



Advanced CSS

Stephanie Sullivan

A wide-angle photograph of rolling, golden-yellow hills under a clear blue sky with a few wispy white clouds. This image serves as the background for the entire slide.

Ideas in motion.



The 2005 Macromedia® Conference

Biography

Stephanie Sullivan

Web Developer, Trainer, Consultant

Founder/Principal - W3Conversions & VioletSky Design

Consultant & contractor for XHTML/CSS development

Partner - CommunityMX.com

Author - DW MX 2004 Magic

Contributing Author - MX Developer's Journal, Macromedia's DevNet Center, and other web publications

Member - DW Task Force for WaSP

Overview

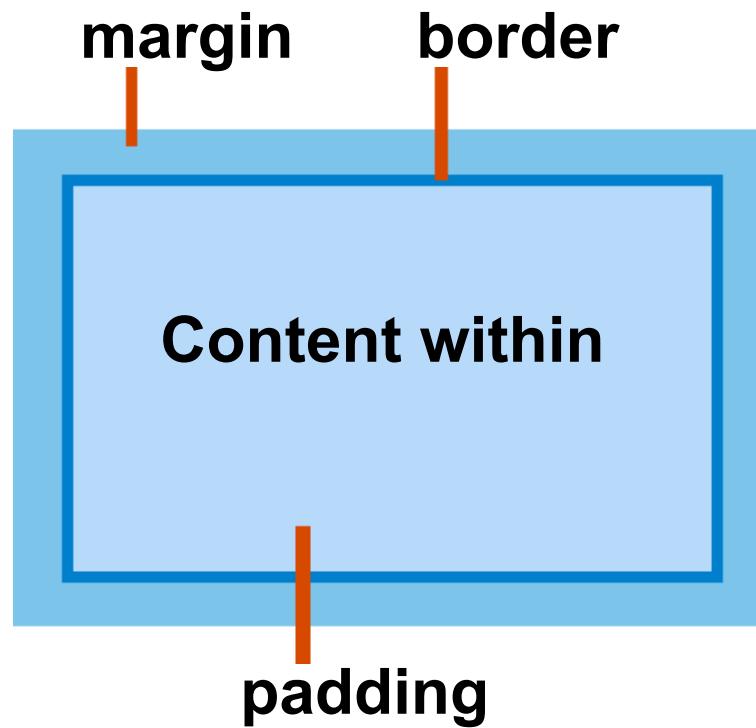
- Absolute Positioning VS Floating
- Clearing Floats
- Faux columns
- Descendant Selector tricks
- Opacity
- Splitting images for reuse

Overview

- Using images for negative space
- Multiple backgrounds & wrappers
- Using Negative Margins
- Separating CSS into separate sheets & directories
- Common bugs and how to swat them

Quick Review

- What is the Box Model?



