

HTMLHelp.com – CSS Redesign

The CSS page from HTMLHelp.com is intended for individuals interested in web site design using CSS. It is intended for people who are already familiar with HTML and want to enhance their web design skills using CSS. The page covers the technical aspects of CSS, from what style sheets do and their structure to tag properties.

This site lacks any distinct style. The page just has a white background with black text and blue links. While this does make it an extremely easy to use site, it is also very long as well as not appealing to the eye. The site does not offer any sort of navigational help other than the set of links at the bottom of every page. Since the pages are so long that navigation tends to get lost. Some of the pages have so much content that it is impossible to find the information you are looking for without reading through the entire page.

1. Design principles – site does not make good use of white space; the header itself contains a lot of unused space and the logo is not properly aligned with any other page element.
2. Layout design – navigation is carried at the bottom of the page, not the top.
3. Navigational Helps – the main menu only exists on the home page and is not accessible from any other page.
4. Vocabulary Level – geared towards users who are already familiar with HTML and web design.
5. References – Some of the items on the page are outdated and some the external links do not work.
6. Usability – site navigation does not make it easy to use; some pages are too long and need navigational tools.
7. Color – no real use of color in the site and not very appealing to look at.
8. Motivation – site is not stimulating due to lack of color and loads of text.

9. Content – some of the information on the page is outdated and while it is still relevant it is not necessarily the best method to use.

10. Help – no assistance is available on the site for navigation or searching.

The most prominent problem with the site is that it gives information on CSS but does not fully utilize the technology. Therefore, I will redesign the site using CSS. My first objective is create a clean navigation that will be available consistently throughout every page. Second, the page will no longer be purely in black and white. Lastly, I will implement navigational help features, such as bread crumbs, search, section anchors and bread crumbs to help users navigate the site.