



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/CSS Fixing Browser Bugs](http://codex.wordpress.org/CSS_Fixing_Browser_Bugs)

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CSS Fixing Browser Bugs

It is often forgotten that the Internet and Web Pages are still new technology, still growing and evolving. As with all new technology, there will be problems.

Internet browsers, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape, and Firefox, read and interpret the code of a web page so it displays a pretty visual interface. The code that instructs the browser on how the page should look is the Presentation, more commonly known as CSS. While there are web page standards, guidelines for consistent codes for presentation and layout, not all browsers "see" the same page equally.

To keep up with the evolution of web page design and development, and deal with the problems that come with the various Internet browsers, the following information may help you learn more about web page layout using CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) and solve your web page design problems.

Setting the Web Standards

The following sites feature cutting edge web page design issues and set the standards for web page design and development.

- [World Wide Web Consortium Organization \(W3C\)](http://www.w3c.org/) (<http://www.w3c.org/>)
- [Using W3C Core Styles for CSS templates](http://www.w3.org/StyleSheets/Core/) (<http://www.w3.org/StyleSheets/Core/>)
- [W3C's Cascading Style Sheets Level 2 Specification](http://www.w3.org/tr/rec-css2/) (<http://www.w3.org/tr/rec-css2/>)
- [W3C Recommendations for CSS2](http://www.w3.org/TR/rec-css2/) (<http://www.w3.org/TR/rec-css2/>)
- [Web Standards Organization](http://www.webstandards.org/) (<http://www.webstandards.org/>)

Understanding the Difference Between Browsers

Understanding how different browsers work and the CSS features they support may help you discover the reason behind your layout bug.

- [Will the browser apply the rule\(s\)?](http://centricle.com/ref/css/filters/) (<http://centricle.com/ref/css/filters/>)
- [CSS-only Filters Summary](http://dithered.com/css_filters/css_only/) (http://dithered.com/css_filters/css_only/)

Browser Bugs and Hacks

Before standards became the norm, a designer would have to design their web pages to accommodate all the different browsers out there and the different ways they handle code. Today, a few designers are still designing for older browsers, but most people have gotten the clue and updated their Internet software. Still, even today's browsers have some bugs and here are some fixes to deal with the ones in Microsoft Internet Explorer, the most common Internet browser in the world.

Internet Explorer computes the margins and padding differently than other browsers and the web standards convention. This results in a bug involving text, boxes, lists, and

images. In the graphic example to the right, notice how the box overlaps the list bullets on the right side. Tom Gilder's [Internet Explorer Bugs](http://tom.me.uk/2002/2/ie6css.html) (<http://tom.me.uk/2002/2/ie6css.html>) page has a good example of how these bugs work. Other bugs include one where the content will be invisible on the page until you scroll down the page and then it magically appears and disappears. Sometimes images and containers will appear to be jumping around. The links below offer some fixes for these bugs:

- [Box Model Hack and feeding different IEs different css](http://www.communitymx.com/content/article.cfm?cid=E0989953B6F20B41) (<http://www.communitymx.com/content/article.cfm?cid=E0989953B6F20B41>)
- [Position is Everything: Explorer Exposed](http://www.positioniseverything.net/explorer.html) (<http://www.positioniseverything.net/explorer.html>)
- [Floats, Margins and IE](http://www.positioniseverything.net/explorer/floatIndent.html) (<http://www.positioniseverything.net/explorer/floatIndent.html>)
- [CSS Bugs and Workarounds](http://css.nu/pointers/bugs.html) (<http://css.nu/pointers/bugs.html>)
- [Richinstyle's Bugs](http://www.richinstyle.com/bugs/) (<http://www.richinstyle.com/bugs/>)
- [Toward A More Standards Compliant Internet Explorer](http://www.digital-web.com/features/feature_2003-02.shtml) (http://www.digital-web.com/features/feature_2003-02.shtml)
- [CSS-Discuss Group's CSS Hacks](http://css-discuss.incutio.com/?page=CssHack) (<http://css-discuss.incutio.com/?page=CssHack>)
- [Eric Meyers On CSS - Tricking Browsers and Hiding Styles](http://www.ericmeyeroncss.com/bonus/trick-hide.html) (<http://www.ericmeyeroncss.com/bonus/trick-hide.html>)
- [QuirksMode- Browser Quirks](http://www.quirksmode.org/) (<http://www.quirksmode.org/>)
- [No, Internet Explorer did not handle it properly](http://www.howtocreate.co.uk/wrongWithIE/) (<http://www.howtocreate.co.uk/wrongWithIE/>)
- [Internet Explorer 5 Mac: oddities](http://www.l-c-n.com/IE5tests/) (<http://www.l-c-n.com/IE5tests/>)

