HOUR 6

Formatting Web Pages Using Cascading Style Sheets

What You'll Learn in This Hour:

▶ How to create each of the three style types: classes, redefined HTML tags, and advanced styles

▶ How to apply styles to elements in a web page

▶ How to create an external style sheet for an entire website

▶ How styles deal with conflicting and inherited properties

The Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) standard enables you to apply a property or group of properties to an object by applying a **style** to that object. You define and apply styles in Dreamweaver's CSS Styles panel or in the Page Properties dialog box, as you did in Hour 4, "Dealing with Words: Adding Text and Lists." When thinking about styles, you usually think of creating and applying styles to text, which certainly is possible. However, you can use styles for positioning objects, creating borders, and lots more.

Modern Web standards require the separation of the *presentation* of a web page (the way the page is displayed visually) from the *content* (the words and images that make up the page). Dreamweaver creates CSS styles to control the presentation of the HTML content. Separating the content from the presentation paves the way to supporting various operating systems, browsers, and devices; this also enables screen readers to easily navigate through web pages for people who are visually impaired.

One of the benefits of using styles is the ability to simultaneously update multiple objects that have the style applied to them. If you create a style for all the paragraph text on the page, say a style defined as Arial 14-pixel text, you can later change the style's font to Times Roman, and all the paragraph text will instantly appear in the new font. You don't have to search through your entire page for updates but can simply make a change in one spot.

CSS is defined by the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) CSS specification (get more information at www.w3.org/Style/CSS). Your viewers must have a modern browser version to view styles and, luckily, most users of the Web do. Current browser statistics say that almost 98% of browsers are modern versions; that is, versions later than 4.0 (check out www.w3schools.com/browsers/browsers_stats.asp).

Dreamweaver displays a preview of how most styles will look in the browser. There are three types of CSS rules, also called CSS styles, and during this hour you will learn how to create styles that use all three. This hour covers the basics of CSS styles, how to use the CSS Styles panel, and how to create styles that apply to text. A subset of CSS deals with creating web page layouts, called **CSS-Positioning** or **CSS-P**. Hour 13, "Using CSS for Positioning," will show you how to lay out your web pages. Then Hour 14, "Creating CSS for Mobile Devices and Printing," goes into more detail about using CSS to deliver content in various formats.

Styling Text with CSS

In Hour 4, we explored modifying text and introduced you to CSS styles, the CSS that are created automatically by Dreamweaver when you modify text attributes in Dreamweaver's Property inspector. The best way to create text styles for a website is to actually plan and think about what types of presentation will commonly be used in the website. After planning these styles, you can implement them and apply them to the web pages in your site. Using the Property inspector isn't the best or most professional way to style text.

The CSS Styles panel lists styles that have been defined and are ready to be applied to objects on your web page. You'll use this panel extensively when creating new styles in Dreamweaver. This is where you'll find the buttons used to create new styles and where the style attributes of the styles will display.

Figure 6.1 shows the CSS Styles panel in its two different modes. When you click the All button, the CSS Styles panel displays a list of all the styles available. Selecting one of the styles in the list at the top of the panel displays that style's attributes in the bottom of the panel.

All button
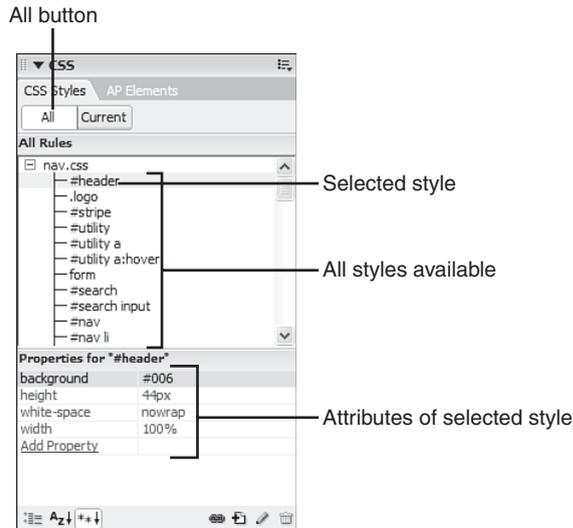
FIGURE 6.1
The CSS Styles
panel is the
command cen-
ter for creating
and viewing the
attributes of
styles.

