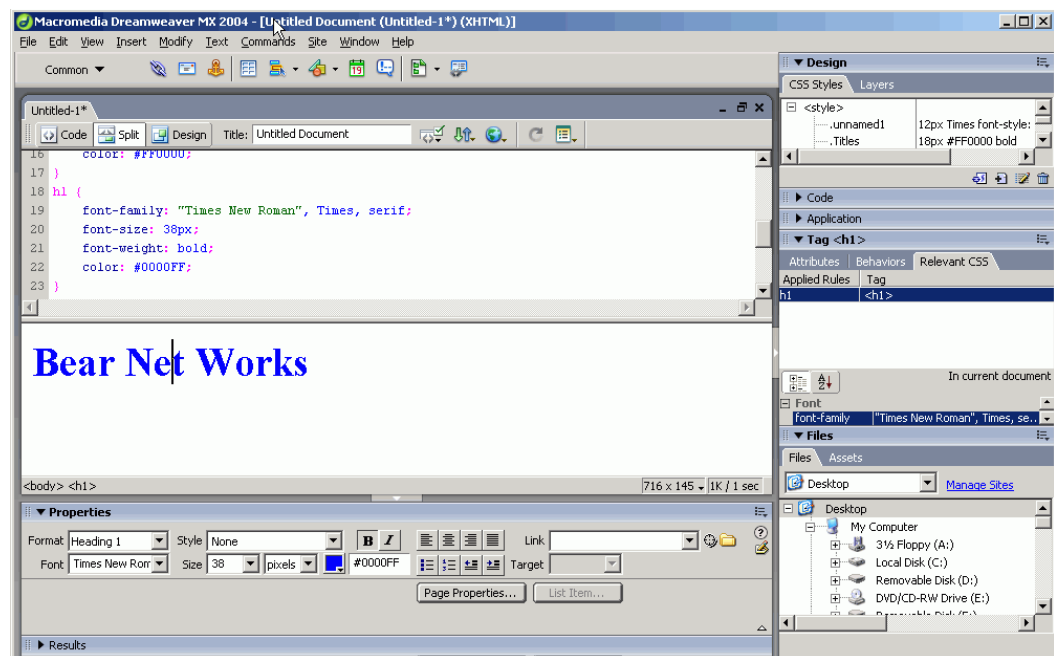
Creating Tag styles for our Bear Net-Works page

Let's define the look of our HTML tags in our Bear Net-Works page using tag styles. We are going to change the <h1> and <p> tag styles to custom fit how we want our text inside these tags to look. Remember, a tag style will affect all text inside the general HTML tag like a <p> tag unless the style is overridden by a specific class style.

The first tag that we want to style is the `<h1>` tag. At the top of our web page is the Bear Net Networks heading. Click on the **New CSS Style** button  in the **CSS Styles** panel to create a new style. Make sure to choose **Tag** in the **Selector Type** and then type in `<h1>` inside the **Tag** field box at the top. Select **This document only** in the **Define in** section and you are ready to create a new style for the `<h1>` tag. Click **OK** and choose the styles that you want in the **CSS Style Definition** window. Once you have defined the styles for the `<h1>` tag, simply place your cursor inside the same paragraph as the Bear Net Networks heading and select **Heading 1** in the **Format** drop down menu in your **Properties Inspector**.



The page might look something like this:



Note



Some beginners think that whenever you create a new style, you also need to create a new external style sheet. This isn't true as you can and should store more than one style in an external style sheet.

Create another tag style for the `<p>` tag to change the look of your body paragraph text. Remember, that all your text within paragraphs will inherit the style of this paragraph tag style, until you create a new class style to override the styling for the `<p>` tag.

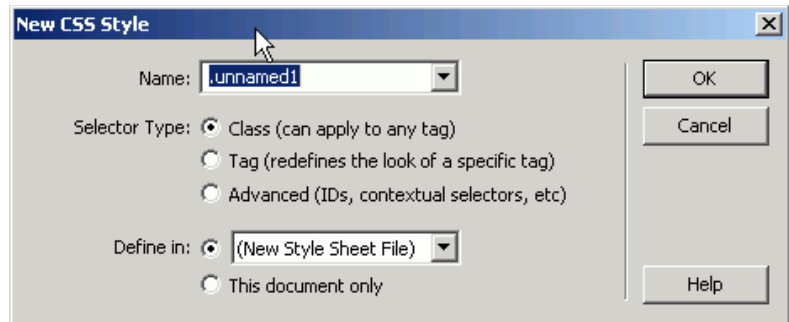
In Class Excercise

Format the Bear Net Networks page with the proper tag styles to give your web page a new look. Make sure that you keep track of which tags are being styled in which format.

