COMSC-031
Web Site Development - Part 2
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In addition to creating styles for text, you can use CSS to create styles that position and align elements on a page. Using styles with divs and other HTML tags, you can create complex layouts in Dreamweaver that meet today’s Web standards.
Chapter 13 Topics: Designing a Web Site CSS

- Introduction to AP Divs
- Create an AP Div with Content
- Resize and Reposition AP Divs
- Change the Stacking Order of AP Divs
- Add a Behavior to an AP Div
- Create Complex Designs with AP Divs
- Create a Nested AP Div
- Create a Centered CSS Layout
- Edit a CSS Layout
Introducing CSS Layouts (pg 226)

- You can use advanced Dreamweaver tools to create CSS layouts that are flexible, adapt well to different screen sizes and resolutions, and are accessible to all you site visitors.
Introducing CSS Layouts

The CSS Box Model

- One of the most popular and recommended approaches to Web design today is the CSS Box model.

- By combining a series of HTML div tags with CSS styles, it is possible to create designs that are complex in their appearance but simple in their construction.

- One of the advantages of this model is that Web pages with CSS layouts display well on a variety of devices.
Alignment with Floats

- Instead of using the familiar left and right alignment icons, the best approach to aligning images and other elements with CSS is to create styles that use floats.
- By floating elements to the right or left of a page, you can align them and cause adjustment elements, such as text, to wrap around them.
Introducing CSS Layouts (pg 227)

Centering CSS Layouts

- The Center attribute is no longer recommended in CSS, so how do you center a design?
- The trick is to set the **margins** on both the left and right div to "**auto**", or automatic. This causes to automatically add the same amount of margin space to both sides of the element, effectively centering it on the page.
Introducing CSS Layouts (pg 227)

Dreamweaver’s CSS Layouts

- Dreamweaver includes a large collection of CSS layouts that are carefully designed and ready for you to use to create your own Web pages.

- Although you will need to edit the CSS styles to customize these layouts, they can give you a great head start and help you avoid some of the common layout challenges of CSS.
Introducing CSS Layouts (pg 227)

AP Div Basics

- AP Divs are **discrete blocks** of content that you can precisely position on the page, make movable by the user and even make invisible.
- Most significantly, you can **stack AP Divs** on top of each other.
- AP Divs can contain any kind of content, including text, graphics, tables and even other AP Divs.
Nested AP Divs

- AP Divs can contain nested AP Divs, which create areas of content that stay linked together on a page for better control during the production of Web pages.
- Nested, or child, AP Divs can **inherit** the properties of their parent divs, including visibility or invisibility.
- You can also nest AP Divs within divs that do not use absolute positioning.
Dreamweaver includes a collection of CSS layouts to make it easy to design pages using HTML div tags and styles.

Creating a new page with a CSS layout is as easy as creating a new blank page—but with the advantage of already having many design elements in place.
Create a Web Page with a CSS Layout (pg 228)

Create a centered CSS layout

1. Click File.
2. Click New
3. Click Blank Page
4. Click HTML
5. Select a centered layout option
6. Click Create
Create a Web Page with a CSS Layout (pg 228)

Create a centered CSS layout
Create a Web Page with a CSS Layout (pg 228)

Create a centered CSS layout

3 4

5

6
Create a Web Page with a CSS Layout  (pg 229)

Create a centered CSS layout

7. **Save** the page.
8. Add a **page title** by changing the text here.
9. Replace the placeholder text in the layout with your own text.
Create a Web Page with a CSS Layout (pg 229)

Create a centered CSS layout

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Praesent aliquam, justo
convallis luctus rutrum, erat nulla fermentum diam, at nonummy quam ante ac
Maecenas urna purus, fermentum id, molestie in, commodo pretium, felis. Nam
quam ut lacus. Quisque ornare risus quis ligula. Phasellus tristique purus a aug
condimentum adipiscing. Aenean sagittis. Etiam leo pede, rhoncus venenatis, et
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potenti. Fusce varius urna id quam. Sed neque mi, varius eget, tincidunt nec, sit
libero. In eget purus. Vestibulum ut nisi. Donec eu mi sed turpis feugiat
turpis arcus, pentesque egest, cursus et, fermentum ut, sapien. Fusce metus n
eleifend sollicitudin, molestie id, varius et, nibh. Donec nec libero.