Selected style

All styles available

Attributes of selected style

When the Current button is clicked, as shown in Figure 6.2, the CSS Styles panel dis-
plays the attributes applied to whatever might be currently selected in
Dreamweaver's Document window. This view of the CSS Styles panel lists properties
specific to one element instead of listing all the styles available in the web page.
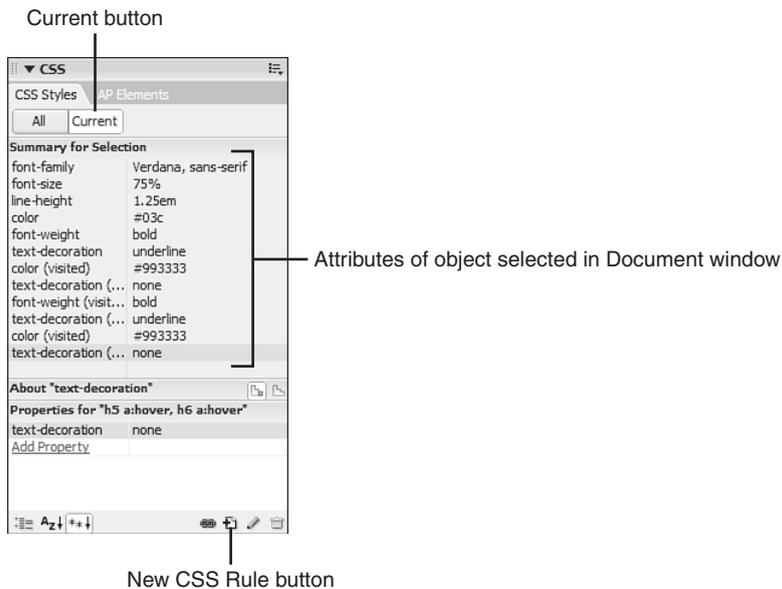
FIGURE 6.2
The CSS Styles
panel displays
the properties
applied to the
currently select-
ed object on the
screen when
the Current but-
ton is selected.

Current button

Attributes of object selected in Document window

New CSS Rule button

Dreamweaver creates the CSS for you and displays it in the CSS Styles panel (and, of course, writes it in the code but we'll get to more of that in Hour 7, "Looking Under the Hood: Exploring HTML"). It's helpful to know a little bit about how the code behind CSS works. You saw a list of attributes in Figure 6.1, but what do they mean? A few definitions and an example should help you understand.

CSS styles are made up of **rules**. A rule contains two parts: a **selector** and a **declaration**. Here is an example:

```
h1 {font-size: 200%;}
```

In this sample CSS rule, the selector is h1. This rule modifies the h1 (heading 1) tag and is a type of selector called an **element selector** that you'll explore in more depth later in this hour. The declaration is the part of the rule contained in curly brackets ({ }). The **declaration** in this rule sets the font-size property to 200%. This is the way all of the attributes that you saw displayed in the CSS Styles panel are defined.

There are three basic types of selectors used to define CSS styles:

- ▶ **class**—A type of selector that begins with a period (.) and can be applied to any element in a web page via the class attribute. For instance, the class named .green would modify these elements: <p class="green"> and <hr class="green">.

- ▶ **element**—In CSS, this is a redefined HTML tag.

- ▶ **id**—A type of selector that begins with a pound sign (#) and is applied by giving an element an id attribute with the same name as the id selector. For instance, the id selector named #mushroom would modify this element: <div id="mushroom">. An id selector can be applied only once per web page.

You can create each of the three different types of selectors with Dreamweaver. When you click the New CSS Rule button (shown in Figure 6.2) in the CSS Styles panel, it opens the New CSS Rule dialog box, shown in Figure 6.3. Prior to defining the properties of a new style, you have to assign it one of these types.

Selector types

In the New CSS Rule dialog box, you use the following radio button choices for the three basic selector types listed earlier:

- ▶ **class**—This one is easy! You use the Class (can apply to any tag) selector type choice.

- ▶ **element**—To create an element selector, use the Tag (redefines the look of a specific tag) selector type choice.

- ▶ **id**—To create an id selector, use the Advanced (IDs, pseudo-class selectors) selector type choice.

The rest of this hour introduces you to creating class and element selectors. You'll explore creating id selectors in Hour 13 when you learn about using CSS for page layout.

The Art of Creating CSS

Creating CSS is more an art than a science. How do you decide what type of selector is best for what type of content? What measurement units are best to use? A lot of these decisions depend on the website and what you are trying to accomplish. But experience and looking at the abundant examples available on the Web will help you make good decisions. See Appendix A, "Resources," for CSS websites, books, and other resources.

Did you Know?

Creating a Class Selector

The easiest type of selector to understand and to create is the class selector. You create a class and then you can apply it to elements in the web page. When creating

the class, you can define properties such as the font, font size, and font color. To create a class that modifies font attributes, follow these steps:

1. Click the New CSS Rule button from the CSS Styles panel (shown in Figure 6.2).

2. The New CSS Rule dialog box appears. Select the radio button beside Class (Can Apply to Any Tag).

3. Enter a name for the style in the Name box at the top of the New CSS Rule dialog box. A class name must begin with a period. Dreamweaver enters the period for you if you forget to enter it.

Watch Out!

Naming Classes

Don't use spaces or punctuation in style names (except for the period at the beginning!), and don't begin a style name with a number.

4. Select the radio button beside This Document Only in the Define In section, as shown in Figure 6.4. This places the style definition in the web page instead of in an external style sheet. We'll discuss external style sheets later this hour.

FIGURE 6.4
Begin defining a CSS style by selecting the type of style, giving it a name, and indicating where it will be stored.

