

CIS 4004: Web Based Information Technology Fall 2012

Cascading Style Sheets – Page Layout – Part 1

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CSS Page Layout Overview

- As we saw in the introductory notes, CSS is used to separate content from presentation in Web documents.
- CSS can also be used to separate the presentation (fonts, colors, and so on) from the page structure.
- Using CSS results in smaller Web page documents (HTML5 files), which saves on bandwidth and eases Web site maintenance.



Advantages of Using CSS For Page Layout

- When CSS is used to configure page layout in addition to formatting, all the following advantages of using CSS for formatting are enhanced:
 - **Greater typography control.** This includes font size, line spacing, letter spacing, indents, margins, and element positioning without using tables.
 - **Style is separate from structure.** The formatting and page layout can be configured and stored separately from the content section of the Web page document. When the styles are modified, the HTML remains intact. This means that if your client decides to change something as small as the background color or as potentially huge as the page layout, you may need to only change one file that contains the styles, instead of each Web page document.
 - **Potentially smaller documents.** Since both the formatting and page layout are separate from the document, the actual HTML documents should be smaller.
 - **Easier site maintenance.** Again, if the styles or page layout need to be changed it may be possible to complete the modifications by changing only a single file – the style sheet.



Advantages of Using CSS For Page Layout (cont.)

- **Increased page layout control.** CSS used in conjunction with modern standards-compliant browsers provides a variety of positioning options (even down to the pixel level) along with an ability to overlap elements. This gives the Web developer more control over the layout compared to the traditional use of tables.
- **Increased accessibility.** Pages designed using tables for layout are easy to view with a traditional browser but can be very tedious when using a screen reader or other assistive technology. By reserving the use of tables for their intended purpose of organizing tabular information and using CSS for page layout – the pages become more accessible.
- **Ability to define styles for multiple media types.** Since presentation is separated from content, CSS can be used to set a separate style for printing, or possible use of a screen reader.
- **Support of the Semantic Web.** This is the W3C's vision of what the future Internet. In the semantic web information will have well-defined meaning that will better enable computers and humans to work in cooperation. A big step in this direction is using HTML5 syntax and using CSS3 to separate styles from structure.



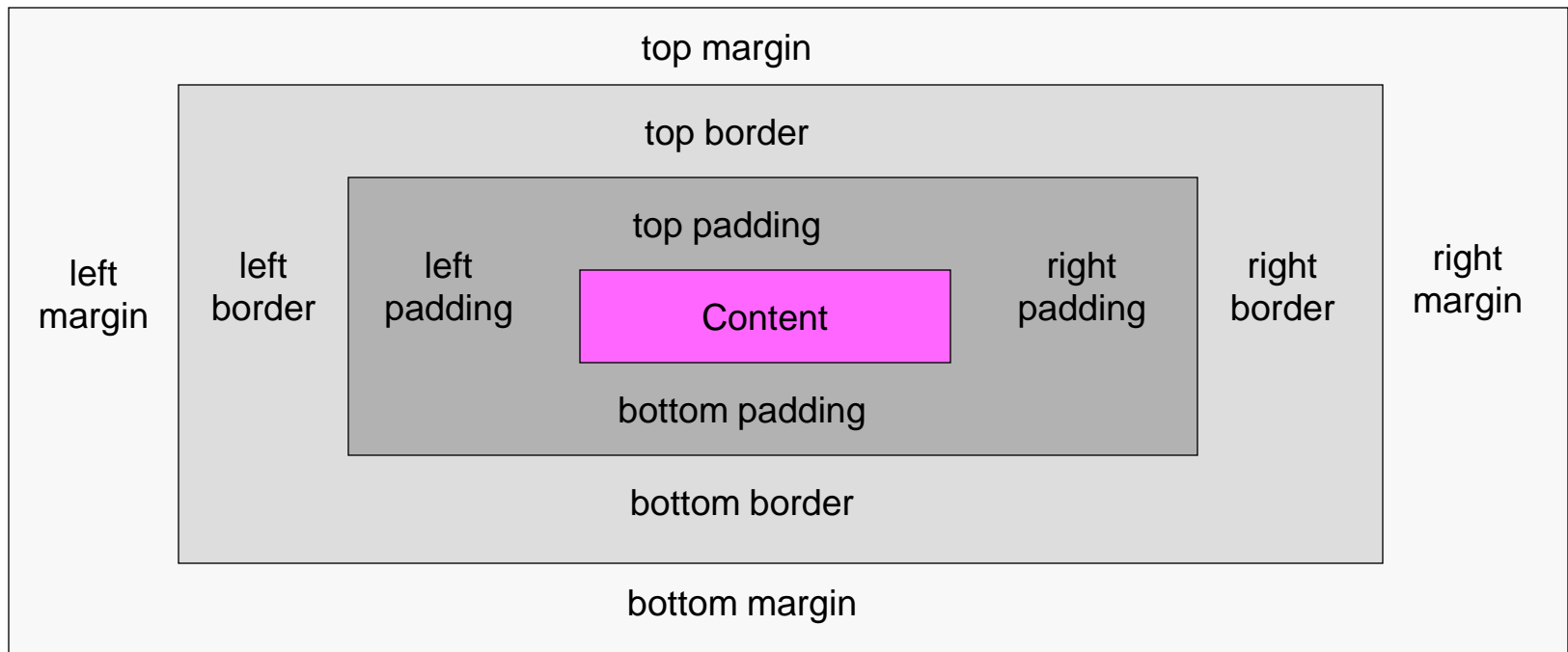
Disadvantages of Using CSS For Page Layout

- There are only a couple of disadvantages of using CSS3:
 - **Lack of support by older browsers.** Older browsers do not support CSS3, so for example, if you are developing an intranet site for a company that has standardized on Netscape 4.7 for their desktop, none of the advantages of CSS3 would be realized and it would be better to design the site using tables for the page layout. Note that as time passes, this will become less and less of a disadvantage to the use of CSS3.
 - **Productivity drop.** Developers who are already proficient at developing Web pages using tables for the layout will see productivity drop (temporarily) as they learn about CSS3 techniques and properties.



