

## Chapter 8: Demystifying Basic CSS and XHTML

### Dropping in a Drop Cap

Creating a drop cap is a good exercise in using many of the CSS text properties. After you define the drop cap property values, you simply use a `<span></span>` tag pair around the body text you want to format as a drop cap. Here's the process:

1. Open your **presentation** style sheet in your text editor, click under the **footer\_links** class, and press ENTER.
2. Type the following style (at this point in the walkthrough, most of the properties should look familiar):

```
.dropcap {  
    float: left;  
    position: relative;  
    font-family: Verdana, Arial, sans-serif;  
    font-size: 200%;  
    font-weight: bold;  
    color: #D1D1D1;  
    line-height: 1em;  
    margin: 3px 6px 4px 0;  
    padding: 2px 6px 4px 6px;  
    border: 1px solid #CC9966;  
    background: #952C29;  
}
```

3. Save your work.

4. Open **index.html** in your text editor.
5. In the **centercolumn** area, click after **</h1>**, and press ENTER twice.
6. Type (or copy and paste) the following paragraph text, which includes paragraph tags, the **dropcap** class, and **emphasis** (italic) formatting:

```
<p><span class="dropcap">L</span>ong before the  
Internet, there was <em>The Road.</em> Roadways  
have served as the lifeblood of communication  
for centuries. Reliable and romantic, roads  
have contributed more to our cultural history  
than pizza and French fries combined. After  
all, you know what they say:</p>
```

7. Save your work.
8. If desired, preview **index.html** in your browser window.