

Re: Speaking of fonts...

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 - *Date:* Mon, 10 Jul 2006 08:04:04 +0930
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jdow:

Check out HTML. If you study it a bit you'll notice that it handles specifying sizes in pixels but is pathetic for sizes in centimeters or inches. For one there's little or no implied handling for resizing images in inches rather than in pixels.

I'm quite familiar with HTML, and CSS. They have an idea that pixels aren't pixels, though still called the same, they'll be scaled as the original poster brought up in the first message. The trouble is, the idea isn't applied consistently (one person thinks pixels means pixels, another thinks it means scaled to suit the situation). If someone wants to bring about another font sizing scheme, then give the bloody thing a new name. We're going right down the same potholed street caused by abusing KILO into 1024 (same name, different purpose, and used inconsistently).

Taking CSS into account, it does actually provide what you bring up, absolute sizes. You can have a style sheet for a page that makes text so-many pixels, points, or multiples of the normal body text font size on the screen, yet when printing can also include real world sizes (inches, etc.). Though it still leaves us with the mess of "new pixels".

It could be possible to specify something like 2cm text on screen, but that'd require screens to be set up properly, and it overlooks the usability issue. The current, redefined meaning for pixels in CSS removed the one useful aspect to having pixel based font sizing; making text sizing relative to some graphical element.

It's **generally** suitable for an author to set a page to print at 12 points, and that is the usual font size for most typed documents. It's rarely practical to let an author specify screen font sizes, because everyone has different needs, and displays have different capabilities.

In a lot of ways, I wish font sizing was never introduced to HTML. If they'd been restricted to special elements that could do some resizing (banners, titles, some emphasis), but not be able to change the general

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body text (be it in paragraphs, lists, tables, etc.), we'd be a lot better off. We wouldn't have to be coping with 8 pixel text. :-\

Though, I expect midget text is going to have to disappear over the next few years. CRTs are capable of