

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

Source:

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- *From:* "Daz" <cutenfuzzy@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 14 Dec 2006 08:05:07 -0800
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Tim Judd wrote:

Daz,

I've read your posts, and Rob's replies. I see both sides of the story.

I'm glad you do. I also accept that there's not just one side. :)

However, since Microsoft has obviously ignored or superceded the standards that most other browsers accept, I rely only on the standards.

That would make sense, but IE still renders things differently. Although I can't vouch for IE7. Aren't JavaScript and CSS/CSS2 in the standard? I am pretty sure that CSS is, but IE doesn't even support the :hover event. It's insane.

If you code the site to be W3C compliant with their validator, no amount of code to get it to appear the same is worth the time. Validate the code, and if MSIE renders it differently, it is not the web developer's fault. It is only the rendering engine itself that is to blame. And in this topic, the rendering engine is made by microsoft, so I blame microsoft for the inability to render W3C standards properly.

Plausable deniability. I like that. It would be hard to live with, but I think it's 'doable'. But shouldn't all pages display correctly from within the most 'used' browser in the world?

I do web design as a hobbyist only. I suck at the design because I want it to be lined up, but then I remember about the W3C standards and abandon the website design.

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The newer thing out there is to turn all scripting off — well, it's possible to do a complete site w/out client side scripting, but it can make dynamic pages a pain... Where you're back to square one when the web was "created" — static HTML pages that never change. Don't confuse this with dynamic pages that change on server-side scripting, which is all technology.

I design all of my pages to work without script (where possible, of course). Sometimes script can be very useful. If I wanted to make some kind of validator for example. I see script as being a method for allowing users to use programs that you've written. Be it to validate data, or format data or whatever else the need might be. I also see it as an excellent opportunity to save some bandwidth on my website. Rather than having to render an entire page each time, the page is only rendered once, and their computer does the rest of the work once we send it a little extra data upon request. Obviously, this is using AJAX, which I think is very useful. Obviously, if a users browser doesn't support script, then they can do it the slightly longer way, but I think that in general script is a marvelous thing that should be taken advantage of. At the same time, we shouldn't be shutting out any of the users who have browsers that don't support JavaScript, even though about 99.9% of browsers these days will support it. As Rob said, we should be catering for the majority, not the minority. I think we should be catering for just about everyone. No one likes having web-based doors slammed in their face:

"Sorry, to use this page you must enable JavaScript".
"Sorry, to use this page your browser must support frames".

I disagree with all of that kind of thing. I like to have a backup plan, and try to divert the users browser using `<noscript>` tags between my `<head>` tags, to an HTML version of the page, if javascript is not available.

In short — the long answer is: yes, there is always inconsistencies.
And it's the software developer's fault.
short answer: Code to W3C standards, leave the rendering alone.

I would like to know what your final decision is, once you come up with it. :)

To be honest, I'm not sure if I will ever reach a 'final decision' as such. It's human nature to want what we can't have, and as a developer I will always have ideals which I will grumble about. It due time, these annoyances will no doubt be resolved, and new annoyances will replace them. I guess we can only do the best we can to please

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everyone. (Which is more than I can say about Microsoft. Hehe!)

Thanks for your comments Tim. I really appreciate them. I understand that all the decent developers just get on with it and make the most of the tools they have to hand. I understand that I am in the minority as an idealist. However, I am a firm believer that if anything is ever going to change, now is the time to work toward it. I know I am not very influential, but there's no harm in trying. At the absolute worst, nothing will change, but you never know unless you try.

I have written a nice email to Microsoft, expressing my concerns with regards to this matter. I am not going to hound them, nor write abusive or threatening emails to them as it's not my kind of thing, but I would be interested to know what they suggest. It wouldn't surprise me if they don't reply at all as I am not a 'paying customer'. :)

All the best.

Daz

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