

CSS & Troubleshooting IE6



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*“Like Netscape 4 in 2000, IE6 is
perceived to be holding back the web.”
- Jeffrey Zeldman*



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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

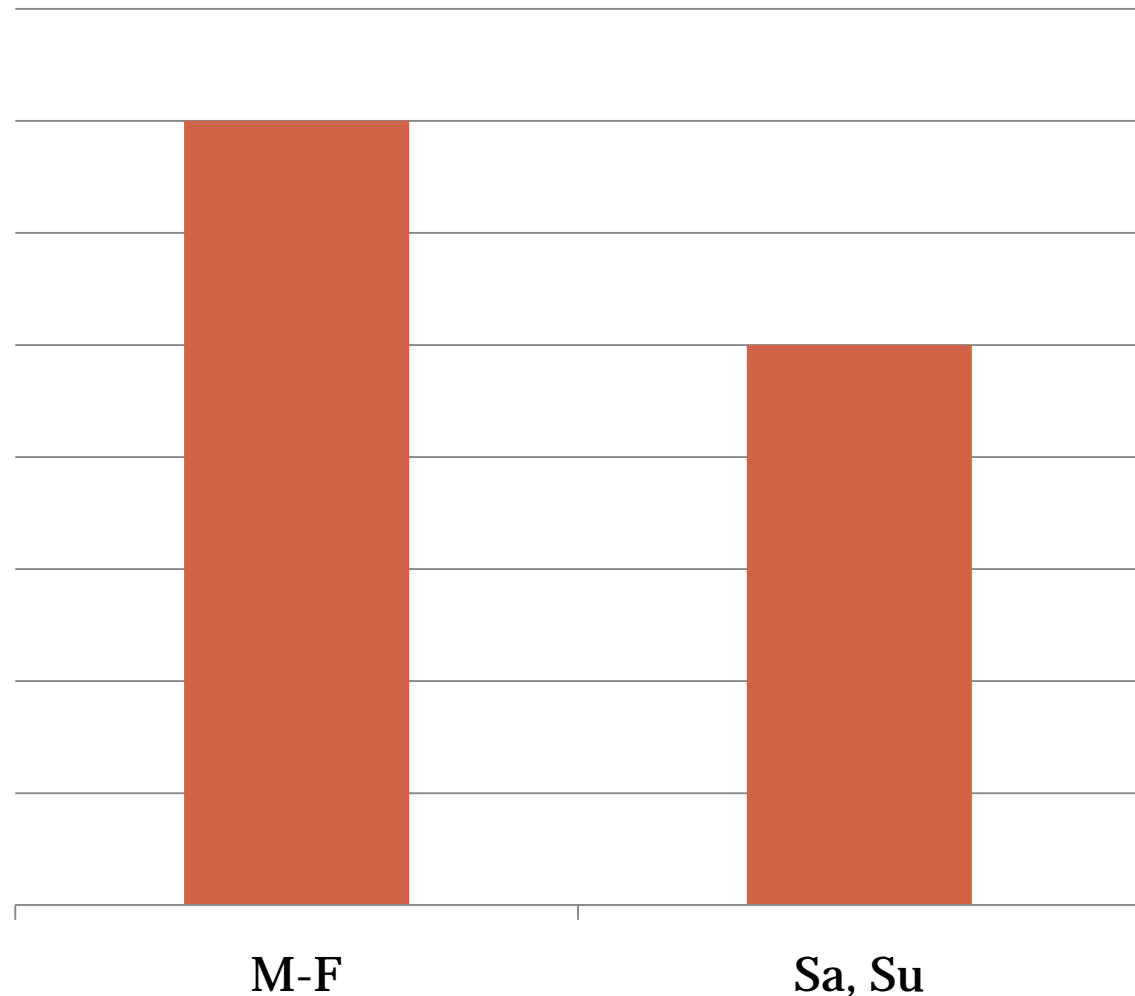


By the numbers...

Omniure
SiteCatalyst
currently reports
19.4%

Net Applications
Market Share
reported
16.94% for
May 2009

IE6 Weekday vs. Weekend Usage



Support?!?



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

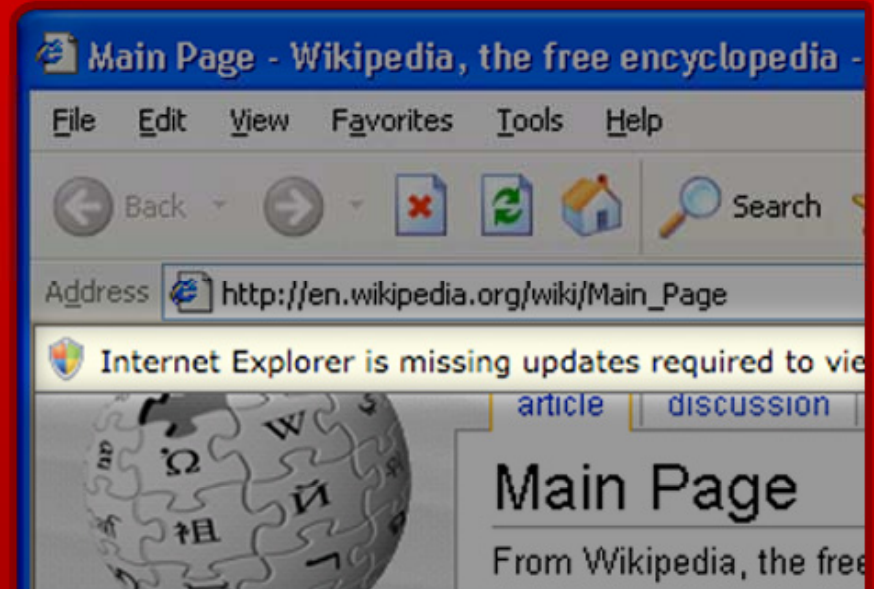
:Done21

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.



