

**Learn CSS By Use Cases**

ebook by Joe Harrison



# Properties height & width

Along with

min-height max-height min-width max-width



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# height & width

## Properties

### Intro

In CSS, height and width (along with their min and max variants) define the size of an element. They do not include any padding or border in their actual dimensions unless you have enabled box-sizing: border-box on the element.

### Syntax

All properties accept any length value (excluding fractions) as well as the keyword “auto”, which is the default value. In these properties “auto” means that the size will be defined by either it’s parent container or the content it contains.

# height & width

## Properties

## Special Power

Width arguably has a bit more power than height as it's more commonly used. Height is often derived by the content of the element, but it's very useful when sizing images and keeping UI components consistent.

## Tips

If height or width is set to a value like px, rem or %, then content can potentially overflow. The way content overflows will be defined by the overflow property of the parent element. Both min and max properties will override any width and height values.

# height

## Uniform controls



Consistent  
height lengths  
create clean  
elegant UI

```
.button,  
.input { height: 3.5rem; }
```

We could clean this code up by creating a `.form-control` class and apply it to both elements

# min-height

Preserve element height

May need  
min-height



Oops, we have  
encountered an  
unexpected error!



Address details  
have been saved!

.alert

```
.alert {  
  height: 10rem; min-height: 10rem;  
}
```

To ensure an element does not get squashed by any styling defined by the parent we set min-height (and max-height in some cases)



# max-height

## Collapsible panels

.panel

Expand/collapse

.panel.open

Expand/collapse

You have just built your first custom made collapsible panel in pure css

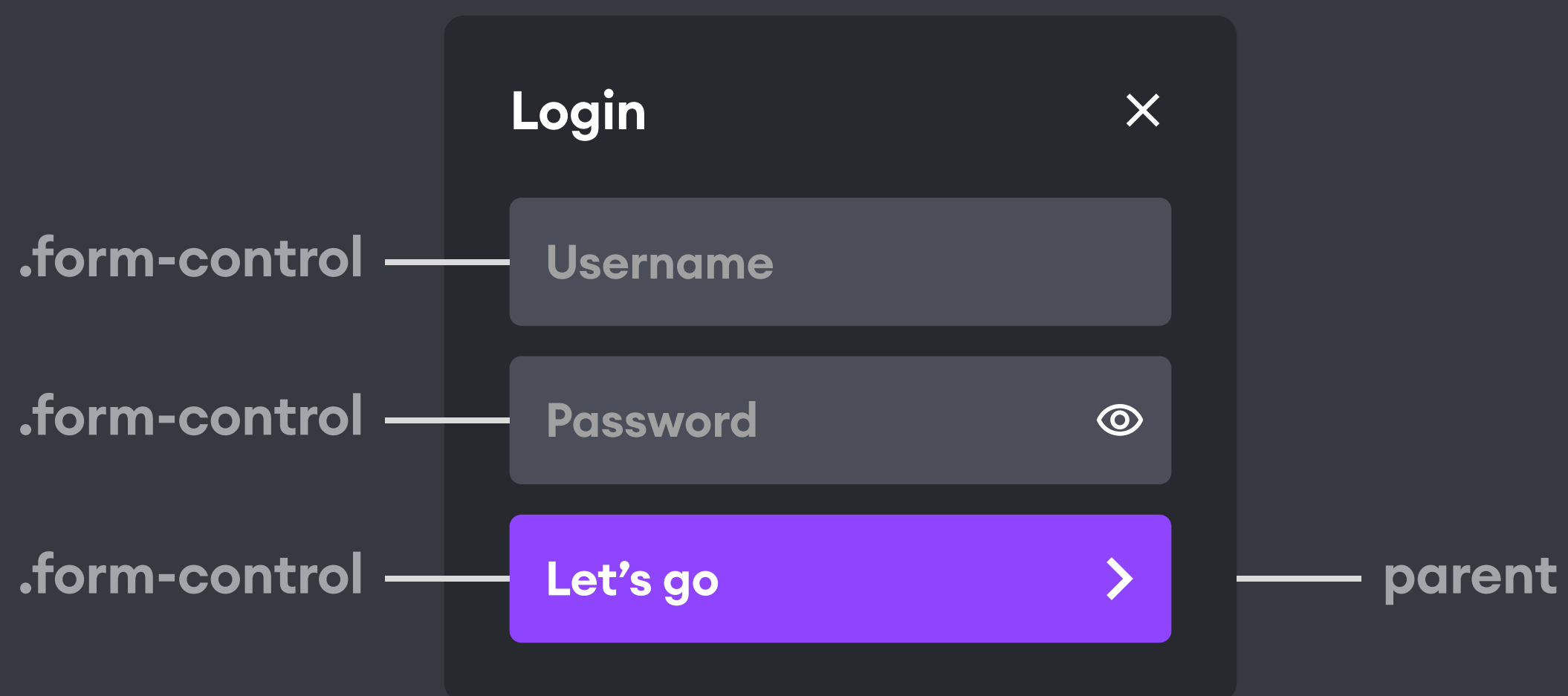
```
.panel { max-height: 0; }  
  
.panel.open { max-height: 1000px; }
```

I transition the max-height property from 0 to a high number. I've used 1000px but you can lower it depending on the content



# width

## Stretched form controls



```
.form-control { width: 100%; }
```

The width percentage here will be relative to it's parent element

It's good practice to create a reusable class that can be added to various form elements and controls





# max-width

## Text overflow with ellipsis

44523 Leyton Avenue, Gilli...

When using ...  
it's good  
practice to  
show the full  
value in a  
tooltip

```
.text { max-width: 20rem; }
```

You'll find this use case in my source code. It's important  
as it has all the other vital properties involved





## min-width

Avoid controls being too small



```
.button { min-width: 8rem; }
```

Smaller buttons are more difficult to press so it's a good practice to set a minimum width

## width, min and max

### Fixed width elements

User	Age	
John Smith	32	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elvis Harris	24	<input type="checkbox"/>

```
.title-column {  
  width: 12rem;  
  min-width: 12rem;  
  max-width: 12rem;  
}
```

We can achieve the same with height properties too

# height & width

## Properties

## Knowledge Gained



Defines the size of an element



Height and width values do not include padding, margin or borders



However, the box-sizing property makes working with heights and widths easier



Width is usually a defined value where as height, is usually defined by it's content



Both are involved heavily when working with how an element overflows



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