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Short format lecture on media queries in Web Design

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CSS Media Queries

week 4

media queries

Media queries are conditional CSS directives. We can use them to detect and decide what CSS rules will apply to our site depending on the size of the user's browsing window or device. This is a key technique in creating responsive design sites.

Media queries can be used in 2 ways.
- As CSS rules applied inside on one master style sheet
- As separate external style sheets based on browser width

example media queries

```
/* First define mobile values (for smallest screens) */

/* Larger than mobile */
@media (min-width: 400px) {

}

/* Larger than phablet (also point when grid becomes active in skeleton framework) */
@media (min-width: 550px) {

}

/* Larger than tablet */
@media (min-width: 750px) {

}

/* Larger than desktop */
@media (min-width: 1000px) {

}

/* Larger than Desktop HD */
@media (min-width: 1200px) {

}
```

using multiple style sheets

Another way to employ media queries is to use different style sheets depending on the size of the viewers screen. In this method, you simply add multiple links for the stylesheets and the conditions for each one.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" media="screen and (max-width: 600px)" href="small.css" />
```
• This would be for any window size under 600px wide

```
<link rel="stylesheet" media="screen and (min-width: 600px)" href="large.css" />
```
• This would be for any window size over 600px wide

The designer would create 2 separate style sheets (large.css and small.css) that would provide the appropriate layouts for these sizes.

style sheets for print

There is another advantage to using media queries - creating a print friendly layout for a site.
The print friendly version of the css is implemented like this:
<link rel="stylesheet" media="print" href="print.css" />

note that the designer would have created an additional stylesheet that formats text and images in a way that would be ideal for printing.

media query recommendation

The easiest way to start with media queries is to stick with using min-width:

/* style selectors and rules */

@media (min-width: 768px){
    /* style selectors and rules for medium devices / windows */
}

@media (min-width: 1024){
    /* style selectors and rules for bigger devices / windows */
}

The way to read the sequence above is:
A) style rules for mobile (mobile first!) and also rules that will be shared
B) CSS overrides for medium devices/windows, and/or additional styles
C) CSS overrides for large devices/windows, and/or additional styles