

W O O R K . B L O G S P O T . C O M

THE
WOORk
HANDBOOK

A collaborative book about
web design and programming

Version 0.1 - January 2008

About this book... read please!



This book is a miscellanea of articles I wrote on my blog (<http://woork.blogspot.com>) in the past year about Ajax, CSS, PHP, MooTools, Scriptaculous and other related topics about Web Design.

During the period from January to December 2008 “Woork” has been visited from over 4 millions visitors and I received a lot of requests to distribute a printable version of its contents.

So I decided to prepare this *handbook* and distribute it for free. Please, take a mind these points:

- english is not my primary language;
- all content it's a *brutal* copy and paste from my blog...it's only a printable version of Woork;
- I'll update periodically this book with new content;

I hope you'll find this handbook useful. You can print it on A4 format page (2 pages for each facade).

Every suggestion will be appreciated.

All the best.

Antonio Lupetti

<http://woork.blogspot.com>

★ LINKS

My Blog: <http://woork.blogspot.com>

My Facebook profile: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=709734006>

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Table of contents

1. Cascade Style Sheets.....	6
Useful guidelines to improve CSS coding and maintainability.....	6
Write a well structured CSS file without becoming crazy.....	9
CSS coding: semantic approach in naming convention.....	14
Three column fixed layout structure using CSS	18
Top-Down approach to simplify your CSS code.....	21
Perfect pagination style using CSS.....	25
Clean CSS Form using CSS.....	29
Clean and pure CSS FORM design.....	32
Liquid layer with rounded corners using css	35
Liquid expandable section with rounded corners using CSS.....	37
Liquid styled input element with CSS.....	40
Clean Tab Bar Digg-like using CSS.....	42
Digg-like navigation bar using CSS.....	46
Organize and design a navigation bar for your site using CSS, PHP and URL variables.....	49
Nice login and signup panel Newsvine-like using CSS.....	52
Tips to design your site for mobile devices.....	56
How to design a sexy header for your site using CSS	61
2. Database.....	67
Introduction to design a Entities-Relationship Model.....	67
Create tables and relationships with SQL.....	69
Using PHP and SQL to create tables and relationships.....	71
Create relationships between database table using phpMyAdmin	73
Step by step guide for newbie to design a simple web application (part 1).....	76
3. Ajax.....	83
Ajax basic: create your first XMLHttpRequest file.....	83
How to solve Internet Explorer cache issue in Ajax.....	84
Insert record into a database table using Ajax and PHP.....	85
Insert record into a database table using Ajax and Coldfusion.....	88

Edit in place with Scriptaculous and PHP.....	91
Delete record with Ajax using prototype.js and PHP.....	93
Simple search engine in Ajax and PHP.....	96

4. MooTools, Scriptaculous and other Javascript frameworks..... 99

MooTools basic tips for web designer part 1.....	99
MooTools basic tips for web designer part 2.....	102
Nice vertical menu with motion and opacity effect.....	105
Simple ul list with a nice slide-out effect for elements.....	107
Lightbox using mootools and pathfusion multibox.....	110
Interaction with HTML FORM.....	112
Super elastic effect to design high impact web menu.....	114
Nice vertical menu with motion and opacity effect.....	117
Sliding top panel using mootools.....	120
Toggle effect using Scriptaculous.....	122
Drag and drop to order list elements with Scriptaculous.....	123
Simple sort script using Stuart Langridge's sortabe.js.....	125
Nice Ajax effect for message box using Mootools.....	128
Useful resources to improve the look and features of HTML Forms	130
News ticker with horizontal scrolling using Mootools.....	133
Automatic news ticker with vertical scrolling and Start/Resume options.....	136
Joomla! extension: super news ticker.....	139
Design a stunning Alert Box using MooTools.....	140

5. Blogger (.blogspot)..... 143

Add del.icio.us button with counter in your blogger posts.....	143
Add DZone button on Blogger template.....	144
Add Technorati blog reaction on your Blogger Template.....	145
Add Yahoo! Buzz button on Blogger Template.....	146
Add Digg vote button on Blogger Template (update).....	147
Place Google AdSense below post's title on Blogger.....	148
Some Blogger Tips you probably don't know.....	149
7 Tips to design professional blog layout using Blogger.....	151

6. Spreadsheets, text documents, presentations.....	158
How to create an awesome eBook Template using Word or Apple Pages.....	158
OpenOffice 3.0 test drive: Math.....	162
Google Spreadsheets Tips: Add custom charts.....	166
 7. Various.....	 170
Twitter: send message from a PHP page using Twitter API.....	170
Parsing Feed RSS to HTML using MagpieRSS and PHP	171
Five optimal online Photo Editors you may try.....	173
Free tools to create your own social network Facebook-like.....	177
10 Free powerful Content Management Systems	179
20 Great PHP frameworks for developers	182
 8. Interesting fonts for webdesign.....	 188

1. Cascade Style Sheets

1.1. Useful guidelines to improve CSS coding and maintainability

Developing CSS code for websites with a complex layout structure can be an hard work for a web designer. But in this situation, an harder work is writing code in order to simplify the continuous maintainability process.

In this post I want to reply to all readers which in the past asked me some FAQ about this topic, and illustrate some simple guidelines and tips which can help you to improve CSS coding and maintainability process following this simple rules: reduce code complexity and optimize your CSS structure.

Single or multiple CSS files?

Some developers use to separate CSS code in multiple files and import them into an external CSS file in this way:

```
@import "reset.css";
@import "layout.css";
@import "typography.css";
...
```

What is the better practice? Separate CSS code using multiple files or writing CSS code in a single file?

There is not a specific rule, but you have to do this choice each time, after an objective valuation about the real complexity of the layout structure. If layout is not so complex in order to justify multiple files, I suggest you to write all code in a single file. In fact, in this case, managing a single file is better than managing too many.

CSS table of content: is it really useful?

I often read some articles which suggest to add a table of content of the elements contained into the CSS file in order to keep an overview of the structure of your code useful to simplify the maintainability process. A CSS table of content is something like this:

```
/*-----  
TABLE OF CONTENTS  
-----  
BODY  
    + Wrapper:                #wrapper  
      + Header:               #header  
        - Search box:        #search-box  
        - RSS box:           #rss-box  
      + Main content:         #maincontent  
      + Sidebar:              #sidebar  
      + Footer:               #footer  
----- */
```

I tried to add a table of content into a CSS file in different situation, sincerly with some doubt about its real utility for these two simple reasons:

- if you have a simple CSS file you don't need to add a table of content to manage it. You can manage it without difficulties, without a table of content.
- if you have a complex CSS file you could need one... but in this case the problem is you have to modify your table of content each time you make a change of the CSS structure. So, if your CSS structure change dramatically, you have to spend a lot of time for developing the new CSS code and updating the table of content. You work twice... Is an overview of the structure of your code really necessary ?

I think not. In general, a good approach to write CSS code is following the gerarchical order of the page's elements (*#wrapper*, *#navigation*, *#maincontent*, *#sidebar*, *#footer*...), so you know "approximately" the point where this element is

placed on your file. In any case, if you prefer to add a table of content, I suggest you don't enumerate CSS elements how I did in this example:

```
/*-----  
TABLE OF CONTENTS  
-----  
BODY  
1.          Wrapper:          #wrapper  
2.          Header:           #header  
2.1         Search Box:       #search-box  
2.2         RSS Box:          #rss-box  
3.          Main content:     #maincontent  
3.1         Title:            #maincontent h1  
3.2         Paragraph:        #maincontent p  
4.          Sidebar:          #sidebar  
5.          Footer:           #footer  
----- */
```

If you change the order of one or more element you have to change every time the numbering of the other elements!

Use "sections" for organizing logically similar attributes

This is a simple tip I find very useful: create “sections” in order to separate logically similar CSS attributes and use alphabetical order for listing attributes into these sections. In this way will be simpler to manage each single section with the related attributes.

Separate CSS attribute name from attribute values using tab space

Another tip to improve the readability of your CSS code is: use a tab space in order to divide the attribute name from its value:

```
#column-left{  
    float:          left;  
    margin-right:    30px;  
    width:           472px;  
}  
  
#footer{
```

```
clear:      both;
color:      #666666;
font-size:  11px;
}
```

In this way your code looks like a tabular data sheet and will be simpler to read and manage it.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/11/useful-guidelines-to-improve-css-coding.html>

1.2. Write a well structured CSS file without becoming crazy

Big CSS files can be complex to manage but a good structured code can help you to make your life simpler.

This is a descriptive post about how to write a well structured CSS file. I already spoken about code readability in CSS files, but after several most specific requests about this argument (mainly about the difficult of some readers to manage CSS file with a big quantity of layout elements), I decided to illustrate the process I use in these cases. I experienced, proceeding without "order" or a clear vision about what you want to realize can be harmful and you risk to add, change, remove classes and properties, with the only result to have untidy code with a lot of unused elements on your final product. Before you start writing directly CSS code, I suggest you to prepare a "draft" with all sections your site will have. Then follow these simple "rules" to optimize your work:

- be simple
- be "elegant-code" oriented
- be methodic

Be simple

Avoid everything is not strictly necessary. Don't use six `<div>` layers if you can obtain the same result with only two. If you think a certain design structure is too complex to be realized with CSS probably you are mistaking something. Try to find another way to implement it. In general, almost everything is simple. We are too complex.

Be "elegant-code" oriented

Indent your code to highlight dependencies between CSS elements, use white spaces and comments to separate portions of code logically different. Use clear, in-line, comments like this:

```
/* ----- */
/* COLUMN LEFT */

#column-left{
    float:left;
    margin-right:30px;
    width:472px;
}
```

Where do you want to go?

Before starting to write code ask you *where you want to go*. This is a good question you would do before opening your preferred editing software. The only things you need now is a pencil, a eraser and a white paper where tracing a "draft" with all main sections of your site. At this level, you have not to add too many details in your write-hand "draft": size (width) of every single element (in pixel or percentage), paddings, borders and margins it's enough.

Let's go. But first reset CSS default browser styles

This practice reset the default browser style for HTML standard element (h1, p, ul, li...). Recently I read a lot of interesting post about this topic. I don't know you... but the only "common" tags I use in my project which required a "reset" are:

- body, h1, h2, h3, p, ul, li, form.

Nothing else. Very rarely table elements (`<table>`, `<tr>` and `<td>`). In any case, for a complete overview about CSS reset technique take a look at these links:

- Yahoo! UI Library: <http://developer.yahoo.com/yui/reset/>
- Eric's Archived Thoughts: <http://meyerweb.com/eric/thoughts/2007/05/01/reset-reloaded/>

Start writing CSS code

Now, you are ready to proceed. My typical CSS code looks like this:

```
/* ----- */
/* STANDARD HTML TAG RESET */
/* ----- */

body,
h1, h2, h3,
p, ul, li,
form {
    border:0;
    margin:0px;
    padding:0px;
}

/* ----- */
/* STANDARD HTML TAG DEFINITION */

body,
form, input {
    color:#000000;
    font-family:Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
    font-size:12px;
    color:#000000;
}
h1{font-size:24px; /* ...other properties... */}
h2{font-size:18px; /* ...other properties... */}
h3{font-size:13px; /* ...other properties... */}

a:link, a:visited{color:#0033CC;}
```

```
a:hover {color:#666666;}
```

Nice, elegant and clear :) Because the code also has a certain charm!

Page structure

Ok, now you can start to design the site structure adding the main sections. If you prepared a "draft" with the site layout it's very fast. Whichever choice you do in terms of layout (liquid or fixed), I suggest you to define a class `.container` which set one time only, the width of all element which it contains. In this way, if you want to change the width of the page, you'll do it for a single CSS element (`.container`) instead of all elements which it contains (these elements will fit automatically with the new size).

```
/* -----*/
/* PAGE ELEMENTS                               */
/* -----*/

.container{
    margin:0 auto;
    width:855px;
}

/* -----*/
/* LOGO                                         */

#logo{
    background:url(/* ...URL image... */);
    height:60px;
}

/* -----*/
/* NAVIGATION                                  */

#navbar{
    background:#000000;
    height:30px;
}

/* -----*/
/* COLUMN LEFT                                */

#column-left{
```

```
        float:left;
        margin-right:30px;
        width:472px;
    }

    #column-left h1{
        border-bottom:solid 1px #DEDEDE;
        font-family:Georgia;
        margin-bottom:20px;
    }
    #column-left p{
        font-size:14px;
        color:#333333;
    }

/* -----*/
/* COLUMN RIGHT (Sidebar      */

    #sidebar{
        float:left;
        width:353px;
    }

/* -----*/
/* FOOTER (Sidebar           */

    #footer{
        clear:both;
        color:#666666;
        font-size:11px;
    }
```

HTML Code

When a CSS definition of main site sections is ready, you can start writing HTML code. There is nothing simpler, just adding DIV layers with the right ID in the right order:

```
<div class="container">
  <!-- Header -->
  <div id="logo"></div>
  <div id="navbar"></div>

  <!-- Main Content -->
  <div id="column_left"></div>
  <div id="sidebar"></div>
```

```
<!-- Footer -->
<div id="footer"></div>

</div>
```

Test it on your browser and if it's ok, you can start to add new details to the CSS code and proceed step-by step, section after section (navigation, sidebar, footer...), to complete your CSS in a well structured way and integrate id with HTML code. Indent code you write to highlight dependencies between all elements of the same class.

Custom Class to the end

In general, if I have some classes which can be applied to more than a section, I add them to the end of the CSS file in this way:

```
/* -----*/
/* CUSTOM CLASSES          */
/* -----*/

.red{color:#FF0000;}
.left-align{float:left;}
.small-text-gray{color:#999999; font-size:11px;}
.small-text-green{color:#00CC33; font-size:11px;}
```

I use a descriptive name for each class which identify immediatly the main properties.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/write-well-structured-css-file-without.html>

1.3. CSS coding: semantic approach in naming convention

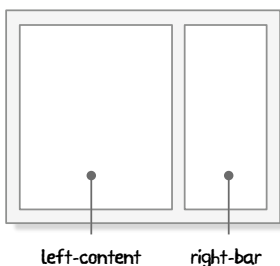
Naming convention in CSS coding is an hot discussion topic. In this post I want to illustrate some suggests and guidelines to use a semantic approach instead of a structural approach when

naming CSS classes, analyzing the essential elements of a popular three column layout.

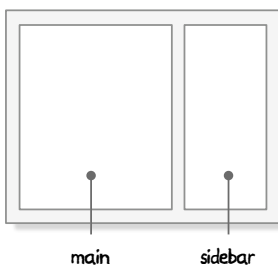
Semantic vs structural approach

In general, semantic approach defines a class name considering the *meaning* a certain element has on your page, independently from its position or specific property (structural approach). Some examples of a structural approach are: *left-bar*, *red-text*, *small-title*... Take a look at the following example:

❶ STRUCTURAL APPROACH

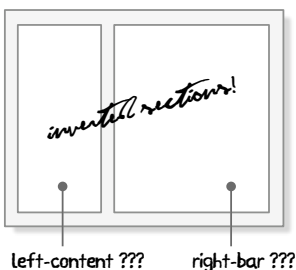


❷ SEMANTIC APPROACH

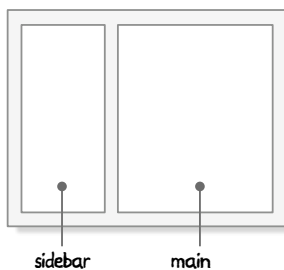


...and image now to change the position of the elements on your page. If you used a structural approach (1) you have to change all classes names because sections, in the new configuration (3), are inverted: *right-bar* is now *left-bar*, and *left-content* is *right-content*. Using a semantic approach you don't have this kind of problem (4):

❸ STRUCTURAL APPROACH



❹ SEMANTIC APPROACH



In other words using a semantic approach¹, you can think to modify your site layout only redefining some properties of CSS elements without changing consequently all classes names.

Some guidelines

Before to start, I want to suggest two simple guidelines for developing a better CSS code:

1. Use lowercase characters to define your class and use "-" or uppercase letters to separate multiple-words classes (ex. *main-content*, or *mainContent*).²
2. Optimize CSS code creating only main classes and reusing HTML standard tags for child elements (h1, h2, p, ul, li, blockquote,...). For example, don't use this approach:

```
<div class="main">
  <div class="main-title">...</div>
  <div class="main-paragraph">...</div>
</div>
```

...but use this:

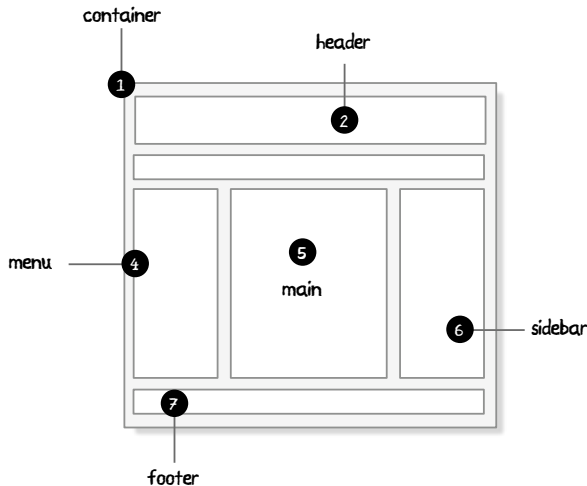
```
<div class="main">
  <h1>...</h1>
  <p>...</p>
</div>
```

Example of semantic approach using a three columns layout

Take a look at this simplified example which illustrates how to use a semantic approach to design a classic three columns layout:

¹ **Ross said:** I'm inclined to use *header*, *col1*, *col2*, *col3* etc. & *footer* for my layout. I then shift content around inside the structural divs using semantic names like *topNav*, *mainContent*, *subscriptionForm*, etc.

² **Monkeytail said:** About the looks of words.. this is my own convention I use: html: *this-has-a-dash*, php: *this_has_an_underscore*, js: *thisIsCamelCase*



Using a semantic approach, CSS code could be something like this:

```
#container{...}
/*---- Top section ----*/
#header{...}
#navbar{...}

/*---- Main ----*/
#menu{...}
#main{...}
#sidebar{...}

/*---- Footer ----*/
#footer{...}
```

- **Container:** "#container" is the section which "wrap" all elements of your page in a specific position within the browser's window. For this section you can also use these names: "wrapper", "wrap", "page".
- **Header:** #header is the website's top section. In general, it includes site's logo and other elements. For this section you

can also use these names: "top", "logo", "page-header" (or `pageHeader`).

- **Navbar:** `#navbar` identifies the horizontal navigation bar, a classic elements for every web site. For this section you can also use these names: "nav", "navigation", "nav-wrapper".
- **Menu:** `#menu` section contains general links and menu. For this section you can also use this names: "sub-nav ", "links".
- **Main:** `#main` is the site's main section; if you have a blog it's the section which contains your posts. For this section you can also use these names: "content", "main-content" (or "mainContent").
- **Sidebar:** `#sidebar` section can contain secondary content, for example recent entries, some info about the site, ads elements... For this section you can also use these names: "sub-nav", "side-panel", "secondary-content".
- **Footer:** `#footer` contains additional information about the website. For this section you can also use the name: "copyright".

★ ORIGINAL POST

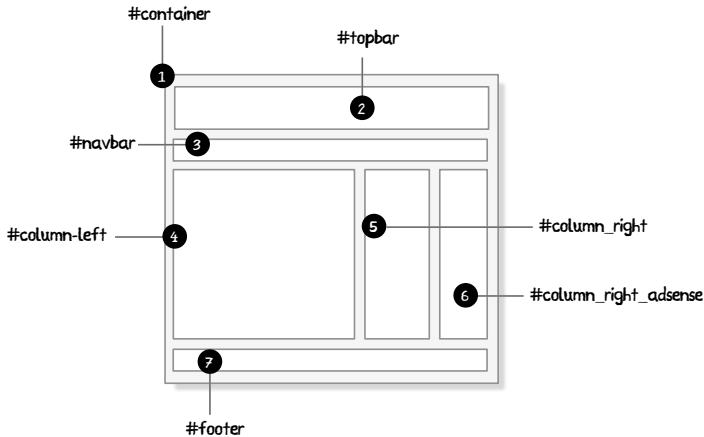
<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/11/css-coding-semantic-approach-in-naming.html>

1.4. Three column fixed layout structure using CSS

This post explains how to design an HTML/CSS basic structure to design a simple three column fixed layout. I included some typical elements such as logo, top bar, navigation bar, main content, right column for post categories and right column to insert Google AdSense 120X600 ads so you can reuse quickly this code on your webdesign projects.

HTML structure

The following picture illustrates HTML³ elements I added on the page:



HTML file structure

Create a new page and copy and past this code in the `<body>` tag:

```
<div id="container">
  <div id="topbar">Top Bar/Logo Layer</div>
  <div id="navbar">
    <a href="index.html?home">Home</a>
    <a href="index.html?about">About</a>
    <a href="mailto:myemailaddres@email.com">Contact me</a>
  </div>
  <div id="main">
    <div id="column_left">
      <h1>Post Title</h1>
      <h2>12 january 2008</h2>
      <p>Add your text here</p>
    </div>
    <div id="column_right">
```

³ I suggest you to take a look at the post about “*CSS coding: semantic approach in naming convention*” for a better naming of HTML elements.

```
<h3>Categories</h3>
Right Content to add Categories, web 2 widget
(twitter, mybloglog recent readers...)
</div>
<div id="column_right_adsense">
<h3>AdSense</h3>
Adsense 120 X 600
</div>
<!-- Don't remove spacer div. Solve an issue about
container height -->
<div class="spacer"></div>
</div>
<div id="footer">© 2008 Information about your site</
div>
</div>
```

CSS file

Now, create a new css file and link it into index.html

```
/* -----
HTML Redefine Tags
----- */
body{font-family:Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-
size:12px; margin:20px; padding:0;}

input, form, textarea
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6{margin:0; padding:0;}
h1{font-size:18px;}
h2{font-size:14px; color:#999999;}
h3{font-size:13px; border-bottom:solid 1px #DEDEDE;
padding:4px 0; margin-bottom:10px;}

a:link, a:visited{color:#0033CC;}
a:hover{text-decoration:none;}

/* -----
PAGE STRUCTURE
----- */

/* #container has an absolute width (780 pixel) */

#container{width:780px; margin:0 auto;}
#topbar{width:auto; display:block; height:60px;}
#navbar{width:auto; display:block; height:28px;}
#navbar a{height:28px; line-height:28px; padding:0
8px; display:inline;}
```

```
#main{width:auto; display:block; padding:10px 0;}
#column_left{width:460px; margin-right:20px;
float:left;}
#column_right{width:160px; margin-right:20px;
float:left;}
#column_right_adsense{width:120px; float:left;}
div.spacer{clear:both; height:10px; display:block;}

#footer{width:auto; display:block; padding:10px 0;
font-size:11px; color:#666666;}

/* -----
CUSTOM CLASSES
----- */

/* Add here your custom classes ... */
```

Save all and try it!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/01/three-column-fixed-layout-structure.html>

1.5. Top-Down approach to simplify your CSS code

What is the correct approach to design a CSS file? In this post I want to return to talk about a topic very popular on my blog about which I already dedicated two popular posts (optimize your CSS files to improve code readability and write a well structured CSS file without becoming crazy). Now I want to try to reply to this question I often receive from some readers of this blog: *What is the correct approach to design a CSS file?*

Top-Down approach

I think the best way to design a CSS file is using a top-down approach, in other words first defining the main sections of your layout (in general an high-level design is composed from 4-6 main section) and after defining all single elements which compose these sections. So you can proceed to write your code in a more structured way avoiding unnecessary code. In fact,

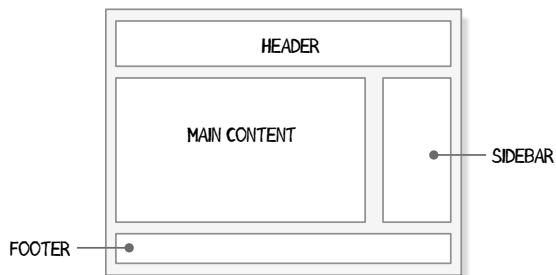
defining main sections is simple and not so problematic. The "unwanted code explosion" happens when you define the detail elements. To simplify this process take a mind these two simple "rules":

- minimize the number of CSS elements
- use/redefine HTML standard tag (P, H1, UL, LI...) instead of creating new classes

For example, in your blog, to design the post title style you can redefine `<h1>` tag instead of defining a new class "post-title".

Define main sections

How I said, before starting to write your CSS code you must have clear in mind which are the main sections of your page layout. For example, in case of a blog with a typical 2 columns layout you can identify these main sections:



Your high-level layout is composed from these section:

- Header (`#header`)
- Main content section (`#main-content`)
- Sidebar (`#sidebar`)
- Footer (`#footer`)

Second step is identify all elements which compose each section. Take a look at the following example to have an idea about how to proceed.

