How to affect other elements when a div is hovered

376

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I think this is a very basic question but I'm not sure how it can be done.

What I want to do is when a certain `div` is hovered, it'd affect the properties of another `div` .

For example, in this simple example, when you hover over `#cube` it changes the `background-color` but what I want is that when I hover over `#container` , `#cube` is affected.

```
div {
  outline: 1px solid red;
}
#container {
  width: 200px;
  height: 30px;
}
#cube {
  width: 30px;
  height: 100%;
  background-color: red;
}
#cube:hover {
  width: 30px;
  height: 100%;
  background-color: blue;
}


<div id="container">

  <div id="cube">
  </div>

</div>
```

edited Mar 24 '16 at 20:39
TylerH
16.4k 10 56 71

asked Dec 21 '10 at 18:29
Trufa
19.1k 36 110 170

6 Answers

816

✓

If the cube is directly inside the container:

```
#container:hover > #cube { background-color: yellow; }
```

If cube is next to (after containers closing tag) the container:

```
#container:hover + #cube { background-color: yellow; }
```

If the cube is somewhere inside the container:

```
#container:hover #cube { background-color: yellow; }
```

If the cube is a sibling of the container:

```
#container:hover ~ #cube { background-color: yellow; }
```

edited Feb 1 '17 at 12:47
rockfeeler
3 2

answered Dec 21 '10 at 18:36
Mike
9,410 2 13 25

93 Don't forget the general sibling combinator `~` for 'cube is somewhere after container in the DOM and shares a parent' – robertc Dec 21 '10 at 18:50

2 That's pretty cool. Is there some source where I can find more information about that ? Is it supported by all browser, is it CSS3 ? Would be great to

3 What to do if the hovered element is inside the container(that we want to be effected) ??? For example: #cube:hover #container{Some CSS Effects} – Hanzallah Afgan Mar 3 '15 at 15:19

36

In this particular example, you can use:

```
#container:hover #cube {
    background-color: yellow;
}
```

This only works since `cube` is a child of `container` . For more complicated scenarios, you'd need to use javascript.

edited Oct 9 '14 at 23:48
KyleMit
60.6k 38 266 424

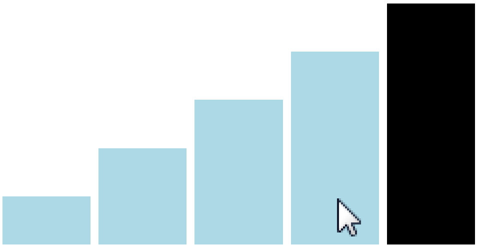
answered Dec 21 '10 at 18:31
Emmett
10.2k 10 49 77

Oh, ok! thanks for the clarification, I hadn't noticed! thxs!!! – Trufa Dec 21 '10 at 18:34

11 As shows above, this is false. You can still use CSS to affect other elements that aren't children. – Zoyt Dec 31 '14 at 22:54

26

Using the sibling selector is the general solution for styling other elements when hovering over a given one, **but** it works *only if the other elements follow the given one in the DOM*. What can we do when the other elements should actually be before the hovered one? Say we want to implement a signal bar rating widget like the one below:



Show code snippet

edited Sep 9 '15 at 9:54

answered Sep 9 '15 at 4:27
Dan Dascalescu
74k 22 213 293

Could this be edited so the highlight doesn't disappear when moving the mouse from 1 bar to the other? The flashing is a little distracting. – Cerbrus Sep 9 '15 at 6:23

@Cerbrus: Added a solution that doesn't hide the hover when the mouse is between bars. The downside is the width of the bars is no longer equal. – Dan Dascalescu Sep 9 '15 at 9:22

1 Try this in your first snippet: on `.rating div`, remove the margin, and add `border-right: 4px solid white;` – Cerbrus Sep 9 '15 at 9:47

1 Flex direction (not well supported for IE) OR 1) black by default 2) all blue on mouse over the container 3) black for next sibling on bar hover :) – Stephane Mathis Oct 16 '15 at 10:30

I made this fiddle which (at least for me) made it a little more aparent on what was going on here. jsfiddle.net/maxshuty/cj55y33p/3 – maxshuty Jun 15 '17 at 12:27

6

Big thanks to Mike and Robertc for their helpful posts!

If you have two elements in your HTML and you want to `:hover` over one and target a style change in the other the two elements must be directly related--parents, children or siblings. This means that the two elements either must be one inside the other or must both be contained within the same larger element.

I wanted to display definitions in a box on the right side of the browser as my users read through my site and `:hover` over highlighted terms; therefore, I did not want the 'definition' element to be displayed inside the 'text' element.

