

CSS-Next Community Group

Goals, Definitions, and Plans — October 2023

Let's Define CSS 4 #4770

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jensimmons opened this issue on Feb 12, 2020 · 132 comments



jensimmons commented on Feb 12, 2020

[Member](#)

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. 🤔

[and](#)

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.

Assignees



No one—[assign yourself](#)

Labels



Agenda+

meta

Projects



None yet

Milestone



No milestone

Development



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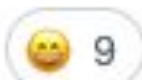
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CSS3

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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Webpack)

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Express



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jQuery

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and best practices.






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-  jQuery

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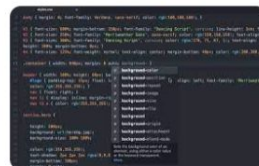
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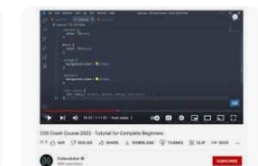
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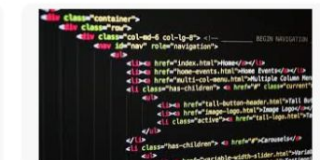
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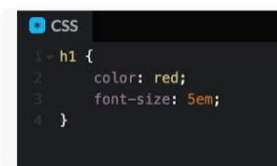
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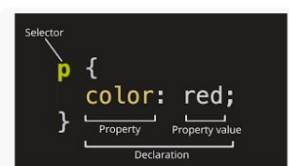
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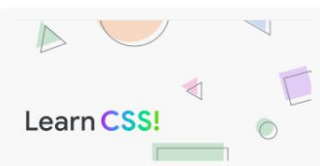
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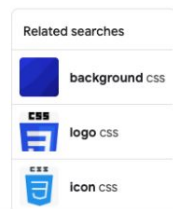
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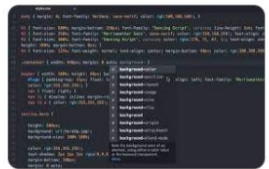
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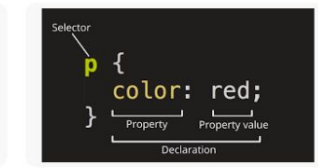
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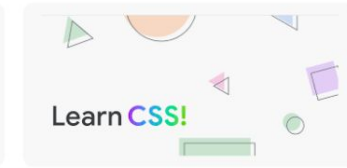
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CSS3 ~~had~~ still has a
huge impact on the
ecosystem

CSS3

— — —

Via css3.com

CSS FONT-VARIANT	CSS FONT-WEIGHT	CSS FONT-SIZE	CSS FONT-FAMILY	CSS WORD-SPACING
CSS LETTER-SPACING	CSS WHITE-SPACE	CSS WORD-WRAP	CSS TEXT-ALIGN	CSS TEXT-ALIGN-LAST
CSS TEXT-DECORATION	CSS TEXT-TRANSFORM	CSS TEXT-SHADOW	CSS TEXT-INDENT	CSS TEXT-UNDERLINE-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 LIST-STYLE-POSITION
CSS LIST-STYLE-IMAGE	CSS BORDER-COLLAPSE	CSS BORDER-SPACING	CSS CAPTION-SIDE	CSS EMPTY-CELLS
CSS SPEAK-HEADER	CSS TABLE-LAYOUT	CSS DISPLAY	CSS VISIBILITY	CSS POSITION
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

**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.

Geoff Graham:

— — —

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 pendantic 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 Corgan~~ Stevie Nicks line?

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

— STEVIE NICKS, "LANDSLIDE"

Geoff Graham:

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“Modern” is too broad—it’s impossible to describe a moment in time or pinpoint a specific meaning

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Why CSS-Next?

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 an clear way, helping developers upskill their understanding of CSS across the ecosystem.

