

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

THE
W o o r k
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;
- 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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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, sincerely 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 difficulty 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

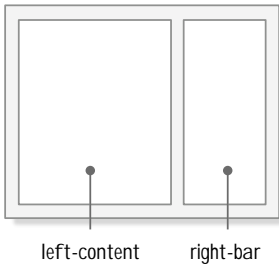
Naming convention in CSS coding is an hot discussion topic. In this post I want to illustrate some suggests and guidelines to use a semantic approach instead of a structural approach when

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

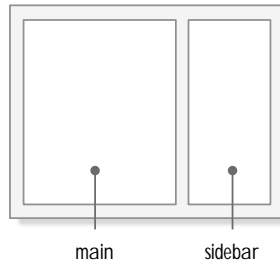
Semantic vs structural approach

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:

1 STRUCTURAL APPROACH

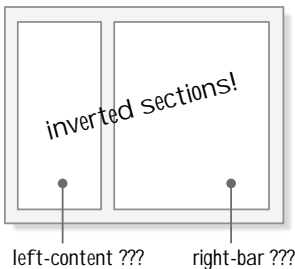


2 SEMANTIC APPROACH

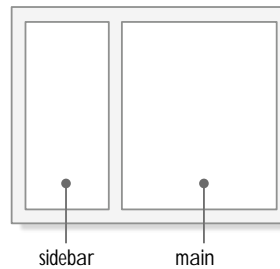


...and image now to change the position of the elements on your page. If you used a structural approach (1) you have to change all classes names because sections, in the new configuration (3), are inverted: *right-bar* is now *left-bar*, and *left-content* is *right-content*. Using a semantic approach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

3 STRUCTURAL APPROACH



4 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:

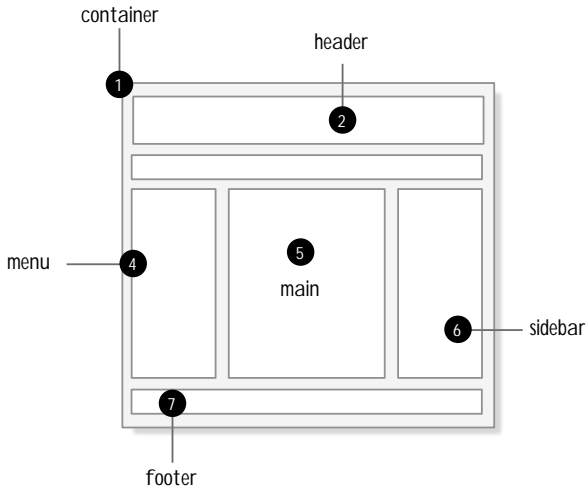
```
<div class="main">
  <h1>...</h1>
  <p>...</p>
</div>
```

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

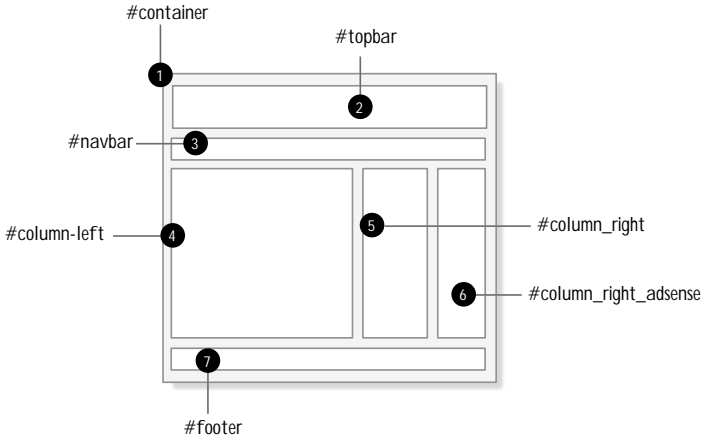
<http://woork.blogspot.com/2008/11/css-coding-semantic-approach-in-naming.html>

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:myemailadres@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://work.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,

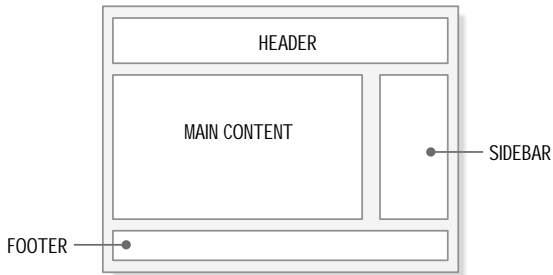
defining main sections is simple and not so problematic. The "unwanted code explosion" happens when you define the detail elements. To simplify this process take a mind these two simple "rules":

- 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 tag with a 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 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.