Quick Review

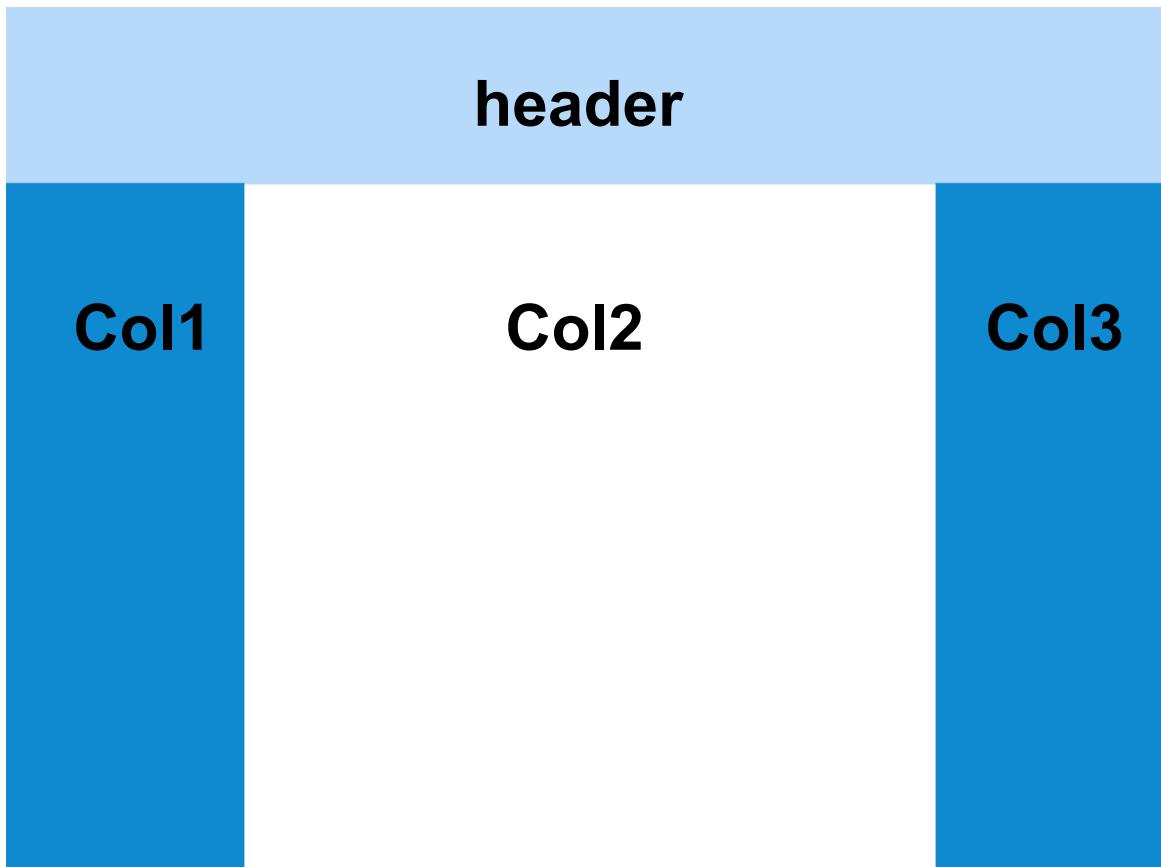
- What is an inline or block element?
- What is meant by the “flow of the document?”
- What is positioning?
 - Static
 - Relative
 - Absolute
 - Fixed

Quick Review

- What is a descendant selector?
 - #nav a:link
 - #content .pod h1
 - ul ul li
- How do you write efficient CSS?
 - Class vs. ID
 - Avoid classitis using type and descendant selectors
 - Using shorthand

