“Like Netscape 4 in 2000, IE6 is perceived to be holding back the web.”
- Jeffrey Zeldman
Why users couldn’t (and still can’t) upgrade

- Corporate and government systems are locked down to prevent upgrades or new installs
- Old operating systems on old hardware may not have better upgrade options, or may just be so buggy that software won’t install
- Some users are just uncomfortable with switching or upgrading their browser without a lot of hand-holding
By the numbers...

Omniture SiteCatalyst currently reports **19.4%**

Net Applications Market Share reported **16.94%** for May 2009
Support?!?

“SUPPORT DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERYBODY GETS THE SAME THING.”

Yahoo! graded browser support
http://developer.yahoo.com/yui/articles/gbs/
Tricking users? Not a good idea.

IE6 Update

Help kill Internet Explorer 6

IE6 is like an illness that just won't go away, but we have the medicine.

IE6 Update looks like IE's Information Bar, but instead of offering your visitors an ActiveX plugin, it offers a browser update.

Click here to see a demo! - Read the blog post.

http://www.ie6update.com/
Adding an anti-IE6 badge to your site? No.

http://www.bringdownie6.com/
Giving users a bare-bones experience? Nah.

Demonstration file for Universal Internet Explorer 6 stylesheet.

- Our masterclasses & upcoming dates
- Read reviews of past workshops & events
- Articles about web design on And All That Malarkey
- Get in touch with Stuff & Nonsense

For A Beautiful Web

Have you ever wanted web design & development workshops to be a bit more, well, creative?

The brightest star guest speakers, the industry's most up-to-date information in a workshop atmosphere that makes learning creative. Say hello to For A Beautiful Web design workshops.

Masterclasses in 2009

We'll be back in Summer 2009 with all new master-class workshops including, Advanced Styling with CSS, Building design on Microformats and Designing Web Accessibility. Until then,
What do the big sites do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yahoo!</td>
<td>Delivers an alternate page for IE6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOL</td>
<td>Aims for the same experience in IE6: Uses server-side scripts to add browser-specific class names in the markup, which trigger CSS rules with the browser-specific selectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSN</td>
<td>Aims for the same experience in IE6: Uses conditional comments to load an IE style sheet as well as an IE6-specific style sheet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNN</td>
<td>Aims for the same experience in IE6: Calls the same CSS files for all browsers but targets IE6 with the * html hack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>Aims for the same experience in IE6: Calls the same CSS files for all browsers but targets IE6 with the _property hack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get Firefox</td>
<td>Delivers an alternate page for IE6.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Only home pages were reviewed. Other pages in these sites may vary.*
EOL messaging is becoming more popular
To create a good user experience in IE6:

1. Determine what level of support you are going to give.
2. Decide which factors will influence when support for IE6 will end.
3. Document a technical strategy: cover coding techniques for IE6 now and the process for removing code after you no longer support it.
4. Inform the user before and after things change!
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4. Inform the user before and after things change!
# CSS coding approaches for IE6

## Conditional comments to call IE-specific style sheet
- Ensures IE-only delivery
- Requires an extra HTTP request
- All CSS should still validate
- May be difficult to manage on a large site

## Hacks added in to existing style sheet
- No extra HTTP request
- CSS will probably not validate
- Fairly well tested, reliable
- Code may get messy, if not managed
### CSS coding approaches for IE6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditional comments to call IE-specific style sheet</th>
<th>Hacks added in to existing style sheet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Single declaration hacks:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;!--[if lt IE 7]&gt;</td>
<td>selector {</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;link rel=&quot;stylesheet&quot; &gt;</td>
<td>property: value;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;![endif]--&gt;</td>
<td>*property: value;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specify the version:</strong></td>
<td>_property: value;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- [if IE] or [if IE#]</td>
<td>}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- [if lt IE#]</td>
<td><strong>Separate rules:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- [if lte IE#]</td>
<td>selector {...}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>html&gt;body selector {...}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* html {}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most common IE6 CSS fixes

You just might get used to typing these automatically...

Read more at Position is Everything
http://www.positioniseverything.net/

- To fix float-clearing overflow:
  height: 1%

- To fix margins on floats with margins > 0:
  display: inline

- To fix layering issues triggered by use of relative positioning:
  position: static

- To add layout to an element that doesn’t have layout:
  zoom: 1
Fixing IE6 with JavaScript

- **Dean Edwards’ IE-7**
  - Adds selector support, box model and overflow fixes, PNG alpha transparency, and more
  - **Insert this code:**
    ```html
    <!--[if lt IE 7]>
    <script type="text/javascript" src="http://ie7-js.googlecode.com/svn/version/2.0(beta3)/IE7.js"></script>
    <![endif]-->
    ```
  - **More information:** [http://code.google.com/p/ie7-js/](http://code.google.com/p/ie7-js/)
IE Developer Toolbar

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WITH THESE TIPS, I HOPE THAT IE6 NO LONGER HOLDS YOU BACK FROM CREATING GREAT WEB SITES.
CSS & Troubleshooting IE6

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