Making your own CSS Framework

The why and the how, of splitting your CSS into a reusable, and consistent framework.

Sections

The Why

The How

The Code

Go Grab the code now

z.umn.edu/cehdcss

Why Make One?

Uniqueness… that's manageable

Why we did it: Under Pressure

- In one of the largest colleges at the U of M
- Managing around 200 web sites
- Size of web team going from 5, down to 2
  - Uncertain of future capacity
- The political problem:
  - How do you let every department feel individual, but stay cost effective

It's easier for..

- Designers
- Coders
- Quick deployment
- Future upgradability

- Accessibility
- Your users
- Managing far more sites

What were our priorities?

- Flexible
  - Individuality: Different colors, images, and a different feel
- Consistently Accessible
  - Use H tags correctly, and consistently
  - Jump to content and nav is consistent
- Interchangeable
  - Can pull one piece out of a site, and drop it into another... easily

Weighing our needs

- Where is the balance between flexibility, and time constraint?

- Is there anything you are sure will be on every page?

- What do you suspect will be on every page?

What's the same on every page?

- Logos
- Banners
- Page width
- Search
- Footer
- Nav (kind of)
- content

Getting Started

(How do you actually make one?)

Search

Search

Department of Obfuscation Studies

Search

Department of
Obfuscation Studies

Lorem

Ipsum

Dolar

Sit

Amet

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Nulla

Lorem ipsum dolor sit

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Search

Department of Obfuscation Studies

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Welcome to Our Department

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Leadership for a just and caring society

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612-625-1220
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Youth Studies Major

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Faculty & Staff

The department's distinguished faculty; known for excellence in teaching, theory development, research, outreach, and engagement, are committed to the application of research and theory for the benefit of the everyday lives of families.

Our lively, result-focused atmosphere is a place where true collaboration and learning are the keys to our success Our staff provides professional and personalized support for faculty, students, alumni, and the college. The staff is encouraged to participate in career growth and professional development and is committed to providing excellent service.

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Jean Bauer	William Goodman	Martha Rueter
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Shonda Craft	Jan McCulloch	Marlene Stum
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William Doherty	Patricia Olson	Blong Xiong
Jodi Dworkin	Kathryn Rettig	Virginia Zuiker

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John Jankord	Beth Magistad	Kristine Piescher
Mary Jo Katras	Tai Justin Mendenhall	Lynn Von Korff
		Sara Wright

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INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Welcome!

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Founded in 1925, the Institute is one of the oldest departments studying children's development in the United States. From its inception, a key tenet of our department has been to "give away" child psychology. This philosophy has created an environment rich with collaborations, new ideas, and exciting interdisciplinary work. See more about our history, our undergraduate and graduate programs, the Shirley G. Moore Lab School, and the various collaborative centers and programs we are involved in!

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April 7: **ICD Bag Lunch Colloquium**

"Children Pitching In and Catching On" Barbara Rogoff, UC-Santa Cruz

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Outreach & Engagement
Teacher Education Redesign Initiative

International Activities
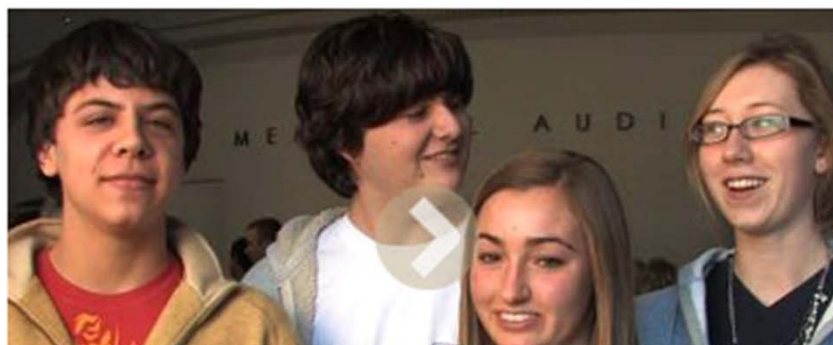
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OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

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College in the Schools Program Presents the First Annual Golden Femur Awards

Contact

CEHD Office of Engagement & Faculty Development

Heidi Barajas
Associate Dean
hbarajas@umn.edu
612-625-4823

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DEPARTMENT OF
Curriculum & Instruction

CEHD | College of Education + Human Development

Curriculum and Instruction
125 Peik Hall
159 Pillsbury Drive SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

CIinfo@umn.edu

Voice: 612-625-4006
Fax: 612-624-8277

Our Programs

◀ ShareThis

People

administrative staff, faculty and instructional staff, and affiliate graduate faculty

