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:

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



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(I)

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 <u>Unnecessary use of calc() in MDN example?</u> (this isn't an MDN example but it features the same use of calc() with only one value) – <u>BoltClock</u> ◆ 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

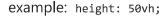


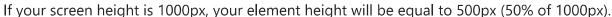


VH

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

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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





Anukul Limpanasil **353** 4



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

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jameslittle230 **2,888** 1 11 7







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

5 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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Kondal

answered Oct 23 '18 at 5:41



Maulik Pipaliya Joyy

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



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

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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



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

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Dragomir Dan

answered Oct 23 '18 at 4:54

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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