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CSS

Introduction/Intermediate

Duration: 2 Days

Overview:

Aspect Training's two day CSS Introduction / Intermediate training course covers the fundamentals of CSS web design through expert tuition and hands-on exercises. The course teaches delegates how to deliver identical, visually appealing, content to different browsers, applications, platforms, and devices, using Cascading Stylesheets (CSS).

Aspect Training's two day CSS course is ideal for:

- Web site designers
- Web developers
- Communications, marketing and design professionals who want to:
 - Produce more accessible sites using CSS
 - Produce more usable sites using CSS
 - Produce search engine optimised (SEO) sites using CSS

Prerequisites:

This course is suitable for people with limited CSS experience and those with no CSS experience at all and who have a good understanding of HTML or XHTML

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Course Topics:

Getting Started with CSS

- Introduction to this CSS course
- Course Organisation
- HTML Structure and Content, CSS Presentation
- Advantages of CSS
- Creating and Using Style-Sheets
- CSS Rules: The Basic Syntax
- Case, Whitespace and Comments in CSS
- The CSS Standards
- The Scope Of CSS
- Browser Support for CSS
- Hands-on Exercises

CSS Boxes and CSS Selectors

- The CSS Box Model
- CSS and Logical HTML Structure
- Styling Boxes: Borders, Margins and Padding
- The IE Box Model and Quirks Mode
- IE Box Model Workarounds
- Using IE6 Standards Mode
- Specifying CSS Distances
 - Problems with Absolute Units: pixels and point sizes
 - Using Proportional Units: em, ex and percentages
- Formatting Box Edges Differently
- Shorthand Syntax for Sets of Edges
- Using Margins and Padding Effectively
- Collapsing Vertical Margins on Paragraphs
- Using Negative Margins on Boxes
- Background Images on CSS Boxes
- Grouping Elements with HTML Classes
- Styling Multiple Elements Similarly (Selector Grouping)
- Block Boxes and Inline Boxes
- Block Box Behaviour
- Inline Box Behaviour
- Using the Generic Block Level Element: `<div>`
- Hands-on Exercises

Text Formatting in CSS

- Text Formatting
- Typefaces, Alternatives and Defaults
- Text Size — a Serious Usability Issue
- Font Characteristics
- Setting and Using Space Within Text
- Formatting Blocks of Text
- Using Arbitrary Inline Tags: ``
- Hands-on Exercises

More CSS Selectors and Selection

- Using HTML Element IDs in CSS
- Using CSS Descendant Selectors
- Descendant Selector Examples
- Child, Sibling and Pseudo-Class Selectors
 - Why You Need To Know Them
 - Browser Support and CSS Hacks
- Distinguishing and Setting Link States
 - Link, Visited, Hover, Active, Focus
- Modularising CSS Style-Sheets
 - Simpler Management, Less Effort, More Control
- Embedded CSS Styles in HTML Documents
 - How and When to Use Them (Rarely).
- Distinguishing Print, Screen and other Output Formats
 - Special Issues in CSS for Print
- Hands-on Exercises

CSS Positioning

- Choosing the Right CSS Technique for Positioning Blocks
 - The Position Property, Floats, Margins (inc. Negative and Auto), etc
- Static Positioning and Normal Flow
- Absolute Positioning Outside Normal Flow
- Relative Positioning — Not What You May Expect!
- Fixed Positioning Outside Normal Flow
- Relative Absolute Positioning
 - Absolutely Positioned Blocks in Relatively Positioned Containers
- Floating Boxes with the CSS float property
- Page Layout Using Absolutely Positioned Blocks
- Page Layout Using Floated Blocks
- Hands-on Exercises

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More on CSS Page Layout

Alternative Methods of CSS Positioning
Centring Blocks
Styling Lists
Redefining the Behaviour of Inline and Block Elements
Hiding and Revealing Blocks
Table Formatting in CSS
Styling Table Cell Borders
Page Layout with Table Display Properties
Hands-on Exercises

Cascade, Precedence, Specificity and Inheritance in CSS

Taking Control: Ensuring that CSS Rules Interact in the Way You Want
Combining Styles: Different Types, Origins, Importance, Specificity and Order
Examples: Combining Rules
Cascading and Cascade Order
Resolving Style Conflicts By Origin
Resolving Style Conflicts By Importance
Resolving Conflict By Selector Specificity
Resolving Conflict By Order
Non-CSS Presentational Hints
Property Inheritance
Hands-on Exercises

CSS Layers and Translucency

Different Forms of Layered Presentation in CSS
Layering with the z-index Property
Different Methods for Creating Translucency Effects
The CSS3 opacity Property
opacity Example
Fixed Attachment Backgrounds in Layers
background-attachment Example
Transparency and Semi-transpaency with Alpha-Blended PNG
PNG Translucency Example and Sample Code
Pseudo-Transparency with JPG Positioned Backgrounds
JPG Pseudo Transparency Example
Hands-on Exercises

Using CSS in the Real World

Deploying CSS
CSS Formatting Versus HTML Formatting
Achieving a Balance
Standard Tags and Semantic Markup
Usability
Readable Pages
Screen Size and Fluid Design
Text Size, Including Internet Explorer Quirks
Table Layout and CSS Positioning
Table Layout and CSS Positioning as Alternatives
Combining Table Layout **with** CSS Positioning
CSS Browser Support
Testing Websites
Using Test Suites and Multiple Browsers
Cross-platform Testing in Single-platform Environments