Class name (begins with period)

New CSS Rule

Selector Type:	⦿ Class (can apply to any tag)	OK
	○ Tag (redefines the look of a specific tag)	Cancel
	○ Advanced (IDs, pseudo-class selectors)	
Name:	.traveltext	
Define in:	○ (New Style Sheet File)	Help
	⦿ This document only	

Stored in this web page
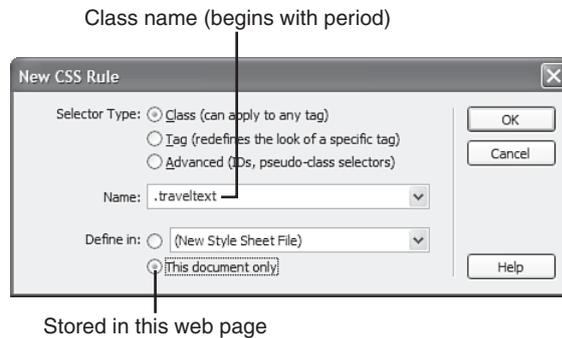
5. The CSS Rule Definition dialog box appears, as shown in Figure 6.5. The box opens with the Type category selected. In the Type category, select a font and font size from the appropriate drop-down menus. In addition, select a font color by using the color picker.

Did you Know?

Don't Blink

You might notice that Blink is one of the attributes you can define using CSS. Use it once to have fun and get it out of your system, throw away that web page, and then never use it again. Everyone finds blinking text annoying and it's not professional.

6. Select OK to save the style.

Font size   Font   Unit of measurement
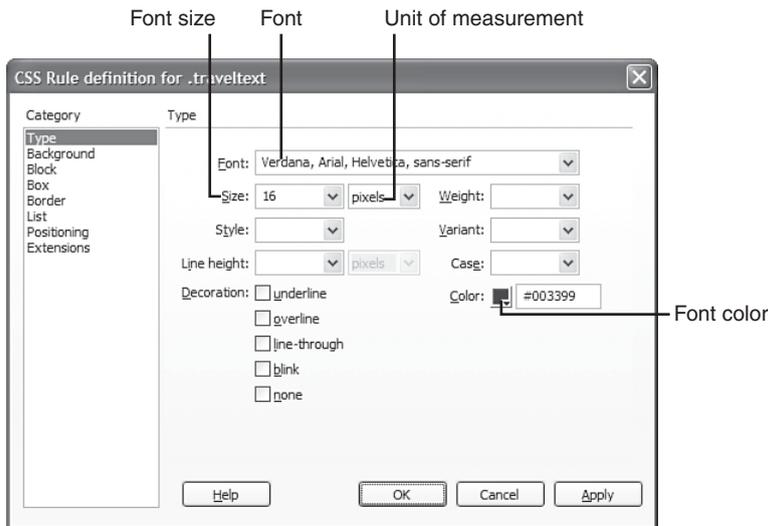
FIGURE 6.5
The CSS Rule
Definition dialog
box is where
you set up the
attributes of a
style.

Font color

Class Selector Should Be Your Last Choice

Because the class selector is easy to create, understand, and apply it tends to be overused. Make sure you can't use an id or element selector first before you create a class. For instance, don't create a class to make text blue and then apply it to all your paragraphs. Instead, redefine the paragraph tag to have blue text using an element selector or redefine the body tag so that all text on the page is blue.

Watch Out!

The CSS Styles panel lists the new class (make sure that the All button is selected at the top of the CSS Styles panel). The top portion of the panel shows the class selector you just created and the bottom displays its attributes. There are three different attribute display settings, shown in Figure 6.6. I prefer the Show Only Set Properties setting, as displayed in the figure, because it shows only the properties contained in the style instead of every possible property.

FIGURE 6.6
You can set the way the properties are displayed in the lower half of the CSS Styles panel.

Show only set properties
Show list view
Show category view
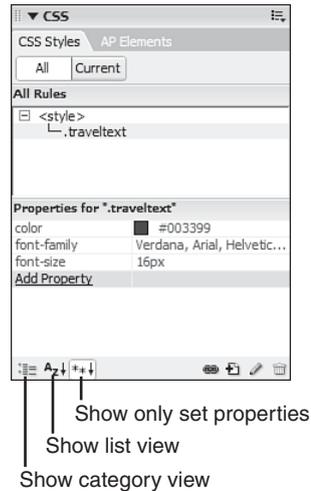
Applying a Class Selector

You select a block of text to apply your style to by dragging the cursor across it. You can also select other objects on the web page and apply the style. All the text in the object will then appear as defined by the style. Apply the class to an object by first selecting the object and then selecting the class from the Style drop-down menu in the Property inspector, as shown in Figure 6.7. Notice that the style names display in their respective fonts and font styles in the Style drop-down menu.

FIGURE 6.7
Select an object and then apply a class by using the Style drop-down menu in the Property inspector.

Class selector
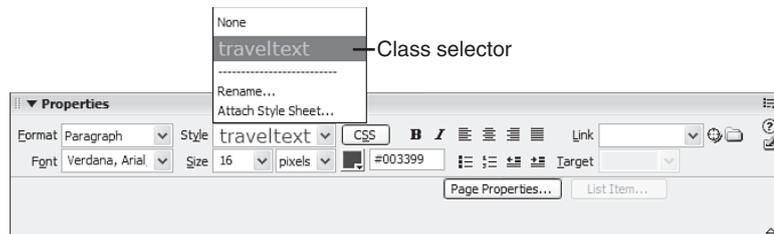
Apply Styles to the Correct Tag

Some style attributes work only when applied to certain tags. For instance, a style called bigcell with the cell padding values set in the Box category of the CSS Rule Definition dialog box does not have any effect on text because padding is not an attribute of text. Applying this style to an appropriate object, such as a table cell, does have an effect.

