

Creating web pages with CSS – Intermediate

Duration: Two days

This course covers CSS (Cascading Stylesheets) in detail, from text presentation and formatting, through to strategies and techniques for creating CSS-based page layouts without relying on tables. We discuss issues such as browser compatibility, and demonstrate how to create compliant and valid pages combined with sophisticated structure and design. Delegates will leave the course with a thorough understanding of how CSS really works, and the ability to write their own stylesheets from scratch.

We use PCs and TopStyle Pro (a very user-friendly code editor) during this course. This is to ensure that delegates can learn to deal with inconsistencies between Windows-based browsers.

Requirements: A good working knowledge of HTML coding.

Outline

Concepts

- CSS and XHTML – creating pages that adhere to current standards
- Semantic markup – separating content from presentation
- Browser compatibility issues and how to deal with them
- Validating pages via the W3C
- Devising a strategy for building pages with HTML & CSS
- Creating a hierarchical structure
- Accessibility and Usability issues

Writing CSS

- The Cascade, Inheritance and Specificity - how rules apply and how they override other rules.
- Syntax: selectors, declarations, rules, redefining tags, creating classes and IDs, grouped styles, descendant styles
- When to use ID's vs. Classes
- Formatting text - fonts, colour, sizes etc.
- Background images - preventing repeat, controlling position, applying to individual elements
- Stylesheets for printable pages

- Units and values - relative vs. fixed measurements
- Understanding the Box Model - margins, padding and borders

Page Layout

- Strategies for working with CSS layouts
- Page layouts without tables
- Defining page sections with DIV tags

Positioning and Floating

- Creating single and multi-column layouts
- Using Floats to create multiple columns and other designs
- Using Absolute positioning
- Stacking order, width and other issues

Links and menus

- Applying Hyperlink styles
- Converting HTML lists to horizontal or vertical menus
- Creating a 'block' menu with rollover effects
- Creating highlighted 'current page' links