Administrative staff

Professional administrators

Katherine Byrn
Coordinator clinical experiences, elementary licensure program

Amy Jo Lundell
Coordinator secondary education field experiences

Technology support

Matti Koivula
IT (Instructional Technology) Fellow

Daniel Ferrara
Technical coordinator

Website and news

Support staff

Jessie Eastman
Executive operations/student services specialist
Graduate studies assistant

Vicki Griffin
Executive office and administrative specialist

Kathryn Louis
Assistant to the Chair

Caitlin Tupa
Principal office and administrative specialist faculty support

Roxanne Weymouth
Executive office and administrative specialist

Writing the Code

(Start with the Core of your sites)

Building in the frame

- Building those main boxes you use all the time
  - University Header (never changes)
  - Department Header
  - Navigation
  - Content Area
  - Footer

1st Step

-CSS Reset-

```
h1, p, div, ul, li    {
        margin: 0; padding: 0; border: 0;
}
```

http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/css/reset/

The Container

```
div#container {
    width: 960px;
    margin: 0 auto;
    text-align: left;
}
```

Department Header

```
header {
    width: 960px;
}
```

U of M Header

```
div#UMNheader {
    width: 960px;
}
```

Navigation and Content

```
nav {
    width: 210px;
    float: left;
}


div#content {
    width: 750px;
    float: left;
}
```

Footer

```
footer {
    width: 960px;
}
```

Building the flexible parts

- Columns
  - div.half {
      width: 360px;
      float: left;
    }
  - div.third {
      width: 240px;
      float: left;
    }

- Content Styling
  - div#content p {
      margin:10px 25px;
      padding:0;
    }
  - div#content ul {
      margin:10px 25px
      10px 25px;
      padding:0;
      list-style-type:disc;
    }

Margins

The base of your framework:

- CSS Reset
- Structural elements (the box model)
  - To future proof, make them match HTML5
- Major accessibility pieces
- Text styles
- Image Styles
- Columns for layout (furthering the box model)
- A basic print style sheet

The style and the look

- Colors
- Header images
- Background images

- Stylization of the nav
- Images

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G5 Firefly - 2010-04-02

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Home / Setup

Layouts

Whole

Halves

Thirds

Third + Two Thirds

Two Thirds + Third

Whole + Thirds + Whole

Add Features

Clam Shell Menu

Google Search

Modify These Templates!

Congratulations on your recent implementation of the Firefly template. Created on April 2nd, 2010, Firefly is lightweight and easy to implement. The Firefly template merges core.css and the design.css together into one easy to update style sheet. If you so chose, Firefly also accepts core components such as jQuery, AJAX, clam shell menus and even accordion menus. Read on for implementation tips.

Rename Files

Open up the attributes folder, anything named Firefly in the sub folders can be replace with the name or acronym of your site. CSS/Firefly.css for example.

U of M Header

/attributes/includes/UofM-header.html

Firefly has the new U of M Header modified by CEHD to work in IE 6 & 7, Safari and Firefox. Check the search box to make sure you are pointing to the collection you want. By default it is set to the college search results page, the Google search can be redirected to take advantage of the tabbed search results. (Directions coming, Web Team can help for now)

Unit Header

/attributes/includes/Firefly-header.html

Set the link and title tag to reflect your site.
Super easy to spot:

The picture is pulled in through CSS. Open Firefly.css and search for "Department Header Stuff" that will bring you to the section where the header image is called and the areas for the link areas floating over the image are defined. Note the orange bar under the header is also in this section as a border-bottom style.

Left Navigation

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Youth Studies Major

Department Header

```
header {
    height: 150px;
    background: url(Green-
    Field.jpg);
}
```

Navigation

```
nav {
    background-color:
    white;
}
nav ul {
    margin: 25px 0;
    font-weight: bold;
}
```

```
nav a {
    color: black;
    text-decoration: none;
}
```

Design freedom

(kind of)

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GRADUATE STUDENTS

FACULTY & STAFF
Expertise Database

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

DEPARTMENT

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

PROJECTS & CENTERS

OUTREACH & EXTENSION

COURSES

NEWS & CALENDAR

GIVING

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INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- About the Institute +
- Child Psychology Graduate Program +
- Child Psychology Undergraduate Program +
- Early Childhood Education Programs +
- Minors & Certificates
- People +
- Research & Outreach +
- Shirley G. Moore Lab School
- News & Events +
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What we learned

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- Emphasize individuality in conversation
- You won't keep everyone happy

Questions?

@dansag

dansag@umn.edu

Contact me…

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- Email: dansag@umn.edu

Resources…

- The CSS Framework
  - http://z.umn.edu/cehdcss
- CSS Reset
  - http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/css/reset/