Creating a Class Style

Now you'll create a specific style to change the look of text wherever you want to at specific points in your HTML page by using class styles.

Click the **New CSS Style** button on the **CSS Styles** panel. Click the **Class** radio button and type `.schoolname` in the **Name** box. Class styles always begin with a period and Dreamweaver will



automatically add it for you if you ever forget. You are still creating internal styles so make sure the **This document only** radio button is checked in the **Define in** section. Click **OK** and the **CSS Style Definition** window will appear. Add a few new properties to make this style stand out.

Once finished, you are ready to apply this class style to any piece of text in your web page. Highlight some text and from the **Property Inspector's Style** menu, choose "schoolname". You should see the new class style applied to this piece of text.

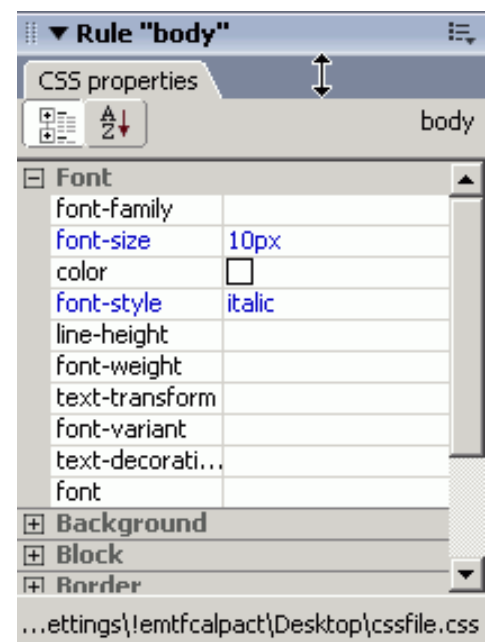
If you create a class style, you must give the class style a proper name inside the **Name** box. Dreamweaver's bland default name is `.unnamed1`, but you should change it to something that describes the function of that style. Class style names must begin with a letter and can only contain letters and numbers. Example names might include `bodytext`, `heading2`, `chaptertitle`, or `pagenumber`.

Note



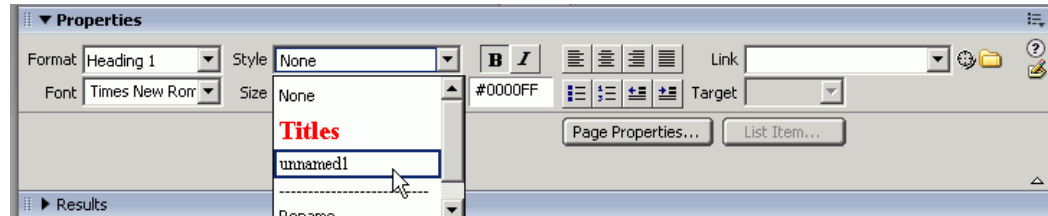
The **Rule** inspector can only edit styles. You can add and remove properties with it, but you can't create, delete, or rename styles using it.

To verify and change the different styles for that particular tag, you can look at the **Rules** panel to see which styles have been applied. You can change the CSS style options within the **Rules** panel by clicking inside a field that has blue text next to it. The blue text means that a style has been defined for that tag and can be edited for further changes. In order to get these style properties to show up in the **Rules** panel, you must have a style highlighted in your **CSS Styles** panel up above the **Rules** panel.



