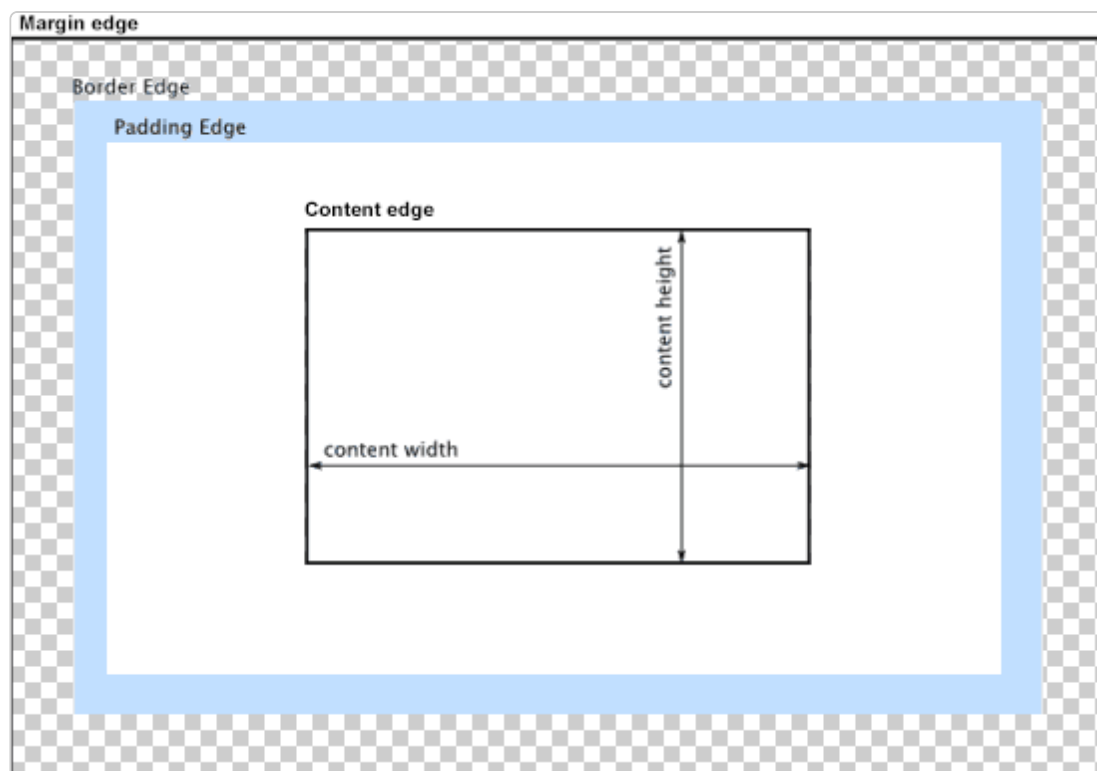




# Introduction to the CSS basic box model

When laying out a document, the browser's rendering engine represents each element as a rectangular box according to the standard **CSS basic box model**. CSS determines the size, position, and properties (color, background, border size, etc.) of these boxes.

Every box is composed of four parts (or *areas*), defined by their respective edges: the *content edge*, *padding edge*, *border edge*, and *margin edge*.



## Content area

The **content area**, bounded by the content edge, contains the "real" content of the element, such as text, an image, or a video player. Its dimensions are the *content width* (or *content-box width*) and the *content height* (or *content-box height*). It often has a background color or background image.

If the [box-sizing](#) property is set to `content-box` (default) and if the element is a block element, the content area's size can be explicitly defined with the [width](#), [min-width](#), [max-width](#), [height](#), [min-height](#), and [max-height](#) properties.

## Padding area

The **padding area**, bounded by the padding edge, extends the content area to include the element's padding. Its dimensions are the *padding-box width* and the *padding-box height*.

The thickness of the padding is determined by the [padding-top](#), [padding-right](#), [padding-bottom](#), [padding-left](#), and shorthand [padding](#) properties.

## Border area

The **border area**, bounded by the border edge, extends the padding area to include the element's borders. Its dimensions are the *border-box width* and the *border-box height*.

The thickness of the borders are determined by the [border-width](#) and shorthand [border](#) properties. If the [box-sizing](#) property is set to `border-box`, the border area's size can be explicitly defined with the [width](#), [min-width](#), [max-width](#), [height](#), [min-height](#), and [max-height](#) properties. When there is a background ( [background-color](#) or [background-image](#) ) set on a box, it extends to the outer edge of the border (i.e. extends underneath the border in z-ordering). This default behavior can be altered with the [background-clip](#) CSS property.

## Margin area

The **margin area**, bounded by the margin edge, extends the border area to include an empty area used to separate the element from its neighbors. Its dimensions are the *margin-box width* and the *margin-box height*.

The size of the margin area is determined by the [margin-top](#), [margin-right](#), [margin-bottom](#), [margin-left](#), and shorthand [margin](#) properties. When [margin collapsing](#) occurs, the margin area is not clearly defined since margins are shared between boxes.

Finally, note that for non-replaced inline elements, the amount of space taken up (the contribution to the height of the line) is determined by the [line-height](#) property, even

though the borders and padding are still displayed around the content.

## Specifications

| Specification   |
|---|
| <a href="#">CSS Box Model Module Level 3</a><br><a href="#"># intro</a> |

## See also

- [Layout and the containing block](#)
- [Introducing the CSS Cascade](#)
- [Cascade, specificity, and inheritance](#)
- CSS key concepts:
  - [CSS syntax](#)
  - [At-rules](#)
  - [Comments](#)
  - [Specificity](#)
  - [Inheritance](#)
  - [Layout modes](#)
  - [Visual formatting models](#)
  - [Margin collapsing](#)
  - Values
    - [Initial values](#)
    - [Computed values](#)
    - [Used values](#)
    - [Actual values](#)
  - [Value definition syntax](#)
  - [Shorthand properties](#)
  - [Replaced elements](#)

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