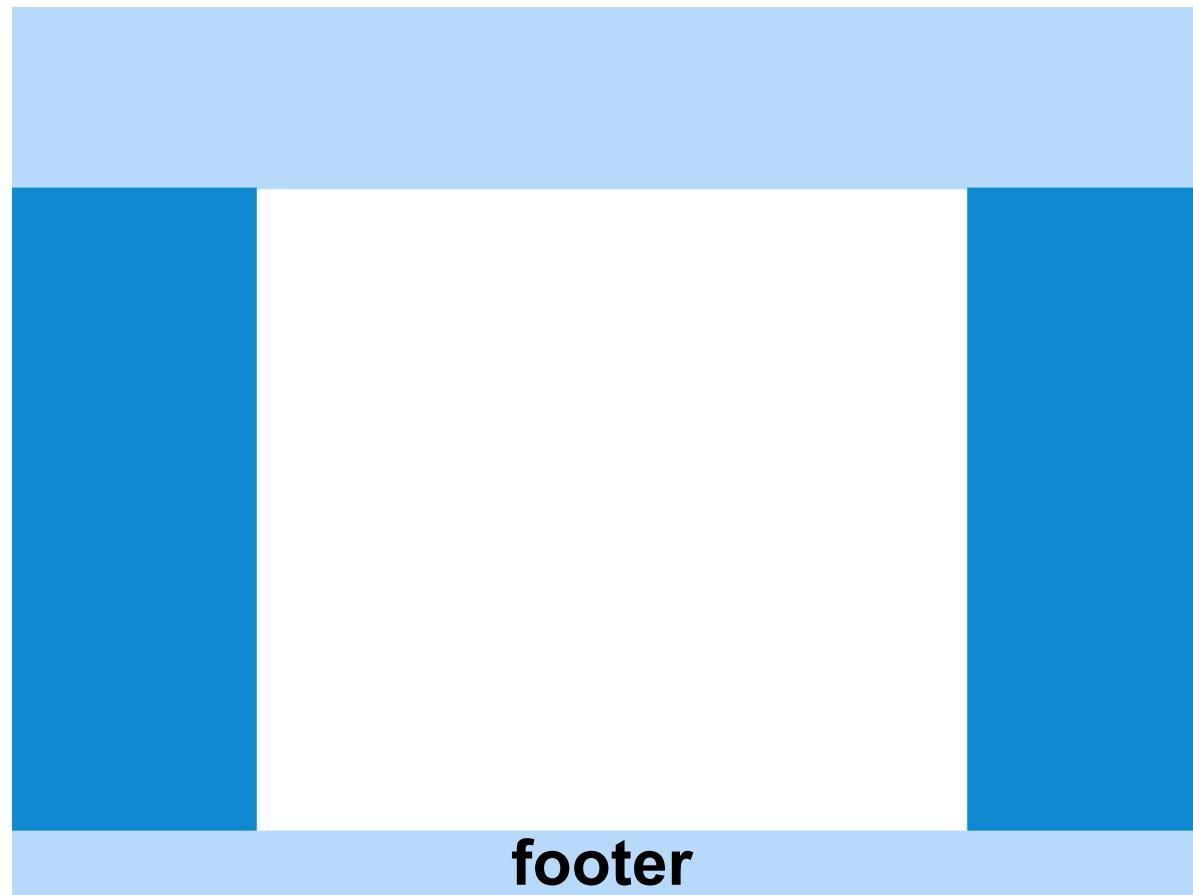
Three Column Layout

- Basic 3 column layout



Add the Footer

- How should footer be added?



Positioning

- Demonstration of Absolute vs Relative Positioning
 - Add content
 - Increase text size

Making it Flow

- Faux columns
- Float order
- Clearing floats

Real World Examples - PopStick

- Faux columns, opacity & multiple wrappers

The screenshot shows the homepage of the POPstick website. At the top, there's a decorative header area with a blue gradient background featuring wavy, radiating lines in red, orange, and yellow. The POPstick logo, which includes the word "POPstick" in a blue sans-serif font with a stylized orange flame icon above the letter "P", is positioned on the left. On the right side of the header, the text "Imagination & Development" is displayed. Below the header, a navigation bar contains links for Home, About, Team, News (which is highlighted in red), and Contact. The main content area has a white background with a subtle shadow effect. On the left, a box contains the text: "Driven by a commitment to Imagination & Development." To the right, a large heading reads: "POPstick brings its solutions to market through three dedicated practice areas." Below this heading, it says: "Visit these sites to experience each one for yourself." Three call-to-action boxes are listed: "POPstick Focus" (Visit Site → → →), "POPstick Outburst" (Visit Site → → →), and "SongSync" (Visit Site → → →). The "SongSync" box contains placeholder text about a new campaign.

POPstick

Imagination & Development

| Home | About | Team | **News** | Contact |

Driven by a commitment to Imagination & Development.

POPstick builds new media solutions for contemporary marketing and communications challenges. In 1998, POPstick pioneered the industry's best-known rich media marketing application, the POPgram. Today we continue to break new ground with a host of revolutionary solutions for marketing driven technology, entertainment and consumer products companies. We bring our technologies and services to market through several dedicated practices, which are located throughout the United States.

United States.

POPstick brings its solutions to market through three dedicated practice areas.

Visit these sites to experience each one for yourself.

POPstick Focus
Visit Site → → →

POPstick Focus equips business-to-business marketers with an array of online promotion technologies based on our award-winning POPgram platform. Our solutions enable marketers to increase brand reach, shorten sales cycles, and deepen customer relationships

POPstick Outburst
Visit Site → → →

POPstick Outburst creates Social Network Marketing sites on your brand. Based our Live Audience technology, these lively interactive communities help marketers increase customer loyalty and sales by turning customers into rabid brand advocates.

SongSync
Visit Site → → →

Something very different is coming very soon. (Hint: When was the last time you heard a familiar song in an online advertising campaign?)

Real World Examples - PopStick

- Faux columns, opacity & multiple wrappers

The image displays three separate rectangular boxes, each representing a different service or product from PopStick. The boxes are arranged horizontally and have thin gray borders. The first box on the left is titled 'POPstick Focus' and features a 'Visit Site' button with three green right-pointing arrows. The text inside describes how POPstick Focus equips business-to-business marketers with online promotion technologies. The middle box is titled 'POPstick Outburst' and also has a 'Visit Site' button with three green right-pointing arrows. It describes how POPstick Outburst creates Social Network Marketing sites based on a brand's live audience. The third box on the right is titled 'SongSync' and has a 'Visit Site' button with four purple right-pointing arrows. It mentions that something very different is coming soon, with a hint about hearing familiar songs in online advertising.

POPstick Focus Visit Site ➔ ➔ ➔	POPstick Outburst Visit Site ➔ ➔ ➔	SongSync Visit Site ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔
POPstick Focus equips business-to-business marketers with an array of online promotion technologies based on our award-winning POPgram platform. Our solutions enable marketers to increase brand reach, shorten sales cycles, and deepen customer relationships	POPstick Outburst creates Social Network Marketing sites on your brand. Based our Live Audience technology, these lively interactive communities help marketers create customer loyalty and sales by turning customers into rabid brand advocates.	Something very different is coming very soon. (Hint: When was the last time you heard a familiar song in an online advertising campaign?)

