9 Using cascading style sheets

Cascading style sheets are style sheets that can be attached to individual HTML documents. Rather than having the appearance of your documents determined by the Web browser defaults, you can customize the way that users view your document. Cascading style sheets provide the most versatile control over document styles, *but are not widely supported by Web browsers*. At the time of this writing, Microsoft Internet Explorer (3.0 and above) and Netscape Communicator 4.0 provide the most extensive support for cascading style sheets.

You can use the HoTMetaL PRO cascading styles editor (the next page) to define your own cascading styles for displaying documents.

Style sheets must be linked to HTML documents (page 80) in order to be applied to the document by the browser.

A cascading style sheet consists of one or more *rules*. There are two different types of rules:

1. Rules associating an element, a group of elements, a element in a particular context, or some combination of these with a set of style properties and values. This is the usual type of rule in a style sheet.
2. Rules used to set information about the style sheet such as its title, author, etc., as well as specifying imported style sheets and additions to the CSS standard.

The *cascading* part of the CSS standard refers to the fact that multiple style sheets can be applied to one document and influence how the document is displayed. A document's style sheets can have several rules

that refer to the same element. There is a general scheme of how rules are to be interpreted that allows more specific rules to override more general ones, and rules that are built in to a document to override rules that are linked to a document.

The cascading style sheet standard

The cascading style sheet standard is very flexible and quite complicated: HoTMetaL PRO supports a subset of this standard. The specifications for the evolving cascading style sheet standard can be found at the W3C Consortium's Web page at *http://www.w3.org/*. See the Microsoft (*http://www.microsoft.com/*) and Netscape (*http://www.netscape.com/*) home pages for information on their support for the CSS standard.

Using the cascading style sheet editor

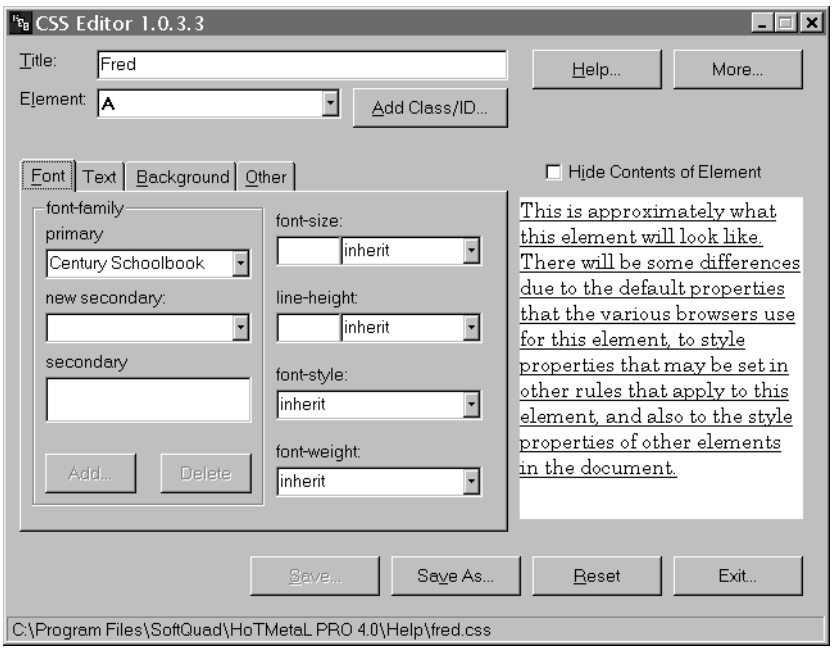
To use the HoTMetaL PRO cascading style sheet editor:

- Choose Cascading Style Sheets... from the Tools menu of the HoTMetaL PRO Editor or HoTMetaL PRO Information Manager.

If you launch the cascading style sheet editor from the HoTMetaL PRO Editor, and the current document is linked to a cascading style sheet file (see page 80), the style sheet editor will load that file. Otherwise, a dialog box will appear, prompting you to choose a file.

- If a dialog box appears, choose an existing style sheet (*.css*) file, or enter a new filename to create a new file.

The CSS Editor dialog box appears:



The style sheet editor has two modes, *simple* and *advanced*. Each mode lets you set the same style properties, but the advanced editor lets you specify more complex situations in which these style properties can be applied.

- The simple editor is the default mode when the style sheet editor is launched. If the upper right corner of the dialog box contains the More... button, the editor is in simple mode. In simple mode you can assign style properties to elements (page 82), classes of elements (page 83), and specific element instances (page 83).
- To put the editor in advanced mode, click on the More... button in the upper right corner of the dialog box; if the button reads Less... the editor is currently in advanced mode. In advanced mode (page 94) you can create context-sensitive style properties and apply styles to groups of elements.

You should enter a title for the style sheet in the Title text box.

Once you have finished creating your style sheet, click on Save to save the styles you have created or modified, or Save As... to save the style sheet under a different name. Clicking on Reset discards all the changes you have made; that is, the style editor will have the content it had when the file was loaded. Click on Exit to dismiss the CSS editor without saving any changes.

Attaching cascading styles to a document

There are three ways to attach cascading styles to a document:

- Attach an external style sheet file using a LINK element.
- Embed a style sheet in the document using the STYLE element.
- Assign an inline style rule for a specific occurrence of an element, using the STYLE attribute.

