



# Getting Started with Ubertor's Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) Support

## Overview

The Ubertor CMS is a dynamic content management system; much of the markup is generated based on a series of preferences and settings by the client, and the content of the website. When considering the markup of an Ubertor website, please consider that Ubertor does not provide *custom websites*, but *customizable* ones. The structure of Ubertor websites is common to all sites; therefore, it is exceedingly unlikely a request to change the markup without cause will succeed. *This is particularly the case because legacy templates and custom designs rely on certain markup within the Ubertor software.*

The Ubertor system relies on a multitude of selectors to distinguish pages from one another; for example, both the Properties page and the Blog page have a **content\_body** div. However, each has unique selectors as well, so a designer can create a rule which applies generally to all pages, or specifically to one page, all within a common stylesheet.

When designing for Ubertor, please also avoid *implied functionality* in your designs and markup. It may seem trivial to style a button which says, "Show Me Similar Listings" or "View Next Agent", but Ubertor does not presently offer that functionality. Adding this to a mock-up or design is simple, but will later cause aggravation for yourself and your client if Ubertor does not intend to implement the feature. If you're unsure if something is possible, please feel free to contact Ubertor's extremely capable client support staff. They may answer your question on the spot, or refer your question to a developer for consideration.

## The Ubertor Styling System

Ubertor has developed a layered approach to CSS to best serve clients' styling needs; each site is comprised of a "template" and a "variation". The template controls dimensions, positioning, and other elements of the layout, and the variation controls the colors and images, including backgrounds, borders and links. There is no way to edit these styles for any individual client;

because they are common stylesheets to the Ubertor system, much like above, if we were to change them for one site, they would change for all sites.

Instead, we encourage designers to adjust stylesheets by using the control they have over the final layer of CSS, which is local to the site. However, if you find that you're overriding styles too frequently and would rather develop your styling from scratch, we can assign the site a "blank" template and variation without any styling whatsoever. It is then incumbent upon the designer to restyle the site to match their design, and Ubertor cannot assist in troubleshooting the styling except to ensure there have been no changes to the markup. Additionally, this will disable those features which rely on the template and variation, including the banner, masthead and flash banner tools, as well as the client's ability to switch color variations.

## Remote CSS

The Ubertor Styling System is able to import styling via two methods, the first called *css\_source* and the second called *remote\_css*. Both work somewhat differently, but both are advantageous in that they do not appear *live* on your Ubertor website. Instead, they store the values in a cookie unique to your browser; other visitors to the site *will not see any of your changes* until your website is actually updated.

The first, *css\_source*, overrides where the software looks for ALL of its remote stylesheets. This is important if you are looking at either switching template/variation for a redesign or are looking at moving to a blank template/variation mentioned above. The value must be a fully qualified URL, including protocol (e.g. *http://localhost*). It would then be appended as a query to your Ubertor website as a GET parameter (e.g. *http://me.myubertor.com/?css\_source=http://localhost*). This will then be stored in a cookie, so you can venture throughout the site without needing to continually update the value. To remove it, set the value to 0 (zero).

The second, *remote\_css*, is also a fully qualified URL (e.g. *http://me.myubertor.com/?remote\_css=http://localhost/client/test.css*); however, unlike the previous, it leaves all stylesheets on your Ubertor website intact, and instead in addition loads *remote\_css* last. This is the easiest way to quickly check numerous changes of a file against the site before pasting code into the CSS section of your Ubertor Control Panel (CP). In the same fashion as *css\_source*, this value also follows you throughout the site via a cookie; again, set to 0 (zero) to remove the value from your cookies.

## Files

The Ubertor CMS presently stores all files, including CSS and images, on our file storage service (**storage.ubertor.com**). Files are stored in the client's namespaced directory, which is then further segmented into various namespaces such as "listing", "content" and "site". This is intended to keep a site's files organized while also demonstrating the purpose of any particular file within the Ubertor Content Library. Please note that due to concerns regarding filename

collisions under this scheme, all filenames become simplified and rewritten. This is not a bug or mistake, nor does it significantly detract from the visitor experience. It will mean that when replacing a file, you cannot simply upload a file with the same name to replace a previous version. However, fear not; *the file will still be labeled by its original filename and description in the Content Library*. Follow the associated link within the Content Library to see its full path on **storage.ubertor.com**.