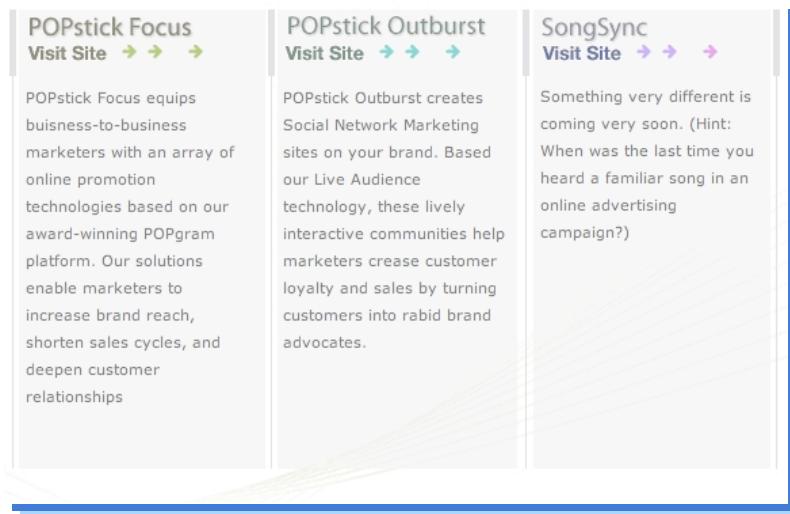
Multiple Wrappers - XHTML

```
<div id="mostOuter">  
  
  <div id="outerBox">  
  
    <div id="boxContainer">  
  
      <div>Content of column one</div>  
  
      <div>Content of column two</div>  
  
      <div>Content of column three</div>  
  
      <br class="brclear" />  
  
    </div>  
  
    </div>  
  
    <br class="brclear" />  
  
  </div>
```



Multiple Wrappers - CSS

```
#mostOuter {  
background: #FFF url(assets/most_outer.gif) repeat-y left top; /* the narrow  
lines and boxes */  
margin-top: 25px;  
}  
  
#outerBox {  
background: url(assets/outer_box.gif) no-repeat left top; /* Shows the thicker  
grey bars */  
position: relative;  
}  
  
#boxContainer {  
width: 620px;  
}  
  
#boxContainer div {  
float: left;  
width: 165px;  
padding: 3px 0 10px 15px;  
margin: 0 10px 0 0;  
}
```



Opacity - CSS

```
#mostOuter {  
  
background: #FFF url(assets/most_outer.gif) repeat-y left top;  
/* the narrow lines and boxes */  
  
margin-top: 25px;  
  
position: relative; /* forces the moz opacity to work */  
  
filter: alpha(opacity=80); /* IE opacity */  
  
-moz-opacity: 0.80; /* mozilla opacity */  
  
opacity: 0.8; /* CSS3 opacity */ }  
  
/* forces the proprietary alpha filter to work in IE \*/  
  
* html #mostOuter {  
  
height: 1%;  
  
}  
  
/* end hack */
```

POPstick Focus

[Visit Site](#) → → →

POPstick Focus equips business-to-business marketers with an array of online promotion technologies based on our award-winning POPgram platform. Our solutions enable marketers to increase brand reach, shorten sales cycles, and deepen customer relationships.

POPstick Outburst

[Visit Site](#) → → →

POPstick Outburst creates Social Network Marketing sites on your brand. Based our Live Audience technology, these lively interactive communities help marketers increase customer loyalty and sales by turning customers into rabid brand advocates.

SongSync

[Visit Site](#) → → →

Something very different is coming very soon. (Hint: When was the last time you heard a familiar song in an online advertising campaign?)