H2 level heading

<body>...DivHeader...<h2>
Can I create new styles for a CSS layout?

- Yes. You can create and apply new styles in a CSS layout just as you would any other page in Dreamweaver.
- Dreamweaver’s CSS layouts include a collection of styles needed to create the original design, but you can add as many styles as needed for formatting and layout.
Can I save CSS layout styles to an external style sheet?

- Yes. You can always move styles to an external style sheet.
- First, create a new CSS file, then attach it to the page, and finally click and drag the styles into the external style sheet in the CSS Styles panel.
Edit a CSS Layout (pg 230)

- You can edit the CSS Layout that are included in Dreamweaver.
- However, if you are not familiar with CSS, editing one of these page layouts can be confusing.
- CSS layouts cannot be edited in the Design area of Dreamweaver.
- You must change the styles in the CSS Styles panel to edit the layout.
Edit a CSS Layout

1. Double-click the name of any style that you want to change.
2. Click the Background category
3. Click the Background Color Well
4. Click a color
5. Click OK
The background color of the header changes to the selected color.

The styles updates in the CSS Styles panel, and the new style option displays in the Properties pane.

You can also edit CSS styles in the Properties pane.
How do I know which style corresponds to each part of the layout?

- To identify what style is controlling the design of any part of the page, place your cursor in the page where you want to change the style and look at the Tag selector at the bottom of the Design area.
- In the Tag Selector, you see all of the tags that surround whatever you have selected in the Design area.
- Another way to identify styles is to view the HTML source code. Choose the Split view and select some text or an image that is an area of the page that you want to edit.
- Then look in the code to see what style is applied to your selection.
Add an Image to the Header  (pg 232)

- All of Dreamweaver’s CSS layouts include an area at the top of the page for a header.
- You can add images or text to the header area.
- If you want to add only text, delete the image placeholder and type text as you would anywhere on the page.
Can I change the width of a CSS layout?

- Yes. The width setting for the CSS layouts in Dreamweaver is controlled by the class style named `.container`.
- Select `.container` style name in the CSS Styles panel and then change the width setting to alter the width of the entire CSS layout.
Add Images to the a CSS Layout  (pg 234)

- You can insert images into a CSS layout just as you would insert them into any other pages in Dreamweaver.
- After you have inserted an image, you can format and align it using CSS.
Can I change the background color of the page?

- Yes, you can change the background color of the entire page in a CSS layout just like you would change the background color on any page.

- By using the **Page properties** dialog box. Click Window and then click Page Properties to open the dialog box.

- Choose **Background category** and use the Background Color field to select a color.
Can I change the background color of only a selection of the page?

- You can change or add color to any selection of the page by creating a rule that assigns a color to the style that controls that part of the page.
- For example, to change the background color of an individual div tag in the design, you have to edit the corresponding CSS style.
Using Floats to Align Elements  (pg 236)

- You can use CSS styles to align images and other elements on a Web page.
- Many designers create class styles that float elements to the right and left, an ideal way to wrap text around an image.
- Many of Dreamweaver’s CSS layouts include class styles for floats with the name `fltrt` to float elements to the right and `fltlft` to float elements to the left.
Can I create my own styles to float elements to the right or left?

- Yes, you can use floats in many different kinds of styles.
- To create a style to float elements to the left or right, create a new style and in the **Box category**, choose Right or Left from the **Float drop-down list**.
- You can combine many rules in one style.
You can change the overall width of any page design.

You can also change the width of sections of a design, such as a sidebar, by changing the width settings in the corresponding CSS style.

All the CSS layouts in Dreamweaver CSS include a class style named `.container` that controls the width of the entire design area.
Why can I not drag the edge of a column to change the size?

