

Pure CSS Flyout Menu

How It Works

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This menu is first designed to work in Firefox. Then, wherever there is a flyout, code that is relevant to IE is spliced in. The way this works is through the use of [Conditional Comments](http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms537512.aspx). (<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms537512.aspx>)

If you look at the source code of the menu you'll notice that there are several sections commented out. The code within the conditional comments will be ignored by all browsers except IE. The first most important piece of code is in the <head>:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="nav.css">
<!--[if lte IE 7]>
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="navie.css" />
<![endif]-->
```

The nav.css sheet has styles that are supported by both IE and Firefox. It also contains styles that IE doesn't support. IE doesn't even acknowledge their existence. Hence the IE specific stylesheet: navie.css. The <link> tag for this sheet is nested inside of a Conditional Comment. If the page is opened in anything but IE, this piece of code will be ignored. If it's opened in IE... SHAZAM!

The piece of code below is where the magic happens:

```
<li><a href="#" class="hide">Link</a>
  <!--[if lte IE 7]>
    <a href="#">Link
    <table>
      <tr>
        <td>
          <ul>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
          </ul>
        </td>
      </tr>
    </table>
  </a>
<![endif]-->
</li>
```

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You'll notice that the `<a>` outside of the comment has a class of "hide". The style for this class is found in `navie.css`:

```
.nav ul li .hide, .nav ul li a:visited.hide {display:none;}
```

This hides the `<a>` and replaces it with a new one that IE can work with. Firefox ignores it completely. Here's what Firefox sees:

```
<li>
  <a href="#" class="hide">Link</a>
  <ul>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
  </ul>
</li>
```

Here is the code as it is understood by IE that `navie.css` is applying styles to (Keep in mind that I've removed the comments for clarity. You can still actually see them in the source):

```
<li>
  <a href="#">Link
    <table>
      <tr>
        <td>
          <ul>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
            <li><a href="#">Sub</a></li>
          </ul>
        </td>
      </tr>
    </table>
  </a>
</li>
```