Attaching an external style sheet to a document

If you want a cascading style sheet file to be applied to a document, it must be linked to the document using the HoTMetaL PRO Editor. This type of link is contained in a LINK element.

- Display the Tags On view.
- If the HEAD element (at the top of the file) isn't displayed:
  - Choose Options... from the Tools menu.
  - Click on the View tab.
  - Turn on Show head element.
  - Click on OK .
- Put the insertion point directly after the <HEAD> start-tag (that is, don't put it inside a 'head' element such as TITLE).
- Choose Element... from the Insert menu, or click on the <I> toolbar button.
- Insert a LINK element. The Insert Link dialog box will come up automatically.
- Enter the URL for the cascading style sheet (*.css*) file that you want to link to.
- Click on OK .

- With the insertion point still inside the LINK element, choose Attribute Inspector from the View menu, or type F6 .
- Type 'STYLESHEET' (all CAPS) in the REL field, and type Enter .
- Optionally, enter a title for the stylesheet in the TITLE field, and type Enter .

Embedding a style sheet in a document

You can embed a cascading style sheet directly inside an HTML document using the STYLE element. The HoTMetaL PRO cascading style sheet editor does not support this method directly: you can create the style sheet as a separate file and then manually paste it into your HTML document.

- Display the Tags On view.
- If the HEAD element (at the top of the file) isn't displayed:
  - Choose Options... from the Tools menu.
  - Click on the View tab.
  - Turn on Show head element.
  - Click on OK .
- Put the insertion point directly after the <HEAD> start-tag (that is, don't put it inside a 'head' element such as TITLE).
- Choose Element... from the Insert menu, or click on the <I> toolbar button.
- Insert a STYLE element.
- Type or paste the cascading style sheet inside the STYLE start- and end-tags.
- With the insertion point still inside the STYLE element, choose Attribute Inspector from the View menu, or type F6 .
- Type 'text/css' in the TYPE field, and type Enter .

Because some browsers that are not CSS-compliant will display the contents of the STYLE element in the document window, it is a good idea to surround an embedded style sheet with an HTML comment. This will cause the content to be ignored by non-CSS browsers, but still interpreted by CSS compliant browsers.

- Type '<!--' just after the STYLE start-tag, but before the style sheet information.
- Type '-->' just before the /STYLE end-tag, but after the style sheet information.

Creating an inline style rule for an element

You can specify an inline cascading style rule for an individual instance of an element, using its STYLE element. The HoTMetaL PRO cascading style sheet editor does not support this method directly: you can create the style rule using the editor and then manually paste it into your HTML document.

- Put the insertion point inside the element to which you want to assign a style.
- Choose Attribute Inspector from the View menu, or type F6 .
- Type or paste the style rule in the STYLE field. You should enter only the 'properties' part of the rule (that is, the part that appears inside the '{' and '}'). For example:

```
<P STYLE="font-size:12pt; color:red">Text</P>
```

Setting a cascading style for an element

To assign cascading style properties to an element (that is, all elements of a particular type, for example, 'all H1 elements'):

- Launch the cascading style sheet editor.
- The cascading style sheet editor should be in simple mode: it is in simple mode if the button in the upper right corner reads More... ; if it reads Less... , click on the button to return to simple mode.
- Select an element from the Element pull-down element list.
- Now you can use the tabbed 'style properties' section of the cascading style sheet editor to set the styles for the selected element. See *Setting style properties* (page 85) for a detailed description of the style properties section of the cascading style sheet editor.

Classes and IDs

Classes provide a way of assigning a style to many element instances, possibly of different types. IDs provide a way of assigning a style to one specific occurrence of an element.

Classes

A class is simply a group of elements, possibly scattered throughout a document, all of which have the same value for their CLASS attribute. For example, if you want a document on some topic to contain both 'basic' and 'advanced' sections, you could give all the elements that contained advanced material the CLASS attribute value 'advanced'. The advanced sections could include paragraphs, headings, images, links, and so forth. You could then use a cascading style sheet to format the 'advanced' class differently: display it in a different color, or even make it invisible.

IDs

While many elements can have the same CLASS attribute value, only *one* element in any document can have a particular ID attribute value. IDs are intended to be unique identifiers for elements in a document: the HoTMetaL PRO Editor will not validate a file in which the same ID value is used for more than one element. Cascading style sheets let you associate an ID attribute with a set of style properties and values, so that you can format a particular element instance in a certain way.

Creating classes and IDs

You create classes and IDs in a document in the HoTMetaL PRO Editor.

To create a class, you set the CLASS attribute of as many elements you wish to the *same value*.

- Put the insertion point inside an element that you want to add to a class.
- Choose Attribute Inspector from the View menu, or type F6 .
- Insert a value in the CLASS field and type Enter .
- Repeat this for each element that you want to add to the class, using the same value for CLASS each time.

To create an ID, you set the ID attribute of *one* element to a unique value.

- Put the insertion point inside the element that you want to assign an ID to.
- Choose Attribute Inspector from the Markup menu, or type F6 .

- Insert a value in the ID field and type Enter .