- You cannot change a CSS layout by simply clicking and dragging the border of a div tag.
- To edit the width or height of any of the divs in a Dreamweaver CSS layout, you have to edit the corresponding CSS style.
- In most CSS layouts on the Web, that style is named container or wrapper.
How wide should I make my Web page?

- As a general rule, you should create Web page layouts that are 780 pixels wide or 960 pixels wide, depending on the size of the monitors you expect your visitors use.
- Most Web designers today create layouts that are **960 pixels wide** because most computers today have monitors that support at least 1024 7 x 768 screen resolution.
- Limit the size to 960 even though it will be displayed on a 1024 screen to leave room for the browser scroll bars.
You can change the color of a headline by creating a new style to control the appearance of the headline or by editing an existing style that affects the headline.

In this section, you create a new style to change the headline color.
How do I change the font face and size of a headline?

- In the steps show here, you can create a style when you change the color of the headline.
- By editing the same style, you can change the font face, font size, and other attributes.
- Just select the headline and then choose a font from the Font drop-down list in the Properties inspector.
You can create styles using the class, tag, or ID selectors, or you can create a **compound style** that **combines one or more styles** to create a more specific style.

In the example shown in this section, a compound style is used to add a border to the image in the main area of the page without adding a border to the image in the header.
Why would I use a style to add a border instead of just using Border field in the Properties inspector?

- You can add, remove, or enlarge the border around an image by selecting the image and then entering a size in pixels in the Border field in the Properties inspector.
- If you set the border to 0, it will not be visible. This is a common trick when you turn an image into a link and want to get rid of the blue border that indicates the image is a link.
Introduction to AP Divs

AP Div Basics

- AP Divs are *discrete blocks* of content that you can precisely position on the page, make movable by the user, and even make invisible.

- Most significantly you can stack AP Divs on top of each other.

- AP Divs can *contain* any kind of content including text, images, tables and even other AP Divs.
Introduction to AP Divs (pg 220)

- Parent AP Div
- Child AP Div
- Company Banner/Logo
- Navigation Bar
- Content

Div Tag Container
Introduction to AP Divs (pg 220)
Creating Centered CSS Designs

- AP Divs offer one of the easiest options for creating intricate Web designs, but because they are absolute positioning, they are fixed on the page and cannot be centered with a browser window.
- To create centered designs, you can use **DIV tags** without absolute positioning by creating CSS styles to control the display of your page elements.
- Dreamweaver CS5.5 features many new CSS layouts to make it easier to use this complex design options.

Introduction to AP Divs
Create Div Tag Container

1. Place **cursor** at the top of the page.
2. Select **Insert**
3. Click **Layout Objects**
4. Click **Div Tag**
5. Select the **Class**
6. Enter the **ID**
Create Div Tag Container

1. Navigate to the Insert menu.
2. Select "Insert" from the top menu bar.
3. Click on "Layout Objects" from the drop-down menu.
4. Choose "Div Tag" from the list of objects.
5. In the "Insert Div Tag" dialog box, select "At insertion point" for Insert.
6. Set the Class and ID to "outsidecontainer".
Create Div Tag Container

This is the style rule definition for the Div tag container. The margin is set to "auto" to center the content within the Div Tag.
AP Divs are scalable rectangles, inside of which you can place text, images, and just about anything else you can include in a Web page.

Although they work similarly to tables by providing design control, they are much more precise and much more intuitive to use because you can simply click and drag to create an AP Div anywhere on a page.

AP Divs include an absolute positioning setting, which means that they maintain their position on a page irrespective of the browser size.
Create the Parent AP Div Container

1. Place cursor inside the Div Tag container.
2. Select Insert
3. Click on Layout Objects
4. Select AP Div
Create the Parent AP Div Container
Create the Parent AP Div Container

5. Select the upper-left corner of the AP Div container.
6. In the CSS panel, select the style rule
7. Right click and apply
Create the Parent AP Div Container
Create the Parent AP Div Container

This is the style rule definition for the parent AP Div container. The width and height matches that of the Div Tag dimensions.
Should I use AP Divs to create a page layout?

