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CSS Masking

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With CSS masking you create a mask layer to place over an element to partially or fully hide portions of the element.

The CSS mask-image Property





The CSS `mask-image` property specifies a mask layer image.

The mask layer image can be a PNG image, an SVG image, a [CSS gradient](#), or an [SVG <mask> element](#).

Browser Support

Note: Most browsers only have partial support for CSS masking. You will need to use the `-webkit-` prefix in addition to the standard property in most browsers.

The numbers in the table below specify the first browser version that fully supports the property. Numbers followed by `-webkit-` specify the first version that worked with a prefix.

Property					
mask-image	4.0 -webkit-	79.0 -webkit-	53.0	4.0 -webkit-	15.0 -webkit-

Use an Image as the Mask Layer

To use a PNG or an SVG image as the mask layer, use a `url()` value to pass in the mask layer image.

The mask image needs to have a transparent or semi-transparent area. Black indicates fully transparent.

Here is the mask image (a PNG image) we will use:



Here is an image from Cinque Terre, in Italy:



Now, we apply the mask image (the PNG image above) as the mask layer for the image from Cinque Terre, Italy:



Example

Here is the source code:

```
.mask1 {  
  -webkit-mask-image: url(w3logo.png);  
  mask-image: url(w3logo.png);  
  -webkit-mask-repeat: no-repeat;  
  mask-repeat: no-repeat;  
}
```

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Example Explained

The `mask-image` property specifies the image to be used as a mask layer for an element.

The `mask-repeat` property specifies if or how a mask image will be repeated. The `no-repeat` value indicates that the mask image will not be repeated (the mask image will only be shown once).

Another Example

If we omit the `mask-repeat` property, the mask image will be repeated all over the image from Cinque Terre, Italy:

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Example

Here is the source code:

```
.mask1 {
  -webkit-mask-image: url(w3logo.png);
  mask-image: url(w3logo.png);
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Use Gradients as the Mask Layer

CSS linear and radial gradients can also be used as mask images.

Linear Gradient Examples

Here, we use a linear-gradient as the mask layer for our image. This linear gradient goes from top (black) to bottom (transparent):



Example

Use a linear gradient as a mask layer:

```
.mask1 {
  -webkit-mask-image: linear-gradient(black, transparent);
  mask-image: linear-gradient(black, transparent);
}
```

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Here, we use a linear-gradient along with text masking as the mask layer for our image:



Example

Use a linear gradient along with text masking as a mask layer:

```
.mask1 {
  max-width: 600px;
  height: 350px;
  overflow-y: scroll;
  background: url(img_5terre.jpg) no-repeat;
  -webkit-mask-image: linear-gradient(black, transparent);
  mask-image: linear-gradient (black, transparent);
}
```

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Radial Gradient Examples

Here, we use a radial-gradient (shaped as a circle) as the mask layer for our image:



Example

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```
}
mask-image: radial-gradient(circle, black 50%, rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5) 50%);
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Here, we use a radial-gradient (shaped as an ellipse) as the mask layer for our image:



Example

Use another radial gradient as a mask layer (an ellipse):

```
.mask3 {
  -webkit-mask-image: radial-gradient(ellipse, black 50%, rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5) 50%);
  mask-image: radial-gradient(ellipse, black 50%, rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5) 50%);
}
```

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Use SVG as the Mask Layer

The SVG `<mask>` element can be used inside an SVG graphic to create masking effects.

Here, we use the SVG `<mask>` element to create different mask layers for our image:



Example

An SVG mask layer (formed as a triangle):

```
<svg width="600" height="400">
  <mask id="svgmask1">
    <polygon fill="ffffff" points="200 0, 400 400, 0 400"></polygon>
  </mask>
  <image xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink" xlink:href="img_5terre.jpg" mask="url(#svgmask1)"></image>
</svg>
```

Try it Yourself »



Example

An SVG mask layer (formed as a star):

```
<svg width="600" height="400">
  <mask id="svgmask2">
    <polygon fill="ffffff" points="100,10 40,198 190,78 10,78 160,198"></polygon>
  </mask>
  <image xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink" xlink:href="img_5terre.jpg" mask="url(#svgmask2)"></image>
</svg>
```

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Example

An SVG mask layer (formed as circles):

```
<svg width="600" height="400">
  <mask id="svgmask3">
    <circle fill="#ffffff" cx="75" cy="75" r="75"></circle>
    <circle fill="#ffffff" cx="80" cy="260" r="75"></circle>
    <circle fill="#ffffff" cx="270" cy="160" r="75"></circle>
  </mask>
  <image xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink" xlink:href="img_5terre.jpg" mask="url(#svgmask3)"></image>
</svg>
```

Try it Yourself »

CSS Masking Properties

The following table lists all the CSS masking properties:

Property	Description
mask-image	Specifies an image to be used as a mask layer for an element
mask-mode	Specifies whether the mask layer image is treated as a luminance mask or as an alpha mask
mask-origin	Specifies the origin position (the mask position area) of a mask layer image
mask-position	Sets the starting position of a mask layer image (relative to the mask position area)
mask-repeat	Specifies how the mask layer image is repeated
mask-size	Specifies the size of a mask layer image

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