HTML span align center not working?

Asked 11 years, 2 months ago Modified 4 years, 3 months ago Viewed 682k times



I have some HTML:

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```
<div align="center" style="border:1px solid red">
This is some text in a div element!
</div>
```





The Div is changing the spacing on my document, so I want to use a span for this instead.

But span is not centralizing the contents:

```
<span style="border:1px solid red;align=center">
This is some text in a div element!
</span>
```

How do I fix this?

EDIT:

My complete code:

```
<html>
<body>
This is a paragraph. This text has no alignment specified.
<span style="border:1px solid red;text-align=center">
    This is some text in a div element!
</span>
</body>
</html>
```

html

CSS

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edited Dec 5, 2011 at 21:56



Your div is "changing the spacing"? What do you mean by this? And your span won't because by default it's an *inline* element, whereas a div is a *block* level element. – Bojangles Dec 5, 2011 at 21:37

```
Hello JamWaffles, By "spacing" I mean the div adds space above and below the contents. The span does
not do this. – David19801 Dec 5, 2011 at 21:38

    Use Firebug or the Chrome inspector to see what CSS rules are applied to your element, and look for

the one that adds padding or margin. It's also possible the surrounding elements have padding/margin.
    - Bojangles Dec 5, 2011 at 21:40
   text-align=center should be text-align:center - n611x007 Aug 26, 2012 at 23:41 /
```

7 Answers

Highest score (default)

Sorted by:



239

A div is a block element, and will span the width of the container unless a width is set. A span is an inline element, and will have the width of the text inside it. Currently, you are trying to set align as a CSS property. Align is an attribute.



```
<span align="center" style="border:1px solid red;">
   This is some text in a div element!
</span>
```

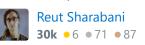


However, the align attribute is deprecated. You should use the CSS text-align property on the container.

```
<div style="text-align: center;">
    <span style="border:1px solid red;">
        This is some text in a div element!
    </span>
</div>
```

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answered Dec 5, 2011 at 21:41



2 — The problem with the 2nd method comes when the container should left-aligned, and then some text inside it should be centered. Similar to this question. I tried the deprecated method since it seems the only way, but it doesn't work in Chroimum nor in Firefox. – Hi-Angel Apr 4, 2021 at 16:10 /



Please use the following style. margin:auto normally used to center align the content. display:table is needed for span element

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```
<span style="margin:auto; display:table; border:1px solid red;">
   This is some text in a div element!
</span>
```



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edited Aug 19, 2013 at 17:26

answered Aug 19, 2013 at 17:21



Chris J **959** • 8 • 14



display table works in bootstrap 4 input group addon span – Toma Jul 10, 2022 at 3:56



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The align attribute is deprecated. Use CSS text-align instead. Also, the span will not center the text unless you use display:block Or display:inline-block and set a value for the width, but then it will behave the same as a div (block element).



Can you post an example of your layout? Use www.jsfiddle.net



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answered Dec 5, 2011 at 21:41 Jeff Camera



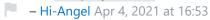
1 — Worked great! Thanks. – dallinchase Nov 26, 2014 at 20:08



Can't I align two inline elements differently while keeping them inline elements? – user5306470 Jan 24, 2016 at 2:09



The display:block makes the text go to a new line. The inline-block doesn't work at all.





Yay, I found how to make it work, see here. Basically, the solution is backwards: instead of centering the text you want to center, you left-aligning the text you want not to be in center. @JeffCamera do you mind adding a solution to your answer? – Hi-Angel Apr 4, 2021 at 17:07









For me it worked very well. try this also

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edited Nov 11, 2018 at 14:43



answered Feb 4, 2016 at 14:34



