

Building with Web Standards

Using available web technologies to build compelling web sites



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

What are web standards?

- ≡ It's that CSS/XHTML thing
- ≡ It's designing sites without tables
- ≡ It validates

A set of integrated, interoperable web technologies and rules developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and other web standards bodies.

The adherence to standards (HTML, XHTML, XML, CSS, XSLT, DOM, MathML, SVG etc) and **the pursuit of best practices** (valid code, accessible code, semantically correct code, search-engine-friendly etc)

What are the web standards

- ≡ HTML, XHTML, CSS (most common)
- ≡ XML, EcmaScript, DOM, SVG, XForms, RSS, XSL
are other accepted web standards

What it does

- ≡ Correctly define document type (DTD)
- ≡ Encourage correct, logical, semantic code
- ≡ Separate presentation from content by use of CSS-based layout

To build well-designed, clean and lean web sites that are expandable and accessible to the widest variety of users and devices using accepted best practices.

Common Myth # 1

- ≡ Using web standards will make your site look boring and restrictive

<http://www.csszengarden.com/>

showcases attractively designed CSS layout



Cool examples of CSS-based layout



元完全な技

Zen Garden

The Beauty of CSS Design

A demonstration of what can be accomplished visually through CSS-based design. Select any style sheet from the list to load it into this page.

[Download the sample html file and css file](#)

The Road to Enlightenment

Littering a dark and dreary road lay the past relics of browser-specific tags, incompatible DOMs, and broken CSS support.

Today, we must clear the mind of past practices. Web enlightenment has been achieved thanks to the tireless efforts of folk like the W3C, WaSP and the major browser creators.

The css Zen Garden invites you to relax and meditate on the important lessons of the masters. Begin to see with clarity. Learn to use the (yet to be) time-honored techniques in new and invigorating fashion. Become one with the web.

So What is This About?

There is clearly a need for CSS to be taken seriously by graphic artists. The Zen Garden aims to excite, inspire, and encourage participation. To begin, view some of the existing designs in the list. Clicking on any one will load the style sheet into this very page. The code remains the same, the only thing that has changed is the external .css file. Yes, really.

CSS allows complete and total control over the style of a hypertext document. The only way this can be illustrated in a way that gets people excited is by demonstrating what it can truly be, once the reins are placed in the hands of those able to create beauty from structure. To date, most examples of neat tricks and hacks have been demonstrated by structurists and coders. Designers have yet to make their mark. This needs to change.

Participation

select a design:

- Chien by Alex Miller
- Like the Sea by Lars Daum
- Angelus by Vladimir Lukic
- Zenfandel by Nicholas Rougeux
- Daruma by Stuart Cruickshank
- Berry Flavour by Maren Becker
- a Simple Sunrise by Rob Soule
- Bugs by Zohar Arad

archives:

[next designs »](#)

[View All Designs](#)

resources:

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CSS Zen Garden

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css Zen Garden — Design List

A complete list of Zen Garden submissions. Total designs:
612

The designs are broken down by category for easier viewing. This page highlights the most recent addition to each. Titles link to the complete contents of the category.

Newest Official Designs:

-  * 159 — [Berry Flavour](#) by [Maren Becker](#)
-  * 160 — [Daruma](#) by [Stuart Cruickshank](#)
-  * 161 — [Zenfandel](#) by [Nicholas Rougeux](#)

Where Am I?

These are the Zen Garden supporting pages, hosted on mezzoblu.com

Use the links in the red bar above to view the Zen Garden-specific information, or the links in the blue bar to browse the rest of this site.

The Dailies for 6 May 05:

- [WE05](#)
A fantastic lineup of speakers this year. Great to see [Derek Featherstone](#) representing Canada this year.
- [High Pass Filter](#)
Nifty Photoshop trick for more finely-grained image sharpening.

