

CSS `height: calc(100vh);` Vs `height: 100vh;`

Asked 2 years, 11 months ago Active 8 months ago Viewed 74k times



I'm working on a project where the former developer used:

15



```
.main-sidebar {  
  height: calc(100vh);  
}
```



5



I have no way to contact him/her anymore, and I would like to understand what is the difference (if any) between the two methods.

(Is this the right place to ask this question?)

[html](#) [css](#) [user-interface](#) [cross-browser](#)

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asked Oct 23 '18 at 4:46



[Adriano](#)

3,106 4 28 43

Possible duplicate of [Unnecessary use of calc\(\) in MDN example?](#) (this isn't an MDN example but it features the same use of calc() with only one value) – [BoltClock](#) ♦ Oct 23 '18 at 4:50

"(Is this the right place to ask this question?)" Yes, don't worry. – [BoltClock](#) ♦ Oct 23 '18 at 4:51

5 Answers

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VH

`height: 100vh;` means the height of this element is equal to 100% of the viewport height.

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example: `height: 50vh;`

If your screen height is 1000px, your element height will be equal to 500px (50% of 1000px).



CALC

`height: calc(100% - 100px);` will calculate the size of the element by using the value of the element.

example:

`height: calc(100% - 100px);` If your screen height is 1000px, your element height will be equal to 900px (100% of 1000px and minus 100px).

*I think your former developer didn't need to use `calc()` if he/she didn't want to calculate value.

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edited Sep 3 '19 at 23:34

answered Oct 23 '18 at 4:57



Adriano

3,106 4 28 43



Anukul Limpanasil

353 4 10



16



There's no difference, since any time the expression `calc(100vh)` is calculated, it always ends up being `100vh`.

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answered Oct 23 '18 at 4:50



jameslittle230

2,888 1 11 7



5



The `calc()` CSS function lets you perform calculations when specifying CSS property values

you may want to refer this [Path](#)

(The reason former developer used this may be that he's conventionally using it everywhere and it'd be easier to add calculations afterwards)

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edited May 16 '20 at 5:05



Kondal

2,544 4 22 39



Maulik Pipaliya Joyy

105 2 9

2 I bet the original value was something like `calc(100vh - 60px)`, then later removed `-60px` – Russell Jul 27 '20 at 16:20

I totally agree, Russell. Most probably that should have been the case! :p – Maulik Pipaliya Joyy Jul 31 '20 at 3:11



3



Basically `calc()` function allows mathematical expressions with addition (+), subtraction (-), multiplication (*), and division (/) to be used as component values.

Now in your case, both are same as you have not used any calculation. So you can use `height: 100vh`

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answered Oct 23 '18 at 5:31



DPS

872 9 20



2



A common use case is that at first he substracted the header or any other element. `calc(100vh - 80px)`.

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answered Oct 23 '18 at 4:54



Dragomir Dan

21 1

So are you saying this was a case of negligence removing the "- 80px" but not the entire calc() expression? – [BoltClock](#) ♦ Oct 23 '18 at 5:07

I concur with @"Dragomir Dan" – [Russell](#) Jul 27 '20 at 16:22
