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HTML5 is rapidly becoming a typical when front-end coding is concerned. If you are a web developer then you would certainly be required to know how to code HTML5 websites. Valuebound has years of experience in developing hundreds of websites. And from the years of HTML5 coding, we have assembled this list of some of our favorite best practices, with the thought that it might be as useful and benefit you as well.

1. Using a generator

While building a website, you frequently start with a base template that you customize to fit your requirements. Rather than writing all of your HTML5 code right from ground up, you can actually get to save some time by using one of those very useful online HTML5 generators. Using them is quite easy. All you need to do is to fill a basic form to set up the desired options, then you click on a button and a basic HTML5 template is available for you to use.

There are a number of HTML5 generators, but if you ask our favorites, then they are SwitchToHTML5 and Shikiryu generator, because they have more options.

In case you would like to have a ready to use template, then you would surely like the HTML5 Boilerplate.

2. Using a cheat sheet

New additions and changes to HTML5 are a pretty common occurrence, and thus, it can become hard to remember all the new various features. For this purpose, one of the best tools to keep handy on HTML5 tags and property is the up to date cheat sheets, created by InMotion Hosting.

The cheat sheets are broken up into three easy to print images; i.e. Tags, Event Handler Content Attributes and Browser Support.

All three cheat sheets can be downloaded here.

3. Handling compatibility issues carefully

HTML5 is a fresh and new technology. You can choose to use it right now; however, you have to remember that several specifications have not been implemented in some browsers.

Can I Use.com is a useful website that is worth of being in your bookmarks if you're coding HTML5 websites. It is the most helpful tool to quickly know if an element is supported by a specific browser. CanIUse.com also contains compatibility charts for CSS3, SVG and JavaScript.

4. Enabling HTML5 on older versions of IE

Internet Explorer has always been a trouble spot for the web developers and designers. Most of you certainly remember that in 2006 or 2007 we had to spend a lot of time to get things working (almost) correctly on IE6. It's true that IE's newer versions are a lot better than what IE used to be, but the developer nightmare is not yet over. In fact remains that IE 8 and below don't understand HTML5 at all.

Hereâ€™s the good news - a small script allows you to enable HTML5 on IE 8 and older versions as well. Using this script is quite easy. Simply paste the following code in the `<head>` section of your HTML5 document:

A yet another very useful tool worth mentioning is Modernizr, a complete JavaScript library that allows you to build HTML5 website that works perfectly in all browsers.

Using Modernizr is also pretty simple. Just go to the page of Modernizr to specify which HTML5/CSS3 properties you have chosen to use, then download the generated script. Include it in the `<script>` section of your document, and youâ€™re ready to go. Modernizr will detect which features can be used in the client browser and will add classes to the `<html>` tag. If a feature is supported by the browser, that feature is added by name as a class to the tag. And if the feature is not supported, then the class is added and prepended with `no-`.

5. Using elements correctly

Earlier to HTML5, we used to code websites using lots of `<div>` elements. The biggest problem that we faced with this technique is that the source code can quickly become hard to read. This is why HTML5 has introduced new tags to be used rather than the good old `<div>`.

HTML5â€™s new tags include `<header>`, `<footer>`, `<article>`, `<section>`, `<aside>`, `<nav>`, etc. A basic, but semantically correct HTML5 document should look like the following:

...

...

...

6. Validating your code

After coding a page in HTML5, the quickest and most well-organized way to ensure that your code is semantically correct is undeniably by validating it. The first-rate W3C validator can effectively validate your HTML5 pages and indicate you of your mistakes. This is certainly a very helpful tool for quality check.

Hope that you find these points helpful for your own use case as well. Good luck!

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