This also means you may use relative URLs to access files on **storage.ubertor.com**, as they exist on the same server as your style sheet(s). To reference a file relatively, go up two directories (ie. "../..") and then use the purpose, variant and filename for that particular file. For example, to add an image to an element, you might use a style rule such as:

```
#broker_logo {  
    background-image: url("../..content/image/43.jpg");  
}
```

## Custom Markup

There are several places within the software where the insertion of custom markup is possible; a default header and footer across all pages, and a custom header and footer unique to each content page. The basic structure of an Ubertor page is the same regardless of the page's content; the content, listing and blog pages all share mostly common markup. As a CSS designer, you will be able to distinguish these pages by the selectors placed within them.

The aforementioned sections are *the only place outside of the content editor* where custom markup can be included within the Ubertor site. This also means anything desired in the head of the document, such as `link` or `script` tags cannot be added. Ubertor websites follow the HTML 4.01 specification, which means that `script` tags can be placed anywhere within markup per the specification and are supported by every browser. As for `title` and `meta` tags, these are solely accessible via the SEO package (for the latter, only the `content` of particular tags is accessible).

Because Ubertor sites run from a common code-base and so many portions of the site are generated dynamically, it is not nearly as simple as it would seem to provide designers direct access to the markup. Assuredly, working with only the styling of the site can present unique challenges, particularly when clients are pressing for additional features and you have deadlines for readying the site. This guide should help you evaluate a design and determine whether it can be produced on the Ubertor software platform, given that it does have limitations and may present design constraints.

# Header

```
<div id='page_header_outer' class=''>
  <div id='page_header_inner'>
    <div id='broker_logo'></div>
    <h1><a href="/index.php">Site Heading</a></h1>
    <h2><a href="/index.php">Site Subheading</a></h2>
    <ul id="contact_info">
      <li class='phone'>phone: <strong>604-264-1999</strong></li>
      <li class='fax'>fax: <strong>111 111 1111</strong></li>
      <li class='mobile'>mobile: <strong>222 222 2222</strong></li>
      <li class='email'>email: <strong>
        <a href='mailto:ubertor@ubertor.com'>ubertor@ubertor.com</a></strong>
      </li>
      <li class='tollfree'>toll-free: <strong>1 555 555 5555</strong></li>
    </ul>
  </div>
</div>
```

The header on an Ubertor website is broken into several distinct parts; the first of which is the page header. This has two surrounding elements, **page\_header\_outer** which is frequently used to display the banner of the website, and **page\_header\_inner** which is used to display the masthead, site heading and contact information. The **broker\_logo** is used by the logo system to place a transparent background image upon the element. You may use this element for any purpose you choose -- it will never contain content. Please be sure the logo tool is turned off if you will be assigning your own background image.

The **contact\_info** is an unordered list with individually classed list-items (*phone, fax, mobile, email and toll-free*). These can be styled, positioned or hidden appropriately depending on the requirements of your design, although they cannot be reordered. They can, however, be repositioned or image-replaced with CSS as appropriate.

# Pages

Each page of the Ubertor system, whether visible or not, exists within the content manager. These pages can be edited with the content editor, and any content placed on a page will appear within the **content\_body** div on a given page. The content editor supports markup for advanced users, and can easily drop in images and links to documents of various formats. **content\_body** is surrounded by **content\_outer** and **content\_inner**, respectively. This will assist with applying borders and background styles to the content areas of client-editable pages; note that these selectors are system-wide, and will affect every page on an Ubertor website (unless prepended by a more specific selector).

Furthermore, each page will have a class derived from its page label (e.g. "Blog" and *blog*) and will also inherit the class of any parent page. This means that if 'Contact' is beneath 'About Us', it will have both classes attached to it, permitting designers to have sections with unique styling which otherwise would not have a common selector.