- Although AP Divs are very powerful layout tools, they are not the best option for creating an entire page layout.
- AP Divs serve as a nice complement to other page layout options, but when used exclusively, they create very inflexible designs that can look very different in different browsers.
What happens if a browser does not support AP Divs?

- Although the latest versions of Internet Explorer and Firefox support AP Divs consistently, older browsers that do not support AP Divs may not display them as you intended.
- Similarly, text can get cut off if the font size is displayed larger than you intended in a browser and the text exceeds the size of the AP Div.
Create a Nested AP Div

(pg 250)

- A nested AP Div is often called a **child** AP Div, and the AP Div that contains a nested AP Div is called the **parent** AP Div.
- They act as a unit on the page; if the parent AP Div moves, the child goes with it.
- You can move the child AP Div independently of the parent, but the nested AP Divs always stay linked.
Create the Nested (Child) AP Div Container

1. Place cursor inside the parent AP Div container.
2. Select Insert
3. Click Layout Objects
4. Select AP Div
Create the Nested (Child) AP Div Container
Create the Nested (Child) AP Div Container

5. Select the upper-left corner of the AP Div container.
6. In the CSS panel, select the style rule.
7. Right click and select Apply.
Create the Nested (Child) AP Div Container
Create the Nested (Child) AP Div Container

8. Insert/ copy the element objects in the AP Div container (i.e. image, text, library item, etc)
9. Repeat steps 1-8 for the remaining nested AP Div containers
Create the Nested (Child) AP Div Container
Create the Nested (Child) AP Div Container

This is the style rule definition for the child AP Div container. The position is “absolute” the top and left placement from the parent AP Div.
Can I free a nested AP Div?

- Yes, you can take a nested AP Div out of its parent AP Div.
- Click Window, then click CSS Styles, and the click the AP Elements tab to open the AP Elements panel.
- Click the nested AP Div and drag it above the parent AP Div.
- The AP Div appears on its own line in the AP Elements panel, the L is removed, and the layer is no longer nested.
- This does not change the location of the AP Div in the page, but it allows you to move the AP Div independently of its parent.
When you create a new AP Div, you can adjust its **position** and **dimensions** to make it fit attractively within the rest of the content of your page.

One of the advantages of AP Divs is that you can move them easily by clicking and dragging them.
Resize and Reposition AP Divs (pg 246)

Click and drag to resize an AP Div

1. Click the tab in the upper-left corner of the AP Div to select it.
2. Click and drag one of the handles.
Resize and Reposition AP Divs  (pg 246)

Click and drag to resize an AP Div

Square, black handles appear around edges of the AP Div
1. Click the tab in the upper-left corner of the AP Div to select it.
2. Type a new measurement into the W (width) field
3. Press <Enter>
4. Type a new measurement into the H (height) field
5. Press <Enter>
Resize and Reposition AP Divs (pg 246)

Click and drag to resize an AP Div

Dreamweaver changes the AP Div’s width and height
Resize and Reposition AP Divs (pg 246)

Reposition with the cursor

1. Click and drag the tab in the upper-left corner of the AP Div to move it to a new position.
Resize and Reposition AP Divs (pg 246)

Click and drag to resize an AP Div

Dreamweaver moves the AP Div to the new location.
Resize and Reposition AP Divs (pg 247)

Reposition with left and top attributes

1. Click the AP Div’s tab to select it.
2. Type the new distance from the **left side** of the window.
3. Type the new distance from the **top** of the window
4. Press <Enter>
Click and drag to resize an AP Div.

Dreamweaver applies the new positioning to the AP Div.
Resize and Reposition AP Divs  (pg 247)

How can I change the visibility of an AP Div?

- To change an AP Div’s visibility, select an AP Div and then click the **Vis** in the Property inspector.
- You can make an AP Div visible or invisible.
- If it is a nested AP Div, then it can inherit its characteristics from its parent, which is enclosing AP Div.
Is there any other way to tell whether an AP Div is visible or invisible?