The CSS Box Model

- The CSS Box Model is a crucial building block of CSS.
- Each element in a document is considered to be a rectangular box, as shown below. This box consists of a content area surrounded by padding, a border, and margins.



The CSS Box Model

- **Content.** The content area can consist of a combination of text and Web page elements such as images, paragraphs, headings, lists, and so on. The screen shots on the next page show `<div>` elements containing text content. **The visible width of the element on a Web page is the total of the content width, the padding width, and the border width.**
- **Padding.** Padding is an area that is between the content and the border. The default padding value is 0. When configuring the background of an element, the background is applied to both the padding and the content area.
- **Border.** The border area is between the padding and the margin. The default border has a value of 0 and does not display.
- **Margin.** The margin determines the empty space between the element and any adjacent elements. The margin is always transparent. The solid line shown on the previous page that contains the margin area does not display on a Web page. Keep in mind that browsers often have default margin values set of the Web page document and for certain elements such as paragraphs, headings, forms, and so on. Use the margin property to override the default browser values.



```
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window ?
CH08_SaleCo2.SQL schedule.dat utbxplan.sql QRYOPTDATA.SQL license.txt illustrating the box model.html
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3 <head>
4     <title>Illustrating The CSS Box Model - Borders</title>
5     <style type="text/css">
6     <!--
7     * { border: 1px solid black; }
8     -->
9     </style>
10 </head>
11 <body>
12 <h1>The CSS Box Model</h1>
13 <p>Notice that in this example <span style="font-weight:bold">every</span>
14     element is surrounded by a box.</p>
15 <p>This is always the case with CSS, however, the default case for the border
16 <p>is that it is turned "off". In this example, the border is set "on" and y
17 <p>can see how the boxes surround each element in the markup.</p>
18 <ul>
19     <li>Notice that this is true</li>
20     <li>>true for every element</li>
21     <li>even list elements!</li>
22 </ul>
23 </body>
```

The border property is set for every element in the document.



The CSS Box Model

Notice that in this example every element is surrounded by a box.

This is always the case with CSS, however, the default case for the border

is that it is turned "off". In this example, the border is set "on" and you

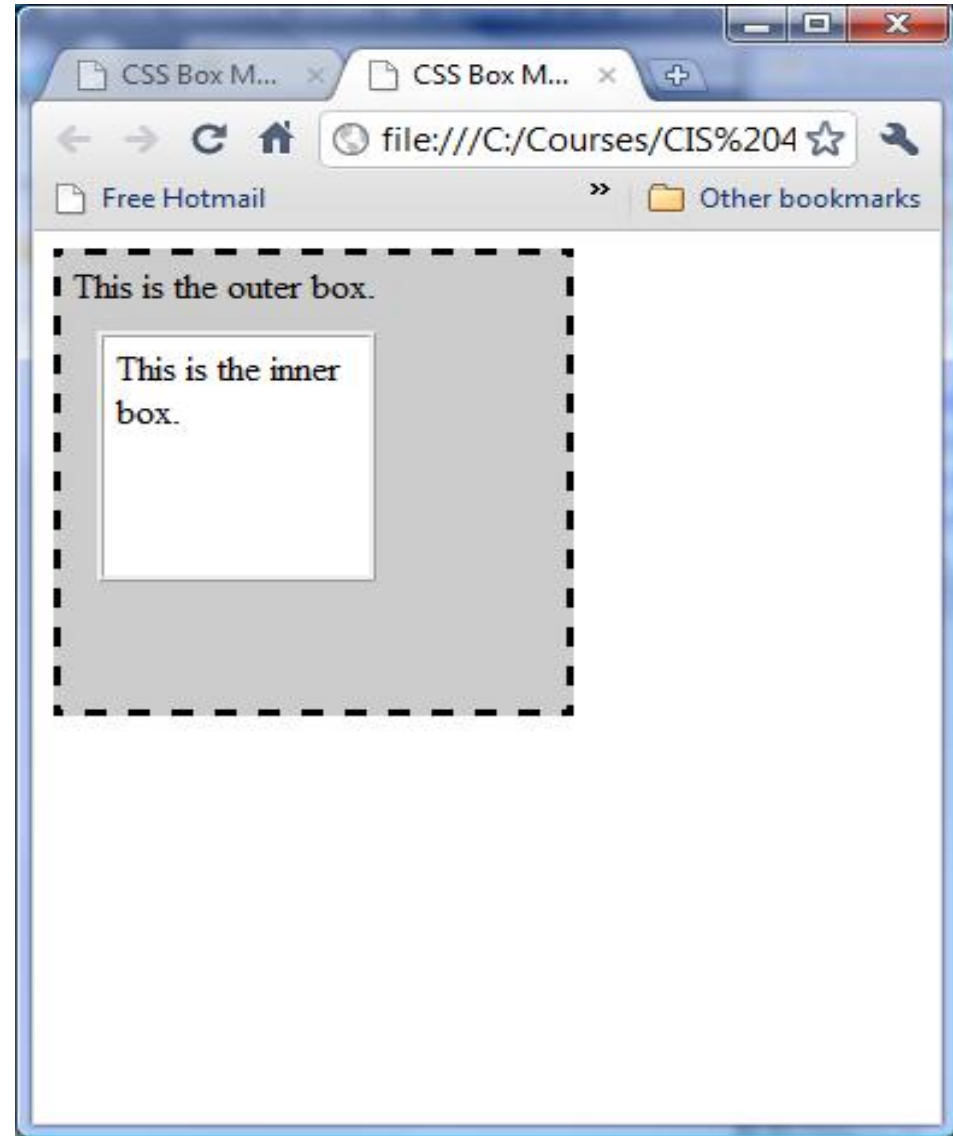
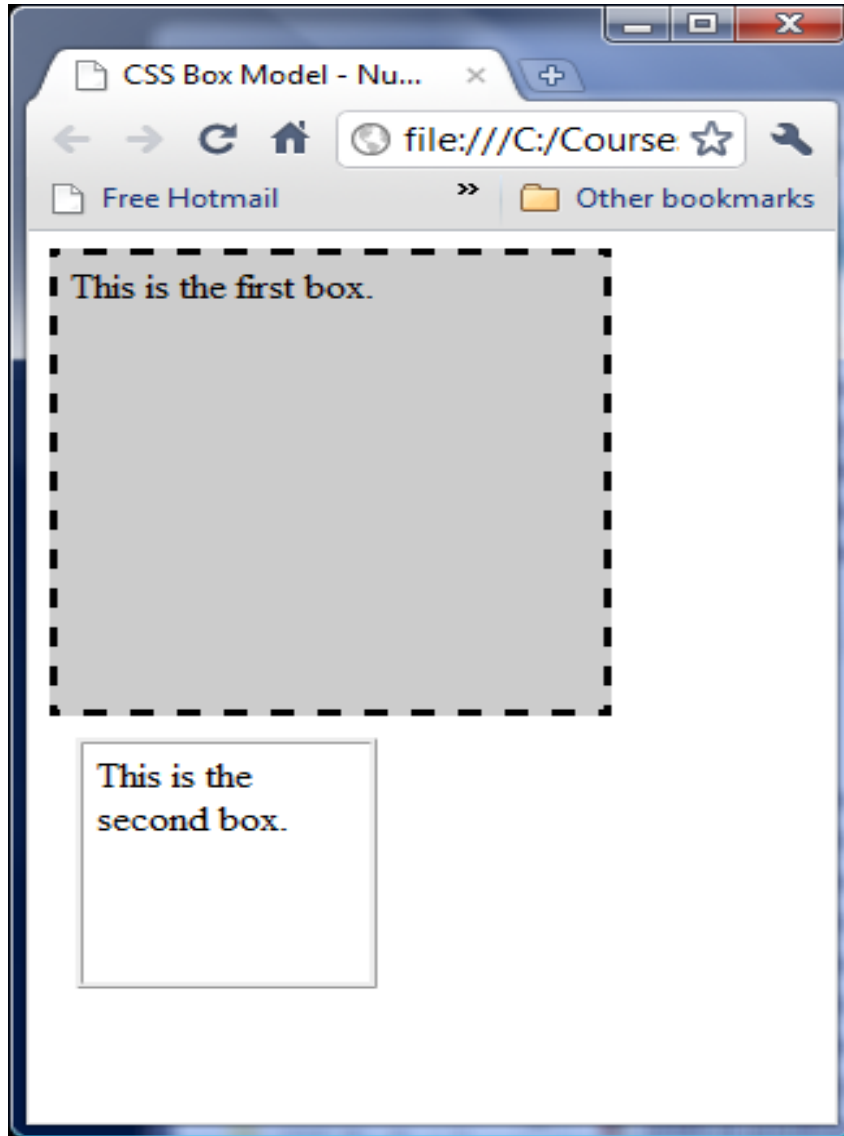
can see how the boxes surround each element in the markup.

