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CSS Background Opacity [duplicate]

This question already has an answer here:

[How do I give text or an image a transparent background using CSS?](#) 25 answers

I am using something similar to the following code:

```
<div style="opacity:0.4; background-image:url(...);">
  <div style="opacity:1.0;">
    Text
  </div>
</div>
```

I expected this to make the background have an opacity of 0.4 and the text to have 100% opacity. Instead they both have an opacity of 0.4.

[html](#) [css](#) [opacity](#)

edited Nov 2 '15 at 9:28

asked May 2 '12 at 23:05



[John Wheal](#)

2,660 4 18 34

marked as duplicate by [James Donnelly](#) [css](#) Jul 29 '16 at 14:37

This question has been asked before and already has an answer. If those answers do not fully address your question, please [ask a new question](#).

8 Answers

Children inherit opacity. It'd be weird and inconvenient if they didn't.

You can use a translucent png for your background image, or use an RGBA (a for alpha) color for your background color.

Example, 50% faded black background:

```
<div style="background-color:rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5);">
  <div>
    Text added.
  </div>
</div>
```

edited Jun 16 '15 at 22:12



Tom Hart
3 2

answered May 2 '12 at 23:07



AlienWebguy
61.3k 13 84 119

8 A more in-depth tutorial can be found here: robertnyman.com/2010/01/11/... – [Iain Fraser](#) Mar 14 '13 at 0:56

7 Is it possible to set alpha through a separate css rule? – [jayarjo](#) Apr 11 '14 at 8:02

3 No, it's a single channel of the color value, and the color value is assigned to the css rule. – [AlienWebguy](#) Apr 11 '14 at 17:29

3 @jayarjo `rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.6)` is equivalent to colour neutral fade out of the background. – [LateralFractal](#) Mar 4 '15 at 7:13

8 It's not really correct to say that "Children inherit opacity". They don't. It's just that if a child is contained in a parent with opacity, the child will have opacity: 1, but the parent applies it's opacity to itself including all it's children. – [stephband](#) Jan 15 '16 at 16:11

You can use CSS 3 `:before` to have a semi-transparent background and you can do this with just one container. Use something like this

```
<article>
  Text.
</article>
```

Then apply some CSS

```
article {
  position: relative;
  z-index: 1;
}

article::before {
  content: "";
```

```

position: absolute;
top: 0;
left: 0;
width: 100%;
height: 100%;
opacity: .4;
z-index: -1;
background: url(path/to/your/image);
}

```

Sample: <http://codepen.io/anon/pen/avdsi>

Note: You might need to adjust the `z-index` values.

edited Feb 7 '16 at 18:14



[T.Todua](#)

20.8k 8 86 93

answered Sep 24 '13 at 15:26



[daniels](#)

1,825 10 11

Actually it does work in all new browsers and IE 9 and up. Take a look here [example](#) – [daniels](#) Jun 18 '14 at 20:33

7 I prefer this solution over the one with `rgba` because it works with both images and background-colors. – [BillyTom](#) Sep 26 '14 at 6:27

4 The accepted answer is correct but this creative solution answers the OP more directly. Editing your background image to be a semi-transparent png/gif/etc.. is even more correct. Opacity takes a bit more juice to render. – [Patrick](#) Dec 5 '14 at 19:11

Of course, if you're using `css3`, then the `rgba` CSS style is likely supported and you don't have to write so much code. You could replace this entire thing with... like... literally one line of `css`. – [dudewad](#) Feb 4 '15 at 6:02

2 [@dudewad](#) The OP wants the opacity to apply to a background image. – [daniels](#) Feb 4 '15 at 9:48

The following methods can be used to solve your problem

1. CSS Alpha Transparency Method (doesn't work in IE 8)

```
#div{background-color: rgba(255, 0, 0, 0.5);}
```

2. Use a Transparent png image according to your choice as background.

3. Use the following `css` code snippet to create a cross-browser alpha-transparent background. Here is an example with `#000000 @ 0.4% opacity`

```

.div {
  background: rgb(0, 0, 0);
  background: transparent\9;
  background: rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.4);

  filter: progid:DXImageTransform.Microsoft.gradient(startColorstr=#66000000,endColorst

  zoom: 1;
}
.div:nth-child(n) {
  filter: none;
}