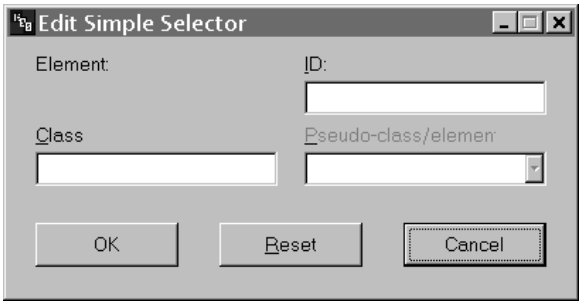
  Note Class and ID attribute values must start with a letter and can contain only letters, numbers, and '-' (hyphen).

Assigning styles to classes and IDs

To create a simple style rule associating a class or ID with a set of styles:

- Click on the Add Class/ID... button in the cascading style sheet editor.

The Edit Simple Selector dialog box appears.



To specify a class:

- Enter the CLASS attribute value in the Class text box.

The CLASS attribute will be displayed in the Element list with an initial period ('.') to indicate that it is a CLASS attribute rule and not an element rule.

To specify an ID:

- Enter an ID attribute value in the ID text box.

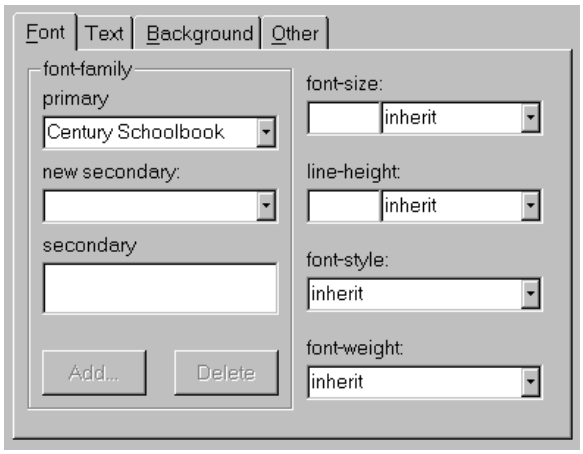
The ID will be displayed in the Element list with an initial number sign ('#') to indicate that it is an ID attribute rule.

- Now you can use the tabbed style properties section of the CSS Editor to set style properties for the selected class or ID. See *Setting style properties* (the next page) for a detailed description of the style properties section of the CSS Editor.

Note Class names and IDs that are to be used in style sheets must start with a letter and can contain only letters, numbers, and '-' (hyphen). Class names and IDs are not case-sensitive in a cascading style sheet: for example, classes called 'H1b' and 'h1B' are the same. A CLASS or ID rule that has no style properties associated with it will not be saved in the style sheet file.

Setting style properties

The properties section of the CSS editor dialog box (on the right, just below the Elements list) is tabbed: set style properties by clicking on the tab and moving to the appropriate section.



Click on the Font tab to edit font properties (the next page), the Text tab to edit text properties (page 88), the Background tab to edit background properties (page 89), or the Other tab for miscellaneous properties (page 91). You can also hide parts of a document (page 93).

Many style properties have the default value *inherit*: this means that the value for that property will be inherited from the corresponding value (if any) for its surrounding (enclosing) element, or from the default value for that property in the browser. For example, if the font-size prop-

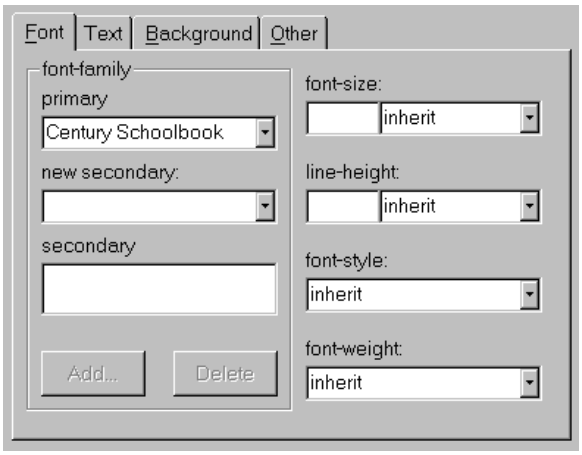
erty of the P element were set to `inherit`, it would have the same font-size property as a DIV or BODY, depending on which element contained that P element.

> **Note** In properties where you must select a value and a unit measurement, you cannot enter any numeric values if the property is set to 'inherit'. You have to choose the unit of measurement first.

Style specifications are applied immediately, when you change a property value. The changes can be seen in the sample text area next to the properties section. If you want to 'reset' a style, do so manually; clicking on the Reset button reloads the entire style sheet.

Font properties

Click on the Font tab of the cascading style sheet editor to edit font properties in the cascading style sheet.



In this section, you can set the following properties:

- font-family – The fonts available on your system will be listed in the primary pull-down list. You can either choose a font from this list or type a font name (for example, Times New Roman). You can also specify a *font class* (such as serif). The default is inherit.

