

KEY IN-CLASS STUDENT ACTIVITY 3.4: MANAGE THE GRAPHICAL INTERFACE BY USING CSS

Lesson Objective 3.4:

Manage the graphical interface 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 browser such as Firefox or Safari that supports most of the new CSS3 properties. (These properties are scheduled to be included in Microsoft Internet Explorer® 10.)

Guiding questions:

1. **How can the new CSS3 properties enable the use of fonts that are not pre-loaded on a client PC?** With the introduction of Web Open Font Format (WOFF), the developer can include new fonts with the website files. This allows the developer to use fonts other than the current standard fonts (Arial, Helvetica, and Times New Roman).
2. **What are the benefits of adding graphic visual effects such as border-radius, 2D and 3D transformations, and SVG filters?** These new styles, combined with regions and the new flexible box model, can make it easy for even beginning designers to add style to a site.
3. **What impact does CSS3 have on the new HTML5 tags used for a drawing canvas and SVG elements?** The new properties for applying rounded corners, background color, and shadow effects can be applied to these new elements. It also provides filters that can be applied to the SVG graphic before it is rendered.

Student activity:

Directions to the student:

Read the following scenario. Follow the instructions in the Content section to add rounded borders and 2D transformation styles to elements on an HTML page.

Scenario:

As editors of the school newspaper, Diane and Ann are responsible for the web version of the publication. The paper includes articles from the journalism class and photos from the digital photography club.

They have decided to use new features available in CSS3 to add more style to the web version.

Content:

1. The current master page includes the layout for the newspaper content. It uses columns and regions as placeholders for the text and images.
2. Refer to events happening at your school to create an HTML content page.

3. Add style to the columns by using the border-radius, background, and box-shadow properties. The code below adds a border and rounded border for the top-left corner. (Internet Explorer 10 or another browser that supports this style is required.)

```
div
{
border:2px solid;
padding:10px;
background:#dddddd;
border-bottom-left-radius:2em;
box-shadow: 10px 10px 5px #888888;
}
```

4. Test and make changes as necessary until the newspaper is ready to go live.

Final products may vary depending on the students' abilities. Encourage them to experiment by changing the colors and border radius size.