

February 2009 Newsletter

If you are receiving this message, it means that I have done work for you in the past, I am doing work for you now, or you have expressed interest regarding me doing work for you in the future. If you would prefer to not receive further emails, please let me know about it.

Being that it is now February, I have sent out invoices to any of you for whom I have done work in January, or for those who have not yet paid for previous months. Please remit your payment when you have a chance.

Terminology – There are occasions when I am speaking with some of you and there are words or expressions where there is some confusion. I would like to introduce a couple of terms now and explain them. Hopefully this will clear up things in the future and if there is ever a time when you do not understand something, please let me know and I will include it here.

Masthead – It is not the true dictionary definition of the word, but this is the name usually given to the banner that displays across the top of a web page.

Hex value – No it doesn't have anything to do with voodoo... It is actually short for hexadecimal and has to do with a specific type of numbering system used in computing. In our normal decimal system, based on 10, you count up with one digit using 1, 2, 3, etc. until you get to 9 and then you go to 2 digits using 10, 11, etc. You don't think about it, but when you have a number like 14 for example, and break it down, it is a combination of a "1" in the "tens" position and a "4" in the "ones" position. When you are counting in hex, which is based on 16, after "9" you use "A". "B", etc until you get to "F" and then you go to "10" which is actually 16 in decimal. It can be confusing, unless you have been dealing with it for a long time like I have. To (hopefully...) clear it up a little, here is the way you count to 33 in hex:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 20, 21

So "A" is the equivalent of 10, "B" is 11, etc. You will need this info later on, so I want to state that the maximum value you can have in 2 digits in decimal is 99 and the maximum you can have in hex is FF, which is 255 in decimal. The way you come to this is as follows: the number 99 is broken down as "9" in the "tens" position, so 9 times 10 is 90, plus "9" in the ones position, so 90 plus 9 is 99. If we break down "FF", you have "F", which is the decimal equivalent of 15 in the "sixteens" position, so 15 times 16 is 240, plus "F" or 15 in the ones position, so 240 plus 15 is 255.

I think perhaps a few more examples would help. Suppose I were to ask you, what are the decimal equivalents of the following numbers: 46, 3B, D9, AE?

46 - 4 times 16 (64) plus 6 times 1 = 70

3B - 3 times 16 (48) plus 11 (the decimal equivalent of B) times 1 = 59

D9 - 13 (the decimal equivalent of D) times 16 (208) plus 9 times 1 = 217

AE - 10 times 16 (160) plus 14 times 1 = 174

Copyright – I have placed copyright notification on a number of your sites and, as we have now moved into 2009, you would normally want to change the year. Luckily, I have found a routine now that does it automatically so, if I make the change now, it will automatically update itself when 2010 rolls around. If you want this taken care of, let me know and I will do so. Under normal circumstances, I generally make the changes whenever I am doing other work on your pages, but if you don't foresee any changes for some time and still want the copyright updated, please contact me and I will do it. It is a quick fix, but it will need to be done for each page where the copyright is displayed with the year.

To view archives of past newsletters, go to <http://www.technicalwebsitedesign.com/newsletters.html>

Thank you all for your business (and potential business...)

Jim