## Getting Started



## Creating a New Style Sheet

To create a new, blank style sheet, click the "New Style Sheet" toolbutton, or select `File > New Style Sheet`. You can then begin adding rules to your new style sheet by typing them in by hand or by using the New Selector Wizard. To add and edit properties, use Style Insight or the Style Inspector.

If you're new to CSS, you may want to use the **Style Sheet Wizard** instead, since it will step you through the creation of a simple style sheet. To use the wizard, select `File > New Style Sheet Wizard`. At the right of this menu item you'll see a dropdown arrow, which displays the following additional items when clicked:

- New style sheet from template - create a new style sheet which contains the contents of an existing style sheet.
- New style sheet from HTML document - choose the HTML file you want to use, and TopStyle will automatically create new selectors for each of the HTML elements and classes used in the page that accept styles.
- New style sheet using selectors of an existing style sheet - choose a style sheet, and TopStyle will create a new style sheet containing empty rules based on the selectors of the chosen style sheet.

**Related topics:** Creating a New HTML or XHTML Document, CSS Structure and Rules, Opening an File

## Creating a New HTML or XHTML Document

Select `File > New HTML Document` or click the "New HTML Document" toolbutton to create a new HTML or XHTML document. The arrow at the right of the menu or toolbutton displays a list of **templates** from which you may create a new document.

TopStyle includes templates for (X)HTML and ASP(.NET) documents, but you can easily create your own templates. Simply select "Edit Templates" from this same menu to display the template editor. The template editor enables adding any existing document to the list of templates.

**Note:** Make sure to choose an XHTML template if you wish TopStyle to insert XHTML-compliant markup.

**Related topics:** Opening a File from the Web, Opening an Existing File, HTML Definitions

## Opening an Existing File

To open an existing HTML document or style sheet, click the Open toolbutton or select `File > Open`. The dropdown menu next to the toolbutton gives you quick access to recently opened files. The list of recent files is split between style sheets and HTML documents for easier navigation.

**Related topics:** Creating a New Style Sheet, Creating a New HTML or XHTML Document, Opening a File from the Web, Using the File Explorer Panel

## Opening a File from the Web

TopStyle's **Download from Web** feature enables you to download any HTML document or style sheet from the Internet. Select `File > Download From Web` to display the "Download from Web" dialog, then choose whether to download a style sheet or HTML document. When downloading an HTML document, TopStyle will also download all style sheets linked to that document.

**Tip:** Some web sites use server-side "browser-sniffing" to serve a different style sheet depending on the visitor's browser, so you may want to specify which browser TopStyle should identify itself as when retrieving your style sheet. To do this, go to the Connection page in Options and change the "User Agent" setting.

**Related topics:** Creating a New Style Sheet, Opening an Existing Style Sheet

## Using the View Bar

At the left of the TopStyle screen you'll see the **View Bar**, which enables switching between TopStyle's different views. If the view bar isn't showing, you can display it by selecting "Show View Bar" from the View menu.

The following primary views are available:

- Edit - TopStyle's main editing view, where you work on your HTML documents and style sheets
- Site Summary - style statistics on the current site
- Site Styles - style links in the current site
- Site Reports - style class/ID usage reports for the current site

To the left of the view bar is a tab which displays the following secondary items:

- Sites - displays a list of your TopStyle sites.
- Resources - displays a list of external web sites which may be of interest to web authors.

**Related topics:** Customizing the View Bar

## Using the File Explorer Panel

TopStyle's **File Explorer Panel** provides a convenient way to navigate your file system. The filter selection above the list of files enables limiting the types of files that are shown. The file explorer offers the following features:

- Double-click a style sheet or HTML document to open it in TopStyle

- Double-click an image or other file type to open it in the associated application
- Drag-and-drop files to create the appropriate `<a>`, `<img>` or `<link>` tag
- Right-click to rename a file or view its properties, or to insert a link at the current position in the editor

Use the **address bar** beneath the file explorer to quickly select from a history list of the most-recently visited folders, or simply type the name of the folder into the address bar and hit Enter.

At the far right of the address bar is your **favorites** menu, which stores a list of folders for quick access. This same menu is available from TopStyle's File Open and File Save dialogs.

At the bottom of the file explorer you'll notice a button labeled "Show images in this folder" which displays **thumbnails** of all images in the current folder. Thumbnails may be drag-and-dropped into the current document, and may be enlarged with a double-click. More options are available by right-clicking on a thumbnail.

> **Tip:** For improved performance and maximum workspace, try hiding the folders and using the Favorites menu and address bar to navigate between folders.

**Related topics:** Opening an Existing File

## Using the Clip Library

The **clip library** (Ctrl+Shift+L) enables you to store commonly-used snippets in a central location. Right-click on the clip library to add or remove items, and double-click or drag-and-drop an item to insert it into the current document.

For even faster insertion, use the **quick insert** (Ctrl+Q) feature to display a menu of up to 26 style library items. Once the menu is displayed, just type the letter corresponding to the item you want inserted.

**Replacement Tokens** may be used in clip library items. When TopStyle encounters a replacement token, it will prompt you for custom text before inserting a library item in the editor. Replacement tokens are delimited by `%r[..]`, and the text between these delimiters appears on the prompt. For example, if you have the following item:

```
value="%r[what is the value]"
```

TopStyle will display a prompt with "what is the value" on it. If you respond to this prompt with "THIS VALUE" then TopStyle will insert:

```
value="THIS VALUE"
```

**Related topics:** Custom Keyboard Shortcuts

## Find and Replace

TopStyle's Find and Replace enables you to search for a specified string either in the current document or in all open documents. Other options include making the search case-sensitive, searching only for instances of the string as whole words ("thin" would match "thin" but not "thinner").

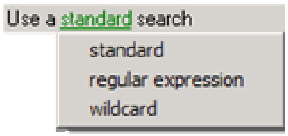
Regular Expression searches are also supported. If you're unfamiliar with regular expressions, you might want to experiment with some of the expressions built into TopStyle. Just click the arrow button to the right of the "Text to Find" field to select from a list of pre-defined regular expressions.

**Related topics:** Regular Expressions

## Find/Replace in Files


TopStyle's **Find/Replace in Files** provides a very quick, customizable tool for searching multiple files. Find/Replace in Files enables searching within a specific folder, within a folder and its subfolders, or within a TopStyle site. To use

Find/Replace in Files, click the toolbutton shown at left, or select `Edit > Find/Replace in Files`.




Find/Replace in Files is configured using hyperlinks which describe each setting. To change a setting, simply click the hyperlink to display the options for that setting. For example, in the image shown at left we can choose whether to do a standard (plain text) search, a regular expression search, or a wildcard search.

We recommend experimenting with the various Find/Replace in Files settings, since they enable a great deal of customization. For example, you can:

- Report files that contain only one match, one or more matches, or more than one match
- Report files that contain *no* matches (example: find which HTML documents don't contain a `!doctype`)
- Report each match or only the names of files containing matches
- Specify a file filter to include - or exclude - specific file types
- Specify a date range to include or exclude files based on their modified or created date.

At the top right of the Find in Files dialog are two toolbuttons, the first of which enables saving a Find/Replace In Files "rule" for later use. The second button is used to restore a saved rule.

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**Related topics:** Regular Expressions, Wildcards

## Auto-Replace

Auto-replace is similar to Microsoft Word's "Auto Correct" feature, and is a great way to save keystrokes. To see auto-replace in action, type `fs:` in the editor and then hit the spacebar - your typing will automatically be replaced with `font-style:`. This can be a real time-saver if you're keyboard-centric and prefer not to rely on features such as Style Insight.

To configure your own auto-replace items, or to view the list of pre-configured items, go to the Auto-Replace page in TopStyle's Options (under the Editor page).

## Editing Style Sheets

- All About Style Definitions
- Using Style Insight
- Style Inspector
- Property Help
- Selector List
- Creating New Selectors
- Choosing Fonts with the Font Picker
- Style Sweeper
- Exporting Style Sheets
- Related Styles
- Editing Styles in HTML Documents

## All About Style Definitions

**What is a style definition?**
In TopStyle, a style definition is simply a set of properties, values and rules that apply to a specific implementation of CSS. For example, the "Internet Explorer 6" style definition contains a list of properties and values supported by Microsoft Internet Explorer 6. Likewise, the "CSS Level 1" style definition contains information about CSS1.

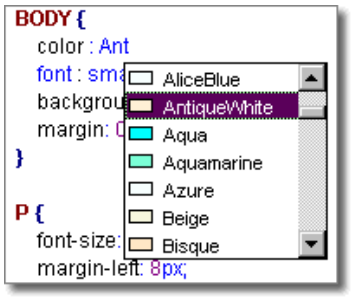
**How are Style Definitions used in TopStyle?**
Style definitions are used wherever information about a specific CSS implementation is needed. For example, the style checker uses style definitions to determine whether a specific CSS property or value is supported by a particular browser.

**What does the Active Style Definition do?**
The Active Style Definition tells TopStyle which style definition to consult when displaying properties and values in style insight and the style inspector. To change the Active Style Definition, simply select a new definition from the dropdown shown below. Only properties and values that are supported by the Active Style Definition will appear in style insight and the

style inspector. Properties that are invalid (not supported) by the Active Style Definition will be color-coded red in the editor. To see this in action, select "Internet Explorer 6" from the CSS definition dropdown, and create a rule which contains the `CURSOR` property. Internet Explorer 6 supports this property, so it's color-coded as normal. However, if you switch to "CSS Level 1," `CURSOR` will now be color-coded red since the cursor property isn't supported by CSS1.

