

Module 3 - Working With External Stylesheets In CSS

External Style Sheet

An **external style sheet** is a separate CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) file that contains style rules for how HTML elements should be displayed. It allows you to define styles for multiple web pages from a single file, making it easier to maintain and update the design consistently across a website.

Key Features:

- Stored in a **.css** file (e.g., styles.css)
- Linked to HTML documents using the `<link>` tag inside the `<head>` section
- Keeps HTML content and design separate, improving code clarity and reusability

Why we use External Style Sheet?

We use an external style sheet because of:

- **Reusability** - One CSS file can style multiple HTML pages.
- **Easy Maintenance** - Update styles in one place instead of every page.
- **Cleaner Code** - Keeps HTML content separate from styling.
- **Faster Loading** - CSS is cached by the browser, improving performance.
- **Scalability** - Better for large projects and team collaboration.
- **Consistency** - Ensures a uniform look across all web pages.
- **Supports Advanced Tools** - Works well with CSS frameworks and preprocessors like Sass.

Syntax of the `<link>` Tag for External Style Sheets:

- The `<link>` tag is used in the `<head>` section of an HTML document to link an external CSS file.
- `<link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">`

Attributes:

- `rel="stylesheet"`
Specifies the relationship between the current document and the linked file. In this case, it's a stylesheet.
- `href="style.css"`
Specifies the path to the CSS file. This can be:



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- A relative path (e.g., "css/style.css")
- Or an absolute URL (e.g., "https://example.com/styles/main.css")

Common Attributes of External CSS

Attribute	Description	Example
rel	Defines the relationship between the HTML document and the linked file. For CSS, it should always be "stylesheet".	rel="stylesheet"
href	Specifies the path or URL to the external CSS file.	href="style.css"
type (optional)	Specifies the MIME type of the linked resource. For CSS, it's usually "text/css" (but modern browsers assume this by default).	type="text/css"
media (optional)	Defines the media type (or query) for which the CSS is intended (e.g. screen, print, all).	media="screen" or media="print"

How to Link an External CSS File to an HTML Document

To link an external CSS file to an HTML document, use the <link> tag inside the <head> section of your HTML file.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
```

Difference Between External, Internal, and Inline CSS

1. External CSS

What it is:

CSS is written in a separate file (usually ending with .css) and linked to the HTML file.

When to use:

When you want to apply the same style to multiple pages or keep your code neat and organized.

Example:

HTML File (index.html):

```
<head>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
</head>
<body>
```

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```
<h1>Hello!</h1>
</body>
```

CSS File (style.css):

```
h1 {
  color: blue;
  font-size: 30px;
}
```

2. Internal CSS

What it is:

CSS is written inside the <style> tag in the <head> section of the same HTML file.

When to use:

When you want to style one single page only.

Example:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<style>
  h1 {
    color: green;
    font-size: 25px;
  }
</style>
</head>
<body>
<h1>Welcome!</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

3. Inline CSS

What it is:

CSS is written directly inside an HTML tag using the style attribute.

When to use:

When you want to style only one element quickly.

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```
<h1 style="color: red; font-size: 20px;">Hi there!</h1>
```

Code of External CSS

External CSS File - style.css

```
/* style.css */
body {
    background-color: #e0f7fa;
    font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
}

h1 {
    color: #00796b;
    text-align: center;
}

p {
    color: #555;
    font-size: 16px;
    margin: 20px;
}
```

HTML File - index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <title>External CSS Example</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
</head>
<body>
    <h1>Welcome to My Website</h1>
    <p>This is an example of using an external CSS file to style an HTML page.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

Explanation of above code

File Setup

You have two files:

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1. style.css → contains the CSS code (style rules)
2. index.html → contains the HTML content

Linking the CSS

- In the <head> section of index.html, this line links the external CSS file:

Summary

- The HTML file holds the content (text, structure).
- The CSS file defines how that content looks (colors, fonts, spacing).
- This separation makes your website easier to manage and style consistently.

Assignment

Create a web page using HTML and External CSS with the following requirements:

Instructions:

1. Create an HTML file named index.html.
2. Create a separate CSS file named style.css.
3. Link the CSS file to the HTML file using the <link> tag.
4. The webpage should contain:
 - A heading (<h1>) with blue color and center alignment.
 - A paragraph (<p>) with green text and font size of 18px.
 - A button styled with:
 1. Background color: orange
 2. Text color: white
 3. Padding: 10px

Use the following paragraph text:

"CSS helps in making websites look attractive. It separates the content from the design and allows for flexible styling of web pages."



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