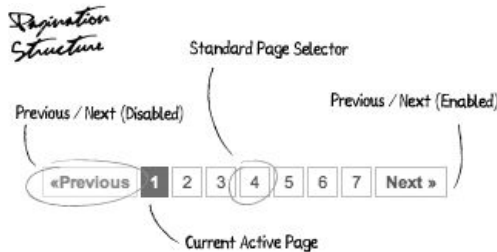
Take a look at the following related content links to find other infos about this topic.

★ 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 () which contains some elements (one for each pagination element) and apply an ID to the 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 `` 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 `` 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;
    }

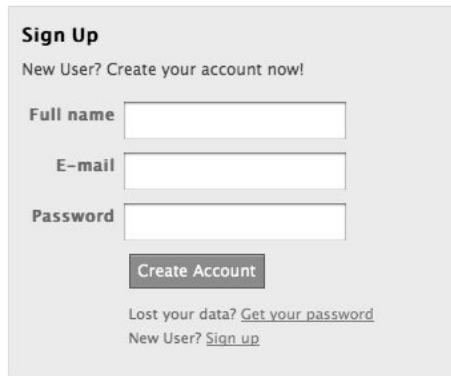
    #pagination-digg a:hover{
        border:solid 1px #0e509e
    }
```

★ 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

Create Account

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, `` 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 `` 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:



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:



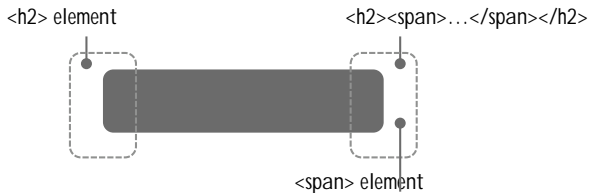
To design the header we can use a `<h2>` tag and for the body a DIV layer with class attribute set to "section":

```

<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 `` 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 `` 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;
}

```

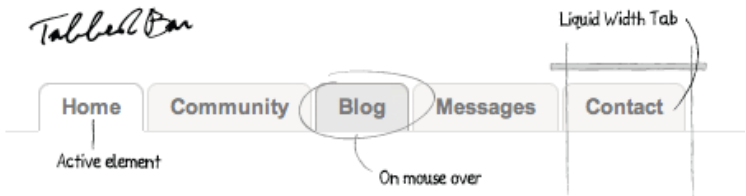
★ ORIGINAL POST

<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).

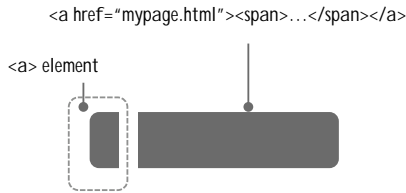
The result is something like this:



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

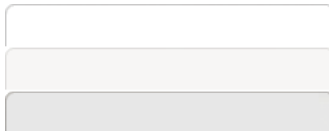
Each element has rounded corners and adapts its width to the text contained inside it.

Ok, if this is clear how can you do it using CSS and HTML? A good way to implement it is using a `` 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;
}
```

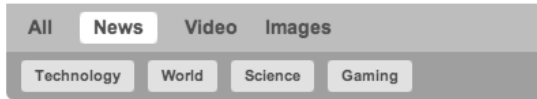
It's all. Ready to use in your projects, if you want only changing the background image to adapt it to your custom layout.

