

Web coding - under the bonnet with Dave Gash

Novotel Surfers Paradise
Monday, October 15th, 2018

Part One: HTML (Structure)

Lecture

Introduces web pages as collections of content, formatting, and behaviour, as provided by HTML, CSS, and JavaScript respectively. Dave will describe how these pieces work together to produce working web pages.

Covers HTML elements as they relate to structuring page content, with emphasis on separation of content and format. Discussion of proper tag construction, nesting, inherent vs. inherited properties, hyperlinks. Focuses on some HTML5 features, including semantic structural tags, and examines how good content structure is the basis of good communication.

Exercise

Edit an HTML page, add content and structural elements, correct existing errors. View and verify page in browser.

Part Two: CSS (Format)

Lecture

Covers CSS rules, again with emphasis on separation of content and format. Describes proper rule construction, cascade order, dependent vs. independent classes, contextual and descendant selectors, IDs, pseudoclasses. Compare inline vs. internal vs. external styles. Focus is on proper selector usage to achieve desired formatting and how that relates to effective communication.

Exercise

Edit a CSS stylesheet, add and correct rules. Attach stylesheet to HTML page, add and correct classes. View and verify page in browser.

Part Three: JavaScript (Behaviour)

Lecture

Covers JavaScript programming and how it provides interactivity to static pages. Describes syntax, statements, functions, parameters, variables, methods, dynamic page modification, debugging. Compares internal vs. external scripts, introduces third-party scripts. Focuses on useful scripts that improve communication via navigation, user interaction, and content presentation.

Exercise

Edit a JavaScript script file, add and correct statements and functions. Attach script file to HTML page, add and correct function calls. View and verify page in browser.

Part Four: Advanced Topics

Lecture

Introduction to some advanced coding topics and related considerations.

- Responsive HTML: Next Billion Users, mobile first, device/viewport independence. Includes discussion of third-party CSS, frameworks, modern HATs.
- CSS Preprocessors: SASS, LESS, Stylus, dagvars, etc. Includes discussion of CSS supersets, nested rules, variables, cross-browser compatibility.
- JavaScript Libraries: jQuery, AngularJS, Backbone.js, etc. Includes discussion of syntax simplification, selection extensibility, cross-browser compatibility.

Exercise

There is no specific hands-on Exercise for Part Four. The last part of the afternoon includes Q/A, fixing stubborn bugs from earlier exercises, and open discussion of subjects of interest to students.

About Dave Gash



Dave Gash is a Southern California-based technical publications specialist who provides technology consulting and training for hypertext developers. A veteran software professional with over thirty years of development, documentation, and training experience, Dave holds degrees in Business and Computer Science, and is well known in the technical publications community as an interesting and engaging technical instructor. Dave is a frequent speaker at Technical Communication conferences in Australia and around the world; find him at www.davegash.com.

Prerequisite knowledge: Some exposure to web page coding: HTML, CSS, and/or JavaScript.

Hardware requirements: Your own laptop, (Windows or Mac), including a text editor (such as Notepad, EditPlus or similar for Mac), a non-IE browser (such as FireFox, Chrome, Safari) , and an unzip utility.