

CSS Problem Solving with Dreamweaver CS3

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- ▶ Coming soon - Mastering CSS with Dreamweaver CS3 by New Riders - authored with Adobe's Greg Rewis

Is it really a bug?



Where are the problems?

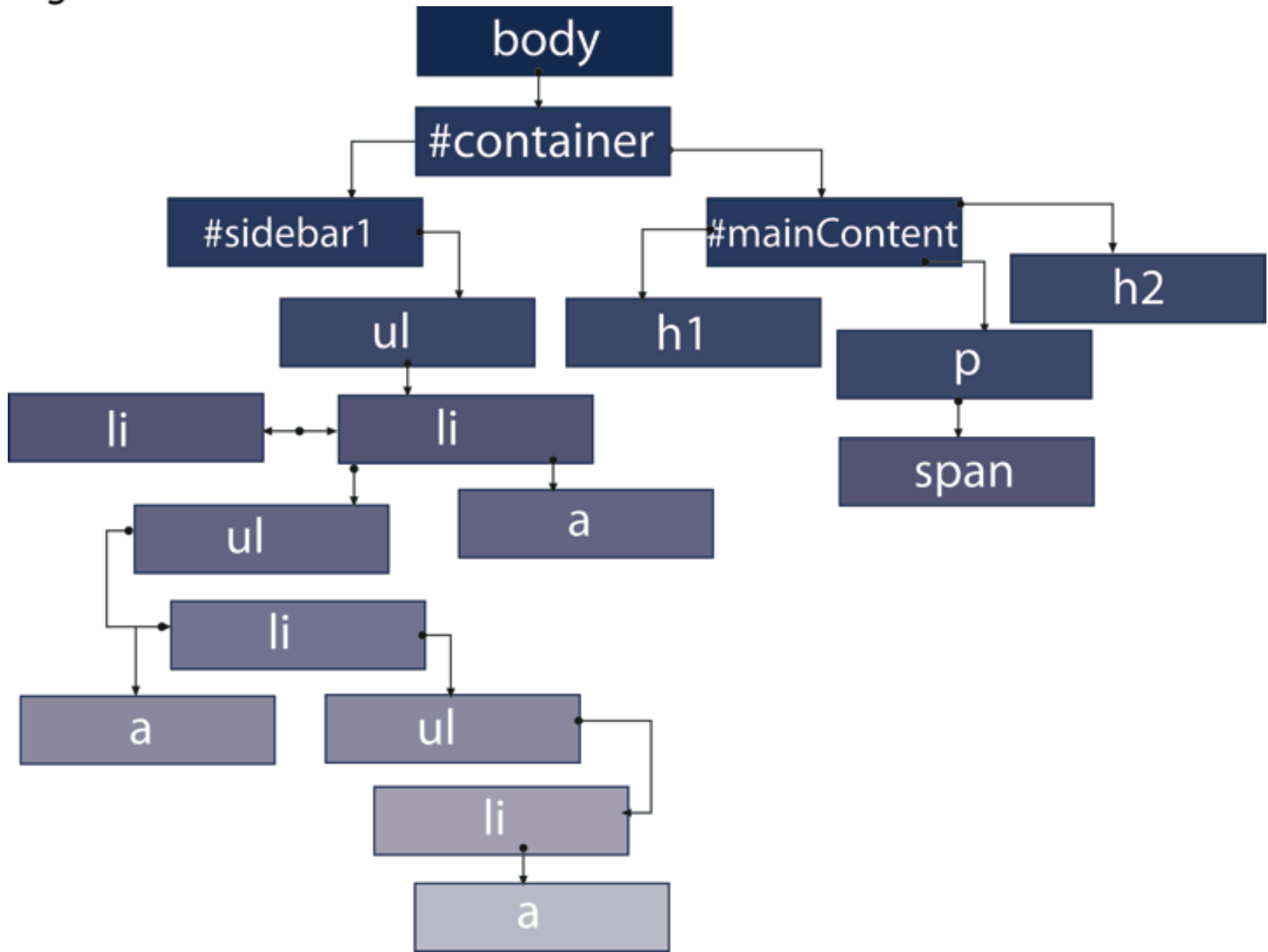
- ▶ Wrong in **all** browsers?
- ▶ Wrong in all **but** one browser?
- ▶ Wrong in **one** browser?