Watch Out!

Removing a Class Selector

If you accidentally apply a style to an object, you can easily remove it. If you simply selected a few words instead of an entire block of text, Dreamweaver added a new tag around the text. Tags wrapped around the text are necessary because Dreamweaver needs to apply the class attribute to a tag. Instead of selecting the text by dragging the cursor over it, it's better to use Dreamweaver's tag selector, shown in Figure 6.8. When you select the tag with the tag selector, Dreamweaver is smart enough to remove not only the class selector but also the extra tag that is now unnecessary.
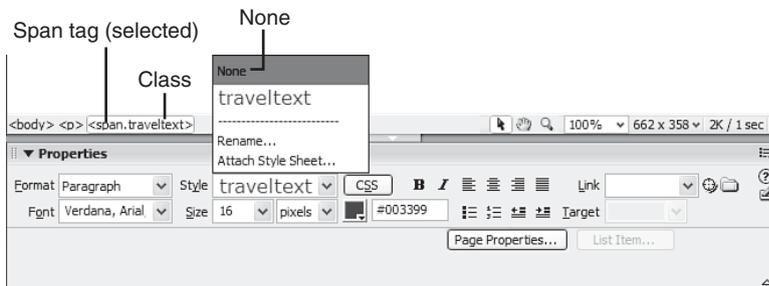
FIGURE 6.8
The tag selector enables you to easily select and remove a class selector.

To remove a style from text, do the following:

1. Select the object that has the unwanted style applied to it. Using the tag selector is highly recommended.

2. Select None from the Style drop-down menu in the Property inspector.

Exploring Style Settings

The CSS Rule Definition dialog box has eight categories with numerous settings you can use to define a style. As you are defining a style, select the panels to gain access to the settings for each category. Any settings that you do not need to set should be left alone. The following categories are available:

▶ **Type**—This category defines type attributes, such as font and font size. These style settings can be applied to text or to objects that contain text.

▶ **Background**—This category defines background attributes, such as color and image. These style settings can be applied to objects, such as layers and tables, where you can set a background.

▶ **Block**—This category defines type attributes for paragraphs.

▶ **Box**—This category defines attributes, such as margin size, that are applied to box objects, such as layers and tables.

▶ **Border**—This category defines attributes that are applied to objects that have borders, such as layers and tables.

▶ **List**—This category defines list attributes, such as bullet type.

▶ **Positioning**—This category defines layer attributes, such as visibility and z-index. See Hour 17, "Using Dynamic HTML and AP Divs," for an explanation of layers and layer attributes.

▶ **Extensions**—This category defines miscellaneous attributes that are either future enhancements or for Internet Explorer only.

Table 6.1 lists the style settings available in the various categories of the CSS Rule Definition dialog box.

TABLE 6.1   Style Settings in the CSS Rule Definition Dialog Box

Setting	Description
Type Category	
Font	Sets the font family.
Size	Sets the font size and unit of measurement.
Style	Specifies the font as normal, italic, or oblique.
Line Height	Sets the height of the line of text and the unit of measurement. This setting is traditionally called **leading**. It is added before the line.
Decoration	Adds an underline, an overline, or a line through the text. You can set the text decoration to blink, or remove the decoration by choosing None (to remove the underline on hyperlinks, for instance).
Weight	Adds an amount of boldface to text. Regular bold is equal to 700 and normal, nonbold text is equal to 400. Many browsers only display 400, 700, and 900.
Variant	Sets the small caps variant on text. This displays with all the lowercase letters as uppercase letters but slightly smaller than the actual uppercase letters.
Case	Capitalizes the first letter of each word or sets all the text to lowercase or uppercase.
Color	Sets the text color.

TABLE 6.1   Continued

Setting	Description
Background Category	
Background Color	Sets a background color for an element. You can use this attribute to set the background color for the body (the entire web page), a table, a paragraph, or any element on the web page.
Background Image	Sets a background image for an object.
Repeat	Controls how the background image repeats. No Repeat displays the image only once; Repeat tiles the image horizontally and vertically; Repeat-x tiles the image only horizontally; and Repeat-y tiles the image only vertically.
Attachment	Sets whether the background image scrolls with the content or is fixed in its original position.
Horizontal Position	Specifies the initial horizontal position of the background image.
Vertical Position	Specifies the initial vertical position of the background image.
Block Category	
Word Spacing	Controls the space around words. Negative values reduce the space between words, whereas positive values increase the space.
Letter Spacing	Adds space between letters. Negative values reduce the space between letters, whereas positive values increase the space.
Vertical Alignment	Sets the alignment of the object relative to objects around it (these are the same alignment settings discussed in Hour 8, "Displaying Images").
Text Align	Aligns text within a container such as a paragraph, a table cell, or the entire web page. Choices are Left, Right, Center, and Justify.
Text Indent	Sets how far the first line is indented. Negative values create an outdent.
Whitespace	Sets how whitespace appears in an object; by default, white space is disregarding when displaying HTML. Normal disregards whitespace, Pre displays all the whitespace, and Nowrap sets the text to wrap only when a break tag ( ) is encountered.
Display	Sets how and whether an element displays. The None setting, for instance, hides the item on the page; the Block setting displays the element with a line break before and after; and the Inline setting displays the element with no line breaks. The None setting is useful when creating dynamic style sheets. For instance, creating a style sheet for a printable web page that sets buttons and unnecessary interface elements to None so that they are not printed. You'll learn more about this in Hour 14.