**Related topics:** HTML Definitions, Style Checker, Using Style Insight, Style Inspector, Exporting Style Sheets

## Style Insight



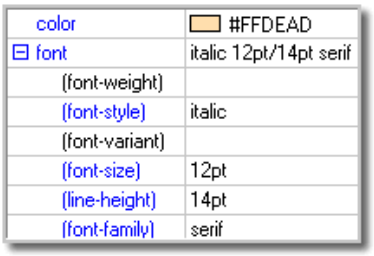

Style Insight simplifies the entry of style properties and values as you type them into the editor. Use the arrow keys or PageUp and PageDown to navigate the list, or begin typing the name of the property or value.

Style Insight will display automatically if you hit spacebar and pause after entering a property or value. You can also force insight to display by hitting Ctrl+Space.

**Important:** Style Insight only displays properties and values that are supported by the Active Style Definition.

**Related topics:** Style Inspector, Setting the Active Style Definition

## Style Inspector




The **style inspector** displays all properties supported by the Active Style Definition. The value column to the right of each property includes a dropdown containing values that are appropriate for the active style definition. Properties with assigned values are sorted to the top and colored blue.

The image of the style inspector shown here displays an example of a **shorthand property**. Shorthand properties such as `font` accept multiple values and are expandable, showing you the "sub-properties" from which they're composed. For example, `font` is composed of `font-weight`, `font-style`, `font-variant`, `font-size`, `line-height` and `font-family`. When you choose a value for a "sub-property," the value will be added to that of the shorthand property.

**Note:** Most shorthand properties must follow a specific set of rules. For example, the `font` property requires `font-size` and `font-family` values to be considered valid. For details, please refer to the W3C CSS1 Recommendation.

Beneath the style inspector you'll see property help, which shows which style definitions support the selected property.

**Related topics:** All About Style Definitions, Property Help, CSS Structure and Rules, CSS Properties

## Property Help

**Property Help** appears below the style inspector and shows the level of support each style definition has for the property selected in the style inspector. The example below is for a property **fully** supported by CSS2, **partially** supported by (Mozilla) FireFox 2, and **not** supported by Internet Explorer 6.


Clicking the **?** at the right of the property help will display detailed help about the selected property. You can customize which style definitions are shown in property help by going to the Property Help page in TopStyle's Options (F8). The

property help settings in Options also includes the ability to hide style definitions which don't support the select property. When this option is chosen, only style definitions which fully or partially support the selected property will be shown.

> **Tip:** Right-clicking on the property help panel will display a context menu that enables you to select the style definitions you wish to appear.

**Related topics:** style inspector

## Selector List

The Selector List displays all selectors in the current style sheet grouped by element, class and ID. Clicking any selector in the list will highlight it in the editor so that you can edit the properties.

The toolbar at the top of the selector list enables you to open the New Selector dialog or to create a new selector with the properties of the selected one -- this is a useful shortcut for creating a new selector whose properties will be similar to an existing one.

**Related topics:** Style Inspector, CSS Structure and Rules

## Creating New Selectors

TopStyle's **Selector Wizard** helps you create a list of selectors to insert into the current style sheet. To start the wizard, choose "New CSS Selector" from TopStyle's Tools menu.

The first page on this wizard gives you the option to insert your list of selectors as a single, grouped selector or as separate selectors. After you make this choice, click on the item at the top of the wizard that denotes the type of selector you wish to create.

Note that you can create several different types of selectors at once. For example, click the "Simple" item to create a simple selector, then click the "Add" button to add this simple selector to your list of current selectors. Then switch to the "Class" item to add a selector class to this list. When you click the OK button at the bottom of the wizard, every selector in the list of current selectors will be inserted into your style sheet.

If you're already experienced with CSS selectors, you can skip the wizard by going to the "Advanced" page and choosing the option to always go to the advanced page when the wizard is shown. The advanced page enables you to add a single new selector or you can add several at once. By using the different fields in the dialog, you can add selectors of the following types:

- HTML Element: choose from the Tag list in the dialog
- Class: define a class name (which must begin with a period)
- ID: must begin with a # symbol
- Pseudo-Class: choose from the pseudo-class list
- Pseudo-Element: choose from the pseudo-element list (note that browser support is limited)
- You can also add Grouped selectors (example: P,TD,LI) by typing the appropriate selector name in the Current Selector field and adding it to list on the right

Add all the selectors you wish to the list on the right side of the dialog and order them if you like (the order is only for the readability of the style sheet). Click **OK** to add the new rules for the selectors.

**Related topics:** CSS Structure and Rules

## Choosing Fonts with the Font Picker

For the Font and Font-Family properties, both Style Insight and the Style Inspector display a dropdown list of font categories as well as specific fonts that are installed on your system. This quick, single-font selection is very useful when designing your style sheets, but in your finished style sheet you should specify additional fonts as alternatives in case your primary

font selection doesn't exist.

 The **Font Picker** simplifies the selection of multiple fonts. To display the font picker, click in a font-family row inside the style inspector then click the button shown at left, which will appear at the right of the row.

To use the font picker, simply place a checkmark next to each font you want to add to your list of fonts. Generic fonts - which are fonts that should be supported by all CSS-enabled browsers - are shown in the font picker with a single **A** next to them. Fonts that are installed on your system are marked with ***Aa***.

To update your style sheet with your font selection, press the OK button. Pressing the Cancel button will close the font picker without updating your style sheet.

> **Tip:** If you have a large number of fonts installed on your system, you may find it easier to work with the font picker if you limit the number of installed fonts it displays. To do this, simply go to the "Fonts" page in TopStyle's Options (under General), then select the fonts you wish to display.

The font picker also enables you to create **groups** of common fonts, saving you from having to enter them one at a time. TopStyle comes with a list of built-in font groups, but you may modify this list at any time by clicking the font group button on the font picker and selecting "Edit Font Groups" from the resulting dropdown.

**Related topics:** Font Family, Font

## Style Sweeper

The **Style Sweeper** is a powerful tool for reformatting your style sheets. To set the Style Sweeper options, select `Tools > Style Sweeper > Configure Style Sweeper` from the menu. You'll be presented with a list of available sweepers. The default sweeper in this list is the one that will be used when you click the Style Sweeper toolbutton.

To modify the settings for a specific sweeper, select that sweeper in the list and click the Edit button. This will display the Sweeper Configuration dialog for that sweeper. Click the Add button to create a new sweeper, or select Copy to create a new sweeper using settings from an existing sweeper.

> **Note:** We recommend running the style checker before using the style sweeper on a document for the first time. This will locate syntax problems such as duplicate colons and extra braces which can't be processed by the style sweeper.

**Related topics:** Style Sweeper Configuration

## Exporting Style Sheets

Many web developers use "browser sniffing" on their sites to determine which browser a visitor is using, and then use server-side coding (ASP, CFML, PHP, JSP, etc.) to add a `<link>` to a style sheet specifically tailored to that browser. While this technique has the benefit of avoiding the process of creating a single style sheet that works across all browsers, it can still be very time-consuming to employ.

Luckily, TopStyle can help by **exporting** a style sheet to a new style sheet which contains only properties and values supported by a specific style definition.

To export a style sheet, select `File > CSS Export`. The Export dialog will then appear, displaying a list of target style definitions. Simply select one of these target definitions and click OK, and TopStyle will create a new style sheet based on the current style sheet. This new style sheet will contain only items supported by the target definition.

> Note: Although TopStyle can remove properties and values that aren't supported by the target browser, it can't compensate for bugs in the target browser that only appear when styles are used in specific situations. For this reason, keep in mind that you will still need to test the exported style sheet in the target browser(s).

**Related topics:** All About Style Definitions, Style Checker

## Related Styles

Right-clicking within an HTML tag or CSS rule enables you to see a list of **related styles**. For an HTML tag, the related styles list will contain selectors that include the current HTML element and/or the class assigned to the current HTML element. For a CSS rule, it will show any selectors which have the same element or class. Clicking on an item in this list will navigate to that item's style. The related styles list can also be shown from the Tools menu.

**Related topics:** Editing HTML and XHTML Index, Editing Style Sheets Index

## Editing Styles in HTML Documents

When editing HTML documents, almost all of TopStyle's CSS editing features are available if the document contains an HTML `<style>..</style>` block. Simply position the editor within a style block to use the style inspector or style insight to modify the block's style declarations.

The style checker may be used to validate the style rules within your style blocks, and the style sweeper may be used to reformat them.

If your HTML documents contain **deprecated** (outdated) markup, TopStyle's style upgrade will convert it to valid CSS.

**Related topics:** Editing HTML and XHTML Index, Style Upgrade

## Editing HTML and XHTML



## HTML Definitions

**What is an HTML definition?**
When editing HTML, an **HTML definition** works much like a style definition does when editing CSS. An HTML definition tells TopStyle which elements and attributes to display in the tag inspector and HTML Insight, and also determines how HTML TagComplete operates.