Header section

A typical header section contains the website logo and the navigation bar. You can include the website logo in the CSS background property of `#header` element in the following way:

```
#header{background:url(logo.png) no-repeat;}
```

Someone could say: "but in this way I can't add a link to my home page to the logo". Yes, but I think this is not a dramatic issue which compromises the usability of your site. If you add a link "*home*" in the navigation bar is exactly the same thing. So, you can design your navigation bar using `<ul>` tag with a `<li>` element for each link you need (home, about, contact...). In this way your CSS code will be something like this:

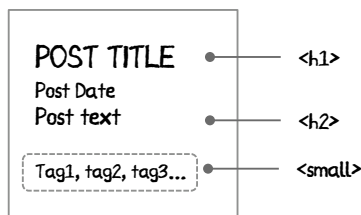
```
#header{
    background:url(/*... your logo ...*/);
    height:60px;
}
/* ----- */
/* NAVIGATION BAR */

#header ul{
    background:#000000;
    height:30px;
    line-height:30px;
}
#header ul li{
    list-style:none;
    display:inline;
    margin-right:2px;
}
```

How you can see, you don't need to define a specific class for the navigation bar because it's defined using `<ul>` tag in the `#header` section (`#header ul`, `#header ul li`). In this way your code will be clear and simpler to manage. To improve the CSS code readability I suggest to use comments to separate each single section element and indent your CSS code.

Main content section

In a typical blog structure, the main content section contains in general the body of post (title, date, text, tag...) and it can be represent in this way:



So, a good way to design it using CSS is redefining these standard HTML tag for the `#main-content` section:

- Post section paragraph (`<p>`)
- Post title (`<h1>`)
- Post date (`<h2>`)
- Post tag (`<small>`)

...and CSS code will be something like this:

```
#main-content{...}

/*Post section paragraph */
#main-content p{...}

/*Post Title */
#main-content h1{...}

/*Post Date */
#main-content h2{...}

/*Post Tag */
#main-content small{...}
```

I suggest to use this simple approach to all sections of your websites. I think it can help you to write a better code simplifying in the same time the complexity of your CSS files.

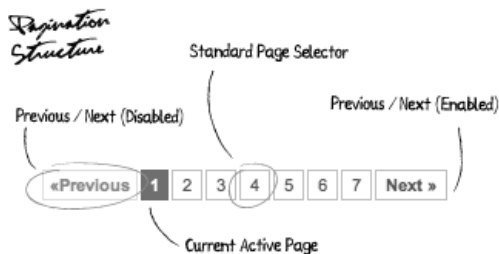
Take a look at the following related content links to find other infos about this topic.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/04/top-down-approach-to-simplify-your-css.html>

1.6. Perfect pagination style using CSS

This tutorial explains how to design a pagination for search results or more in general to split a long list of records in more pages. It's a question I often receive, so I decided to publish a very simple post which explains how to design a perfect pagination style using some lines of HTML and CSS code. The following image represents an example of a typical pagination structure:



In general you can identify four main elements:

- Previous/Next button (*disabled*)
- Current Active page
- Standard Page selector
- Previous/Next button (*enabled*)

You can design this structure using an HTML list (`<ul>`) which contains some `<li>` elements (one for each pagination element) and apply an ID to the `<ul>` list to assign a specific pagination

style to the current list. Take a look at these tutorials for an explanation.

Flickr-like pagination

Image you want to design a Flickr-like pagination style which looks like this:



HTML code is very simple and you can reuse this structure in all pagination-style you want only changing the `<ul>` ID (in this case I added "pagination-flickr", in bold in the code below):

```
<ul id="pagination-flickr">
  <li class="previous-off"><<Previous</li>
  <li class="active">1</li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=2">2</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=3">3</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=4">4</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=5">5</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=6">6</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=7">7</a></li>
  <li class="next"><a href="mypage.html?page=2">Next
  ></a></li>
</ul>
```

Now, you have only to redefine CSS element properties (ul, li, a) in this way:

```
ul{border:0; margin:0; padding:0;}

#pagination-flickr li{
  border:0; margin:0; padding:0;
  font-size:11px;
  list-style:none;
}

#pagination-flickr a{
  border:solid 1px #DDDDDD;
  margin-right:2px;
}
```

```
#pagination-flickr .previous-off,
#pagination-flickr .next-off {
    color:#666666;
    display:block;
    float:left;
    font-weight:bold;
    padding:3px 4px;
}

#pagination-flickr .next a,
#pagination-flickr .previous a {
    font-weight:bold;
    border:solid 1px #FFFFFF;
}

#pagination-flickr .active{
    color:#ff0084;
    font-weight:bold;
    display:block;
    float:left;
    padding:4px 6px;
}

#pagination-flickr a:link,
#pagination-flickr a:visited {
    color:#0063e3;
    display:block;
    float:left;
    padding:3px 6px;
    text-decoration:none;
}

#pagination-flickr a:hover{
    border:solid 1px #666666;
}
```

Digg-like pagination

Ok, now take a look at this Digg-like⁴ pagination style which looks like this:

⁴ *Digg* is a place for people to discover and share content from anywhere on the web: <http://digg.com>.

From the previous tutorial copy and paste the HTML structure. You have only to change the `<ul>` ID ("pagination-digg" instead of "pagination-flickr"):

```
<ul id="pagination-digg">
  <li class="previous-off">«Previous</li>
  <li class="active">1</li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=2">2</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=3">3</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=4">4</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=5">5</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=6">6</a></li>
  <li><a href="mypage.html?page=7">7</a></li>
  <li class="next"><a href="mypage.html?page=2">Next
  »</a></li>
</ul>
```

CSS code is very similar to the previous Flickr-like example. You have only to change some attributes, and modify `#pagination-flickr` ID with `#pagination-digg`, but CSS pagination elements don't change:

```
ul{border:0; margin:0; padding:0;}

#pagination-digg li{
    border:0; margin:0; padding:0;
    font-size:11px;
    list-style:none;
    margin-right:2px;
}

#pagination-digg a{
    border:solid 1px #9aafe5
    margin-right:2px;
}

#pagination-digg .previous-off,
#pagination-digg .next-off {
    border:solid 1px #DEDEDE
    color:#888888
    display:block;
    float:left;
```

```
        font-weight:bold;
        margin-right:2px;
        padding:3px 4px;
    }

    #pagination-digg .next a,
    #pagination-digg .previous a {
        font-weight:bold;
    }

    #pagination-digg .active{
        background:#2e6ab1;
        color:#FFFFFF;
        font-weight:bold;
        display:block;
        float:left;
        padding:4px 6px;
    }

    #pagination-digg a:link,
    #pagination-digg a:visited {
        color:#0e509e
        display:block;
        float:left;
        padding:3px 6px;
        text-decoration:none;
    }

    #pagination-digg a:hover{
        border:solid 1px #0e509e
    }
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/perfect-pagination-style-using-css.html>

1.7. Clean CSS Form using CSS

This tutorial explains how to design a beautiful form (inspired from Facebook old layout) using a clean CSS design only with `<label>` and `<input>` tags to simulate an HTML `<table>` structure. This is the final effect:

Sign Up
New User? Create your account now!

Full name

E-mail

Password

Lost your data? [Get your password](#)
New User? [Sign up](#)

Input elements and labels

When you design a form (for example to Sign-in or Sign-up on your site), a fast solution to place form elements in your page is add them into table cells. A good and simple alternative is using HTML `<input>` and `<label>` tags and some lines of CSS code in this way:

```
<label>5  
<span>Full name</span>  
<input type="text" class="input-text" id="email"/>  
</label>
```

...and the css code is the following:

```
div.box .input-text{  
    border:1px solid #3b6e22;  
    color:#666666;  
}  
  
div.box label{  
    display:block;  
    margin-bottom:10px;
```

⁵ This use of `<label>` tag is not so elegant... in general `<label>` is used in this way: `<label for="elementId" ><input id="elementId"/></label>`. In this case I used a simple hack, modifying the real meaning of this tag.

```
        color:#555555;  
    }  
  
    div.box label span{  
        display:block;  
        float:left;  
        padding-right:6px;  
        width:70px;  
        text-align:right;  
        font-weight:bold;  
    }
```

...in this way, `<span>` element contained in `<label>` tag set the same width (70px) for the field descriptions to the left of each `<input>` element in your form, like if field “description” and related input was placed in a table row with two horizontal cells. In order to solve an issue with Safari (using size attribute) and with Firefox (problem to display correctly input label) change the following code:

```
div.box label span{  
    display:inline-block;  
    ...  
}
```

with this:

```
div.box label span{  
    display:block;  
    float:left;  
    ...  
}
```

Submit Button

When you add a standard/unstyled button in a form (`<input>` or `<button>` tag) take a mind it looks different on different browser and OS. A good practice to uniform how it looks is defining a CSS class to apply to your button. Instead of `<input>` or `<button>` tag you can also use a simple link (`<a>`) like in this case (I designed and applied "green" class to the link `<a>`):

```
<a href="#" onClick="javascript:submit()"
class="green">Sign in</a>
```

...and CSS code for the "green" class is the following:

```
.green{
    background:url(img/green.gif);
    padding:0px 6px;
    border:1px solid #3b6e22;
    height:24px;
    line-height:24px;
    color:#FFFFFF;
    font-size:12px;
    margin-right:10px;
    display:inline-block;
    text-decoration:none;
}
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/02/beautiful-css-form.html>

1.8. Clean and pure CSS FORM design

Some readers of my blog hate html tables and often ask to me which is the better way to design FORMS with CSS, without using tables to place each form element in a table's cell. How I said some time ago... tables are not evil. Sincerly, in some case I used pure CSS code to design forms but, in general, I prefer to use tables. It's simpler and faster than use only CSS property "to simulate" a table structure. In any case, for CSS lovers, this tutorial illustrates a proposal about how to design a pure CSS form without using html tables.

HTML Code

Create a new page *index.html* and copy and past this code into the tag `<body>`:

```
<div id="stylized" class="myform">
```

```

<form id="form" name="form" method="post"
action="index.html">
<h1>Sign-up form</h1>
<p>This is the basic look of my form without table</p>

<label>Name
<span class="small">Add your name</span>
</label>
<input type="text" name="name" id="name" />

<label>Email
<span class="small">Add a valid address</span>
</label>
<input type="text" name="email" id="email" />

<label>Password
<span class="small">Min. size 6 chars</span>
</label>
<input type="text" name="password" id="password" />

<button type="submit">Sign-up</button>
<div class="spacer"></div>

</form>
</div>

```

How you can see from the code above, the structure of our CSS form is the following:



I used `<label>` for the name of each input element and `<span>` tag for the short description. All labels and input elements have float CSS property set to left;

CSS Code

Copy and paste the following CSS code in the `<head>` tag of your page:

```
body{
  font-family:"Lucida Grande", "Lucida Sans Unicode",
  Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  font-size:12px;
}
p, h1, form, button{border:0; margin:0; padding:0;}
.spacer{clear:both; height:1px;}
/* ----- My Form ----- */
.myform{
  margin:0 auto;
  width:400px;
  padding:14px;
}

/* ----- stylized ----- */
#stylized{
  border:solid 2px #b7ddf2;
  background:#ebf4fb;
}
#stylized h1 {
  font-size:14px;
  font-weight:bold;
  margin-bottom:8px;
}
#stylized p{
  font-size:11px;
  color:#666666;
  margin-bottom:20px;
  border-bottom:solid 1px #b7ddf2;
  padding-bottom:10px;
}
#stylized label{
  display:block;
  font-weight:bold;
  text-align:right;
  width:140px;
  float:left;
```

```
}  
#stylized .small{  
    color:#666666;  
    display:block;  
    font-size:11px;  
    font-weight:normal;  
    text-align:right;  
    width:140px;  
}  
#stylized input{  
    float:left;  
    font-size:12px;  
    padding:4px 2px;  
    border:solid 1px #aacfe4;  
    width:200px;  
    margin:2px 0 20px 10px;  
}  
#stylized button{  
    clear:both;  
    margin-left:150px;  
    width:125px;  
    height:31px;  
    background:#666666 url(img/button.png) no-repeat;  
    text-align:center;  
    line-height:31px;  
    color:#FFFFFF;  
        font-size:11px;  
        font-weight:bold;  
}
```

This is only a proposal for the form layout. You can reuse this code changing all properties how you prefer.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/06/clean-and-pure-css-form-design.html>

1.9. Liquid layer with rounded corners using css

This tutorial explains how to design a liquid layer with rounded corners, using CSS and few line of code in HTML. A solution is to define four layers, each ones with the CSS attribute

background which contains a rounded corner image (*w_left_top.gif, w_right_top.gif...*):



The result is something like this:

This is my layer with rounded corners

CSS code

Copy and paste this code in your CSS file:

```
div.w1{background:#DFDFDF url(pic/w_left_top.gif) no-repeat; width:100%;}

div.w2{background:url(pic/w_right_top.gif) no-repeat top right;}

div.w3{background:url(pic/w_left_bottom.gif) no-repeat left bottom;}

div.w4{background:url(pic/w_right_bottom.gif) no-repeat right bottom; padding:10px;}
```

How you can see, layer w1 is the main container container with the rounded left-top border in the attribute background.

Layer w2 is contained into layer w1 and it have in the background attribute the rounded right-top border. So, for all others. Layer w4 will contain your text or other html elements. I added a padding attribute to add 10px space from external borders.

HTML code

Now, copy and paste this HTML code into your page:

```
<div class="w1">
  <div class="w2">
    <div class="w3">
      <div class="w4">
        Some text here...
      </div>
    </div>
  </div>
</div>
```

So, add all HTML elements you want inside w4 layer and your liquid layer with rounded corners is ready to use!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/12/liquid-layer-with-rounded-corners-using.html>

1.10. Liquid expandable section with rounded corners using CSS

This tutorial explains how to design a nice liquid expandable section with rounded corners (top-left, top-right, bottom-left, bottom-right) using some lines of CSS, HTML and JavaScript code applying sliding doors technique.

HTML code

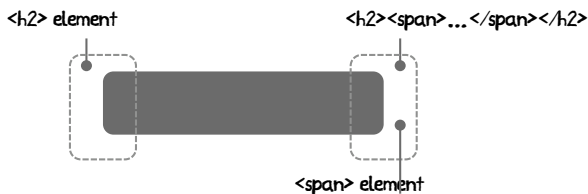
The section I want to design has a header and a body. Our final result is something like this:



To design the header we can use a `<h2>` tag and for the body a DIV layer with class attribute set to "section":

```
<h2><span>
<a href="#" onclick="expandSection('section1')">
My Section</a>
</span></h2>
<div id="section1" class="section">
  <span>
    ... add some text, images, links...
  </span>
</div>
```

The link calls a JavaScript function *expandSection()* which expand/contract the section body. If you have more than one section in your page you can modify each section body ID with a progressive number (section1, section2, section3...) to identify the element to expand / contract when you click on the section header of the same section. To add rounded corners which fit automatically with the section width you can use this simple tricks I already used in my post:



You have simply add a `<span>` tag inside the `<h2>` element or more in general inside a container element (div, p, h1...). Then you have to apply a rounded image to the CSS background attribute of the container element (top-left corner) and another

image to the CSS background attribute of the inner `<span>` element (top-right corner).

CSS code

CSS code is very simple and you can modify it to adapt this tutorial to your requirements:

```
// Reset h2 default style
h2{ margin:0px;
padding:0px;
border:0px; }

h2{
  color:#FFFFFF;
  font-size:13px;
  display:block;
  background:url(img/h2_bg.gif) top left no-repeat
  #9A9A9A;
}

h2 span{
  padding:5px 10px;
  background:url(img/h2_span_bg.gif) top right no-repeat;
  display:block;
}

h2 a:link, h2 a:visited{
  color:#FFFFFF;
  text-decoration:none;
  display:block;
}

div.section {
  background:url(img/section_bg_left.png) bottom
  left no-repeat #EEEEEE;
  font-size:12px;
}

div.section span{
  background:url(img/section_bg_right.png) bottom
  right no-repeat;
  padding:10px;
  display:block;
}
```

Background attribute for h2, h2 span, section, section span contains an image which is the rounded corner (respective top-left, top-right, bottom-left, bottom-right) for our section.

JavaScript function to expand/contract section body

This is the code for the function *expandSection()*. This function get in input the ID of the HTML element you want to expand/contract (in our case "section1").

```
<script type="text/javascript">
function expandSection(id){
    var mySection = document.getElementById(id);
    if(mySection.style.display=="none"){
        mySection.style.display="block";
    } else {
        mySection.style.display="none";
    }
}
</script>
```

...the ID of the element is passed to the function from the following link (in this case "section1"):

```
<a href="#" onclick="expandSection('section1')">
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/liquid-expandable-section-with-rounded.html>

1.11. Liquid styled input element with CSS

If you hate the standard design of FORM elements, this tutorial helps you to design nice input elements using a background image which fits automatically the width of the fields. This tutorial explains how to implement a simple liquid styled *<input>* element using css.

HTML code

HTML code is very simple. I added a `<fieldset>` element with two `<input>` elements:

```
<fieldset class="w_auto">

<legend>Login</legend>

<label>User</label>
<div class="w_span_auto"><input type="text"
name="email" id="email" class="w_auto"/></div>

<label>Password</label>
<div class="w_span_auto"><input type="password"
name="password" id="password" class="w_auto"/></div>
Lost password <a href="pl.html">Retrieve data</a>

</fieldset>
```

CSS code for liquid input elements

In order to implement a liquid input I used this HTML/CSS structure:



...HTML code is something like this:

```
<div class="w_span_auto">
    <input type="text" name="email" id="email"
    class="w_auto"/>
</div>
```

...and CSS code is:

```
div.w_span_auto{
    background:url(wr.png) top right no-repeat;
    padding-right:18px;
    height:34px;
    line-height:34px;
    clear:both;
```

```
margin-bottom:14px;
}
input.w_auto{
border:none;
height:28px;
padding-top:6px;
text-indent:18px;
display:block;
font-size:15px;
color:#666666;
width:100%;
background:url(wl.png) top left no-repeat;
}
```

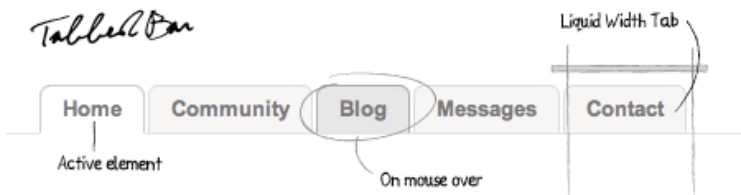
★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/01/liquid-styled-input-element-with-css.html>

1.12. Clean Tab Bar Digg-like using CSS

This tutorial explains how to design a clean Tab Bar (Digg-like) with rounded tabs (liquid width) using CSS and just one background image to manage all status for each tab (standard, active, hover).

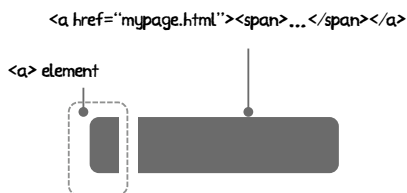
The result is something like this:



- Active element (Home)
- Standard tab (Community, Messages, Contact)
- Hover element (Blog)

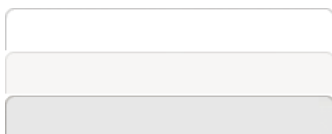
Each element has rounded corners and adapts its width to the text contained inside it.

Ok, if this is clear how can you do it using CSS and HTML? A good way to implement it is using a `<span>` element within an `<a>` element and apply to both elements a background image with rounded corners:



Background image with rounded corners

How I said some row above, we'll use just one background image to manage active, standard, hover tab status. The image is the following:



We'll use position properties for CSS background attribute to change the state of each tab (active, standard, hover) in this way:

- *Active*, background top position: top
- *Standard*, background top position: 30px
- *Hover*, background top position: 60px

HTML Code

HTML code for each tab will be something like this:

```
<a href="community.html"><span>Community</span></a>
```

... and in this specific case each tag is a ** element of an ** list:

```
<li><a href="community.html"><span>Community</span></a></li>
```

How you can see, HTML is a simple list:

```
<ul class="tab">
  <li class="active">
    <a href="home.html">
      <span>Home </span></a></li>

  <li>
    <a href="community.html">
      <span>Community </span></a></li>

  <li>
    <a href="blog.html">
      <span>Blog </span></a></li>

  <li>
    <a href="messages.html">
      <span>Messages </span></a></li>

  <li>
    <a href="contact.html">
      <span>Contact </span></a></li>
</ul>
```

When you want an element set to active, you have to add the class "active" to the list element (in bold in the previous code).

CSS code

CSS is a little more complex respect HTML code, but no fear...it's not so difficult to understand:

```
ul, li{border:0; margin:0; padding:0; list-style:none;}
ul{
border-bottom:solid 1px #DEDEDE;
height:29px;
padding-left:20px;
}
```

```
li{float:left; margin-right:2px;}

.tab a:link, .tab a:visited{
background:url(img/tab-round.png) right 60px;
color:#666666;
display:block;
font-weight:bold;
height:30px;
line-height:30px;
text-decoration:none;
}
.tab a span{
background:url(img/tab-round.png) left 60px;
display:block;
height:30px;
margin-right:14px;
padding-left:14px;
}
.tab a:hover{
background:url(img/tab-round.png) right 30px;
display:block;
}
.tab a:hover span{
background:url(img/tab-round.png) left 30px;
display:block;
}

/* ----- */
/* ACTIVE ELEMENTS */
.active a:link, .active a:visited, .active
a:visited, .active a:hover{
background:url(img/tab-round.png) right 0 no-repeat;
}
.active a span, .active a:hover span{
background:url(img/tab-round.png) left 0 no-repeat;
}
```

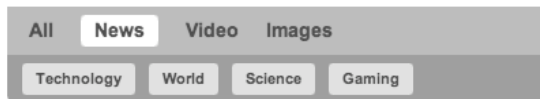
It's all. Ready to use in your projects, if you want only changing the background image to adapt it to your custom layout.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/clean-tab-bar-digg-like-using-css.html>

1.13. Digg-like navigation bar using CSS

This tutorial explains how to design a digg-like navigation bar using a liquid design with rounded corners for navbar links. The result is something like this:



HTML page

Create a new HTML page and copy and paste the following code in the `<body>` tag:

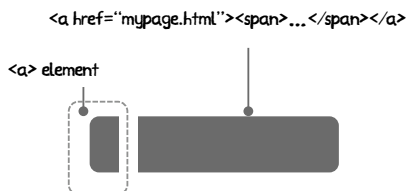
```
<div id="topbar">
  <a href="p1.html"><span>All</span></a>
  <a href="p2.html" class="active"><span>News</span></a>
  <a href="p3.html"><span>Video</span></a>
  <a href="p4.html"><span>Images</span></a>
</div>
<div id="middlebar">
  <a href="p1.html"><span>Technology</span></a>
  <a href="p2.html"><span>World</span></a>
  <a href="p3.html"><span>Science</span></a>
  <a href="p4.html"><span>Gaming</span></a>
</div>
```

In the second link, "News", I added the class `"active"` (in bold). If you use URL variables and PHP to implement a dynamic navigation bar with some topics, if is defined an URL variable equal to "topic name" (in this case equal to "news") then add the attribute `class="active"` to the link. The code to implement this simple tip is very simple:

```
<?php if(isset($_GET['news'])) { echo
'class="active"'; } ?>
```

Rounded corners with liquid design for links

Before to start, I spend few rows to explain how to implement this simple effect using CSS. The typical way is using this simple structure:



... HTML code is:

```
<a href="mypage.html"><span>All</span></a>
```

CSS file, #topbar

Create a new CSS file (style.css) and copy and paste the following code for #topbar element (remember to link this file in your HTML page):

```
#topbar{
  font-size:14px;
  color:#3b5d14;
  background:#b2d281;
  font-weight:bold;
  padding:6px;
  overflow:auto;
  height:1%;
  clear:both;
}
#topbar a{
  color:#3b5d14;
  text-decoration:none;
  margin:0 10px;
  height:23px;
  line-height:23px;
  float:left;
  display:block;
}
a.active{
  height:23px;
  line-height:23px;
```

```
background:url(pic/tb_a.png) right top no-repeat;
padding-right:10px;
}
a.active span{
background:url(pic/tb_span.png) left top no-
repeat;
height:23px;
display:block;
padding-left:10px;
}
```

CSS file, #middlebar

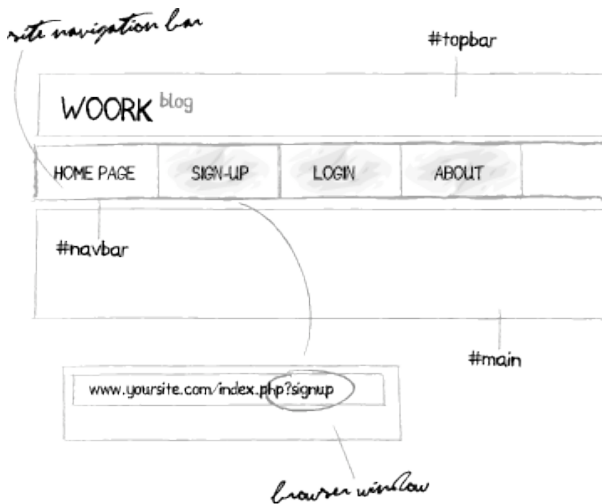
In the same CSS file (style.css), add the following code:

```
#middlebar{
font-size:11px;
color:#3b5d14;
background:#90b557;
font-weight:bold;
padding:6px;
overflow:auto;
height:1%;
clear:both;
}
#middlebar a{
color:#3b5d14;
text-decoration:none;
margin:0 5px;
padding-right:10px;
height:23px;
line-height:23px;
display:block;
float:left;
background:url(pic/mb_a.png) right top no-repeat;
}
#middlebar a span{
background:url(pic/mb_span.png) left top no-
repeat;
height:23px;
display:block;
padding-left:10px;
}
```

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/clean-tab-bar-digg-like-using-css.html>

1.14. Organize and design a navigation bar for your site using CSS, PHP and URL variables

This lesson explains how to create a perfect navbar for your site using CSS, PHP and URL variable to load page into a page section `#main`. Our navigation bar (`#navbar`) is between `#topbar` section and `#main` section:



`#navbar` elements CSS code

This is the CSS structure of `#navbar`:

```
/* -----
PAGE ELEMENTS #NAVBAR
----- */
#navbar ul, #navbar ul li{ padding:0; margin:0; list-
style:none; float:left;}
#navbar a{color:#FFFFFF; font-weight:bold;}
#navbar a:hover{background:#777777;}
#navbar li a:link, #navbar li a:visited
{background:#444444; text-decoration:none; height:
24px; line-height:24px; display:inline; float:left;
```

```
width:auto; padding:0px 10px;}
```

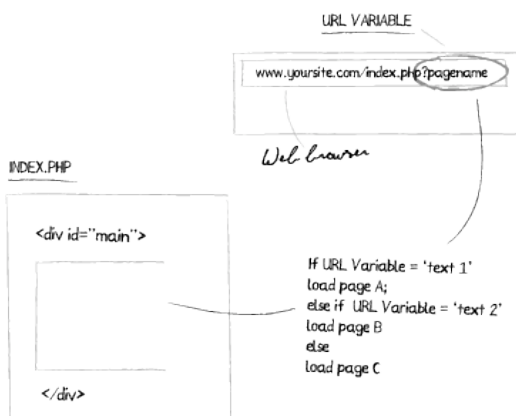
HTML code

And this is the HTML code, a simple list (`<ul>`) with some `<li>` elements:

```
<div id="navbar">
<ul>
<li><a href="index.php?home">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="index.php?signup">Signup</a></li>
<li><a href="index.php?login">Login</a></li>
<li><a href="index.php?about">About</a></li>
</ul>
</div>
```

PHP URL Variables

Now use PHP URL variables and PHP `include()` function to load a page into the section `#main` when an user click above a link in your navigation bar:



Copy and paste this code in the section `#main`:

```
<div id="main">
<?php
```

```
//If is defined URL variable 'signup'
if(isset($_GET['signup'])){
    // include page signup
    include('include/in-signup.php');
} //else if is defined URL variable 'login'
else if(isset($_GET['login'])){
    // include page login
    include('include/in-login.php');
} //else if is defined URL variable 'about'
else if(isset($_GET['about'])){
    // include page 'about'
    include('include/in-about.php');
} // in all other cases include the home page
} else {
    include('include/in-home.php');
}
?>
</div>
```

Our navigation structure is now ready!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/organize-and-design-navigation-bar-for.html>

1.15. Nice login and signup panel Newsvine-like using CSS

A reader of my blog asked to me a suggest for an idea to design a simple login/register section for his site. So I suggested him to take inspiration form the panel used on Newsvine.com which is like the following:



That's a simple panel which includes both options (register and log-in) and it appears/disappears clicking on a link in the navigation bar. In this tutorial I prepared the code (html, css, javascript) which you can use in your HTML pages.

Introduction

Before to go directly to the code, I want to illustrate the structure which I used to implement this panel: I added a navigation bar with an unordered list to add some links (in this tutorial I added just a link "Login | Register"), and a layer "login_menu" which contains register/login sections.

I separated the two sections using two layers #new-user-col (for register section) and #signup-user-col (for login section). Register button in the first section is a simple link with applied CSS class .green-button; instead, Login button, in the second section, is a `<button>` element which you can use to submit the login form.

HTML code

Copy and paste the following HTML code in your page inside the tag `<body>`:

```
<div id="navbar">
<ul>
<li>
<a href="#" onclick="showlayer('login_menu')">
Login | Register
</a></li>
</ul>
<div id="login_menu" style="display:none;">
<div id="new-user-col">New User:<br /><br />
<a href="register.html" class="green-
button">Register</a>
</div>

<div id="signup-user-col">
Existing User log in below:<br /><br />
<form action="login.html" method="post">
<ul>
<li>
<label for="email">Email:</label>
<input type="text" id="email" size="18"/>
</li>
<li>
<label for="psw">Password:</label>
<input type="text" id="psw" size="18"/>
</li>
<button type="submit" class="green-button">Log-in</
button>
</ul>
</form>
</div>
<div class="spacer"></div>
</div>
</div>
```

I set the initial status of the panel to "hide", set the CSS display property of the layer "login_menu" to "none":

```
<div id="login_menu" style="display:none;">
```

CSS code

Copy and paste the following CSS code in the <head> section of your page or into a separated CSS file:

```
/* ----- */
/* NAV BAR */

#navbar{
    background:url(pic/bg.png) repeat-x;
    height:29px;
    line-height:29px;
}

/*----- Reset CSS Properties ----- */
#navbar ul, #navbar li,
#navbar form,
#navbar button {
    border:0; margin:0;padding:0; list-style:none;
}

#navbar li a{
    margin:0 6px;
    text-decoration:none;
    color:#000000;
    font-weight:bold;
    border-bottom:dotted 1px #000000;
}

/*----- Layer with Register and Login Section -----
*/
#login_menu{
    background:#aaaaaa;
    border:solid 1px #666666;
    width:340px;
    padding:10px;
    color:#FFFFFF;
    position:absolute;
    font-weight:bold;
    font-size:12px;
    line-height:18px;
}
#login_menu li{
    padding-bottom:6px;
    text-align:right;
}
#new-user-col{
```

```
padding-right:10px;
border-right:1px #DEDEDE solid;
height:120px;
width:100px;
float:left;
line-height:12px;
}
#signup-user-col{
padding-left:20px;
height:120px;
width:200px;
float:left;
line-height:12px;
text-align:right;
}
#login_menu label{font-size:11px; font-weight:normal;}
#login_menu input{font-size:11px; color:#333333;
margin-left:10px;}

/*----- Button ----- */
#login_menu button{
line-height:24px;
float:right;
color:#FFFFFF;
font-size:11px;
font-weight:bold;
text-align:center;
cursor:pointer;
}

.green-button{
background:url(pic/button.png);
display:block;
color:#FFFFFF;
font-size:11px;
text-decoration:none;
width:81px;
height:26px;
line-height:24px;
text-align:center;
}

/*----- Spacer ----- */
.spacer{clear:both; height:1px;}
```

Javascript function to show/hide layer

By showing/hiding the panel I used this simple Javascript function I often use in my tutorials:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
function showlayer(layer){
    var myLayer = document.getElementById(layer);
    if(myLayer.style.display=="none" ||
    myLayer.style.display=="") {
        myLayer.style.display="block";
    } else {
        myLayer.style.display="none";
    }
}
</script>
```

In the past, some readers asked to me why I don't use a framework (such as Mootools, Scriptaculous, jQuery) to implement this effect by showing/hiding HTML elements. I could do it, but, for simplicity, I prefer to use these few lines of javascript code which I add in an external JS file.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/07/nice-login-and-signup-panel-newsvine.html>

1.16. Tips to design your site for mobile devices

In this post I want to illustrate some simple tips about how to develop a mobile version of your site such as: choosing an URL address for your mobile site version, using a redirect script for mobile devices, designing a mobile-friendly layout using CSS and HTML and (if you are a WordPress user) using a free WordPress plugin to develop your mobile site quickly.

Choose an URL address for the mobile version of your site

First step is choosing an URL address for the mobile version of your site. You have some options, for example, you can create a folder (mobile) in the root of your site so your mobile version will be published at this URL: *http://www.yoursite.com/mobile* or if you can add custom sub domains to your domain, you can use an url like this *http://m.yoursite.com* or *http://mobile.yoursite.com* which links to the folder mobile which will contain all files of your mobile site version.

Redirect script for mobile devices

The second step is creating a redirect script for mobile devices. It's not necessary, but it's useful to redirect automatically all traffic coming from mobile devices to the mobile version of your site. For more info about this topic take a look at the following links:

- Redirect a mobile/PDA to a "lite homepage": *http://www.webmasterworld.com/forum45/260.htm*
- Redirecting visitors who visit a standard webpage to a mobile version: *http://tinyurl.com/ynsy5j*

...and in particular if you are a PHP, ASP programmer take a look here:

- Device detection using PHP: *http://dev.mobi/article/lightweight-device-detection-php*
- Device detection using ASP: *http://dev.mobi/article/lightweight-device-detection-asp*

Simple page structure mobile-friendly

What is the better layout style for your mobile site version? I suggest you to use a typical one-column layout which is very popular for this kind of sites and make them more usable and readable for mobile users. YouTube, Facebook, Twitter , for example, use this layout one-column for their mobile versions.

HTML and CSS basic code

This is a proposal for a simple one-column layout for your mobile website. HTML code is very simple and can be something like this:

```
<!-- ----- -->
<!-- Page Header -->
<div id="header">
<a href="index.html"></a>
</div>

<!-- ----- -->
<!-- Page Body -->
<div id="page-body">
<!-- Your post here -->
<h1><a href="post1.html">Title of your post</a></h1>
<p>A summary of your post</p>
<p class="tag">
<a href="tag1">tag1</a>,
<a href="tag2">tag2</a>,
<a href="tag3">tag3</a>
</p>
<!-- Your post here -->
<!-- Your post here -->
<!-- ... -->
</div>

<!-- ----- -->
<!-- Page Footer -->
<div id="footer">
<a href="index.html">Home</a> |
<a href="mailto:youremail@yoursite.com">Contact me</a>
</div>
```

...and CSS code could be something like:

```
/* -- Reset default style -- */
body, h1, p{border:0; margin:0; padding:0;}
body{font-family:Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-
size:12px;}

/* ----- */
/* HEADER      */
```

```
#header{
padding:6px;
background:#444444;
}
/* PAGE BODY */
#page-body{padding:10px;}
h1{font-size:14px; font-weight:bold;}
h1 a:link, a:visited{color:#0033CC;}
.tag{font-size:12px; margin-bottom:20px;}
.tag a:link, .tag a:visited{color:#999999;}

/* FOOTER */
#footer{
padding:6px;
border-top:solid 1px #DEDEDE;
color:#999999;
font-size:11px;
}
#footer a:link, #footer a:visited{
color:#666666;
}
```

Naturally this is only a very basic proposal which you have to modify adding images, your logo, changing colors, font-family and add some lines of PHP, Coldfusion, ASP or other code to display dinamically all your post.

You can also add a search field in the header of the page to help your readers to find quickly what they are looking for in your site. I also suggest to be simple and don't add useless element such as social network buttons (such as delicious tagometer or digg) or other widgets which use javascript. This is only a mobile version of your site and it have to be simple, usable and readable. Nothing else!

Issue with fonts using devices with Windows Mobile

If you use a mobile device with Windows Mobile, you don't have installed by default fonts like Arial, Verdana, Georgia... So to display correctly a web page you have to copy into your device some of the most used fonts in web design. Click on Explorer and copy from your PC (or also from your MAC)

these fonts into the folder Windows > Fonts in your mobile device:

- Arial
- Verdana
- Georgia
- Trebuchet MS
- Times New Roman

WordPress Mobile Plugin

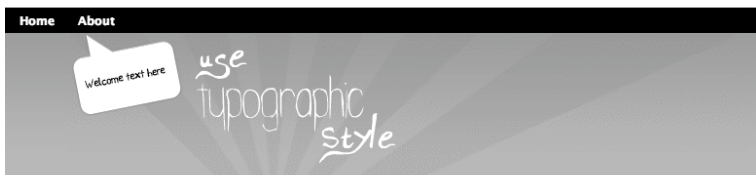
If you are a WordPress user, and you want develop your mobile site quickly, you can download WordPress Mobile Plugin (<http://wordpressmobile.mobi/>), a free to download plug-in developed to make your blog mobile friendly.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/07/tips-to-design-your-site-for-mobile.html>

1.17. How to design a sexy header for your site using CSS

Some of my readers asked to me to dedicate a post about how to realize a similar "graphic composition", so I decided to publish a post with the "process" I use in general to design graphical sections for my web sites. The result is:

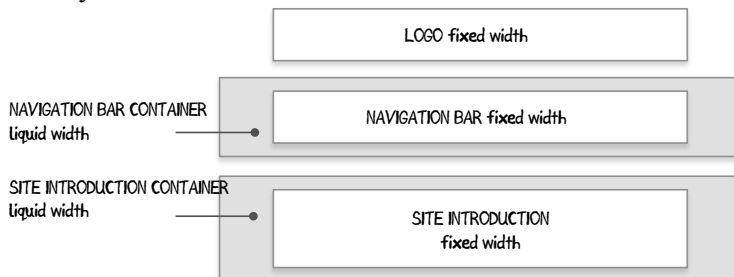


First approach: be simple.

The most important rule is: be simple. Avoid complex CSS structure because in most cases it is not necessary. Work header is composed from three DIV elements:

- Logo layer
- Navigation bar
- Green site introduction section

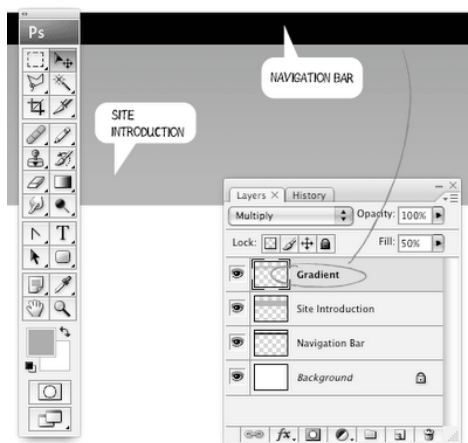
Each element has a fixed width but how navigation bar and site introduction section fit the page size. So you need other two liquid layer (width=100%) which will contain your navigation bar and introduction section. You can schematize this layout in this way:



Another solution to avoid container layers is applying a background picture to the `<body>` section using css, but I prefer working with pure layer instead of images to have more control on the design. In fact if you use a background image for the body, if you decide to change for example height or color of the navigation bar you have every time also changing the background image.

Design the header with Photoshop

A good practice is trying to design first your header in Photoshop to have an idea about how it will look. Replicate with Photoshop the header structure and choose some colors for its elements until you are not satisfied for the result:



When you think your header is ok you can start to convert the picture into HTML and CSS code. Before you leave Photoshop, create an image to apply to site introduction section background. This is a small image like this:



HTML code

HTML code for your header is very simple:

```
<div id="logo"></div>
<div id="navbar-container">
<div id="navbar">
<a href="#">Home</a>
<a href="#">About</a>
<!-- Other links here...-->
</div>
</div>

<div id="int-site-container">
<div id="int-site">
</div>
</div>
```

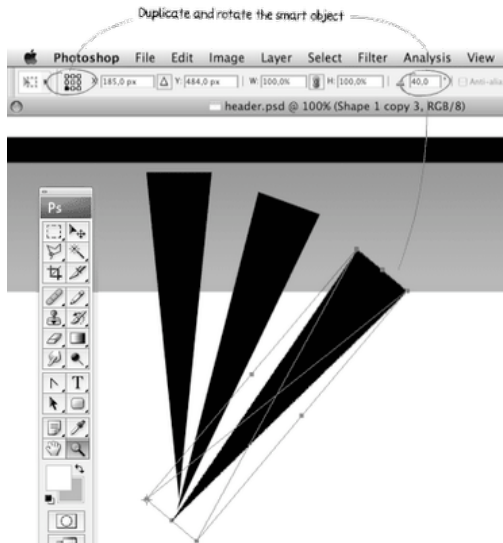
CSS code

```
/* Reset Body Property */
body{border:0; margin:0; padding:0;}
#navbar-container{background:#000000;}
#int-site-container{
background:url(img/int-bg.png) left top repeat-x;
height:166px;
}
#logo, #navbar, #int-site{
width:800px;
margin:0 auto;
}
/*-----*/
/* LOGO */
#logo{height:54px;}

/*-----*/
/* Nav Bar */
#navbar{
height:26px;
line-height:26px;
}
#navbar a:link, #navbar a:visited, #navbar a:hover{
color:#FFFFFF;
font-weight:bold;
margin-right:20px;
text-decoration:none;
}
```

Create Rays of Light for introduction section background

To improve the look of my header I choose to add a background with a simple graphical element: some rays of light. To create this effect, create a triangle using Photoshop Pen Tool. Copy this object and rotate the new object of 20 degrees (set the rotation point to left-bottom):

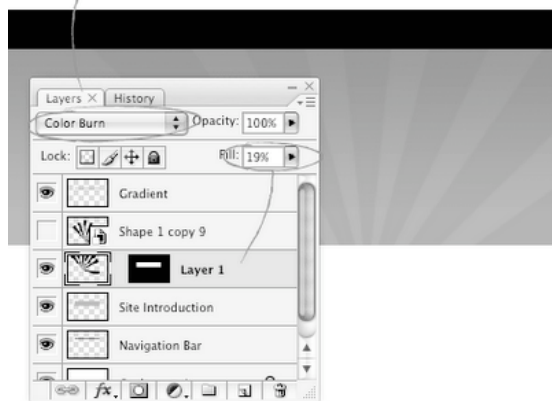


Repeat this action until you designed a semi-circle. Select all element and create a smart object (selecting all "ray of light" layers and clicking on right mouse button -> create smart object).

Then create a selection on the orange background and paste into the selection the smart object with your "rays of light". Set the Fill percentage to 19% and apply Color Burn filter to "rays of light" layer.

The result is like this:

Set Fill % to 19% and apply Color Burn Filter to rays of light level



...and now free your creativity adding graphical element to your site introduction section. On my site I chose a simple typographic style adding a tag cloud of the main topics which my readers can find on work.



If you are looking for nice fonts to download for free, I suggest to try on dafont.com, a great resource to find inspiration and all fonts you need.

Now, last step, add the image background you created into your CSS code:

```
#int-site{background:url(img/site-intro.png) left top  
no-repeat; height:166px;}
```

It's all!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/how-to-design-sexy-header-for-your-site.html>

2. Database

2.1. Introduction to design a Entities-Relationship Model

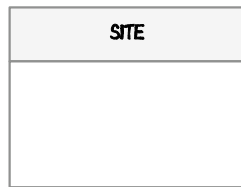
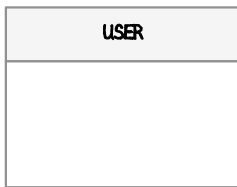
This lesson explains how to project a typical relationships-entities model for a simple database to use in our web projects. My approach is:

- define database entities (tables)
- identify attributes for tables
- define relationships and cardinality between tables instances (records)

Define database entities

The first step when you project a database is to identify all entities (tables). For example if we want to project a simplified del.icio.us-like web site, our database will have these entities:

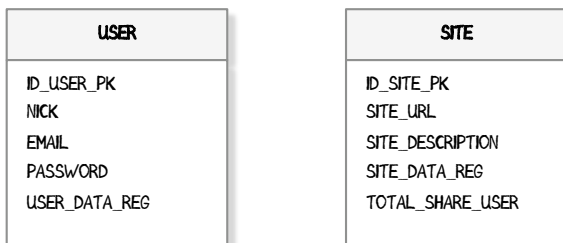
- **USER** (to store data about users, email, password, nickname,...)
- **SITE** (to store data about the sites added by the users)



These are only the main entities, required from our project but, take a mind, that we will add other tables to store data about relationships between instances of these tables in case of cardinality many to many (M:M).

Define attributes

The next step is to define attributes for the tables USER and SITE. In this simplified example we will have something like this:



```
USER
-----
id_user_pk (Primary Key)
nick
email
password
user_data_reg (user signup date)

SITE
-----
id_site_pk (Primary Key)
site_url
site_description
site_data_reg (when a site is added)
totale_share_user (total number of users that share a
site)
```

Define database relationships

Our simple application del.icio.us-like works in this way: an user add a site that can be shared by other users. The relationship's cardinality beetwen USER table and SITE table is:

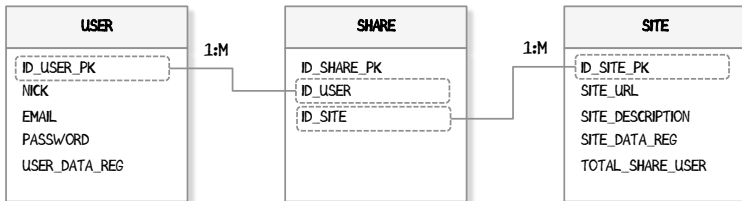
- USER > SITE (M:M) - Many to Many (an user can add many sites).

- SITE > USER (M:M) - Many to Many (a site can be shared by many users).

In this case (cardinality M:M) we have to add a new table (**SHARE**) that contains all possible combinations between all instances of the tables USER and SITE. In this new table, SHARE, in order to identify an user that share a site added by another user or by itself, we will add two Foreign Key:

```
SHARE
-----
id_share_pk (Primary Key)
id_user (Foreign Key > USER)
id_site (Foreign Key > SITE)
submitted_by (boolean: flag only if the current user
has submitted the site)
```

The final scheme will be the following:

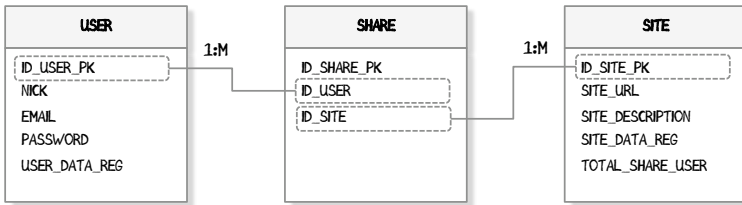


★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/project-database-define-relationships.html>

2.2. Create tables and relationships with SQL

In the previous lesson we have seen how to design a database *entities-relationship* model for a *delicio.us*-like web application. Our R-E model is:



Now we implement the database using SQL and phpMyAdmin. We create a new database on phpMyAdmin and select the "SQL" tab. Copy and paste this SQL code into the form and click on execute button:

```

CREATE TABLE USER (
  id_user_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  nick VARCHAR(40),
  email VARCHAR(40),
  password VARCHAR(20),
  user_reg_date DATE,
  PRIMARY KEY (id_user_pk)
) TYPE=INNODB;

CREATE TABLE SITE (
  id_site_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  site_url VARCHAR(250),
  site_description LONGTEXT,
  site_data_reg DATA,
  PRIMARY KEY
) TYPE=INNODB;

CREATE TABLE SHARE (
  id_share_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  id_user INT NOT NULL,
  id_site INT NOT NULL,
  submitted_by INT NOT NULL DEFAULT 0,
  PRIMARY KEY (id_share_pk),
  FOREIGN KEY (id_user) REFERENCES USER(id_user_pk) ON
  UPDATE CASCADE ON DELETE CASCADE,
  FOREIGN KEY (id_site) REFERENCES SITE(id_site_pk) ON
  UPDATE CASCADE ON DELETE CASCADE
) TYPE=INNODB;
  
```

Create Relationships

To create relationships between database tables (for example between the table “SHARE” and the other tables) you have to use this SQL code:

```
FOREIGN KEY [attribute_name_1] REFERENCES  
tableOfReference[attribute_name_]
```

...where *attribute_name_1* is the foreign key (generally an INTEGER field) and *attribute_name_2* the primary key of destination table.