Real World Examples - Anteo

- Multiple wrappers, sIFR & split backgrounds

The screenshot displays the Anteo website's homepage and several content modules:

- Header:** Features a purple gradient background with a city skyline silhouette. Includes links for "MAPPA DEL SITO", "cerca" (search), "LINKS", "CONTATTACI", and "IL TUO ACCOUNT". The Anteo logo, "ANTEO Cooperativa Sociale", is centered.
- Navigation Bar:** A horizontal bar with five items: "PRIMA PAGINA", "LA COOPERATIVA", "AREE DI INTERVENTO", "FORMAZIONE", and "ATTIVITA VARIE".
- NEWS Module:** A red-themed module with two news items. Each item has a thumbnail, a title ("NEWS TITLE"), and a snippet of text followed by a "Comments >>" link.
- INTRANET Module:** A blue-themed module with a title "INTRANET" and a small icon. It contains a snippet of text and a "Comments >>" link.
- FOCUS Module:** A green-themed module with three columns labeled "FOCUS 1", "FOCUS 2", and "FOCUS 3". Each column contains a snippet of text.
- NEWS FROM EQUALDOC Module:** An orange-themed module with a title "NEWS FROM EQUALDOC" and a snippet of text.
- POLLS Module:** A light blue-themed module with a title "POLL" and a snippet of text.

Real World Examples - Anteo

- Multiple wrappers

Rollovers

Left side

Right side



Multiple Wrappers

```
<div id="navwrap">

  <div id="nav">

    <ul>

      <li id="primalnk"><a href="#">link one</a></li>

      <li id="cooplnk"><a href="#">link two</a></li>

      <li id="areeelnk"><a href="#">link three</a></li>

    </ul>

    <br class="brclear" />

  </div>

</div>
```



Real World Examples - Anteo

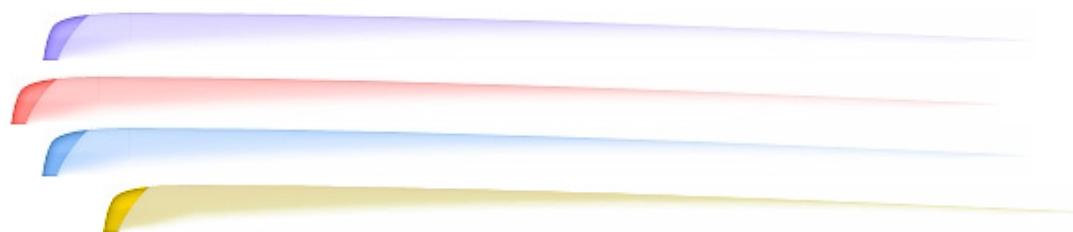
- sIFR

- Use any font - even when only on your machine
- Uses JavaScript and Flash - falls back to pure text/CSS
- Create Flash swf of a dynamic alphabet
- Insert JavaScript, CSS and tune



Real World Examples - Anteo

- Split backgrounds



tops



Common bottoms

Split Backgrounds

```
<div id="content">

  <div id="redpod" > <!-- places colored top -->

    <div id="pod" > <!-- used on every pod -->

      <h1>sIFRized header</h1>

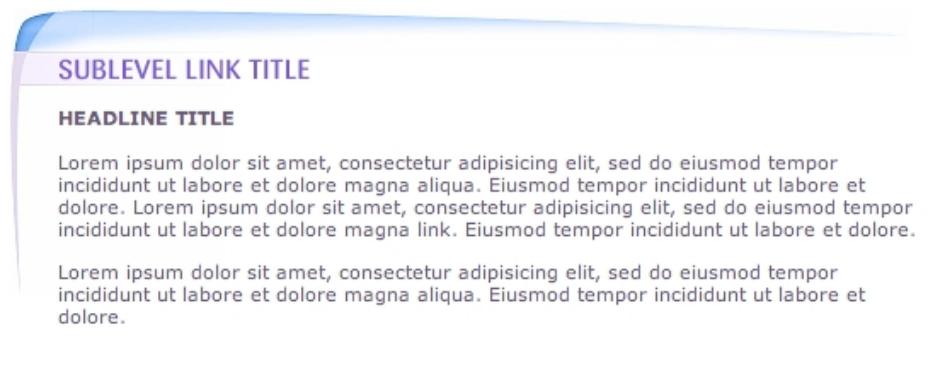
      <p>Content of the pod</p>

      <br class="brclear" />

    </div> <!-- closes pod -->

  </div> <!-- closes redpod -->

</div> <!-- closes content -->
```



Real World Examples - FlexRight

- Local CSS, dependant selectors and AP divs



The screenshot shows the top portion of the FlexRight website. It features a logo with the text "RIGHT PLANS RIGHT NOW" and "FLEX RIGHT". Below the logo is a navigation bar with three tabs: "RIGHT FOR EMPLOYEES" (highlighted in yellow), "RIGHT FOR EMPLOYERS", and "FLEXRIGHT ADVANTAGE". Underneath the navigation bar is a banner with a photo of two business people smiling. To the right of the banner is a teal-colored box containing the text "RIGHT PLANS RIGHT NOW".

- Introduction
- Health Care
- Dependent Care
- Commuter Assist
- I'm Interested

Sounds great, I'd like to find out the specifics for my business.
[Please contact me >](#)

FlexRight Offers Three Health Care Options:

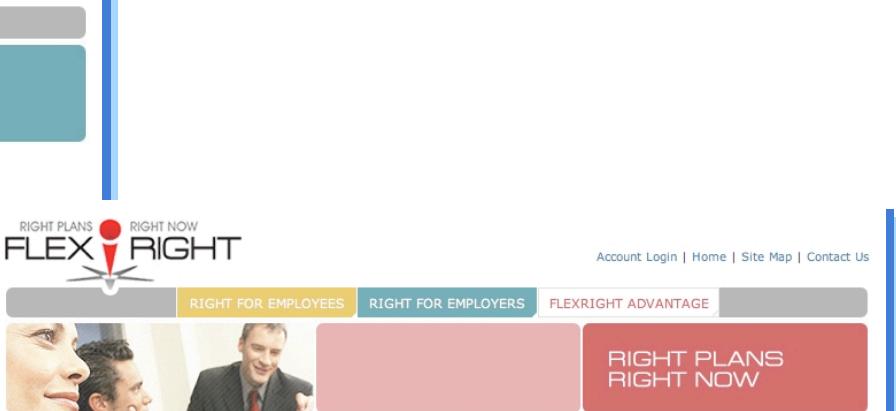
FlexRight MedFlex Account (FSA)

These plans, often called cafeteria plans, flex plans or Section 125, have been available longer than the other flexible benefit options, but still hold strong appeal. With the right plan design, they can be used in combination with some of the newer options like health reimbursement arrangements and health savings accounts. FlexRight offers three Flexible Spending Account options:

1. Pre-Tax Premium Payment
2. MedFlex Account

Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)

An HRA account is funded by the employer and is used to pay for certain healthcare-related expenses. The reimbursements are not taxable to the employee and are tax deductible for the employer. The most common HRA is in combination with a higher deductible health plan. The employee benefits from lower premium cost, but the higher deductible cost to the employee is cushioned with HRA dollars. [More...](#)



The screenshot shows the top portion of the FlexRight website. It features a logo with the text "RIGHT PLANS RIGHT NOW" and "FLEX RIGHT". Below the logo is a navigation bar with three tabs: "RIGHT FOR EMPLOYEES" (highlighted in blue), "RIGHT FOR EMPLOYERS", and "FLEXRIGHT ADVANTAGE". Underneath the navigation bar is a banner with a photo of three business people smiling. To the right of the banner is a red-colored box containing the text "RIGHT PLANS RIGHT NOW".

The sidebar on the left contains the same navigation menu as the first screenshot: "Introduction", "Health Care", "Dependent Care", "Commuter Assist", and "I'm Interested".

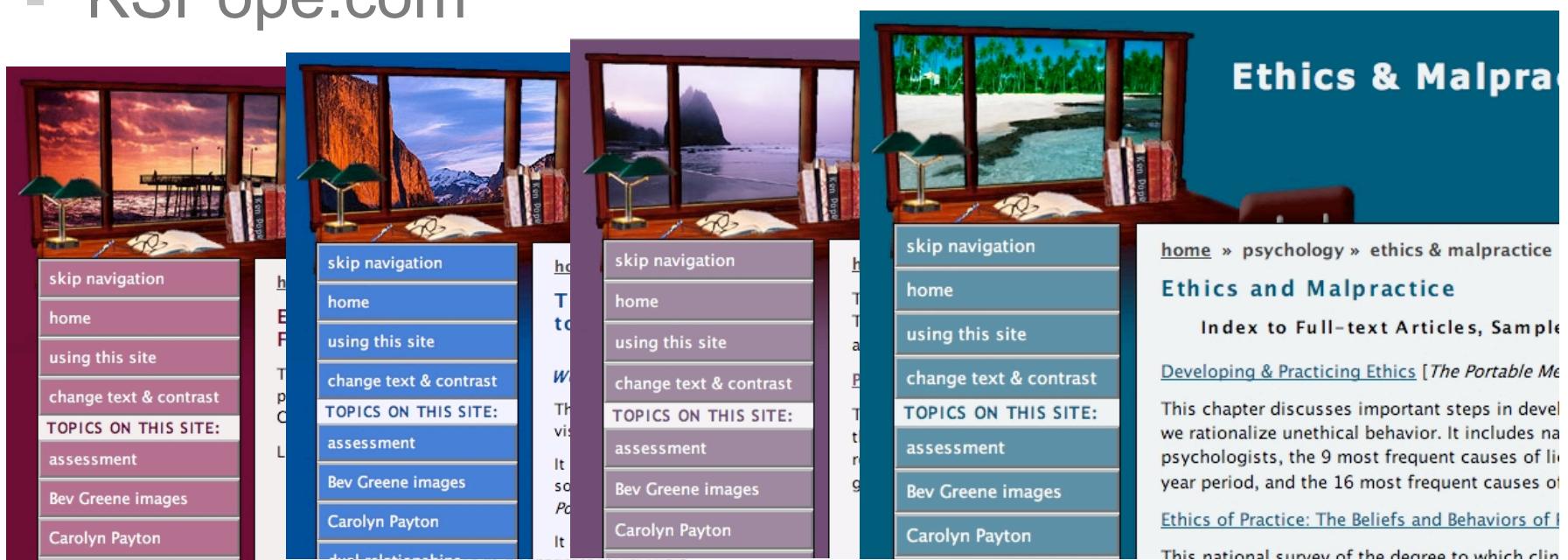
The main content area includes sections for "FlexRight Offers Three Health Care Options:", "FlexRight MedFlex Account (FSA)", "Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)", and "About FlexRight".

