**COMPLIANCE COMPONENT**

Updated: 9/19/05

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<th><strong>DEFINITION</strong></th>
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**ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURE LEVELS**

- Specify the Domain Name: Interface
- Specify the Discipline Name: Branding
- Specify the Technology Area Name: Standards

**COMPLIANCE COMPONENT TYPE**

- Document the Compliance Component Type: Guideline
- Component Sub-type: 

**COMPLIANCE DETAIL**

- Use linked style sheets rather than embedded styles - referencing an external file will you give the maintenance benefits of being able to update the look of your entire site with a single update in addition to an improvement in load time. Individual page authors can create additional embedded styles for their own pages when necessary to override the centralized (linked or @import) style.
- Pages must continue to work when style sheets are disabled. Retaining a decent presentation without the style sheet is mandatory to support disabled users and older browsers.
- If possible, have a single style sheet file for the whole site; or at most, separate files for a small number of sub-site categories. Having one set of styles used across the site will give the whole site a consistent look and formatting, and make the site easier to use.
- Do not use absolute font sizes - specify all text relative to the base font size defined by the user's preference setting.
- Multiple style sheets - make sure to use the same class names for the same concept in all of the style sheets. Content creators using two or more style sheets will be confused if different classes are used for the same
thing or if one style sheet has a class that is missing in the other style sheet even though the concept applies in both cases. If you have a class for the name of the author of a document, then all of your style sheets should have this class, even though it may be defined to render differently, as appropriate for the different kinds of documents.

- Print stylesheets - with a standards-based site the printer-friendly template is replaced by a print stylesheet, which is applied to the regular page and only used when that page is actually printed. Those linking directly can be forwarded to the regular article page. Not only can bandwidth be saved by not duplicating files, but site managers can also ensure that site branding is maintained and that all visitors are able to browse and search the site from all pages.

Document Source Reference #
http://www.w3.org/Style/CSS/
http://www.useit.com/alertbox/9707a.html

Compliance Sources
Name | World Wide Web Consortium  | Website | http://www.w3c.org

Contact Information
Name

Contact Information
Website

KEYWORDS
List Keywords | CSS, cascading style sheets, linked style sheets, import, link

COMPONENT CLASSIFICATION
Provide the Classification | □ Emerging  | ✓ Current  | □ Twilight  | □ Sunset

Sunset Date

COMPONENT SUB-CLASSIFICATION
Sub-Classification | Date | Additional Sub-Classification Information
□ Technology Watch
□ Variance
□ Conditional Use

Rationale for Component Classification
Document the Rationale for Component Classification

Migration Strategy

Impact Position Statement

Document the Position Statement on Impact

CURRENT STATUS
Provide the Current Status | □ In Development  | □ Under Review  | ✓ Approved  | □ Rejected
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