

The CSSSave package

Extending the built-in HTMLSave function with style sheets

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With the definition [2, 3] of Cascading Style Sheets (CSS in short), the markup language HTML - ubiquitous as the markup language of the WWW - has turned from a pure markup language for providing simple information into a tool for presenting that very information in an optically styled, consistent manner.

Mathematica also provides similar features through its Style Sheets, which contain style definitions such as fonts, colors, spacings, etc. Mathematica also provides an export function (`HTMLSave`, available through the menu item "File - Save as Special... - HTML") to convert notebooks into HTML pages, however this export function does not make use of cascading style sheets.

I present a package called CSSSave [1], which extends this internal `HTMLSave` function to make use of Cascading Style Sheets to let the converted HTML pages look exactly like the Mathematica notebooks. The style definitions from the Mathematica Style Sheet are converted into a `.css` file, which is then referenced by the actual html page and used by the web browser when viewing the html page. After this style conversion, the built-in `HTMLSave` function is used with several options to convert the notebook itself to html.

Using the CSSSave package, I will show how one can extend the built-in functionality of Mathematica in a very simple way (for both the developer and the Mathematica user), and automatically integrate the new functionality into the application.

References

- [1] R. Kainhofer. CSSSave package. Homepage: <http://csssave.sourceforge.net/>.
- [2] W3 Consortium. Cascading Style Sheets, level 1. Published online: <http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS1>, 17 Dec 1996, revised 11 Jan 1999.
- [3] W3 Consortium. Cascading Style Sheets, level 2, CSS2 Specification. Published online: <http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2>, May 1998.

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