- Notice that this is true
- true for every element
- even list elements!

Every element is now shown in its corresponding "box". Notice that even the span element is individually boxed as is the entire body of the document.



The CSS Box Model



Box Model – Example 1

```
5 <head>
6 <title>CSS Box Model - Number 1</title>
7 <style type="text/css">
8 <!--
9 .box1 {width:200px;
10 height:200px;
11 background-color:#cccccc;
12 border:dashed;
13 padding:5px;
14 }
15 .box2 {width:100px;
16 height:100px;
17 background-color:#ffffff;
18 border:ridge;
19 padding:5px;
20 margin:10px;
21 }
22 -->
23 </style>
24 </head>
25 <body>
26 <div class="box1">
27     This is the first box.
28 </div>
29 <div class="box2">
30     This is the second box.
31 </div>
32 </body>
```

Embedded style sheet

Note that the first <div> element ends before the second <div> element begins.



Box Model – Example 2

Note that the style sheet is exactly the same as for the first example. The page layout is quite a bit different from the first page's layout, but exactly the same CSS was used.

Embedded style sheet

Note that the first `<div>` element encompasses the second `<div>` element.

```
5 <head>
6 <title>CSS Box Model - Number 2</title>
7 <style type="text/css">
8 <!--
9 .box1 {width:200px;
10 height:200px;
11 background-color:#cccccc;
12 border:dashed;
13 padding:5px;
14 }
15 .box2 {width:100px;
16 height:100px;
17 background-color:#ffffff;
18 border: ridge;
19 padding:5px;
20 margin:10px;
21 }
22 -->
23 </style>
24 </head>
25 <body>
26 <div class="box1">
27 This is the outer box.
28 <div class="box2">
29 This is the inner box.
30 </div>
31 </div>
32 </body>
```



CSS Positioning Properties

- The box examples on the previous pages illustrate how **normal flow** causes the browser to render the elements in the order that they appear in the HTML5 source code.
- When using CSS for page layout there are times when you will want to specify the location of an element on the page – either the **absolute** pixel location, the location **relative** to where the element would normally display, or **floating** on the page.
- There may even be time when you will want to modify the way an element displays or cause an element to appear partially or completely over another element.



Relative and Absolute Positioning

- **Relative positioning** is used to change the location of an element slightly, relative to where it would otherwise appear in normal flow.
- Use the `position:relative` property along with either a `left`, `right`, and/or `top` property.
 - The `left` property configures the position of the element in relation to the left side of the browser window.
 - The `right` property configures the position of the element in relation to the right side of the browser window.
 - The `top` property configures the position of the element in relation to the top of the document area in the browser window.



