

CSS3 content slider with the :target pseudo-class

CSS3 introduced the dynamic `:target` pseudo-class a couple of years ago. This selector allows us to match an element when it's the target of an anchor previously set on a link. With the aim of CSS3 transitions we can add some additional effects to the targeted element once it's selected. A typical use case is a pure CSS3 content slider. Let's see the details.

We have the following HTML structure:

```
<div id="slider">
  <div class="slide" id="s1">Slide 1</div>
  <div class="slide" id="s2">Slide 2</div>
  <div class="slide" id="s3">Slide 3</div>
  <div class="slide" id="s4">Slide 4</div>
  <div class="slide" id="s5">Slide 5</div>
</div>
<div id="controls">
  <a href="#s1">1</a>
  <a href="#s2">2</a>
  <a href="#s3">3</a>
  <a href="#s4">4</a>
  <a href="#s5">5</a>
</div>
```

As you can see, each navigation link points to a different slide thanks to the anchor set on each slide. This means that each slide is the target of the corresponding navigation link.

If you see the above structure in a browser without styles, you'll probably notice that a default behavior is already present on the page: the browser scrolls the main window once a link is clicked.

Now we have to add some basic styles to our slider just to make it look as a slider:

```
#slider {  
    width: 500px;  
    height: 300px;  
    margin: 2em auto;  
    position: relative;  
    border: 4px solid #bbb;  
    overflow: hidden;  
    box-shadow: 2px 2px 2px #ddd;  
}
```

```
div.slide {  
    width: 500px;  
    height: 300px;  
    text-align: center;  
    position: absolute;  
    top: 0;  
    background: #ccc;  
    line-height: 300px;  
    font-size: 2em;  
    -moz-transition: all 1s ease-in-out;  
    -webkit-transition: all 1s ease-in-out;  
    -o-transition: all 1s ease-in-out;  
    -ms-transition: all 1s ease-in-out;  
    transition: all 1s ease-in-out;  
    opacity: 0;  
}
```

```
#s1 {  
    left: 0;  
}
```

```
#s2 {
```

```

        left: 500px;
    }

    #s3 {
        left: 1500px;
    }

    #s4 {
        left: 2000px;
    }

    #s5 {
        left: 2500px;
    }

    #controls {
        margin: 1em 0;
        text-align: center;
    }

    #controls a {
        display: inline-block;
        width: 32px;
        height: 32px;
        margin-right: 5px;
        background: #000;
        color: #fff;
        text-decoration: none;
        border-radius: 50%;
        line-height: 32px;
    }

```

We've registered a CSS3 transition on each slide. Now we have to activate it when the current slide is matched by the `:target` pseudo-class by changing its opacity and left offset:

```
div.slide:target {  
  left: 0;  
  opacity: 1;  
  z-index: 10;  
}
```

Targeting an element is a transient state, meaning that the attached styles will be reset every time a new target is selected. In fact, once a link is clicked our styles will be added only to the current slide. You can see the demo below.

Demo

[Live demo](#)