CSS and Internet Explorer

Today’s Outline
- Browsers & Standards
- Safe CSS Hacking
- Conditional Statements
- Making IE6 Behave
- Testing
- There Is No Spoon

Browsers & Standards
- Browsers are developed by people, and people have agendas, moods, and are fallible. 1
- “We come to find at the end of it all, Web standards don’t really matter. What matters is what features are implemented and what is put to use, no matter its origin” 1
- Internet Explorer 3.0 beta for Windows introduced the first widely usable CSS implementation (July, 1996) 1
- Standards are a shifting target.
- Standards are not standards, but recommendations.

Safe CSS Hacking 1
- /**/       /**/
  Hides rules from Mac IE5
- /*/*/       /**/
  Hides rules from Netscape 4
- */*/ */ */
  Shows rules to Mac IE5
- */*/ */ */
  Shows rules to Mac IE and Win IE (But not IE7 in standards mode)
- * import url("style.css");
  @import url("style.css");
- P {
  width: 400px;
  voice-family: """"; /*"*/
  width: 300px;
}

Conditional Statements
- Allows you to serve different CSS for different IE browsers.
- <head>
  <!-- [if IE 6]>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css" type="text/css">
  <![endif]-->
  </head>
- Learn more:
Making IE6 Behave

- The Dean Edwards “IE7 Script”
  - Created at a time when Microsoft claimed IE6 was dead.
  - From the site:
    - IE7 loads and parses all style sheets into a form that Explorer can understand. You can then use most CSS2/CSS3 selectors without having to resort to CSS hacks.
    - The lightweight script is a single-line inclusion in your HTML/XML document. No alteration of your original markup is necessary. Neither do you have to alter your CSS.
  - If you’re Yahoo, it’s not for you.
  - Learn More: http://dean.edwards.name/IE7/

- This means that we can take better advantage of IE7’s standards compliance.
  - CSS3 Selectors
    - A[href$=".PDF"] {
        padding-right: 18px;
        background: url(/pix/pdf-icon.gif) 100% 50% no repeat;
    }
  - Does not address accessibility issues.

Testing

- Develop in Firefox
- Test in IE7 (etc.)
- Testing in IE6
  - Devote a machine to IE6.
  - Use evolt.org’s standalone IE installation.
    - http://browsers.evolt.org/IE/32bit/standalone

There Is No Spoon

- “Standard” HTML element behavior is driven by local CSS files.
  - html: quirk.css
    - /* hidden elements */
      - area, base, basefont, head, meta, script, style, title,
        noembed, param {
            display: none; }
    - p, dl, multicol {
        display: block;
        margin: 1em 0; }
  - http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/aengels/aea/meyer/tableGraph/

Designing Websites

Questions?