## Menu

```
<div id='menu_outer'>
  <div id='menu_inner'>
    <ul>
      <li class="sel" id="up_menu1" >
        <a href="/Home.php" title="Welcome to my home page!">Home</a>
      </li>
      <li class="unsel" id="up_menu2" ><a href="/Properties.php" title="This page contains the Prop
        <ul>
          <li class="unsel" ><a href="/ActiveListings.php" title="" class="unsel" >Active Listi
        </ul>
      </li>
      <li class="unsel" id="up_menu3" >
        <a href="/ForBuyers.php" title="">For Buyers</a>
      </li>
      <li class="unsel" id="up_menu4" >
        <a href="/ForSellers.php" title="This is for the home sellers.">For Sellers</a>
      </li>
      <li class="unsel" id="up_menu5" >
        <a href="/Blog.php" title="This page contains the blog.">Blog</a>
      </li>
      <li class="unsel" id="up_menu6" >
        <a href="/Links.php" title="Links">Links</a>
      </li>
      <li class="unsel" id="up_menu7" >
        <a href="/Contact.php" title="This page contains the contact information.">Contact</a>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </div>
</div>
```

The menu is one of the most utilized components of the Ubertor website. An active page, or the parent of an active page, will receive a *sel* class on its associated menu list-item. All other list items receive a class of *unsel* to demarcate that they are presently not in use. In addition, each top-level page list-item also has a unique ID (e.g. **up\_menu3**) based on its sequence within the menu. This provides for special styling on particular elements, and even for them to be moved

out of the flow of the menu. Remember to caution a client that reordering pages could result in the unexpected if you're taking any menu items out of the document flow.

## Widget Inset Boxes

```
<div id='id_inset_outer' class='inset_outer'>
  <div id='id_inset_wrapper' class='inset_wrapper'>
    <div id='id_inset_group1' class='inset_group'>
      <div class="inset search" id="up_inset1">
        <h2>Search This Site</h2>
        <form id="searchform" method="get" action="/SiteSearch.php">
          <div>
            <input id="s" value="" type="text" name="q" maxlength="30" />
            <input id="searchsubmit" value="Search" type="submit" />
          </div>
        </form>
      </div>
    </div>
  </div>
</div>
```

Widget insets are used to display a variety of information, including featured listings, agent data, search boxes, recent blog postings and blog archives and categories. The whole inset is contained within the **id\_inset\_wrapper** and **id\_inset\_outer** **divs**. Each individual widget is contained within an *inset\_group* (with accompanying unique ID). Widgets also affect the rendering of the page; a page with widgets will receive a *has\_insets* class on the body element of the page. This means **content\_body** and other elements can have conditional styling (particularly dimensions and positioning) which apply only when the page has inset widget boxes.

The widget may then contain elements with the *inset* class, which will also have a class related to its type (e.g. *category*, *blog*, *search*, *agents*, etc.) and another ID unique to that **div**. Keep in mind, as with the case of blog or featured listing widgets, that because they can display multiple items, the *inset\_group* may contain several **divs**. Each *inset\_group* or *inset* may also possess an **h2** which denotes the heading of this *inset*. It can be hidden, image-replaced or styled appropriately.

Finally, should you require custom markup within a new inset box, *this is possible* (via an Ubortor client service representative) *for a nominal fee*. However, as clients do not presently have access to this region of the content editor, any changes or updates (with the exception of removal, at no cost) will require an additional fee.

## Footer

```
<div id="page_footer">
  <div id="footer_menu">
    <ul>
      <li>
        <a href="/Reports.php" title="Reports">Reports</a>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </div>
  <p id="agent-brokerage">
  </p>
  <a href="/PrivacyPolicy.php" title="Privacy Policy">Privacy Policy</a>
  <a href="/Sitemap.php" title="Sitemap">Sitemap</a>
  <a href="http://www.ubertor.com" id="powered_by"
    title="Real Estate website powered by Ubertor (tm). The Business of Real Estate Easy!">
    Real Estate websites for Agents
  </a>
  <p id="custom_footer"></p>
</div>
```

The page footer is visible below every page on the Ubertor website, and provides a second navigation menu as well as additional links to a dynamic sitemap and privacy policy. It can include additional markup on a single or multiple pages. Finally, it also includes a link back to Ubertor.com, which may be given additional styling to conform to your site design.