Relative Positioning

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3 <head>
4   <title>CSS - Relative Positioning - X pixels In</title>
5   <style type="text/css">
6     <!--
7     h1{ background-color:#cccccc;
8         padding:5px;
9         color: #000000;
10    }
11    #myContent { position: relative;
12                left:40px; /*change this value to set different insets from left margin */
13                font-family:Arial,sans-serif;
14    }
15    -->
16  </style>
17 </head>
18 <body>
19 <h1>Relative Positioning</h1>
20 <div id="myContent">
21 <p>This paragraph uses CSS relative positioning to be placed
22   40 pixels in on the left side.
23 </p>
24 </div>
25 </body>
26 </html>
```

The position for this id is set as `relative` with the left side to begin 40px from the left margin. The screen shots on the next page illustrate three different version of this markup, with 40px, 100px, and 200px indents.



Relative Positioning

This paragraph uses CSS relative positioning to be placed 200 pixels in on the left side.

Relative Positioning

This paragraph uses CSS relative positioning to be placed 100 pixels in on the left side.

Relative Positioning

This paragraph uses CSS relative positioning to be placed 40 pixels in on the left side.



Relative and Absolute Positioning

- **Absolute positioning** is used to specify the location of an element precisely in a browser window.
- Use the `position:absolute` property along with either a `left`, `right`, and/or `top` property need to configure the placement.
 - The `left` property configures the position of the element in relation to the left side of the browser window.
 - The `right` property configures the position of the element in relation to the right side of the browser window.
 - The `top` property configures the position of the element in relation to the top of the document area in the browser window.



Absolute Positioning

```
3 <head>
4   <title>CSS - Absolute Positioning - Version 1</title>
5   <style type="text/css">
6     <!--
7     h1{ background-color:#cccccc;
8         padding:5px;
9         color: #000000;
10    }
11    #content {position: absolute;
12              left:200px;
13              top:100px;
14              font-family:Arial,sans-serif;
15              width:300px;
16    }
17    -->
18  </style>
19 </head>
20 <body>
21 <h1>Absolute Positioning</h1>
22 <div id="content">
23 <p>This paragraph is contained in a <span style="font-family:courier">&lt;div
24   which uses CSS absolute positioning to be placed 200 pixels in from the le:
25   and 100 pixels down from the top of the browser window. A width of 300 pix:
26   is also configured.
27 </p>
28 </div>
29 </body>
```

The position for this id is set as absolute with the left side to begin 200px from the left margin, the top at 100px down and a width of 300px.



Absolute Positioning

This paragraph is contained in a `<div>` which uses CSS absolute positioning to be placed 200 pixels in from the left and 100 pixels down from the top of the browser window. A width of 300 pixels is also configured.



Absolute Positioning

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3 <head>
4     <title>CSS - Absolute Positioning - Version 2</title>
5     <style type="text/css">
6     <!--
7     h1{ background-color:#cccccc;
8         padding:5px;
9         color: #000000;
10    }
11    #content {position: absolute;
12              left:50px;
13              top:300px;
14              font-family:Arial,sans-serif;
15              width:200px;
16    }
17    -->
18 </style>
19 </head>
20 <body>
21 <h1>Absolute Positioning</h1>
22 <div id="content">
23 <p>This paragraph is contained in a <span style="font-family:courier">&lt;div
24     which uses CSS absolute positioning to be placed 50 pixels in from the left
25     300 pixels down from the top of the browser window. A width of 200 pixels :
26     also configured.
27 </p>
```

The position for this id is set as absolute with the left side to begin 50px from the left margin, the top at 300px down and a width of 200px.



Absolute Positioning

This paragraph is contained in a `<div>` which uses CSS absolute positioning to be placed 50 pixels in from the left and 300 pixels down from the top of the browser window. A width of 200 pixels is also configured.

