

SUPPORTING MIDDLE-OUT IN CSS

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LONDON WEB STANDARDS

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MEDIA QUERIES

Tailor CSS to specific ranges of output devices without changing HTML.

Most common usage is for viewport *width*:

- *min-width*
- *max-width*

MEDIA QUERY STRATEGIES

Used to keep media queries in our control.

Coherent and expectable.

Model your breakpoints around your content (images, figures, tables, etc.) rather than around specific devices or browsers.

Mobile First:

```
@media (min-width: 600px) { ... }
```

“When the browser width is *at least* 600 pixels wide, apply ‘these’ styles.”

MOBILE FIRST EXAMPLE - CSS

```
.column {  
  width: 100%;  
}  
  
@media (min-width: 500px) {  
  .column {  
    width: 50%;  
  }  
}  
  
@media (min-width: 800px) {  
  .column {  
    width: 25%;  
  }  
}
```

PERFORMANCE

Is there a performance impact from writing poor media queries?

Not really.

Compared to a beefy Javascript framework or a couple of images?

Bottom line is file size.

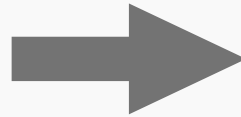
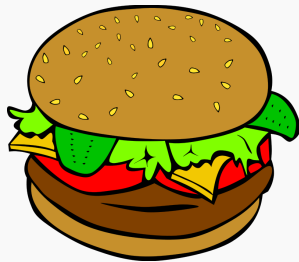
Then why bother writing intelligent media queries?

What benefits are there?

Let's look at an example:

NAVIGATION TOGGLE EXAMPLE

Small screens



Large screens

Toggle Navigation

NAVIGATION TOGGLE EXAMPLE - HTML

```
<button class="toggle-navigation-button">  
  <span>Toggle Navigation</span>  
</button>
```

```
<nav>  
  ...  
</nav>
```

NAVIGATION TOGGLE EXAMPLE - CSS

```
.toggle-navigation-button {
  display: inline-block;
  background-image: url("hamburger.png");
  width: 40px;
  height: 40px;
}

.toggle-navigation-button span {
  display: none;
}

@media (min-width: 800px) {
  .toggle-navigation-button {
    background-image: none;
    width: auto;
    height: auto;
  }

  .toggle-navigation-button span {
    display: inline;
  }
}
```


PROBLEMS WITH THIS CSS

Resetting and unsetting of styles

- resetting the *display* property of the *span* element
- unsetting the *background-image* property of the *button* element
- resetting the *width* and *height* properties of the *button* element

Reading through the CSS paints a muddy picture of what's being described.

Let's try to clean it up and make it more succinct.

NAVIGATION TOGGLE EXAMPLE - CSS IMPROVED?

```
.toggle-navigation-button {
  display: inline-block;
}

@media (min-width: 800px) {
  .toggle-navigation-button {
    border: 2px solid black;
  }
}

@media (max-width: 799px) {
  .toggle-navigation-button span {
    display: none;
  }

  .toggle-navigation-button {
    background-image: url("hamburger.png");
    width: 40px;
    height: 40px;
  }
}
```

SO WHO BENEFITS?

When the end-result of our CSS is the same as far as the end-user is concerned, **we benefit**.

Consider describing the two approaches to the same CSS styles out loud, as you might scan it in your head.

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    background-image: url("hamburger.png");
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    height: 40px;
  }
}
```

TAKEAWAYS

Use a strategy to keep your media queries under control and consistent.

Avoid resetting or unsetting styles.

Writing coherent and understandable CSS:

- makes for a stronger codebase
- helps your teams
- helps newcomers
- helps *you*

A photograph of a man with long hair, wearing a dark jacket, playing a piano in a grand, ornate room. The room features patterned wallpaper, a bust on the wall, and a large potted plant. The lighting is warm and focused on the piano player.

THANKS!

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