The "About FlexRight" section includes a sub-section for "Why FlexRight?", "About Us", and "Contact Us".

A call-to-action button at the bottom right of the main content area says "CLICK HERE TO CHAT WITH US".

Local CSS

- Site's CSS is broken into two pages
 - flex.css (main structure and all universal selectors)
 - local.css (placed in individual directories - color only)
- KSPope.com



Dependant Selectors (on Body Element)

- Create two or three columns

```
<body class="two">

#faux {
    background: url(images/divider.gif) repeat-y 498px 0px;
    margin: 25px 0;
}

body.two #faux {
    background: url(none);
}

body.two #callout {
    display:none;
}
```

Descendant Selectors (on Body Element)

- Navigation/Site section indicator (you are here)

```
<body id="employer" class="two">  
  
body#employer #employerlnk a {  
    /*selectors for button */  
}
```

- Pay attention to specificity
 - `#about .about a`
 - `body#aboutpg #nav li#aboutlnk a`
- There are many creative, powerful uses for descendant selectors

Absolutely Positioned (AP) divs

- AP elements

- should be used sparingly and appropriately
- should rarely contain resizable content like text
- should not be routinely styled inline (DW layers)
- are positioned within the last positioned parent (relative)



- Navigation bar

- Dual wrappers for “end caps”
- grey color between as background color
- logo placed over the bar as an AP image

Common Bugs and Coding Issues

- Is it really a bug?
- Use Tag selector & CSS Styles panel
 - Click into element and select it with the tag selector
 - View the properties and rules panes of the CSS panel for a value farther up the cascade that overrides your desired outcome (hover to view specificity)
- Validate your HTML and CSS to verify they are to standards with no errors
 - It's simpler to code to standards and hack as needed for IE

Ways to Debug

- Use div visualization feature
 - Place background colors on each div
 - Show box model
- Use individual browser extensions to visualize
 - Firefox -- Chris Pederick's Web Developer's Toolbar
 - Internet Explorer -- Developer Toolbar (beta)
 - Safari -
- Create a test case with only the basic divs

Most Common Bugs

- IE - Float Drop due to 3px bug or doubling margins (star filter)
- List white space, and other *unaccounted for* white space differences (strip white space - tags touching)
- IE - requires a container to have dimensions/layout (Holly hack) -- <http://positioniseverything.net> for IE PC info
- IE Mac - various issues - many relating to dimensions (tan hack) -- <http://www.l-c-n.com> for IE Mac info
- Mozilla-based - issue with margin collapse - protruding from a container causing extra space (remove top and/or bottom margins of element inside)

Magic Bullets - sometimes

- Add position: relative; to the element
- Use the Holly hack

```
/* Hides from IE5-mac */
* html .buggybox {height: 1%;}
/* End hide from IE5-mac */
```

- Create your own bug snippets (or download from CMX)

Summary

- Take advantage of the flow of the document
Go with the flow -- not against it
- Use creative methods of display:
 - Multiple divs and backgrounds
 - Negative margins
 - Faux backgrounds
 - Negative space
 - Opacity
 - Break-up CSS and background images
 - Get to know sIFR
- Validate pages and be sure it's a bug with DW's CSS panel and visualization features
- Use snippets to speed up work

Resources

- Position is Everything
<http://www.positioniseverything.net/>
- Mac IE 5: oddities
<http://l-c-n.com/IE5tests/>
- Community MX
<http://communitymx.com/>
- CSS Zen Garden
<http://csszengarden.com/>
- W3Conversions
<http://w3conversions.com/>
- sIFR Information
<http://mikeindustries.com/sifr/>



Thank you.

