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**Merles Mission Ezine- <http://www.MerlesWorld.com/>
"The Best of the Net Straight to your Door"
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**Edited & Published by: Merle- <mailto:Merle@MerlesWorld.com>
Companion Blog <http://Merlesworld.Blogspot.com/>**

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## 1. NEWS FROM THE NET

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Icop and The Institute for Spam and Internet Public Policy (ISIPP) create partnership.

<http://www.trusted-email-sender.com/news.html>

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First U.S. felony trial over spam begins

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6337242/>

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New Google Desktop Exploit Discovered

<http://tinyurl.com/649da>

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Help with Google AdSense

<http://tinyurl.com/4wddc>

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Ebay/Paypal Buyer Credit

<http://tinyurl.com/4ah83>

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Supporters Try to Revive Sender ID

<http://tinyurl.com/62tx5>

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Yahoo, Adobe Team Up for New Web Services

<http://tinyurl.com/593yw>

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Netscape Announces Version 7.2

<http://tinyurl.com/3lm3>

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## 2. FEATURE ARTICLE

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(Due to time constraints I'm running one of my  
past articles)

### "How's Your Sense of Style?"

**By Merle**

<http://www.MCPromotions.com>

No, I'm not referring to your wardrobe here, but  
to to cascading style sheets, also known as CSS.  
Developed by the World Wide Web Consortium, it  
allows webmasters to separate site layout from  
the design. CSS is actually a standard for con-  
trolling the appearance of your Web pages. It's  
essentially a set of rules that, when linked to  
or embedded in HTML pages, control their  
appearance.

Right about now you're probably thinking "What's  
so great about that?" The benefits are numerous  
-- two of the biggest are:

**1) Easy Site Updates:** Global site updates will be simpler when you can make all your changes in one place to update the entire site. It's much better than going through page after page of HTML code. For example, say you have a site made in Times New Roman font and your customer calls you up and tells you he wants Verdana. Can you imagine scrolling through 25 pages or more looking for every instance of the <font> tag and changing it to Verdana? What a nightmare. With CSS you would simply specify the font in one location and the change would be implemented site wide.

**2) Faster Loading:** Your HTML pages will load faster due to cleaner code. All of the extraneous coding will be in a style sheet, leaving less clutter and faster downloading of the site.

So now that you've seen a few of the "benes" to style sheets, let's learn more about them. Let's clarify up front that while both Netscape and Internet Explorer both support CSS from version 4.0 and higher, they don't exactly see eye to eye on CSS and interpret some style properties differently. You'll want to test your pages in both browsers to check and correct any inconsistencies.

So what can you control with CSS? Things like paragraphs <P>, Headings <H1><H2><H3>, borders, table layouts, Fonts and font colors, text alignment, pixel size, line height, letter spacing, word spacing, font weights, page margins, and even background images; and the way they work is a big improvement over just plain old HTML. Are you beginning to see the possibilities and just how powerful this can be?

### **There are three ways to use CSS:**

**1) Inline:** The CSS tags are applied to the web page itself, to any body element you choose. This is not the best method, as you'll have to find each instance in the web site in order to make changes in the future. Example of this:

(remove the periods before and after the span tag)

```
.<Span Style="background-color: yellow">Text Here  
</Span>.
```

In the example above the text would be highlighted yellow.

**2) Embedded:** The actual CSS code is part of the HTML page placed between the <HEAD> tags on each page. Again, placing the tags inside the pages defeats the convenience of CSS and being able to make global site changes from one document, but some do like to use this method.

Example of embedded:

```
.<HEAD>  
<STYLE TYPE= "text/css">  
<!-->  
H2 {font-size:small}  
</STYLE>  
<HEAD>.
```

**3) Linked:** In my opinion, the best method to use. You place a link to the CSS between the <HEAD> </HEAD> tags on your web pages. The link looks like this:

```
<Link Rel="stylesheet" Type="text/css" Href=style.css>
```

The style sheet is a separate text document that is saved with a .css extension like this: style.css.

So now that you know your three options for using CSS, how do you write the code? Every style sheet rule starts with a selector followed by braces. A selector is any part of HTML coding like P, Font, Body, etc.

Here's what it looks like in action:

```
.P {font-size: 12pt}.
```

The P above is the selector and the font specification between the braces is the property. This code says that all paragraphs will be 12 pt font in size.

A rule can always have multiple properties. Semicolons separate multiple properties, commas are used to separate multiple selectors.

Example:

```
.P { color: black; background-color:white;  
font-size=12pt }.
```

This code says you want all paragraphs black with a white background and a 12 pt font. (Why anyone would want that is beyond me; it's just an example so go with it.)

You can always group more than one selector tag like this if you want them all to look the same.

```
TD,H2,H1 { color: Red; background-color: pink }
```

This would make all table cells, and heading 1 and 2 tags red with a pink background. Attractive don't you think? Again, this is an exaggeration to prove a point (even if it is gaudy).

