

Web Site Design and Development

Lecture 11

CS 0134
Fall 2018
Tues and Thurs
1:00 – 2:15PM

Links

- The `<a>` element is used to create a link from one location to another
- The `href` attribute is used to specify the destination of a link
- The text between the start and end tag of `<a>` should be descriptive with regards to what the destination of the link is

Image links

- In addition to links with text between the start and end tag, you can also use images
- If you use an image, you should set the title attribute on the link describing where the link goes
- The user will then click on the image as opposed to the normal underlined link text
- **Example**
 - `

`

Additional attributes for <a>

- **tabindex:** tabindex sets the order in which a link or control is accessed when a user presses tab on a website. By default, the tab order is the order in which the elements were added to the page. Set tabindex equal to -1 to make a link no longer part of the tab order.
- **accesskey:** This sets a keyboard shortcut that can be used by the user to access a link or other element on a webpage. You set accesskey equal to a letter. How you use the shortcut depends on the browser and operating system the user is using. w3schools has a table on this at https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_global_accesskey.asp

Examples with tabindex and accesskey

- `Home<a>`
- `About Us<a>`
- `Contact US`



Questions?

Formatting a link

- **From the list of pseudo-classes we learned earlier, the following are useful for links**
 - :link
 - :visited
 - :hover
 - :focus
 - :active

Formatting a link continued

- **Two properties that are useful for formatting links are**
 - text-decoration to remove the underline
 - border-style to remove the border around image links

Opening a link in a new browser window or tab

- Up until now, all the links we would make will open the destination page in the same browser window or tab.
- This is the behavior you will want in most situations but it can be changed
- To make a link open the destination page in a new browser window or tab, you use the target attribute and set it equal to “_blank”
- **Example**
 - `Contact Us`

Linking to destinations within a website

- We are able to make links that point to elements within a webpage
- To link to an element within a webpage, you add the id attribute to that element and then use #<id> in the href attribute of your link
- You can link to ids within the current page and ids in other pages

Id link examples

- **Assuming we have a page `contact.html` with a section element with `id="contact-form"` set:**
 - `<section id="contact-form">....</section>`
- **We can link to this element from within `contact.html` with:**
 - `form`
- **We can link to this page from outside `contact.html` with**
 - `form`
- **The course website uses this for linking to the schedule, announcements, etc.**

Linking to the top of the page

- **You can link to the top of the page with:**
 - `Back to top`
 - `Back to top`
- **When you link to the top of a page, regardless of method, you do not need to set the id attribute on an element.**



Questions?

Linking to media

- You can link directly to a media file like an mp3 or pdf using the `<a>` element.
- In order to help the browser play or display this content, you can use the `type` attribute
- The `type` attribute specifies the MIME type of the file you are linking to.
- The MIME type is a short identifier that the browser will recognize. It can use this, for example, to open an mp3 file using an audio player.

Example media links

- `An Awesome Song`
- `An Awesome Video`
- For a list of common media formats and their MIME types, please refer to the book on page 263.

Email, phone and Skype links

- You can program the `<a>` href attribute using prefixes to make different types of links
- The prefixes for email, phone and skype links are
 - “mailto:” for email addresses
 - “tel:” for phone numbers
 - “skype:” for Skype

Email link

- To create an email link, you set href equal to "mailto:<email address>"
- This will open up the user's default email client and have it start composing an email with <email address> in the To line
- You can also set the CC, BCC and Body fields of an email by adding a '?' after <email address> followed by key/value pairs for CC, BCC and Body

Email link examples

- `Email me`
- `Email me`
- `Email me`

Phone links

- To create a phone link, you set href equal to “tel:<phone number>”
- This will open the phone dialer on your computer/phone if one exists and enter the phone number into it
- This is really useful for mobile websites so you can just tap a phone number to call rather than copy and paste
- Example
 - `Call me`
 - `555-555-5555`

Skype links

- To create a Skype link, you set href equal to "skype:<Skype username>"
- This will open a Skype session with <Skype username> if you have Skype installed
- **Example**
 - `Skype me`



Questions?