

# WEBDESIGN WORKSHOP – PART 6

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Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> and final part of our webdesign workshop. So far we have covered designing our website using a graphics design package (Gimp), slicing our design up into separate images, organising our website files and converting our design in to HTML.

This month we will be styling our website via the use of CSS (Cascading Style Sheets).

## STAGE 1 – SOME ADDITIONS TO THE HTML

**There is a small addition that we will be making to the HTML of each of our pages in order to make styling easier.**

Open your .html files into notepad.

Lines 11 and 12 currently read:

```
<body>
  <div id="header">
```

We are going to add an additional <div> in between these two lines. This Div is going to serve as an overall container that will group our website together.

1. Add <div id="container"> onto the beginning line 12 and hit return.

Lines 11, 12 and 13 should now read:

```
<body>
  <div id="container">
  <div id="header">
```

2. Add another closing </div> tag onto line 40, so that the last 3 lines of the site now read:

```
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

3. Make these changes to all your html files, Save and Exit.

**It has also come to our attention that there was a possible error around line 14 that would cause our logo.gif image not to load.**

If your line 14 reads:

```

```

It needs to be changed to:

```

```

A closing speech mark has been added after images/logo.gif. Once again this will need to be applied to all of your HTML pages.

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## STAGE 2 – CREATING & LOADING THE CSS FILES

Firstly you will need to open your HTML website that we created last time. It should look similar to the following:

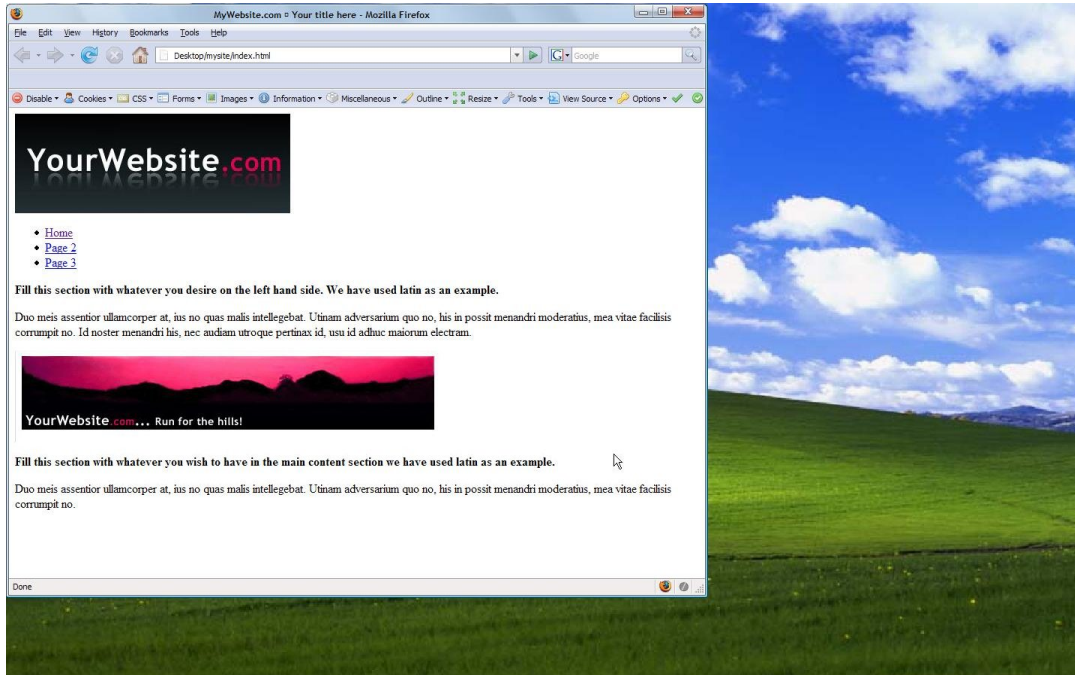


Figure 1 – Our completed index.html page shown in Mozilla Firefox.

Open the index.html file in notepad and you will see that in our <head> section we have included the line:

```
<link href="stylesheets/layout.css" media="screen" rel="Stylesheet" type="text/css" />
```

**In last month's issue we included a / before the stylesheets/layout.css. If you are creating your website offline, remove this.**

**This is basically telling the HTML document to load a CSS file called layout.css. At the moment it cannot find it (as it does not exist) lets change that!**

1. Go back to the 'mysite' folder and create a folder called 'stylesheets'.
2. Once created go into that folder, right click and select 'new' then 'text document'. And create a file named layout.css. (This file is to be the basis for all our CSS).

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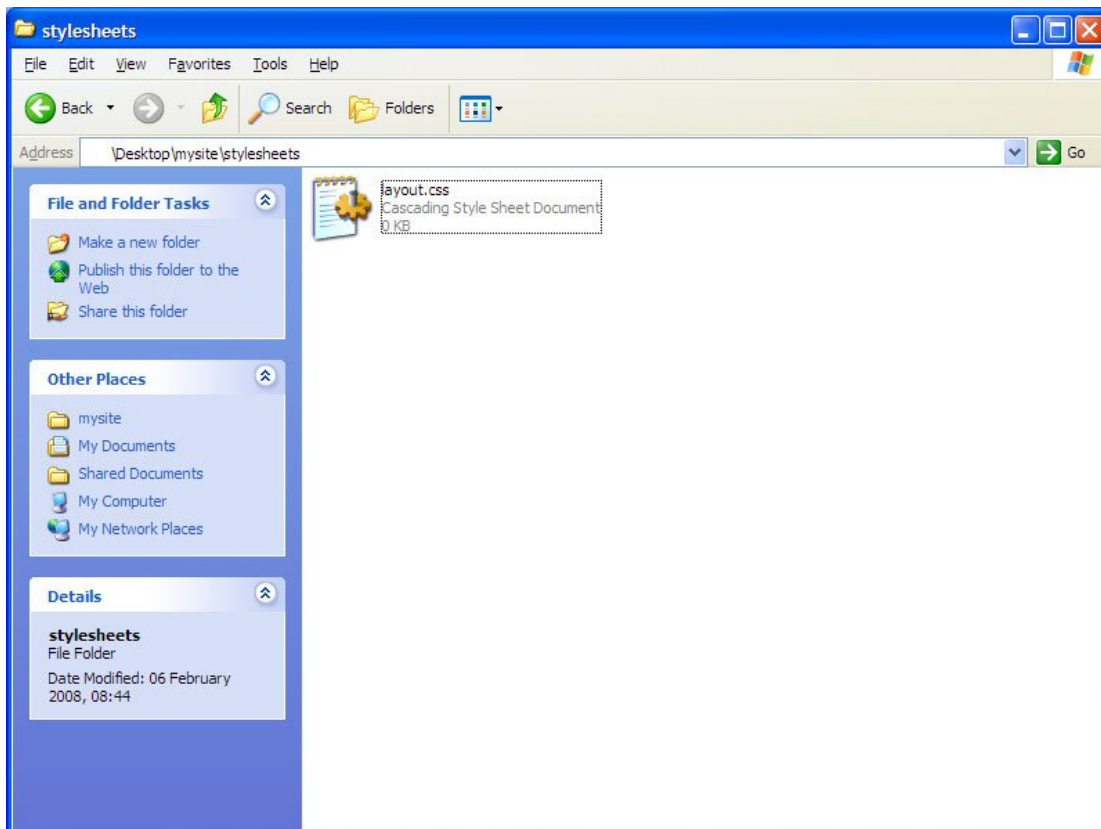
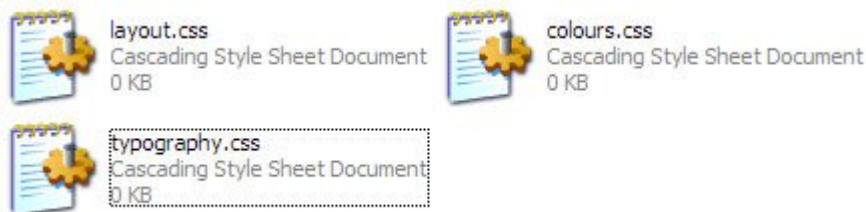


Figure 2 - Screenshot showing the newly created layout.css file.

**Repeat these steps and create 2 more CSS files. colours.css and typography.css.**



**This is a good opportunity to explain what is going to be written into each CSS file:**

- **layout.css** – This will contain layout styles, including spacing, positioning and size information.
- **colours.css** - This will include visual styles, for example text colour and images.
- **typography.css** - Here we write all styles that apply to our fonts.

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This CSS organization structure is a system we like to use, it is by no means the only system, feel free to experiment. If you find it easier you can write all of your styles in a single file.

**Lets start editing! Open up layout.css into notepad.**

1. To start with we will add the following to the top of the file:

```
@import url(colours.css);
@import url(typography.css);
```

This tells our layout.css to include the other .css files in the directory.

2. Add the following chunk of css underneath the imports you have just written.

```
body {
  text-align : center; }

p {
  margin : 0; }

p strong {
  display : block;
  margin-bottom : 10px; }

img {
  border : 0;
  padding : 0;
  margin : 0; }

#container {
  overflow : auto;
  margin : 0 auto;
  text-align : left;
  width : 780px; }

#header {
  margin : 0px; }

ul#navigation {
  height : 41px;
  margin-top : 0;
  margin-left : 0;
  margin-bottom : 15px;
  padding : 0; }
```

## What is all this doing?

This section of CSS covers giving our container a fixed with of 780px.

Positioning our left content area and our main content area using 'floats'.

Giving all our elements the relevant padding and margin options.

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```
ul#navigation li {
  display : inline;
  line-height : 40px;
  margin-top : 0;
  margin-right : 1em;
  margin-left : .5em;
  padding : 0; }

#content_left {
  float : left;
  margin-left : 10px;
  margin-bottom : 10px;
  padding: 10px;
  width : 170px; }

#content_main {
  float : right;
  margin-bottom : 10px;
  width : 570px; }

#content_main p {
  margin-right : 10px; }

#content_main img {
  margin-bottom : 10px; }
```

**That covers the layout of our website. All our elements are position where they should be. Save the layout.css file and exit.**

**Now open colours.css.**

1. Add the following chunk of CSS to the colours.css file.

```
body {
  background : #efefef; }

#container {
  background : #fff; }

#header {
  background : url(../images/head_bg.gif) 0 0 repeat-x; }

#navigation {
  background : url(../images/nav_bg.gif) 0 0 repeat-x; }

#navigation li {
  list-style : none; }

#navigation li a {
  color : #fff; }
```

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```
#navigation li a:hover {
  color : yellow; }

#content_left {
  background : #c0c0c0; }

p {
  color : #666; }

p strong {
  color : #000; }
```

The styles we have applied above set the page background colour, our navigation background and our header background. Play about with these all you like until you have the appropriate colours to suit your website.

**All the relevant colours.css information has been added, view your website you should now see the navigation background and your header background.**

**Finally edit typography.css.**

1. Add the following:

```
body {
  font-family : Arial,Helvetica,sans-serif; }

p {
  font-size : .9em; }

p strong {
  font-size : 1.1em; }

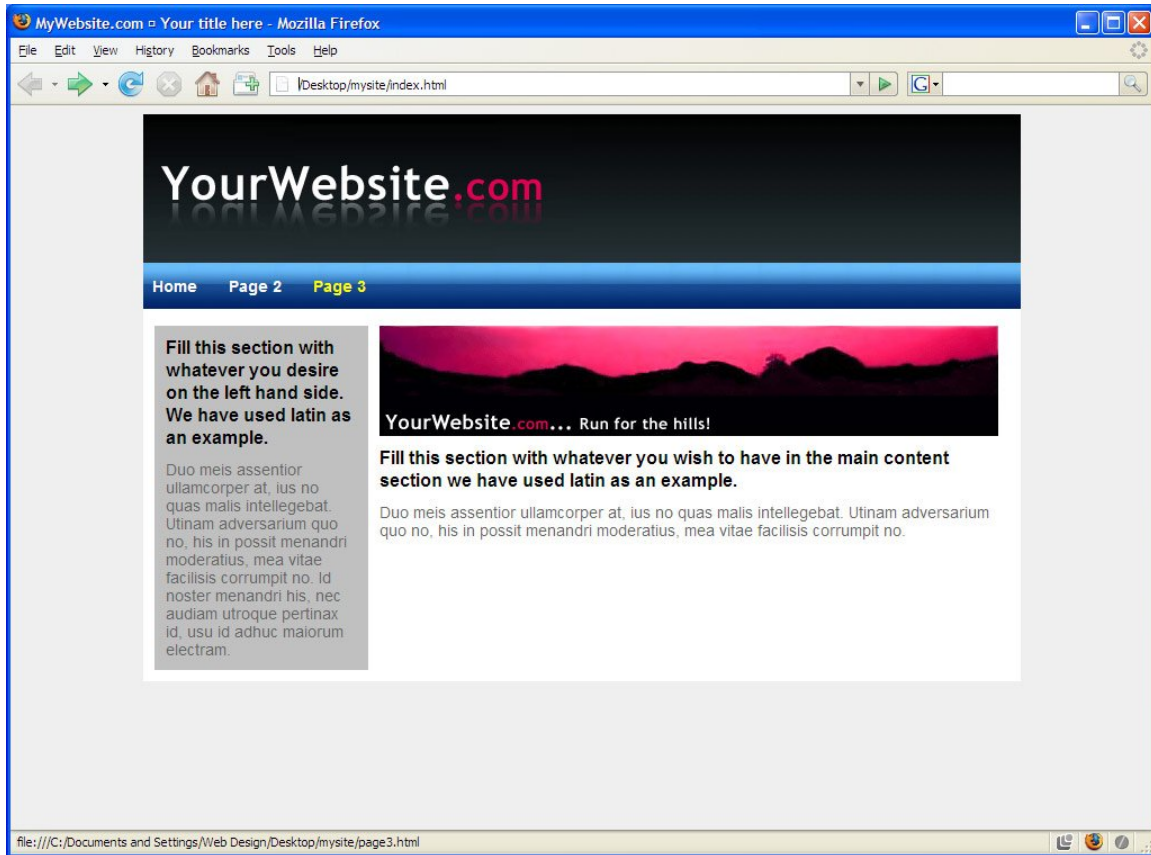
#navigation li a {
  font-size : .9em;
  font-weight : bold;
  text-decoration : none; }
```

This section basically applies a different font to our website and sets some font sizes, feel free to experiment with them. Our example uses .em as the font size value this can be changed to pixels (px) or points (pt) which ever you are more comfortable using.

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**This concludes our CSS section. Your website should look similar to that shown below:**



*Figure 3 - Screenshot showing our fully styled website.*

**We hope you have found our website workshop useful.**

Our website is available for download at: <http://www.lcn.com/lcnews/images/mysite.zip>