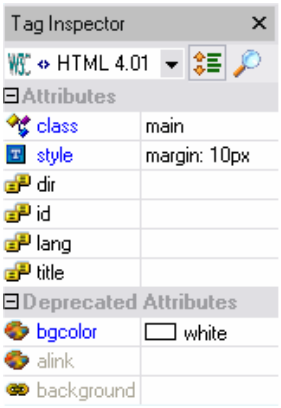
**What happens when I choose an XHTML definition?**
If you wish to write XHTML-compliant markup, it's important that you select an XHTML definition instead of the HTML 4.01 definition. When an XHTML definition is selected, TopStyle will make sure that XHTML-compliant code is inserted by the inspector, insight and TagComplete features.

> **Note:** Rather than manually changing the HTML definition, we recommend letting TopStyle switch the HTML definition based on the current document's DOCTYPE. This setting is enabled by default and can be changed on the "HTML Settings" page in Options. In effect, when an XHTML DOCTYPE is used, TopStyle will switch to the XHTML 1.0 or 1.1 definition; otherwise, it will default to HTML 4.01.

**Related topics:** All About Style Definitions, DOCTYPEs in HTML/XHTML

## Tag Inspector

When editing HTML, TopStyle's **inspector** displays the attributes and values supported by the current HTML tag in the editor.




When the inspector is categorized by clicking the button shown to the left, the tag inspector will group attributes into the following categories:

- Required Attributes (if any)
- (Standard) Attributes
- Deprecated Attributes
- Events

**Note:** The list of items that appears in tag inspector is determined by the active HTML definition. When an XHTML definition is chosen, the tag inspector will insert XHTML-compliant markup.

**Related topics:** HTML Definitions

## HTML Insight

When editing HTML, **HTML insight** greatly reduces your typing by displaying a menu of valid elements, attributes and values as you type. HTML insight is the HTML equivalent of style insight for CSS.

In order to help you create markup that suits your needs, HTML insight shows **required** attributes in bold and **deprecated** elements and attributes in gray. Deprecated markup refers to outdated items which often have CSS replacements. For example, the `align` attribute of the `div` element is deprecated because the CSS `text-align` property serves the same purpose.

**Note:** The list of items that appears in the insight menu is determined by the active HTML definition. When an XHTML definition is chosen, XHTML-compliant markup will be inserted.

**Related topics:** HTML Definitions

## HTML TagComplete

In our ongoing effort to save you from unnecessary typing, TopStyle will complete HTML tags as you type. Simple enter an HTML tag, and TopStyle will automatically insert the correct closing tag for you. When the active HTML definition is an XHTML definition, TopStyle will insert the XHTML-compliant `/>` at the end of tags that don't have a closing tag (such as `img` and `br`).

**Related topics:** HTML Definitions

## Style Upgrade

TopStyle's **style upgrade** provides a quick, powerful way to "upgrade" an HTML document to CSS. Select `HTML > Style Upgrade`, and style upgrade will convert to CSS any HTML markup that has been deprecated (outdated) in favor of CSS.

For example, the HTML `font` tag has been deprecated in favor of style sheets, so TopStyle will convert all `font` tags to their CSS equivalents.

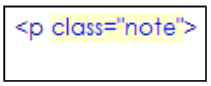
Upon completion, style upgrade will insert a `<style>..</style>` block which contains the classes that replaced your

deprecated markup.

> **Note:** Since TopStyle can't guess your preferred naming convention, you may wish to rename the classes that TopStyle generates.

**Related topics:** HTML Definitions

## Hyperlinking in HTML Documents




TopStyle's editor simplifies navigating between documents by using **hyperlinks**. Simply move the mouse over a hyperlinked item and single click to open it. If the hyperlink is another HTML document (such as an <a href> link) or style sheet (such as a CSS <link>), the hyperlinked document will be opened in TopStyle. If the hyperlink points to a file that can't be opened in TopStyle (such as an <img>), that file will be opened in the application associated with the file's extension.

HTML elements that contain **class** attributes are also hyperlinked, so you can click on the class to navigate to its declaration. If the class is defined in a style block within that HTML document, TopStyle will scroll the editor to the class definition. If the class is defined in an external style sheet, TopStyle will open the style sheet and then navigate to the class definition.

> **Note:** By default, TopStyle automatically activates hyperlinks as you move the mouse. If you find this distracting, go to the Editor page in Options and remove the checkmark from the box labeled "auto-activate hyperlinks". This way, hyperlinks will remain inactive until you hold down the Ctrl key.

**Related topics:** HTML Definitions

## DOCTYPEs in HTML/XHTML

**What is an HTML DOCTYPE?**
Also known as the "document type declaration," a DOCTYPE is a way for a document to declare which version of HTML it's using. In the past it was often considered unnecessary to use a DOCTYPE, but the most recent browsers - including those from Microsoft and Mozilla - may render pages differently depending on the DOCTYPE, so it's important to choose the right one.

> **Tip:** TopStyle's full screen preview enables experimenting with different DOCTYPEs, so you can see how different DOCTYPEs affect the rendering of your pages.

**How TopStyle Uses DOCTYPE**
By default, TopStyle uses the DOCTYPE to determine the active HTML definition. When an XHTML DOCTYPE is used, TopStyle will insert XHTML-compliant markup.

To change the current document's DOCTYPE, select from the DOCTYPE list under TopStyle's HTML menu.

> **Note:** TopStyle's list of DOCTYPEs may be modified from the "HTML Settings" page in Options.

**Related topics:** HTML Definitions, Full Screen Preview, Using HTML Tidy

## Using HTML Tidy


Created by the W3C's Dave Raggett, HTML Tidy is a powerful, free tool for validating and reformatting HTML documents. Similar in design to the CSS Style Sweeper, TopStyle's integration with HTML Tidy provides a user-friendly way to tap into its power. Simply choose a built-in Tidy configuration (such as the handy "Convert to XHTML" configuration), or define your own configuration and save it for future use.

After HTML Tidy executes, TopStyle displays its output in two separate tabs within the output panel. The errors and

warnings generated by HTML Tidy are displayed in the "Messages" tab, and the reformatted HTML is displayed on the "Tidy" tab. Simply click the "Copy to active editor" toolbutton on the Tidy tab to overwrite the current document with the reformatted ("tidied") HTML.

**Important:** No changes are made to the current document until you click the "Copy to active editor" toolbutton. This way, you can review the reformatted HTML before it replaces your code.

**Related topics:** HTML Definitions, Style Sweeper, Style Upgrade, Using CSE HTML Validator, Using the W3C HTML and CSS Validators

## Working with Colors



## Inserting Colors with the Color Picker

To insert color values for properties, you can choose from the drop-down that appears automatically for color properties in the inspector or insight. Clicking the `Choose Color` item from either of these dropdowns will display the **color picker**, which enables selecting from a number of palettes.

Beneath the selected color in the Color Picker is a secondary color dropdown which enables viewing:

1. Harmonious colors - set of colors which work well with the selected color.
2. Nearest browser-safe - the browser-safe color that's closest to the selected color.
3. Complementary color - in color wheel terms, displays the color directly opposite the selected color.
4. Favorite colors - similar to "custom colors" in the previous version, except that favorite colors are also shown in the Windows color dialog.

To update your document, either double-click a color or single-click a color and press the OK button. Pressing the Cancel button will close the color picker without updating your style sheet.

**Tip:** To change an existing color value in the editor, simply right click on it and select `Color > Edit Color Value`.

assume-xml-procins:no

**Related topics:** Using the Palette Editor, Creating Custom Color Palettes, CSS Color Values Reference

## Using the CSS Palette Editor

TopStyle's **Palette Editor** is a powerful tool for viewing and changing colors in your style sheets and HTML style blocks. To display the CSS palette editor, select `View > Panels > CSS Palette Editor`.

The palette editor displays an expandable list of all the colors used in the current style sheet or style block along with a count of how many times they're used. Expanding a color will display a list of style declarations which use that color. Clicking one of these declarations will highlight it in the editor.

**Tip:** To quickly navigate through every usage of a particular color, simply click on that color multiple times.

Any color which is used as the BODY foreground color will be underlined and shown in bold. Any color which is used as the BODY background color will be shown in bold without an underline.

**Tip:** Colors may be dragged from the palette editor into the current document. You can also right-click on a color and select "Copy Color" to copy the color value to the clipboard.

The toolbar above the palette editor enables you to manipulate your style sheet's colors. The toolbutton on the far left is used to replace a color and only operates on the color currently selected in the palette editor, whereas the other toolbuttons

operate on every color in your style sheet.

**Related topics:** Inserting Colors with the Color Picker, Creating Custom Color Palettes, CSS Color Values Reference

## Creating Custom Color Palettes

The **color picker** includes a "Palette" menu which enables selecting from a list of pre-defined palettes, but you can also create custom palettes for future use.

Just select "Manage custom palettes" from the color picker's palette menu to display the **Palette Manager**. The Palette Manager serves as the "control panel" for custom palettes, enabling you to create, delete, edit and rename palettes. The following options are available when creating a new palette:

1. Create an empty palette
2. Copy an existing palette
3. Import a palette from a style sheet - creates a palette by extracting all color values from a style sheet
4. Import a palette from Adobe PhotoShop (ACT format only)
5. Import a palette from Adobe Fireworks
6. Import a palette from Macromedia HomeSite
7. Import a palette from Paint Shop Pro (Jasc PAL format only)
8. Gradient palette - select two colors and the number of steps between them.
9. Harmonious color palette - creates a palette of harmonious colors from the selected base color.