Discover the mission

The premise is simple: Internet Explorer 6 is antiquated, doesn't support key web standards, and should be phased out. This isn't about being anti-Microsoft, it's about Microsoft's lack of development in the browser market. With IE7/8 not available for Windows 2000, IE6 accounts for up to 20% of web usage, primarily via business users. Clients pressure designers to 'force' sites to work in IE6, and designers, not wanting

Read the article

In our article, '[Calling time on IE6](#)', we ask designers and developers if it's finally time to take IE6 behind the shed and shoot it. Major names in the web industry debate our mission, talking about the pros and cons behind dumping IE6. How feasible is it to shun the browser entirely? What can you do to minimise the impact IE6 has on you and your clients (and increasingly tight budgets)? And what can and should

Get involved

[Put our logo on your site](#) and then [link to this site](#). [Follow us on Twitter](#).

Educate your colleagues, users and clients regarding calling time on IE6.

Ensure sites work in IE6, but don't waste a lot of time fixing non-critical issues.

Provide an upgrade notice for IE6 users—see this site's source code.

<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](#)

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[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,

http://www.forabeautifulweb.com/blog/about/universal_internet_explorer_6_css/

What do the big sites do?



Yahoo!	Delivers an alternate page for IE6.
AOL	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.
MSN	Aims for the same experience in IE6: Uses conditional comments to load an IE style sheet as well as an IE6-specific style sheet.
CNN	Aims for the same experience in IE6: Calls the same CSS files for all browsers but targets IE6 with the <code>* html</code> hack.
Apple	Aims for the same experience in IE6: Calls the same CSS files for all browsers but targets IE6 with the <code>_property</code> hack.
Get Firefox	Delivers an alternate page for IE6.

**Note: Only home pages were reviewed. Other pages in these sites may vary.*

EOL messaging is becoming more popular



The image shows two screenshots of the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. The top screenshot is of the YouTube homepage. A red dashed box highlights a message: "We will be phasing out support for your browser soon. Please upgrade to one of these more modern browsers." Below this message are three buttons: "Firefox 3.5", "Google chrome", and "Internet Explorer 8". The bottom screenshot is of the Facebook homepage. A red dashed box highlights a message: "You may want to upgrade your browser." followed by a "close" link. Below the message is the text: "You're using an old version of Internet Explorer to browse Facebook right now. Facebook will work better for you if you upgrade or switch to another browser." and a list of options: "Upgrade to Internet Explorer 8", "Switch to Firefox", "Switch to Safari", and "Switch to Flock".

YouTube - Broadcast Yourself. - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Refresh Print Mail News RSS Feeds

Address <http://www.youtube.com/> Go Links >>

You Tube Broadcast Yourself™ Worldwide English Sign Up QuickList (0) Help Sign In

Home Videos Shows Channels Community Search Upload

We will be phasing out support for your browser soon. Please upgrade to one of these more modern browsers.

Firefox 3.5 Google chrome Internet Explorer 8

Facebook | Home - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Refresh Print Mail News RSS Feeds

Address <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?>

facebook Home Profile Friends Inbox 5 Kimberly Blessing Se

You may want to upgrade your browser. close

You're using an old version of Internet Explorer to browse Facebook right now. Facebook will work better for you if you upgrade or switch to another browser.

- Upgrade to Internet Explorer 8
- Switch to Firefox
- Switch to Safari
- Switch to Flock

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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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!

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



Conditional comments to call IE-specific style sheet

- **Example:**

```
<!--[if lt IE 7]>  
<link rel="stylesheet" >  
<![endif]-->
```

- **Specify the version:**

- [if IE] or [if IE#]
- [if lt IE#]
- [if lte IE#]

Hacks added in to existing style sheet

- **Single declaration hacks:**

```
selector {  
    property: value;  
    *property: value;  
    _property: value;  
}
```

- **Separate rules:**

```
selector {...}  
html>body selector {...}  
  
* html {}
```



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:**

```
<!--[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/>

IE Developer Toolbar



The screenshot displays the IE Developer Toolbar interface. On the left, the DOM tree shows the following structure:

- <HTML>
 - <HEAD>
 - <BODY class=theme-c0>
 - #comment
 - <SCRIPT>
 - <DIV id=container>
 - <DIV id=topbar>
 - <DIV id=shell>
 - <DIV id=scripts>

The selected node is <SCRIPT>. The attribute table shows:

Name	Value
type	text/javascript

The current style table shows:

Property	Current Value
font-family	arial,verdana,sans-serif
font-size	12px
line-height	13.5pt

At the bottom, there are two checkboxes: Show Read-Only Properties and Show Default Style Values.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=E59C3964-672D-4511-BB3E-2D5E1DB91038&displaylang=en>

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



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