  In addition to the primary font family specification, you can specify secondary font or font class specifications, which will be used if the browser viewing the file is unable to find the specified primary font family. For example, if you use the font Gill Sans as your primary

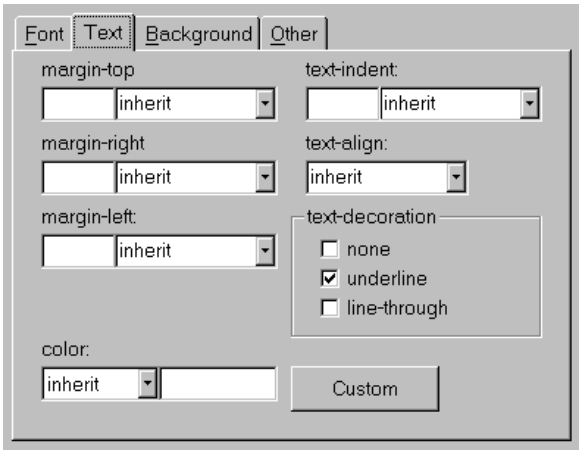
font family specification, but a user is viewing your document on a PC that does not have the Gill Sans font, you may want to use a secondary specification such as sans-serif, so that even if the user is not viewing the document with the exact font that you specified, he or she is at least viewing it with a font of the same type, that is, a sans-serif font.

Make your secondary font-family choices from the New secondary pull-down list or enter them into the text box. Then click on Add... to add the secondary font families to the Secondary list. These choices are ranked by order: that is, an item higher up in the Secondary list will be used first, if it is available. You can delete an entry from this list by clicking on an entry and then clicking on the Delete button.

- font-size – Choose a unit of measurement from the pull-down menu and enter a value for the font size. The CSS standard allows inches, centimeters, pixels, or points as units of measurement; points are usually the most appropriate unit.
- line-height – Choose a unit of measurement from the pull-down menu and enter a value for the space between the baselines of lines of text. You can choose inches, centimeters, pixels, or points, or specify a percentage of the font size. For example, if the font size were 10 points, and the line-height value were set to 120%, the space between lines would be 12 points (120% of 10 points).
- font-style – Choose inherit, normal, or italic from the pull-down list.
- font-weight – The style sheet lets you set *levels* of font weight, so you can, in effect, make text 'more bold' and 'less bold'. Selecting normal uses the default weight; selecting inherit uses the same font-weight value as the containing element. Selecting lighter or bolder decreases or increases the font weight, respectively. You can also specify font weight on a numerical scale where 100 is the lightest weight and 900 is the heaviest.

Text properties

Click on the Text tab of the cascading style sheet editor to edit text properties in the cascading style sheet.



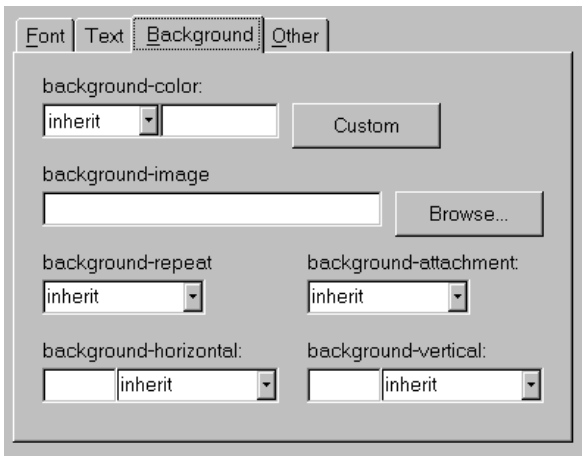
In this section, you can set the following properties:

- margin-top, margin-right, margin-left – Set the value for the margin at the top, right, or left side of this element. (This is really only useful for 'block' elements such as P.) You must first define the units for the value you enter: choose one of centimeters, inches, points or pixels from the pull-down list. If you enter a *negative* value, this will move the margins *outward* from their current setting.
- color – Specifies the color of the text. There are three ways to specify font color:
  - Choose a pre-defined color from the pull-down list containing the standard 16 Windows colors.
  - Choose RGB from the pull-down list and enter a color in #RRGGBB format.
  - Choose a custom color by clicking on the Custom button: the Windows Color dialog appears.
- text-indent – Sets the indent for the first line of the element. Enter a numeric value and choose the units for the value you enter. (To indent the whole element, set a value for the margin-left property.)

- text-align (*justification*) – You can choose from inherit, left, center, and right.
- text-decoration – If no box is chosen, the specification is 'inherit'. You can choose underline, strikethrough, or both. If none is chosen, any previous value for underline or strikethrough is overridden.

Background properties

Click on the Background tab of the cascading style sheet editor to edit background properties in the cascading style sheet.



In this section, you can set the following properties:

- background-color – Sets the background color for the specified selector group. There are three ways to specify background color:
  - Choose a predefined color from the pull-down list containing the standard 16 Windows colors.
  - Choose RGB from the pull-down list and enter a color in #RRGGBB format.
  - Choose a custom color by clicking on the Custom button: the Windows Color dialog appears.

  You can also use background-color to set a transparent background: just choose transparent from the pull-down list of colors.