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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)

TLDR;

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:

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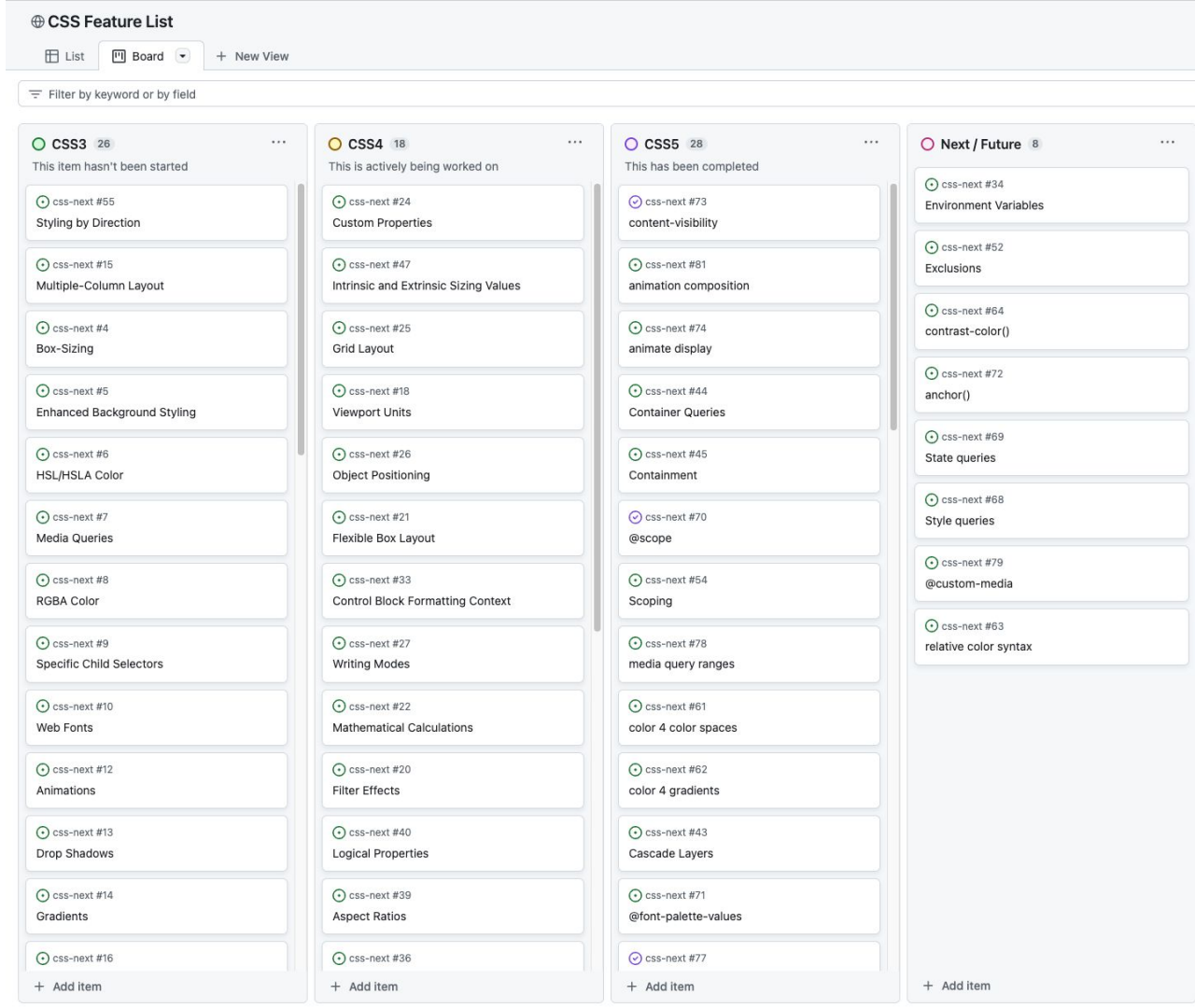
CSS3 (~2009-2012): Level 3 CSS specs as defined by the CSSWG. (immutable)

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.

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



Next Steps

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Community pulse-check / research

Goals for CSSWG Involvement

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