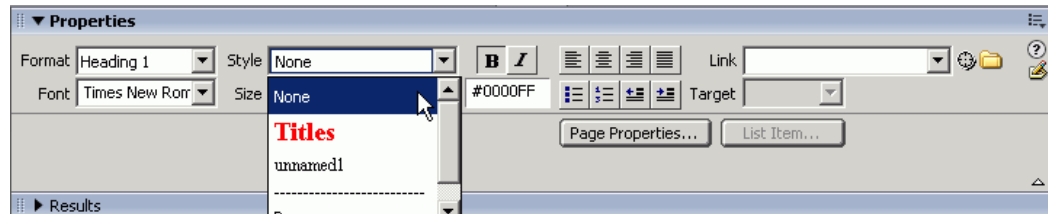
Applying a Class Style

Once you've created a class style, applying it to the relevant content in your web page is pretty straightforward. Highlight the portion of text or element you wish to style. From your **Properties Inspector** choose the style you wish to apply in the **Style** drop down menu as pictured below. Your style should be applied and everything else around it should remain the same.



Un-Applying a Class Style

To remove a style from an object on a web page, simply select the element you wish to un-format and select **None** from the **Property inspector's Style** menu. You can also choose **Text|CSS Styles|None** to remove a style from any selection (even non-text elements like images or tables).



Note




You don't have to select all of the text to remove the style from a selection of text. Just click anywhere inside the text and Dreamweaver is smart enough to realize you want to remove the style applied to the text.

You can't, however, remove tag styles from HTML tags. For example, suppose you've redefined the `<h1>` tag and you have three `<h1>` paragraphs. You may want the third heading to have a different style from the other two, but you can't do so by changing the tag style. Changing the tag style would change the formatting of all three `<h1>` paragraphs. In this case, you must use a class style to change the third heading paragraph and keep the formatting of the original `<h1>` tag style in place.

Editing Styles

Many times throughout the design of your site, you will decide to change the look of your text, headings, tables, images, etc. Fortunately, this is CSS's strong point, as you can make broad changes without having to click and choose each piece of element to edit.


There are four ways that you can edit your styles.

- Choose a style in the **CSS Styles** panel and click the **Edit Style** button  to open the **Style Definition** window.
- Right-click the name of a style in the **CSS Styles** panel and choose **Edit** from the shortcut menu, which also opens the **Style Definition** window.

- Select a style to edit in the **CSS Styles** panel, then use the **Rule** inspector to make changes to the style's properties.
- Double-click the name of a style in the **CSS Styles** panel. If the style is part of an external style sheet, the actual CSS file will open up in Code view with the cursor at the CSS property you wish to edit.

Deleting a Style

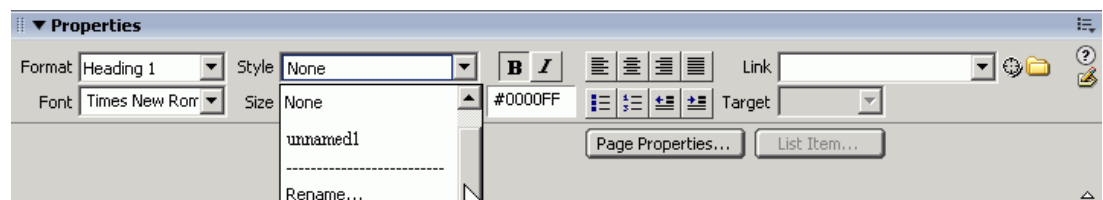
There will be times that you create a style that isn't being used and is just taking up space on your style sheet. You may want to delete this style if you know that it is just making your file size bigger.

To delete a style, make sure the **CSS Styles** panel is open (**Windows|CSS Styles**). Click on the name of the style you wish to delete, and then click the **Trash** can  at the bottom of the panel. The style will be deleted and any tags that reference that style for formatting will become un-formatted. You can also "trash" an external style sheet, which will merely unlink it from the current document without actually deleting the .css file from your harddrive.

Renaming a Class Style

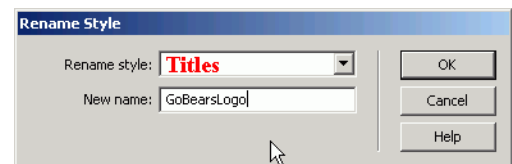
While there are many ways to change the name of a style in a style sheet (open the .css file in Code view and edit the name, for example), just changing the name of a class style doesn't do much good if you've already applied the style throughout your site. The old name still appears in each place you used it. Dreamweaver gives you a new tool to simplify this process.

