

CSS Fluency

Speaking the Language of Cascading Style Sheets

DFW Adobe Users Group Meeting

October 13, 2007

HELLO

my name is

Chuck Mallott

Front-End
Developer

Interface
Designer

Web
Developer

Interaction
Designer

Designer

User
Experience
Designer

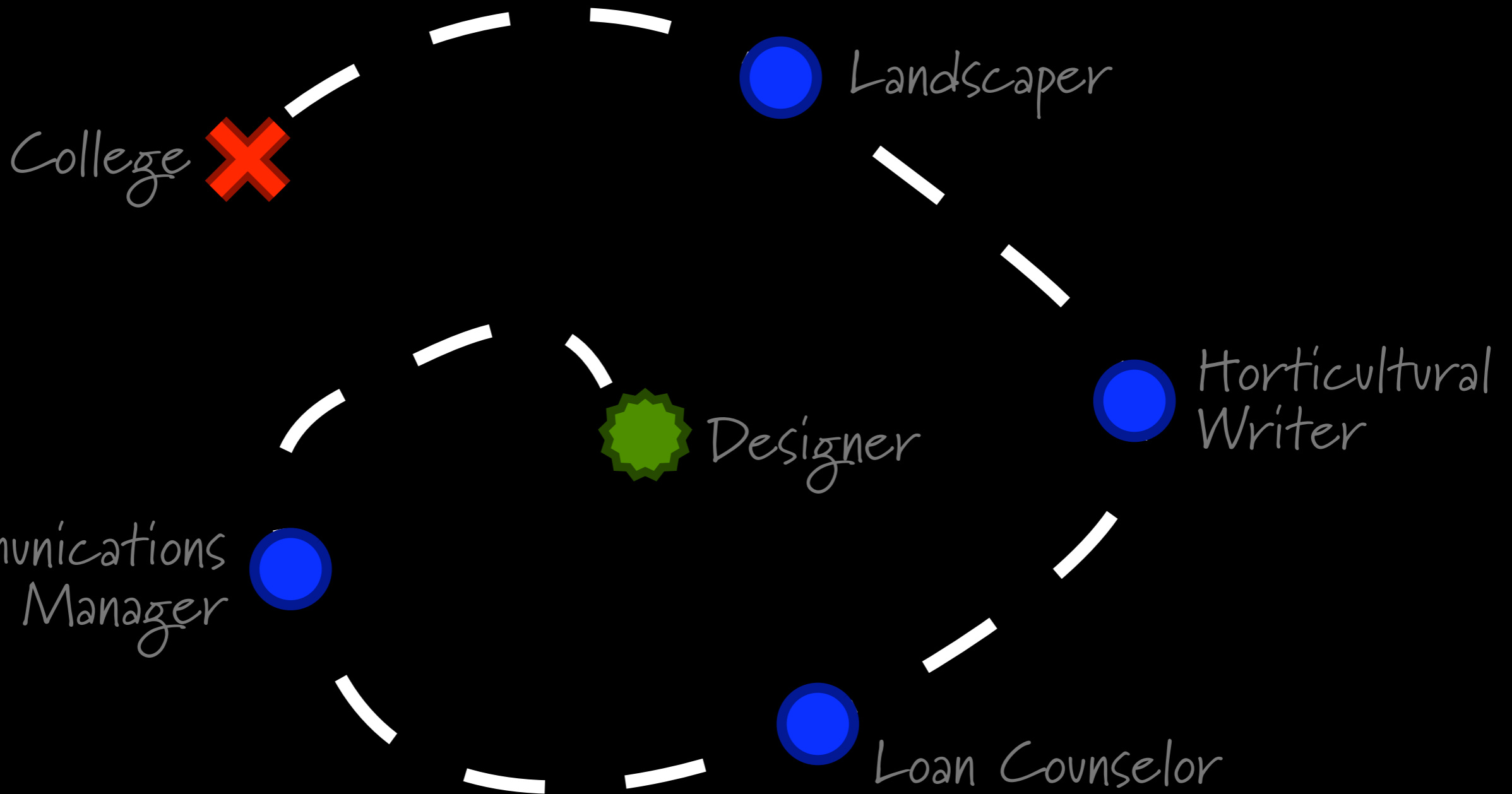
Usability
Expert

Web
Designer

Graphic
Designer

Information
Architect

Can you get there from here?