To force the referencial integrity between database records, you have to add this code:

```
ON UPDATE CASCADE ON DELETE CASCADE 6
```

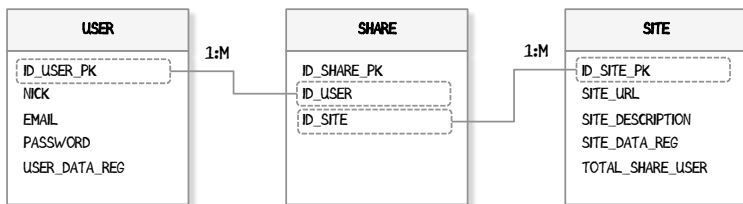
★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/project-database-create-table-and.html>

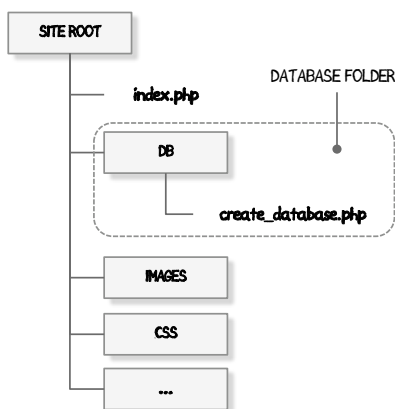
2.3. Using PHP and SQL to create tables and relationships

This tutorial explains how to replicate in your remote server the database structure you created on your localhost using PHP and SQL. A simple way to do that is creating a PHP file that executes SQL queries which create tables and define relationships. This is our E-R model:

⁶ =IceBurn=: Nice approach, (unfortunately) the feature ON DELETE CASCADE and ON UPDATE CASCADE is only available in InnoDB storage engine. Can't use it in MyISAM. Of course, there is always a work around: <http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/converting-tables-to-innodb.html>. However, it is possible to associate tables with MyISAM, and you'll probably cover that in some other article. Keep it up! :)



In the site root create a new folder “DB” and add a new file, *create_database.php*, into this folder.



Open *create_database.php* and copy and paste this code:

```

<?php
//Connect to database
include('../config.php');

$sql= "CREATE TABLE USER (
id_user_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
nick VARCHAR(40),
email VARCHAR(40),
password VARCHAR(20),
user_reg_date DATE,
PRIMARY KEY (id_user_pk)
) TYPE=INNODB";
mysql_query($sql);

$sql="CREATE TABLE SITE (
  
```

```
id_site_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,  
site_url VARCHAR(250),  
site_description LONGTEXT,  
site_data_reg DATA,  
PRIMARY KEY  
) TYPE=INNODB";  
mysql_query($sql);  
  
$sql="CREATE TABLE SHARE (  
id_share_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,  
id_user INT NOT NULL,  
id_site INT NOT NULL,  
submitted_by INT NOT NULL DEFAULT 0,  
PRIMARY KEY (id_share_pk),  
FOREIGN KEY (id_user) REFERENCES USER(id_user_pk) ON  
UPDATE CASCADE ON DELETE CASCADE,  
FOREIGN KEY (id_site) REFERENCES SITE(id_site_pk) ON  
UPDATE CASCADE ON DELETE CASCADE  
) TYPE=INNODB";  
mysql_query($sql);  
  
// Close Connection  
mysql_close($db_con);?>
```

Now save the file and test it on your localhost. In this way you can reuse *create_database.php* to copy your database structure on remote server when our project is ready to be published.

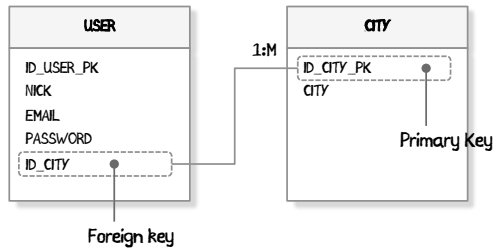
★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/project-database-how-to-use-php-and-sql.html>

2.4. Create relationships between database table using phpMyAdmin

I dedicated already some post about how to design and develop a database, but some readers asked to me to explain how to define relationships in a database and a correct approach to create them.

In general a relationship is defined between a foreign key and a primary key of two - or more - different tables. An example can be the following: an user lives in a city (or in a city live more users). The relationship-entity model for this simple case is something like this:



Generally, to optimize a database, it's a good rule to define relationships using two INTEGER type fields. For example if you have 3 cities into the CITY table identified from

```
ID_CITY_PK (primary key):
```

```
ID_CITY_PK (1)
CITY (Paris)
```

```
ID_CITY_PK (2)
CITY (New York)
```

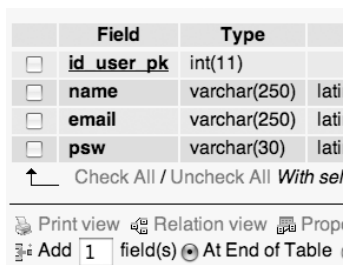
```
ID_CITY_PK (3)
CITY (Rome)
```

... and a record into the USER table with ID_CITY (foreign key) = 3, this relation associates the current record to the city with ID_CITY_PK = 3 in the CITY table (in this case, Rome).

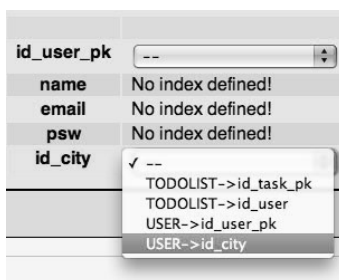
```
ID_USER_PK (1)
NICK (Antonio)
...
ID_CITY (3)
```

How to define relationships using phpMyAdmin

If you use a MySQL database and phpMyAdmin to manage it, select a table (in this example USER) and click on *"Relation View"*, below the table's fields:



Now, from the foreign key field in the table USER (id_city) the field with which you want define the relationship, in this case id_city_pk in the CITY table:



Click on save to save created relation and repeat the action for all tables require relations. If you use an Access database, relationships can be defined from *relationship view* simply connecting with a mouse click two field.

How to define relationships using SQL

I suggest to use always a separated file with SQL statements to create all database's tables and relationships between them. The code is very simple, easy to modify and to reuse. A relation is defined using the statement REFERENCES:

```
CREATE TABLE CITY (  
  id_city_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,  
  city VARCHAR(100),  
  PRIMARY KEY (id_city_pk)  
) TYPE=INNODB;  
  
CREATE TABLE USER (  
  id_user_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,  
  nick VARCHAR(40),  
  email VARCHAR(40),  
  password VARCHAR(20),  
  id_city INT NOT NULL,  
  PRIMARY KEY (id_user_pk)  
  FOREIGN KEY (id_city) REFERENCES CITY(id_city_pk) ON  
  UPDATE CASCADE ON DELETE CASCADE  
) TYPE=INNODB;
```

Remember the order is very important when you create your database: first, you have to create table without dependencies and then all others.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://work.blogspot.com/2007/11/correct-approach-to-define.html>

2.5. Step by step guide for newbie to design a simple web application (part 1)

Design a web application requires hard work and knowledge of HTML, CSS, database and javascript. What is a simple way to start developing PHP web applications for a newbie?

In the past months I received frequently this question. Some readers of this blog often asked to me to publish a "newbie-oriented" post about how to create a web application using PHP. With this step-by-step guide I want to illustrate some basic tips for newbie to design their first (really simple!) web application using PHP, MySQL, Ajax features and MooTools.

About the application

What kind of application we'll develop in this tutorial? I chose a simple to do list application to manage a list of tasks with these basic features:

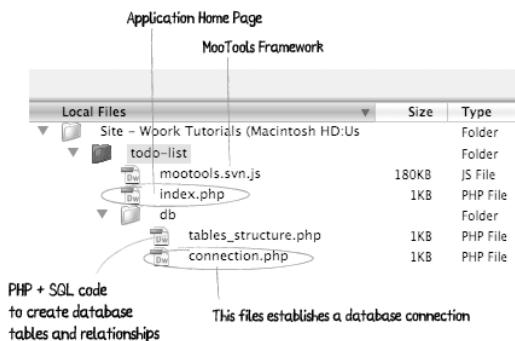
- insert task
- mark a task as completed
- remove task
- search task

In this first part, I'll explain how to:

- define application structure
- create a new database for your application
- create database tables and relationships
- setup the application home page

Application structure

First question is: how to organize our application? We can start using this simple structure which will be modified in the next steps adding new elements (folders and files):

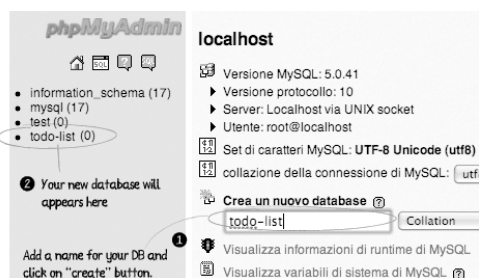


The main folder todo-list will contain all application files and folders; db folder will contains all files to create and manage application database. connection.php enestablishes a database

connection in all pages which require interaction with data stored into our database.

Database: create a new DB

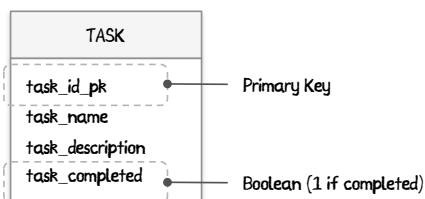
Second step: create a new database for our application to store tasks information. We can use *phpMyAdmin* to create a new DB:



You have to add a name (in this case todo-list) in the input field and click on create button. Your new database will appear on the left panel: the number (0) indicates your database is empty (no tables). If you are a Mac user I suggest you to take a look at MAMP (<http://www.mamp.info/>) to configure PHP+MySQL environment on your system. For more info about MAMP read this post: <http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/02/install-php-and-mysql-environment-on.html>

Database: define DB tables

At this point, we have to define database tables. In our simple to do list application we have only a table TASK with these attributes:



Now we have to create this table into our new database. In general, you can create database tables and relationship directly using phpMyAdmin interface or writing SQL code in a separated PHP file (*tables_structure.php*). I prefer to use the second option because it's simpler to manage. So, open *tables_structure.php* and copy and past this code:

```
<?php
//Database Connection
include('connection.php');

// Create table TASK
$sql="CREATE TABLE TASK (
task_id_pk INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
task_name VARCHAR(250),
task_description LONGTEXT,
task_completed INT, PRIMARY KEY (task_id_pk)
) TYPE=INNODB";
mysql_query($sql);

// Close DB Connection
mysql_close($db_con);
?>
```

In the first row I included the following line:

```
//Database Connection
include('connection.php');
```

...which establishes a database connection (see next step). So I added a PHP var `$sql` which contains SQL code to create a new table "Task". This code:

```
mysql_query($sql);
```

...executes a query with SQL code declared into `$sql` var.

Enstablish a database connection: connection.php

Enstablishing a database connection using PHP is very simple. You can use the following code only changing connection parameters values (`$db_host`, `$db_name`, `$username`, `$password`):

```

<?php
// Connection Parameters
$db_host="localhost";
$db_name="todo-list";
$username="root";
$password="root";
$db_con=mysql_connect ($db_host,$username,$password);
$connection_string=mysql_select_db($db_name);

// Connection
mysql_connect($db_host,$username,$password);
mysql_select_db($db_name);
?>

```

In general `$db_host`, `$username`, `$password` don't require changes. This var:

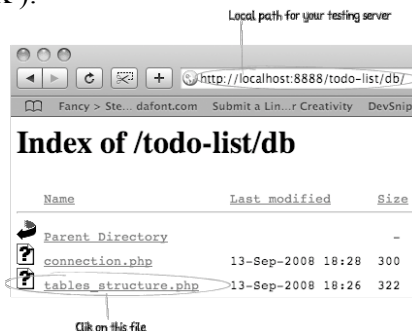
```
$db_name="todo-list";
```

...contains the name of database we created.

Note: you have to include *connection.php* in each page which uses interaction with database.

Create database tables

Ok, now you can publish *tables_structure.php* and *connection.php* on your testing server and load *tables_structure.php* with your browser to create tables and relationships (in this case *tables_structure.php* will create only the table TASK):



If code it's ok, using phpMyAdmin, you can find the new table "TASK" in our todo-list database:

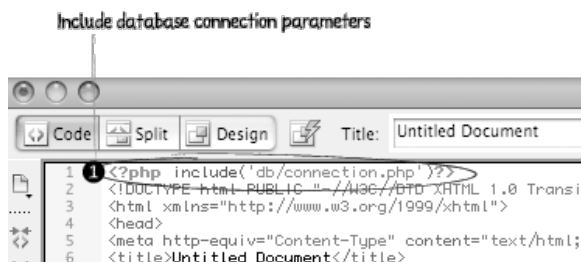


index.php: include connection.php

Open *index.php* and add this line of code at the beginning of the page to establish a database connection:

```
<?php include('db/connection.php'); ?>
```

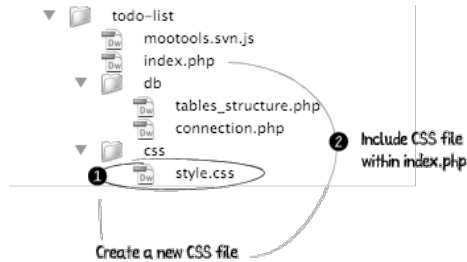
Remember, you have to include this file in each page which interacts with database:



How I said, we'll use MooTools framework to add modern ajax interactions to our application. So we have to add a link to MooTools framework into *index.php* simply copying the following code within the *<head>* tag of the page:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.svn.js"></script>
```

Now, create an external CSS file *style.css* in a new folder *CSS*:



This file will contains CSS code to design application interface elements. So, in the `<head;>` tag add a link at this CSS file:

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

Ok, at this point we are ready to design application interface and implement application features. In the next post we'll see how to insert new tasks, mark a task as completed, delete tasks, search tasks and how to design a simple application interface.

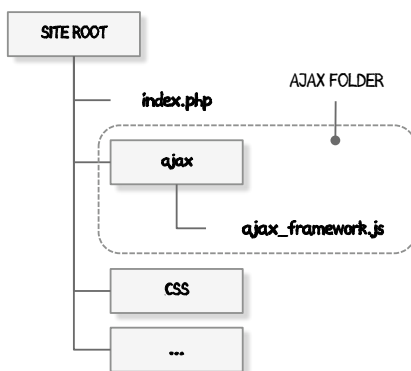
★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/09/step-by-step-guide-for-newbie-to-design.html>

3. Ajax

3.1. Ajax basic: create your first XMLHttpRequest file

In our site root we create a new folder AJAX and a file called `ajax_framework.js` where we will add in the next lessons all the javascript functions to use Ajax functionalities with our site.



Open `ajax_framework.js` and copy and past this code into the file to enable the XMLHttpRequests into our ajax application (this code is standard and work with IE, Safari, and Firefox, on Windows based systems and Mac systems):

```
/* ----- */
/* XMLHttpRequest Enable */
/* ----- */
function createObject() {
    var request_type;
    var browser = navigator.appName;
    if(browser == "Microsoft Internet Explorer"){
        request_type = new ActiveXObject("Microsoft.XMLHTTP");
    }else{
        request_type = new XMLHttpRequest();
    }
    return request_type;
}
var http = createObject();
```

Save and close the file. Now, we are ready to work with some Ajax examples.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/start-learning-ajax-xmlhttprequest-and.html>

3.2. How to solve Internet Explorer cache issue in Ajax

If you use Internet Explorer you can find an annoying problem when you send multiple requests using Ajax. All new requests after the first request (using `http.open` method), maintain the same value of the first request. This problem is caused by Internet Explorer use of the cache. When you call the method:

```
http.open
```

add a random variable using `Math` object and add it in the method's URL argument, for example:

```
nocache = Math.random();  
http.open('get', 'page.php?url_parameter='+parameter  
+'&nocache = '+nocache);
```

In this way all the new request will have an URL parameter (`&nocache`) which force the browser to "refresh" the old value with the new value.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/11/how-to-solve-internet-explorer-cache.html>

3.3. Insert record into a database table using Ajax and PHP

This lesson will explain how to insert a record into a database table and show a message after insertion. In this example we will add a web site (URL and site name) into a table.

How does it work?

In the site root we have these files:

- *index.php* (contains a simple form with an input text)
- *ajax_framework.js* (the javascript function to enable ajax functionalities)
- *insert.php* (the PHP code to save the record into a database table)

Take a mind that *index.php* and *ajax_framework.js* are independent from the server-side language (PHP, ASP, Coldfusion...). For example *index.php* can be adopted also if you are using another script language changed only the extension (ex. from *.php* to *.cfm* if you use Coldfusion) without changing the code.

index.php

This is the code for *index.php*: a simple form that calls (in the action attribute) a javascript function, *insertRecord()*, in *ajax_framework.js*.

```
<!-- Include AJAX Framework -->
<script src="ajax/ajax_framework.js"
language="javascript"></script>

<!-- Show Message for AJAX response -->
<div id="insert_response"></div>

<!-- Form: the action="javascript:insert()" calls the
javascript function "insert" into ajax_framework.js --
>
<form action="javascript:insert()" method="post">
<input name="site_url" type="text" id="site_url"
```

```
value=""/>
<input name="site_name" type="text" id="site_name"
value=""/>
<input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Insert"/>
</form>
```

ajax_framework.js

In ajax_framework.js file add this code:

```
/* ----- */
/* XMLHttpRequest Enable */
/* ----- */
function createObject() {
var request_type;
var browser = navigator.appName;
if(browser == "Microsoft Internet Explorer"){
request_type = new ActiveXObject("Microsoft.XMLHTTP");
}else{
request_type = new XMLHttpRequest();}
return request_type;}
var http = createObject();
```

Now, in the same javascript file, we will add other lines of code for the function insert():

```
/* ----- */
/* INSERT */
/* ----- */
/* Required: var nocache is a random number to add to
request. This value solve an Internet Explorer cache
issue */
var nocache = 0;
function insert() {
// Optional: Show a waiting message in the layer with
ID login_response
document.getElementById('insert_response').innerHTML =
"Just a second..."
// Required: verify that all fields is not empty. Use
encodeURIComponent() to solve some issues about character
encoding.
var site_url=
encodeURIComponent(document.getElementById('site_url').value);
var site_name =
encodeURIComponent(document.getElementById('site_name').value);
// Set te random number to add to URL request
nocache = Math.random();
```

```
// Pass the login variables like URL variable
http.open('get', 'insert.php?site_url='+site_url
+'&site_name=' +site_name+'&nocache = '+nocache);
http.onreadystatechange = insertReply;
http.send(null);
}
function insertReply() {
if(http.readyState == 4){
var response = http.responseText;
// else if login is ok show a message: "Site added+
site URL".
document.getElementById('insert_response').innerHTML =
'Site added:'+response;
}}
```

insert.php

This is the insert.php page code:

```
<!-- Include Database connections info. -->
<?php include('config.php'); ?>

<!-- Verify if user exists for login -->
<?php
if(isset($_GET['site_url']) &&
isset($_GET['site_name'])) {

$url= $_GET['site_url'];
$sitename= $_GET['site_name'];

$insertSite_sql = 'INSERT INTO SITE (site_url,
site_name) VALUES(' . $url . ',' . $sitename . ')';
$insertSite= mysql_query($insertSite_sql) or
die(mysql_error());

<!-- If is set URL variables and insert is ok, show
the site name -->
echo $sitename;
} else {
echo 'Error! Please fill all fields!';>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/insert-record-into-database-using-ajax.html>

3.4. Insert record into a database table using Ajax and Coldfusion

The structure is the same of the previous post. We have these files:

- *index.cfm* (contains a simple form with an input text)
- *ajax_framework.js* (the javascript function to enable ajax functionalities)
- *insert.cfm* (the Coldfusion code to save the record into a database table)

Remember... the code in *index.cfm* and *ajax_framework.js* is independent from the script language (PHP, ASP, Coldfusion...) you use.

index.cfm

This is the code for index.php: a simple form that calls (in the action attribute) a javascript function, insertRecord(), in ajax_framework.js.

```
<!-- Include AJAX Framework -->
<script src="ajax/ajax_framework.js"
language="javascript"></script>

<!-- Show Message for AJAX response -->
<div id="insert_response"></div>

<!-- Form: the action="javascript:insert()" calls the
javascript function "insert" into ajax_framework.js --
>
<form action="javascript:insert()" method="post">
<input name="site_url" type="text" id="site_url"
value=""/>
<input name="site_name" type="text" id="site_name"
value=""/>
<input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Insert"/>
</form>
```

How you can see, it's the same code you can see in *index.php* of the previous post.

JavaScript function

In `ajax_framework.js` file we have added this code:

```
/* ----- */
/* XMLHttpRequest Enable */
/* ----- */
function createObject() {
    var request_type;
    var browser = navigator.appName;
    if(browser == "Microsoft Internet Explorer"){
        request_type = new ActiveXObject("Microsoft.XMLHTTP");
    }else{
        request_type = new XMLHttpRequest();
    }
    return request_type;
}

var http = createObject();
```

Now, in the same javascript file, we will add other lines of code for the function `insert()`:

```
/* ----- */
/* INSERT */
/* ----- */
/* Required: var nocache is a random number to add to
request. This value solve an Internet Explorer cache
issue */
var nocache = 0;
function insert() {
    // Optional: Show a waiting message in the layer with
    ID login_response
    document.getElementById('insert_response').innerHTML =
    "Just a second..."
    // Required: verify that all fields is not empty. Use
    encodeURIComponent() to solve some issues about character
    encoding.
    var site_url=
    encodeURIComponent(document.getElementById('site_url').value);
    var site_name =
    encodeURIComponent(document.getElementById('site_name').value);
    // Set te random number to add to URL request
    nocache = Math.random();
    // Pass the login variables like URL variable
    http.open('get', 'insert.cfm?site_url='+site_url
```

```
+'&site_name=' +site_name+'&nocache = '+nocache);  
http.onreadystatechange = insertReply;  
http.send(null);  
}  
function insertReply() {  
    if(http.readyState == 4){  
        var response = http.responseText;  
        // else if login is ok show a message: "Site added+  
        site URL".  
        document.getElementById('insert_response').innerHTML =  
        'Site added:'+response;}}
```

How you can see, the only change, respect to *insert()* function of the previous post is:

```
http.open('get', 'insert.cfm?site_url='+site_url  
+'&site_name=' +site_name+'&nocache = '+nocache);
```

...instead of:

```
http.open('get', 'insert.php?site_url='+site_url  
+'&site_name=' +site_name+'&nocache = '+nocache);
```

insert.cfm

This is the code for *index.cfm* page:

```
<cfif isDefined('URL.site_url') AND  
isDefined('URL.site_name')>  
<cfset site_url= #URL.site_url#>  
<cfset site_name= #URL.site_name#>  
<!--- Change myDatasourceName with your datasource ---  
>  
<cfquery datasource="myDatasourceName">  
INSERT INTO SITE (site_url, site_name) VALUES (  
    "#site_url#",  
    "#site_name#"  
</cfquery>  
<!--- Show the site name for the ajax response --->  
<cfoutput>#site_name#</cfoutput>  
<cfelse>  
Error! Please fill all fields!  
</cfif>
```

Save all and try it!

★ ORIGINAL POST

http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/insert-record-into-database-using-ajax_23.html

3.5. Edit in place with Scriptaculous and PHP

This post explains how to implement a simple edit-in-place effect (Flickr-like) using *Scriptaculous* and PHP (you have to download Scriptaculous framework).

index.php

Create a new blank page, *index.php*. The file structure is the following: it contains a link to *prototype.js* and to *Scriptaculous* framework. *<body>* contains just some lines of code with a layer which contains the text you want to modify with "Edit in Place".