★ 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:

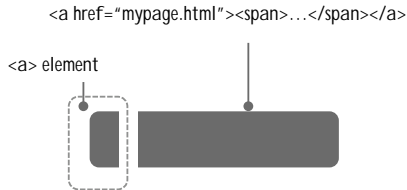
```
<div id="topbar">
<a href="p1.html"><span>All</span></a>
<a href="p2.html" class="active"><span>News</span></a>
<a href="p3.html"><span>Video</span></a>
<a href="p4.html"><span>Images</span></a>
</div>
<div id="middlebar">
<a href="p1.html"><span>Technology</span></a>
<a href="p2.html"><span>World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

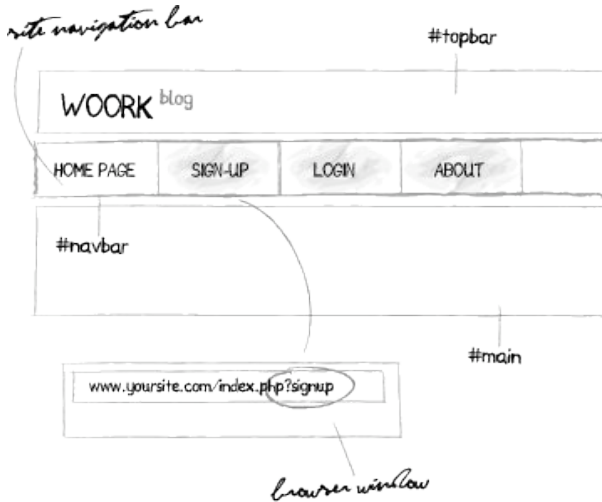
```
#middlebar{
font-size:11px;
color:#3b5d14;
background:#90b557;
font-weight:bold;
padding:6px;
overflow:auto;
height:1%;
clear:both;
}
#middlebar a{
color:#3b5d14;
text-decoration:none;
margin:0 5px;
padding-right:10px;
height:23px;
line-height:23px;
display:block;
float:left;
background:url(pic/mb_a.png)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

