

IT111 Week 8 Podcast

Hello and welcome to the Week 8 Podcast for IT 111.

In this podcast I'll to make some announcements, talk about the Firefox Web Developer extension, and introduce the Chapter 8 assignment.

First, the announcements. On March 8, Part 3 of the Final Project is due. I'm going to recommend you start working on it right away because it requires that you create a template for your final project web site. You'll need to code a page that includes the navigation, header and footer content, color scheme, plus an external style sheet for your web site. The template must validate for both XHTML and CSS. Remember your final project is worth 25% of your grade and getting a template set up a couple weeks before it's due will help you, I promise.

During the real time class session I conducted last Wednesday, I showed some of the sites from the Class Links page that offer templates for CSS page layout schemes. I don't mind you adapting the CSS page layouts found in the textbook or the templates on these web sites for your final project. I've created a short tutorial to show you how to save the CSS and the XHTML in case you want to use this approach for the layout of your final project. This demo is the short video in the podcast show notes.

I mentioned the Web Developer Extension that you can add to Firefox in the feedback I sent out about the Chapter 5 Assignment. It has many tools that make web development easier. For example, you can click on a button to display the alt attributes for all the images. You can see their file size and dimensions, too.

Again, with the click of a button you can view the color information - meaning what colors are used on the page along with the hexadecimal codes. You can view the CSS used on a page, too and check to see if it validates.

By now I hope everyone has installed Firefox and is using it to view your web pages. To get the extension, click on the link I've provided in the show notes then download and install it.

I'm going to include links to some YouTube movies that show how to use the tools though I suspect you'll be able to figure many of them out on your own by just playing with them.

Chapter 8 covers XHTML tables. In the olden days, web developers used tables for two main purposes. First, to organize data or information. I'm sure many of you have used tables in Word for this same purpose and are familiar with the

rows, columns, and cells in Excel. XHTML tables are still used to visually organize information on a web page.

A second purpose in the past was for page layout - what we've been doing with CSS was formerly done with tables. Sometimes the table structure would get very complex with tables nested inside of tables nested inside of cells. The code could be very cumbersome and bulky. People using screen reader devices would have a terrible time navigating and understanding a page that used nested tables for layout.

In Chapter 8 you'll learn the basic tags for coding tables and then how to apply CSS rules for formatting them. Here's a tip. If you're having problems with a table, add a one pixel border to it. It's much easier to tell if you've forgotten an ending cell or row tag when you have a visible border around the table.

Don't forget to watch the narrated lecture presentation for Chapter 8.

Well, I guess that's it for this podcast. Thanks for listening and tune in next week for another IT 111 podcast.