

## Re: OT: Need HTML Help

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*Source:* <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.vms/2008-04/msg00591.html>

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- *From:* Neil Rieck <[n.rieck@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:n.rieck@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 16 Apr 2008 05:11:25 -0700 (PDT)
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On Apr 16, 2:00 am, JF Mezei <[jfmezei.spam...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jfmezei.spam...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Jim Duff wrote:

As mentioned else-thread, using css instead of tables is the way to go. Tables certainly have their uses, but they should be restricted to table data, not used for general page layout.

for some reason, "tables" have become to HTML what "goto" has become to programming languages. Frankly, there are situations where a table is far easier and simpler to use than some style sheets that require an inordinate amount of coding.

In the case of his example with submit buttons on the left and content on the right, it would appear to me that a table is well suited. It isn't abusing the tables with multiply nested tables etc.

Whatever you do, you should ensure that your (x)html and css is valid.

<http://validator.w3.org>

You are 100%. Whatever you do, make sure your pages are valid. I've seen non-compliant pages fail to get through some proxy servers depending upon the server's configuration settings.

Always check your work in at least two browsers (IE + Firefox). Without a DOCTYPE, browsers render in "quirks mode" and the output is usually unredictable. The strict DOCTYPE declaration puts them in compliant mode so that they will usually render the same output (at least with IE 8 and FF 2). The Canadian government has already adopted one of the CLF (common look and feel) specs required for doing business in Europe. The spec name just escapes me for the moment.

A few final points about the evolution of this technology. During the browser wars both Microsoft and Netscape introduced non-compliant

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tags. Since W3C couldn't get them to cooperate on fixing their various implementations, all non-compliant tags were dropped in strict HTML (and XHTML) so don't use things like FONT COLOR (or BORDER COLOR) when you should really be changing colors with a SPAN tag referencing a STYLE declared in the CSS area of the document HEAD.

Why use STYLES? When these pages hit a device without a fully implemented browser (Blackberry, PDA, Cell phone, JAWS (which is a browser for the blind)) the STYLES are discarded. This is easier to do if the styles are all located in one place. It will also make your pages smaller (think of styles as sub-routines). Also, IFRAME, TABLE and BUTTON objects (tags) are not allowed in this new XHTML/CSS strict universe and I have seen them all implemented in CSS.

p.s. Don't dismiss the JAWS/BlackBerry argument. Your problems will explode whenever your employer decides to employ a call center operator that is vision impaired =OR= the big boss wants to access some of your pages on his BlackBerry (he will get the idea from one of his CEO buddies at the country club)

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[http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riek/links/cool\\_openvms.html](http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riek/links/cool_openvms.html)

[http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riek/links/openvms\\_demos.html](http://www3.sympatico.ca/n.riek/links/openvms_demos.html)

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