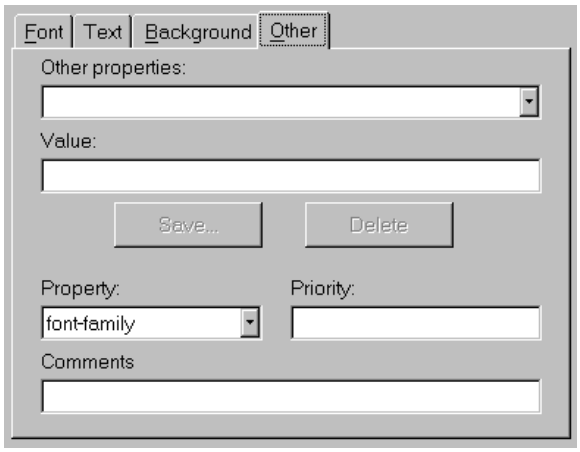
- background-image – Enter the URL for an image file that you wish to use as a background (generally, this URL is given in relative format and specifies a file in the current directory). You can also choose an image by clicking on the Browse... button.
- background-repeat – Sets how the background image will repeat or 'tile'.
  - repeat (the default): the background image will repeat indefinitely in both directions
  - repeat-x: the background will repeat horizontally only
  - repeat-y: the background image will repeat vertically only
  - no-repeat: the background image will not repeat; it will only be seen once (useful for large images)
- background-attachment – Specifies whether the background image will scroll along with the browser window when the user scrolls, or whether it will remain fixed.
- background-horizontal, background-vertical – You can specify the position of the background image by choosing a value for either or both of these specifications. background-horizontal can have the following values:
  - left: positions the left edge of the background image to the left side of the browser window
  - center: positions the background image in the center
  - right: positions the right edge of the background image to the right side of the browser window
  - percentage: you can specify the exact positioning of a background image by entering a percentage. 0% is the left edge of the browser window (and is equivalent to left); similarly, 100% specifies the right edge. 43%, for example, would position a background image just left of center.
  - centimeters, inches, points, or pixels: specify an exact positioning using any of these units. The background image will be positioned the specified distance from the left edge.

background-vertical can have the following values:

- top: positions the top edge of the background image at the top of the browser window
- center: positions the background image in the center
- bottom: positions the bottom edge of the background image at the bottom of the browser window
- percentage: you can specify the exact positioning of a background image by entering a percentage. 0% is the top edge of the browser window (and is equivalent to top); similarly, 100% specifies the bottom edge. 75%, for example, would position a background image near the bottom.
- centimeters, inches, points, or pixels: specify an exact positioning using any of these units. The background image will be positioned the specified distance from the top edge.

Miscellaneous properties

Click on the Other tab in the cascading style sheet editor to edit some miscellaneous properties.



This section of the cascading style sheet editor is used to:

- Enter values for property types that are new extensions to the CSS standard.
- Assign priorities to rules.

Extensions

The cascading style sheet standard (page 78) is continually being upgraded. Values for new property types can often be entered using the Other section of the cascading style sheet editor. In general, you can use Other to edit a property if it can be expressed in the form:

```
property : value
```

For example:

```
font-foundry : Gill's Font Farm
```

- Click on the Other tab.
- Enter the property (for example, 'font-foundry') in the Other properties text box.
- Enter the value in the Value text box (for example, 'Gill's Font Farm').
- Click on the Save... button in this section of the dialog box. You can delete these custom properties by clicking on the Delete button.

If an extension can't be expressed in this form (that is, it requires a different syntax), you may be able to enter it using an '@? rule' (page 104).

Priorities

If certain elements are assigned styles in more than one way (for example, in the document itself and by means of an external style sheet), you can help to resolve style conflicts by choosing priorities for important styles.

- Click on the Other tab.
- Select a style property from the Property pull-down list.
- Enter a specification in the Priority text box. Entering `important` in this text box will make the style property you have specified more rigid and less able to be influenced by competing style specifications.
- Optionally, enter a comment in the Comments text box.

Note 'Priority' is currently not supported by any browser.

Showing and hiding parts of a document

A style sheet can hide all instances of an HTML element, a single element instance, or all of the elements in a class. In advanced mode (the next page), you can also create a more complex rule and hide it in a style sheet. This allows you to have subsections of documents visible or hidden in different style sheets, managing your information more effectively. If the same document will be read by different audiences with somewhat different needs, then instead of having to edit the *content* of your document to create different versions, you can supply the different audiences the same document, but with different style sheets linked to it.

To set a 'hidden' style:

- Choose an element, class, or ID from the Element list in simple mode, or choose a rule from the Edit Style Rules list in advanced mode.
- Click on the Hide Contents of Element check box.

The sample text will disappear from this dialog box, indicating that the text is hidden.

> **Note** At the time of this writing, no browsers support this feature.

Examples of simple styles

The following sample style sheet contains three style rules that were created with the cascading style sheet editor in simple mode:

1. The first rule states that all H1 elements will have a font size of 20 points, line height of 22 points, and be displayed in green.
2. The second rule states that all elements in the class 'student' (that is, all elements, of any type, whose CLASS attribute has the value 'student') will be hidden.
3. The third rule states that the element with ID value 'para1' will be displayed in a bold, italic font.

```
H1 { font-size: 20pt; line-height: 22pt; color: green }
.student { display: none }
#para1 { font-style: italic; font-weight: bold }
```

