



Web Development

CSS Sprites



What are CSS Sprites?

An image sprite is a collection of images put into a single image.

A web page with many images can take a long time to load and generates multiple server requests.

Using image sprites will reduce the number of server requests and save bandwidth.

CSS Sprites are a means of combining multiple images into a single image file for use on a website, to help with performance.

Get the image once, and shift it around and only display parts of it. This reduces the overhead of having to fetch multiple images.



Advantages of CSS Sprites

- Fewer http requests between client and server.
- A single composite image is almost always smaller in filesize compared to the sum size of the images made separately.
- Perfect for icons, buttons, and graphics that contribute to the aesthetic of the page.



Disadvantages of CSS Sprites

- Not all images should be displayed as backgrounds (`background: url(image.img)`). Important content graphics should always use the `img` tag. This way the images will contribute to search engine optimization and maximize accessibility.
- Need time to build the composite sprite images (you can use a sprite generator).
- Require more time to code and maintain CSS.



CSS Sprites

DEMO and In Class Lab!



Useful website

- [Sprites Generator](#)



Resources

- [CSS-Tricks](#)
- [W3Schools](#)