CSS-Next Community Group

Goals, Definitions, and Plans — October 2023
It's come up quite a few times recently that the world of people who make websites would greatly benefit from the CSS Working Group officially defining "CSS 4", and later "CSS 5", etc.

Chris Coyier wrote:

CSS3, and perhaps to a larger degree, "HTML5", became (almost) household names. It was so successful, it's leaving us wanting to pull that lever again. It was successful on a ton of levels:

- It pushed browser technology forward, particularly on technologies that had been stale for too long.
- It got site owners to think, "hey maybe it's a good time to update our website."
- It got educators to think, "hey maybe it's a good time to update our curriculums."
- It was good for the web overall, good for websites taking advantage of it.

Nicole Sullivan wrote:

Unpopular opinion: CSS and HTML need to increment their version numbers again so we can convince business to invest in these technologies. 😏

Marketing isn't a dirty word, really! In fact I advocated incrementing version numbers for that very reason.

PPK wrote:

I think that CSS would be greatly helped if we solemnly state that "CSS4 is here!" in this post I'll try to convince you of my viewpoint.

I am proposing that we web developers, supported by the W3C CSS WG, start saying "CSS4 is here!" and excitedly chatter about how it will hit the market any moment now and transform the practice of CSS.

Of course "CSS4" has no technical meaning whatsoever. All current CSS specifications have their own specific versions ranging from 1 to 4, but CSS as a whole does not have a version, and it doesn't need one, either.
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The CSS3 grouping of features included level-3 specs for features from typography to selectors and backgrounds. From this point on, each individual CSS spec has been numbered individually.

However, **CSS3 is still the most common term developers use to define the capabilities of modern CSS.** We see this across the web, from the way educational institutions teach CSS to the job requirements on resumes.
Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Web Development, or a related field (or equivalent work experience).
- Proven experience as a front-end developer with a strong focus on CSS.
- Proficiency in HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript.
- Solid understanding of responsive design principles and mobile-first development.
- Experience with CSS preprocessors (e.g., Sass, LESS) and modern build tools (e.g., Gulp, Webpack).
- Familiarity with version control systems (e.g., Git) and collaborative workflows (e.g., Agile, Scrum).
- Strong knowledge of web accessibility standards and best practices.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team, with excellent communication skills.
- A portfolio showcasing your CSS skills and examples of responsive web interfaces you have developed.
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Learn the most in-demand skills

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and collaborative workflows (e.g., Agile, Scrum and best practices.

...and as part of a team, with excellent examples of responsive web interfaces you
Level up your CSS game in 2023! Use the oklch() color function for more accessible, vibrant color palettes. Perfect for front-end apps.

tchs.li/BeX9gga
~50% of the CSS images show the CSS3 Logo.
CSS3 had still has a huge impact on the ecosystem.
### CSS3

