

Creating navigation menus with the CSS Menu Action

- Freeway 5 provides a new method for creating navigation menus. The new menus are CSS driven (making them fast) and they are built upon HTML lists, so they are accessible to people who are using assistive technologies such as screen readers.

Previous versions of Freeway provided JavaScript driven menus, which were slower and less accessible. In addition, JavaScript menus do not work if JavaScript has been turned off in your visitors' browsers.

Freeway 5.4 includes an update to this Action (version 2), which includes a number of commonly requested features and enhancements. These features and enhancements are:

Fixed pixel widths: each menu item can now be set to a specific pixel width
Use content width: items in horizontal menus can now be the width of their contents
Adjustable height: the height of your menu items can be increased by changing the level of padding used in the menus
Alignment of the menus: the menus can now be positioned left, center or right inside their containers
Improved highlighting of the menus: when users hover over a submenu, the full path to the submenu will be visible
Border control: each side of the menu's borders can now be customized
Item dividers: two separate colors can be specified for the menu item dividers
Arrows: the arrows or pointers for submenus can now be moved
Right to left: improved support for right to left text
Clicks: the appearance of menu items when clicked can now be specified
Graphic positioning: greater control of background graphics is now available

0. **To create a CSS menu**
Draw an HTML item on your page
Create a list containing the names of the pages in your site, and link them to those pages
Open the Actions palette, by selecting it from the Window menu or from the toolbar
Click on the plus button in the Actions palette and choose the CSS Menu Action from the list of Actions displayed
Use the Actions palette to change the appearance and behavior of the menu. The options available are:
 - Main or Submenu Settings: swap the options displayed in the Actions palette between the topmost level or any level below
Global settings:
 - Highlight Current Page: change the appearance of the active page (if a menu item contains a link to the page being viewed it will be used as the current page)
Right to Left: specify the text direction of the menus. This reverses the order of horizontal menus
Submenu Direction: when viewing the submenu settings, the direction of the submenus can be specified (left or right)
 - Size and Shape:
 - Layout: choose between Vertical and Horizontal menus
Alignment: can be set to Left, Center, or Right
Use Content Width (Horizontal menus only): will cause all menu items to use the width of their content
Width: dictates the width of each menu item (Ems or pixels)
Padding: is used to set the top, right, bottom and left padding of each item
 - Links:
 - Normal: choose a color for all text in the menus
Hover: choose a color for all hovered text in the menus
Click: choose a color for all clicked text in the menus
Current Page: choose a color for the text of the active (currently being viewed) page in the menus
Underline: applies an underline to the menu item
 - Background:
 - Normal: choose a background color for all menu items
Hover: choose a background color for all hovered menu items
Click: choose a background color for all clicked menu items
Current Page: choose a background color for menu items of the active (currently being viewed) page
Use Image:

available for all the above options, when clicked will activate options for selecting and positioning images

- Image: choose the image you want to be displayedRepeat: specify how you want the image to repeat (x is horizontally and y is vertically)Position: the position of the image

° Borders:

- Color: choose a border color

Size: choose the size of the borderStyle: choose the style of the borderCustom Borders: allows the above to be set for all four sides of the border

° Item Dividers:

- Top/Left: choose the color of the top or left divider (based on the layout)Bottom/Right: choose the color of the bottom or right divider (based on the layout)Style: choose the style of the dividersSize: choose the size of the dividers

° Arrows:

- Style: choose from a predefined set of arrow graphicsFile: if Custom Files is chosen in Style a custom graphic can be chosen for your arrow/pointerOffset: specify how far from the left or right edge the arrow should be

0. Once you have published your site, Freeway will display a preview image of the menu. You can still edit the list from which the menu is generated by using Freeway s normal text selection method (click twice on the item which contains the list)

Typically, you will want to create a navigation menu on a master page, so that it is displayed on all the pages which derive from this master.

For a step by step visual tutorial of the CSS Menus (version 1) take a look at this video tutorial.

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