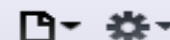


Absolute Positioning

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3 <head>
4   <title>CSS - Absolute Positioning - Version 2</title>
5   <style type="text/css">
6     <!--
7     h1{ background-color:#cccccc;
8         padding:5px;
9         color: #000000;
10    }
11    #content {position: absolute;
12              right:50px;
13              top:300px;
14              font-family:Arial,sans-serif;
15              width:200px;
16    }
17    -->
18  </style>
19 </head>
20 <body>
21 <h1>Absolute Positioning</h1>
22 <div id="content">
23 <p>This paragraph is contained in a <span style="font-family:courier">&lt;div
24   which uses CSS absolute positioning to be placed 50 pixels in from the rig
25   300 pixels down from the top of the browser window. A width of 200 pixels :
26   also configured.
27 </p>
```

The position for this id is set as absolute with the right side to begin 50px from the left margin, the top at 300px down and a width of 200px.





Absolute Positioning

This paragraph is contained in a `<div>` which uses CSS absolute positioning to be placed 50 pixels in from the right and 300 pixels down from the top of the browser window. A width of 200 pixels is also configured.

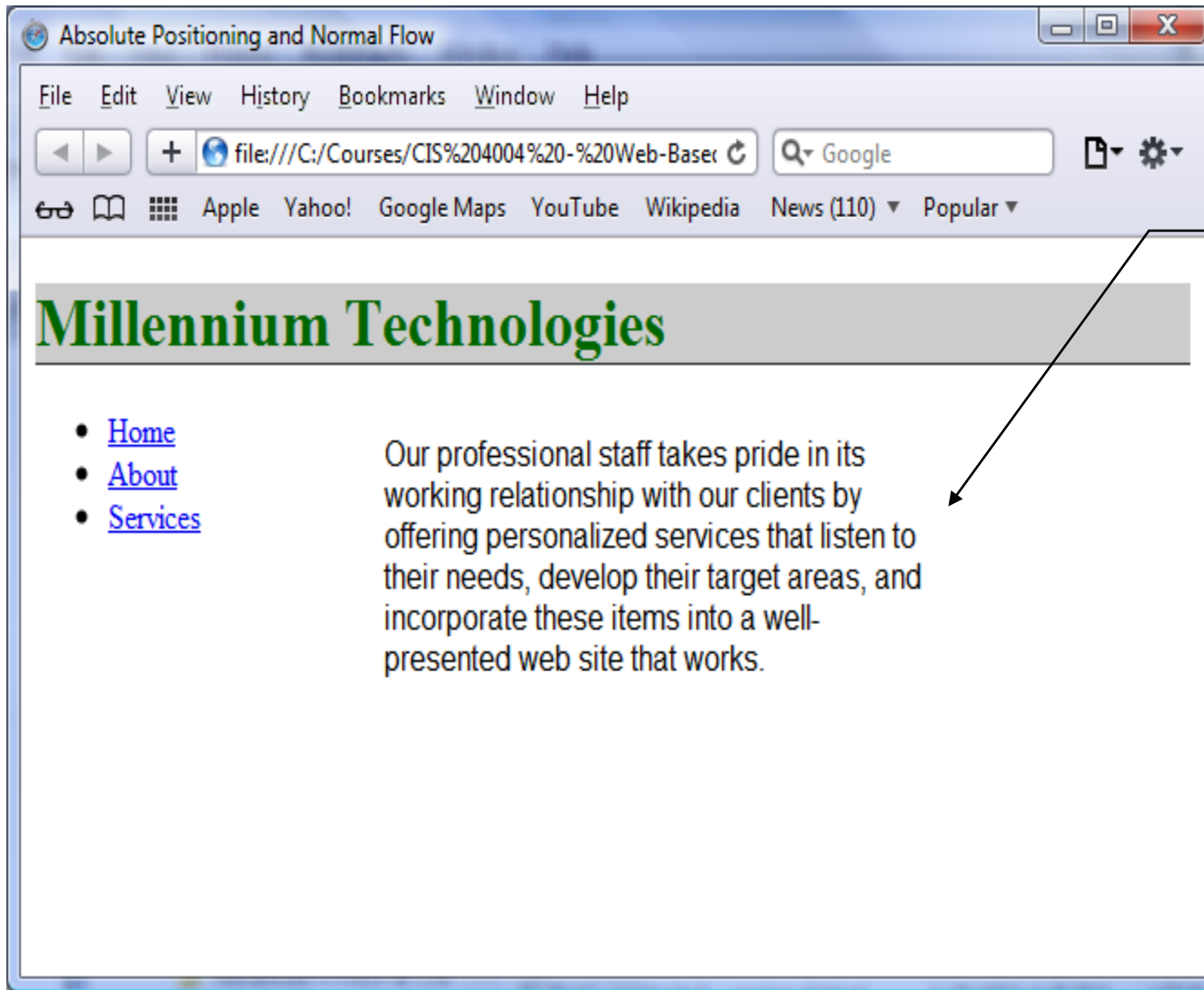


More On Absolute Positioning

- When working with absolute positioning it is important to be aware that **elements not absolutely positioned will be rendered using normal flow** by the browser.
- Elements that are absolutely positioned are rendered outside of normal flow.
- Consider the example shown on the next page.



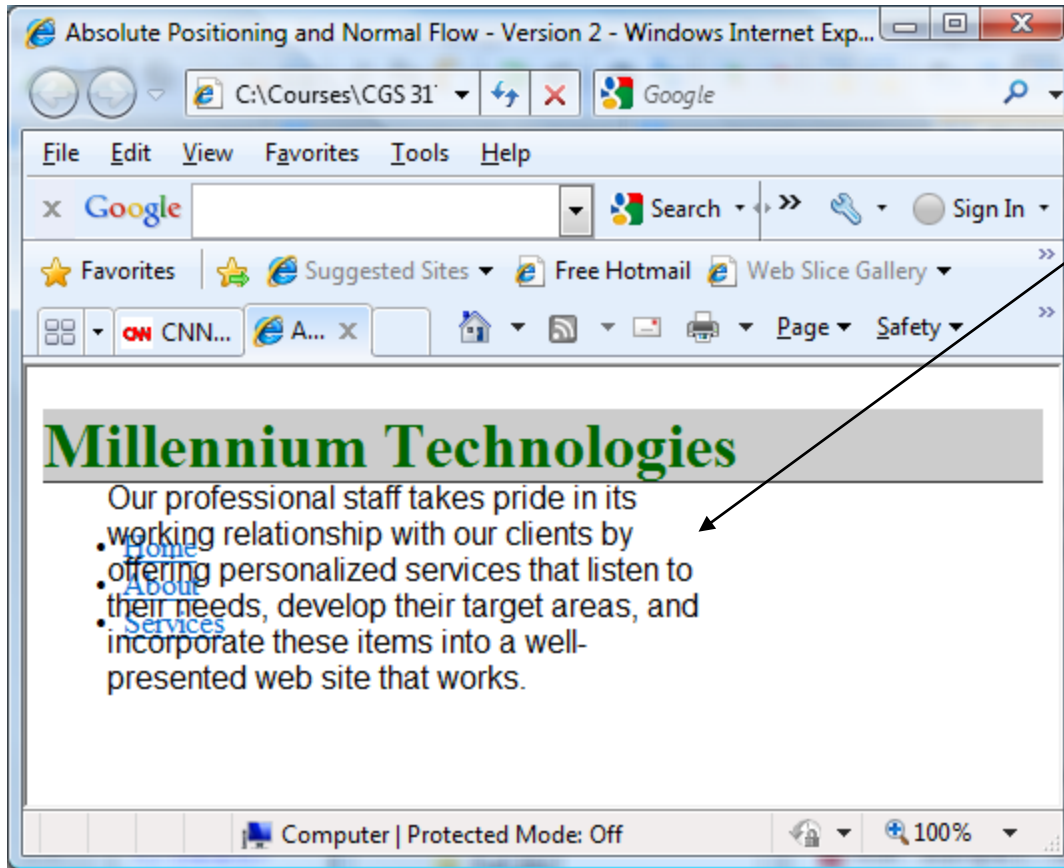
More On Absolute Positioning



The paragraph was set at an absolute position and thus rendered outside of the normal flow. So, the paragraph will appear to the right of the list. Even though the list was coded in the XHTML after the paragraph.



More On Absolute Positioning

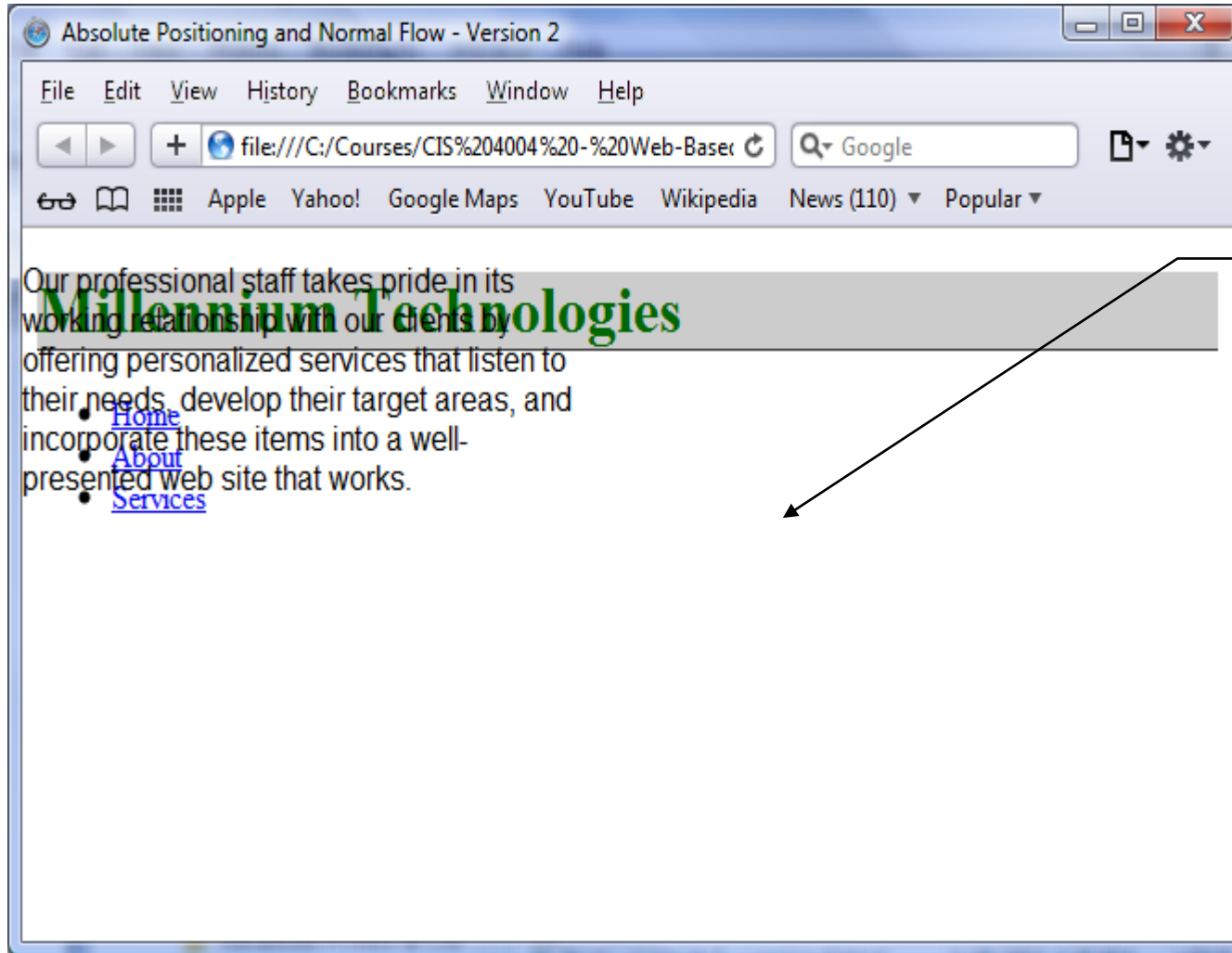