TABLE 6.1   Continued

Setting	Description
Box Category	
Width	Sets the width of an element.
Height	Sets the height of an element.
Float	Sets whether the element floats beside other elements and whether it floats to the left or the right of the other element.
Clear	Clears floating so that elements do not float around another element.
Padding	Sets the amount of space between the element and its border (or margin).
Margin	Sets the amount of space between the border of an element and other elements.
Border Category	
Style	Sets the style appearance of the borders. The choices are Dotted, Dashed, Solid, Double, Groove, Ridge, Inset, Outset, and None (for no border). If the browser doesn't support one of the styles, it displays as solid.
Width	Sets the border thickness. You can set the widths of the top, right, bottom, and left borders separately.
Color	Sets the border color. You can set the colors of the top, right, bottom, and left borders separately.
List Category	
Type	Sets the appearance of the lists. The choices are Disc, Circle, Square, Decimal, Lower-Roman, Upper-Roman, Lower-Alpha, Upper-Alpha, and None.
Bullet Image	Sets a custom image for bullets.
Position	Sets whether the list content wraps to the indent (Outside) or to the margin (Inside).
Positioning Category	
Type	Sets how an element is positioned relative to the page. The choices are Relative (at the coordinates relative to its position on the page), Absolute (at the exact coordinates), and Static (at its place in the document flow).
Width	Sets the width of a container.
Height	Sets the height of a container.
Visibility	Sets the container's visibility. The choices are Inherit, Visible, and Hidden. You'll learn more about the attributes in this category in Hour 17.

TABLE 6.1 Continued

Setting	Description
Z-Index	Sets the container's **z-index** (that is, its stacking order).
Overflow	Sets what happens when the container's contents exceed its size. The choices are Visible, Hidden, Scroll, and Auto.
Placement	Sets the left, top, width, and height attributes for a container. These settings enable a container to be placed at an exact pixel position on the web page. The pixel position can sometimes vary a bit from browser to browser.
Clip	Sets the top, bottom, left, and right clipping attributes for a container. Clipping defines how much of an element is visible.
Extensions Category	
Page Break	Forces a page break during printing, either before or after the object. Be careful with this property; use it only when you absolutely must control where the page breaks for printing.
Cursor	Changes the cursor when it is placed over the object. This attribute is supported only in modern browsers and can confuse users, so use it only when it is necessary.
Filter	Applies special effects, including page transitions, opacity, and blurs, to objects. The filters included with Dreamweaver are supported only in Internet Explorer 4.0 and later. See msdn.microsoft.com/workshop/Author/filter/filters.asp for more information. You can hand-code filters for other browsers (check out www.mandarindesign.com/opacity.html).

Redefining an HTML Tag

You can redefine HTML tags by creating element selectors using CSS. You apply these styles by simply applying HTML tags as you normally would. By default, text formatted with the <h3> tag appears slightly larger than normal, in a bold font that is left justified with one or two blank lines above and below. After you redefine the <h3> tag, any text with that tag applied to it immediately appears with the new CSS formatting. To create some text, make it a Heading 3, and modify its appearance with CSS:

1. Type some text in the Dreamweaver Document window.

2. Apply Heading 3 to the text by selecting Heading 3 from the Format drop-down menu in the Property inspector.

3. Create a new style by clicking the New CSS Rule button in the CSS Styles panel. The New CSS Rule dialog box appears.

4. Select the radio button beside Tag (Redefines the Look of a Specific Tag) and then select h3 from the Tag drop-down menu in the dialog box that appears, as shown in Figure 6.9.

Tag menu
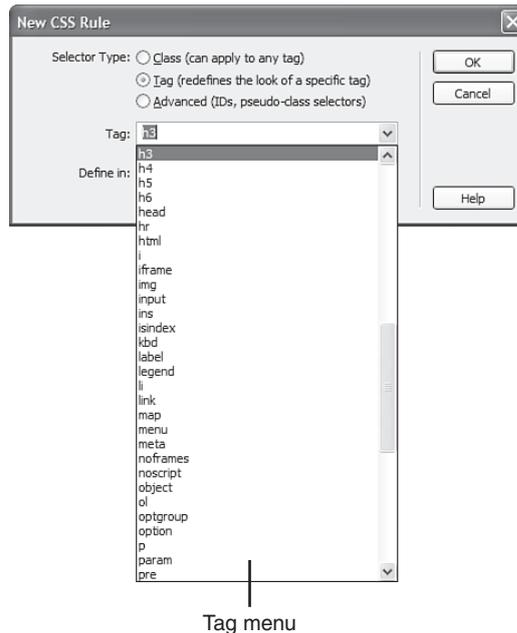
Did you Know?