Open *index.php* and add this code in the *<head>* tag:

```
<script src="scriptaculous/lib/prototype.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
<script src="scriptaculous/src/scriptaculous.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
```

...and add the following code in the *<body>* tag:

```
<div id="myText">This is my text to modify with edit
in place</div>
<script>
new Ajax.InPlaceEditor($('myText'),
'javascript:saveText("myText")', {
ajaxOptions: {method: 'get'}
});
</script>
```

DIV layer (with ID myText) contains text you want to modify using edit in place effect using Scriptaculous. You can also use

other tags like `<span>`, `<h1>`, to contain the text to modify with edit in place. The code into `<script>` tag enables Edit in Place function for the content of the layer with ID `myText`. You can apply the same code to other HTML elements just changing the ID reference "`myText`" (in bold).

ajax_framework.js

`ajax_framework.js` contains `XMLHttpRequest` to use Ajax functionalities and *`saveText()`* the function which save the new value into the database.

```
/* XMLHttpRequest Enable */
function createObject() {
    var request_type;
    var browser = navigator.appName;
    if(browser == "Microsoft Internet Explorer"){
        request_type = new ActiveXObject("Microsoft.XMLHTTP");
    } else {
        request_type = new XMLHttpRequest();
    }
    return request_type;
}
var http = createObject();

/* ----- */
/* SAVE TEXT */

var nocache = 0;
var text = '';
function saveText(textId){
    textId_n =
    encodeURI(document.getElementById('textId').value);
    textIDGlobal = textId_n;
    nocache = Math.random();
    http.open('get', 'save_text.php?newText='+textId_n
    + '&nocache = '+nocache);
    http.onreadystatechange = saveTextReply;
    http.send(null);
}
function saveTextReply(){
    if(http.readyState == 4){
        var response = http.responseText;
        document.getElementById(textIDGlobal).innerHTML =
        response;
    }
}
```

save_text.php

save_text.php contains PHP code to save the new value into our database's table (MYTABLE). Copy and paste the following code into the page save_text.php:

```
<!-- Include Database connections info. -->
<?php include('config.php'); ?>
<?php
if(isset($_GET['newText'])){
$newText= $_GET['newText'];
$insertText_sql = 'INSERT INTO MYTABLE (newText)
VALUES(' . $newText .)';
$insertText= mysql_query($insertText_sql) or
die(mysql_error());
echo $newText;
} else {
echo 'Error! Please fill all fields!';
}
?>
```

If new value is blank, you have a message error, otherwise the new value will be saved into our database.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/12/edit-in-place-with-scriptaculous-and.html>

3.6. Delete record with Ajax using prototype.js and PHP

My friend William asked to me to write a post for "beginners" about how to use prototype.js framework an PHP to delete a record from a database with Ajax. This is a simple overview with basic features you can use and improve in your web projects. Tutorial's structure includes three files:

- *index.php* (with a list of record you want to delete)

- *delete.php* (PHP code to delete records into your database)
- *prototype.js*

Include prototype.js

Download *prototype.js* and create a new page (*index.php*). Add this line of code in the `<head>` tag on *index.php* to include *prototype* framework:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="prototype.js"></script>
```

HTML code

Image to have the following code in *index.php*:

```
<ul>
<li>Jack Bauer
<a href="#" onClick="deleteUser(1)">delete</a></li>
<li>Gregory House
<a href="#" onClick="deleteUser(2)"> delete</a></li>
<li>>Fox Mulder
<a href="#" onClick="deleteUser(1)">delete</a></li>
</ul>
```

...a simple list with names and a link to delete the user from the DB. Each link call a JavaScript function `deleteUser()` with argument the ID (primary key) of the user you want to delete. Database table `USER` has some attributes and a primary key (`id_user_pk`). You can generate dynamically this list using a for example a code like this:

```
<?php
/* Database connection */
include('config.php');
$getUser_sql = 'SELECT * FROM USER';
$getUser = mysql_query($getUser_sql);
?>
<ul>
<?php while ($row = mysql_fetch_array($getUser)) {?>
<li> <?php echo $row['name']; ?> <a href="#"
onClick="deleteUser(<?php echo $row['id_user_pk']; ?>)">delete</a></li>
```

```
} ?>
```

delete.php

Create a new page (*delete.php*). This page contains a query PHP to delete the record passed in argument from javascript function `deleteUser(id)`:

```
<?php
    /* Database connection */
    include('config.php');
    if(isset($_POST['user_id'])){
        $userID = $_POST['user_id'];
        $sql = 'DELETE FROM USER where id_user_pk = "'.
        $userID.'"';
        mysql_query($sql);
    } else { echo '0'; }

?>
```

Javascript function `deleteUser(id)`

This function pass with the method POST to the page `delete.php` the id of the user you want to delete from the table. Add the following lines of code below the code in step 2:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
function deleteUser(id){
    new Ajax.Request('delete.php', {
        parameters: $('idUser'+id).serialize(true),});
}
</script>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/02/deleting-record-with-ajax-using.html>

3.7. Simple search engine in Ajax and PHP

This lesson explains how to realize a simple search engine with Ajax and PHP which find an user name inside a db table (USER) and return results while you type into the input field.

Main page

This page contains the search engine input field, and show the search results into the layer `<div id="search-result">`. Add a link to javascript function inside the `<head>` tag:

```
<script language="javascript"
src="ajax_framework.js"></script>
```

...and copy this code in the `<body>` tag:

```
<form id="searchForm" name="searchForm" method="post"
action="javascript:insertTask();">
<div class="searchInput">
<input name="searchq" type="text" id="searchq"
size="30" onkeyup="javascript:searchNameq()" />
<input type="button" name="submitSearch"
id="submitSearch" value="Search"
onclick="javascript:searchNameq()" />
</div>
</form>

<h3>Search Results</h3>
<div id="msg">Type something into the input field</div>
<div id="search-result"></div>
```

Javascript function

This is the *ajax_framework.js* code:

```
/* ----- */
/* XMLHttpRequest Enable */
/* ----- */
function createObject() {
var request_type;
var browser = navigator.appName;
if(browser == "Microsoft Internet Explorer"){
```

```
request_type = new ActiveXObject("Microsoft.XMLHTTP");
} else {
request_type = new XMLHttpRequest();
}
return request_type;
}

var http = createObject();

/* ----- */
/* SEARCH */
/* ----- */
function searchNameq() {
searchq =
encodeURIComponent(document.getElementById('searchq').value);
document.getElementById('msg').style.display =
"block";
document.getElementById('msg').innerHTML = "Searching
for <strong>" + searchq +"";
// Set te random number to add to URL request
nocache = Math.random();
http.open('get', 'in-search.php?name='+searchq
+'&nocache = '+nocache);
http.onreadystatechange = searchNameqReply;
http.send(null);
}
function searchNameqReply() {
if(http.readyState == 4){
var response = http.responseText;
document.getElementById('search-result').innerHTML =
response;
}
}
}
```

Search into database tables

This code searching for the name in input into the database. Take a look here to see dbconnection.php code:

```
<?php
include('dbconnection.php');
$searchq = $_GET['searchq'];
$getTask_sql = 'SELECT * FROM USER
WHERE name LIKE "%' . $searchq .'"
$getTask = mysql_query($getTask_sql);
$total = mysql_num_rows($getTask);
```

```
while ($row = mysql_fetch_array($getName)) {  
    echo $row.name . '<br/>';  
}  
?>
```

Save all files and test them in your localhost! Remember to create a db table USER with a field name.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/11/simple-search-engine-in-ajax-and-php.html>

4. MooTools, Scriptaculous and other Javascript frameworks

4.1. MooTools basic tips for web designer part 1

After a lot of requests, in this article I want to illustrate some simple tips to start to work with MooTools⁷. In this first lesson you'll learn to manipulate element properties, in particular how to get DOM element by ID, how to use *getStyle()*, *setStyle()* (to get and set CSS properties), *toInt()* to convert string to number and some examples to introduce how to write unobtrusive JavaScript code with MooTools.

First, you have to download the latest version of *MooTools* and add a link to the framework within the *<head>* tag of the page:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.svn.js">
</script>
```

Get DOM Elements

In order to get a DOM element by *ID* you can use the following syntax:

```
var element = $('myElement');
```

... this line of code gets the element with ID="myElement" (for example a DIV layer: *<div id="myElement">...</div>*) in your page. If you have familiarity with JavaScript, it's "almost" the same thing to get a DOM element by reference using the following code:

```
var element = document.getElementById('myElement');
```

⁷ *MooTools* is a compact, modular, Object-Oriented JavaScript framework designed for the intermediate to advanced JavaScript developer. It allows you to write powerful, flexible, and cross-browser code with its elegant, well documented, and coherent API: <http://mootools.net/>

Ok, now using `$$` you can get an array of elements within a DOM element with a specific ID:

```
$$('#myElement li.myListElement');
```

...for example, this line of code returns an array of all `<li>` tags with the `class="myListElement"` within the DOM element with `ID="myElement"`.

setStyle() and getStyle()

`setStyle()` and `getStyle()` are two basic methods to set and get element properties (height, background, color...). In order to set a property you can use the following code:

```
$("myElement").setStyle("height", "200px")
```

...or if you have to set multiple properties you can use the this code:

```
$("myElement").setStyles({  
  background: "#DEDEDE",  
  border: "solid 1px #999999",  
  width: "700px",  
  height: "80px"  
});
```

To get a property you can use `getStyle()` specifying the property you want to get (height, background, color...):

```
$("myElement").getStyle("height")
```

The previous code returns the height of the DOM element with `ID="myElement"`, for example `"200px"`. If you want the number (200 and not the string `"200px"`) you have to use the following code:

```
$("myElement").getStyle("height").toInt()
```

...in this way the value returned will be a number (200).

Unobtrusive Javascript

Now, we can see how to write unobtrusive Javascript code using MooTools in order to separate page content from JavaScript code. You have to use the following code in the `<head>` tag of the page:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function() {
//Some lines of code here...
});
</script>
```

For example, if you want to write a simple script which shows an alert with *"Hello World!"* when an user click on a link with ID="myElement" use this JavaScript code:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function() {
$('myElement').addEvent('click', function() {
alert('Hello World!');
});
});
</script>
```

...and HTML code is:

```
<a href="home.html" id="myElement">
Try to click here!</a>
```

...this code is “unobtrusive”. You don’t have in your link events such as *onClick* which call a function (for example *doSomething()*) added within the `<a>` tag such as in this case:

```
<a href="home.html" id="myElement"
onClick="javascript:doSomething()" >
Try to click here!</a>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/08/mootools-basic-tips-for-web-designer.html>

4.1. MooTools basic tips for web designer part 2

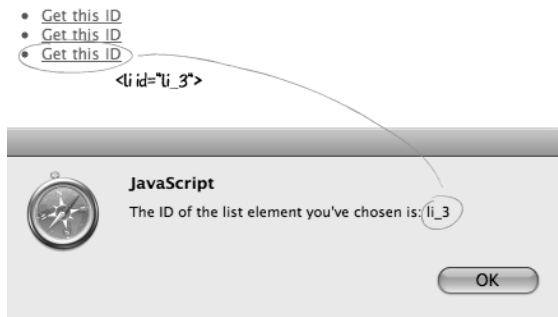
After my previous post about *MooTools Basic Tips for web designer part 1*, I received a lot of excited messages from my readers, lovers of this beautiful framework, for this session of lessons dedicated to MooTools. Thanks a lot guys! I really appreciate your support! So... a question which a lot of people asked to me was how it's possible to get the ID of an element (for example the ID of an element into a list) and associate to this element some event (change background, display an alert message...). In this post I want to illustrate how to get the ID of DOM elements using MooTools and unobtrusive elegant code.

An "Obtrusive" way to implement it

Before to explain how to do it with MooTools, I think it's better take a look at the following HTML code:

```
<ul id="myList">
<li id="li_1">
<a href="#" onClick="javascript:getId('1')">Get this
ID</a>
</li>
<li id="li_2">
<a href="#" onClick="javascript:getId(2)">Get this
ID</a>
</li>
<li id="li_3">
<a href="#" onClick="javascript:getId(3)">Get this
ID</a>
</li>
</ul>
```

This is a simple list with some list elements with id "li_1", "li_2", "li_3". Each list element contains a link which calls, with an event *onClick* this JavaScript function: *getId()*. This function takes in input the number related to the list element ID, within which the link is contained, displaying a simple alert window with the ID of the element you've chosen. The result is something like this:



Javascript code is something like the following:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
function getId(el){
  var listElement = el;
  alert("The ID of the list element you've chosen is:
  li_" + listElement);
}
</script>
```

...it's simple and clear if you have basic javascript notions. But why this code is obtrusive?. Because, withing HTML code, it contains a call to the JavaScript function `getId()`:

```
<a href="#" onClick="javascript:getId('li_1')">Get this
ID</a>
```

It's not wrong. But it's better to separate HTML code from JavaScript code. How you can do it? Read more...

The unobtrusive way to implement it using MooTools

Ok, now we are ready to see how we can implement the same script using unobtrusive code with MooTools. First, take a look at the HTML code:

```
<ul id="myList">
  <li id="li_1"><a href="#">Get this ID</a></li>
  <li id="li_2"><a href="#">Get this ID</a></li>
  <li id="li_3"><a href="#">Get this ID</a></li>
```

```
</ul>
```

What's changed from the previous code? I removed *onClick* event within each link:

```
<li id="li_1">
  <a href="#" onClick="javascript:getId('1')" >
    Get this ID
  </a>
</li>
```

Then, how changes JavaScript code to get the ID of the element? First, remember to add a link to MooTools framework in the *<head>* tag of the page:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.svn.js">
</script>
```

... and now copy, below the previous code, the following:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('load', function(){
  $('myList').getElements('li').each(function(el){
    el.getElement('a').addEvent('click', function(listID){
      alert("The ID of the list element you've chosen is:
      "+listID);
    }).pass(el.id)
  });
});
});
</script>
```

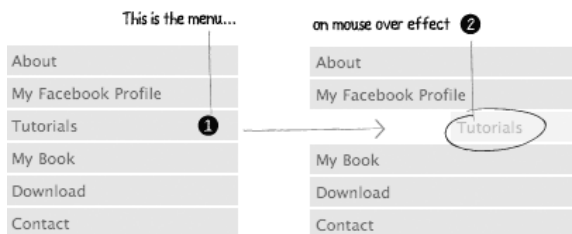
How you can see, I used *getElements()* method to get all ** tags within ** list with ID "myList ". Every times you click on *<a>* element contained in a ** tag, the function display an alert window with the ID of the element you've chosed, passing the ID using *.pass(el.id)* method. It's all and it's very simple!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/08/mootools-basic-tips-for-web-designer.html>

4.2. Nice vertical menu with motion and opacity effect

In this tutorial I explain how to design a vertical menu which use motion and change opacity effect. I wrote this post to show a better use of elastic effect which I illustrated in the previous tutorial. The effect I want to realize is the following. I have a vertical menu with some links. On "mouse over" the select link goes to the right with an animated elastic effect and change its opacity. When you release the element, it goes in its initial position with original opacity value. The result is something like this:



HTML code

HTML code is very simple. We have a list (`<ul>`) with some `<li>` elements with a progressive ID (l1, l2, l3, l4...):

```
<ul id="menu">
<li id="l1"><a href="#">About</a></li>
<li id="l2"><a href="#">My Facebook Profile</a></li>
<li id="l3"><a href="#">Tutorials</a></li>
<li id="l4"><a href="#">My Book</a></li>
<li id="l5"><a href="#">Download</a></li>
<li id="l6"><a href="#">Contact</a></li>
</ul>
```

CSS code

I used this simple CSS code to set the look of links but you can customize it how your prefer:

```
#menu li{
    list-style:none;
    margin:0;
    padding:0;
    border:0;
    margin-bottom:2px;
}

#menu li a{display:block;
padding:4px;
background:#DEDEDE;
text-decoration:none;
}
```

JavaScript code

In order to obtain our effects (elastic motion + change opacity) I used MooTools framework and some lines of Js code. In the *<head>* tag of the page add a link to MooTools:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.svn.js">
</script>
```

Now, copy and paste this code below the previous line of code in the *<head>* tag of the page (if you prefer you can also copy this code in a separated .js file and import it in your page):

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function(){
    $(' #container div').each(function(item){
        var o = item.id

        // FX motion with elastic effect
        var fx-motion = new Fx.Style(o, 'margin-top', {
            duration: 1000,
            transition: Fx.Transitions.Back.easeInOut,
            wait: true
        });

        // FX opacity effect
        var fx-opacity = new Fx.Style(o, 'opacity', {
```

```
duration: 1000,  
transition: Fx.Transitions.Back.easeInOut,  
wait: true  
});  
item.addEvents({  
  'mouseenter' : function(e){  
    fx-motion.stop()  
    fx-opacity.stop()  
    fx-motion.start(0,100);  
    fx-opacity.start(0.5);  
  },  
  'mouseleave' : function(e){  
    fx-motion.stop()  
    fx-opacity.stop()  
    fx-motion.start(0);  
    fx-opacity.start(1);  
  }  
});  
})  
});  
</script>
```

It's all!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2009/01/nice-vertical-menu-with-motion-and.html>

4.3. Simple ul list with a nice slide-out effect for elements

In the past weeks some readers of this blog asked to me what's a simple way to implement an animated "disappear" effect (using unobtrusive JavaScript code) for an element of a list when an user clicks on a link contained into a element of that list. A very simple way to do that is using MooTools *slideOut()* effect. This tutorial explains how to implement that using "five" lines of JavaScript code.

Include MooTools framework

First, you may download the latest version of MooTools and add a link to the framework in the tag `<head>` of the page:

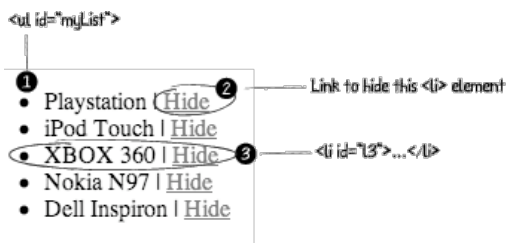
```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.js"></script>
```

HTML code

Image to implement a simple list of products and for each product into that list add a link "Hide":

```
<ul id="myList">
  <li id="11">Playstation | <a href="#">Hide</a>
</li>
  <li id="12">iPod Touch | <a href="#">Hide</a></li>
  <li id="13">XBOX 360 | <a href="#">Hide</a></li>
  <li id="14">Nokia N97| <a href="#">Hide</a></li>
  <li id="15">Dell Inspiron | <a href="#">Hide</a>
</li>
</ul>
```

The result is something like this:



How you can see, we have a products list with ID="myList" and some `<li>` elements with a progressive ID: 11, 12, 13, 15, 15. We want to obtain this effect: when an user clicks on a link ("Hide"), the related `<li>` element disappear with a nice animated slide out effect. How can we do that? Take a look at the following step!

Unobtrusive JavaScript code

Copy and paste this code below the code at the step 1 to enable `slideOut()` effect:

```
<script>
window.addEvent('domready', function() {
  /* From the list with ID myList, for each li element
  of the list...: */
  $('myList').getElements('li').each(function(e){
    /* ...get the ID of the selected item */
    e.getElement('a').addEvent('click', function(listID){
      /* Enable Fx.Slide effect for the selected item */
      var list_element = new Fx.Slide(listID);
      /* Enable slideOut() effect */
      list_element.slideOut()
    }.pass(e.id));
  });
});
</script>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/12/simple-list-with-nice-slide-effect-for.html>

4.4. Lightbox using mootools and pathfusion multibox

This tutorial explains how to use *Mootools* and *pathfusion multibox* to implement a very nice lightbox on your website. When an user clicks on a thumbnailed image, the script displays a big image preview in a window above all other page elements. The result is something like this:



You can download this tutorial here: <http://www.box.net/shared/v0e55ut4w0>

Include CSS and Javascript files

Create a new HTML page and add the following code into `<head>` tag to link mootools and multibox script/css:

```
<link href="multibox.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<script language="javascript" src="mootools.js">
<script language="javascript" src="multibox.js">
```

Add images

Now, in the `<body>` tag, add thumbnailed images using this code for each image:

```
<a href="my_image_lbig.jpg" id="mb1" class="mb"
title="Add here image title">
```

```

</a>
<div class="multiBoxDesc mb1">
  For each image, you can add a short description
  here...
</div>
```

...remember to change ID for each image link using a progressive number (mb1, mb2, mb3...) and the relative multiBoxDesc reference (in bold in the code above!).

Add the script

When you added all tumbnailed images you want, add below this few lines of code:

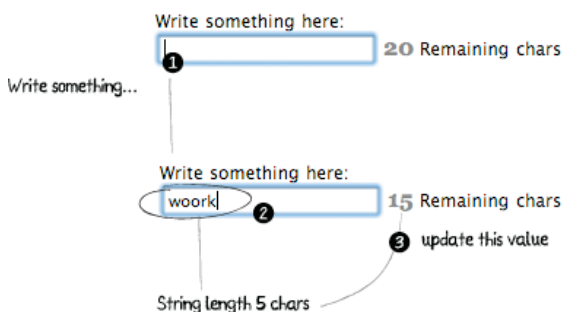
```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function(){
  new MultiBox('mb', {descClassName: 'multiBoxDesc'});
});
</script>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/01/lightbox-using-mootools-and-pathfusion.html>

4.1. Interaction with HTML FORM

This post illustrates how to implement simple interactions with form elements using this powerful framework and unobtrusive JavaScript code. In this tutorial I implemented the Twitter-like⁸ chars counter example of my previous post. This counter decreases, from the max value of available chars in the input field (20 in this example) to zero, while you type something into the input field:



First, you may download the latest version of MooTools and add a link to the framework within the tag `<head>` of the page:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.svn.js">
</script>
```

HTML Code

HTML code for this example is very simple:

```
<label for="myInput">Write something here:</label>
<input type="text" id="myInput" maxlength="20" />
<span id="counter_number" class="counter">20</span>
Remaining chars
```

⁸ *Twitter* is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that allows its users to send and read other users' updates: <http://twitter.com>.

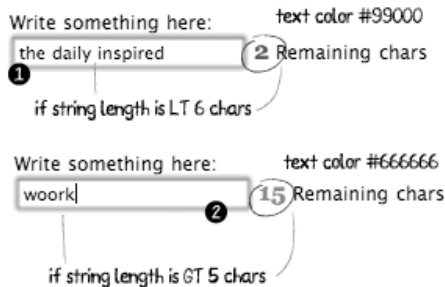
In this code I added an input text field with `id="myInput"` and a span element with `id="counter_number"` which display the remaining chars.

JavaScript Code

Copy and paste the following code after MooTools link (see step 1) in the tag `<head>`:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function() {
  $('myInput').addEvent('keyup', function() {
    max_chars = 20;
    /* get the current value of the input field */
    current_value = $('myInput').value;
    /* get current value lenght */
    current_length = current_value.length;
    /* calculate remaining chars */
    remaining_chars = max_chars-current_length;
    $('counter_number').innerHTML = remaining_chars;
  });
});
</script>
```

If you want, with some lines of additional code, you can change the counter text color for example from gray to red when remaining chars are less then 6:



This is the code:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function() {
$('myInput').addEvent('keyup', function() {
max_chars = 20;
/* get the current value of the input field */
current_value = $('myInput').value;
/* get current value lenght */
current_length = current_value.length;
/* calculate remaining chars */
remaining_chars = max_chars-current_length;
$('counter_number').innerHTML = remaining_chars;

/* Change color if remaining chars are LT 6*/
if(remaining_chars<=5){
$('counter_number').setStyle('color', '#990000');
} else {
$('counter_number').setStyle('color', '#666666');
}
});
});
</script>
```

I added an *if* statement which checks the value of *remaining_chars* var. If this value is less then 6, this script changes counter color to the value #990000, else to #666666.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/09/mootools-basic-tips-lesson-3.html>

4.1. Super elastic effect to design high impact web menu

This tutorial explais how to design an high impact elastic effect to make original web menu using some lines of Javascript code and MooTools framework. The effect is simple to developpe and reuse in your web projects changing only HTML code and CSS. Take a look!

The effect I want to realize is the following. I have a "layer cloud" with some layer overlapped to the others. On "mouse over" the select layer goes down with a nice animation effect and when you release the element this goes up with an elastic effect.

HTML code

Create a layer which contains all elements in the "cloud" (in this case I used DIV elements):

```
<div id="container">
<div id="contact">This is the layer about me.</div>
<div id="about">Contact me? <a
href="mailto:myemail@email.com">My Email</a></div>
<div id="profile">This is my <a href="http://
work.blogspot.com">website</a></div>
</div>
```

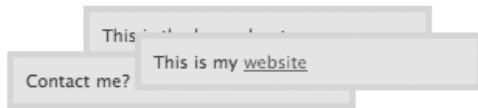
Use CSS to stylize previous elements how you prefer. In this tutorial I used this CSS code:

```
#about {
    width: 200px;
    padding: 8px;
    background: #DEDEDE;
    color: #333;
    position: absolute;
    z-index: 1;
    left: 31px;
    top: 66px;
    border:solid 4px #CCC;
}

#contact {
    width: 200px;
    padding: 8px;
    background: #DEDEDE;
    color: #333;
    position: absolute;
    z-index: 1;
    left: 80px;
```

```
top: 37px;
border:solid 4px #CCC;
}
...
```

The result is something like this, a "layer cloud" with some layer overlapped to others:



You can add other overlapped layers simply adding new `<div>` elements with the related CSS stlye. To overlap layer I use CSS properties "position:absolute" and "z-index" for each element.

JavaScript code

In order to obtain our elastic effect I used MooTools framework and some lines of Js code. No fear... it's very simple! In the `<head>` tag of the page add a link to MooTools:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.svn.js">
</script>
```

Now, copy and paste this code below the previous line of code in the `<head>` tag of the page (if you prefer you can also copy this code in a separated .js file and import it in your page):

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function(){
var zindex = 2;
$('#container div').each(function(item){
var o = item.id
var fx = new Fx.Style(o, 'margin-top', {
duration: 1000,
transition: Fx.Transitions.Back.easeInOut,
wait: true
```

```
});  
  
    item.addEvents({  
        'mouseenter' : function(e){  
            fx.stop()  
            fx.start(0,100);  
            zindex = zindex + 1;  
            $(o).setStyle('z-index', zindex)  
        },  
        'mouseleave' : function(e){  
            fx.stop()  
            fx.start(0);  
            zindex = zindex - 1;  
            $(o).setStyle('z-index', zindex)  
        }  
    });  
})  
});  
</script>
```

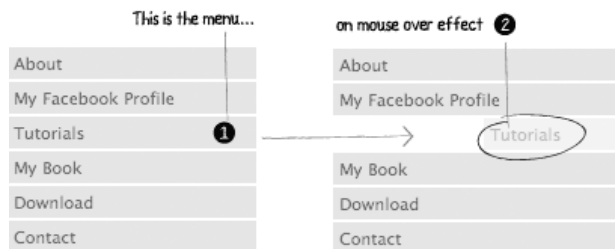
★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/12/super-elastic-effect-to-design-high.html>

4.2. Nice vertical menu with motion and opacity effect

In this tutorial I explain how to design a vertical menu which use motion and change opacity effect. I wrote this post to show a better use of elastic effect which I illustrated in the previous post.

The effect I want to realize is the following. I have a vertical menu with some links. On "mouse over" the select link goes to the right with an animated elastic effect and change its opacity. When you release the element, it goes in its initial position with original opacity value. The result is something like this:



HTML code

HTML code is very simple. We have a list (`<ul>`) with some `<li>` elements with a progressive ID (11, 12, 13, 14...):