To rename a class style choose **Rename** in the **Style** menu on the **Property Inspector**. The **Rename Style** window will appear. From the top menu, choose the name of the style you wish to rename. Type in the new style name in the bottom field **New name**. Click **OK** and Dreamweaver will change all your internal class style tags to their new name.



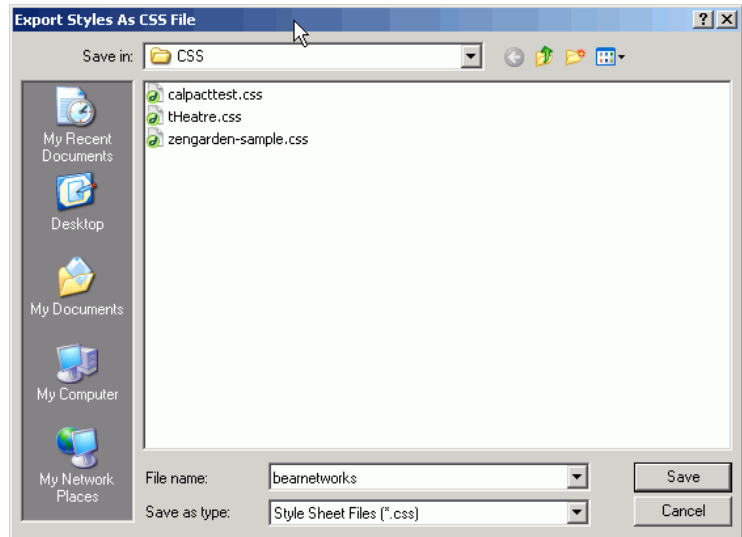
If the style belongs to an external style sheet, Dreamweaver will warn you that other pages on the site also use this style. The other web pages have the old name for their class style tags and must be changed. To do this, click **Yes** to open the

Find and Replace window. Click **Replace All** and one last warning will appear, reminding you that this action can't be undone. Once you click **Yes**, Dreamweaver will go through each page on your site, updating the name of the style in each place that it appears.



Exporting a Style Sheet


It is easy to create an external style sheet from the internal styles that your page may contain. Open the page containing the internal styles that you wish to export and choose **File|Export|Export CSS Styles**. A dialog box opens, letting you save the file as an external style sheet. Don't forget to add the .css extension to the end of the file name.

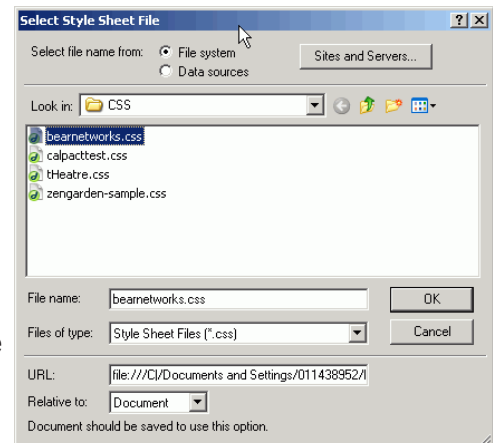
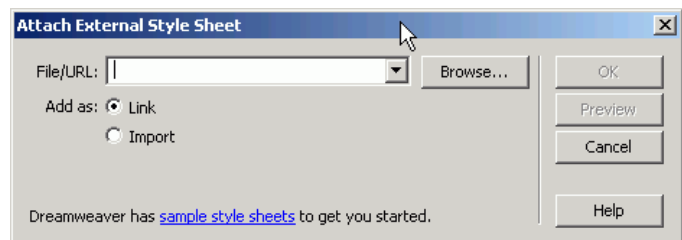


Remember, that once a style sheet is exported, it becomes a completely separate file from your HTML file. If you move the HTML file to another computer or folder, without making sure the CSS file is moved with it, the link between the HTML page and the CSS file will become broken. Unless the HTML page properly references the CSS file, your web page will load in a browser without the CSS formatting. If you ever break the link by moving either files out of place, Dreamweaver allows you to easily attach the external style sheet to the original HTML page by following the steps below.

Attaching an External Style Sheet

Once you've created all your styles, you will want to use them on other pages. This is the beauty of using external style sheets. Once you create an external style sheet, it's a simple process to add a style sheet to other pages in the site.

