# CSS Coding Standards

Mock-up showing the real estate available to house the “The fun starts here” feature.

**Overview**

This section sets out the standards which need to be adhered to when integrating template stylesheets into the CMS for any proposed site designs.

**Accessibility**

All CSS code should be validated on the W3C site **[**<http://validator.w3.org/> **]** to ensure that the code is error free and can be interpreted by all browsers.

In addition CSS code should be compatible with the following browsers:

* **Internet Explorer 6x** and above
* **Firefox 2x** and above.
* **Safari 3x** and above.
* **Chrome 1x** and above
* **Opera 9x** and above.

**General CSS Standards**

* All styles must be contained within one external stylesheet, styles cannot be imported from additional separate stylesheets. Inline styles and *“on page”* style definitions are strictly prohibited. s
* All CSS rules should be indented with a single tab space, and have a single space between the colon and the value of the rule. A semi-colon should follow all values, regardless of whether the value is the last in the style definition.
* In addition the curly braces that embrace all property-value pairs in a style definition should follow the format below. In this example the opening bracket is on the same line as the selector identifier with the closing bracket below the final style definition.

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| . body { background: #eee; color: #222;  font: 1em Helvetica, 'Trebuchet MS', Sans-Serif;  } |

* Use \*\***coding shorthand** to define **several properties** of the same kind in one single property. This makes for ease of development and keeps the CSS concise, clean and accessible. This is commonly employed for defining **margin**, **border**, **padding**, **font** and **background** properties. Acceptable and unacceptable code samples below:

 \*\*As seen in **example 3** below, if you are assigning a single selector value,

 shorthand is not required.

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| e.g. 1  **ACCEPTABLE** .text { font: 1em/1.1em bold italic small-caps Verdana, Arial, Helvetica,  sans-serif; }**UNACCEPTABLE**  .text { font-size: 10em; line-height: 1.1em; font-weight: bold; font-style: italic; font-variant: small-caps; font-family: Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; }**e.g. 2** **ACCEPTABLE** .text { margin: 3px 5px 2px 2px;  padding: 4px 5px 2px 1px ;  } **UNACCEPTABLE**  .text { margin-bottom: 3px; margin-top: 5px; margin-left: 2px; margin-right: 2px;  padding-right: 4px; padding-left: 5px; padding-bottom: 2px; padding-top: 1px; }**e.g. 3** .text { margin-bottom: 3px; } |

* Use **em** instead of **px** for sizing fonts, line heights, etc. This is to ensure that site visitors can increase browser text size via the browser and assists in maintaining overall site accessibility.
* Use percentage instead of pixels when defining the **width/height/positioning** of a **layout div element or table**. This is required to allow for a **liquid design (flexible design)**. Any exceptions to this rule must be documented.
* Avoid using **presentation** or **location specific** words in the naming of CSS classes or IDs. e.g. "blue", "text-gray", or "light-box". Use names that describe the underlying content ("footer", "navigation", etc), rather than the presentation ("blue", "left", "big"...).

An example of this can seen below in the naming of a **DIV** block element.

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|  **ACCEPTABLE UNACCEPTABLE** branding top-panel  main-nav horizontal-nav subnav left-side main-content center-column sidebar right-col SearchBar div1 |

* Cascade selector names using a dash (-) as a separator. When cascading, have in mind what the content is. For example: "header" and "header-logo" (you have a page header that contains a logo at, say, the top-left corner) or "footer" and "footer-copyright"
* Use camel casing when naming selectors (see examples below). No underscores are allowed.

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| .  .navBarDocStore { background: url("../images/navLine.gif"); border-bottom: 1px solid #46829f; width: 100%; } |

* Al CSS hacks employed for browser compatibility purposes need to be **clearly commented**, see example below:

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| . \*html .pageBtnTop { margin-bottom: -10px; /\* fix ie6 spacing problem \*/ } |

* Ensure to **alphabetize style properties** as seen below:

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|  **ACCEPTABLE**  body { background: #000;  color: #FFF;  font-family: helvetica, sans-serif;  font-weight: normal; }**UNACCEPTABLE** body { background: #000; color: #FFF;  font-weight: normal; font-family: helvetica, sans-serif; } |

* Only create classes or IDs where elements cannot be styled by cascading from its holding container. The example below demonstrates the correct and incorrect way of styling an element (in this case a paragraph tag) within a containing **DIV**.

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| **CORRECT****HTML** <div ID=”container”><p>Welcome!</p></div>**CSS** .container { float: left; width: 200px; } .container p { color: blue; text-indent: 12em; }**INCORRECT****HTML** <div class=”container”><p class=”welcometext”>Welcome!</p></div>**CSS** .container { float: left; width: 200px; } .welcometext { color: blue; text-indent: 12em; } |

**Styling Order**

To allow for ease of use and extendibility, the stylesheet should be structured into sections based on page components/sections. The following order should be followed:

* Browser Hacks
* Common HTML elements Types & Type modifier (See worked example below)
* Header
* Primary and Secondary Navigation(See worked example below)
* Individual content sections & data tables
* Form Elements (See worked example below)
* Button Styles (See worked example below)
* Footer
* Miscellaneous styles

Each section should begin with an appropriate commented header denoted in the following style.

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 SAMPLE SECTION

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Please see some worked examples of how **Common HTML elements**, **Primary Navigation**, **Form and button elements** might look.

***Common HTML elements Types & Type modifier Samples***

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|  e.g.   body,h1, h2, ul, p, A, a:hover, a:active, a:link, a:hover, IMG, TABLE, UL etc.  |

***Primary Navigation Sample***

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|  e.g. /\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* PRIMARY NAVIGATION\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*/  #primary\_nav { clear: both; float: left; font-size: 0.9em; line-height: normal;  width: 100%; }   #primary\_nav ul { list-style: none;  margin: 0; padding: 0;  } .primary\_nav\_off:hover, .primary\_nav\_on { background-position:0% -150px; border-bottom: 1px solid #edc786; } .primary\_nav\_off:hover a { background-position: 100% -150px; } .primary\_nav\_on { background-position:0% -150px; } .primary\_nav\_on a { background-position: 100% -150px; } #primary\_nav a:hover { color: #000000; border-bottom: none; text-decoration: underline; } |

***Form Elements***

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|  e.g.   input{  font-family: verdana, arial, Trebuchet MS, sans-serif; font-size: 1em; } select{ float: left; font-size: 1em; font-family: verdana, arial, Trebuchet MS, sans-serif; height: 20px; margin-top: 2px; width: 90%; } textarea{ float: left; font-size: 1em; background: #000000;  font-family: verdana, arial, Trebuchet MS, sans-serif; width: 60%; color: #FFFFFF; }  |

***Button Styles***

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|  e.g.   .pageBtn{ background-color: #fbfcfb; height: 3px; padding-left: 1px; padding-right: 3px; padding-left: 3px; padding-bottom: 3px; margin-left: 1px; margin-right: 2px; margin-bottom: 3px; margin-top: 4px;  }  .pageBtnTop{ background-image: url(../images/pageBtnTop.gif); background-repeat: no-repeat;  height: 3px; margin: 0px; line-height: 3em;  padding: 0px; width:100%; } |

Page sections such (e.g. Header, navigation, content sections, footer etc) should be governed by the use of **DIV elements**. All associated properties i.e. **width, height, positioning, backgrounds etc** should be detailed within this element. In addition **DIVs** should be defined by **ID selectors** as **opposed to classes.**

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|  e.g.   #leftcol, #rightcol, #centercol, #maincol #header,  #footer etc.  |