Common Myth # 2

- ≡ Using web standards will increase web site development time



On the contrary

- ≡ Web standards = one version of site for different needs/devices (pdas, print versions, etc)
- ≡ Presentation elements contained in one file

Common Myth # 3

- ≡ All my site visitors just use Internet Explorer anyway



Browser usage trends

Browser Statistics Month by Month

2005	IE 6	IE 5	O 7 / 8	Ffox	Moz	NN 4	NN 7
May	61.9%	3.1%	1.9%	24.6%	3.6%	0.2%	0.9%
April	62.3%	3.4%	1.9%	23.9%	3.5%	0.2%	0.9%
March	63.8%	3.9%	1.8%	21.8%	3.7%	0.2%	1.0%
February	64.8%	4.2%	1.9%	20.4%	3.9%	0.2%	1.1%
January	65.3%	4.4%	2.1%	19.3%	4.0%	0.3%	1.1%

http://www.w3schools.com/browsers/browsers_stats.asp

Also consider robots, spiders, news readers, other aggregators

Some standards-compliant sites

- ≡ Major news sites - WiredNews, BBC, ESPN, MSN,
- ≡ Government - Library of Congress, New York Public Library
- ≡ Big companies - Adobe, Macromedia, Quark
- ≡ Blog app-generated sites - blogger.com, Moveable Type, Wordpress

The downsides to web standards

- ≡ Steep learning curve
- ≡ Browser incompatibilities



This is less and less of an issue as new tools become available and browser technology evolves.

The upsides

- ≡ For site visitors and users
 - ≡ ease of use, faster loading of pages, accessibility
- ≡ For developers
 - ≡ faster development time
 - ≡ easy maintenance
- ≡ Organization
 - ≡ savings in cost
 - ≡ better search engine ranking



Benefits to the IAEA

- Higher visits, page views, hits since 2003
- Quick integration of sub-sites
- easy maintenance updates
- increase site exposure

The screenshot shows the IAEA.org website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Contact Us', 'Help', 'Site Index', and 'Signup for News'. Below this is a search bar and a date indicator '06 October 2004'. The main content area features a large blue banner with the IAEA logo and the text: 'The IAEA is the world's center of nuclear cooperation and works for the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.' Below the banner, there are three main pillars: 'Safety & Security', 'Science & Technology', and 'Safeguards & Verification'. The 'Latest News and Announcements' section includes several articles with headlines such as 'States Back Steps to Reinforce IAEA's Work in Key Nuclear Areas', 'China Hosting Global Experts at IAEA Nuclear Safety Conference', 'IAEA Board of Governors Elects Officers for 2004-2005', 'Nuclear Fuel Cycle at Centre of IAEA Scientific Forum', and 'China Boosts Support for IAEA Development & Security Initiatives'. On the right side, there is a 'Latest Feature' section with a photo of a person working in a field, and a 'Jobs @ IAEA' section with a link to 'Latest Vacancy Notices'. There is also a 'Resources for...' section with links for 'Journalists', 'Member States', 'Youth', and 'Women'. At the bottom right, there is an 'IAEA in Pictures' section with a photo of IAEA Senior Officers and Deputy Directors at the first day of the IAEA 48th General Conference.

Getting noticed...

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January 23, 2004

IAEA Redesign

1 comment made | [view comment](#) Reported by Scotty

The very in-the-news International Atomic Energy Agency has **redesigned its site** using XHTML/CSS. It looks great and validates.

The previous site was a mixture of sliced tables, image-based information and mish-mashed server document types. Finding documents and information in it perfectly mirrored one of the agency's primary tasks of finding illegal weapons programs in a hostile environment. The new site, which seems to be completely re-architected, is easy to navigate, has clear, concise information and indexes much more easily than did the old.

Search

Options

What is Web-Graphics?

Web-Graphics is a compilation of hypertext design resources, links, and commentary. The ISSN number for this publication is 1535-8046.