```
<ul id="menu">
<li id="11"><a href="#">About</a></li>
<li id="12"><a href="#">My Facebook Profile</a></li>
<li id="13"><a href="#">Tutorials</a></li>
<li id="14"><a href="#">My Book</a></li>
<li id="15"><a href="#">Download</a></li>
<li id="16"><a href="#">Contact</a></li>
</ul>
```

CSS code

I used this simple CSS code to set the look of links but you can customize it how you prefer:

```
#menu li{
list-style:none;
margin:0;
padding:0;
border:0;
margin-bottom:2px;
}
#menu li a{display:block;
padding:4px;
background:#DEDEDE;
text-decoration:none;
}
```

JavaScript code

In order to obtain our effects (elastic motion + change opacity) I used MooTools framework and some lines of Js code. In the `<head>` tag of the page add a link to MooTools:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.svn.js">
</script>
```

Now, copy and paste this code below the previous line of code in the `<head>` tag of the page (if you prefer you can also copy this code in a separated .js file and import it in your page):

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function(){
$('#container div').each(function(item){
var o = item.id

// FX motion with elastic effect
var fx-motion = new Fx.Style(o, 'margin-top', {
duration: 1000,
transition: Fx.Transitions.Back.easeInOut,
wait: true
});

// FX opacity effect
var fx-opacity = new Fx.Style(o, 'opacity', {
duration: 1000,
transition: Fx.Transitions.Back.easeInOut,
wait: true
});

item.addEvents({
'mouseenter' : function(e){
fx-motion.stop()
fx-opacity.stop()
fx-motion.start(0,100);
fx-opacity.start(0.5);
},
'mouseleave' : function(e){
fx-motion.stop()
fx-opacity.stop()
fx-motion.start(0);
fx-opacity.start(1);
}
});
})
```

```
});  
</script>
```

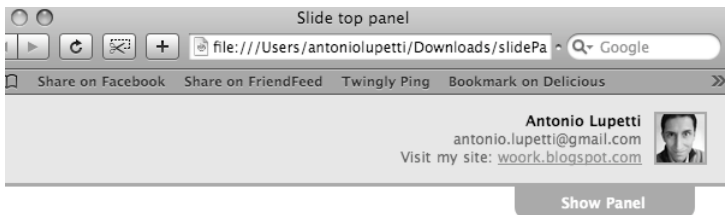
That's all!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2009/01/nice-vertical-menu-with-motion-and.html>

4.3. Sliding top panel using mootools

This tutorial explains how to realize a simple sliding top panel (top/down) using MooTools, some lines of css code and JavaScript. The result is something like this which appears and disappears when you click on the tab “*Show/hide Panel*”:



HTML Code

HTML code is very simple: we have a DIV with ID "top-panel" which is the and a another layer with ID sub-panel which contains a link to slide up/dow our panel:

```
<div id="top-panel">  
<!-- Top Panel content here -->  
</div>  
<div id="sub-panel">  
<a href="#" id="toggle"><span>Show Panel</span></a>  
</div>
```

Add MooTools framework in the tag `<head>`:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.svn.js">
```

```
</script>
```

Css code

This is only a proposal about the look of your panel, but you can customize it how you prefer:

```
#top-panel{
    background:#e8f3c6;
    border-bottom:3px solid #a6c34e;
    padding:14px 20px;
    text-align:right;
}
#sub-panel{
    text-align:center;
}
#sub-panel a{
    width:150px;
    float:right;
    color:#FFFFFF;
    text-decoration:none;
    margin-right:30px;
    font-weight:bold;
    background:url(img/sub-left.png) bottom left no-repeat #a6c34e;
}
#sub-panel a span{
    padding:6px;
    background:url(img/sub-right.png) right bottom no-repeat;
    display:block;
}
```

JavaScript Function

Add this simple JavaScript in the `<head>` tag of the page:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function(){
    var mySlide = new Fx.Slide('top-panel');
    $('toggle').addEvent('click', function(e){
        e = new Event(e);
        mySlide.toggle();
        e.stop();
    });
});
```

```
</script>
```

It's all! Download this tutorial and try it.

★ ORIGINAL POST

http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/sliding-top-panel-using-mootools_05.html

4.4. Toggle effect using Scriptaculous

This tutorial explains how to implement a simple Toggle effect using Scriptaculous framework. To use this effect on your pages you have to add this lines of code in the `<head>` tag:

```
<script language="javascript" src="scriptaculous/
prototype.js"></script>
<script language="javascript" src="scriptaculous/
scriptaculous.js"></script>
```

Then, you can apply Scriptaculous Toggle effect using this simple code, for example calling this function inside "onClick" attribute:

```
Effect.toggle('ID','type-of-effect'); return false
```

...where "ID" is the element you want to apply the toggle effect and "type-of-effect" is a toggle "sub-effect" (blind, appear, slide). I chose as toggle sub-effect "*blink*".

```
<h1 onclick="Effect.toggle('about-me','blind'); return
false">About me</h1>
<div id="about-me">...some content...</div>
```

In this way you can apply this effect to every element using HTML "id" attribute.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/01/toggle-effect-using-scriptaculous.html>

4.5. Drag and drop to order list elements with Scriptaculous

Drag and drop feature is a popular effect in modern website interfaces and a simple way to implement it is using Scriptaculous. This tutorial explains how to use Scriptaculous to implement an HTML list with drag and drop feature to reorder list elements.

Add scriptaculous framework

To enable drag and drop effect you have to download Scriptaculous framework [here](#) and add a link to prototype.js and scriptaculous.js in the <head> tag of your page:

```
<script src="scriptaculous/lib/prototype.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
<script src="scriptaculous/src/scriptaculous.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
```

HTML Code

Add a list with ID "myList" and some elements with a progressive ID like in the following example:

```
<ul id="myList" class="listClass">
<li id="item_1">Adobe</li>
<li id="item_2">Apple</li>
<li id="item_3">Microsoft</li>
<li id="item_4">Macromedia</li>
<li id="item_5">Symantec</li>
<li id="item_6">Mozilla Foundation</li>
<li id="item_7">Skype</li>
</ul>
<!-- Display a string with the new order after drag
and drop here -->
<p id="listNewOrder">&lt;p>
```

Add this javascript code below the previous code:

```
<script type="text/javascript" language="javascript"
charset="utf-8">
Sortable.create('myList',{ghosting:false,
constraint:true, hoverclass:'over',
onChange:function(element){

    // Total elements in the list (in this case 7 <li>
    element)
    var totElement = 7;
    var newOrder = Sortable.serialize(element.parentNode);
    for(i=1; i<=totElement; i++){
        newOrder = newOrder.replace("myList[]=", "");
        newOrder = newOrder.replace("&", ",");
    }

    // display the string with the new order in the
    &lt;Pgt; with id listNewOrder
    $('listNewOrder').innerHTML = 'New Order: ' +
    newOrder;
    }
    });
</script>
```

newOrder is a string variable which returns the new order of all elements of "myList" for example: 1,2,4,3,5,6,7.

... where list element 4 has moved before list element 3. The new order is:

- li element 1 --> position 1
- li element 2 --> position 2
- li element 3 --> position 4 (changed from position 3 to position 4)
- li element 4 --> position 3 (changed from position 4 to position 3)
- li element 5 --> position 5
- li element 6 --> position 6
- li element 7 --> position 7

If you use PHP or another server side language like ASP or Coldfusion you can save the new list order assigning the value of `newOrder` to an hidden `<input>` HTML element in this way:

```
$('newOrderInput').value = newOrder;
```

... and adding an hidden input field with id `newOrderInput` in your HTML code after `<ul>` list with ID "myList":

```
<input type="hidden" id="newOrderInput" value="">
```

In this way every time you drag and drop a list item the value will be updated with the text string with the new order. Then you can use this string (for example "1,2,4,3,5,6,7") and PHP to save the new order into a database table.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/02/drag-and-drop-to-order-list-elements.html>

4.6. Simple sort script using Stuart Langridge's `sortabe.js`

Some days ago I was looking for a good and simple way to sort data into a table with a simple click on table headers and I found this interesting framework: Stuart Langridge's *sorttable.js*⁹. This tutorial explains how to use it in your projects.

include `sorttable.js`

Create a new page and include in the `<head>` tag a link to `sorttable.js`:

```
<script src="sorttable.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
```

⁹ Take a look here: <http://www.kryogenix.org/code/browser/sorttable/>

HTML code to design a sortable table

Create a new table and add "sortable" in the table class parameter:

```
<table class="sortable"> ... </table>
```

If, in the same page, you have more than one table, you can apply this class to all tables you want to sort. The general structure for each table you want to sort contains a `<thead>` (table header) a `<tbody>` (table body) and `<tfooter>` (table footer) like the following example:

```
<table class="sortable">
  <!-- Table Header -->
  <thead>
    <tr>
      <th>Company</th>
      <th>Ticker</th>
    </tr>
  </thead>

  <!-- Tabel body-->
  <tbody>
    <tr>
      <td>Apple Inc</td>
      <td>AAPL</td>
    </tr>

    <tr>
      <td>GoogleInc</td>
      <td>GOOG</td>
    </tr>
  </tbody>

  <!-- Tabel footer-->
  <tfoot>
    <tr>
      <td>Total</td>
      <td> 00.00</td>
    </tr>
  </tfoot>
</table>
```

When you click on a header (in this simple example "Company" or "Ticker") all rows within `<tbody>` tag will be sort in ascending or decreasing order.

Populate table rows with data using PHP

You can populate a table with some data using a server-side language such as PHP, Coldfusion, ASP or similar. If you use PHP you can use this simple code:

```
<?php
// Include connection to your database
include('dbconnection.php');
$getCompany_sql = 'SELECT * FROM COMPANY';
$getCompany= mysql_query($getCompany_sql);?>

<table class="sortable">
<!-- Table Header -->
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Ticker</th>
</tr>
</thead>

<!-- Tabel body-->
<tbody>
<?php while ($row = mysql_fetch_array($getCompany)) {?
>
<tr>
<th><?php echo $row['companyName'] ?></th>
<th><?php echo $row['companyTicker'] ?></th>
</tr>
<?php } ?>
</tbody>

<!-- Tabel footer-->
<tfoot>
<tr>
<td> ... </td>
<td>.... </td>
</tr>
</tfoot>
</table>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/02/sort-table-rows-using-ajax.html>

4.7. Nice Ajax effect for message box using Mootools

My friend David asked to me how to implement a message box which appears when an user submit a form and disappear (with a nice fade effect after some seconds) when a generic Ajax request is completed.



This is the sequence of events:

- Submit a form
- Display a message box with the message "Saving..."
- When the Ajax request is complete display "Saved!" into the box and after some second it disappear with a fade-out effect.

How I said, you can image this list of "actions" like a "sequence" of effects. A simple way to implement a chain of effects like this is using mootools and this tutorial explains how to implement it with some lines of JavaScript code.

HTML Code

HTML code is very simple. I added only the essential elements, the message box (with ID "box") and an input element with a button (with ID "save_button"), but you can customize it with a more complex structure:

```
<div id="box"></div>
<input name="myinput" type="text" /> <input
id="save_button" name="save_button" type="button"
value="save"/>
```

CSS Code

You can choose a style for your message box changing how you want these attributes:

```
#box {
    margin-bottom:10px;
    width: auto;
    padding: 4px;
    border: solid 1px #DEDEDE;
    background: #FFFFCC;
    display: none;
}
```

Remember to set the initial display attribute to "none". In this way the message box will appear only when an user submit the form:

JavaScript Code

Copy this code in the tag `<head>` of the page:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function(){
    var box = $('box');
    var fx = box.effects({duration: 1000, transition:
    Fx.Transitions.Quart.easeOut});

    $('save_button').addEvent('click', function() {
        box.style.display="block";
        box.setHTML('Save in progress...');

        /* AJAX Request here... */

        fx.start({
        }).chain(function() {
            box.setHTML('Saved!');
            this.start.delay(1000, this, {'opacity' : 0});
        }).chain(function() {
            box.style.display="none";
            this.start.delay(0100, this, {'opacity' : 1});
        });
    });
});
```

```
</script>
```

If you never used Mootools, but you are familiar with JavaScript, this line of code:

```
var box = $('box');
```

... let me say "it's almost equal" to:

```
var box = document.getElementById('box');
```

This line of code enable a delay of 1000 ms (1 second) before to apply fade-out effect:

```
this.start.delay(1000, this, {'opacity' : 0});
```

It's all!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/nice-ajax-effect-for-message-box-using.html>

4.8. Useful resources to improve the look and features of HTML Forms

Are you looking for some useful tips to improve the look and features of your standard HTML FORM elements? In this post I suggest you some interesting resources about this topics.

Niceforms 2.0

Niceforms (<http://www.emblematiq.com/projects/niceforms/>) is a script developed from Lucian Slatineanu that will replace the most commonly used form elements with custom designed ones. You can either use the default theme that is provided or you can even develop your own look with minimal effort.

The script will basically transform standard form into this:

Using this script is very simple. You have to add a link to niceforms.js script in the <head> tag of the page:

```
<script language="javascript" type="text/javascript"
src="niceforms.js"></script>
```

...so adding the following link for the default CSS theme:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="all"
href="niceforms-default.css" />
```

...and add the attribute class="niceform" in your form:

```
<form action="index.php" method="post"
class="niceform">
...
</form>
```

The script is fully compatible and has been tested with most major browsers, with the exception of IE6.

Spry Validation Form Widget

This widget provided from Adobe Labs uses *Spry* to implement easily validation features in your custom Forms. If you use Dreamweaver CS3 and Spry framework it's a quick choice to implement this kind of feature in your forms.

★ <http://labs.adobe.com/technologies/spry/demos/formsvalidation/index.html>

JavaScriptKit form articles

In this section of JavaScriptKit website (<http://www.javascriptkit.com/script/cutindex13.shtml>) you can find a lot of interest JavaScript example ready to use in your projects to enrich features of your forms such as Check required elements, Drop down date select, Limit number of checked checkboxes, Strip HTML tags...

Zend_Form (Zend Framework)

If you are a PHP programmer I suggest you to take a look at Zend_Form (http://devzone.zend.com/article/3030-Lifting-the-Skirt-on-Zend-Framework-1.5---Zend_Form), a component of the Zend Framework which gives you all the tools necessary to create forms and form elements via PHP code. Zend_Form helps you by simplifying the creation of these form elements as well as adding programmatic controls for validation, ordering, filtering, and grouping.

★ http://devzone.zend.com/article/3030-Lifting-the-Skirt-on-Zend-Framework-1.5---Zend_Form

Customselect with icons

Paul from Adelaide Web Design (<http://www.adelaidewebdesigns.com/2008/08/01/adelaide-web-designs-releases-customselect-with-icons/>) released this jQuery plug-in (beta version) in order to design custom SELECT form which contains a specific icon for each element contained in the menu.

★ <http://www.adelaidewebdesigns.com/2008/08/01/adelaide-web-designs-releases-customselect-with-icons/>

JotForm

JotForm (<http://www.jotform.com/>) is an interesting web based WYSIWYG form builder. Its intuitive drag and drop user

interface makes form building a breeze. Using JotForm, you can create forms, integrate them to your site and collect submissions from your visitors. JotForm now integrates with PayPal, Google Checkout, WorldPay, 2CheckOut, ClickBank and OneBip payment gateways, so you can collect payments from your users. Basic feature is for free for basic usage.

★ <http://www.jotform.com/>

Secure AJAX / mootools contact form

This contact form uses the mootools 1.1 framework to check the form fields and give immediate feedback if the entered values are correct. The name only allows normal chars, the email is checked with regex for a correct syntax and the message field doesn't allow to enter web addresses as many spam emails would be send off that way. Furthermore any potentially dangerous characters will be removed from the input as < > and others.

★ <http://www.artviper.eu/mootoolssecureform/>

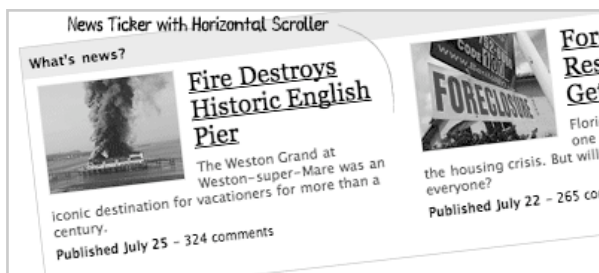
★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/12/useful-resources-to-improve-look-and.html>

4.9. News ticker with horizontal scrolling using Mootools

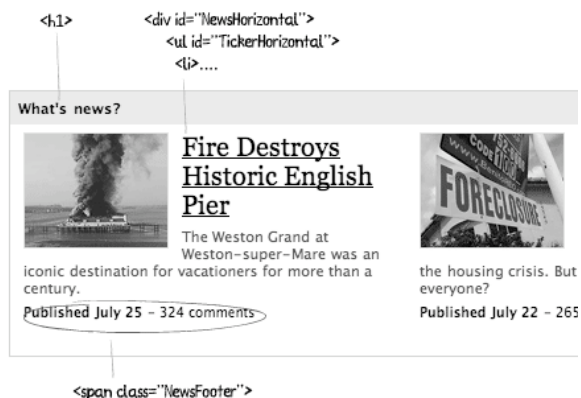
This tutorial is another version of my News Ticker with Mootools (<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/07/fantastic-news-ticker-newsvine-like.html>). I want to reply to all that wrote me asking for information about how to implement a news ticker with horizontal scrolling.

Don't panic, it's very simple to implement and reuse in your projects. The result is something like this:



Introduction

In this tutorial I used the same HTML structure I used in the previous post. I changed only CSS code:



...each news is contained into a `<li>` element and the `<ul>` list is contained into the layer `#NewsHorizontal` with “overflow” property set to *hidden* and position set to *relative*.

HTML code

First of all, add a link to mootools framework in the `<head>` tag of your page:

```
<script language="javascript" src="mootools/
```

```
mootools.svn.js" type="text/javascript"> </script>
```

... and add this code into the tag *<body>*:

```
<div id="NewsTicker">
<h1>What's news?</h1>
<div id="NewsHorizontal">
<ul id="TickerHorizontal">
<!-- Each News into a LI element
Use PHP or another language
to get dinamically your news. -->
<li>

<span class="NewsTitle">
<a href="link.html">News Title</a>
</span>
Some text here, it's your news summary...
<span class="NewsFooter"><strong>Published July 25</
strong> - 324 comments</span>
</li>
<!-- If you can't use a server side
language to get your news add
manually your news into LI element
-->
</ul>
</div>
</div>
```

How you can see, in the code above I just added the main HTML elements. You can add your news manually adding `<li>` elements to the previous code or, if you use PHP (or another server side language such as ASP, Coldfusion, Js...) you can get your news dinamically from a database table.

Javascript function to enable vertical scroller

Last step is adding this JavaScript function to enable vertical scrolling provided from Capitol Media (<http://www.capitolmedia.com>). I didn't add the code in this page but you can find it downloading the source code of this tutorial.

```
<script language="javascript" type="text/javascript">
var Ticker = new Class({
  setOptions: function(options) {
    this.options = Object.extend({
      speed: 1500,
      delay: 5000,
      direction: 'vertical',
      onComplete: Class.empty,
      onStart: Class.empty
    }, options || {});
  },
  initialize: function(el,options){

```

Download source code
for full code

You have just to copy and paste JavaScript code without changing nothing. If you want, you can set the speed and delay (in milliseconds) for news transition at the end of the function changing these parameters:

```
var hor = new Ticker('TickerHorizontal',{speed:
1000,delay:4000, direction:'horizontal'});
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/07/news-ticker-with-horizontal-scroller.html>

4.10. Automatic news ticker with vertical scrolling and Start/Resume options

Some time ago I wrote an interesting post about how to implement a News Tiker with automatic vertical scrolling (Newsvine.com-like) using MooTools.

In the past days a lot of people asked to me to modify the code of the news ticker, adding new features: in particular, *Start/Resume* options. So, today I released a "ready to use" script which you can use quickly on your web projects. I want to say thanks to my friend *Shane Holland* for his useful suggests about the solution I adopted in this post.

Start/Stop controller

I change the code of my previous tutorial about the news ticker adding a new layer with ID=controller which includes a play/stop button to start/stop vertical news scrolling:

Stop Button: to stop news scrolling



When you click on the button, this action enables/disables vertical news scrolling and changes the button look with its related message from "stop" to "play":

Play: to play news scrolling



HTML and CSS code

I added this code into the div with ID=NewsTicker:

```
<div id="controller">
<div id="stop_scroll_cont">
<a id="stop_scroll"></a> Stop
news scroll
</div>
```

```
<div id="play_scroll_cont">
<a id="stop_scroll"></a> Play
news scroll
</div><scroll</div>
```

...and I added this line within CSS code:

```
#play_scroll_cont{display:none;}
```

Javascript function

I created a new file newsticker.js which includes JavaScript the code to enables vertical scrolling and stop/play features. You may add this code below the #newsTicker layer:

```
<script language="javascript" type="text/javascript"
src="newsticker.js"></script>
```

In newsticker.js I added the following code to enable stop/play features:

```
window.addEvent('domready', function() {
var hor = new Ticker('TickerVertical', {

speed : 500, delay : 5000, direction : 'vertical'});
$('stop_scroll').addEvent('click', function() {
$('play_scroll_cont').style.display='block';
$('stop_scroll_cont').style.display='none';
hor.pause();
});
$('play_scroll').addEvent('click', function() {
$('stop_scroll_cont').style.display='block';
$('play_scroll_cont').style.display='none';
hor.resume();
});
});
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/10/automatic-news-ticker-with-vertical.html>

4.11. Joomla! extension: super news ticker

My friend *Daniel Bojorge* released this Joomla! extension which implements my News Ticker¹⁰ (<http://work.blogspot.com/2008/07/fantastic-news-ticker-newsvine-like.html>), with news vertical scrolling, using mootools. It works with Joomla! 1.0 and 1.5 legacy. This module has several options:

- Choose category to show and quantities of item
- Default text (if you have nothing to show)
- Set language for (read more) Spanish or English.
- Module's title
- Speed of transaction and delay between each scroll

This is a screenshot of this module:



¹⁰ Download this extension here: http://extensions.joomla.org/component/option,com_mtree/task,viewlink/link_id,6251/Itemid,35/

Once you have installed this module, set the Joomla! release. This module show items from a category and scrolling, you can stop or play. All this is with mootools, in 1.5 work fine, but in 1.0 you must specify the Joomla! release 1.0 on configuration for work fine.

★ ORIGINAL POST

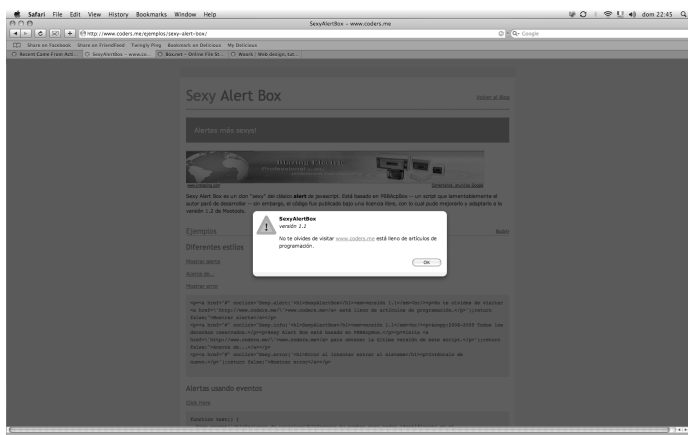
<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/10/joomla-extension-news-ticker-vine.html>

4.12. Design a stunning Alert Box using MooTools

Do you want to change the default style of JavaScript Alert Box? Do you want to add a nice animation with MooTools? Take a look at this simple script of Eduardo Sada from Coders.me (<http://www.coders.me/>)

The Script

This tutorial explains how to design a stunning Alert Box which changes and improves the classic look of JavaScript Alert Boxes.