CSS Myths

```
text-decoration: none;
display: block;
float: left;
}

#header a:hover { background: none; }
```

```
/* =headings
```

```
----- */
```

```
h1 {
  font-size: 200%;
  font-family: Georgia, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif;
  color: #BF3A14;
  padding-top: .75em;
  line-height: 1.5em;
}
```

```
body#home #section-content h1 {
  color: #222;
```

~~CSS is too hard to learn~~



Mac



95



98

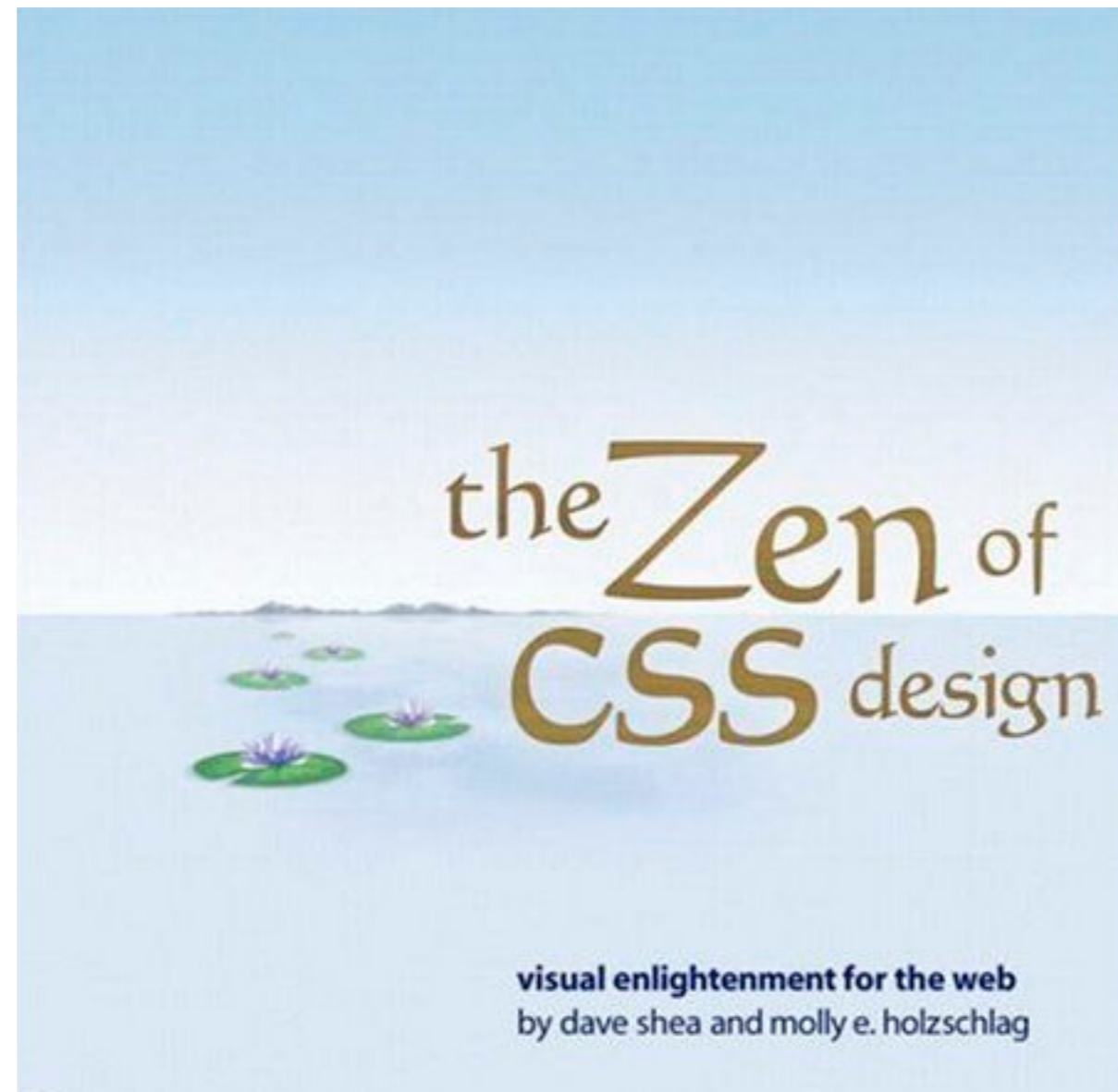


xp



2k

~~CSS designs don't work in all browsers~~



~~CSS designs are boxy and boring~~

Speaking the Language

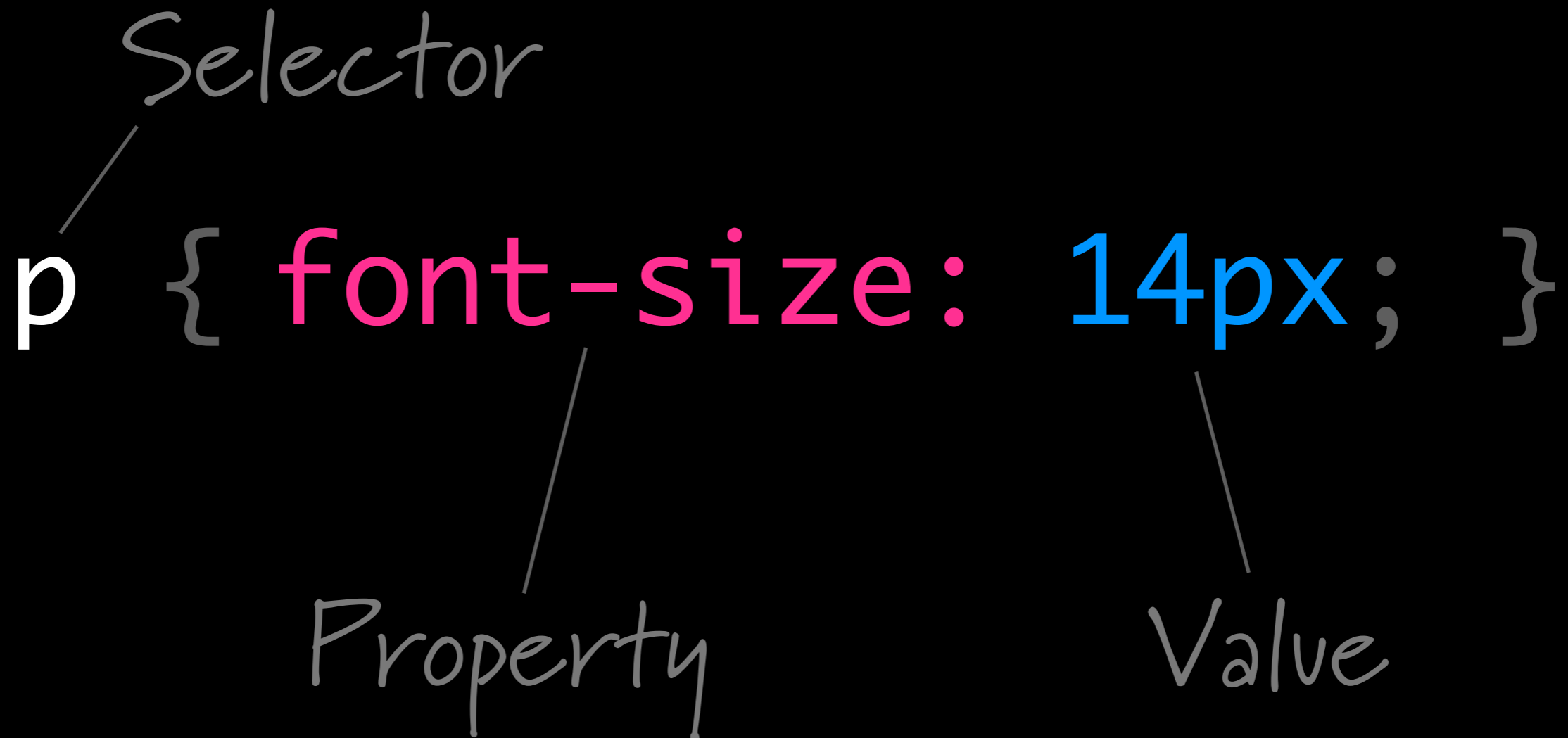
Cascade

The mechanism that controls the order in which CSS rules are applied.