**Related topics:** Inserting Colors with the Color Picker, Using the CSS Palette Editor, Color Values

## Previewing

- Internal Previewer
- Using Box Spy
- Selecting a Page for Previewing Styles
- Configuring External Browsers
- Full Screen Preview
- Choosing a Preview DOCTYPE
- Using Preview Mappings
- Note About Mozilla Gecko

## Internal Previewer

When editing HTML, TopStyle's preview will always show the current HTML document. When editing CSS, however, TopStyle gives you two choices for previewing:

1. A **default preview** which shows every element, class and ID in the current style sheet. The default preview is used when "Create from current style sheet" is selected,
2. An **HTML-based** preview which enables selecting an HTML page to use when previewing style sheets. After an HTML preview file is chosen, TopStyle will display it with the current style sheet applied.

If you wish to use pages containing server-side scripting such as ASP, CFML, PHP or JSP as preview documents inside of TopStyle, you should set up a preview mapping in order to view these pages correctly.

**Related topics:** Selecting a Page for Previewing Styles, Configuring External Browsers, Full Screen Preview

## Using Box Spy

TopStyle's "Box Spy" provides a simple, effective way to see exactly how your CSS is affecting a specific HTML tag. When Box Spy is enabled, moving the mouse over an HTML tag in the embedded preview will exposes that tag's margins, padding and content box.

When an HTML tag is being "spied," its hierarchy will appear above the preview. Clicking a tag in the hierarchy will move Box Spy to that tag. Clicking a class name in the hierarchy will locate the definition of that class. Holding the Ctrl key will freeze the currently spied tag.

To enable or disable this feature, click the Box Spy toolbutton above the preview.

> **Note:** Due to limitations in Mozilla Gecko, Box Spy is only enabled when using Internet Explorer as the embedded browser.

## Selecting a Page for Previewing Styles

When editing CSS, by default TopStyle uses an automatically-generated HTML page for previewing styles. By clicking the "Customize Preview Files" toolbutton above the preview you can add an existing HTML document to the list of available preview files. When an existing HTML document is selected as the preview file, TopStyle's previewer will display it as it would appear when the current style sheet is applied to it.

You can also preview your style sheet using an *external* HTML document (that is, one that's on the Web). To do this, click the "Customize Preview Files" button above TopStyle's preview, then click the "Add URL" button. After you select this URL as the preview file, TopStyle will apply the current style sheet to it.

Note that TopStyle will leave intact any style sheet links which exist in the preview file. You can change this by clicking the "Preview Options" toolbutton and selecting "Remove Existing Styles."

**Related topics:** Configuring External Browsers, Internal Previewer

## Configuring External Browsers

The first time you run TopStyle, it will automatically detect most browsers and add them to the external browser list. However, since not all browsers can be detected, you may want to modify this list by selecting `Options > Configure External Browsers`.

> **Note:** Although TopStyle auto-detects external browsers the first time you run it, it can't detect multiple versions of the same browser.

When you select an external browser for previewing, it will use the page you currently have set up for internal previewing.

**Related topics:** Selecting a Page for Previewing Styles, Internal Previewer

## Full Screen Preview

TopStyle's **Full Screen Preview** enables you to view your documents in a preview window sized to your desktop. The full screen preview may be split into two panels, each of which has its own DOCTYPE selection.

Even better, each panel has its own browser-type selection, so you can configure one preview panel to show the current document in Internet Explorer and the other to show you the same document in Mozilla Gecko.

> **Note:** To exit full screen preview, press the close toolbutton, hit the Escape key, or press the same keyboard shortcut that you used to show the full screen preview (F12 by default).

**Related topics:** Choosing a Preview DOCTYPE, DOCTYPEs in HTML/XHTML, Note About Mozilla Gecko

## Choosing a Preview DOCTYPE

Recent browsers from Microsoft and Mozilla use the HTML DOCTYPE element to switch on special "modes" that alter the document's rendering. Since these modes may affect how your style sheets are interpreted, TopStyle includes a drop-down DOCTYPE selection above the Full Screen Preview which enables you to see how using a different DOCTYPE in your HTML documents affects their appearance.

When "(None/Unchanged)" is selected from this drop-down, TopStyle will use the existing DOCTYPE in files selected for preview and will apply no DOCTYPE to the default preview. If a DOCTYPE *is* selected, TopStyle will always apply it to the preview, overriding any existing DOCTYPE. Note that this feature is only for previewing and alters none of your files - no changes are actually made to your documents when a DOCTYPE is selected.

To modify TopStyle's list of DOCTYPEs, go to the HTML Settings page in TopStyle's Options and press the "Edit DOCTYPEs..." button.

> **Note:** By default, TopStyle's internal previewer uses an embedded copy of Microsoft Internet Explorer. DOCTYPE "sniffing" was added in Internet Explorer 6, so choosing a different DOCTYPE will have no effect if you have an earlier version of Internet Explorer. Of course, even if you have IE6 installed, you may see nothing change when you select a different DOCTYPE since only certain CSS features (such as the box model) are affected by the DOCTYPE in IE6.

**Related topics:** DOCTYPEs in HTML/XHTML, Selecting a Page for Previewing Styles, Internal Previewer

## Note about Mozilla Gecko

"Gecko" is the code-name of the layout engine behind the Firefox browser.

Mozilla Gecko is an ActiveX control which enables easily embedding the Gecko layout engine in applications such as TopStyle. Because this is an experimental third-party control, **please note that we cannot provide any support for problems encountered when this feature is enabled**.

If you're having trouble using this feature, please visit our web site for the latest information about using Mozilla Gecko with TopStyle.

## Using the Style Checker

TopStyle's **Style Checker** is a powerful tool that helps you locate problems in your style sheets. The style checker will validate your style sheet against multiple style definitions, flagging any invalid properties or values it finds. It will also warn you if bugs in popular browsers may cause problems even when your style sheet is perfectly valid.



## Configuring the Style Checker

To configure the style checker, select `Tools > Configure Style Checker`. This will activate the style checker page in TopStyle's Options. The first thing you'll see is a list of style definitions. Any style definition with a checkmark next to it will be validated against by the style checker.

After choosing which style definitions you want to include, click the error levels item underneath the style checker item in the Options dialog. This is where you choose which types of errors you want to see reported.

You can also choose how the style checker should handle URL values, such as those used in the background-image property. By default, only local URLs are verified, but you can choose to verify remote URLs if desired.

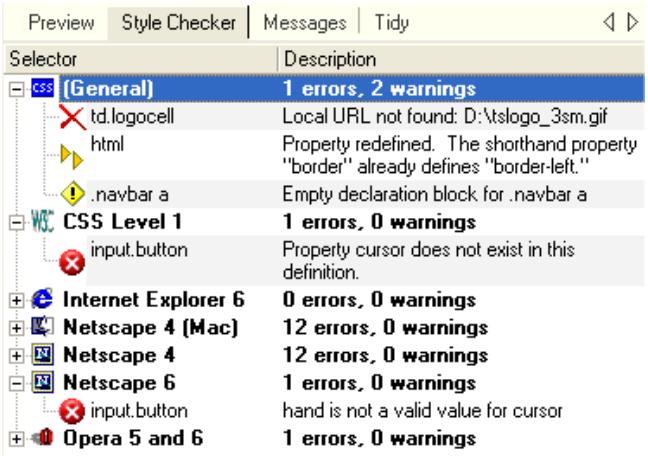
By default the style checker will report every error that it finds, but in some cases this may result in more error messages

than you would like. To reduce the number of messages, place a checkmark in the option labeled "Hide duplicate messages within the same style definition." When this is selected, the style checker will only warn about an error the first time it's found *per style definition*. For example, if you use the `cursor` property throughout your style sheet, the style checker will default to flagging every use of `cursor` when validating against CSS Level 1 (since `cursor` isn't supported by CSS1). Checking this option will cause only the first use of `cursor` to be flagged.

When you're done configuring, select `Tools > Style Check` to run the style checker.

**Related topics:** Reading the Style Checker Results, Error Levels, Error Messages

## Reading the Style Checker Results




As the style checker runs, it reports a list of error messages related to each style definition you selected during configuration. Clicking on an error message will select the associated property or value in the current style sheet.

> Note: If no errors are found for a specific style definition, that definition will not appear in the style checker results.

In addition to errors related to each style definition, you may also see a **General** warning area. This area includes warnings that apply regardless of the style definition. For example, you may have a property defined twice within the same rule, or you may have used the same selector more than once within a style sheet.

Please refer to the Error Message Reference for further details on some of the problems listed in the style checker results.

**Related topics:** Configuring the Style Checker, Error Levels, Error Messages

## Style Checker Error Levels

The Style Checker reports four levels of error messages:

- **Errors**: The style sheet contains unknown properties, unbalanced comments, broken URLs and other problems that will significantly impact the style sheet
- **Warnings**: The style sheet contains empty rules, duplicate properties (ie: "Color" defined twice in the same rule), duplicate selectors and other problems that *may* impact the rendering
- **Hints**: The style violates recommended practices (example: a color is specified for a rule without a background color)
- **Browser Tips**: These are warnings about particular browsers, usually bugs in their CSS implementation.