Wrong in ALL browsers

- ▶ You're dealing with something other than a bug:
 - ▶ syntax problem (validate your HTML/CSS)
 - misspelling
 - referencing the wrong element
 - use of a CSS property or value that doesn't exist
 - malformed HTML or CSS
 - ▶ specificity or cascade issue

Document Tree and Cascade

- ▶ This is the HTML elements relationship to each other and order in the HTML code.
 - ▶ **<body>** is the oldest ancestor
 - ▶ These elements can be nested within each other (looks like a family tree)
 - ▶ Other elements are descendants of the body and can be siblings, parents, or children in relation to each other



Specificity

Selector types have differing specificity (not base 10):

- ▶ ID - 1,0,0
- ▶ class - 0,1,0
- ▶ element - 0,0,1

To calculate the specificity of a descendant selector, you add the selector types, making sure to place them in the right position:

- ▶ #wrapper #mainContent p - 2,0,1
- ▶ .floatRight p a - 0,1,2

Wrong in all but one browser?

- ▶ minor differences may be browser default settings
 - ▶ test by putting in the universal selector
 - * { margin:0; padding:0; border:0; }
 - ▶ need to reset them either globally or rule by rule
- ▶ You've probably been previewing with IE6 during development
 - ▶ exploiting an IE only bug in your layout - need to code to standards, then fix IE

Wrong in one browser?

- ▶ User error (if the browser is IE) - You may have an incorrect property or value in an Internet Explorer Conditional Comment (IECC)
- ▶ Congratulations - You've probably found a bug!
- ▶ What now?

Internet Explorer Conditional Comments

Internet Explorer Conditional Comments (IECC) are a gift from Microsoft used to feed values only to their IE browser.

- ▶ Target all IE browsers `<!--[if IE]>`
- ▶ Target one IE browser `<!--[if IE 5.5]>`
- ▶ Target all below one browser `<!--[if lt IE 6]>`
- ▶ Target all above or equal to `<!--[if gte IE 7]>`

Internet Explorer Conditional Comments

```
<!--[if lte IE 5.5]>
```

```
<style>
```

```
  #container { width: 780px; }
```

```
  #sidebar1 { width: 230px; }
```

```
</style>
```

```
<![endif]-->
```

```
<!--[if gte IE 7]>
```

```
<link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="../ie7.css ">
```

```
<![endif]-->
```

Using Dreamweaver to Diagnose



Browser Compatibility Check (BCC)

Sometimes, when previewing in a standards-compliant browser, you've not even seen a bug yet. Dreamweaver may spot it for you.

- ▶ Browser Compatibility Check checks for a number of common bugs
- ▶ Fixes are posted on CSS Advisor (community bug wiki)

Using Dreamweaver for the “other bugs”

You’ve verified it’s a bug that BCC doesn’t spot in its check - what now?

- ▶ Use Dreamweaver’s Visual Aids
- ▶ Zoom feature when necessary
- ▶ Code commenting to hide possible problems
- ▶ Code collapse to work between areas

Moving Outside Dreamweaver

Sometimes you need to work in the browser.

- ▶ Chris Pederick's Web Developer's Toolbar for Firefox
 - ▶ Outline block level elements
 - ▶ Edit CSS and HTML in the browser
 - ▶ Validation tools
- ▶ Firebug (also for Firefox) shows the DOM

Create a Minimum Test Case

Time to break it down to the lowest common denominator. Simplify the cascade.

- ▶ Make a copy of your documents

- ▶ Cut chunks of CSS

Does the bug still reproduce?

If yes, leave that code out

If the bug is gone, paste it into the head

- ▶ Be sure to preserve the order of the cascade

Create a Minimum Test Case

Once the CSS is simplified, move to the HTML

- ▶ Remove HTML using the same method until you only have the elements left on the page that reproduce the bug.
- ▶ By now, you should have a clue to the triggers and fixes. If you need help, you can either google a fix or beg for mercy on a list (list moderators LOVE minimum test cases and you'll get help quicker).

Bugs IN Dreamweaver



Design Time Style Sheets

Occasionally there's a property or coding method that gives Dreamweaver a rendering issue.

- ▶ Design Time Style Sheets
 - ▶ Apply through Text > CSS Styles > Design-time...
or CSS Styles panel context menu
- ▶ May need to place !important next to values to override
 - ▶ display: block **!important;**
- ▶ Shown only in the design environment
- ▶ Not uploaded to the server unless Contribute is used

Q&A

