Browser Capabilities

Designing for consistent appearance

Browsers Differ

- Even though browsers are moving to a consistent implementation of HTML, they differ in display and adherence.
- It is your responsibility to make sure your page works for a wide audience.

Handling Stylistic Differences

- "Easiest" way to eliminate browser differences is to use a default style sheet
- Default style sheets reset all of the values for the page
- Will make your page look worse!

Handling Unsupported Properties

- Not all browsers support all HTML5 tags
- Not all browsers support all CSS3 properties
- Browser prefixes (or vendor prefixes) provide a quick fix for handling unsupported CSS3 options.

Browser Prefixes

- -webkit-: Android, Chrome, iOS, Safari
- -moz-: Firefox
- -ms-: Internet Explorer
- -o-: Opera

Often Unsupported Properties

- column-count
- border-radius
- gradient
- Sites such as http://caniuse.com/ will tell you when you need to use prefixes

Example

Automated Ways to include Prefixes

- For now, add the prefixes by hand
- There are ways to automate the addition of prefixes
  - Editor add-ons (You have most of the control)
  - Use outside programs to dynamically add appropriate prefix based on browser

Review

- Default style sheets remove stylistic differences
  - Should default style sheet be internal or external?
  - Where should it go in relation to other style sheets?
- Browser prefixes can help remove some differences caused by unsupported options
  - Shouldn't be overused

Acknowledgements/Contributions

Initial Development: Colleen van Lent , University of Michigan School of Information