Ideas in motion.

MAX

The 2005 Macromedia® Conference

Real World Examples - Wild Spirit Gallery

- Negative margins

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Wild Spirit Gallery website. The header features a logo for "Fine Art of the West" with a horse silhouette and the text "Wild Spirit Gallery". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT THE GALLERY, NEWS & EVENTS, ARTISTS & WORKS, FOR OUR ARTISTS, ABOUT PAGOSA SPRINGS, KEEP IN TOUCH, and SEND PAGE TO A FRIEND. The main content area has a "WELCOME" section with a photograph of a gallery interior. To the right of the welcome section is a text area for introduction, followed by a paragraph of placeholder text (Lorem Ipsum). Below this is a featured artist section for "JOYCE STOLAROFF" with a photograph of her painting "Red Dog, White Flowers". At the bottom of the page is a copyright notice and a credit for site development.

**Fine Art
of the West**

**Wild Spirit
Gallery**

HOME

ABOUT THE GALLERY

NEWS & EVENTS

ARTISTS & WORKS

FOR OUR ARTISTS

ABOUT PAGOSA SPRINGS

KEEP IN TOUCH

SEND PAGE TO A FRIEND

WELCOME

This area is provided for introduction text where you can provide a brief description of the gallery and the type of artists represented.

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and **typesetting** industry. Lorem Ipsum dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type (roll-over) and scrambled it to make a type specimen book.

JOYCE STOLAROFF

Area for featured content and exhibit dates, openings, publications, just general info overall. And we need to see what happens when we fill this space so I'll just keep on typing until I have enough to make a difference.


Red Dog, White Flowers

©Wild Spirit Gallery, 2005. All rights reserved.

Site Development by [Electric Sage Designs](#).

Real World Examples - Wild Spirit Gallery

- Negative margins
 - Must have positioning
 - Goes in the opposite direction from a normal margin
 - margin-top: -10px; pulls the element up 10px

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of a website for 'Wild Spirit Gallery'. Both screenshots feature a header with the word 'WELCOME' and a photograph of an art gallery interior with a statue on a pedestal. Below the header, there is a block of text and a second photograph.

Screenshot 1 (Left): The text block contains the following content:

- WELCOME**
-
- This area is provided for introduction text where you can provide a brief description of the gallery and the type of artists represented.
- Lore ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lore ipsum dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type (roll-over) and scrambled it to make a type specimen book.

Screenshot 2 (Right): The text block contains the following content:

- WELCOME**
-
- This area is provided for introduction text where you can provide a brief description of the gallery and the type of artists represented.
- Lore ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and **typesetting** industry. Lore ipsum dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type (roll-over) and scrambled it to make a type specimen book.

In both screenshots, the text block is positioned below the header and above the photographs. In the right screenshot, the text 'Lore ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and **typesetting** industry.' includes a bolded word, while in the left screenshot, it includes a typesetting word.

Negative Margins - XHTML

```
<div id="content">  
  <div id="welcome">  
    <div class="podtext">  
      <p>This area is provided for introduction text where you can  
      provide a brief description of the gallery and the type of  
      artists represented.</p>  
    </div> <!-- closes welcome podtext-->  
    <div class="pod">  
      <h1>Welcome</h1>  
        
    </div> <!-- closes pod-->  
    <br class="cleararrt" />  
  </div> <!-- closes welcome-->  
</div> <!-- closes content-->
```

Negative Margins - CSS

```
#welcome {  
    margin: 1.4em 0 0;  
    border-top: 1px solid #5D3528;  
}  
  
#welcome .pod {  
    background: #5D3528 url(images/pod_gradient.jpg) repeat-y top right;  
    width: 217px;  
    padding: 0 0 20px 10px;  
    margin-top: -1.6em; /* this pulls the pod up so that the lines are aligned */  
    position: relative; /* this allows the negative margin */  
}  
  
#welcome .podtext {  
    float: right;  
    width: 245px;  
}  
  
#welcome h1 {  
    border-bottom: 1px solid #FFF; /* followed by more values ... */
```