Select the Tag Before Creating a Style for It

When you select the tag in the Dreamweaver Document window before you click the New CSS Rule button, the Tag drop-down menu automatically displays the tag so that you don't have to search for it in the list.

5. Select the Block category.

6. Select Center from the Text Align drop-down menu, as shown in Figure 6.10, and click the OK button.

7. Click OK and the h3 text in your web page should jump to center alignment.

Editing Styles

Nobody's perfect! After you create a style, you might need to edit it. Oftentimes while I am working on a design I modify styles many times before they are exactly the way I want them. Fortunately, it's easy to edit styles in Dreamweaver using the same CSS Rule Definition dialog box where you created the style. To edit a CSS style, follow these steps:

1. Select one of the styles displayed in the CSS Styles panel.

2. Click the Edit Style button, shown in Figure 6.11, to reopen the CSS Rule Definition dialog box.

3. Edit the style by selecting style categories and modifying properties.

4. Click the Apply button to see the modifications you've made displayed in the Document window.

5. When you are satisfied, click OK to save your changes.

You can also edit CSS style properties in the Properties pane in the bottom half of the CSS Styles panel. Simply click any of the properties in any of the three views (Category, List, or Add Property) to modify or add the property to the style definition. I think it is easier to edit a style using the Edit Style button. As you become more familiar with the properties available by using CSS, you might want to use these new property views to edit CSS styles.

FIGURE 6.11
You can easily edit CSS styles by using the Edit Style button in the CSS Styles panel.
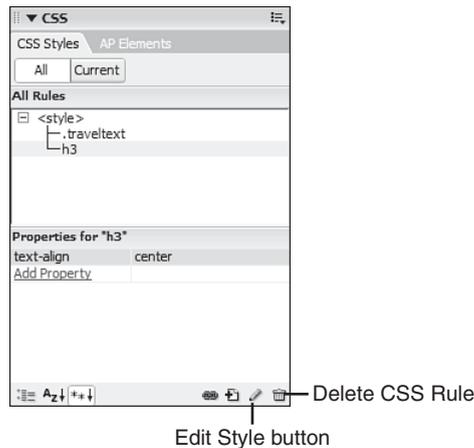
Creating an External Style Sheet

Adding styles to a single web page is nice, but wouldn't it be great to apply the same styles to a number of web pages? External style sheets allow you to do this. Instead of defining styles in a single web page, you define all the styles in one text file and link that file to every web page. When you update a style in an external style sheet, the changes apply to every page that links to that style sheet.

Exporting Existing CSS Styles

When you've created some CSS styles in a web page, Dreamweaver makes it easy to move them to an external style sheet. You can move the existing styles to an external style sheet with the .css file extension and then easily link that sheet to the web page. Perform the following procedure to move and link CSS styles:

1. Select the styles to move in the CSS Styles panel, using Shift+click to select multiple styles.

2. Right-click the styles in the CSS Styles panel and select the Move CSS Rules command as shown in Figure 6.12.

3. Select the radio button next to A New Style Sheet.

4. Name the new external CSS file and click the Save button. Dreamweaver automatically moves the selected styles into this external file and links it to the current web page.

5. Move additional styles by repeating steps 1 and 2, but selecting the existing external style sheet instead of creating another new one.
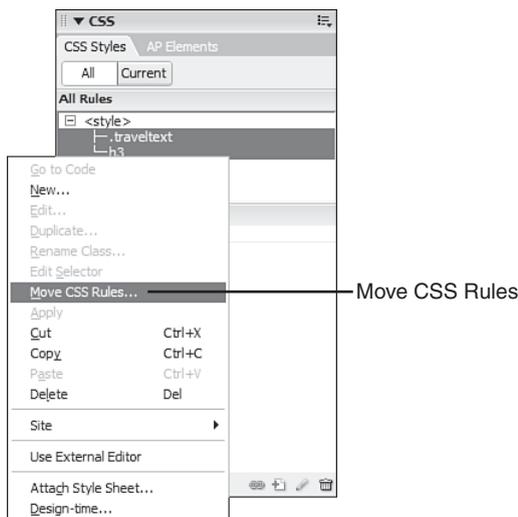
FIGURE 6.12
Select the Move CSS Rules command to export styles to an external style sheet.

Move CSS Rules

6. When all the styles in the CSS Styles panel are listed under the external style sheet, you can delete the embedded style sheet, the <style> heading. Select <style> and click the Delete button shown in Figure 6.13.

Embedded style sheet
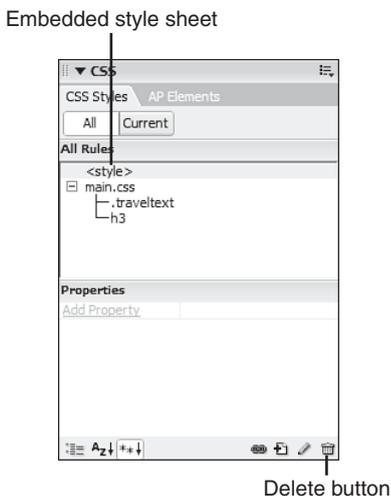
FIGURE 6.13
Use the Delete button to remove the unnecessary embedded style sheet code.