How to install this script

Downloading the package you have all do you need to use this nice script. First of all, add a link to MooTools Framework and to sexyalertbox.js within the `<head>` tag of the page in this way:

```
<script src="mootools.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
<script src="sexyalertbox.v1.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
```

...then add this link to the CSS file:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="sexyalertbox.css"
type="text/css" media="all" />
```

...and if you want to change the default look of Alert Box you can customize the CSS file how you prefer.

HTML Code

Add this line of code within the `<body>` tag:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function() {
  Sexy = new SexyAlertBox();
});
</script>
```

...and for example create a link which display an alert box with a simple message "Nice!":

```
<a href="#" onclick="Sexy.alert('Nice!'); return
false;">Show a JavaScript alert with a new look!</a>
```

In this way when an user click on this link an alert box will appear above all other elements of the page. It's all! For other info, please take a look at the documentation you can find at this link. <http://www.coders.me/web-html-js-css/javascript/sexy-alert-box>

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/08/design-stunning-alert-box-using.html>

5. Blogger (.blogspot)

5.1. Add del.icio.us button with counter in your blogger posts

This is a simple Blogger hack to add a delicious button with a counter which show the number of users that share the current link. The result is like this:



add to del.icio.us saved by **456** users

```
<p class="post-footer-line post-footer-line-3">
```

...and add this code:

```
<a expr:href='"http://del.icio.us/post?url="+
data:post.url + "&amp;title" + data:post.title'
target='_blank'>add to del.icio.us</a>
saved by <span class='delsquare'
expr:id='"a"+data:post.id'>0</span> users

<script type='text/javascript'>
function displayURL(data) {
var urlinfo = data[0];
if (!urlinfo.total_posts) return;
document.getElementById('a<data:post.id/>').innerHTML
= urlinfo.total_posts;
}
</script>
<script expr:src = '"http://badges.del.icio.us/feeds/
json/url/data?url= " + data:post.url +
"&amp;callback=displayURL"'/>
```

CSS classes

Copy this code in the *<head>* section of your template to format the number of users that share the current link:

```
<style>
.delsquare{
```

```
font-family:Arial;
background:#0033CC;
padding:2px 4px;
font-weight:bold;
font-size:12px;
color:#FFFFFF;
}
</style>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://work.blogspot.com/2007/10/blogger-hack-add-delicious-button-with.html>

5.2. Add DZone button on Blogger template

DZone.com is a popular digg-like portal to share interesting and useful links for developers. It provides two type of buttons to vote a post directly from your site (like digg) with different size: tall and wide.

To add DZone buttons on your blogger template, in each post of your blog, select "modify html" and check "Expand Widget Models" (remember to save your template before!).

Better position to place the big button (tall) is beside the title of post. Find this line of code:

```
...<data:post.body/>...
```

Copy and paste the following code below the line above:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
var dzone_url = '<data:post.url/>';
</script>
<script type="text/javascript">
var dzone_title = '<data:post.title/>';
</script>
<script type="text/javascript">
var dzone_style = 'l';
</script>
```

```
<script language="javascript" src="http://  
widgets.dzone.com/widgets/zoneit.js"> </script>
```

If you prefer the small button (wide size) instead of big button change this line:

```
...  
<script type="text/javascript">  
var dzone_style = '1';  
</script>  
...
```

...with the following:

```
...  
<script type="text/javascript">  
var dzone_style = '2';  
</script>  
...
```

I suggest to place wide size button to the end of post (for example below tags line). Past the code below this line of code in your blogger template:

```
<p class='post-footer-line post-footer-line-3'>
```

Save your template and try it!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/01/add-dzone-button-on-blogger-template.html>

5.3. Add Technorati blog reaction on your Blogger Template

Some readers asked to me how to add Technorati.com blog reactions on Blogger Template. This simple script helps you to know how much a post is popular in the blogosphere.

First: save a copy of your template to avoid problems... Then, edit your blogger template and flag the checkbox "Expand Widget Models". Find this line of code:

```
<p class='post-footer-line post-footer-line-3'>
```

Copy and paste the following code using `data:post.url` to get dinamically the url of each post:

```
<script src='http://embed.technorati.com/linkcount'  
type='text/javascript'/>  
<a expr:href='"http://technorati.com/search/" +  
data:post.url' rel='linkcount'>View blog reactions</a>
```

In this way a Technorati counter will appear on your post!

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/blogger-hack-add-delicious-button-with.html>

5.4. Add Yahoo! Buzz button on Blogger Template

Yahoo opened Buzz! (<http://buzz.yahoo.com/>), a Digg-like site to share stories, to all publishers. Add Buzz! button on your Blogger template. This is a short post which explains how to add Yahoo! Buzz buttons on your Blogger template. It's really very simple! Take a look here <http://buzz.yahoo.com/buttons> to see what kind of buttons are available and choose the style you prefer. For example, if you choose Square button style:



...copy and past the following code in your blogger template (a good position is under post's title):

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="http://d.yimg.com/
ds/badge2.js" badgetype="square"><data:post.url/></
script>
```

In any case, if you choose a different button, you have only to change the string ARTICLEURL in the code with `<data:post.url/>`.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://work.blogspot.com/2008/08/add-yahoo-buzz-button-on-blogger.html>

5.5. Add Digg vote button on Blogger Template (update)

This post explains how to add a Digg.com button on each post of your Blogger blog. Open your Blogger template, expand the widgets and find this code's line:

```
...<data:post.body/>...
```

...and add on top to `<data:post-body>` this code:

```
<!-- DIGG -->
<div style='float:right; margin-left:10px;'>
<script type='text/javascript'>
digg_url = '<data:post.url/>';
</script>
<script src='http://digg.com/tools/diggthis.js'
type='text/javascript'>
</div>
<data:post.body/>
```

The previous code add a *big* Digg button on each post of your blog. If you want to add a *small* Digg button like on this site, find this code into your blogger template (select expand widget):

```
<div class='post hentry'>
<a expr:name='data:post.id'>
```

...and past this code:

```
<!-- DIGG -->
<div style='float:right; margin-top:4px;'>
<script type='text/javascript'>
digg_url = "<data:post.url/>";
digg_skin = "compact";
digg_window = "new";
</script>
<script src='http://digg.com/tools/diggthis.js'
type='text/javascript'></script>
</div>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/add-digg-vote-button-on-blogger.html>

5.6. Place Google AdSense below post's title on Blogger

I use Google AdSense to receive some income from my site, but if you use the option show ads between posts, default position where ads are placed (below the post), isn't a good place for a good result in terms of revenue. So I have decided to change the position of AdSense and in my Blogger Template, I have found this "suspect" code in the post's footer:

```
<b:if cond="'data:post.includeAd'">
<data:adend/>
<data:adcode/>
<data:adstart/>
</b:if>
```

... that is what I'm searching: the AdSense code, placed on template, from Blogger when I have selected show ads between posts option. After some tentatives I have found a good position where to place AdSense, below the title's post, before this line's code (check expand widget in your blogger template):

```
<p><data:post.body/></p>
```

So, I have changed AdSense code position above this line, adding an if statement (on bold) to show sponsored links only into the single post, not when an user visits my home page, or browse categories (over 96% of my actual clicks comes from internal pages):

```
<b:if cond='data:blog.pageType!="item"'>  
<b:if cond="'data:post.includeAd'">  
<data:adend/>  
<data:adcode/>  
<data:adstart/>  
</b:if>  
</b:if>
```

In this way, AdSense is more visible and in just two day I have improved the number of clicks and my CTR for the most visited pages. If you use Blogger platform for your blog, I suggest to try it.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/11/place-google-adsense-below-posts-title.html>

5.7. Some Blogger Tips you probably don't know

Blogger or WordPress? Blogspot.com subdomain or custom .com domain? These are some recurrent questions which people do when they want to start a "professional" blog.

My personal opinion is: Blogger is the best choice to publish your web site for free and I want to dedicate this post to illustrate the real power of this platform to create professional and succesful web sites, taking advantage of all free Google services like Picasa Web Album and Google Pages.

How organize images on your Blogger site

I read in several articles about Blogger you can't manage images you load on your posts. This is not true! When you load an image from the Blogger Post Editor it is saved on your Google Picasa Web Album account. To have a full control on all graphic element you load on your site you have simply to access to Picasa Web Album. You can do it directly from Google Home Page selecting *Photos* from the Google top menu. All images of your Blog are saved in an Album and you can organize them how you prefer in a very simple way.

Use Picasa Web Album to mantain original image quality

When you load a picture directly from the Blogger Post Editor, you will notice the quality of image you loaded is worse then original picture. I think Blogger uses (correctly) an image "compressor" to avoid people load enormous size pictures which would render too much weighed the page loading. But how can you do if you want to reserve the original quality for your picture (for example because you need the better quality for your layout elements)? I found this problem when I uploaded the background image on my site header directly from the Blogger Post Editor. The result was very bad. So I tryied to load the image directly from my Picasa account and voilà! Perfect quality.

Favicon Tips

I found several post about this topic very helpful but not completely exact. In fact all these articles suggest to upload your favicon with .ico extension on Google Page Creator. But if you use .ico extension for your file, fivicon will not be displayed correctly and it will substituted with GooglePages default icon. So, I suggest to use a .gif file instead of .ico. Anyway using a .gif file you can always upload your favicon directly on Google Picasa Web Album.

To display your favicon on web browser address bar you have to add this code into the <head> tag of your template:

```
<link rel="shortcut icon" href="http://  
yoursite.googlepages.com/favicon.gif"/>
```

Professional Blogger layout Blogger

I also read some opinions about the difficulty to design a "professional" layout on Blogger compared to Wordpress. It's completely false. There are not any different. You have to modify lines of code on Wordpress like on Blogger. The only limit you have is your creativity.

I hope this post can help you to consider the real power of Blogger also creating complex and "professional" web site layout for your free, money-maker, succesful blog.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/03/some-blogger-tips-you-probably-dont.html>

5.8. 7 Tips to design professional blog layout using Blogger

Blogger¹¹ is a very powerful platform to publish your blog. It's free and with some features which you can customize how you prefer, without limits. In this post I want to illustrate some tips which can help you to improve your Blogger template to design a professional layout for your blog.

Start creating a custom template

A nice template is important for the success of your blog in terms of visits and return of money using AdSense. Before to start your custom template, writing code from zero, I suggest you to download a simple basic Blogger template, for example "Minima": so, copy and past on your preferred HTML editor

¹¹ Blogger: <http://blogger.com/>

HTML source (remember to check *expand widget models* option) and remove everything is contained within `b:skin` tag. This is the only code which have to remain:

```
<b:skin> /*</b:skin>
```

...and, below the previous line, add this code into the `<head>` tag to create your custom CSS style. I suggest you to use the following CSS structure:

```
<style type="text/css">
/* -- 1. Standard HTML elements reset --*/
/* -- 2. Custom Page Elements --*/
/* -- 3. Redefine blogger standard elements --*/
/* -- 4. Other custom classes --*/
</style>
```

In this way CSS code will be simpler to manage and update. This is a screenshot of a part of CSS code I used to design my blog:

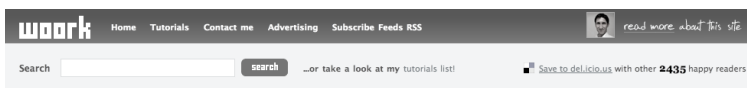
```
<b:skin> /*</b:skin>
<style type='text/css'>
/* ----- */
/* RESET HTML TAG */
/* ----- */
body {
    font-family:Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
    color:#444444;
    background-color: #DEDEDE;
}
body{border:0; margin:0; padding:0;}
form{border:0; margin:0;}
form {font-size:12px;}
form, input {padding:0;}
h1,h2,h3,h4, h5 {margin:0; border:0; padding:0; color:#000; font-weight:
h1 {font-size:32px; font-family:Georgia, "Times New Roman", Times, serif
h2 {
    font-size: 24px;
    font-weight:bold;
    line-height: 30px;
    color: #000;
}

h2 a:link, h2 a:visited{color:#000000; text-decoration:none; padding
h2 a:hover{text-decoration:underline;}
h3 {
    font-size:14px;
    line-height:36px;
    color:#000;
    font-weight:bold;
    background:url(http://lh5.ggpht.com/antonio.lupetti/SLnVprhZ9II/AAAA
    border-bottom:solid 1px #DEDEDE;
```

At this point you can start writing HTML code, adding layer, sections and other elements to your template. When your template is ready, copy the code and paste it on Blogger Layout editor and save it. If you need more info about Blogger customization, I suggest you to take a look at BloggerBuster (<http://www.bloggerbuster.com/>) a "Blogger-dedicated" site maintained for my friend Amanda which provides useful templates, tips and tricks for Blogger users.

Create single custom pages Wordpress-like on Blogger

Using Blogger you can create single custom pages like on WordPress. How do you do it? Simply creating a post which you will use like a web page for example adding links or in general contents organized for category. On my blog I created some pages (Home, Tutorials, Advertising...) and, for each page, I added a link on my navigation bar:



...and each page contains links organized for topic (take a look at the page Tutorials). When you have to modify the content of the pages you have simply modify the related post directly from Blogger Post editor.

Display some HTML elements only on home page

Sometimes it's useful to display some page elements only on home page and not on each single post. To do it, you have to use Blogger `<b:if>` statement, adding the following code on your Blogger template:

```
<b:if cond='data:blog.pageType != "item"'>
<!-- ... HTML code if you want to display only on home
page here... -->
</b:if>
```

In this way, if the current page isn't an "item" page (but for example it's your home page), will be displayed all code within `<b:if>` tag.

Page title and meta tag description

For a better indexing of your blog on Google I suggest you to make these simple changes on your template. Change this line (blog title):

```
<title><data:blog.pageTitle/></title>
```

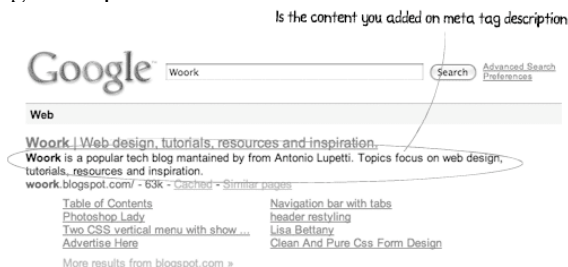
...with the following code:

```
<b:if cond='data:blog.pageType != "item"'>
<title>My site | This is a short description</title>
<b:else/>
<title><data:blog.pageTitle/></title>
</b:if>
```

...and add Meta tag description below the previous `<b:if>` statement.

```
<b:if cond='data:blog.pageType != "item"'>
<meta name="Description" content="Add here a short
description of your site" />
</b:if>
```

For example on my template I added: "Woork is a popular tech blog maintained by from Antonio Lupetti. Topics focus on web design, tutorials, resources and inspiration", so when someone looking for my blog on Google, search results display the following description:



4. Design custom categories section

By default, categories on Blogger are displayed on one column. If you want to modify the default layout showing labels on two columns instead one column, you have manage manually your labels using this simple trick: adding on your template, for each labels, a link like this:

```
<a href="http://yoursite.blogspot.com/search/label/Category Name?max-results=max numbers of posts to display">Category Name</a>
```

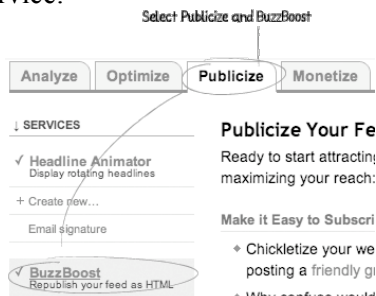
For example, to design my categories section I used this code:

```
<a href="http://woork.blogspot.com/search/label/ajax?max-results=2">Ajax</a>
<a href="http://woork.blogspot.com/search/label/blogger?max-results=2">Blogger</a>
<a href="http://woork.blogspot.com/search/label/coldfusion?max-results=2">Coldfusion</a>
...
```

I know, the process is not automatic and each time you add new categories, you have to udate your template manually... but this solutions renders more flexible template design.

Republish Feed RSS to manage recent entries and comments

Personally I don't like Blogger default archive widget. So, on my template I used FeedBurner BuzzBoost service to add a section with recent entries and recent comments. If you have a FeedBurner account login, klik on "Publicize" tab and select "BuzzBoost" service:



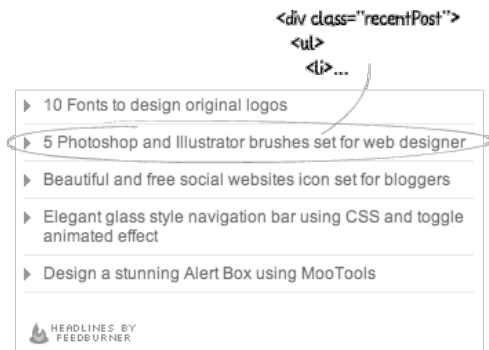
Follow instructions on the page and copy and paste BuzzBoost code on your Blogger template, within a new layer with class property = "recentPost" (you can insert this layer, for example, within sidebar):

```
<div class="recentPost">
/* FeedBurner BuzzBoost Code*/
<script src="http://feeds.feedburner.com/your feed
here?format=sigpro" type="text/javascript" ></script>
```

To customize recent entries section add a CSS class (recentPost) using, for example, the following code:

```
.recentPost li{
background:url(arrow image URL) no-repeat left top;
padding-left:14px;
}
```

Final result is something like this:



You can repeat the same process to add a new section which contains links to recent comments, simply changing the feed URL.

Add a custom subtitle in your posts

If you want to add a subtitle with a biggest fonts size respect to the rest of your post you can use a simple "trick" using CSS. On your Blogger template, create a custom class ".subtitle" (for example, I used this code for Woork's subtitles style):

```
.subtitle{
  font-family:Georgia, "Times New Roman", Times,
  serif;
  font-size:20px;
  color:#555555;
  line-height:28px;
}
```

Now, when you add a new post, to add a subtitle, add a div layer with class property = "subtitle" before the post content:

```
<div class="subtitle">This is a subtitle</div>
```

This is a screenshot of Blogger Post Editor:



So, add the rest of your post below the div layer and the result is:

6 comments | Save to del.icio.us 15 hits!

Today I received some requests about [The Woork Handbook](#) template I published yesterday. Some readers asked to me to distribute that template for their eBooks. So in this post I want to illustrate some guidelines to create an awesome eBook template, quickly and in few steps.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/09/7-tips-to-design-professional-blog.html>

6. Spreadsheets, text documents, presentations...

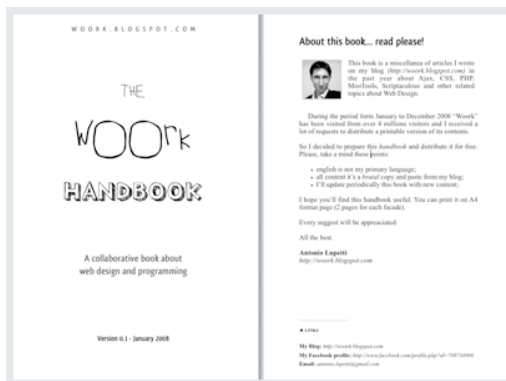
6.1. How to create an awesome eBook Template using Word or Apple Pages

Today I received some requests about *The Woork Handbook* template. Some readers asked to me to distribute that template for their eBooks. So in this post I want to illustrate some guidelines to create an awesome eBook template, quickly and in few steps. I prepared the template which you can download (for Apple Pages and Microsoft Word) and reuse it for your eBooks (I used Apple pages to write the eBook!).

- Download for Apple Pages: <http://www.box.net/shared/fekhotnsva>
- Download for MS Word: <http://www.box.net/shared/fkd8iy50p1>

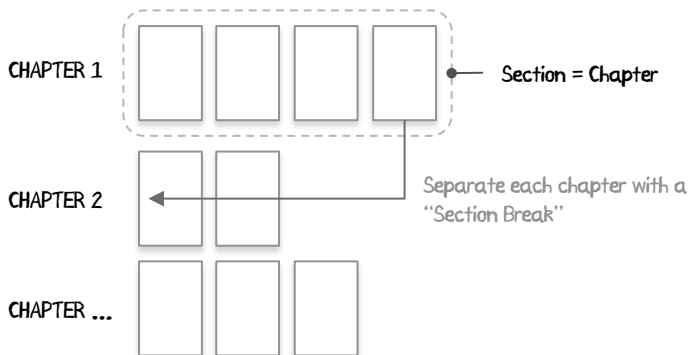
eBook Format

You can print the eBook on A4 format page (2 pages for each facade). This is the screenshot:



Document structure

The document is divided in sections. Each section is a chapter. Use "section break" to separate each chapter in this way:

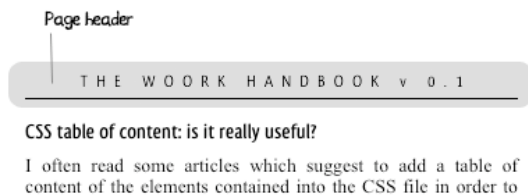


Adding a section break:

- **Apple Pages:** *Insert > Section Break*
- **Microsoft Word:** *Insert > Break > Section break (next page)*

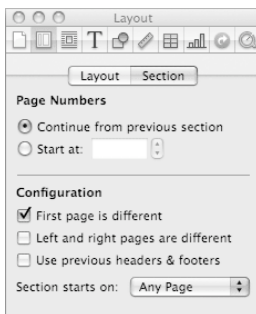
Page header

This is a not necessary element but i like have a short description in the header of the my pages. It's a simple text on top of your page with above a line which separete the header from the rest of the page:



In general "page header" isn't placed on the first page of the chapter:

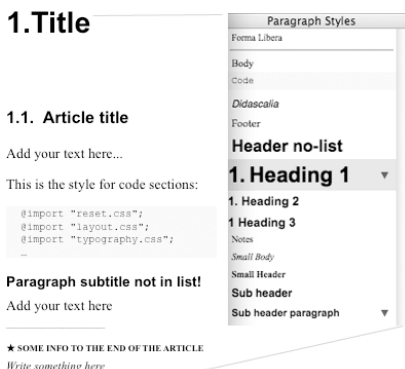
- **Apple Pages:** select layout button on the inspector and flag the option: *First Page is different*



- **Microsoft Word:** double click on the page header and select *different first page* from the header/footer toolbar.

Chapter structure using document styles

When you work with a text document (using Word, Apple Pages, OpenOffice...), a very good practice is to define your custom styles for the elements of your pages. In this way, every time you decide to modify the look of an element (for example "chapter title"), it will be update automatically in all elements of your document which use that style. For example take a look at the following picture which represents a generic chapter structure:



We have the following elements with related styles:

- **Chapter title** -> Heading 1
- **Article title** -> Heading 2
- **Paragraph header** -> Sub header paragraph
- **Normal text** -> Body
- **Code box** -> Code
- **Footnotes** -> Notes
- **Article footer** -> Small header + small body

You can define your custom style in this way:

- **Apple Pages:** *View > Show Style Draver* and then selecting a style and modifying style properties, or creating a new style.
- **Microsoft Word:** *Format > Style* and then selecting a style and modifying style properties, or creating a new style.

Note: I used Qlassik font for the title of chapters and articles. You can download it here (<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/09/10-fonts-to-design-original-logos.html>). In this version of template I used Arial in case you don't have Qlassik font.

Table of contents

Adding a TOC it's very simple:

- **Apple Pages:** *Insert > Table of content.*
- **Microsoft Word:** *Insert > Document element > Table of content.*

Your TOC will be updated automatically every time you add a new content in your document but (this is really important!) you have to use style elements created for the chapter title and article title (Heading 1 and Heading 2).

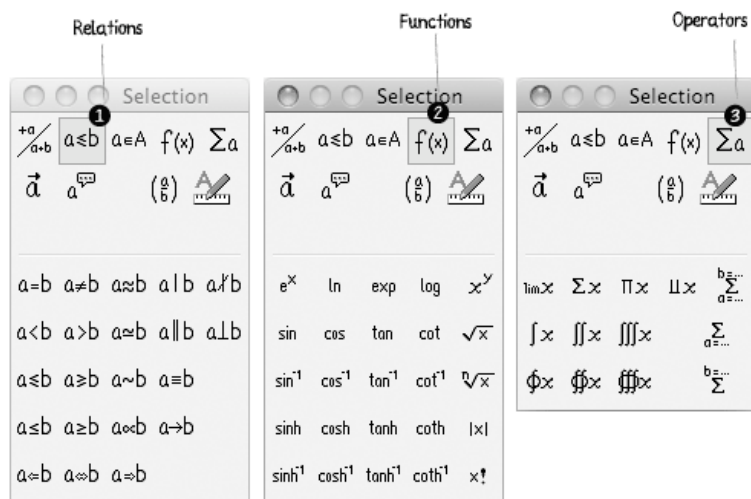
It's all! I hope this template can help you to prepare quickly your eBook.

Every suggestion is appreciated :)

... and Selection windows (3) which contains a set of math elements ready to use in your formulas.

