Horizontal vs Vertical CSS Menus

By Roger Keays, 18 October 2007

Just yesterday I had a request from a customer to build a vertical menu down the side of the page in their design. I've always had a strong preference for horizontal menus, but have never really known exactly why. When trying to disuade my customer she naturally asked me this question: why?

Well, now I've thought about it I've come to the conclusion that there are some good reasons to go horizontal instead of vertical. Here are mine:

- Being evenly distributed across the page, they create balance which makes you feel good.

- They make better use of space as there is no vacuum below the menu which is common with vertical menus.

- It's easier to read horizontally than vertically.

- It's easier to move mouse side to side than vertically.

- Submenus are easier to access as they have a larger area for the mouse to enter.

- As people are generally lazy, the shorter menu items more common in horizontal menus are easier to read.

What do you think?

About Roger Keays

Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed addressand has leftfootprints on 40-something different countries around the world. Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.