

Re: Development with IE 7 for non-Windows users.

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.inetexplorer.ie6.browser/2006-12/msg0044>

- *From:* "Rob ^_^" <iecustomizer@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 14 Dec 2006 07:08:55 +1100
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Hi Daz,

You hit the nail with "The most used browser in the world". That's the point.

When developing you have to know your market. It's not use spending 90% of your development time catering for 10% of the market.

So you have made your personal choices for an operating system and browser... fair enough.... but Who, What, When, Where and Why? you may ask?

You are now faced with the opposite problem.. you are spending 90% of your time catering for 80% of the market... trying to code around IE versions on your non windows development platform. This is by far the biggest slice of your potential market yet you have chosen a development platform that caters for the smallest slice.

So is there a strategy forward for you?

Are you going to wait for MS to release a 'fully compliant' browser? I don't think so. Regardless of 'non-compliance' tag IE IS the most popular browser (popular may be the wrong word, most used is probably more appropriate) and there are technical and business reasons why the rollout of a fully compliant IE is difficult, but most importantly there is no return on the investment for doing so. The only complainants are developers – market share 1%.

You will have to decide upon your strategies. You have to ask yourself those 5 questions – who, what, when, where and why.

There is a simple development solution though. The KISS principle – Keep it Simple/Stupid – avoid fancy styling, actually I think we should all avoid using server side styling, after all isn't the User King, let the user decide how they want to see your web pages. Avoid scripting – all browsers recognise the <a> tag! – Follow the KISS principle and you should be able to produce pages that will work equally well on all browsers, but regardless of that you are inviting disaster and embarrassment unless you fully test your apps on all targeted platforms and browsers. That really leaves you with no choice but to get your hands on the additional hardware and software for a comprehensive testing environment to cater for your target market.

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Your choice of a development and testing environment should be driven by your answers to those 5 questions, not your personal preferences. After all are you in it for fun or for business?

Regards.

"Daz" <cutenfuzzy@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:1166035661.924338.133360@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi everyone.

I am sure this question has already been asked, but I have not yet found a satisfactory answer myself. I hope that this may turn into a discussion, as I would like to hear all views on the subject. I am going to try not to rant, but I am sure the majority of readers will understand my frustration.

I am currently a newbie web developer. Although, newbie might be an understatement — as I have been doing it for about a year and have managed to complete some very interesting and quite unique projects — in my eyes I will always be a newbie purely because I am always learning.

Anyway... I am running Linux, which is my Operating System of choice from a development perspective, and I have found a great way to install IE 5, 5.5 and 6, by means of an installer dreamed up and brought to life by a kind gentleman at <http://www.tatanka.com.br/>. Naturally, I am a fan of Firefox. Again, this is my personal preference for what I believe to be obvious reasons. Although there are times when I feel like pulling my hair out because IE refuses to do something that Firefox does happily, it's a lot nicer to have the opportunity to see how something works (or doesn't work) in the commonly used IE browsers.

The majority of the world's population probably don't even know what Firefox is, or perhaps lack the understanding of what a browser really is, and fail to realise that there are others available besides the one that came with their operating system. I guess what I am getting at is that it's just something that has to be dealt with by all web developers, so of course, we have to create our pages with the most 'used' browser in the world, in mind.

Up until now, I have only had a few quarms about having to develop material to work with a browser that doesn't comply with a lot of the existing standards/recommendations. Now my greatest concern is what's going to happen when I want to develop a page and test it on IE7. When the final version is released into the public domain, it's going to be something that Windows users will need to validate their Windows install for, in order to get it, using WGA.

Again, I am trying not to moan here, but I feel that although it's bad enough that Microsoft have slammed the door on web developers by being so different from most other browsers, this time they've made it even

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worse, by slamming the door with the web developers fingers still in it! What are non-Windows users meant to do? Are we expected to pay for IE7 so we can develop web pages that should work with most browsers anyway, but actually won't work with IE?

Perhaps I am missing something here. Please could someone point it out if I am? I don't want to bash Microsoft, but I feel this is starting to get ridiculous, and I suspect I am not on my own.

I welcome the views and opinions of other people who might be in the same position (i.e. a non-Windows user). Also, any advice on how to develop web pages that work with IE7, only without using IE7, would be appreciated.

Many thanks.

Daz.