

# CSS: Styling File Upload / Select Input Control `<input type="file" ... />`

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Let's face it, the native implementations of **file uploading control** of HTML form is ugly, throughout most of the browsers, and not consistent at all. Plus, `<input type="file" ... />` just doesn't play by quite a few of the **CSS input styling rules** such as border and background, making it a even bigger challenge.

Now how do we bend this rigid boy to our visual pleasure?

## A few examples

- [a contact form](#)
- [a file upload form](#)

I'm not saying those are beautiful just when they come down to this technique I'm going to tell you, it's absolutely possible to style an incredible control out of the native **select and upload file input** element.

## The solution

The solution is to make use of the CSS **opacity** rule to give total transparency to the file upload control while maintaining it's functionality, placing fake controls (a text field and a fake image button) between them and the visitor.

## The HTML

```
<li class="upload">
  <label for="realupload">Upload Image: </label>
  <div class="fakeupload">
    <input type="text" name="fakeupload" /> <!-- browse button is here as back
ground -->
  </div>
  <input type="file" name="upload" id="realupload" class="realupload" on
change="this.form.fakeupload.value = this.value;" />
</li>
```

## The CSS

```
.upload {
  position: relative;
```

```
    width:664px;
}
.realupload {
    position:absolute;
    top:0;
    right:0;

    /* start of transparency styles */
    opacity:0;
    -moz-opacity:0;
    filter:alpha(opacity:0);
    /* end of transparency styles */

    z-index:2; /* bring the real upload interactivity up front */
    width:270px;
}
form .fakeupload {
    background:url(browse.gif) no-repeat 100% 50%;
}
form .fakeupload input {
    width:401px;
}
```

All css **width** properties have to be decided upon your actual situation, as the native appearance of all upload controls vary browser by browser, you will adjust all of the **width** for the best compatibility and functionality.

There's also a small line of javascript that simulates the function of real upload control on the fake one:

```
this.form.fakeupload.value = this.value;
```

To make it look real!

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