In addition, TopStyle can also report errors concerning unsupported selectors and pseudo-classes. It's recommended that you always leave these two items checked, since unsupported selectors and pseudo-classes are a common source of problems when creating style sheets.

**Related topics:** Style Checker Error Messages

# Style Checker Error Messages



---

Property redefined. The shorthand property "x" already defines "x".
Shorthand properties are used to group related values under a single property. For example, the `font` property is composed of `font-style`, `font-variant`, `font-weight`, `font-size`, `line-height` and `font-family`. So, a rule that includes the `font` shorthand property shouldn't also include `font-family`, since in effect this is defining `font-family` twice. Another common mistake is to redefine `background-color` by using the shorthand property `background`.

Property "x" does not exist in this definition
The identified property is not valid for the style definition. For example, the CSS1 definition will raise this error if you use the `cursor` property, since `cursor` wasn't introduced until CSS2.

"x" is not a valid value for "x"
The value given for the specified property is not valid. Common mistakes that lead to this error are:

- Failing to add a unit to a length value (ex: `12` instead of `12pt`)
- Using a value that's valid in one style definition but not in another (ex: `none` is a valid `text-decoration` value in Internet Explorer 4, but it's not supported by Internet Explorer 3)
- Using a percentage value for a property that doesn't support percentages.
- Neglecting to use a **hash** in front of a hex color value (ex: `99cccc` instead of `#99cccc`)

When using the color property, a background or background-color property should also be defined
The `background` and `color` properties should be specified together to avoid conflicts with user style sheets.

A generic family name should be included in your font list
Your document may be viewed by many different systems, so there's no guarantee that every visitor will have a particular font. Generic fonts, on the other hand, are fonts that should be understood by every CSS-capable browser. Always add a generic font (such as sans-serif, serif or monospace) to the end of any `font-family` value. Note that some style definitions (such as WebTV Plus) don't support the full set of generic font names, so you may get this error even when a

generic name is used.

The font property should include a size value.
The shorthand `font` property requires a font size value, but none is given.

"x" is defined multiple times in the same rule
The same property is used more than once within a single rule.

Value for "x" is empty
A property is defined with no value. Example: { `font-size`: ; }.

"x" is not a valid length unit
A length value is using an invalid unit. This may occur if you misspelled the unit name (example: "p**z**" instead of "p**x**") or if a particular style definition doesn't support the specified unit (example: Internet Explorer 3 doesn't support the "em" unit).

System colors are not supported by this definition
System colors aren't real colors, but are instead colors on the user's system. For example, the system color `ButtonText` refers to the color used for push buttons. System colors were introduced in CSS2 and aren't supported by all browsers, so this error will be generated by any style definition that doesn't understand them.

Only the standard 16 named colors are supported by this definition
Style definitions such as CSS1 only understand the standard 16 named colors (**aqua**, **black**, **blue**, **fuchsia**, **gray**, **green**, **lime**, **maroon**, **navy**, **olive**, **purple**, **red**, **silver**, **teal**, **white** and **yellow**), so color values such as `AntiqueWhite` or `Coral` aren't supported.

RGB colors are not supported by this definition
You may get this error when the validating against the Internet Explorer 3 style definition, since IE3 doesn't support RGB color values.

Multiple values are defined for "x", but this property does not allow sub-values
A property which only accepts a single value has more than one value given.

Too many values are defined for "x"
The specified property only accepts a certain number of values, and you have more than that number of values defined. For example, `margin` accepts four values, so you'll get this error if you supply five values.

The number of comments opened (/*) does not match the number closed (*/).
You'll see this error if you neglect to close a comment. The style checker will quit if it runs into this problem, since it normally skips comments.

The number of open braces does not match the number of close braces
This error will occur if you neglect to close a rule, or if you accidentally type an extra **{** or **}** somewhere in your style sheet.

Selector "x" redeclared - rule will not be checked
A selector is used more than once within the same style sheet. You can turn this warning off on the Style Checker page in TopStyle's options.

Local URL not found: "x"
A local URL could not be resolved. Make sure that the URL value points to a valid file.

The invalid character "x" is used in selector "x"
Selectors must begin with an alphabetic character, and can't contain spaces or other special characters.

This selector contains an underscore, which may cause older browsers to ignore it.
Most modern browsers support the use of underscores in selector names. However, some do not, and will ignore the entire rule. You can turn this warning off on the Style Checker page in TopStyle's options.

Empty declaration block for "x"
You have an empty declaration block (ex: **BODY** { } ).

Font names that contain spaces should be enclosed in quotes.
Although most browsers don't enforce this rule, it's a good idea to place quotes around font names that contain spaces.

The font property requires a font-size or font-family value.
A common mistake when using the font property is to neglect to include a `font-size` or `font-family` value. These values are required in order for the `font` property to be considered valid.

There should not be a space between the number and the length unit in this value.
A common mistake is to use a space between a number and its unit (ex: `12 pt` instead of `12pt`.)

Pseudo-class "x" isn't supported by this style definition.

Many pseudo-classes aren't supported by every browser.

"x" selectors aren't supported by this style definition
Many selector types aren't supported by every browser, resulting in this error. In particular, CSS2 and CSS3 selectors (such as attribute selectors) are poorly supported by older browsers.

**Related topics:** Style Checker Error Levels

## Validation

- TopStyle's Style Checker
- Using the W3C HTML and CSS Validators
- Using CSE HTML Validator

## Using CSE HTML Validator

**CSE HTML Validator** is a popular HTML syntax checker created by AI Internet Solutions. If you own the **Pro** or **Standard** versions of CSE HTML Validator, TopStyle will integrate with it to provide a powerful way to check your HTML documents for mistakes.

 To start CSE HTML Validator in TopStyle, click the toolbutton shown at the left (if you don't see this toolbutton, it may not be showing in the current layout, in which case it should be available from beneath the HTML menu). After a brief pause, the "Messages" tab in TopStyle's output panel will display the results of CSE HTML Validator's syntax checking. If you're using CSE HTML Validator version 4.5 or above, the results will be grouped by category.

> **Note:** We're not the creators of CSE HTML Validator - we simply offer integration between it and TopStyle. If you have any questions about this product, please visit the CSE HTML Validator home page

**Related topics:** Using HTML Tidy, Using the W3C HTML and CSS Validators

## Using the W3C HTML and CSS Validators with TopStyle

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) offers free HTML and CSS validation services which may be accessed from within TopStyle.

 The W3C **CSS Validator** offers stronger validation than TopStyle's style checker, but it doesn't offer the style checker's browser compatibility warnings. For this reason, we recommend using both tools to check your style sheets for problems. To pass the current style sheet to the W3C CSS Validator, click the toolbutton shown at left, or select `Tools > W3C CSS Validator`.

 To send the current HTML document to the W3C **HTML Validator**, click the toolbutton shown at left, or choose `HTML > W3C HTML Validator`.

When the validation has completed, the results will be shown in the Reports tab within TopStyle's Output panel.

> **Note:** The W3C validators are online tools, so you will need to have an active Internet connection in order to use them. Please keep in mind that these services are provided by the W3C and are not under our control.

**Related topics:** Using HTML Tidy, Using CSE HTML Validator, Style Checker

## Site Management

- Creating a New Site
- Opening a Site
- Site Summary View

- Site Styles View
- Rebuilding a Site
- Using the Link Wizard
- Site Reports
- Using Mappings when Building a Site

## Creating a New Site

To create a new site, select `File > New Site` to open the new site dialog, then choose the root directory of the site. TopStyle will give the site the same name as the selected folder, but you may change this. After you have chosen the root directory, clicking the Exclusion button will allow you to exclude selected subdirectories from the site. You may also specify a pattern which will be used to exclude HTML files from your site.

> **Important:** When building a site, TopStyle will only include files that match the HTML Document Extensions shown on the **File Extensions** page in TopStyle's Options.

If your site contains server-side code such as ASP, CFML, PHP or JSP, you should elect to use mappings when building the site. This is critical, since server-side code won't be processed by TopStyle's Site Summary or Site Reports unless the site was built using a mapping.

**Related topics:** Site Summary, Site Styles, Site Reports, Using Mappings when Building a Site,

## Opening a Site

Select `File > Open Site` to display a list of available sites, then click the icon for the site you want to open. Once a site has been opened, TopStyle will show the site's name at the far right of the status bar.

> **Note:** Information about a site is cached for quick access. If you regularly make changes to files in your site, this cache may become out of date unless you regularly rebuild your site. You can tell TopStyle to automatically rebuild your site on the "Site Options" page in Options.

**Related topics:** Creating a New Site, Rebuilding a Site

## Site Summary View

TopStyle's **Site Summary View** is a powerful way to get a quick style-based overview of your site. TopStyle's site summary enables you to immediately see the following information:

- All style sheets in your site
- All HTML documents in your site
- All HTML documents with style links
- All HTML documents without style links
- All HTML documents with broken style links
- All HTML documents with <style>..</style> blocks
- Recently changed HTML documents
- Recently changed style sheets
- Unused style sheets
- External (remote) style sheets
- All style sheets with @import statements

> **Note:** in order for TopStyle's site summary to report accurate information, it's important that you regularly rebuild your site to reflect the latest changes. Unless your site is exceptionally large and would take a long time to rebuild, it's recommended that you let TopStyle rebuild it automatically. You can configure TopStyle to automatically rebuild sites on the "Site Options" page in Options.