## Properties Pages

The properties pages are the core of the Ubertor framework. There are two varieties, the property listings pages which display numerous property overviews, and the property details pages which display the information regarding a single listing. Both are detailed below, with an additional note regarding pagination on properties pages.

## Property Listings

```
<div id="listing_group">
  <div class="listing">
    <h2 class="address">
      <a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/#viewdetail"
        title="#330 - 1085 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC">
        #330 - 1085 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC
      </a>
    </h2>
  </div>
</div>
```

```

</h2>
<a
  href="/Properties.php/Details/1/#viewdetail"
  title="Yaletown House for sale: 10000 sqft (Listed 2005-06-22)">
  
  </a>
  <ul class="stats">
    <li class="value">$1,543,210</li>
    <li class="view_details">
      <a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/#viewdetail">[View Details]</a>
    </li>
    <li class="beds">5 Beds</li>
    <li class="baths">2 + 1 Baths</li>
    <li class="square_feet">10000 sq.ft.</li>
    <li class="type">House</li>
  </ul>
  <p class="description">
    This is the home of the world-famous web hosting company, Ubertor Inc.
    Ubertor is known for producing top-quality websites and for their excellent post-sales support!
    <a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/#viewdetail">Read&nbsp;More</a>
  </p>
</div>
</div>
<p class='disclaimer'>
  <strong></strong>
  <span class='copyright'></span>
</p>

```

The property listings pages are shown and determined by a number of page-specific settings within the Ubertor Control Panel. If your client wishes to change the sort order or make other changes, it is best to have them contact an Ubertor client support representative. This page shows a brief synopsis of each listing, including a thumbnail image, listing information and a brief (truncated) description field, followed by a "read more" link. Additionally, if the listing is imported via the reciprocity system, it will likely display the logo of the appropriate reciprocity board.

## Pagination

```

<ul class="pages">
  <li class="page_num">Page: </li>
  <li class="start">

```



```

    <a title="Jump to the first page" href="/Properties.php/1">&lt;&lt;</a>
</li>
<li class="previous">
    <a title="Move to the previous page" href="/Properties.php/1">&lt;</a>
</li>
<li class="page">
    <strong>1 of 1</strong>
</li>
<li class="next">
    <a title="Move to the next page" href="/Properties.php/1">&gt;</a>
</li>
<li class="end">
    <a title="Jump to the last page" href="/Properties.php/1">&gt;&gt;</a>
</li>
<li class="total">Total of 1 Item</li>
</ul>

```

The pagination for Ubertor's listing engine is fixed at 10 listings per page. Depending on the number of listings to be displayed, the site will split the listings into an appropriate number of pages. Note that whether there are sufficient listings, all links in the pagination will still display; however, they will link to the current page if there is no other appropriate page (first, previous, next, last) to link against. This ensures that designs can count on particular elements existing, even if they would not presumably appear.

## Property Details

```

<div class="listing_details">
    <p>Overview</p>
    <a name="viewdetail"></a>
    <ul id="navigation" class="navigation navigation_top" style="clear:both;">
        <li class="return">
            <a href="/Properties.php">&lt; View all homes &gt;</a>
        </li>
    </ul>
    <div id="address">
        <h2>#330 - 1085 HOMER STREET, VANCOUVER, BC</h2>
        <strong>MLS#: </strong>
    </div>
    <script language="javascript" src="http://www.uberplate.myubertor.com/public/js/listings.js"></script>
    <h2 id="listing_details_header" style="display:none;">Listing Overview</h2>
    <div id="detail_menu">
        <ul>
            <li class='details sel'>