Here's what happens when the class `content` was set to have a left position set at 40 pixels and a top position set also set at 40 pixels.

As you can see, the absolutely positioned element overlaps the list element which was positioned in normal flow.



More On Absolute Positioning



Here's what happens when the class `content` was set to have a left position set at 0 pixels and a top position set also set at 0 pixels.

As you can see, the absolutely positioned element overlaps all of the elements that were positioned using normal flow.



The `float` Property

- Elements that seem to float on the right or left side of either the browser window or another element are often configured using the `float` property.
- The browser renders these element using normal flow, and then shifts them as far as possible within their container (usually either the browser window or a `<div>`) to either the right or left. Other content will flow around the float.
- To stop this flow, use the `clear` property.



Shorthand notation: order is always – top, right, bottom, left. Any 0 value does not need units.

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3 <head>
4   <title>CSS Float Property - Example 1 - Version 1</title>
5   <style type="text/css">
6     <!--
7     h1{ background-color:#cccccc; padding:5px; color: #000000; }
8     p{ font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
9     .10left { padding:10px; font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
10    #picture {float:right; margin: 0 0 5px 0; border: solid; }
11    -->
12  </style>
13 </head>
14 <body>
15   <p>Floating an Image</h1>
17   <p class="10left">The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer
18   on the right is Beglian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional
19   Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Bel
20   </p>
21   <p>If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the
22   bottom of the image or will it continue to end at the left margin of the
23   We'll see what happens in the next version.
24   </p>
25 </body>
26 </html>
```

Style for the floating image.

 element with alternate text display.

The float Property

CSS Float Property - Example 1 - Version 1

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Floating an Image

The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer pictured on the right is Beglian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclists in the world. Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.

If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the bottom of the image or will it continue to end at the left margin of the image? We'll see what happens in the next version!

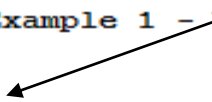


```

1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no" ?>
2  <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
3    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
4  <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
5  <head>
6  <title>CSS Float Property - Example 1 - Version 2</title>
7  <style type="text/css">
8  <!--
9    h1{ background-color:#cccccc; padding:5px; color:#000000; }
10   p{ font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
11   .10left{ padding:10px; font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
12   #picture{float:left; margin: 0 0 5px 5px; border: solid; }
13   -->
14 </style>
15 </head>
16 <body>
17 <p>Floating an Image</h1>
19 <p class="10left">The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer picture
20 on the right is Beglian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclist
21 Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.
22 </p>
23 <p>If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the bottom
24 will it continue to end at the left margin of the image? We'll see what happens.
25 This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times.
26 This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times.
27 This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times.
28 This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times.

```


Change to left float. Set margins of 5 pixels on bottom and left side.



CSS Float Property - Exa... x CSS Float Property - Exa... x CSS Float Property - Exa... x

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Floating an Image

The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer pictured on the right is Belgian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclists in the world. Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.

If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the bottom of the image or will it continue to end at the left margin of the image? We'll see what happens!

Notice that the picture was set with a left margin of 5px, so we see some of the gray background for the header. Let's reset the margins and see what happens.



```

1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no" ?>
2  <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
3    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
4  <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
5  <head>
6  <title>CSS Float Property - Example 1 - Version 3</title>
7  <style type="text/css">
8  <!--
9    h1{ background-color:#cccccc; padding:5px; color:#000000; }
10   p{ font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
11   .10left{ padding:10px; font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
12   #picture{float:left; margin:0 0 5px 0; border:solid; }
13   -->
14 </style>
15 </head>
16 <body>
17   <p>
18   <h1>Floating an Image</h1>
19   <p class="10left">The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer pictured
20     on the right is Beglian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclists
21     Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.T
22   </p>
23   <p>If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the
24     bottom of the image or will it continue to end at the left margin of the image?
25     We'll see what happens in the next verison!
26   </p>
27 </body>
28 </html>

```

Change left margin to 0.




CSS Float Property - Exa... x +

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Floating an Image



The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer pictured on the right is Belgian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclists in the world. Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.

If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the bottom of the image or will it continue to end at the left margin of the image? We'll see what happens in the next version!

Image and background now flush on left margin.

If the paragraph is longer than this one, does the additional text continue to line up as it currently does or will it move over under the image to continue?





```

1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no" ?>
2  <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
3    "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
4  <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
5  <head>
6  <title>CSS Float Property - Example 1 - Version 5</title>
7  <style type="text/css">
8  <!--
9    h1{ background-color:#cccccc; padding:5px; color:#000000; }
10   p{ font-family:Arial,sans-serif; clear:right; }
11   .10left{ padding:10px; font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
12   #picture{float:right; margin:0 0 5px 0; border:solid; }
13   -->
14 </style>
15 </head>
16 <body>
17   <p>
18   <h1>Floating an Image</h1>
19   <p class="10left">The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer picture
20     on the right is Beglian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclist
21     Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.
22   </p>
23   <p>If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the bottom
24     will it continue to end at the left margin of the image? We'll see what happens.
25     This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line
26     This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line
27     This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line
28     This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line

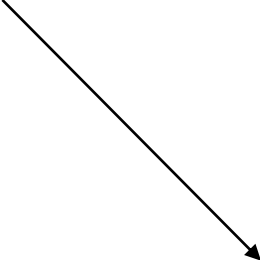
```

Added a clear property to the rule for the paragraph style.





With `clear:right` property on both the `<p>` and `<h1>` styles, both of these elements now clear the image, even though it appeared first in the markup.



Floating an Image

The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer pictured on the right is Belgian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclists in the world. Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.

If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the bottom of the image or will it continue to end at the left margin of the image? We'll see what happens! This line is repeated many

```

1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no" ?>
2  <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
3     "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
4  <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
5  <head>
6  <title>CSS Float Property - Example 1 - Version 7</title>
7  <style type="text/css">
8  <!--
9     h1{ background-color:#cccccc; padding:5px; color:#000000; clear:right;}
10    p{ font-family:Arial,sans-serif; clear:right;}
11    .10left{ padding:10px; font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
12    #picture{float:right; margin:0 0 5px 0; border:solid; }
13    -->
14 </style>
15 </head>
16 <body>
17     <h1>Floating an Image</h1>
18     <p>The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer picture
20         on the right is Beglian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclist
21         Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.
22     </p>
23     <p>If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the bottom
24         will it continue to end at the left margin of the image? We'll see what happens.
25         This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line
26         This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line
27         This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line
28         This line is repeated many times. This line is repeated many times. This line

```

clear:right property on both the <p> and <h1> styles.

But, the <h1> element now appears in the markup before the element. What do you think the rendering will look like?



Floating an Image

Since the `<h1>` element is in normal flow and appears in the markup before the `` element, it has nothing to clear and thus the property has no effect in this case.



The heading and paragraph follow normal flow. The racer pictured on the right is Belgian Tom Boonen. He is one of the top professional cyclists in the world. Once again this year Tom will ride for the Quick-Step team based in Belgium.

If we make this paragraph even larger, will it begin to wrap around the bottom of the image or will it continue to end at the left margin of the image? We'll see what happens! This line is repeated many

