CS472 WAP

Position

Page Layout

The Whole is Greater than the Sum of the Parts

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Main Point Preview

- **Static** position flows box elements from top to bottom, and inline elements from left to right. **Relative** position keeps the space in the original flow but displays the element at an offset. **Absolute** position takes the element out of the flow and places it relative to the "containing element". **Fixed** position takes the element out of the flow and places it relative to the viewport.

- *Layouts require understanding how parts fit into a larger whole. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.*

The `position` property

Property	Meaning	Values
position	Location of element on page	**`static`**: default position **`relative`**: offset from its normal static position **`absolute`**: at a particular offset within its containing element **`fixed`**: at a fixed location within the browser window
top, bottom, left, right	Offsets of element's edges	A size in px, pt, em or %

`position:static;`

- **static** is the default position value for all elements.
- An element with **position: static;** is not positioned in any special way.
- A static element is said to be not positioned and an element with its position set to anything else is said to be positioned.

position:relative;

- Set the location of an element to an offset from its normal static position.
- **relative** behaves the same as **static** unless you add some extra properties. Setting the **top**, **right**, **bottom**, and **left** properties of a relatively-positioned element will cause it to be adjusted away from its normal position. Other content will not be adjusted to fit into any gap left by the element. **relative** element stays in its place!

```
<p> This example has <span id="lifted">some text</span> with a relative position.
 </p>
```

```
#lifted {
 position: relative;
 left: 2em;
 top: 1em;
 border: 2px solid black;
}
```

This example has some text with a relative position.

See example: lesson3_examples/position-relative.html

position: absolute;

- position relative still in the normal flow of elements
- position absolute is out of flow and takes up no space
  - positioned relative to *nearest positioned ancestor*
  - If positioned ancestor doesn't exist, initial container is used
- common idiom
  - use enclosing div with relative position, but no left, top, right or bottom values
  - enclosing div stays at normal static position
  - point of reference for absolutely positioned elements inside

position: fixed;

- fixed position like absolute position, except **containing block is viewport**
- often used to create floating element in same position even after scrolling
- does not leave a gap in the page where it would normally have been located.
- loses its space in the flow
- does not move when you scroll (stays in place)

Overlapping Elements

- When elements are positioned, they can overlap other elements.
- The z-index property specifies the stack order of an element
- An element can have a positive or negative stack order

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