



Adobe
Dreamweaver
2020 release



CLASSROOM IN A BOOK®

The official training workbook from Adobe

Jim Maivald



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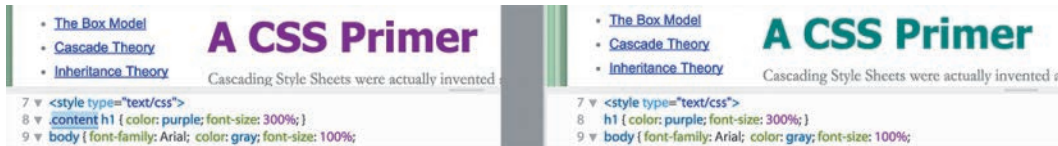
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Although the rule was moved to the top of the style sheet—the weakest position—the order of the rules in Code Navigator did not change. In this case, cascade was not responsible for the power of the rule. The `.content h1` selector has a specificity higher than either the `body` or `h1` selectors. In this instance, it would win no matter where it was placed in the code. But you can change its specificity by simply modifying the selector.

- 11 Select and delete the `.content` class notation from the `.content h1` selector.
The rule now formats all `h1` elements.

● **Note:** Don't forget to delete the leading period indicating the class name.

- 12 Click in the Live view window to refresh the display, if necessary.



Did you notice how the styling changed? The “A CSS Primer” heading reverted to the color teal, and the other `h1` headings scaled to 300 percent. Do you know why this happened?

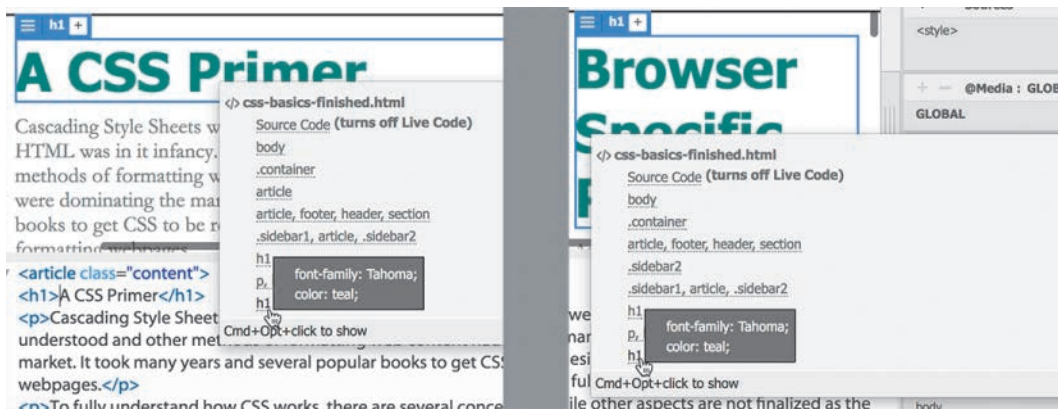
● **Note:** Code Navigator doesn't display inline CSS rules. Since most CSS styling is not applied this way, it's not much of a limitation, but you should still be aware of this blind spot as you work with Code Navigator.

- 13 Click the heading “A CSS Primer” to select it and activate Code Navigator.

Because you removed the class notation from its selector, it now has equal value to the other `h1` rule, but since it is the first one declared, it loses precedence by virtue of its cascade position.

- 14 Using Code Navigator, examine and compare the rules applied to the headings “A CSS Primer” and “Browser Specific Prefixes.”

Code Navigator shows the same rules applied to both.



Because the `.content` class was removed from the selector, the rule no longer targets only `h1` headings in the `<article class="content">` element; it's now styling all `h1` elements on the page.

- 15 Choose **Edit > Undo** to restore the `.content` class to the `h1` selector. Refresh the Live view display.

All the headings return to their previous styling.

- 16 Insert the pointer in the heading “Browser Specific Prefixes” and activate Code Navigator.

The heading is no longer styled by the `.content` `h1` rule.

