

Definitions

“More about HTML”

20 April 1999

cascading style sheet	A set of rules that tell a browser exactly how to display HTML content. The rules are “cascading” in that more than one style sheet can be used on the same document, each with different levels of importance. A cascading style sheet precisely defines the properties of HTML elements. For instance, the font face, size, and color in which text formatted with the <H1> tag can be specified with a cascading style sheet. Using cascading style sheets, then, allows a Web-page designer to change the appearance of multiple Web pages by changing just one file.
DHTML	<i>Dynamic HTML</i> . Describes the collective use of cascading style sheets, HTML, and JavaScript. Web pages written in DHTML often contain dynamic (<i>i.e.</i> , changing or modifiable) content.
image map	A graphic with “hot spots” that are linked to Web pages. That is, by clicking on different areas of the graphic, you are whisked away to different pages.
server-side include	Abbreviated <i>SSI</i> . A token (sequence of characters) in an HTML file that is interpreted and acted upon by a Web server before the file is sent to the browser that requested it. The format of an SSI token is <code><!--#[element] [attributes]--></code> , where [element] can be config, echo, exec, include, <i>et al.</i> , and [variables] can be zero or more of the variables associated with [element]. For instance, if the token <code><!--#include file="footer.html"--></code> were included in an HTML file, the Web server containing that file would realize, before ever transmitting that file to a browser, that footer.html should be included in the page at the location occupied by the SSI token. That is, the Web server would replace this token with the contents of footer.html before sending the requested file to a browser. (Notice how this replacement is done at the server’s end—hence, “ <i>server-side</i> include.”) Using server-side includes, then, makes it unnecessary to include multiple copies of the same information in an HTML file and makes it easier to work with frequently updated information (<i>i.e.</i> , you only need to alter one file, and all files which include that file are automatically updated). HTML files containing SSI tokens often have a file extension of .shtml.
Web-safe colors	A set of 216 (6^3) colors that, essentially, are supported by all browsers and operating systems (running on computers that have monitors and video cards capable of displaying 256 or more colors). More technically speaking, these 216 colors will be displayed without dithering (the use of two or more colors to approximate another color).