**Related topics:** Site Styles, Creating a New Site, Opening a Site

## Site Styles View

TopStyle's **Site Styles View** is a great way to find out what pages in your site are - and are not - linked to style sheets. Site Styles view is broken into three lists:

- Style Sheets - shows all style sheets in your site.
- HTML documents - shows HTML, CFML, ASP and other browsable web documents in your site. The files which appear in this list depend on the current **filter**, which enables you to see either all HTML documents linked to the selected style sheet, or all HTML documents **NOT** linked to the selected style sheet.
- Linked style sheets - shows all style sheets linked to the document currently selected in the web document list.

Site Styles view also provides an easy way to remove a style sheet link. Simply right-click on a style sheet in the linked style sheets list, then select "Remove Link" from the context menu. When filtered to show documents NOT linked to the selected style sheet, the selected style sheet may be linked to the selected document by right-clicking on the style sheet and choosing "Link to" from the context menu.

**Related topics:** Site Summary, Opening a Site, Creating a New Site

## Rebuilding a Site

When you create a site, TopStyle builds a database of all files in the site along with all style sheets linked within those files and all classes used in those files. Over time this database may become out-of-date as you use other programs to update these files. For this reason, it's important to **rebuild** your site to make sure it's current.

Select `File > Rebuild Site` to rebuild the active site. After scanning the files in your site, you'll be presented with a dialog listing all files that have been added, deleted or modified since the site was last rebuilt or created. If no changes were detected, no dialog will appear - instead, you'll see a message in the status bar stating that no changes were found in your site.

If you regularly make changes to the documents in your site, you might find it helpful to tell TopStyle to automatically perform a rebuild every time it opens a site. This way, you don't have to worry about rebuilding the site - TopStyle will do it for you. To turn this feature on, go to the "Site Options" page in TopStyle's Options.

> **Tip:** Select "Recreate Site" from the File menu to create the current site from scratch using the same information you provided when you first built the site.

**Related topics:** Creating a New Site, Opening a Site

## Link Wizard

The **Link Wizard** is used to quickly link a style sheet to multiple HTML documents. Simply select the files or files in folders that you want to link the style sheet to, then click OK.

> **Note:** we *strongly* recommended inserting a style `<link>` instead of choosing to insert a `<style>` block. If you use a `<style>` block, the contents of the style sheet will be inserted between `<style>...</style>` tags in every HTML document, defeating one of the main benefits of style sheets. Please refer to the CSS Basics section on using style sheets for more details.

Example of a `<link>` tag:

```
<html>
```

```
<head>
<title>Linking Style Sheets</title>
<link rel="STYLESHEET" type="text/css" href="styles.css">
</head>
```

## Site Reports

TopStyle's Site Management features include a powerful **Site Reports** view which provides detailed information on style usage in your site.

- Orphan Classes
- Undefined Classes
- Class Usage
- ID Overview
- Case Mismatch

**Important:** If you use server-side scripting such as ASP, ColdFusion or PHP to insert styles into your HTML documents, you must build your site using a mapping. This enables TopStyle to pass your documents through your local web server before reading them, translating any server-side code in the process. If you build your site without using a mapping, then each of the site reports will fail to reflect any style links, include files, etc., added through server-side scripting, resulting in inaccurate information.

## Site Reports - Orphan Classes

The **Orphan Classes** report displays style sheets which contain definitions for classes that aren't used in any HTML documents which link to those style sheets. For example, if your style sheet contains the class `.warning` but none of the HTML documents which link to that style sheet contain `class="warning"`, then `.warning` will appear in this report.

If any orphan classes exist in the current site, this report will show an expandable list of style sheets which contain the orphans. Clicking a style sheet in this list will display its contents in the read-only editor. To edit the style sheet, simply click the Edit toolbutton to the left of the editor.

When a style sheet is expanded, a list of its orphan classes will appear below it. Clicking an orphan class will locate it in the read-only editor. If that class is used in more than one selector (ex: `.caption`, `h2.caption`, `h3.caption`), then the "Next" and "Previous" toolbuttons to the left of the editor will be enabled so you can quickly navigate through each usage.

## Site Reports - Undefined Classes

The **Undefined Classes** report displays HTML documents in your site that use style classes which aren't defined in any style sheet linked to those HTML documents. If any undefined classes exist in the current site, this report will show an expandable list of HTML documents which contain the undefined classes. Clicking an HTML document in this list will display its contents in the read-only editor. To edit the HTML document, simply click the Edit toolbutton to the left of the editor.

When an HTML document is expanded, a list of its undefined classes will appear below it. Clicking an undefined class will locate it in the read-only editor. If that class is used more than once, then the "Next" and "Previous" toolbuttons to the left of the editor will be enabled so you can quickly navigate through each usage.

## Site Reports - Class Usage

The **Class Usage** report displays an overview of where your style classes are used in the current site. All style sheets with classes that are used in your site's HTML documents will be listed here. When a style sheet is expanded, all classes in that style sheet which are used will be displayed, and each class will show a count of how many HTML documents use that class. Expanding the class will list all HTML documents which use that class.

Note: Classes that aren't used in any of your site's HTML documents are not shown in this report. To see unused

classes, refer to the Orphan Classes report.

## Site Reports - ID Overview

The **ID Overview** report displays an overview of where your IDs are defined and used in your site. All style sheets that define IDs will be listed here. Expanding a style sheet in this list will show each of its IDs. If an ID is used in any of your site's HTML documents, then expanding the ID will show those HTML documents.

Note: Unlike the Class Usage report, which only displays classes which are used in your site's HTML documents, the ID Overview report lists IDs even if they're unused.

## Site Reports - Case Mismatch

The **Case Mismatch** report displays HTML documents which use class names that have been defined in your style sheets using a different case. For example, if your style sheet contains `.warning` (lowercase) but you use `class="WARNING"` (uppercase) in an HTML document, then that HTML document will be included in this report.

Most browsers use case-**in**sensitive matching, so using `class="WARNING"` is the same as using `class="warning"`. However, older versions of the Netscape browser use case-**sensitive** matching (which is correct, according to the W3C specifications). So, as far as these browsers are concerned, `.warning` and `.WARNING` are two different classes.

## Understanding Mappings

TopStyle uses mappings to translate a location on your hard drive to a URL on your local web server. **Most TopStyle users will never need to use mappings**. However, if you work with HTML documents containing server-side coding, you may find mappings very helpful. These server-side languages require a web server in order to be processed, so by using a mapping you can force your web pages to be passed through a local web server before being seen by TopStyle.

A mapping is simply a way for TopStyle to retrieve local documents via HTTP through a web server, translating any server-side code in the process.

To set up a mapping, go to the Mappings page in TopStyle's Options. A mapping consists of a local directory name and its corresponding URL as seen by your local web server. Normally, "Map From" should contain the name of your local web server's home directory (a.k.a. "Document Root"), and "Map To" should contain `http://localhost/`.

For example, if you're using Microsoft IIS, in most cases your mapping should be something like this:

Map From: `C:\InetPub\wwwroot\`
Map To: `http://localhost/`

- Using Mappings with the Internal Previewer
- Using Mappings when Building a Site

## Using Mappings with the Internal Previewer

If you develop web sites which employ server-side coding, you'll most likely want any server-side code to be processed before displaying one of your pages in TopStyle's internal preview. To do this, you'll need to configure a mapping, which forces TopStyle to pass documents through your web server before they're previewed.

After you specify your mappings on the Mappings page in TopStyle's Options (as described here), be sure to place a checkmark in the box labeled "Use mappings when previewing." Once this is set, any preview documents that can be mapped will be passed through a local web server before being displayed in TopStyle.

**Related topics:** Understanding Mappings, Selecting a Page for Previewing Styles

## Using Mappings when Building a Site

If you use server-side scripting such as ASP, ColdFusion or PHP, you'll most likely want to use a mapping when building your site. If your site employs include files or uses server-side code to insert style <link>s in your documents, you *must* use a mapping in order for the site summary and site reports to give accurate results.

To use a mapping when building a site, simply fill in the "Map From" and "Map To" fields on the New Site dialog. The "Map From" field should contain the location on your hard drive, and the "Map To" field should contain the HTTP address which corresponds to that folder.

> Note: Building a site when using mappings may take significantly longer, since each page must be passed through your local web server before TopStyle can process it.

**Related topics:** Understanding Mappings

## Customizing TopStyle

- Docking Panels
- Customizing Toolbars
- Customizing the Editor Context Menu
- Working with Layouts
- Custom Keyboard Shortcuts
- Customizing the View Bar

## Docking Panels

**Docking** enables you to rearrange the positions of the following panels:

- Inspector
- CSS Selectors
- Output
- View Bar
- CSS Palette Editor
- File Explorer
- Clip Library
- FTP Explorer

To rearrange a panel, click on its title bar and drag it to the desired location. TopStyle features two different types of docking:

1. **Stacked** - panels are stacked in rows or columns when docked.
2. **Tabbed** - each panel is shown on a separate tab when docked.