Delete button

Where to Store the CSS?

Many web developers store external style sheets in a directory called CSS or Scripts.

Did you Know?

Creating an External Style Sheet from Scratch

You might want to start with an external style sheet before you create any CSS styles. This is the way I usually work. Of course, you can have as many style sheets as you need and I usually have at least two or three per website, each serving a different purpose. For instance, I usually have one external style sheet I name main.css that holds all the page layout styles (you'll learn more about using CSS for page layout in Hour 13). I might also have an external style sheet named nav.css that has all the navigational styles affecting links and buttons. If the website is large, I might have different style sheets that are specific to unique parts of the site. To create and link to an external style sheet, follow these steps:

1. Select File, New, Blank Page, CSS.

2. Click the Create button.

3. Select File, Save and save the CSS file. You can name it nav.css and preferably save it in the directory in your website that holds CSS or script files.

4. Close the new CSS file and return to the web page that has to link to the new CSS file.

5. Click the Attach Style Sheet button in the CSS Style panel, shown in Figure 6.14.

FIGURE 6.14
The Attach Style Sheet button enables you to link a web page to an external style sheet.
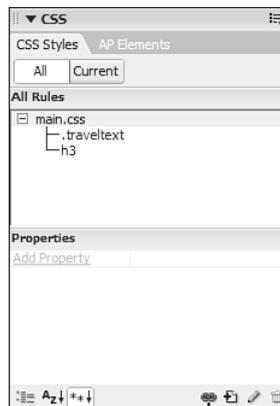
Attach Style Sheet

6. Click the Browse button and select the new external style sheet.

7. Select the radio button next to Link.

8. Click the OK button.

Saving CSS Styles in an External Style Sheet

After you create an external style sheet, you'll want to add any new CSS styles you create to the external style sheet instead of the web page. To add additional styles to the external style sheet, select the name of the external style sheet from the Define In drop-down menu when you define a new style, as shown in Figure 6.15. As you create CSS styles, pay attention to where you save them. Of course you can always use the Move CSS Rules command that you used earlier this hour if you need to move a style to a different location.
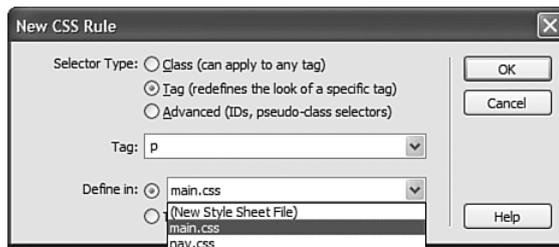
FIGURE 6.15
Select an external style sheet from the Define In drop-down menu to create a new style in the external style sheet.

CSS Style Preferences

It can be confusing when Dreamweaver automatically opens an external style sheet when you add a style to it. You can turn off this option in Preferences (Edit, Preferences) in the CSS Styles category. You can also set what Dreamweaver opens when you double-click a style name in the CSS Styles panel.

Did you Know?

Understanding the Cascade

The topic of this hour is *Cascading* Style Sheets, not just *Style Sheets*. Cascading refers to which styles and attributes take precedence over other styles. For instance, if you define paragraph text as the color blue by redefining the paragraph tag and then add a class selector to one of those paragraphs that defines the text as red, what color will the text appear in the browser? The rules of the cascade are what controls style precedence.

The CSS standard defines a complicated hierarchy of style precedence dependent on the style's proximity to the object it's applied to, the type of style, and when the style loads. You can simply remember a couple rough rules of thumb to help you predict style precedence:

▶ The closer the style definition is to the object, the more dominant it is. Therefore, style properties defined in a web page override a conflicting style defined in an external style sheet.

▶ The type of selector matters. In order of most dominant to least dominant, the selector hierarchy is id selector, class selector, and element selector. Properties contained in a redefined HTML tag will lose to conflicting properties defined in a class or id selector.

▶ A defined style is dominant over an inherited style.

The last rule of thumb in the list refers to *inheritance*, which is another element of the cascade. You'll understand more about nesting HTML tags after you've read Hour 7. Web pages consist of elements nested within other elements. For instance, everything in the page nests within the body tag. So, if you redefine the body tag to have a certain background color, do all the tags (such as paragraphs, tables, and images) inherit that background color? CSS wouldn't be very useful if that happens.

Some properties are inherited, though. When you use the Page Properties command (Modify, Page Properties) to modify the font and color of the text, those properties are inherited by all the text on the page. Dreamweaver enables you to view the cascade of properties applied to a selected element using the CSS Styles panel. Figure 6.16 shows the CSS Styles panel with the Show Cascade of Rules for Selected Tag button selected. In this example, some Heading 3 text is selected on the page and it inherits all the body attributes listed in Figure 6.15. The CSS Styles panel shown in Figure 6.17 shows that the Heading 3 text does not inherit the background image property from the body tag; notice that it is crossed out.

