

EGEE User Information Group

Document Style

Here are my comments on the example pages on the UIG site:

Overall, I find the style of Andrea's page the most readable, but it is rather longer than we had originally suggested would be appropriate for the UIG pages. I think Stephen's page is about the right length, but not quite so readable. Perhaps we could compromise by subdividing the pages into sections, or taking the examples out of the page itself and having them linked to the main page. We could work on Andrea's revised list of headings on the Wiki page to try to ensure that each heading is capable of being covered in two or three screens at most.

On the subject of graphics, I like the appearance of the page header, although, for some reason, the top margin seems to have grown since the EGEE06 conference. The graphic elements and colours are all taken from the "official" set approved by NA2. I don't agree with the comment by Cal about too much space being taken up by "branding". I don't think it's excessive, especially since it all disappears on scrolling down. However, I agree with what he says about the HTML4 and W3C icons at the foot of each page. It would be sufficient to have these on the index page only and leave the foot of the other pages "clean".

On the subject of styles, I don't think we need all the ones Alistair has listed - I think three or four should be enough. Some of the styles in the boxes need to have a left margin as the text is too close to the border. Also, some of the colour combinations are not very readable, raising accessibility issues. They might not show up well on a printout either. In a similar vein, I notice that the font sizes have been predefined, so that the "smaller-larger" button on the browser toolbar (at least in IE6) has no effect. This surely doesn't conform to the standard - this is needed in order to cope with resizing the screen for limited-size displays (the graphics bar already resizes automatically).

I notice also that all the heading styles (H1, H2, H3) give the same result - why have more than one, in this case? Also, I see that the `<code>` tag is used in places - this is predefined in HTML 4; is it always going to give an appropriate result if we start playing about with the style-sheets, or should we forbid the use of any styles that are not in the style-sheet itself? (All these questions are open to debate - I am not necessarily for or against any particular choice...)

As for the detailed style "instruction manual", perhaps we can try and evolve some common ideas at our meeting next week?

Brendan Hamill

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