

Building a Web-Based, WYSIWYG Interface

Cascading Style Sheet Editor

John Jordan Chester

And

Arturo J. Sánchez-Ruíz

CIS Dept. University of North Florida
4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd, South
Jacksonville, FL 32224, USA
asanchez@unf.edu

ABSTRACT

As Web-based Document Management Systems become more ubiquitous (especially given the rise in Business to Business or, B2B, transactions and XML interchange) an increasingly broad spectrum of personnel within a given organization is becoming involved in the production and maintenance of web content/documents. Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) have already become firmly entrenched as guideposts of organizational identity, especially in the electronic storefront role, by providing a standardized, consistent look and feel to any organization's web presence. Traditional CSS editors relieve the user of the burden of intricate CSS syntax, but they are separate desktop applications (i.e. not web-based) that cannot be run from within a web browser (e.g. Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator). This limitation results in a context-switching experience for the web document author, who must alternate between desktop (while editing CSS values) and web browser (to view the end result). Clearly, a need exists for a web-based CSS editor, which would allow the user to make CSS changes without leaving the familiar web browser environment. Such a tool would also enjoy all the inherent advantages of any web-based application, such as universal availability, facilitation of collaborative efforts and centralized version control. This work uses state of the art web-related concepts (specifically, the W3C's Document Object Model (DOM) standard and Dynamic Hypertext Markup Language (DHTML) to implement a robust and comprehensive CSS editor that can be run under the user's choice of browser.

Keywords: CSS WYSIWYG editors, CSS Web-Based Editors, CSS, DOM, DHTML.