

KEY IN-CLASS STUDENT ACTIVITY 3.2: ARRANGE USER INTERFACE (UI) CONTENT BY USING CSS

Lesson Objective 3.2:

Arrange user interface (UI) content by using CSS.

Resources, software, and additional files needed for this lesson:

1. Microsoft® Expression® Web 4 (preferred), Microsoft Visual Studio®, or Notepad. If available, use a different browser, such as Firefox or Safari, that supports most of the Flexible Box properties. (These properties are scheduled to be included in Internet Explorer® 10.)

Guiding questions:

1. **What additional features are added to the box model by using the Flexible Box Model?** The flexible box model establishes content alignment, direction, and orientation, including the ability to align child content horizontally and vertically. Unused space can be assigned to a specific child or distributed among several child elements. It is optimized for interface design.
2. **What are the various ways to allocate excess space using the Flexible Box Model?** The developer can specify how excess space along the layout axis (horizontal or vertical) of a series of elements can be proportionately allocated to increase the size of given elements; how excess space along the layout axis of a series of elements can be allocated to fall before, after, or between the series of elements; and how excess space perpendicular to the layout axis of an element can be shaped around the element—for instance, extra space above or below buttons that have been laid out side by side. (This topic is best described visually.)
3. **How does the new Flexible Box Model eliminate the need for using float?** The flexible model includes a container that automatically “floats” based on the properties assigned, such as box-align after, box-pack justify, box-orient vertical, and so on.

Student activity:

Directions to the student:

Read the following scenario, answer the questions, and use the new CSS Flexible Box Model to create a fluid web page. Verify your answers with the instructor.

Scenario:

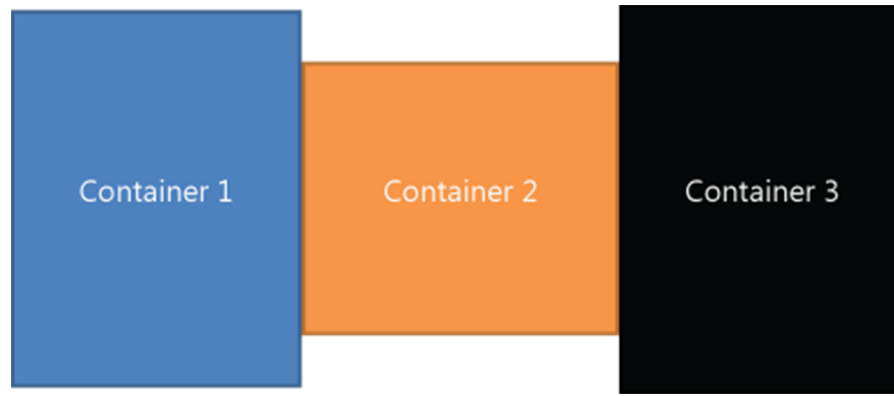
The owner of Proseware, Inc. recently purchased a Lenovo IdeaPad Slate. When Jacek Myrcha used the slate to view the company website, she realized that the content was not scaling properly. After talking with the web developer, she decided that the site needs to be upgraded to take advantage of the new CSS3 Flexible Box Model, which provides a fluid, scalable view of the site.

Jacek would like the site to have a consistent look and feel, so she has instructed the developer to create a page using the new properties available in CSS3. The current home page has a dynamic web template that defines the static portions of the site. In the content area, the developer needs to have three containers with a horizontal orientation.

Content:

1. Draw a picture of how the Flexible Box Model should be designed. Use the image below as a guide. Resize the boxes according to the owner's needs, and add a description in each box.

Answers may vary, but here is an example:



2. Use HTML5 and CSS3 to create a sample page with three content boxes, oriented horizontally and centered on the page. Test the page using a browser that supports these properties, if available.

Answers may vary – use the demonstration files as a starting point.

3. Use the same page to experiment with other properties for the flex box: box-align, box-direction, box-pack, and box-orientation.

Answers may vary.