FIGURE 6.16
The CSS Styles panel can also display the cascade of styles applied to a certain element on the web page.
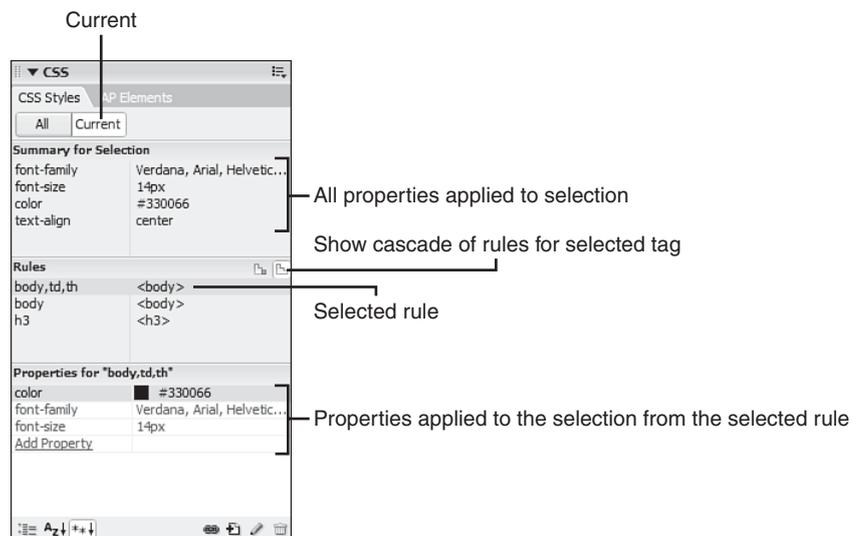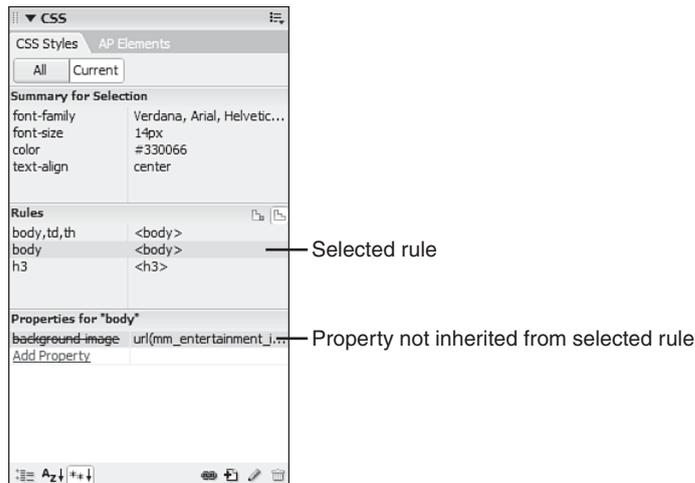
Summary

In this hour, you learned how about CSS rule definition, properties, and how to create and apply classes and redefined HTML tags. You learned how to define CSS styles and how to edit them to make changes. You saw how Dreamweaver can store styles internally, in the same web page. And you made an external style sheet that allows the same styles to be used throughout an entire website.

Q&A

Q. *Can I link more than one style sheet to a web page?*

A. Yes. You can link as many style sheets to a web page as you'd like.

Q. *How can I remove the underline from hyperlinks by using CSS styles?*

A. Some people might advise against doing that, but if you feel your design demands it, it's your call. To remove the underline from hyperlinks, redefine the <a> (anchor) tag in the CSS Rule Definition dialog box. Set Decoration (in the Text category) to None. All the hyperlinks on the page will no longer be underlined. You might want to define a:hover (select it from the Selector drop-down menu in the New CSS Rule dialog box) with an underline so that users can easily find the links when the cursor is placed over them.

Q. *I know it's important to separate presentation from content, so how can I load a unique style sheet depending on the user's browser to optimize the user's experience of my web page?*

A. In Hour 24, "Customizing Dreamweaver," you'll learn about **extensions** to Dreamweaver, files that you can download and install into Dreamweaver to extend its capabilities. There are a couple of extensions on the Dreamweaver Exchange, Adobe's repository for extensions (www.adobe.com/exchange), which add code to your page that loads different style sheets, depending on the user's browser and version. You can download one of these extensions, install it into Dreamweaver, and then use the extension to accomplish your goal of using different style sheets, depending on the user's browser.

Workshop

Quiz

1. What are the three types of CSS styles?

2. What should you create in order to use the same styles for all the web pages in a website?

3. If you redefine the <h3> tag as red in an external style sheet and then redefine the <h3> tag as blue in the web page, what color will h3 text be in that page?

Quiz Answers

1. The three types of CSS styles are classes, redefined HTML tags, and advanced styles (CSS selectors).

2. You need to create an external style sheet and link it to each page in your website.

3. The text will be blue because the internal style, the one defined in the page, is closer to the actual code and is dominant.

Exercises

1. Create a page as well as a class style that modifies text. Try applying this style to text in the page, table cells, layers, and other objects in the page. Save the style internally (choose the This Document Only setting) and then move the styles to an external style sheet. Practice adding additional styles to the external style sheet.

2. Create different definitions for the four hyperlink selectors: a:active, a:hover, a:link, and a:visited. You can find these selectors under the Selectors drop-down menu when you select Advanced in the New CSS Rule dialog box. Create a unique style for each selector. Write down the four colors you used and then figure out when each appears by previewing a link on the page with the style definitions in the browser.