**CSS Font-Family**

**CSS Font-Weight**

**CSS Font-Size**

**CSS Font-Family**

**CSS Word-Spacing**

**CSS Text-Align**

**CSS Text-Align-Last**

**CSS Letter-Spacing**

**CSS White-Space**

**CSS Word-Wrap**

**CSS Text-Indent**

**CSS Text-Underline-Position**

**CSS Text-Decoration**

**CSS Text-Transform**

**CSS Text-Shadow**

**CSS Text-Indent**

**CSS Text-Decoration-Position**

**CSS Color**

**CSS Layer-Background-Color**

**CSS Layer-Background-Image**

**CSS Background**

**CSS Background-Color**

**CSS Background-Image**

**CSS Background-Repeat**

**CSS Background-Attachment**

**CSS Background-Position**

**CSS Background-Position-X**

**CSS Scrollbar-Face-Color**

**CSS Scrollbar-Arrow-Color**

**CSS Scrollbar-Base-Color**

**CSS Scrollbar-Shadow-Color**

**CSS Scrollbar-DarkShadow-Color**

**CSS Scrollbar-Highlight-Color**

**CSS Scrollbar-3DLight-Color**

**CSS Scrollbar-Track-Color**

**CSS Outline-Color**

**CSS Outline-Style**

**CSS Outline-Width**

**CSS Marker-Offset**

**CSS List-Style**

**CSS List-Style-Type**

**CSS Empty-Cells**

**CSS List-Style-Image**

**CSS Border-Collapse**

**CSS Border-Spacing**

**CSS Caption-Side**

**CSS Position**

**CSS Table-LAYOUT**

**CSS Display**

**CSS Visibility**

**CSS Float**

**CSS Clear**

**CSS Width**

**CSS Min-Width**

**CSS Max-Width**

**CSS Line-Height**

**CSS Height**

**CSS Min-Height**

**CSS Max-Height**

**CSS Top**

**CSS Right**

**CSS Bottom**

**CSS Left**

**CSS Vertical-Align**

**CSS Overflow**

**CSS Overflow-X**

**CSS Overflow-Y**

**CSS Text-Overflow**

**CSS Clip**

**CSS Z-Index**

**CSS Margin**

**CSS Margin-Top**

**CSS Margin-Right**

**CSS Margin-Bottom**

**CSS Margin-Left**

**CSS Padding**

**CSS Padding-Top**

**CSS Padding-Right**

**CSS Padding-Bottom**

**CSS Padding-Left**

**CSS Border**

**CSS Border-Top**

**CSS Border-Right**

**CSS Border-Bottom**

**CSS Border-Left**

**CSS Border-Width**

**CSS Border-Top-Width**

**CSS Border-Right-Width**

**CSS Border-Bottom-Width**

**CSS Border-Left-Width**

**CSS Border-Style**

**CSS Border-Top-Style**

**CSS Border-Right-Style**

**CSS Border-Bottom-Style**

**CSS Border-Left-Style**

**CSS Border-Color**

**CSS Border-Top-Color**

**CSS Border-Right-Color**

**CSS Border-Bottom-Color**

**CSS Border-Left-Color**

**CSS Accelerator**

**CSS Cursor**

**CSS Filter**

**CSS Behavior**

**CSS Zoom**

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**Via [css3.com](http://css3.com)**
CSS is far more powerful than ever — we need to evolve how the world talks about modern CSS.

CSS3 & HTML5 were a big improvement - we’ve come a long way since then.

Features have landed that people didn’t even think were possible back in 2012.

It’s time to repeat the tremendous success CSS3 had and how well it landed as a signpost for the web.
What Exactly is “Modern” CSS?

I was flipping through my RSS feed, noticing how many times “Modern” is popping up in post titles. I have a purdy good idea what that means, particularly when it’s describing CSS. We’ll probably get into CSS Grid, maybe adjust specificity with Cascade Layers, perhaps reach for a conditional pseudo-selector, or even play with a new colorspace. There’s so much modern CSS that there’s never been a more exciting time to be writing about it!

So, when is “modern” not so, you know, “modern” anymore? I can’t help but be a bit pendants about these things. When the web itself is somewhat transient, it’s tough not to think about permanence and longevity. What’s the famous Billy Corben Stevie Nicks line?

Time makes you bolder,
Even children get older,
And I’ll get older, too.

— STEVIE NICKS, “Landslide”
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— STEVIE NICKS, “LANDSLIDE”
The CSS-Next Community Group aims to align and modernize the general understanding of CSS in the wider developer community by labeling feature sets beyond the initial CSS3 set in a clear way, helping developers upskill their understanding of CSS across the ecosystem.
Why not use Baseline or the annual Snapshot?

- Definition updates regularly over time
- Same issue as “modern”
- Annual updates aren’t as impactful as defined “moments in time” (see ES6 vs. ES2021)
The web is evolving, we can’t keep returning to a 10+ year-old definition of “modern CSS”

“CSS” alone isn’t helpful
“Modern CSS” also lacks specific meaning

Providing levels and structured moments in time – even just from a marketing standpoint – has meaning and has clearly been successful
Goals:

1. Help developers learn CSS
2. Help educators teach CSS
3. Help employers define modern web skills
4. Help the community understand the progression of CSS capabilities over time

Create a shared understanding through language to push the web forward
Out of Scope (Non-goals)

- Affecting spec definitions. This is not a group that would define the working process or affect spec naming for formal working groups, such as the CSSWG
- Official developer documentation, e.g. MDN
- Any browser specification work – this should be conducted in the relevant standardization or pre-standardization forum (i.e. CSSWG or OpenUI)
- Defining and educating on “best practices” for developers
- Manage browser compatibility data
Scope

The CSS-Next Community Group is focusing its activities on three main pillars:

- Research the community’s understanding of modern CSS
- Build a shared understanding of CSS feature evolution since CSS3 and grouping those features into easily-digestible levels (such as CSS4, CSS5, etc.)
- Help educate the community about modern CSS features
CSS Level Definitions (as per CG resolution thus far)

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**CSS3 (~2009-2012):** Level 3 CSS specs as defined by the CSSWG. (immutable)

**CSS4 (~2013-2018):** Essential features that were not part of CSS3 but are already a fundamental part of CSS.

**CSS5 (~2019-2024):** Newer features whose adoption is steadily growing.

**CSS6 (~2025+):** Early-stage features that are planned for future CSS.
Current CG Work

Pre-sort of features

github.com/orgs/CSS-Next/projects/1
Next Steps

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Community pulse-check / research
Goals for CSSWG Involvement

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Goals with CSSWG:

- Awareness and support of the work done (positive signal)
- General feedback
- Feedback about the pre-sorted feature sets prior to research prototype completion
- Join the incubation group
  - Biweekly hour-long sessions on Mondays @ 8AM PT / 11AM ET / 5PM CET