THE LITTLE BOOK OF LITTLE BOOKS

"so wow, much 2015"

· HTML AND CSS FRAMEWORKS ·
· CODING GUIDELINES ·
· QUALITY CONTROL ·

JENS OLIVER MEIERT

The Little Book of Little Books

HTML and CSS Frameworks, Coding Guidelines, Quality Control

Jens Oliver Meiert

This book is available at http://leanpub.com/little-books

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Introduction

This is one little book containing three little books: one about HTML/CSS frameworks, one about HTML/CSS coding guidelines, and one about website quality control.

These books have all been published before, in 2015 and 2016, by the same author (me, Jens), but with a different publisher, O'Reilly. You can still access the originals: *The Little Book of HTML/CSS Frameworks*, *The Little Book of HTML/CSS Coding Guidelines*, and *The Little Book of Website Quality Control*.

But just as O'Reilly was so kind to allow me to publish a German translation of *The Little Book of HTML/CSS Frameworks* back in 2019, they now also allowed me to re-publish these books on my own. I asked about this because I like to maintain books, to keep them alive for a little while, and the three little books in question had been aging.

This *Little Book of Little Books* does not mean new editions of the three books. For a start, it's much the same content as before. (That's why the cover proudly points back to 2015.) But in the spirit of keeping books alive, there were some improvements: All links should again be working (though some, if linking to the Internet Archive wasn't useful, had to be removed), some wording was made clearer, and my editor and I applied a bit of polish (thank you, Kirsty). There has been one regression: For this combined edition, I left out the forewords, by the venerable Eric A. Meyer, Lindsey Simon, and Kevin Khaw. I did so because this version is these books' afterlife, something we didn't take into account when we worked on the original editions.

When I say "start" I cannot yet promise where the journey goes. I'm likely to improve this three-in-one book further, and maintain it as mentioned. (On some platforms where you get this book you're able to download updated versions, if not receive them automatically.) What's likely is that at some point, I'll rewrite and republish one, two, or all three of the *Little Books*. I admit that I hadn't done my best with *The Little Book of Website Quality Control*, which has turned into a badly aging (though now improved) replica of UITest.com. On the other hand I believe that *The Little Book of HTML/CSS Frameworks* is an underrated book on the topic of frameworks that deserves sustenance and additional pages.

With all three books it shows that they were written years ago. *The Little Book of HTML/CSS Frameworks* was written during a time when frameworks were used by linking to their style sheets; *The Little Book of HTML/CSS Coding Guidelines* was written when there was little tooling to format code automatically; and *The Little Book of Website Quality Control* was written when there were few automated testing options.

Yet while the world of web development has moved on, I like to offer the following view: What has changed the most are our technical standards (and their features), as well as our tooling. When you look at the craft, however, not that much is different. And here, from a craft point of view, you may find the most value in this book.

—Jens

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General

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Use UTF-8 (No Byte Order Mark)

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Indent by One Tab

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Use Only Lowercase

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Remove Trailing Whitespace

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Use HTML According to Purpose

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Provide Alternative Contents for Multimedia

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Separate Structure From Presentation From Behavior

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Do Not Use Entity References

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Omit Optional Tags

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Omit `type` Attributes for Style Sheets and Scripts

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Use a New Line for Every Block, List, or Table Element, and Indent Every Such Child Element

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When Quoting Attribute Values, Use Double Quotation Marks

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CSS

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Use Valid CSS Where Possible

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Avoid User Agent Detection and CSS "Hacks"

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Use Functional or Generic ID and Class Names

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Use ID and Class Names that Are as Short as Possible but as Long as Necessary

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Prefix Selectors With an Application-Specific Prefix Where Safer

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Use Shorthand Properties Where Possible

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Omit Units After `0` Values

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Omit Leading `0`s in Values

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Use Three-Character Hexadecimal Notation Where Possible

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Separate Words in ID and Class Names by a Hyphen

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Alphabetize Declarations

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Indent All Block Content

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Use a Semicolon After Every Declaration

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Use a Space After a Property Name's Colon

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Use a Space Between the Last Selector and the Declaration Block

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Separate Selectors and Declarations by New Lines

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Separate Rules by New Lines

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Use Single Quotation Marks for Attribute Selectors and Property Values

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About the Author

Jens Oliver Meiert is an engineering lead and author. He's an expert in web development, specializing in HTML and CSS optimization as well as long-term code quality and maintainability. Jens contributes to technical standards and regularly writes about his work and research, particularly on his website, meiert.com.

Other titles by Jens Oliver Meiert:

Upgrade Your HTML (2019–2024)

> The *Upgrade Your HTML* series is about one thing: Picking examples of HTML in the wild, and explaining how to make that code better. Kindly. Constructively. Thoroughly, as finding a balance between detail and brevity permits.

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The Web Development Glossary 3K (2023)

> What is a BHO? CQRS? An EMD? What is Goanna? Hooking? Sharding? How about dynamic color, the phoenix server pattern, or the rules of ARIA? Covering more than 3,000 terms and concepts, and including explanations from Wikipedia and MDN Web Docs, *The Web Development Glossary 3K* provides an overview of web development unlike any other book or site.

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CSS Optimization Basics (2018)

> Are you unsure about your style sheets' quality, or whether you've maxed out your options? *CSS Optimization Basics* covers the necessary mindsets, discusses the main optimization methods, and presents useful resources to write higher-quality CSS.

Available at Amazon, Apple Books, Kobo, Google Play Books, and Leanpub.

On Web Development (2015)

> *On Web Development* bundles 134 articles and the last 11 years of technical writings by Jens Oliver Meiert (meiert.com). Freshly reordered and commented, the articles cover processes and maintenance, HTML and CSS, standards, as well as development and design in general; they include coding basics and principles, carefully scathing criticism, and tips and tricks and trivia.

Available at Amazon.

The Little Book of HTML/CSS Frameworks (2015)

> With the speed of web development today, it's little wonder that so many frameworks are available, since they come with a promise of saving development and design time. But using the wrong framework, or wrongly using the right framework, can be costly. This concise book shares higher-level ideas around web development frameworks that govern HTML and CSS code, whether you're looking at an external option or planning to build your own.

Available at O'Reilly.

About *The Little Book of Little Books*

Written and published by Jens Oliver Meiert, Apartado de correos 3, 36070 Pontevedra, Spain.

Editor: Kirsty MacRae

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