```

```

        <a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/details" rel="nofollow" target="_self">Overview</a>
    </li>
    <li class='map'>
        <a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/map" rel="nofollow" target="_self">Map</a>
    </li>
    <li class='virtual_tour'>
        <a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/virtual_tour" rel="nofollow" target="_self">Virtual Tour</a>
    </li>
</ul>
</div>
<div id="details" class="info">
    <object classid="clsid:d27cdb6e-ae6d-11cf-96b8-444553540000" codebase="http://fpdownload.macromedia.com/go/flash/swfobject.js">
        ...
    </object>
    <a name="detailform">&nbsp;</a>
    <ul class="links">
        <li class="email"><a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/Email/#detailform" rel="nofollow">Email</a>
        <li class="feature"><a href="/PrintPDF.php?listingid=1" rel="nofollow">Feature Sheet</a></li>
        <li class="calc"><a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/Mortgage/#detailform" rel="nofollow">Mortgage</a>
        <li class="schedule"><a href="/Properties.php/Details/1/Schedule/#detailform" rel="nofollow">Schedule</a>
    </ul>
    <ul class="info left">
        <li class="value"><strong>Property Value</strong>$1,543,210</li>
        <li class="address"><strong>Property Address</strong>#330 - 1085 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada</li>
        <li class="type"><strong>Type</strong>House</li>
        <li class="type"><strong>Style</strong>Office</li>
        <li class="basement"><strong>Basement</strong>Yes</li>
        <li class="year_built"><strong>Year Built</strong>2005</li>
    </ul>
    <ul class="info right">
        <li class="sqfeet"><strong>Square Feet</strong>10,000</li>
        <li class="lot_size"><strong>Lot Frontage</strong>200</li>
        <li class="lot_size"><strong>Lot Depth</strong>175</li>
        <li class="lot_size"><strong>Lot Size Area</strong>12500</li>
        <li class="beds"><strong>Bedrooms</strong>5</li>
        <li class="baths"><strong>Bathrooms</strong>2 full & 1 half</li>
    </ul>
    <div id="listing_description">
        <h2 class="address">Yaletown Address</h2><p>#330 - 1085 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada</p>
        <h2 class="description">Description</h2><p>This is the home of the world-famous web hosting company, Ubertor Inc.
        <h2 class="features">Features</h2><p>BodyWorks, a great, friendly gym, is located on the second floor of the building.
    </div>
</div>
<div id="navigation_bottom" class="navigation naviation_bottom" style="clear:both;">

```

```
<li class="return">
  <a href="/Properties.php">&lt; View all homes &gt;</a>
</li>
</ul>
</div>
```

The page is principally comprised of numerous unordered lists (navigation, links, listing info, agent info, etc) and the Ubertor Slideshow viewer.

This page also displays other views for a listing, including the map, internal virtual tours, floorplans and extras, and comparables. These are controlled by the **detail\_menu** of the property details page, and are classed (with *sel* and *unsel*) in the same fashion as the main menu.

Finally, in the event that a listing is a reciprocity listing imported via MLS, it will display several additional elements, including the logo of the board, disclaimer and a copyright notice.

## Other Specialty Pages

There are other pages within the Ubertor CMS which have particular functionality; these include the Forms, Blog, Links and Roster pages. Each of these pages has additional selectors to help designers with customizing the pages for their particular needs, including on various elements you may want to target within the page.

## Checklist

Finally, we've compiled a checklist of a number of common site areas which require styling and might be of interest to you as a designer, but which could easily be overlooked. We suggest these be added to the site prior to styling; they are less likely to be overlooked if they are visible from the outset.

- Site
  - Select a company logo
  - Add a banner, if appropriate
  - Add a masthead, if appropriate
- Home Page
  - Add paragraphs
  - Add images
  - Add headers (h1, h2, etc)
  - Add unordered list, with sublist
  - Add ordered list, with sublist
  - Widget inset boxes (featured listing, search, etc)
- Lead Generator Forms (For Buyers, For Sellers, Contact)
  - Bullets only when appropriate

- Menu
  - Pages/subpages display hover and selected effects
  - Add footer menu items
- Properties List
  - Import a reciprocity listing (if appropriate)
- Property Details
  - Title and address displaying correctly
  - Cycle through appropriate tabs (e.g. mortgage calculator, google maps)
  - Page header and address on details
  - Google Map
  - Featuresheets
  - Virtual Tours
- Links
  - Headings and links appear correctly

If you have further questions about the Ubertor system or its CSS compatibility which aren't covered in this overview, please feel free to contact our [client support representatives](#) during regular business hours.