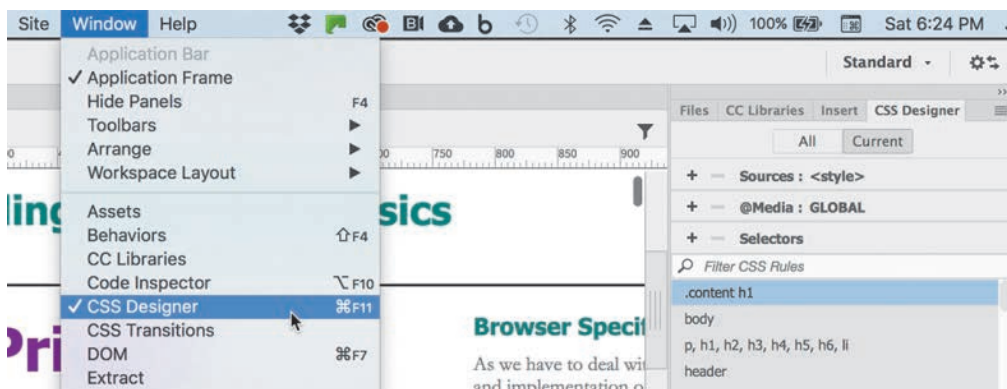
Is it starting to make more sense? Don't worry, it will—over time. Until that time, just remember that the rule appearing last in Code Navigator has the most influence on any particular element.

CSS Designer

Code Navigator was introduced a while ago and has been an invaluable aid for troubleshooting CSS formatting. Yet a newer tool in Dreamweaver's CSS arsenal is much more than a good troubleshooting tool. CSS Designer not only displays all the rules that pertain to any selected element but also allows you to create and edit CSS rules at the same time.

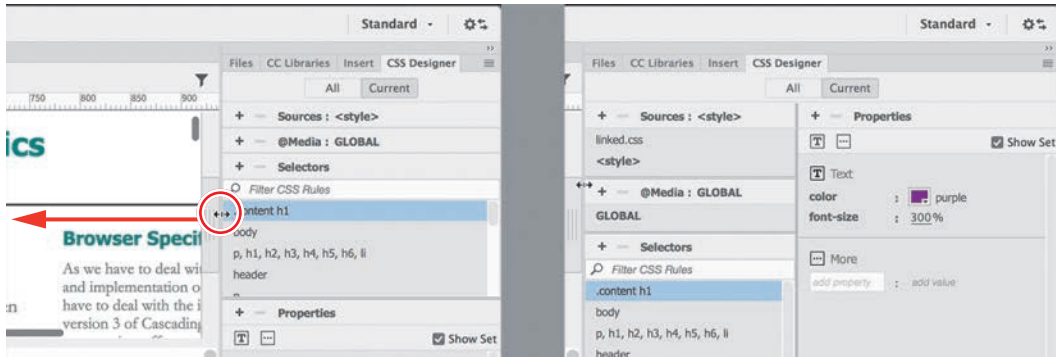
When you use Code Navigator, it shows you the relative importance of each rule, but you still have to access and assess the effect of all the rules to determine the final effect. Since some elements can be affected by a dozen or more rules, this can be a daunting task for even a veteran web coder. CSS Designer eliminates this pressure altogether by computing the final CSS display for you. And best of all, unlike Code Navigator, CSS Designer can even compute the effects of inline styles too.

- 1 If necessary, open **css-basics-finished.html** in Split view.
- 2 If you do not see the panel, choose **Window > CSS Designer** to display the panel.



The CSS Designer panel features four panes: Sources, @Media, Selectors, and Properties. Feel free to adjust the heights and widths of the panes as needed. The panel is also responsive—it will take advantage of any extra screen space by splitting into two columns if you increase the panel's width.

- 3 If you do not see two columns in the CSS Designer, drag the left edge of the panel to the left to increase its width.