I almost gave up and just added javascript to my page, but this is the future dang it! We should not have to put up with back sass from CSS and HTML telling us where we have to place our elements to achieve the effects we want! In the end we compromised.

While the actual HTML elements in the file must be either nested or contained in a single element to be valid `:hover` targets to each other, the css `position` attribute can be used to display any element where ever you want. I used position:fixed to place the target of my `:hover` action where I wanted it on the user's screen regardless to its location in the HTML document

```
  <a class="defP" id="light" href="http://en.wikipedia.or/wiki/Light">Light
/*highlighted term in text*/
  </a> is as ubiquitous as it is mysterious. /*plain text*/

  <div id="definitions"> /*Container for :hover-displayed definitions*/
    <p class="def" id="light"> /*example definition entry*/ Light:
      <br/>Short Answer: The type of energy you see
    </p>
  </div>

</div>
```

The css:

```
/*read: "when user hovers over #light somewhere inside #explainBox
    set display to inline-block for #light directly inside of #definitions.*/

#explainBox #light:hover~#definitions>#light {
  display: inline-block;
}

.def {
  display: none;
}

#definitions {
  background-color: black;
  position: fixed;
  /*position attribute*/
  top: 5em;
  /*position attribute*/
  right: 2em;
  /*position attribute*/
  width: 20em;
  height: 30em;
  border: 1px solid orange;
  border-radius: 12px;
  padding: 10px;
}
```

I understand it is considered bad form to use the same `#id` for more than one HTML element; however, in this case the instances of `#light` can be described independently due to their respective positions in uniquely `#id` 'd elements. Is there any reason not to repeat the `id` `#light` in this case?

edited Feb 18 '16 at 10:13
Igor Ivancha
2,826 4 23 37

answered May 10 '13 at 0:37
rick
61 1 2

Quite the long answer for such a short point, but here's a jsfiddle of it jsfiddle.net/ubershmekel/bWgq6/1 – ubershmekel Jan 4 '14 at 1:15

1 some browers will freak out when you use the same `ID` multiple times. Just use a `class` . – Serj Sagan Jul 21 '16 at 17:51

5

Only this worked for me:

```
#container:hover .cube { background-color: yellow; }
```

Where `.cube` is CssClass of the `#cube` .

Tested in **Firefox**, **Chrome** and **Edge**.

edited Feb 18 '16 at 10:13
Igor Ivancha
2,826 4 23 37

answered Sep 15 '15 at 10:29
CyberHawk
430 2 9 25

0

Here is another idea that allow you to affect other elements without considering any specific selector and by only using the `:hover` state of the main element.

For this, I will rely on the use of custom properties (CSS variables). As we can read in the specification:

> Custom properties are **ordinary properties**, so they can be declared on any element, are resolved **with the normal inheritance**

Here is an example:

```
#container {
  width: 200px;
  height: 30px;
  border: 1px solid var(--c);
  --c:red;
}
#container:hover {
  --c:blue;
}
#container > div {
  width: 30px;
  height: 100%;
  background-color: var(--c);
}


<div id="container">
  <div>
  </div>
</div>
```

Run code snippet   Expand snippet

Why this can be better than using specific selector combined with hover?

I can provide at least 2 reasons that make this method a good one to consider:

1. If we have many nested elements that share the same styles, this will avoid us complex selector to target all of them on hover. Using Custom properties, we simply change the value when hovering on the parent element.
2. A custom property can be used to replace a value of any property and also a partial value of it. For example we can define a custom property for a color and we use it within a `border` , `linear-gradient` , `background-color` , `box-shadow` etc. This will avoid us reseting all these properties on hover.

Here is a more complex example:

```
  display:flex;
  border:1px solid var(--c);
  justify-content:space-between;
  padding:5px;
  background:linear-gradient(var(--c),var(--c)) 0 50%/100% 3px no-repeat;
}
.box {
  width:30%;
  background:var(--c);
  box-shadow:0px 0px 5px var(--c);
  position:relative;
}
.box:before {
  content:"A";
  display:block;
  width:15px;
  margin:0 auto;
  height:100%;
  color:var(--c);
  background:#fff;
}

/*Hover*/
.container:hover {
  --c:blue;
}



<div class="container">
<div class="box"></div>
<div class="box"></div>
</div>
```

Run code snippet Expand snippet

As we can see above, we only need **one CSS declaration** in order to change many properties of different elements.

edited Jun 17 '18 at 22:17

answered Jun 3 '18 at 14:01
Temani Afif

protected by Community ♦ Jul 16 '13 at 18:15

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