- Yes. There is visibility column available in the AP Elements tab in the CSS panel.
- Click next to the AP Div name in the visibility column to adjust it.
- The open eye icon, means that the AP Div is visible; the closed eye icon, means that the AP Div is invisible.
- If no icon is showing, visibility is set to the default setting, and the AP Div appears visible, or inherits its visibility.
Change the Stacking Order of AP Divs (pg 248)

- You can change the **stacking order** of AP Divs on a page, thus affecting how they overlap one another.
- You can then hide parts of some AP Divs under other AP Divs.
Change the Stacking Order of AP Divs (pg 248)

Change order in the AP Divs Panel

1. Click the AP Elements tab in the CSS panel.
2. Click and drag the AP Div name in the AP Elements panel above or below another AP Div.
Change the Stacking Order of AP Divs (pg 248)

Change order in the AP Divs Panel

Dreamweaver changes the stacking order of the AP Divs.
Change the Stacking Order of AP Divs  (pg 248)

Change the order with the Z-Index attribute

1. Click the AP Elements tab in the CSS panel.
2. Click the name of an AP Div in the AP Elements panel to select it.
3. Type a new number in the Z-index field.
Change the Stacking Order of AP Divs (pg 248)

Change the order with the Z-Index attribute

When an AP Div is selected, it becomes visible in Design area, event if it s is covered by another AP Div.

The higher the Z-index of an AP Div, the higher it is placed in the stack.
Can I use any number for the Z-index?

- Yes. You can use any number for your Z-index.
- If you are working with many AP Divs on a page, a good technique is to number them as 10, 20, 30, and so on, instead of 1, 2, and 3.
- That way, if you want to position an AP Div between existing AP Divs, you can number it something like 15 or 25, and you do not have to renumber all of the other Divs to accommodate its new position.
How can I change the name of an AP Div?

- You can change the name of an AP Div in the **Property inspector**.
- First, select the AP Div by clicking its name in the AP Elements panel or by clicking to select the AP Div in the Design area of the page.
- In the name field, in the top-left corner of the Property inspector, you see the current name displayed as text.
- Simply select the text and type the new name.
Create Complex Design with AP Divs

- You can create complex page designs using AP Divs to position elements precisely.
- Using drag and drop, you can move AP Divs to any place on a page.
Create Complex Design with AP Divs

Create complex designs with AP Divs

1. Place **cursor** inside the **content** AP Div container.
2. Select **Insert**
3. Click **Layout Objects**
4. Select **AP Div**
Create Complex Design with AP Divs
Create Complex Design with AP Divs

Create complex designs with AP Divs

5. Select the upper-left corner of the AP Div container.
6. In the CSS panel, select the style rule.
7. Right click and select Apply.
Create Complex Design with AP Divs
Create Complex Design with AP Divs

Create complex designs with AP Divs

8. Insert/copy the element objects in the AP Div container (i.e. image, text, etc)
8a. Open the textcontent.html and select and copy the content

8b. Place the cursor in the “promocontainer” nested AP Div.

8c. Click on Edit and then Paste Special.

8d. The content should now show in the editable region.
Create complex designs with AP Divs

9. Open and click on the style rule “#promocontainer” in the CSS Panel.

10. Click on the **Position Category**

11. Change the Overflow to **“Scroll”**.

12. Click on the **OK** button
Create Complex Design with AP Divs (pg 230)

This is the style rule definition for the child AP Div container. The position is “absolute” with specified width and height definitions.

Change Overflow to “scroll” which will place content within the content container with a scroll bar.
Can I add as many AP Divs as I want to a page?

- Yes. You can add as many AP Divs as you want to a page, and as much content as you want to any given AP Div.
- You can also position the AP Divs anywhere you want on a page, moving them around until you have the design you want.
Can I place an AP Div inside another AP Div?

- Yes. You can create nested AP Divs so that you can place an AP Div inside another AP Div to create an even more complex page design.