Inheritance

Inheritance means that subordinate elements inherit properties from their parent element.

Anatomy of a CSS Rule



Pattern Matching

<code>p</code>	Matches any <code>p</code> element (i.e., an element of type <code>p</code>).
<code>p span</code>	Matches any <code>span</code> element that is a descendant of a <code>p</code> element.
<code>p > strong</code>	Matches any <code>strong</code> element that is a child of an element <code>p</code> .
<code>p:first-child</code>	Matches element <code>p</code> when <code>p</code> is the first child of its parent.
<code>h1 + p</code>	Matches any <code>p</code> element immediately preceded by an element <code>h1</code> .
<code>h1[title]</code>	Matches any <code>h1</code> element with the "title" attribute set (whatever the value).
<code>h1[color="blue"]</code>	Matches any <code>h1</code> element whose "color" attribute value is exactly equal to "blue".
<code>div.warning</code>	Matches any <code>div</code> element class equal to "warning".
<code>div#content</code>	Matches any <code>div</code> element ID equal to "content".

Speaking CSS

`h1#sidebar`

" An h1 element with an ID of sidebar "

`#sidebar h1`

" An h1 element that lives inside an element with the ID of sidebar "

Speaking CSS

`#sidebar ul#nav li.current span a`

“ An anchor element inside a span element inside a list-item with the class of current, which is part of the unordered list with an ID of nav, which is inside an element with an ID of sidebar ”

CSS Shorthand

Before

```
#content {  
    background-color: #fff;  
    background-image: url(gradient.png);  
    background-repeat: no-repeat;  
    background-position: top;  
}
```

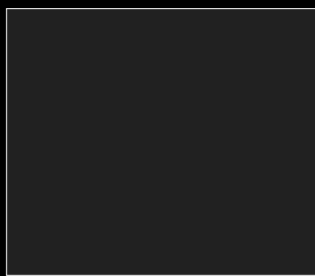
After

```
#content {  
    background: #fff url(gradient.png) no-repeat top;  
}
```

CSS Shorthand

Before

```
image {  
  margin-top: 0;  
  margin-right: 10px;  
  margin-bottom: 5px;  
  margin-left: 0;  
}
```



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing
 In commodo pede sed velit. Aenean nec justo. Aenean
 metus hendrerit nonummy. Quisque condimentum
 accumsan neque. Phasellus pretium lorem eget dolor. Vestibulum
 accumsan. Mauris mollis. Aenean mollis felis at velit.

CSS Shorthand

After

```
image {  
    margin: 0 10px 5px 0;  
}
```



Avoiding Common Problems

Inline Styles

```
<h3 style="margin-top:8px;">You're asking  
for trouble</h3>
```

Classitis

```
<div class="box">  
  <p class="small">  
    <span class="left">Too classy!</span>  
  <p>  
</div>
```

Divitis

```
<div class="heading1">About Us</div>
```

```
<div class="heading2">Philosophy</div>
```

```
<div class="paragraph">In both cases  
details are hit-and-run over by the  
practice of subtle oversimplification. The  
result is an experience that lacks  
eloquence, education, and energy.</div>
```

Non-Semantic Markup

```
<div class="heading1">About Us</div>
```

```
<span class="text">Philosophy</span>
```

```
<div id="#content-style-sub-left_2">
```