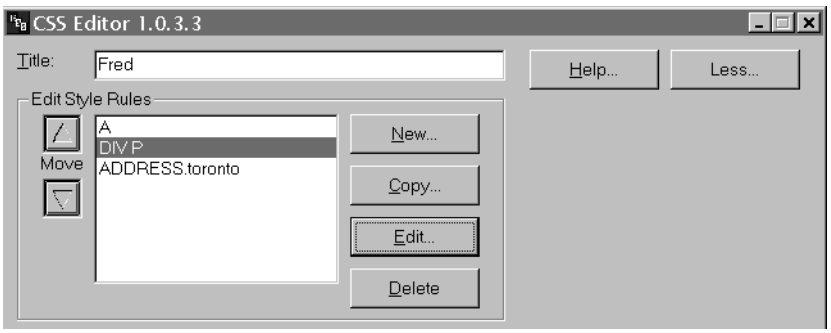
Cascading styles: Advanced mode

Use the advanced mode of the cascading style sheet editor to:

- Create rules that group together several element types, elements in a particular context, classes, and IDs (the next page).
- Assign style properties to these rules (page 85).
- Create rules that import other style sheets (page 101), rules that specify meta-information about the style sheet (page 102), and rules that extend the capabilities of the CSS standard (page 104).
- Re-order rules with respect to one another (page 101).

To use advanced mode, click on the More... button in the upper right corner of the cascading style sheet editor dialog box.

The dialog box expands, and the following section of the dialog box becomes visible:



Once you have defined a selector group (the first part of a style rule), you must set a style property before creating or editing another rule, or your selector group and rule will not be saved to the style sheet file.

Creating and editing advanced rules

In simple mode you can create rules that assign style properties to a single element, a class, or an ID.

In advanced mode you can create rules that assign style properties to a group of several *selectors*. 'Selector' is a general term that refers both to simple items such as elements, and complex items such as an element in a specific context.

All of the defined rules are displayed in the Edit Style Rules list: that is, all of the selectors in that rule are displayed. This list also includes any rules that you created in simple mode.

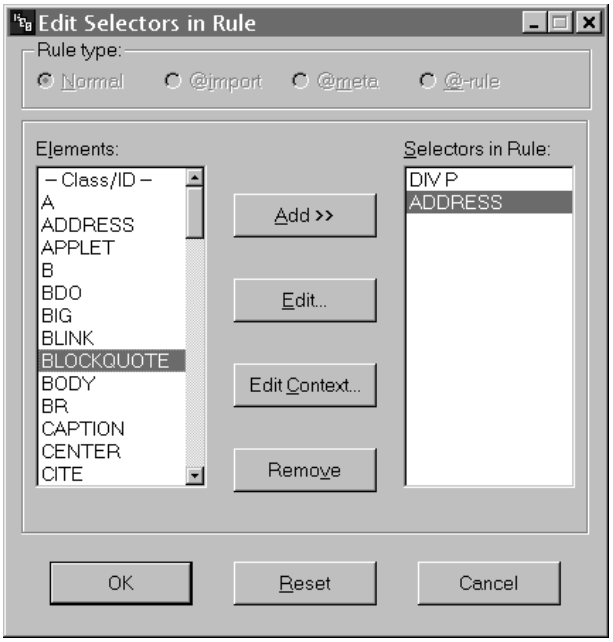
To create a new rule (that is, assign selectors to the rule):

- Click on the New... button.

To modify an existing rule (that is, add or delete selectors):

- Select a rule in the the Edit Style Rules list.
- Click on Edit... .

When you click on New... or Edit... the Edit Selectors in Rule dialog box appears.



From this dialog box you can add the following selectors to the rule:

- An element (the next page).
- A class or ID (the next page).
- An element in a specific context (page 99).
- An element in a specific class (the next page).

After you create a rule, you must specify style properties for it, or else it won't be saved when you save the style sheet.

To make a copy of an existing rule:

- Click on a rule in the the Edit Style Rules list.
- Click on Copy... .

A copy of the rule is added to the Edit Style Rules list. The copy will, by default, have all of the style properties of the original.

To delete a rule:

- Click on the rule in the the Edit Style Rules list.

- Click on Delete .

Adding an element to a rule

To add an element to a rule:

- Make sure the cascading style sheet editor is in advanced mode (click on the More... button if it's showing).
- Click on New... to create a new rule, or select an existing rule from the Edit Style Rules list and click on Edit... .
- In the Edit Selectors in Rule dialog box that appears, select an element from the Elements list.
- Move it into the Selectors in Rule list by clicking on Add >> .

Adding a class or ID to a rule

To add a class or ID to a rule:

- Make sure the cascading style sheet editor is in advanced mode (click on the More... button if it's showing).
- Click on New... to create a new rule, or select an existing rule from the Edit Style Rules list and click on Edit... .
- In the Edit Selectors in Rule dialog box that appears, click on --Class/ID-- in the Elements list.
- Move it into the Selectors in Rule list by clicking on Add >> .
- Click on Edit... .
- In the Edit Simple Selector dialog box that appears, enter the Class or ID that you want to add.
- Click on OK .

Adding an element in a class to a rule

You can add an element that's in a particular class to a rule—the style properties specified for this rule will apply to the element only when it has a particular CLASS attribute value.

- Make sure the cascading style sheet editor is in advanced mode (click on the More... button if it's showing).
- Click on New... to create a new rule, or select an existing rule from the Edit Style Rules list and click on Edit... .