Directional Ploys

Languages can also screw up the layout of a web page. International users of the Internet and Web are increasing at rates faster than the US, Canada, and Europe. As more international users come on, the need to pay attention to the impact your page will have on foreign computers and Internet browsers, especially ones with right-to-left languages, the more you need to pay attention to the [international standards for web compliance](http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/struct/dirlang.html) (<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/struct/dirlang.html>).

Older operating systems and browsers wouldn't recognize a page's coding layout and right-to-left languages would force a right-justified margin, scrambling your layout in whatever language you wrote it in. These include Hebrew and Arabic, two of the fastest growing international Internet user groups.

There are some solutions to override the directional preference of a user's computer operating system, preventing a web page layout scramble. First, newer operating systems like Windows XP, improves the interpretation of web pages and English. Second, there are HTML coding techniques to override directional preference on newer browsers. Older browsers ignore these codes and the page ends up with right aligned text and graphics going all over the place, but they tend to still be viewable, if not pretty. Keeping your browser and operating system updated and the HTML layout as simple as possible overcomes these display problems.

To enforce the language direction and styling, for US or what is known as "American English", add the following to your HTML tag:

```
<html dir="ltr" lang="en-US">
```

Here are a few of the English language codes for other versions of English:

- English - lang="en"
- English US - lang="en-US"
- English Great Britain - lang="en-GB"
- English Cockney - "en-cockney"
- English Scouse - lang="en-scouse"
- English Australia - lang="en-AU"
- English Canada - lang="en-CA"

If you have a lot of users from places using right-to-left languages and you want to seriously reinforce the direction structure of your site, in your style sheet, add the following direction declaration in your HTML and BODY selectors and the bidirectional code below to help align your content appropriately. It's a bit overkill, but until this problem is easily solved, exaggerated code ensures a proper layout when challenged by a foreign language.

```
html, body {direction:ltr}
/* begin bidirectionality */
bdo[dir=ltr] {direction:ltr; unicode-bidi:bidi-override}
bdo[dir=rtl] {direction:rtl; unicode-bidi:bidi-override}
*[dir=ltr] {direction:ltr; unicode-bidi:embed}
*[dir=rtl] {direction:rtl; unicode-bidi:embed}
/* block-level in msie4 */
address, blockquote, body, dd, div, dl, dt, fieldset,
form, frame, frameset, h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6, iframe,
noscript, noframes, object, ol, p, ul, applet, center,
dir, hr, menu, pre, li, table, tr, thead, tbody, tfoot,
col, colgroup, td, th, caption
{unicode-bidi:embed}
```