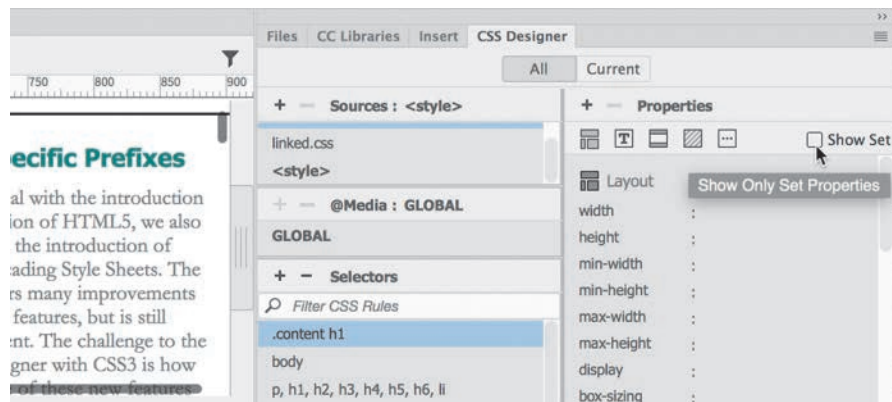


The CSS Designer will split into two columns, displaying the Sources, @Media, and Selectors panes on the left and the Properties pane on the right. Each of the panels specializes in one aspect of the styling applied to the page—namely, style sheets, media queries, rules, and properties.

By selecting the items listed in each panel, CSS Designer enables you to inspect and even edit the existing styling. This functionality is helpful when trying to identify a pertinent rule or troubleshoot a styling issue, but some pages may have hundreds or thousands of rules styling them.

Trying to pinpoint one rule or property on such a page could be a daunting task. Fortunately, CSS Designer provides features that are designed just for this situation.

- 4 If necessary, deselect the Show Set checkbox in the CSS Designer.



Show Set may be disabled by default when Dreamweaver is installed, and if you are a beginner with CSS, you may want to make sure it is disabled until you become more comfortable with the language. When Show Set is deselected, CSS Designer displays a list of the major properties available in CSS, such as width, height, margins, padding, borders, background, and so on. It is not all the possible options, but certainly the most common. If a property you want is not visible in the pane, you can enter it manually.

Dreamweaver integrates the entire interface into the task of creating and styling your webpage. It's important to understand how this integration works. The first step is selecting the element you want to inspect or format.

- 5 Select the heading “A CSS Primer” in Live view.

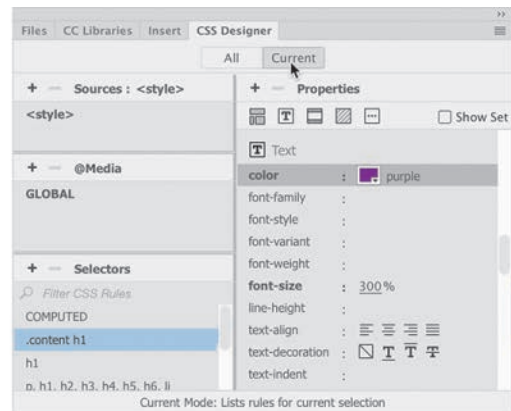
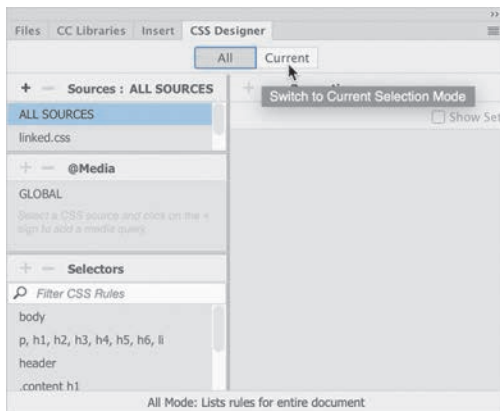


The element display appears around the heading in the Live view window. This simple action tells Dreamweaver you want to work with this specific element.

You could try to find the rules formatting the heading by going through the list of rules in the Selectors pane, but that could literally take hours. There's a better way.

CSS Designer has two basic modes: *All* and *Current*. When All mode is engaged, the panel allows you to review and edit all existing CSS rules as well as create new rules. In Current mode, the panel allows you to identify and edit the rules and styling already applied to a selected element.

- 6 If necessary, click the Current button in the CSS Designer panel.



