

Advanced CSS

Section 2: Advanced CSS

2.1 Backgrounds

In CSS there are several background properties which are:

| Property | Description |
|-----------------------|--|
| background-color | Change the colour of the background |
| background-image | Set an image as a background using the <code>url()</code> pointing to the image path |
| background-size | Change the size of the image where the first value is for the width and second values for the height of the image. The image can lose its quality when changing the size of the image using both values and so recommended to use one value and the other as auto for its value |
| background-repeat | The value of no-repeat; will stop the default background-image behaviour of repeating the image horizontally and vertically. The value of repeat-x; will repeat the image horizontally while the value repeat-y; will repeat the image vertically |
| background-position | Control the position of the background-image and control what part of the image is shown. Values that can be used are px, %, em, rem, top, right, bottom, centre, etc. This can take two values where the first value is the position from the left and the second value is the position from the top. Negative values can be used to change in the opposite directions |
| background-attachment | This can be used to create a parallax effect. The fixed; value will change the position of the image according to the viewport. The background image will remain fixed in its position when scrolling down the page (this is known as the parallax effect) |
| background-origin | Specifies where to start displaying the background image and by default is set to padding-box; i.e. the image starts displaying from the top left corner of the element's padding edge. The content-box; value the image starts displaying after the padding at the top left corner of the elements content edge. The border-box; value the image starts displaying at the top left corner of the element's border |
| background-clip | The default value is border-box; and the image will display from the top left corner of the outer edges of the element's border. The padding-box; value displays the image from the top left corner of the outer edges of the element's padding. The content-box; value displays the image from the top left corner of the outer edges of the element's content. |

| Property | Description |
|------------|--|
| background | <p>Allows to set multiple different background properties mentioned above for example background: green url(img/img.png) no-repeat center fixed /cover;</p> <p>When defining the background-size property in the short form this requires the background-position to be defined and must come after it using a forward slash (/) as a requirement to work.</p> <p>Multiple image can be styled using this one background declaration each separated with a comma (,)</p> |

Important: If the name of the image or the path to that image contains a space then we must wrap the file path of that image in double quotation marks (" "). We can use double quotes in any case regardless whether there is a space or no space in the image name or file path as this will continue to work.

The default behaviour for background-image is to repeat the image horizontally and/or vertically to fit the image inside the box size of the element.

The image is placed from the top left hand corner and exceeds the size of the box then by default the image will be clipped on the right and bottom sides.

If we use the declaration of background-position: right bottom; then the image will start from the bottom right corner and will be clipped on the left and top sides. This declaration can take up to 4 values if using the text value along with measurements for example background-position: right 50px bottom 50px which will move the starting position from the right and bottom corner by 50px on both sides.

We can control the clipped sides by using percentage values for the background-position property. If we imagine the clipped sides are 100% at the right and 100% at the bottom. If we want to clip the image equally on all four sides we would need to use 50% for the first value and 50% for the second value to the background-position property. This will result in equal clipping on the top and bottom sides and left and right sides. This will centre the image but we can also use the center value to centre the image without percentage values.

In the example of background-image: 90% 40%; the image would be clipped by 90% on the left and 10% on the right while its is clipped 40% from the top and 60% at the bottom. This is how using percentage values differentiates from the other measurement values when using it with the background-image property.

The background-size allows us to change the size of the image using two values but this will also have an effect on the image quality. There are text values we can use such as cover; which will cover the entire element without losing the image quality but the image will be clipped. The contain; value which acts like the value of 100% where the image will take the full width of the element and the height is set automatically. This also does not lose the value of the image. Out of the two property values cover is more typically used.

Important: Images do not take into account the width of the parent element until we define the width manually for the image by selecting the image element.

2.2 Gradients

Gradients allow us to display multi-transitions between two or more colours as well as define directions for those transitions.

```
background: linear-gradient(rgba(0, 255, 0, .1), rgba(0, 255, 0, .2)), url("img/image 1.jpeg") no-repeat center /cover;
```

The linear-gradient property is used as a value within the background property. The first argument to linear-gradient is the first colour and the second argument is the second colour. This will create a smooth transition from top to bottom between the two colours which is the default behaviour (i.e. to bottom).

Before the colour arguments for the first argument we can select the direction of the transition by using to followed by the direction e.g. to right. If this argument is omitted then the default to bottom direction is used. To make the direction go horizontally you must define the horizontal and vertical directions for example "to right bottom" will start the gradient from the top left hand corner transitioning to the bottom right corner.

```
background: linear-gradient(to right, rgba(0, 255, 0, .1), rgba(242, 255, 0, 0.6)), url("img/image 1.jpeg") no-repeat center /cover;
```

We can mix more than two colours by specifying as many colours as additional arguments.

Images can also be added to the background shorthand declaration and this will apply the gradient colours on top of the background image. We can omit the background-image and this will display the gradient colours only.

Disclaimer: There is also a radial-gradient property but is not typically used when designing websites.

2.3 Shadows

Shadows can be added to both text and box elements.

The text-shadow property is used to set the shadow of text elements. This property takes in a number of values.

```
text-shadow: 3px 3px 10px #888;
```

The first indicates the position of the shadow in a horizontal line, the second indicates the position of the shadow vertically. These are the two mandatory values required. The third value defines how blurry the shadow should be. The last value defines the colour of the shadow (the default colour of shadow is black).

The box-shadow property is used to set the shadow of box elements and this is the main difference between text-shadow and box-shadow. The box-shadow takes in the same values as text-shadow.

```
box-shadow: 10px 10px 20px #aaa;
```

2.4 Transitions

CSS transitions property allows you to change any of the CSS properties for an element from one value to another smoothly over a specified duration. There are four transitions properties:

| Property | Description |
|----------------------------|---|
| transition-property | Defines the property to add a transition effect to |
| transition-duration | Defines how long the transition effect should to complete |
| transition-delay | Defines the duration of the delay before the transition effect starts |
| transition-timing-function | Defines the different speed of the effects when the transitions happens |
| transition | The shorthand property syntax for the four properties above |

Important: The transition-property and transition-duration declarations are mandatory for transitions to work.

A pseudo element is also required to transition to.

```
.box {
  width: 200px;
  height: 200px;
  background-color: orange;
  transition-property: width;
  transition-duration: 1s;
  transition-delay: 1s;
  transition-timing-function: cubic-bezier(.02,.97,.67,.32);
}

.box:hover {
  width: 400px;
  background-color: green;
}
```

```
.box {
  width: 200px;
  height: 200px;
  background-color: orange;
  transition: all 1s;
}

.box:hover {
  width: 400px;
  background-color: green;
}
```

By default the transition-timing-function is set to ease but can be changed to other timing-functions such as ease-in, ease-out, ease-in-out, linear, etc.

The cubic-bezier function value allows you to define your own speed of transition effects manually. The cubic-bezier function takes in 4 arguments. The following website is a useful resource for creating and viewing timing-functions (<https://cubic-bezier.com/>).

To transition multiple properties with different duration we must specify the four values for each property which are separated with a comma (,) as seen in the example on the right.

To transition all properties with the same duration, delay and timing-function we can use the 'all' value for the transition property value as seen in the above example.

```
.box {
  width: 200px;
  height: 200px;
  background-color: orange;
  transition: width 1s ease-in, background-color 5s;
}

.box:hover {
  width: 400px;
  background-color: green;
}
```