



TF-PR
Prague, Czech Republic
February 2, 2007

CHRISTIAN GIJTENBEEK
Webmaster
gijtenbeek@terena.org
www.terena.org

The TERENA website



Two cornerstones

- › Accessibility
 - › “Access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect” (Tim Berners-Lee, W3C director)
 - › Availability and accessibility of content
- › Usability
 - › The elegance and clarity with which the interaction with a web site is designed



..an evolutionary path

- › Before 1997
 - › HTML 2.0
 - › boring
- › Between 1997-2000
 - › HTML 4.0
 - › Browser wars
 - › confusing
- › 2000 – now
 - › XHTML 1.0
 - › Web Standards
 - › Exciting, and sexy



Web Standards

- › I bought a fridge last week...
- › Standardised best practices
- › So what are the standards for?
 - › Markup, XHTML
 - › Stylesheets, CSS
 - › Javascript
- › Separation



Why use web standards?

- › Reduced markup
- › Separation of content and presentation
- › Improved accessibility
- › Forward compatibility



Three sheets to the (TERENA) Web

- › Structure: XHTML
- › Presentation: CSS
- › Behaviour: Javascript



Structure, XHTML

- › Solid base
- › Semantics
 - › Tags that imply meaning
 - › If you have a list of items, then mark it up as a list
 - › Separation of structure/presentation



Presentation, CSS

- › Can anyone say I ÉÉÉÉÉÉ!!!! ?
 - › The days off CSS hacks are over...
 - › ... use conditional stylesheets

```
<!--[if IE]>
```

```
<link href="/css/base-ie.css" media="screen" />
```

```
<![endif]-->
```



Let's get NAKED!

- › How usable is your website without a design?



Behaviour, Javascript

- › It has a bad Rep...
- › Apply lessons learned from CSS
- › Unobtrusive



Usability has a new friend

- › Ajax
 - › Send/receive data without reloading page
- › Examples...
- › If implemented poorly...
- › Ajax is an accessibility killer



Ajax and Accessibility kissing in a tree

- › Improving usability is your goal
...and Ajax is your new friend
...however Ajax kills Accessibility
...and Accessibility is King
- › How to let Ajax behave nice
- › Progressive Enhancement
 - › Hijack links



So at the end of the day

- › The new TERENA website was build using web standards.
- › Key was availability and accessibility of content
- › This created a future proof/accessible website
- › Usability concerns were solved using Ajax
- › However, always remember that Accessibility is King
- › So progressively enhance!
- › ... don't forget to get NAKED now and then