

Content Overflow in CSS

Overview

The overflow property is used to **specify what happens if the content of an element overflows**, i.e. the content's height or width is larger than the element's height or width. This property adds a scroll bar or clips the content when an element's content is too big to fit in a specified area.

The values that the overflow property can take are:

- **visible** - This is the default value. The content overflows and is seen outside the box
- **hidden** - Only the content that fits inside the box is visible, and the overflow is clipped
- **scroll** - All the content is visible through a scroll bar added to the box
- **auto** - a scroll-bar gets added if content overflows

visible

By default, the overflow content is visible, i.e. it renders outside the element's box.

HTML :

`<div>`

HTML is short for HyperText Markup Language. Basically, it's the "code" behind every webpage – even this one. If you're just beginning to learn HTML, let us tell you that it's a fairly easy task. HTML, without styling, can't do anything more than setting a layout, drawing a table, or creating frames.

`</div>`

CSS :

```
div { background-color: lightgreen;
      width: 200px;
      height: 200px;
      overflow: visible;
}
```

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Browser :

hidden

In overflow: hidden the overflow content outside the box is not rendered on the web page.

Changing CSS of the above mentioned example :

```
CSS : div {
    background-color: lightgreen;
    width: 200px;
    height: 200px;
    overflow: hidden;
}
```

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Browser :

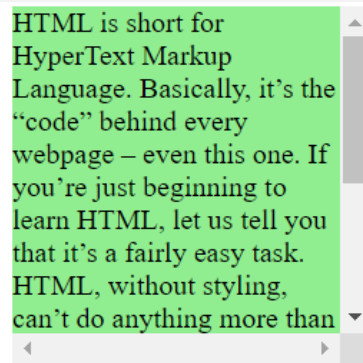
scroll

In overflow: scroll, the overflow is clipped, and a scrollbar is added to scroll inside the box.

NOTE : This adds a scrollbar both horizontally and vertically.

CSS :

```
div {
    background-color: lightgreen;
    width: 200px;
    height: 200px;
    overflow: scroll;
}
```



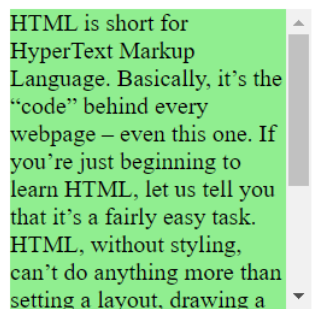
Browser :

auto

The overflow : auto is similar to scroll, but it only adds the scrollbar if needed.

CSS :

```
div {
    overflow: auto;
}
```



Browser :

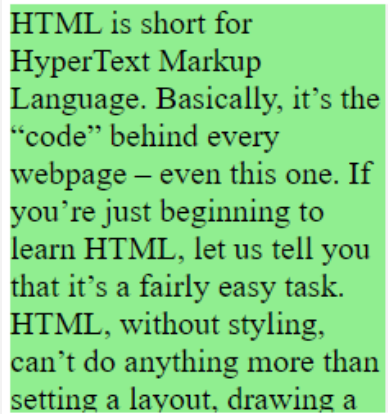
- ❖ In this example, only the horizontal scrollbar was needed.

overflow-x and overflow-y

The overflow-x and overflow-y are used to handle the overflow horizontally or vertically.

- **overflow-x** is used to handle the horizontal overflow of content.
- **overflow-y** is used to handle the vertical overflow of content.

CSS : `div {
 overflow-x: hidden; /* Hide horizontal scrollbar */
 overflow-y: scroll; /* Add vertical scrollbar */
}`



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NOTE : The overflow property only works for block elements with a specified height.