the meaning or relationship of meanings
of a sign or set of signs

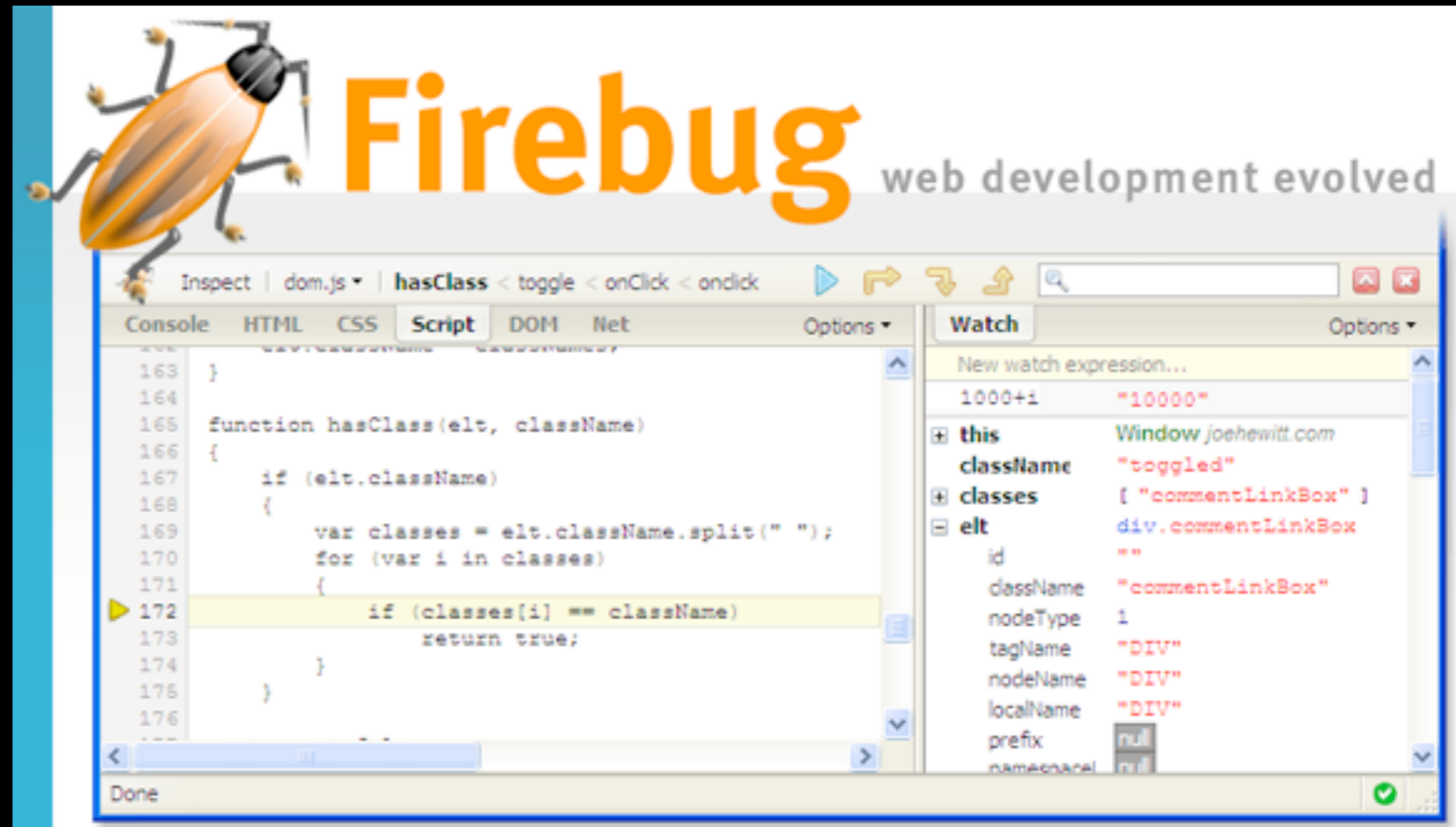
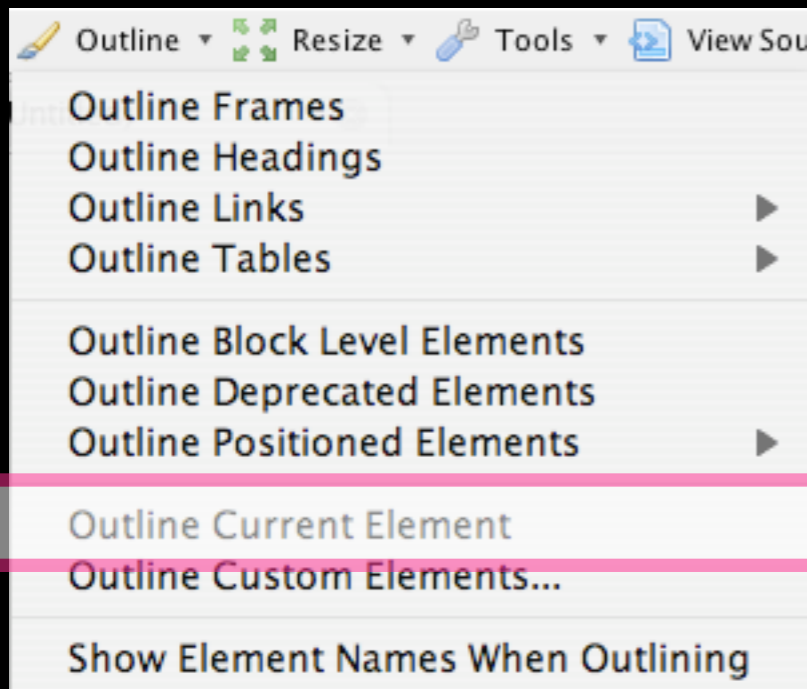
```
</div>
```

