

Lesson 2-9: Use the CSS Properties window

note

Other common CSS properties

In this session you learn how to modify text and background colors.

Other common CSS properties are:

font-family

Used to select the fonts used by text.

display

Used to change how the element is displayed. Most often used to hide elements by setting to *none*.

position

Used to change how the element is positioned on the page.

top and left

Used to set an element's position, depending on how the *position* property is set.

text-align

Used to align text and nested elements to the left, right, center, etc.

vertical-align

Used to set how text and nested elements are aligned vertically.

padding

Adds space to the inside of the element.

margin

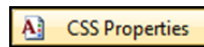
Adds space to the outside of the element.

To make it easier to work with CSS, Visual Studio provides the *CSS Properties* window.

By using it in *Design* view, you can very easily create and modify CSS styles.

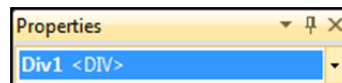
- 1 Open *HTMLTest* from your sample files folder.
- 2 Open *csstest.aspx* in *Design* view.
- 3 Display the *CSS Properties* window.

Click View → CSS Properties.

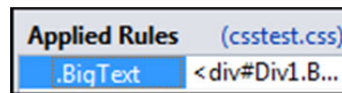


- 4 Modify the *BigText* style using the *CSS Properties* window.

1. Select *Div1* using the drop-down menu in the *Properties* window (the normal *Properties* window, not the *CSS Properties* window).



You'll see that the *.BigText* style you created in *Lesson 2-8: Work with CSS* is shown in the *Applied Rules* box at the top of the *CSS Properties* window. It also shows that *BigText* comes from the file *csstest.css*.

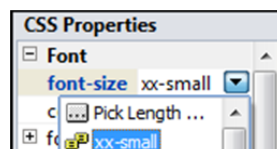


Towards the top of the *CSS Properties* list, you can see the *font-size* property, which is part of the *.BigText* CSS class.



Beneath *font-size*, you'll see a complete list of the CSS properties that are available. You can use the *CSS Properties* window to set them just like you set properties in the *Properties* window.

2. Using the drop-down menu in *CSS Properties*, change the *font-size* from *xx-large* to *xx-small*.



You'll see the change happen immediately in the *Design* panel.

note

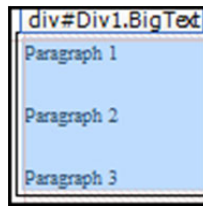
CSS 3

At the time of writing CSS has had 3 versions, but Visual Studio's list of CSS properties is only complete up to CSS version 2.

CSS version 2 is almost universally supported by modern web browsers, while support for CSS 3 is very inconsistent.

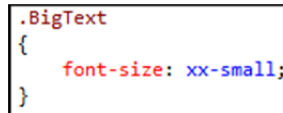
You can still use CSS 3 properties in Visual Studio, but you will have to type them into your CSS files manually and Visual Studio may mark them with warnings as it does not recognize them as valid CSS.

CSS 3 properties will probably be added to Visual Studio when web browser support for them improves.



- Open *csstest.css* from the *styles* folder.

You'll see that the *.BigText* class has been automatically changed.



5 Add a new style using the CSS Properties window.

- Open *csstest.aspx* in Design view.
- Select *Div1* using the drop-down menu in the *Properties* window (if it isn't selected already).
- Either**

Clear the *Class* property in the *Properties* window.

Or

Right-click on *.BigText* in the *Applied Rules* section of the *CSS Properties* window and then click *Remove Class* from the shortcut menu.

This removes the reference to *.BigText* from *Div1*. You'll see the text return to its normal size except for the first line.

- Right-click in the *Applied Rules* box in the *CSS Properties* window and then click *New Style...* from the shortcut menu.
- The *New Style* dialog will appear.
- Enter **.RedText** into the *Selector* box (be careful not to enter two dots by mistake as the dialog doesn't select the existing dot).

This is the name of your new CSS class, which will work in exactly the same way as the *BigText* class you created in: *Lesson 2-8: Work with CSS*.

- Choose *Existing style sheet* from the *Define in* drop-down.

This tells the dialog that you want to create your style in an existing *.css* file instead of creating another one or creating an inline style.

- Choose *styles/csstest.css* from the *URL* drop-down.
- Choose *Red* from the *color* drop-down.
- Click *OK*.

You'll see that the text in *Div1* is now displayed in red.

- Open *csstest.css*.

You'll see that a new *.RedText* class has been automatically created through the dialog.