★ ORIGINAL POST

<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; foat: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; foat:left;

```



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

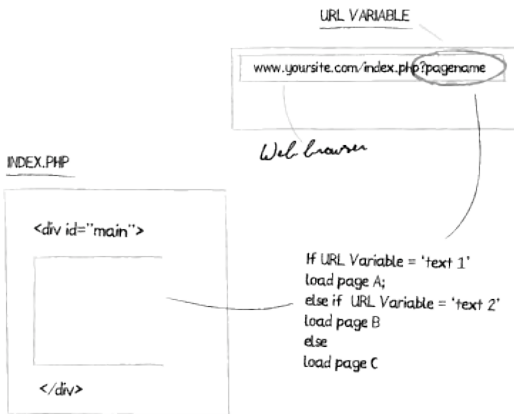
HTML code

And this is the HTML code, a simple list () with some 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 secont 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 dynamically 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>

2. Database

2.1. Introduction to design a Entities-Relationship Model

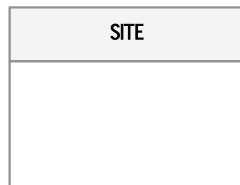
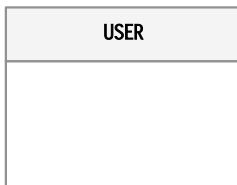
This lesson explains how to project a typical relationships-entities model for a simple database to use in our web projects. My approach is:

- 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:

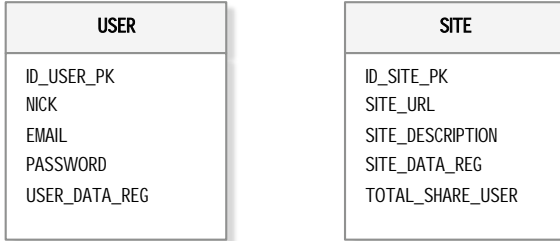
- **USER** (to store data about users, email, password, nickname,...)
- **SITE** (to store data about the sites added by the users)



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).

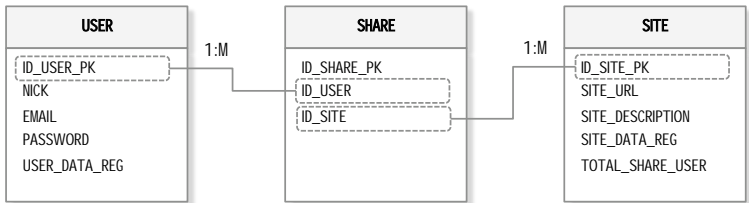
- SITE > USER (M:M) - Many to Many (a site can be shared by many users).

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:

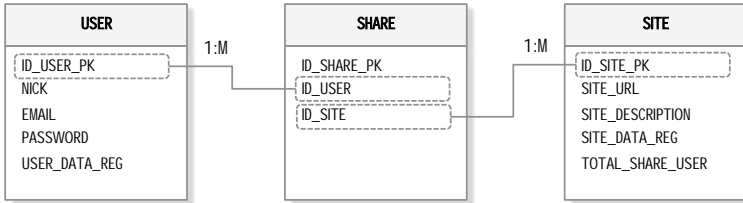


★ ORIGINAL POST

<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 referential integrity between database records, you have to add this code:

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

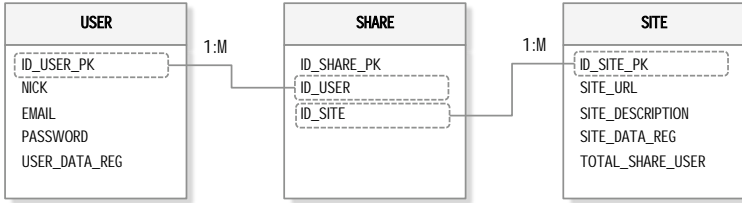
★ ORIGINAL POST

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

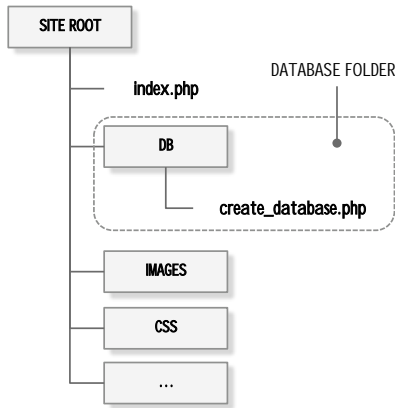
2.3. Using PHP and SQL to create tables and relationships

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.

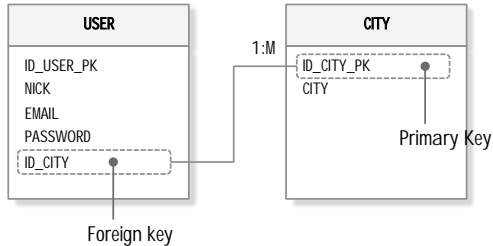
★ ORIGINAL POST

<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)
    
```

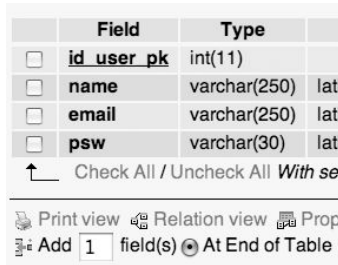
... and a record into the USER table with ID_CITY (foreign key) = 3, this relation associates the current record to the city with ID_CITY_PK = 3 in the CITY table (in this case, Rome).

```

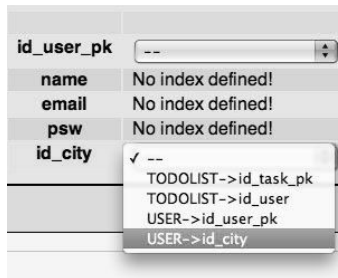
ID_USER_PK (1)
NICK (Antonio)
...
ID_CITY (3)
    
```

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.