Bidireccnality - Links and Resources

- [W3C Web Internationalization FAQs](http://www.w3.org/International/questions/) (<http://www.w3.org/International/questions/>)
- [W3c's XHTML Bi-directional Text Module](http://www.w3.org/TR/2002/WD-xhtml2-20020805/mod-bidi.html) (<http://www.w3.org/TR/2002/WD-xhtml2-20020805/mod-bidi.html>)
- [W3c's Language Information and Text Direction](http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/struct/dirlang.html) (<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/struct/dirlang.html>)
- [W3C's Internationalization Language tagging in HTML and XML](http://www.w3.org/International/O-HTML-tags.html) (<http://www.w3.org/International/O-HTML-tags.html>)
- [Unicode-Conference.Org's Conference Papers and Keynote Speakers on International Standards](http://www.unicode-conference.org/IUC-history.html) (<http://www.unicode-conference.org/IUC-history.html>)
- [Web Design Talk's Language Information and Text Direction](http://www.webdesigntalk.net/html40/struct/dirlang.html) (<http://www.webdesigntalk.net/html40/struct/dirlang.html>)
- [The Global Structure of an HTML Document](http://jamesthornton.com/html/4.01/struct/global.html) (<http://jamesthornton.com/html/4.01/struct/global.html>)
- [Authoring HTML for Middle Eastern Content](http://www.microsoft.com/globaldev/handson/dev/Mideast.mspx) (<http://www.microsoft.com/globaldev/handson/dev/Mideast.mspx>)
- [Unicode's Weaving the Multilingual Web: Standards and Their Implementations](http://www.unicode.org/iuc/iuc20/a011.html) (<http://www.unicode.org/iuc/iuc20/a011.html>)
- [Internationalization of XML - Past, Present, Future](http://www.idealliance.org/papers/dx_xml03/papers/03-06-02/03-06-02.html) (http://www.idealliance.org/papers/dx_xml03/papers/03-06-02/03-06-02.html)
- [RichinStyle's CSS2 Tutorial - Language Styles](http://www.richinstyle.com/guides/language2.html) (<http://www.richinstyle.com/guides/language2.html>)

Learning More about CSS and Browsers

The following links may help you learn more about how different browsers interpret CSS and HTML:

- [Selectoracle - Explains Complex CSS Selectors on Your Site](http://gallery.theopalgroup.com/selectoracle/) (<http://gallery.theopalgroup.com/selectoracle/>)
- [CSS Style Sheet Browser Support by Selector](http://archive.devx.com/projectcool/developer/reference/css_style.html) (http://archive.devx.com/projectcool/developer/reference/css_style.html)
- [Cascading Style Sheet Pointers](http://css.nu/pointers/) (<http://css.nu/pointers/>)
- [Putting Style Sheets in Perspective: Abbreviating CSS Code](http://wdvl.com/Authoring/Style/Sheets/Fonts/font.html) (<http://wdvl.com/Authoring/Style/Sheets/Fonts/font.html>)
- [Cascading Style Sheet Guide](http://www.blooberry.com/html/style/styleindex.htm) (<http://www.blooberry.com/html/style/styleindex.htm>)
- [Code Ave's CSS Resources](http://www.codeave.com/css/) (<http://www.codeave.com/css/>)
- [Codestyle.org's CSS Style Guide](http://www.codestyle.org/css/) (<http://www.codestyle.org/css/>)
- [CSS Pointers - List of Dangerous and Safe CSS properties](http://www.css.nu/) (<http://www.css.nu/>)
- [Jessett's CSS Style Properties Guide](http://www.jessett.com/web_sites/css/css_style_properties.shtml) (http://www.jessett.com/web_sites/css/css_style_properties.shtml)
- [CSS 2 Framed References for Easy Code Research](http://www.meyerweb.com/eric/css/references/css2ref.html) (<http://www.meyerweb.com/eric/css/references/css2ref.html>)
- [CSS Crib Sheet](http://www.mezzoblue.com/css/cribsheet/) (<http://www.mezzoblue.com/css/cribsheet/>)
- [NYPL Online CSS Style Guide](http://www.nypl.org/styleguide/css/) (<http://www.nypl.org/styleguide/css/>)
- [Web Design: CSS Quick Reference - Syntax](http://www.ssam03.com/webdesign/cssref.php) (<http://www.ssam03.com/webdesign/cssref.php>)
- [Syntax and Hierarchy of CSS Styles](http://www.webreference.com/authoring/style/sheets/syntax.html) (<http://www.webreference.com/authoring/style/sheets/syntax.html>)
- [Economist's Style Guide](http://www.economist.com/research/styleGuide/) (<http://www.economist.com/research/styleGuide/>)
- [Design Eye for the Usability Guy](http://www.designbyfire.com/000094.html) (<http://www.designbyfire.com/000094.html>)
- [Checkpoints for Web Accessibility Guidelines](#)