Style: [Right](#), [Center](#), [Raw](#)

[Turn On NiceTitles \(?\)](#)

design PRINCIPLES

design/development

archives

resources

Sunday (Jan 25, 2004)

Featured News

The Business Case for Web Accessibility

Great article on the basics of web accessibility: what it is and how it can benefit business. Andy points out the pros of accessible websites and the problems with those that aren't.

Recent News

Dave's Friday Challenge

Is it possible to use floats to position a fixed-width sidebar on the right of a page, with a liquid content area, if the content comes before the sidebar in the markup? Looks like [Ryan Brill](#) has a great solution.

Simple Tricks for More Usable Forms

Simon Willison's article on improving online form usability. He breaks down the common methods and offers some solutions of his own all the while giving you the good and bad of each technique.

Featured Site



The IAEA redesigns with valid XHTML/CSS. Nice and clean.

Regular Visits

[andy budd](#)

[asterisk](#)

[daily report](#)

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[dunstan](#)

Matt Heerema :: Web Design

Keeping an eye on the Web, so you don't have to.



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Search this site:

Home » Archives » January 2004

January 26, 2004

IAEA redesign

The International Atomic Energy Agency recently redesigned their Web site using CSS and XHTML. It is good to see an international organization using international [Standards](#) in designing their site. Their previous version was a mish mash of tables, images-instead-of-text, tag soup, and other highly inaccessible (and nonsensical) "techniques".

(Josh, this might be interesting to Randy Martin...)

Posted by Matt at 09:42 AM | [Comments \(2\)](#)



The path to web standards

- ≡ Decide standards to use - HTML, XHTML, CSS
- ≡ Train web team on the technology
- ≡ Fine tune CMS, html editors to produce standards-compliant code
- ≡ Test and validate

Some Resources

<http://www.w3.org/QA/2002/07/WebAgency-Requirements>

<http://www.w3.org/QA/2003/03/web-kit>

<http://www.maccaws.org/kit/primer/>

<http://we04.com/>

Conclusion

- ≡ Standards-based web technologies are powerful tools for building cutting-edge sites
- ≡ Lean and clean codes that make sites more accessible and easy to build and maintain
- ≡ Wide design layout possibilities through CSS
- ≡ Forward-looking: site can be migrated to devices outside of the web browser
- ≡ Your next redesign will be much easier



The IAEA is the world's center of nuclear cooperation and works for the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

Three main pillars underpin the IAEA's mission:

Click to learn more:

- Safety & Security
- Science & Technology
- Safeguards & Verification



Latest News and Announcements

Third Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety



20 April 2005 | Progress in the last three years towards improved global nuclear power plant safety and the challenges that lie ahead will be discussed at a final press conference of the Third Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety on Friday, April 22 at 12.30 p.m. at the Vienna International Centre. [Media Advisory](#) :: [Full Story](#) »

New Convention Against Nuclear Terrorism Bolsters Global Framework

18 April 2005 | The international treaty against nuclear terrorism adopted by the United Nations General Assembly this week bolsters the global legal framework to counter terrorist threats, including cooperation with the IAEA. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism opens for signature in September this year. [Full Story](#) :: [Press Release](#) »

IAEA Work Supports World Health Focus on Mothers, Children

6 April 2005 | Millions of children never see the age of five, and millions of mothers die too early from sicknesses that can be prevented and treated. This year's World Health Day shines the spotlight on improving the health of mothers and children, and the IAEA stands among international organizations contributing to the important work. [Full Story](#) »

The Right Moves

1 April 2005 | In May, 189 States are called to decide directions for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a pact they joined over the past 35 years to block the spread of nuclear bombs.

IAEA Events & Meetings

9-13 May 2005

International Conference on Area-Wide Control of Insect Pests, Vienna, Austria

5-9 June 2005

International Symposium on Utilisation of Accelerators, Dubrovnik, Croatia

[More Meetings](#) »

48th IAEA General Conference



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Thanks for your
attention!

Rodolfo Quevenco
IAEA Division of Public Information