Choose **File|Open**. Open a file that has no formatting yet. Click the **Attach Style Sheet Button**  on the **CSS Styles** panel. Click the **Browse** button in the **Attach External Style Sheet** window and select the proper .css file. Click **OK** to insert the path to the **Attach External Style Sheet** window. Click **OK** to attach the style sheet to the page. Dreamweaver instantly formats the web page according to the relevant HTML tags.



The Order of Styles

Inheritance

Do you feel as if your head is about to explode with CSS information overload? One more important topic on the subject and we will conclude this session. As you begin to create many styles for your web page, you will begin to notice that there are some simple rules governing the interactions between the many different styles.

Let's say that you've created a new style by redefining the paragraph tag `<p>` with a font type of Verdana, is blue, and is 18 pixels tall. Then you select a single word in a paragraph and apply bold formatting to it. Dreamweaver will wrap that word in a pair of `` HTML tags.

Note



Actually, not all CSS properties are inherited. The border property is not inherited by child tags. Use Dreamweaver's built-in CSS Reference to see which properties are inherited.

When a browser loads the page, it will format all the paragraphs in Verdana, blue, 18 pixels, because that is how you defined the `<p>` tag. When the browser encounters the `` tag, it has to make a decision. There is no styling for the `` tag, so what should it do? Should it bold the word and leave the rest of the word in its default formatting or should it inherit the style of the paragraph and be bold too?

The bolded word should look just like the rest of the paragraph and so the browser does just that. CSS works by having a nested tag inherit the properties of its parent tags. Just like a baby will inherit the traits of its parents, so will a nested tag inside a CSS style sheet. A tag that's nested inside of another tag - that `` tag inside the `<p>` tag - is called a child, while the enclosing tag is called the parent.

The parent tag will pass down its traits to the child tag, but the child tag will also express its own uniqueness, in this case a bold format and add to the properties of its parent. Inheritance comes in handy in many situations. For example, if you wanted to format all the text in your web page in Arial, you can do so by styling your `<body>` tag. All `<h1>`, `<h2>`, `<p>`, ``, and `<a>` tags are children of the `<body>` tag, therefore they will inherit the styling of its parent.

Conclusion

Creating web pages with CSS may prove to be hard at first as there is a steep learning curve, but once you get past the lingo and the hurdles, you'll be well on your way to creating great looking web pages that are accessible and compliant with web standards. Practice making web pages with the lessons you have learned today and we'll see you in class next week!

Appendix

Intro to CSS coding

Dreamweaver automatically creates the necessary CSS code that gives your web page the presentation that you want. All this is hidden from the user until they decide to look at the code and figure out how the code is written. Let's take a look at what comprises a piece of CSS code.

When you create an internal style sheet, Dreamweaver adds a pair of `<style>` tags to the head of the page. The opening `<style>` tag tells a Web browser that the following information is not HTML - it's CSS code. When the Web browser encounters the closing `</style>` tag, it knows the CSS style information has ended.

Each line inside the `<style>` tag is a single style. An HTML tag style for the heading tag `<h1>`, for example, might look like this:

```
h1 {  
    font-size: 24px;  
    color: #FF0066  
}
```

The first part - `h1` - is called a *selector* and indicates what the styles applies to. In this case, wherever the `<h1>` tag appears in the Web page's code, this style will apply.

The information between the braces - `{ }` - states what formatting the browser should apply. For example, the code shown above contains two formatting rules for the `<h1>` tag. Each rule is called a *declaration* and is composed of a *property* and a *value*. For example, `font-size: 24px` is one declaration with a property of `font-size` and a value of `24px`. In other words, this rule tells a Web browser that text inside an `<h1>` tag should be 24 pixels tall. The second declaration in the code makes the text of all `<h1>` tags show up using the color `#FF0066`.

A class style looks just like a tag style, except that instead of a tag, the selector is a name you've supplied preceded by a dot, like this:

```
.company { font-size: 24px; color: #FF0066 }
```

Styles can be written on one line or multiple lines for ease of organization.

Styles stored in an external style sheet look exactly the same; the only difference is that external style sheets don't include the `<style>` tags and shouldn't include any HTML code.