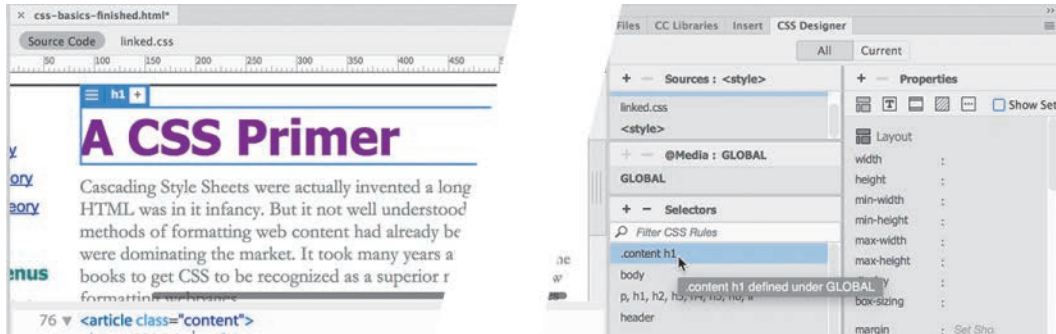
► **Tip:** Sometimes when you first try to select an element in a document, Dreamweaver may highlight the wrong element first. If so, click an element in a different part of the page and then try again.

● **Note:** When an element is selected it may show an orange or blue border. This affects the CSS Designer displays of selectors and properties.

● **Note:** When in All mode, CSS Designer displays the rules in the order in which they appear in the style sheet. In Current mode, the rules appear in order by specificity.

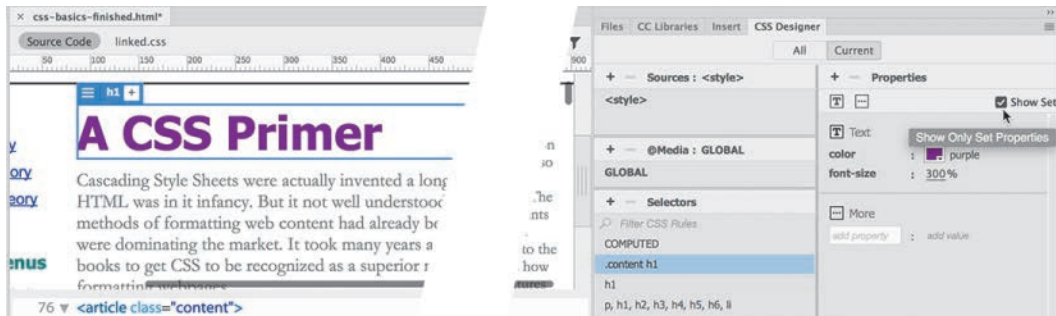
When Current mode is active, the panel displays only the CSS rules that are affecting the selected heading. In CSS Designer, the most powerful rules appear at the top of the Selectors window, the opposite of Code Navigator.

- 7 Click the rule `.content h1` in the Selectors panel.



When Show Set is deselected, the Properties pane shows a seemingly endless list of properties. This is helpful when you are first styling the element, but it can be confusing as well as inefficient when inspecting or troubleshooting existing styles. For one thing, it makes it difficult to differentiate the properties that are assigned from those that aren't. Luckily, CSS Designer allows you to limit the display to only the properties currently applied to the selected element.

- 8 Click the Show Set option in the CSS Designer panel menu to enable it.



When Show Set is enabled, the Properties panel shows only the properties that have been set in that rule. In this instance, only the color and font size are actually styled by the rule.

- 9 Select each rule that appears in the Selectors window and observe the properties of each.

Some rules may set the same properties, whereas others will set different properties. To weed out the conflicts and see the expected result of all the rules combined, Dreamweaver provides a COMPUTED option.

The COMPUTED option analyzes all the CSS rules affecting the element and generates a list of properties that should be displayed by browsers or HTML readers. By displaying a list of pertinent CSS rules and then computing how the CSS should render, CSS Designer does Code Navigator one step better. But it doesn't stop there.

Although Code Navigator allows you to select a rule and then edit it in Code view, CSS Designer lets you edit the CSS properties right inside the panel itself. Best of all, CSS Designer can even compute *and* edit *inline* styles.

10 Select COMPUTED in the Selectors window.



The Properties pane displays only the styles actually formatting the selected element. By using these various features you have eliminated hours of manual effort of inspecting and comparing rules and properties.

But the functionality still doesn't end there. CSS Designer also allows you to edit the properties.

Tip: Click to edit the text-based color name. You can also select colors by using the color picker.

11 In the Properties window, select the color property purple. Enter **red** in the field, and press Enter/Return to complete the change.

