Elika J. Etemad

2 Crest Lane Warren, NJ 07059

Technical Experience

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) CSS Working Group Invited Expert (2004-present)

Lead standards engineer. Known for superior spec editing skills (technical and editorial) and the ability to drive projects to completion; collaborate across organizational boundaries; design and adjust technical solutions to satisfy myriad requirements and constraints; coordinate discussions and generate consensus; adaptably prioritize projects; communicate clearly by email as well as in person; and maintain well-organized group records. Specialist in layout, typography, and internationalization.

Co-edit a large proportion of the CSSWG specifications, including:

CSS2.1 - Massive revision effort to CSS's foundational standard to align it with real-world implementations.

CSS Writing Modes – Upgraded bidirectional text layout for right-to-left languages to align with improvements to Unicode, and introduced vertical text layout to CSS to accommodate East Asian typesetting.

CSS Flexible Box Layout – Major new layout model for CSS, optimized for flexible 2-dimensional layouts.

CSS Scroll Snap - Reworked (under extreme time pressure) MSFT's proposal to fit CSS's architectural design principles.

CSS Text – Introduced new features for typesetting to accommodate non-Western writing systems.

Selectors – Picked up stalled the Level 3 draft and pushed it through completion.

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Advisory Board Elected Member (2019-2021)

Recruited to improve the W3C Process and help W3C prepare to incorporate as a standalone legal entity.

Co-edited a major update to the W3C Process (essentially, the Constitution for its standardization work) to accommodate continuous development practices, and worked to create a consensus backing for the changes.

Worked with legal counsels of various Member companies to design corresponding updates to the Patent Policy.

- Passed both updates through Advisory Committee review with zero objections, even though it had been asserted earlier that changing the Patent Policy would be impossible.
- Various other Process improvements, including creating a new standards track for Registries; untangling the technical standards and informative document tracks from each other; defining guidelines for tooling to require proper accessibility and archiving; and substantially refactoring the text of the Process document itself for readability.

Improved and organized Advisory Board documentation and recordkeeping.

Mozilla Project Contributor (volunteer 1999-2007, contracted 2007-2011, employed 2011-2013)

QA: bug triage, testcase simplification, standards compliance testing

Coding: layout engine bug fixes and architectural refactoring, specialized in pagination

Independent Contractor (2007-2011, 2013-present)

See above. Clients included Hewlett-Packard, Mozilla, Microsoft, Google, Bloomberg

Languages

Document Languages: Expertise in CSS, (x)HTML; competent in RelaxNG and XML Programming Languages: (in order of competence) C++, Perl, C, Python, Pascal, SPARC Assembly Human Languages: English (native), French (conversational), Farsi (fluent), Japanese (basic), Mandarin (minimal).

Education

Princeton University Class of 2006 BSE Civil and Environmental Engineering Certificate in Applications of Computing Philadelphia University Continuing Studies, 2014-2015 First-year Architecture and Graphic Design

Talks, Non-W3C Publications, & Writings

"Process 2020 Revision" (W3C Advisory Committee Meeting, 2020)
"Designing CSS" (W3C Workshop on Digital Presentation and Layout, 2019)
"about:csswg – An Inside View of the CSS Working Group at W3C" (2011)
"Unicode Technical Note #22: Robust Vertical Text Layout" (Unicode Consortium, 2005)
http://fantasai.inkedblade.net/weblog/2019/designing-css/
http://fantasai.inkedblade.net/weblog/2011/inside-csswg/

References

Contact information provided upon request.

Apple

- David Singer (Apple standards lead, semi-emeritus)
- Jen Simmons (WebKit developer relations and strategy)
- Theresa O'Connor (WebKit standards lead)
- Myles Maxfield (WebKit platform engineer, specialist in fonts and text)

Google

- Tab Atkins-Bittner (Chrome senior standards engineer)
- Chris Wilson (Chrome web standards lead)

Mozilla

- David Baron (former Gecko layout tech lead, now at Google)
- Tantek Çelik (Mozilla standards lead)
- Emilio Cobos Álvarez (Gecko platform engineer)
- Boris Zbarsky (former Gecko superreviewer, now at Apple)

Other

- Eric Siow, Intel (Director, Web Standards and Ecosystem Strategies)
- Florian Rivoal, Rivoal Technology
- Naomi Yoshizawa, W3C (Global Member Relations Lead)
- Greg Whitworth, Salesforce (Director of Application Runtime Teams)
- Léonie Watson, Tetralogical (Founder and Director)
- Tzviya Siegman, Wiley (Information Standards Lead)
- Will Morton, Riot Games (Staff Software Engineer, Services Lead)