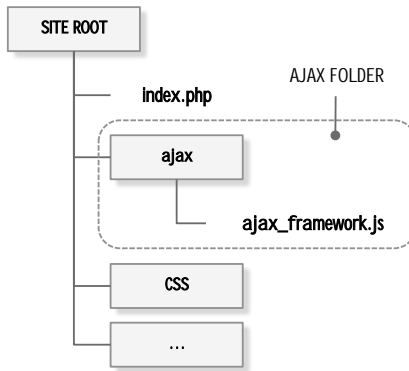
★ ORIGINAL POST

<http://woork.blogspot.com/2007/11/correct-approach-to-define.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 ``, `<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 =
encodeURIComponent(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>&gt;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 XMLHttpRequest("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'];
$name_sql = 'SELECT * FROM USER
WHERE name LIKE "%' . $searchq . '%"
$name = mysql_query($name_sql);
$total = mysql_num_rows($name);
```

```
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 `` 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://work.blogspot.com/2008/08/mootools-basic-tips-for-web-designer.html>

4.1. MooTools basic tips for web designer part 2

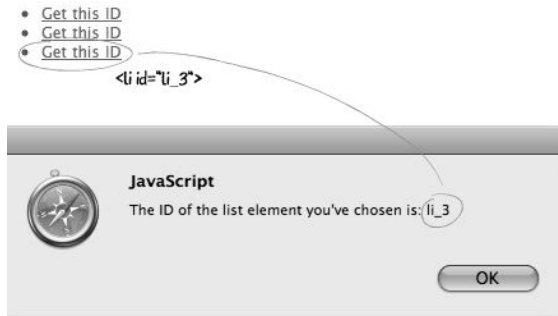
After my previous post about *MooTools Basic Tips for web designer part 1*, I received a lot of excited messages from my readers, lovers of this beautiful framework, for this session of lessons dedicated to MooTools. Thanks a lot guys! I really appreciate your support! So... a question which a lot of 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('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.findElement('a').addEvent('click', function(listID){
      alert("The ID of the list element you've chosen is:
        "+listID);
    }).pass(el.id)
  });
});
});
</script>
```

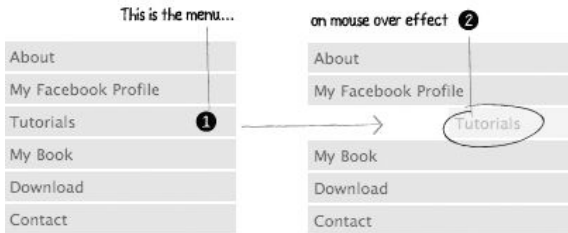
How you can see, I used *getElements()* method to get all ** tags within ** list with ID "myList ". Every times you click on *<a>* element contained in a ** tag, the function display an alert window with the ID of the element you've chosed, passing the ID using *.pass(el.id)* method. It's all and it's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

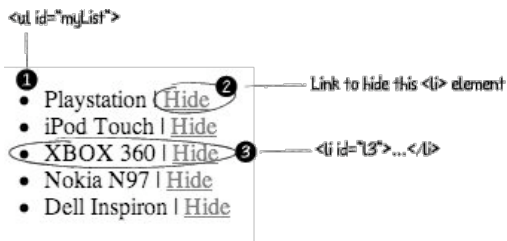
```
<script type="text/javascript" src="mootools.js"></script>
```

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 `` elements with a progressive ID: 11, 12, 13, 15. We want to obtain this effect: when an user clicks on a link ("Hide"), the related `` 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 tumbled images you want, add below this few lines of code:

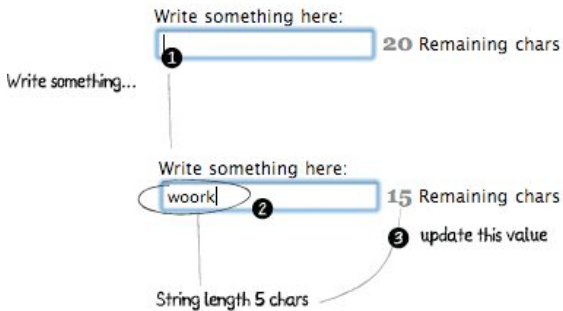
```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEvent('domready', function(){
new MultiBox('mb', {descClassName: 'multiBoxDesc'});
});
</script>
```

★ 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>
```

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>.

Remaining chars

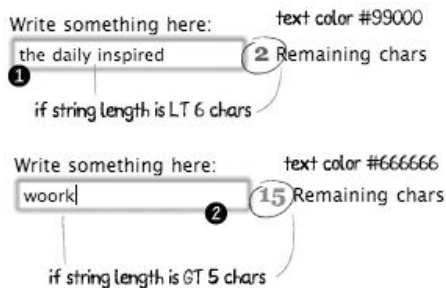
In this code I added an input text field with id="myInput" and a span element with id="counter_number" which display the remaining chars.

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 length */
    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 #99000, 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 explains 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 develop 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>
```

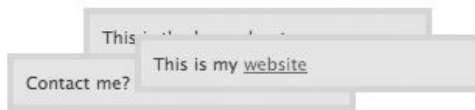
Use CSS to stylize previous elements how you prefer. In this tutorial I used this CSS code:

```
#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 style. 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>
```

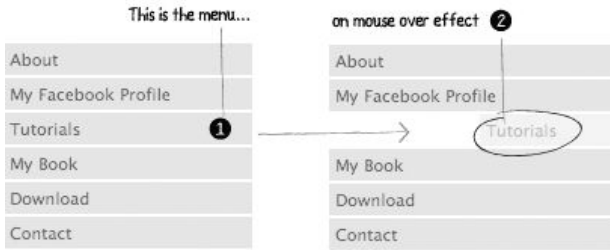
★ ORIGINAL POST

<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 (``) with some `` 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. 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>

4.4. 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
<div> 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 `` 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>

4.5. 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>

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 + "&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 +
"&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://woork.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 = '1';
</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>  
...
```

...whit 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 dynamically 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 tried 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, favicon 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://work.blogspot.com/2008/03/some-blogger-tips-you-probably-dont.html>

6. Various...

6.1. 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 below
/* ----- */
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>

6.2. Parsing Feed RSS to HTML using MagpieRSS and PHP

This simple tutorial explains how to parse a feed rss to HTML using MagpieRSS¹⁰ and some line of PHP code. MagpieRSS is

¹⁰ *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 (`` 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>

6.3. 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!

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Slashup

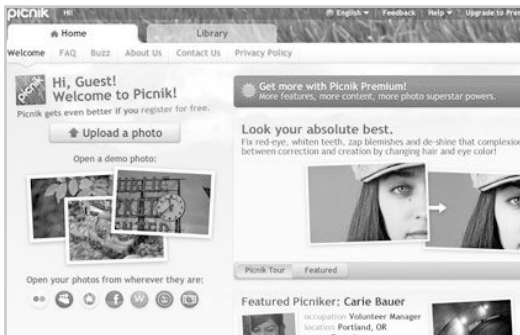
Slashup (<http://www.splashup.com/>) it's a Flash-based on-line clone of Photoshop desktop program, with a lot of interesting features to edit your photo online. If you are a Photoshop or Gimp user you'll find very simple to use and with a "familiar" interface.



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.

4. 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.

5. 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>

6.4. Free tools to create your own social network Facebook-like

1. 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:



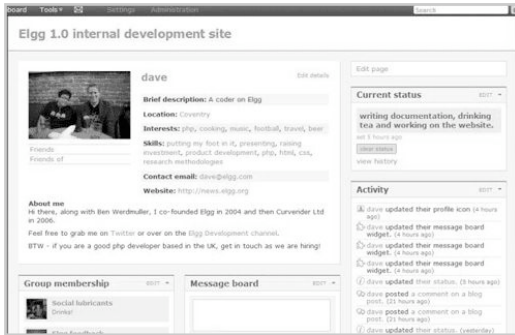
2. SocialGO

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.



3. 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.



4. 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. Fonts

7.1. Interesting font 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

jelly Esayas

Jose Fernandez

Kelly Script

Later on

nicotine

McCoy

PASTAS

Pointy

Qlassick

Rockwell

Sketch

Rockwell

Stal ker

TwoTurtle Doves

Unit Rounded OT

Vintage

Walk around
the block