- In the Edit Selectors in Rule dialog box that appears, select an element from the Elements list.
- Move it into the Selectors in Rule list by clicking on Add >> .
- Click on Edit... .
- In the Edit Simple Selector dialog box that appears, enter the desired Class.
- Click on OK .

Pseudo-classes

Another way to refine the element that you are building a style rule for is to enter a *pseudo-class* or *pseudo-element*. Pseudo-classes are not attributes, but they are characteristics of certain elements that are recognized by programs that understand the CSS standard. Currently, there are three defined pseudo-classes that work with A elements, and can be selected from the pull-down list beside the Pseudo-class text box. They are active, link, and visited, and could be used to define different styles for the A element in its unvisited, visited, and active state; for example, different colors are generally used to differentiate these different link states. Defined pseudo-classes show up in the Style rules list or Edit Selectors in Group dialog box with a colon separating the element and the pseudo-class; for example, A:active.

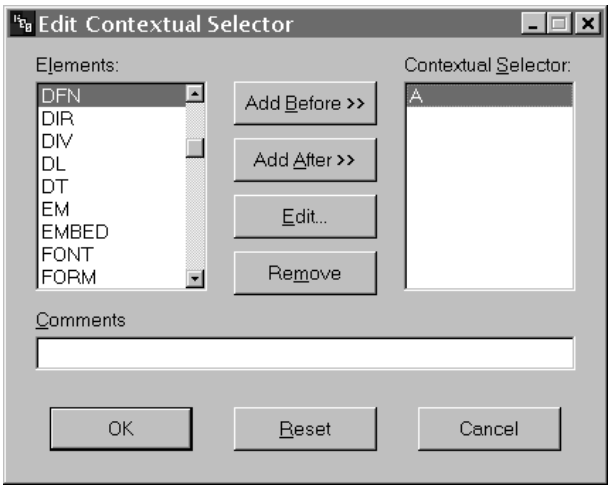
Pseudo-elements are used to address sub-parts of elements. For example, a pseudo-element that defines just the first letter of a paragraph has been proposed (to be used for formatting drop capitals, for example), as P:first-letter. Pseudo-elements are not currently implemented by Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator, but as the CSS standard evolves, more pseudo-elements will be understood by CSS-compliant programs; as this occurs, you can enter the names of newly defined pseudo-elements in the text box provided.

Adding an 'element in context' to a rule

Sometimes you will want a style rule to apply to an element only when it has a particular ancestor (or ancestors). For example, you might want P within DIV to have a different style than just plain P. This kind of selector is called a *contextual selector*.

- Make sure the cascading style sheet editor is in advanced mode (click on the More... button if it's showing).
- Click on New... to create a new rule, or select an existing rule from the Edit Style Rules list and click on Edit... .
- In the Edit Selectors in Rule dialog box that appears, select the element whose context you wish to specify in the Elements list.
- Move it into the Selectors in Rule list by clicking on the Add >> .
- Click on Edit Context... .

The Edit Contextual Selector dialog box appears.



To specify that an element should be the ancestor of the current element (in order for the styles to apply):

- Select the desired 'ancestor' element from the Elements list on the left.

- Click on Add Before>> .

On the other hand, you can specify that an element should be the descendant of the current element:

- Select the desired 'descendant' element from the Elements list on the left.
- Click on Add After>> .

You can add as many elements as are needed to this sequence of ancestors and descendants:

- Select an element in each of the two lists.

Now:

- Click on Add Before>> to make the element in the Elements list the ancestor of the element in the Contextual Selector list.

Or:

- Click on Add After>> to make the element in the Elements list the descendant of the element in the Contextual Selector list.

If desired, you can further refine any element in the Contextual Selector list by clicking on Edit... and specifying a class.

Examples of advanced styles

The following sample style sheet contains three style rules that were created with the cascading style sheet editor in advanced mode.

1. The first rule states that *both* H5 and H6 elements will have a font size of 14 and a line height of 16.
2. The second rule states that a P element that is contained in a DIV element will be indented by 0.5 inches.
3. The third rule states that a DD element in the class 'student' (that is, its CLASS attribute has the value 'student') will be hidden.

```
H5, H6 { font-size: 14pt; line-height: 16pt }
DIV P { text-indent: 0.5in }
DD.student { display: none }
```

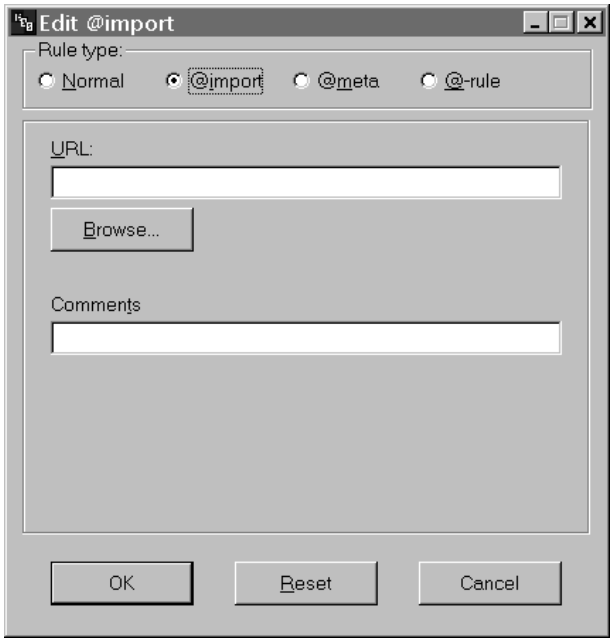
Rule ordering

You can change the order of the rules in the advanced mode by selecting a rule and then clicking on the 'up' or 'down' arrow to move it higher or lower in the list. This ordering may affect how elements are displayed in the browser. See the cascading style sheet standard for detailed discussions of rule ordering and its impact on CSS-compliant viewer software.

