My handy IE CSS tweaks list

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Related Categories: Internet Explorer, CSS, Browsers, HTML

I'm not really a design kind of person, I like designing things, and I'm learning more and more CSS all the time, but it's the server side coding that I love like Apple Pie and custard.

Recently I've had to do a bit more design work, so I've been tripping all over myself to get CSS working in IE6,IE7,IE8 and firefox. I've learnt a few interesting things in the last few days, and I know I'm going to need to use them again. Some are considered 'hacks', some are just clever CSS techniques. They all feel a bit like secret rules of a club I'm not really a member of yet though.

So I'm making a handy list, so I don't loose them. I hope to refine and add to this on an ongoing basis, so if you know a better / easier way please let me know. After all coding standards are for life, not just Christmas, and I don't like the idea of anything being a hack, even if it is CSS.

Adding a 1px high line to IE

I am trying to add a 1px line, like a HR line to the page, it displays fat in IE?

It seems that some versions of IE will display a div without content as the same height as your font size. Add html comments to it to drop it down to the right height:

```
<style>
{color: #ffd520; background-color:#ffd520; width: 100%; height:2px; margin: 3px
</style>
<div class="yellow-ruler"><!-- --></div>
```

IE is adding padding and margins to everything by default

I think there is a lot more information about this out there, but for now I've found that adding the code below will kill most of IE's random padding /margin issues.

```
* {margin:0; padding:0; border: 0px;}
```

I've built a JQuery accordion and the content doesn't move correctly

When expanding a JQuery accordion element the content underneath it is not moving down, and the accordion is expanding over it. This was a simple fix, but a bit of a pain to find. Just do not specify a height attribute on the div that hold the accordion, IE will stick to the height, but firefox will let it grow to be longer.

Styling form element borders

If you have a CSS rule like the one above that removes all the margins, padding and borders then all your form elements will have no border. IE your text fields and textareas etc will not have a clearly defined edge to them. By adding the line of CSS under this (select,input, etc) you can set the style width and colour of your form elements so that you control them, rather than the browser defaults. In Internet explorer this will also add borders to the checkbox and radio form elements. There does not seem to be any way of writing a CSS style to remove this inherently, so create a style of borderless and set all your radio and checkbox fields to "class=borderless".

```
* {margin:0; padding:0; border: 0px;}
select,input,textarea{border-width: 1px; border-style: solid; border-color: grey;}
/* IE stops the radio borders */
.borderless{border: 0px;}
```

Strange IE positioning fix

Sometimes in IE (mainly 6) using position: absolute just does not render the div on screen. I am not sure why. Adding a "clear: both;" or a "clear: left;" or a "clear: right;" appears to fix this.

Easy centering of elements

I used to struggle with centering elements on a page all the time, but now you can do something like this:

```
P.blockoftext {
 margin-left: auto;
 margin-right: auto;
    width: 6em
       }

<p class="blocktext">Text</p>
```

This will center a block of text and give it a width of 6.

For images you can do this:

```
img.displayed {
   display: block;
 margin-left: auto;
 margin-right: auto }

<img class="displayed" src="..." alt="...">
```

That will auto center the image inside its containing div.