```

For more details regarding this technique, see [this](#), which has an online css generator.

edited Mar 16 '14 at 6:20



[bjb568](#)

6,433 10 33 62

answered Sep 24 '13 at 16:06



[Achyuth Ajoy](#)

361 3 3

1 I would call it the right solution as it is cross-browser solution rather than new browsers only. Thank! – [Nashe](#) May 14 '15 at 15:40

The css tag is called background-color not background – [Wilt](#) Feb 16 '16 at 16:06

3 @Wilt the css rule background-color is a subrule of background. Similar to border, margin, and padding, all background subrules can be set inside of background in one line instead of separately. Using background in this instance is what you want though so you can override other background subrules. – [David R.](#) Jun 10 '16 at 14:57

I would do something like this

```
<div class="container">
  <div class="text">
    <p>text yay!</p>
  </div>
</div>
```

CSS:

```
.container {
  position: relative;
}

.container::before {
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 0;
  bottom: 0;
  right: 0;
  background: url('/path/to/image.png');
  opacity: .4;
  content: "";
  z-index: -1;
}
```

Should work. This is assuming you are required to have a semi-transparent image btw, and not a color (which you should just use rgba for). Also assumed is that you can't just alter the opacity of the image beforehand in photoshop.

edited Sep 29 '16 at 21:25

answered May 2 '12 at 23:28



[Pete Lada](#)

515 4 11

do you have to set z-index: -1 on #bgd ? otherwise it'll make the entire thing transparent – [windmaomao](#) Jun 18 '15 at 3:58

not z-index , but bgd div element needs to be before the text element – [T.Todua](#) Feb 7 '16 at 18:16

```
.transbg{/* Fallback for web browsers that don't support RGBA */
background-color: rgb(0, 0, 0);
/* RGBA with 0.6 opacity */
background-color: rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.6);
/* For IE 5.5 - 7*/
filter:progid:DXImageTransform.Microsoft.gradient(startColorstr=#99000000,
endColorstr=#99000000);
/* For IE 8*/
-ms-filter: "progid:DXImageTransform.Microsoft.gradient(startColorstr=#99000000,
endColorstr=#99000000)";}
```

answered Mar 16 '14 at 6:08



Wael Wafik

31 3

This is because the inner div has 100% of the opacity of the div it is nested in (which has 40% opacity).

In order to circumvent it there are a few things you could do.

you could create two separate divs like so:

```
<div id="background"></div>
<div id="bContent"></div>
```

set your desired css opacity and other properties for the background and utilize the z-index property ([z-index](#)) to style and position the bContent div. With this you can place the div overtop of the background div without having its opacity mucked with.

Another option is to [RGBA](#). This will allow you to nest your divs and still achieve div specific opacity.

The last option is to simply make a semi transparent .png image of the color you want in your desired image editor of choice, set the background-image property to the url of the image and then you won't have to worry about mucking about with the css and losing the capability and organization of a nested div structure.

answered May 2 '12 at 23:14



zillaofthegods

1,125 3 14 40

You can use sass `transparentize`, i found it to be the most useful and plain to use.

```
transparentize(rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5), 0.1) => rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.4)
transparentize(rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.8), 0.2) => rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.6)
```

See more: http://sass-lang.com/documentation/Sass/Script/Functions.html#transparentize-instance_method

edited Jan 12 at 12:29



Taisbevalle

179 1 5 17

answered Mar 21 '16 at 12:53



ilan weissberg

225 2 11

Just make sure to put width and height for the foreground the same with the background, or try to have top, bottom, left and right properties.

```
<style>
  .foreground, .background {
    position: absolute;
  }
  .foreground {
    z-index: 1;
  }
  .background {
    background-image: url(your/image/here.jpg);
    opacity: 0.4;
  }
</style>

<div class="foreground"></div>
<div class="background"></div>
```

answered Jul 25 '16 at 23:57

Niño Angelo Orlanes
Lapura

31 6