A Quick Look at CSS Sprites

According to Chris Coyier in his article “CSS Sprites: What They Are, Why They’re Cool, and How To Use Them” that CSS sprites are a means of combining multiple images into a single image file for use on a website, to help with performance. In short, sprites are big images that are made up of small images.

We can see sprite as a two- dimensional coordinate axis. Every small images are will be given their coordinates (CSS background-position property) in this axis. To display a certain image, you can use its coordinates to find the exact position to be displayed. For example:

.flowers {

Width: 120px;

Height: 135px;

Background-position: -5px -10px;

}

.sky {

Width: 120px;

Height: 135px;

Background-position: 0 0;

}

The image flowers will locate at lower right of sky.