Stylable form controls
A vision for appearance::base

annevk — May 2024
Motivation

• Markup for form controls is haphazard
• A fully incremental approach makes styling haphazard too
• Styling form controls should be:
  • Consistent
  • Straightforward
• Alignment on vision should help us get there
Terminology

- In-page controls — impact page layout
- Pickers — rendered in an overlay box
• A “base” style sheet
  • Wireframe-like
  • Consistent across controls
  • Meets a11y and i18n criteria
  • Light & dark
Styling in-page controls

- Pseudo-elements
- Opt-in for “base” style sheet
  - control { appearance: base }
Styling pickers

- Pseudo-elements
  - ::picker(identifier) for the overlay box
- Separate opt-in for “base” style sheet
  - ::picker(identifier) { appearance: base }
  - (appearance: none computes to base)
Roadmap

- Milestone 1: in-page controls
  - Define pseudo-elements
  - Define the “base” style sheet
- Milestone 2-N: pickers
  - Incremental approach enabled by ::picker(identifier)
Closing thoughts

• Would be great to hear more long term visions
• Alignment will ensure a great web developer experience
• We don’t mean for this to impact <select>