The docking style may be changed at any time by right-clicking the caption of any docked panel.

**Related topics:** Customizing Toolbars, Working with Layouts

## Customizing Toolbars

TopStyle's toolbars are similar to those used in Microsoft Office, and are very easy to customize. The first - and simplest - customization method is to click the arrow at the far right of any toolbar. This will display a menu listing all toolbuttons that can be displayed on that toolbar. Simply place a check next to any toolbutton in the list to add it to the toolbar.

Right-clicking on any toolbar will bring up a menu listing all available toolbars for you to choose from. If you select the "Customize..." item at the bottom of this menu, the toolbar customization dialog will appear. When this is open, you can

completely customize the toolbars by dragging-and-dropping toolbuttons from the customization dialog to any toolbar. In addition, you can remove a toolbutton by dragging it off its toolbar.

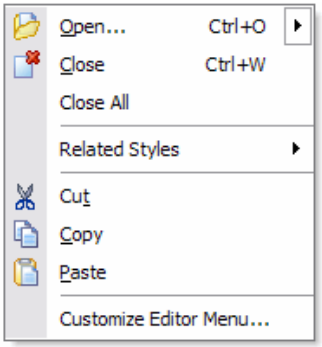
You can also create new toolbars from within the toolbar customization dialog.

**Related topics:** Editor Context Menu, Working with Layouts

## Editor Context Menu

The **editor context menu** is the menu that appears when you right-click on the editor. TopStyle enables you to completely customize this menu, so your favorite features are always a click away.

Select "Customize Editor Menu" from either the Options menu or the editor context menu itself to display the Menu Editor and the toolbar customization dialog. Simply drag items from the customization dialog to the menu editor to add toolbuttons to the editor context menu. Note that the menu editor will collapse when it doesn't have the focus, but it will re-expand when an item is dragged to it.




**Related topics:** Customizing Toolbars

## Working with Layouts

**Layouts** are a way to save and restore the position of everything on the TopStyle display, enabling you to define different ways of working with minimal fuss. TopStyle comes with a few built-in layouts, but you can easily create your own by either clicking the Layout toolbutton or selecting `Options > Manage Layouts`.

When you save a layout, TopStyle retains the location, size and visibility of the following screen elements:

- Toolbars
- Inspector
- CSS Selectors
- Output
- CSS Palette Editor
- File Explorer
- Clip Library
- FTP Explorer
- Status Bar

To restore a layout, simply click the Layout toolbutton and select the desired layout.

> Note: The editor context menu is not stored with each layout. Customizations made to it apply to every layout.

**Related topics:** Customizing Toolbars, Docking Panels

## Custom Keyboard Shortcuts

TopStyle takes customizable keyboard shortcuts to a new level by enabling you to create multiple sets of keyboard shortcuts.

Even better, you have the ability to insert different text strings based on the *context* of what's being edited. For example, you could create a `Ctrl+B` shortcut which inserts `font-weight: bold` when editing a style sheet or style block, but inserts `<strong>..</strong>` when editing HTML.

Create keyboard sets that mimic your favorite editor, or create your own from scratch. Just select Options > Keyboard

Shortcuts to change or customize the active keyboard set.

**Related topics:** Customizing Toolbars, Working with Layouts

## Customizing the View Bar

Right-clicking within the view bar will display a context menu that enables the creation of custom groups or custom items. Creating a custom group will add a new item to the view bar tab. Each custom group (including the "Resources" group) may contain custom items which point to local files, style sheets or external web sites. If a custom item points to a web site, clicking on it will open that site in your browser. If it points to a style sheet or local HTML file, then it will be opened in TopStyle for editing. If the item points to another type of local file, the file will be opened in its associated application.

> **Note:** The "View" and "Sites" groups cannot be modified, but the "Resources" group can be customized.

**Related topics:** Using the View Bar

## Regular Expressions

TopStyle's search features support **Regular Expressions**, enabling you to find or replace strings based on patterns. The following regular expression operators are supported:

| | |
|---|---|
| a+ | One or more occurrences of a |
| a* | Zero or more occurences of a |
| a? | Zero or one (i.e. optional) occurence of a |
| a\|b | Either a or b |
| a\|\|b | a or b or both a and b in any order |
| abc | a followed by b followed by c |
| [abc] | A single character, one of a or b or c |
| [a-b] | A single character, ranging in value from a to b inclusive |
| [^abc] | A single character, any except a, b or c |
| (abc) | a followed by b followed by c |
| "abc" | The letters a followed by b followed by c with no special significance attached to a, b or c |
| . | Any character except a new line |
| \t | The tab character |
| \n | The newline character |
| \r | The return character |

In order to search for literal instances of characters that would otherwise denote RE operators, you must *escape* them by preceding them with a **** . For example, to find a plus (+) sign, use **\+**

## Wildcards (Find in Files)

TopStyle's Find/Replace in Files feature supports the following simple **wildcards**:

| | |
|---|---|
| * | match any substring (including null) |
| ? | match any single character |
| # | match any numeric character (0..9) |
| @ | match any alpha character (A..Z, a..z) |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| $ | match any alphanumeric character |
| ~ | match any non-alphanumeric, non-space character |

If you need more advanced pattern matching, you should use regular expressions instead of wildcards.

# Step 1: Starting from Scratch


Before we do anything else, we first need to set the active style definition. A style definition is simply a set of properties, values and rules that apply to a specific implementation of CSS. Click here for more information about how TopStyle uses style definitions.

Find the style definition dropdown (shown here), then select CSS Level 1. Note that this dropdown is located above the style inspector, so if the style inspector is hidden you'll need to display it either by clicking the "Show Inspector" toolbutton or by hitting Shift+F9. You may also select the active style definition by pressing [Shift+Ctrl+D].

Now that the active style definition has been set, we're ready to create a new style sheet. Normally you create a new style sheet using the Style Sheet Wizard, but for the benefit of this tutorial we're going to start with an empty style sheet. You can create an empty style sheet by clicking [Ctrl+N], or by selecting "New Style Sheet" from the File menu.

# Step 2: Adding a Selector

The next step is to add a selector. At its simplest, a selector is just an HTML element (tag), such as H2 or BODY. When you use an HTML element as a selector, you're stating that you want to modify the style for every instance of that element.

To add a selector in TopStyle, click the "New CSS Selector" toolbutton to display the TopStyle Selector Wizard. This toolbutton is located above the CSS Selector List. If you can't find this toolbutton, it may be because the selector list is hidden, in which case choose "New CSS Selector" from the Tools menu instead.

The first selector we're going to add is a simple selector for the BODY element, so click on the "Simple" item at the top of the Selector Wizard, then locate BODY in the list of HTML elements on the left side of the Wizard. Next, double-click on it to add it to the list of current selectors on the right side of the dialog, then click OK to insert the new selector into the current style sheet. Your style sheet should now look like this:

```
BODY {

}
```

Before we go any further, you should save the style sheet. You can save it anywhere you like, but give it the name `tutorial.css`.

# Step 3: Adding a Declaration

Now that the first selector has been added, we're going to define its declaration block. As its name implies, a declaration block is composed of declarations, each of which is in turn composed of a property and corresponding value. A selector plus its declaration block is called a rule.

There are several ways to add declarations in TopStyle, but right now we're going to use the style inspector. If the style inspector isn't showing, hit Shift+F9 to make it visible.

Beneath the style inspector is TopStyle's property help, which shows the style definitions that support the current property. Click here for more information about property help.

In TopStyle's editor, place the cursor between the **{ }** braces. Now go to the style inspector and locate background-color in the property column on the left. In the value column on the right, click the arrow to show values that are appropriate for background-color and select Navy. Next, locate the color property and choose the value White. Your style sheet should look like this:

```
BODY {
  background-color: Navy;
  color: White;
}
```

If your style sheet has the same declarations as above but the declarations are formatted onto a single line, select Tools > Format Style Rule as Multiple Lines to reformat the rule.

# Step 4: Using Fonts

Our next step is to assign a value to the font-family property. Unlike most properties, font-family accepts a *list* of values. This is so you can specify *alternative* fonts if your first choice isn't available. For example, you may want to use "Verdana," but you need to specify an alternative font for visitors to your site who don't have Verdana.

Always include a generic font at the end of your font list. While fonts such as Arial and Times New Roman are common on Windows, visitors using other operating systems won't have these fonts. By contrast, generic fonts such as sans-serif, serif and `monospace` are ones that every CSS-enabled browser should understand.

Locate font-family in the style inspector, then click the toolbutton to the immediate right of the font-family row to display the font picker. Place a checkmark by "Arial" to add it to the list of selected fonts. Note the fonts at the top of the list - these are the generic fonts mentioned above. Sans-serif is the generic font that's closest to Arial, so place a checkmark next to it to add it to the list, then click the OK button. Your style sheet should now look like this:

```
BODY {
  background-color: Navy;
  color: White;
  font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
}
```

# Step 5: Adding an H2 Selector

What we've done is simply create a rule for the BODY element. This defines the style of almost everything in the BODY section of your HTML document - in other words, this controls the colors and fonts used throughout the entire document. This is due to inheritance, one of the key concepts of CSS. Through inheritance, the style applied to one element will be transferred to that element's children. We'll talk more about inheritance later on.

