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Spatial Attributes

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Overview

Spaital attributes in HTML include the margins, borders, and padding of HTML elements, which can assist us in formatting our content in a meaningful and pleasing way to the end user.

Tutorial

Box model

The **Box model** asserts that all HTML elements can be considered as boxes, or at the very least that every HTML element has a box-shaped margin.

This can be handy for conceptually laying out the information we store on a Web page, as well as being inherently useful for styling.

The Box model asserts that each element contains four layers of information, arranged in a concentric-box shape:



Each of these four layers have different roles:

- The **margin** is a transparent area around the outside of the content, allowing for easily spacing elements apart
- The **border** encases the padding and content, and can be coloured
- The **padding** is a transparent area around the content itself, which can be useful for spacing content apart within a **border**
- The **content** is the actual information stored within the HTML tag

(note: the **border**, **padding** and **content** are all affected by the **background** colour of an element.)

Margin and border properties

All HTML elements have four sides – **top**, **bottom**, **left** and **right**.

Properties can be set for each dimension or in a compound rule in CSS`:

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```
{
  margin: 10px; /*10px in all directions*/
  margin: 10px 5px; /*10px top and bottom, 5px left and right*/
  margin: 0px 5px 10px 15px; /*top, left, bottom, right*/
  margin-bottom: 2em; /*Individual direction*/
}
```

- **margin** - The space between the border of the element and other elements in the window. If left unset, the browser defines the margin.
- **width** and **height** - The dimensions of the box; if left undefined, these dimensions are determined by the browser
- **padding** - The space between the border and the content; if left undefined the size is set to 0
- **background** - The space behind the content and padding of the element; can be transparent, a solid colour, one or more background images, or a background gradient
- **border** - A ruled line that surrounds the element; can be set separately on each side; can be a colour, image, or styled (e.g. dotted); if left undefined the size is set to 0

Border-box model

When you set the **width** and **height** properties of an element with CSS you only set them for the **content** area.

The full size of an element is determined by adding together all four layers of the element (**width**+ 2(**padding**) + 2(**border**) + 2(**margin**)).

Here, the total **width** of the space the element takes up is 300 pixels:

```
{
  width: 250px;
  padding: 10px;
  border: 5px solid gray;
  margin: 10px;
}
```

Exercises

There are no exercises for this module.