Importing another style sheet

You can import another style sheet and all its rules and elements into the current style sheet. This can be quite useful in many ways; for example, if you have made a 'reference' style sheet for the basic styles of your project, and would like to modify only a few selected styles.

- Make sure the cascading style sheet editor is in advanced mode (click on the Less... button if it's showing).
- Create a new style rule by clicking on New... .
- Click on the @import radio button in the Edit Selectors in Rule dialog box. The Edit @import dialog appears.



- Enter the URL for the imported style sheet in the URL text box, or click on Browse... to select it.
- Optionally, enter comments about this imported style sheet in the Comments text box provided.

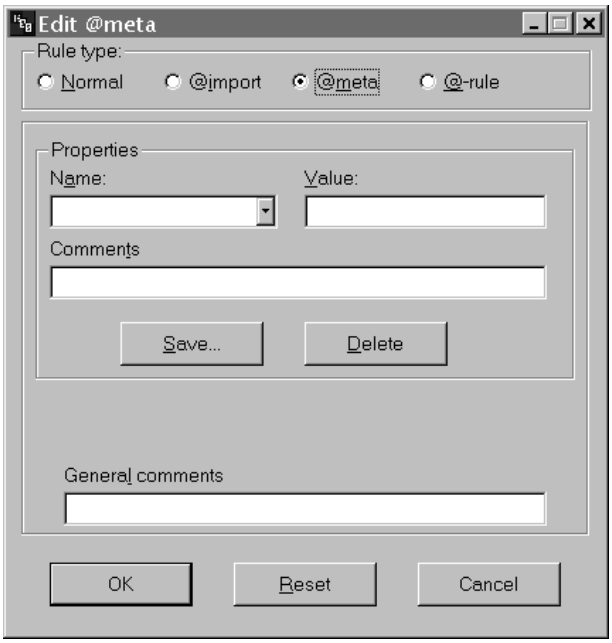
Adding meta-information

A SoftQuad extension to cascading style sheets lets you enter information for keeping track of style sheets, versions of style sheets, etc. These 'rules' are informational only and don't affect how the browser displays documents.

To enter meta-information:

- Make sure the cascading style sheet editor is in advanced mode (click on the Less... button if it's showing).
- Create a new style rule by clicking on New... .

- Click on the @meta radio button in the Edit Selectors in Rule dialog box. The Edit @meta dialog appears.



- Enter the name of a particular kind of information you want to enter in the Name text box, or select one from the pull-down list.
- Enter the value for that piece of information in the Value text box.
- Optionally, enter a comment in the Comments text box.
- Optionally, enter comments on the entire '@meta rule' in the General comments text box.

Extensions to the cascading style sheet standard

The cascading style sheet standard (page 78) is continually being upgraded. Values for new property types can often be entered using the Other section (page 91) of the cascading style sheet editor. In general, you can use Other to edit a property if it can be expressed in the form:

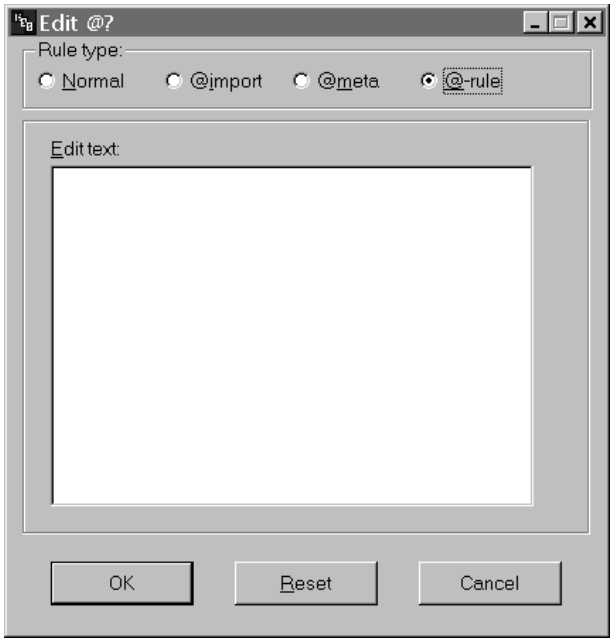
```
property : value
```

For example:

```
font-foundry : Gill's Font Farm
```

If an extension can't be expressed in this form (that is, it requires a different syntax), you may be able to enter it using an '@? rule':

- Make sure the cascading style sheet editor is in advanced mode (click on the More... button if it's showing).
- Create a new style rule by clicking on New... .
- Click on the @rule radio button in the Edit Selectors in Rule dialog box. The Edit @? dialog appears.



- This dialog box contains a plain text box where text of any kind can be added. Enter the new rule in this text box. The text you enter will be written into the style sheet exactly as you typed it.