

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.