The next element we want to define a rule for is H2. Use the Selector Wizard discussed previously to add an H2 selector (or simply type it into the editor), then click inside its declaration block. Go to the style inspector and locate the border-bottom shorthand property. Shorthand properties enable you to set several related properties all at once. The most common shorthand properties are font, margin and border.

The style inspector enables expanding shorthand properties to show the "sub-properties" from which they're composed. Expand the border-bottom property, then assign the value thin to the border-bottom-width "sub-property," solid to border-style, and aqua to color. Note how assigning values to each "sub-property" updates the composite value for the shorthand property.

Your style sheet should now look like this:

```
BODY {
  background-color: Navy;
  color: White;
  font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
}

H2 {
  border-bottom: thin solid aqua;
}
```

# Step 6: Adding a Class Selector

So far we've only created element selectors, which apply to every instance of that element. For example, the H2 rule we created in the previous step will apply to every instance of H2 used in the associated HTML document. But suppose you want to specify a rule that applies only to *specific* instances of an element?

This is where class selectors come in. HTML4 introduced the class attribute, which enables you to identify specific classes of elements.

Open the Selector Wizard again, then click on the "Class" item at the top. Next, locate and *single*-click on H2 in the element list, then enter the word emphasis in the box labeled "Enter a class name." Click the "Add" button to add this class selector to the list of current selectors. Notice what happened? The selector became H2.emphasis when it was added to the list.

Click OK to insert this class selector into your style sheet, and use the style inspector to give it a font-style property with the value italic. This rule will apply to every H2 element whose class is defined as "emphasis." In other words, it will apply wherever you use <h2 class="emphasis"> in your HTML document.

But what if you have a specific style that you want to apply regardless of the element? This is also a case for class selectors. Instead of specifying an HTML element in the selector, you specify *only* a class name. Open the Selector Wizard once more, then simply enter keyword as the class name without selecting an HTML element, then click Add and OK. Notice that the class selector is inserted into your document with a period in front of it - this is what distinguishes it from an element selector. Now, give this keyword rule a font-weight property with the value bold.

Always give your classes meaningful names, but try to use class names that describe their *purpose* rather than their *style*. For example, imagine you have a class called .red which you use to color-code red any vital statements in your HTML document. Suppose later on you decide that blue would be a more appropriate color - see the problem? If instead you named the class .vital, you could change its style without having to rename it.

One way to use this new keyword class selector in your HTML documents is through the  tag, which was introduced in HTML4 as a generic way to apply styles without specifying an element. For example, text inside <span class="keyword>.. would be styled according to the keyword class.

# Step 7: Intermission

We're now done creating a simple style sheet. Just to make sure we're on track, your style sheet should look like this:

```
BODY {
  background-color: navy;
  color: white;
  font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
}

H2 {
  border-bottom: thin solid aqua;
}

H2.emphasis {
  font-style: italic;
}

.keyword {
  font-weight: bold;
}
```

If your style sheet doesn't match the above, correct it now before we continue in order to avoid confusion.

# Step 8: Using TopStyle's Internal Preview

Now that our simple style sheet is done, how can we tell what it looks like? A style sheet by itself can't be displayed by a browser, so instead we'll preview an HTML document that has the style sheet applied to it.

If the preview area of the output panel was showing while you created your style sheet, you're probably already familiar with how it works. If it's not showing, select View > Panels > Output Panel and switch to the Preview tab.

By default, TopStyle generates the preview from the current style sheet, so that every element and class in the style sheet is displayed (if you've skipped ahead and selected another preview document, re-select "Create from current style sheet" from the dropdown above the preview to return to the default). This should make the power of inheritance obvious. Notice that every element has the same background color - this is because every element is inheriting background-color from the BODY rule. In addition, notice how H2.emphasis has the same border-bottom as H2.

The default preview is best used while first developing your style sheets. More than likely, you'll want to see how the style sheet affects the display of an *existing* HTML document instead. This is done very simply in TopStyle by dropping down the "Preview Files" combobox above the preview. Click this (drop-down) button now, then select the file `simple.htm` located in the TopStyle directory. TopStyle will apply the current style sheet to this document and display it in the internal previewer. Note that TopStyle

applies the current style sheet to a *temporary* copy of the chosen HTML document when previewing - your original HTML document is not modified in any way.

# Step 9: The Style Checker

One of the most important steps in creating style sheets with TopStyle involves using the Style Checker to locate errors and compatibility problems.

Before running the style checker, select Tools > Configure Style Checker. You'll be presented with a list of style definitions to validate against. Make sure that CSS Level 1, Outlook 2007 and Internet Explorer 6 are selected in the list. Next, click the "Error Levels" item in the options list on the left. This is where you choose the types of messages you want the style checker to display. For now, stay with the default error levels, then click OK to close the Options dialog.

**Note:** Style definitions are a key feature of TopStyle, and understanding them is very important. If you're not sure what they're all about, please click here for more information.

Click the style checker toolbutton (or hit F6) to run the style checker. The output panel will switch to the style checker results, showing a list of errors in our style sheet.

# Step 10: Interpreting the Style Checker Results

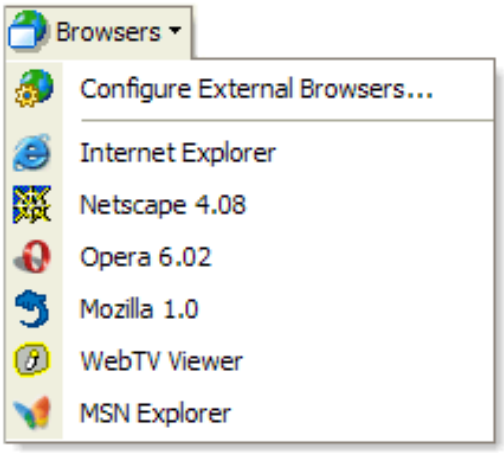
Although the style sheet we just created generates no error messages based on the CSS Level 1 or Internet Explorer 6 style definitions, you'll notice that Outlook 2007 doesn't support the border-bottom property we added in step five.

This means that Outlook 2007 users will see your pages differently than you intended, so you need to decide whether the error is serious enough to warrant changing the style sheet. In this case, Outlook 2007 won't show the border beneath H2 elements. This is a relatively minor problem so it's probably safe to leave it the way it is.

We've only just scratched the surface of the style checker's features - for more details, please refer to the style checker section in TopStyle's help.

# Step 11: Using the External Preview

In step eight we used TopStyle's internal previewer, which is great for quickly viewing your styles. However, as we discovered when using the style checker, each browser may render our styles differently. Because of this, it's important to test your styles using as many external browsers as possible.



The first time you ran TopStyle, it automatically detected which browsers you have installed and added them to your external browser list. You can modify this list at any time by clicking the external browser toolbutton and selecting "Configure External Browsers."

To preview using an external browser, simply click the external browser toolbutton and select the desired browser. TopStyle will generate a temporary file based on the current style sheet and current preview document, which is then displayed in the external browser.

Note: Although TopStyle auto-detects external browsers the first time you run it, it can't detect different versions of the same browser.

# Step 12: Linking your Style Sheet

Now that you have a complete style sheet, you can apply it to your HTML documents. This is done through linking. Linking a style sheet involves using the <link> tag in the <head> section of any HTML document to which you wish to apply the style sheet. For example:

```
<head>
  <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="tutorial.css">
</head>
```

While adding a <link> tag to one or two HTML documents is simple enough, what happens if you want to apply a style sheet to dozens - or hundreds - of HTML documents? This is where TopStyle's link wizard comes in handy.

To open the link wizard, choose Tools > Style Sheet Link Wizard, then simply select the HTML documents to which you wish to link the current style sheet. After you click OK, TopStyle will add the correct <LINK> tag to each HTML document. The link wizard also offers the ability to operate on all HTML documents in a TopStyle site. TopStyle sites are discussed in the next section of the tutorial.

By default the link wizard leaves existing style links intact, but you can change this by checking the "Remove existing style links" option. This will remove *all* style sheet links from the selected HTML documents so that *only* the current style sheet is linked to them.

# Step 13: Site Management with TopStyle

While using style sheets is a great way to make your site easier to maintain, most site management tools ignore style sheets, focusing instead on HTML-based navigation. TopStyle's site management features are designed to fill this hole, greatly simplifying the use of style sheets across an entire site.

Choose File > New Site to create a TopStyle site. Select the option to create a site from an existing directory structure, then choose the root directory of an existing local web site. Once the root directory has been set, click OK to create the site.

Note: When building a site, TopStyle will only include files that match the document extensions shown on the File Extensions page in TopStyle's Options (F8).

After the site has been built, you'll be presented with TopStyle's site summary view. Site summary shows details about your site from a style-based point of view, giving you information such as how many style sheets are used in your site, what HTML documents use them, which HTML documents contain *broken* style links, etc.

# Where to Go from Here

That's it - you've completed the TopStyle tutorial! You've learned to use many of TopStyle's key features, and hopefully you've learned more about style sheets, too. If you'd like to experiment further with style sheets, try working with the samples located in TopStyle's `\Samples` folder. In particular, we recommend familiarizing yourself with the style checker to gain a better understanding of both the capabilities and limitations of current CSS implementations.

Use the search function in this help window when you need more information about a specific TopStyle feature.

If you'd like to learn more about style sheets, check out our list of external CSS