Selectors are not case sensitive, so "P" is the same as "p."

```
H2 { color: blue }
```

 this would make all heading 2 tags blue in color.

As you can see from these examples, CSS is not that hard to pick up and can really give you more control over your website's appearance. For further information, check out some of these informative sites and you'll be a CSS pro in no time at all:

[http://www.InternetBrothers.com/CSS\\_Basics.htm](http://www.InternetBrothers.com/CSS_Basics.htm)  
<http://www.users.f2s.com/faq/cssbasic.php3>  
<http://tinyurl.com/5vz2z>  
<http://tinyurl.com/466ag>

There are also software programs you can download that will make the creation of CSS so much easier:

TopStyle <http://www.bradsoft.com/topstyle/index.asp>  
Dutch's CSS <http://www.dutchthewiz.com/styles/Default.asp>

In Part 2 of our discussion of CSS, we'll discuss some fun things you can do with styles that will dress up your website and have you looking like a pro in no time at all.

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By Merle <http://EzineAdAuction.com>  
Need help with your website traffic? Then you need this home study course which shows you step by step how to market and promote your site the right way.  
<http://www.mcpromotions.com/johnreese.htm>  
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<http://tinyurl.com/3xhdm>

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### **3. WEBMASTER RESOURCES**

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#### **Level 10 Hit Counter**

"A a top rated, free web counter statistics package. It features a one-of-a-kind Flash rich media reporter that quickly generates 100's of real-time graphical web traffic reports." Free to download, and available in two languages PHP/MYSQL or Perl.

<http://www.leveltendesign.com/L10Apps/HC/download.php>

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#### **Webmaster Tools**

A whole page of useful f-r-e-e software for Webmasters.HTML Encryptor, a self extracting article ebook with material you can use on your site or in your ezine, a script tester, HTML to JavaScript Converter and more. If you build sites there's something you can use here.

<http://webmastertools.sawpit.net/free.html>

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#### **Javascript Banner Rotator Generator**

Easy way to rotate banners on your website Just type in your banners and paste the code onto your webpage.

<http://www.htmlbasix.com/banner.shtml>

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**Tip**  
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**Yahoo Search Tip- Tracing Phone Calls**

Getting strange phone calls to your home or business. Just type the area code into Yahoo's search box and it will tell you where the call is coming from.

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**4. PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES**  
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**Instant Press Release- Software**

It allows anyone to write and professionally format a press release in a matter of minutes by simply filling in some blanks and answering some questions. Totally F-R-E-E.

<http://tinyurl.com/5udfb>

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## **6. JUST FOR FUN OR USEFUL**

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### **Planet Feedback**

Have a complaint, question or comment for a company? PlanetFeedback helps you compose letters and give those whom you feel need it a piece of your mind. From insurance companies to toy stores they have it all here.

<http://planetfeedback.com/consumer/>

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### **National Geographic Printable Posters**

Want something really cool? Print out life size posters of animals and landscapes on your printer and re-assemble them on your walls. The photography is top notch of course.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/printaposter/>

## LS Blogs

If you're not a big fan of Blogs you might want to convert yourself. The popularity of Blogs is not going away anytime soon. Check out this site

which has listings for Blog Directories, feeds, software and more. It's everything you may not want to know about Blogging.

<http://www.lsblogs.com/>

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### "Attract Traffic While Sitting In It"

Buy URL Plates for your Car and attract traffic to your website while sitting it it. These are really cool. I have them and so should you.

<http://www.mcpromotions.com/adURL/default.htm>

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## 7. E BOOKS AND THINGS OF INTEREST TO EZINE PUBLISHERS

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### Special Report

Free report on "How to Prosper With the New Google". If you're trying to raise your position in the search engines you'll want to read this very important information by a true online expert.

<http://www.merlesworld.com/e-books/google-report.pdf>

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## **8. FREWARE- SHAREWARE- TRIALS TO DOWNLOAD**

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### **GiftWiz- F-r-e-e Software**

"No more tediously cutting and folding tiny pieces of paper, writing names on them, and throwing them in a hat to be drawn to see who buys a gift for whom. GiftWiz automates and simplifies the entire process of the time-honored holiday tradition of drawing names to exchange gifts while keeping it fun and festive."

<http://www.harmonyhollow.net/giftwiz.shtml>

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### **Aid Submission Software**

If you create software and would like to submit it to over 300 online freeware and shareware directories you need this software. Very inexpensive for all the work it does for you. Can download f-r-e-e to try it out first.

<http://www.aidsoft.com/asg/>

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### **L!nk Management Software**

Duncan Carver recently released a brand new f-r-e-e software package that makes it easy to set up and maintain reciprocal links on your website. You can download the software here.

<http://tinyurl.com/4jmgb>

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**9.IMPORTANT STUFF**  
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send <mailto:subscribe@merlesworld.com>  
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