Writing formulas

Writing formulas with Math is very simple. For adding new elements (relations, functions, operators, brackets...) you have to choose an element from Selection window:



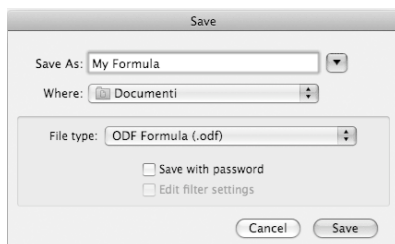
...and customize it adding required parameters. You can also write directly the code in the Formula code panel (2). This is an example of the code I used to write my formula:

```
int from {a} to {b} {f(x)dx} = ` lim from{{e} toward
{0}}int from {a} to {b-e}f(x)dx
```

...and this is the result in the preview panel:

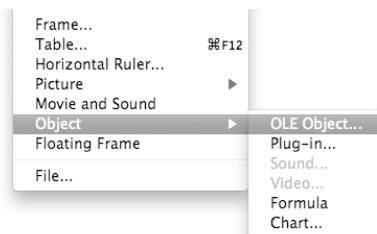
$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \lim_{e \rightarrow 0} \int_a^{b-e} f(x)dx$$

Nice! Now, you can save your formula in ODF format and import it in other OpenOffice documents:

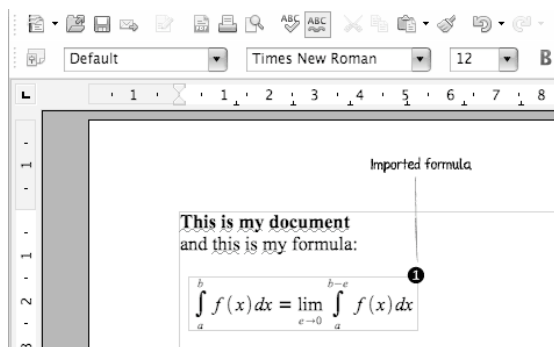


Import formulas into OpenOffice Writer

Math is fully integrated in Writer (the OpenOffice 3.0 text processor). For importing formulas which you created with Math into Writer select *Insert > Object > OLE Object*:



...and select the path of the formula previously saved which will be added as Object on your text document:



If you prefer you can write a new formula directly in Writer, from a text document simply selecting *Insert > Object > Formula*.

After all, Math is a great tool for editing simple or complex mathematical formulas using OpenOffice and obtaining professional results on your documents, absolutely to try!

Links

For more info about OpenOffice 3.0 take a look at the official web site (<http://www.openoffice.org/>). For more info about Open Office Math take a look here: <http://www.openoffice.org/product/math.html>

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/10/openoffice-30-test-drive-math.html>

6.3. Google Spreadsheets Tips: Add custom charts

In the past months I dedicated several post about Google Spreadsheets about how to use *basic formulas*, how to design a *project plan structure* and how to implement a *gant charts* using Widgets. Yesterday my friend Ivan ask to me to dedicate a post about how to add custom charts and, in particular, dynamic charts which update themselves when an user update a table with input data. This tutorial explains how to add custom charts on Google Spreadsheets using Widgets. If you are an Excel user you'll find this very simple!

Take a look at this spreadsheet here:

http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pagasc56AdI6sD_igEXWjFw

...or copy it in your in your Google Apps Account:

http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pagasc56AdI6sD_igEXWjFw&newcopy

From table to chart

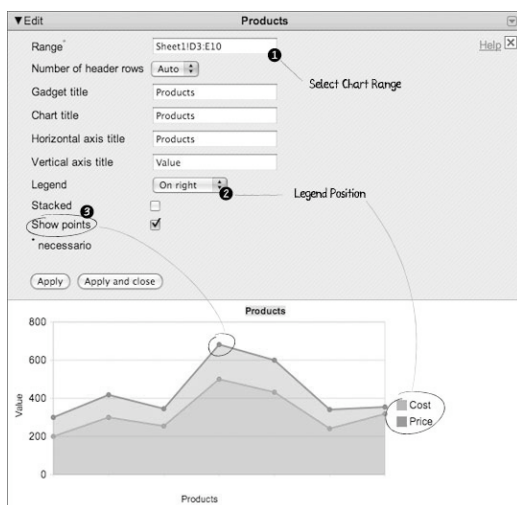
Image to have this table with the following data about a list of products:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		Sort					
1	Products Report						
2	Products						
3	ID Product	Product	Cost	Price	P-C	Margin	
4	P00001	Product 1	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	33%	
5	P00002	Product 2	\$300.00	\$420.00	\$120.00	29%	
6	P00003	Product 3	\$254.00	\$345.00	\$91.00	26%	
7	P00004	Product 4	\$500.00	\$680.00	\$180.00	26%	
8	P00005	Product 5	\$434.00	\$600.00	\$166.00	28%	
9	P00006	Product 6	\$240.00	\$340.00	\$100.00	29%	
10	P00007	Product 7	\$320.00	\$354.00	\$34.00	10%	

For each product I want to display, in the same chart, price, cost and the difference between price and cost. How can I do? A good way to do it is using an Area Chart.

Select a chart

To add an Area Chart on Google Spreadsheets click on Insert gadget and from the Gadget window select *Charts > Area Chart*. The chart will be added on your active sheet. Now you have to set all required parameters (Range is necessary!):



If you take a look at the table at the step 1, cost and price values are in the column D and E, so the range is:

Sheet1!D3:E10

...where Sheet1 is the name of the sheet where is the table. Now click on Apply and Close to add your chart on the current sheet. Simple, no?

Dynamic Charts

Now, imagine to have the following table which simulate the selling trend of a set of products (products details at step 1). When an user change quantity (column K) total values in the table will be updated with the new data.

Price is taken from the table at the step 1 (column E), using Vertical Lookup function (*Vlookup*) using the ID Product (column I) as search criteria.

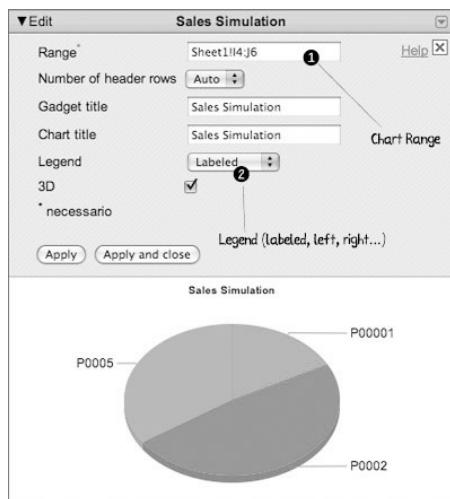
Simulation

Sales Simulation			
ID Product	Total	Quantity	Price
P00001	\$300,000.00	1,000	=vlookup[
P0002	\$840,000.00	2,000	VLOOKUP(search_criterion, array, index, sort_order)
P0005	\$600,000.00	1,000	\$600
Total			\$1,740,000.00

Vertical Look Up Function

Total (column J) is calculated as *Quantity x Price*. I want to add a chart which display how revenues are allocate (for each product) on the total revenue.

You can do it easy using a Pie Chart. Click on Insert gadget link and from the Gadget window select Charts > Pie Chart. The chart will be added on you active sheet. Now you have to set all required parameters (Range is necessary!):



If you take a look at the simulation table, total values are in the column J and products names in the column I, so the range is:

Sheet1!I4:J6

...where Sheet1 is the name of the sheet where is the table. Now click on Apply and Close to add your chart on the current sheet. At this point every times you change quantity values (column K) your chart will be updated with the new data.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/09/google-spreadsheets-tips-add-custom.html>

7. Various...

7.1. Twitter: send message from a PHP page using Twitter API

Are you a Twitter addicted? This post illustrates how to post a message from a custom PHP page using the Twitter API This is a very simple tutorial (really just some line of code!) that explains how to post a message using Twitter API from a PHP page. The tutorial includes a folder called *twitter* with two PHP file:

- *insertTwitterMsg.php* (it's the application interface)
- *twitterAPI.php* (it's the Twitter API with some changes)

★ Download the original script here: <http://www.box.net/shared/trnomoyh15>

Script customization

The script is ready to use but first, in the file *insertTwitterMsg.php* you may modify only two parameters: *\$twitter_username*, with your Twitter username and *\$twitter_psw*, with your Twitter password:

```
<?php
/* ----- */
// Change these parameters with your Twitter
// user name and Twitter password.
/* ----- */
$twitter_username ='yourTwitterUserName';
$twitter_psw ='yourTwitterPassword';
/* ----- */

/* Don't change the code belove
/* ----- */
require('twitterAPI.php');
if(isset($_POST['twitter_msg'])){
    $twitter_message=$_POST['twitter_msg'];
    if(strlen($twitter_message)<1){ $error=1; } else
    { $twitter_status=postToTwitter($twitter_username,
    $twitter_psw, $twitter_message); } }
```

```
/* ----- */  
?>
```

Don't touch the rest of the code!

In *insertTwitterMsg.php* you have a form that you can reuse in your web projects:

```
<!-- Send message to Twitter -->  
<?php  
if(isset($_POST['twitter_msg']) && !isset($error)){?  
<div class="msg"><?php echo $twitter_status ?></div>  
<?php } else if(isset($error)){?  
<div class="msg">Error: please insert a message!</div>  
<?php }?  
<p><strong>What are you doing?</strong></p>  
<form action="insertTwitterMsg.php" method="post">  
<input name="twitter_msg" type="text" id="twitter_msg"  
size="40" maxlength="140"/>  
<input type="submit" name="button" id="button"  
value="post" />  
</form>
```

Save the folder with the tutorial in your localhost, remember to set the correct parameters and launch *insertTwitterMsg.php* with your browser. Now, you are ready to post messages on Twitter from your PHP page :)

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/twitter-send-message-from-php-page.html>

7.1. Parsing Feed RSS to HTML using MagpieRSS and PHP

This simple tutorial explains how to parse a feed rss to HTML using MagpieRSS¹² and some line of PHP code. MagpieRSS is

¹² *MagpieRSS, A XML-based RSS parser in PHP. Supports most RSS versions including Userland RSS and RSS 1.0. Supports modules, and namespaces:*
<http://magpierss.sourceforge.net/>

an XML-based RSS parser in PHP and is included in the download file, into the folder parser.

Basic code

Create a new file *index.php* and copu and paste the following code into the `<body>` tag. This code parse the feed associated to \$url variable in HTML and show in a list (`<li>` HTML tag) into a PHP page, the links to all items in the feed. In the first line of PHP code, you have to use *require_once()* to include *rss_fetch.inc* MagpieRSS file.

```
<? php
require_once('parser/rss_fetch.inc');
$url = 'http://your_url.com/your_feed';
$rss = fetch_rss( $url );
echo "Title: " . $rss->channel['title'];
echo "<ul>";
foreach ($rss->items as $item) {
echo "<li>". "<a href=\"". $item['link'] .\">".
$item['title'] .\"</a></li>";
}
echo "</ul>";
?>
```

Limit the number of links to show in HTML

To limit the number of links that you can show in the page you can use a variable \$count and a if statement:

```
<? php
require_once('parser/rss_fetch.inc');
$url = 'http://your_url.com/your_feed';
$rss = fetch_rss( $url );
echo "Title: " . $rss->channel['title'];
echo "<ul>";
// Limit at only 10 links
$count=1;
foreach ($rss->items as $item) {
echo "<li>". "<a href=\"". $item['link'] .\">".
$item['title'] .\"</a></li>";
$count ++;
if($count==10){ break;}
```

```
}  
echo "</ul>";  
?>
```

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/10/from-feed-rss-to-html.html>

7.1. Five optimal online Photo Editors you may try

Are you looking for an optimal on-line photo editor, free and with features similar to your desktop applications? Take a look at this list of five editors you may absolutely try!

Photoshop Express

Photoshop Express (<https://www.photoshop.com/express/landing.html>) is absolutely my preferred online photo editor. Probably it's the best on-line photo editor alternative to desktop products. Flash 10 based interface provides an exceptional user experience, simple to use and with a fluid workflow.



You can crop, rotate, resize, correct, modify exposure and saturation, remove red eyes and a lot of other action from your photos and any change you made on your photo is reversible

and you can always go back to your original photo. Basic account also provides 2GB of free storage.

Pixlr

Pixlr (<http://www.pixlr.com/app/>) is an "open-and-go" on-line photo editor. Open the page, open your photos and make all changes you want!

No registration is required and with a familiar Photoshop interfaces, with advanced features (such as lasso, brush, clone stamp, blur, sharpen, wand tool) Pixlr is one of the best online Photo Editor actually in circulation.



You can use multiple layers, a lot of filters and use all fonts you have in your computer. Flash 10 web-interface provides a great user experience with stunning visual effects.

Slashup

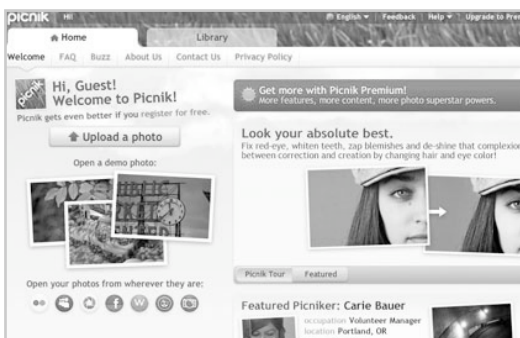
Slashup (<http://www.splashup.com/>) it's a Flash-based on-line clone of Photoshop desktop program, with a lot of interesting features to edit your photo online. If you are a Photoshop or Gimp user you'll find very simple to use and with a "familiar" interface.



You can manage multiple file with a windowed environment, multiple layers, use filters and custom brushes, adding text and share your photo with other web services. You can also save your images in JPEG and PNG format selecting the more appropriated compression level.

Picnik

Picnik... if you try it, you'll love it! This web application is simple to use, with a clear Ajax based interface, fast and responsive and doesn't require registration to use it.



When you upload a photo you can modify the exposure, contrast, saturation, apply red eyes remover and other effects, add text (there are some interesting fonts to use), save or share

your photos on Flickr, Facebook, MySpace, Picasa and on other photo sharing web services.

Flauntr

Flauntr (<http://www.flauntr.com/>) is another high-quality online photo editor which uses a powerful Flash interface to manage and retouch your photos with a professional quality. With flauntr you can create widgets and slideshows as share photos to social networking sites.



Flauntr supports dozens of editing effects, nice fonts and custom shapes to enrich your photos and an unlimited storage space.

★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2009/01/5-optimal-online-photo-editors-you-may.html>

7.1. Free tools to create your own social network Facebook-like

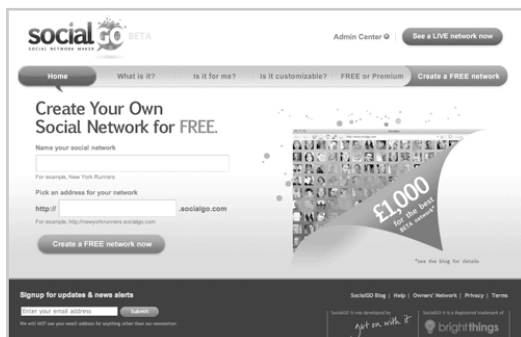
Ning

Ning (<http://www.ning.com/>) is a popular online platform for users to create their own social websites and social networks quickly and free:



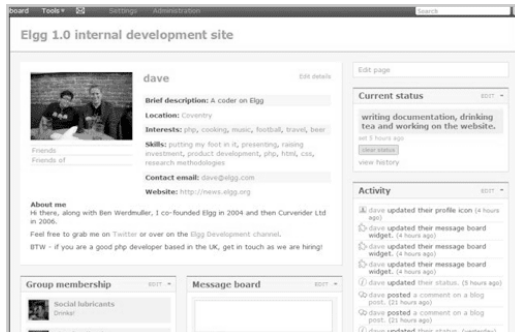
SocialGO

SocialGO (<http://www.socialgo.com/>) lets you easily create and run a feature-filled social networking website. You choose who can join, what they can do and how it looks and the best part is it's free to get going.



Elgg

With Elgg (<http://www.elgg.org/>) you can create your own social network, quickly and easily. Elgg allows you to take full advantage of the power of social technology with elegant, flexible solutions for organisations, groups and individuals.



WackWall

WackWall (<http://wackwall.com/>) is another social network builder tool. Your network can have custom design, photo/video sharing, forums, blogs, events, and such - all easy, fast, and Free.



★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/10/free-social-network-creators.html>

7.1. 10 Free powerful Content Management Systems

Content Management Systems help web developers create, manage and publish quickly blogs, portal or social collaboration websites. Probably you know the most popular CMS tools such as WordPress, Movable Type, Joomla!, Mambo but there are a lot of similar CMS tools for all needs.

This list suggest you some interesting alternatives you have to try. Please add a link if you want to suggest a CMS tool not included in this list.

Frog CMS

Frog CMS (<http://www.madebyfrog.com/>) simplifies content management by offering an elegant user interface, flexible templating per page, simple user management and permissions, as well as the tools necessary for file management.



Frog requires PHP5, a MySQL database or SQLite 3 with PDO, and a web server (Apache with mod_rewrite is highly recommended).

SilverStripe

SilverStripe (<http://www.silverstripe.com/>) is an open source content management system and framework intuitive and user-

friendly, fast, flexible, and free, to build powerful websites quickly.

Liferay

Liferay (<http://www.liferay.com/web/guest/home>) is a leading provider of open source enterprise portal and social collaboration software. Liferay Portal is all about choice. It gives you over 60 portlets and the most innovative technologies to let you do everything from web publishing, to building an intranet, to simply getting the right documents and applications to the right people.



miaCMS

MiaCMS (<http://miacms.org/>) is a powerful, flexible, and easy to use open source content management system. It can be used to build websites of all shapes, sizes, and scenarios. MiaCMS features simple installation, graphical (WYSIWYG) HTML editors, RSS content syndication, a powerful 3rd party extension system, flexible theming capabilities, site search, RESTful content access, user management, multilingual capabilities, plus much more.

MoinMoin

MoinMoin (<http://moinmo.in/>) is an advanced, easy to use and extensible WikiEngine with a large community of users. Said in a few words, it is about collaboration on easily editable web pages.

ImpressCMS

ImpressCMS (<http://www.impresscms.org/>) is a community developed Content Management System for easily building and maintaining a dynamic web site. Keep your web site up to date with this easy to use, secure and flexible system. It is the ideal tool for a wide range of users: from business to community users, from large enterprises to people who want a simple, easy to use blogging tool.

MODx

MODx (<http://www.modxcms.com/>) is 100% buzzword compliant, and makes child's play of building content managed sites with validating, accessible CSS layouts – hence Ajax CMS. It empowers its users to build engaging "Web 2.0" sites today, with its pre-integrated MooTools, Scriptaculous and Prototype libraries.

Textpattern

Textpattern (<http://textpattern.com/>) is a flexible, elegant and easy-to-use content management system PHP-based. It is both free and open source.

Radiant

Radiant (<http://www.radiantcms.org/>) is a no-fluff, open source content management system designed for small teams. Main features: elegant user interface, flexible templating with layouts, snippets, page parts, and a custom tagging language, first-class extension/plugin system, simple user management and permissions. Platform: Ruby.

CMS Made Simple

If you are an experienced web developer, and know how to do the things you need to do, to get a site up with CMS Made Simple (<http://www.cmsmadesimple.org/>) is just that, simple. For those with more advanced ambitions there are plenty of addons to download. And there is an excellent community always at your service.

★ ORIGINAL POST

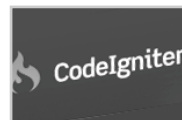
<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/11/10-free-powerful-content-management.html>

7.1. 20 Great PHP frameworks for developers

A good PHP framework can help you develop a PHP application quickly, with more simplicity and with a vision "best-practices-oriented". Take a look at this list with 20 great PHP frameworks and suggest that you prefer or a new link to a framework not included into this list.

CodeIgniter

CodeIgniter (<http://codeigniter.com/>) is a powerful PHP framework with a very small footprint, built for PHP coders who need a simple and elegant toolkit to create full-featured web applications.



CakePHP

CakePHP (<http://cakephp.org/>) is a rapid development framework for PHP that provides an extensible architecture for developing, maintaining, and deploying applications.



Symfony

Symfony (<http://www.symfony-project.org/>) is a full-stack framework, a library of cohesive classes written in PHP5. It provides an architecture, components and tools for developers to build complex web applications faster. Choosing symfony allows you to release your applications earlier, host and scale them without problem, and maintain them over time with no surprise.



Prado

PRADOTM (<http://www.pradosoft.com/>) is a component-based and event-driven programming framework for developing Web applications in PHP 5. PRADO stands for PHP Rapid Application Development Object-oriented.



Qcodo

Qcodo (<http://qcodo.com/>) it is a completely object-oriented framework that takes the best of PHP and provides a truly rapid application development platform. Initial prototypes roll out in minutes instead of hours. Iterations come around in hours instead of days (or even weeks). As projects iterate into more cohesive solutions, the framework allows developers to take prototypes to the next level by providing the capability of bringing the application maturity.

Zend Framework

Zend (<http://framework.zend.com/>) is focused on building more secure, reliable, and modern Web 2.0 applications & web services, and consuming widely available APIs from leading vendors like Google,



Amazon, Yahoo!, Flickr, as well as API providers and cataloguers like StrikeIron and ProgrammableWeb.

Akelos

The Akelos (<http://akelos.org/>) PHP Framework is a web application development platform based on the MVC (Model View Controller) design pattern. Based on good practices, it allows you to: Write views using Ajax easily, Control requests and responses through a controller, Manage internationalized applications, Communicate models and the database using simple conventions.



Maintainable

The Maintainable PHP Framework was originally built only for our own projects, then released to open source at the request of our customers. Like any framework, it's certainly not appropriate for every application. It's designed primarily for use with small- to mid- sized applications. (http://framework.maintainable.com/mvc/1_intro.php)



evoCore

evoCore (<http://evocore.net/>) is the framework at the heart of the b2evolution blogging application. It is freely available for anyone to use. It is dual licensed so you can choose to use it either under the GNU GPL or the Mozilla MPL license. (b2evo for example is using it under the GPL).



10. Stratos

The Stratos Framework (<http://www.stratosframework.com/>) is an open-source, object-oriented web application framework that facilitates the rapid development of well-organized, secure, and maintainable PHP web applications. Stratos frees you from working on tedious, routine tasks, and allows you to focus on specific software requirements.

Seagull

Seagull (<http://seagullproject.org/>) is a mature OOP framework for building web, command line and GUI applications. Licensed under BSD, the project allows PHP developers to easily integrate and manage code resources, and build complex applications quickly.



Zoop

The Zoop Framework (<http://zoopframework.com/>) is inclusive, cooperating with and containing components integrated from some existing projects including Smarty, the Prototype JS Framework, and a number of Pear Modules.



php.MVC

php.MVC (<http://www.phpmvc.net/>) implements the Model-View-Controller (MVC) design pattern, and encourages application design based on the Model 2 paradigm. This design model allows the Web page or other contents (View) to be mostly separated from the internal application code (Controller/Model), making it easier for designers and programmers to focus on their respective areas of expertise.

AjaxAC

AjaxAC (<http://ajax.zervaas.com.au/>) is an open-source framework written in PHP, used to develop/create/generate AJAX applications. The fundamental idea behind AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript And XML) is to use the XMLHttpRequest object to change a web page state using background HTTP sub-requests without reloading the entire page. It is released under the terms of the Apache License v2.0.

xAjax

xAjax (<http://www.xajaxproject.org/>) is an open source PHP class library that allows to create quickly Ajax applications using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP.



PHOCOA

PHOCOA (<http://phocoa.com/>), pronounced faux-ko is a PHP framework for developing web applications. PHOCOA's primary intent is to make web application development in PHP easier, faster, and higher-quality.

Kohana

Kohana (<http://kohanaphp.com/home>) is a PHP 5 framework that uses the model view controller architectural pattern. It aims to be secure, lightweight, and easy to use.

Limb

Limb (<http://limb-project.com/>) is an OpenSource(LGPL) PHP framework mostly aimed for rapid web application prototyping and development. The current actively developed branch of framework is Limb3(there is also Limb2 but it's not



maintained anymore).

Solar

Solar (<http://solarphp.com/>) is a PHP 5 framework for rapid application development. It is fully name-spaced and uses enterprise application design patterns, with built-in support for localization and configuration at all levels.

BlueShoes

BlueShoes (<http://www.blueshoes.org/>) is a comprehensive application framework and content management system. It is written in the widely used web-scripting language PHP. BlueShoes offers excellent support for the popular MySQL database as well as support for Oracle and MSSQL.



★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/11/20-great-php-framework-for-developers.html>

8. Interesting fonts for webdesign

This is a collection of nice fonts I suggest you for your web design projects:

39 Smooth

analgesic

anja eliane

cambria

cutty fruit

euphotic 3d

GREGS OTHER HAND

jellyka Estrya's

Jose Fernandez

Kelly Script

Later on

NICOTINE

McCoy

PASTAS

Pointy

Qlassick

Rockwell

**Sketch
Rockwell**

Stalker

TwoTurtle Doves

Unit Rounded OT

Vintage

Walk around
the block