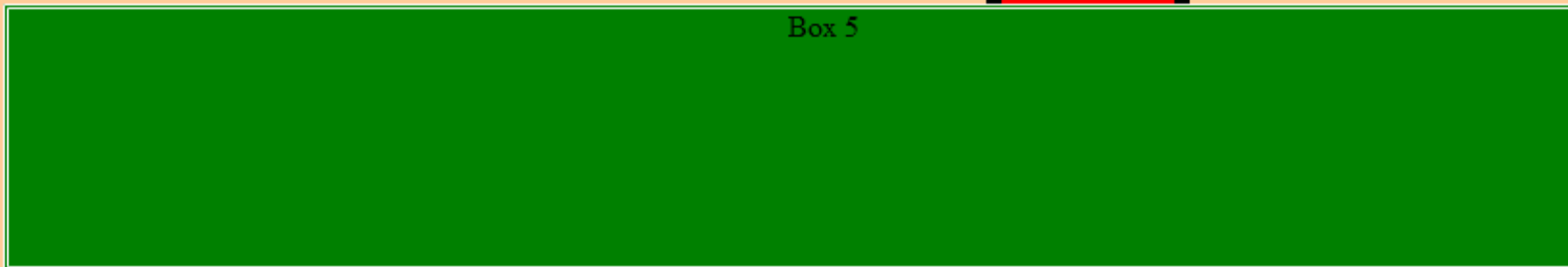
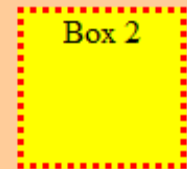
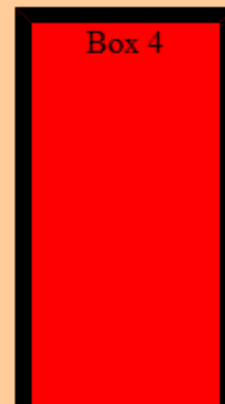
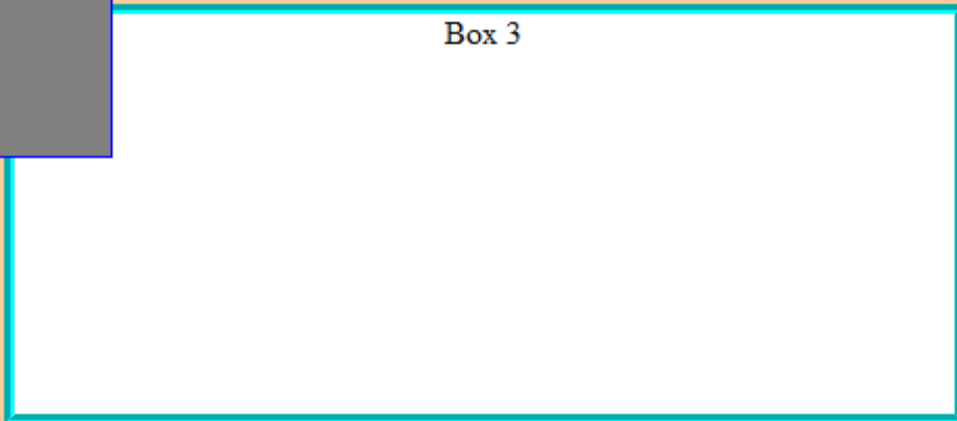
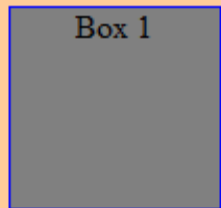


Practice Problems

1. Experiment with the CSS box model and the absolute positioning property to produce a webpage that looks similar to the one shown on the next page. All of these boxes were rendered using absolute positioning, none were rendered in normal flow. Also experiment with allowing the boxes to be positioned using normal flow and rearrange their order of appearance in the XHTML markup and notice how the rendering differs. Then experiment with a mixture of absolute positioning and normal flow and see what happens to the rendering.



Playing Around With The CSS Box Model



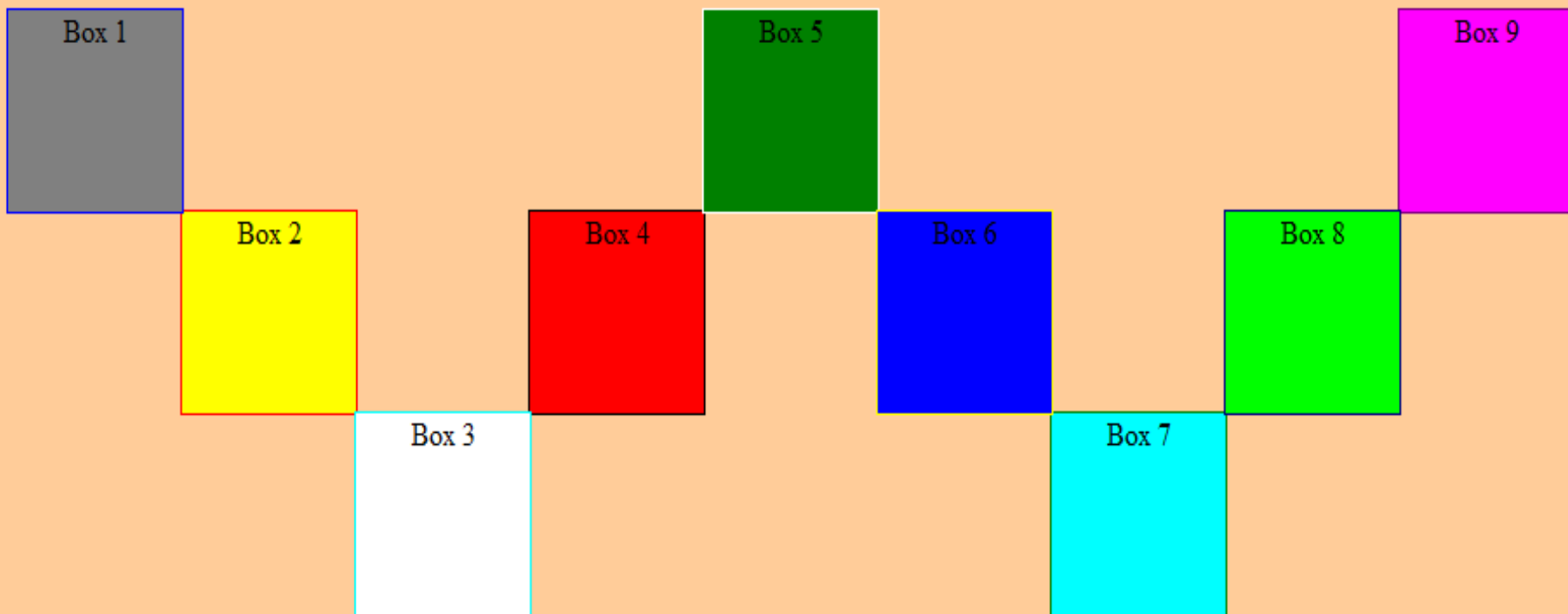
Practice Problems

2. Experiment with the CSS box model and the absolute positioning property to produce a webpage that looks similar to the one shown on the next page. All of these boxes were rendered using absolute positioning, none were rendered in normal flow. Also experiment with allowing the boxes to be positioned using normal flow and rearrange their order of appearance in the XHTML markup and notice how the rendering differs. Then experiment with a mixture of absolute positioning and normal flow and see what happens to the rendering.

In this problem all the boxes are 100 x 100 pixels in size.



Playing Around With The CSS Box Model



Practice Problems

3. Modify your XHTML/CSS from problem 2 so that it looks like that shown on the next page. Box 10 in this case is the exact same width as the sum of all the other boxes.



Playing Around With The CSS Box Model

