

Web Standards



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Web Standards

- A bit of history
- why to use?
- How to use XHTML / CSS
- Does it work?
- Solving some problems

A bit of history

- **A walk through some reasons why we have the current situation**

with Internet came HTML

- **HYPertext MARKUP LANGUAGE**
- **A tagging system, telling the users computer what to display and how.**

then came browser wars

- Netscape started it by adding proprietary features like image display and coloured text. These were extensions to the basic HTML and gradually added to HTML versions.
- Microsoft then started to add features to Internet Explorer so that you could create web pages for either browser.

W3C

- Someone saw that this wasn't very sensible so the World Wide WEB consortium was formed and Microsoft, Netscape, Macromedia and Adobe joined

HTML 3.2

- **An attempt to agree a standard**
- **Still included a lot of the presentation markup like fonts etc**

HTML4 and CSS

- **Separating Content from Presentation**
- **Take a look at:**
<http://www.csszengarden.com/>

XML and XHTML

- Because HTML has had such shaky beginnings the W3C came up with a more extensible language - XML
- A language for creating languages
- In order to implement some transition to XML (the future) HTML was rewritten in XML and becomes XHTML.



why to use?

- **Why bother with all of this you may ask**

Theoretical advantage

- **Create once deliver to many platforms**
- **Forward compatability**
- **Objective: efficiency**

XHTML is certainly better but what of browsers?

- **Browser inconsistencies**
- Even modern browsers that 'support' CSS and XHTML do so with little inconsistencies

How to use XHTML / CSS

- **DOCTYPE declarations**
- The declaration at the beginning of the page informs the browser what standard system of tagging is being used:
- `<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">`

Quirks mode

- To display older pages designed to work with older browsers, many modern browsers have a 'quirks' mode, so called because it can behave like an old browser. You can force a modern browser into 'quirks' mode by making no doctype declaration.

Strict or Transitional

- **In order to make the transition to XHTML you can (and probably should) use transitional. This allows the use of some deprecated tags**

Does it work?

- **Validation**
- **W3C has validation service**

wysiwyg

- The trouble with the 'wysiwig' tools is that they deliver some of their own proprietry code

Why not use Flash?

- **Through all of this you may see a good reason why Flash exists.**

tables or DIVs

- **The art of layout**

Tables

- **Are a good way to layout a page**
- **Wysiwyg editors love them**
- **Were actually created for the display of data**
- **Nested tables will slow display**

DIVS or division

- **A way to structure the page**
- **Content is allocated spaces or divisions of the page**

Solving some problems

- **Using multiple stylesheets**
- **fooling the browsers**
- **Proprietary Code**

Some further design issues

- **fluid designs**
- **accessibility**
- **Positioning**
- **Floating**