Debugging

background: pink;

background: yellow;

background: lime;



Getting Started

Setting Up Files

XHTML

1. Select a DOCTYPE

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://  
www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">  
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
```

Setting Up Files

XHTML

2. Link to CSS files

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="screen" href="css/screen.css" />
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="print" href="css/print.css" />

<!--[if IE 6]>
<link href="css/ie6.css" media="screen" rel="Stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<![endif]-->

<!--[if IE 7]>
<link href="css/ie7.css" media="screen" rel="Stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<![endif]-->
```

Setting Up Files

CSS

3. Set up @import rules

```
/*  
Title:      Acorn Wisdom: screen.css  
Author:     chuck@oaktreecreative.com  
Created:    October 2007  
*/  
  
/* import stylesheets and hide from ie/mac */  
  
@import url("zero.css");  
@import url("base.css");  
@import url("page.css");  
  
/* end import/hide */
```

Setting Up Files

CSS

3. Reset

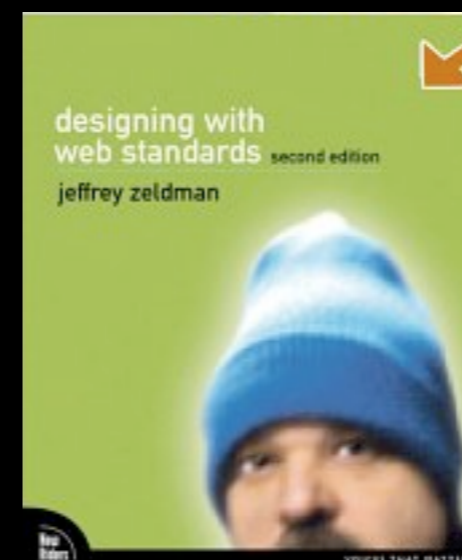
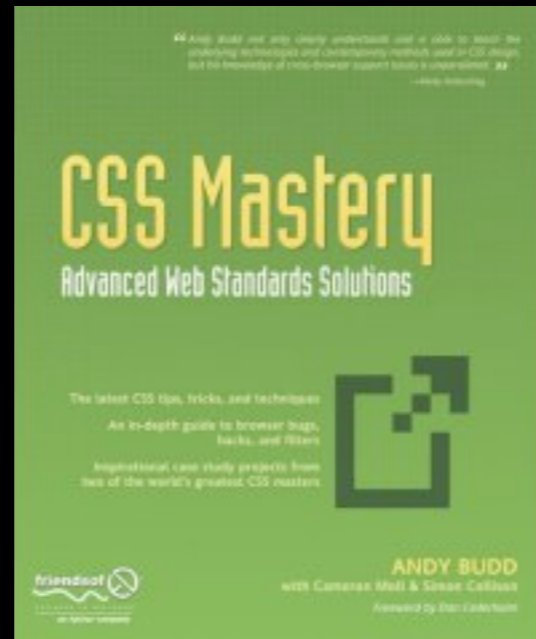
```
body, div, dl, dt, dd, ul, ol, li, h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6, pre,
form, fieldset, input, textarea, p, blockquote, th, td {
    margin: 0;
    padding: 0;
}

table {
    border-collapse: collapse;
    border-spacing: 0;
}

fieldset, img {
    border: 0;
}
```

Examples

Resources



thank you!



Questions?

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