

# CSS Word Cloud

**Web patterns:** separation of concerns, DRY, high cohesion

A [word cloud](#) is a visual representation of textual data, usually related to the frequency of the occurrence of a term, the term's recency, or some other importance metric. A word cloud provides a succinct visual summary of potentially large amounts of aggregate data. In this exercise, you will use CSS to format a word cloud that I created for my UWG Web site.

1. Begin by downloading today's assignment package and extracting the contents.
2. Initialize a new Mercurial repository in the folder you created.
3. Create an empty text file called `cloud.css`.
4. Add the CSS and the HTML files to the project and perform the initial commit.
5. Open `cloud.html` in your Web browser. Notice that our "cloud" is just a long string of words in alphabetical order. Normally, a word cloud uses font size, color, or distance to represent the importance of terms; at the moment, our cloud tells us nothing about which words are important.
6. Open `cloud.html` in your text editor. Observe that each word in the cloud is surrounded by an XHTML `span` element and that the entire cloud is contained in a `div`. These elements give us access to the content of the document from our CSS enabling us to apply styles at various levels. Also notice that each term is in a `class`, `cloud-#`, where `#` is the importance of the term, 0 being the least important and 5 being most important in this cloud.
7. Link the stylesheet to the XHTML document. **THIS IS THE ONLY CHANGE YOU SHOULD MAKE TO THE XHTML!** In the CSS file, add a border around the cloud to make sure your stylesheet is properly linked.
8. Save and commit your work.
9. Next, change the font size of the cloud's words so that the most important words (5) are the largest and the least important words (0) are the smallest. You may have to play with the sizes a bit to find a harmonious balance.
10. Save and commit your work.
11. Use CSS to manipulate the whole cloud:
  - change the width of the cloud to something less than the size of the whole page
  - justify the text inside the cloud
  - adjust the cloud's margins and padding
  - center the cloud on the page
12. see if you can come up with other ideas for ways to style your cloud; for example, here is my (potentially) finished version:

