

Determining the dimensions of elements

- [Edit](#)
- [Watch](#)

Table of contents

1. [How much room does it use up?](#)
2. [What's the size of the displayed content?](#)
3. [How big is the content?](#)
4. [Specifications](#)
5. [References](#)

- [Tags](#)
- [Files](#)

[Page Notifications Off](#)

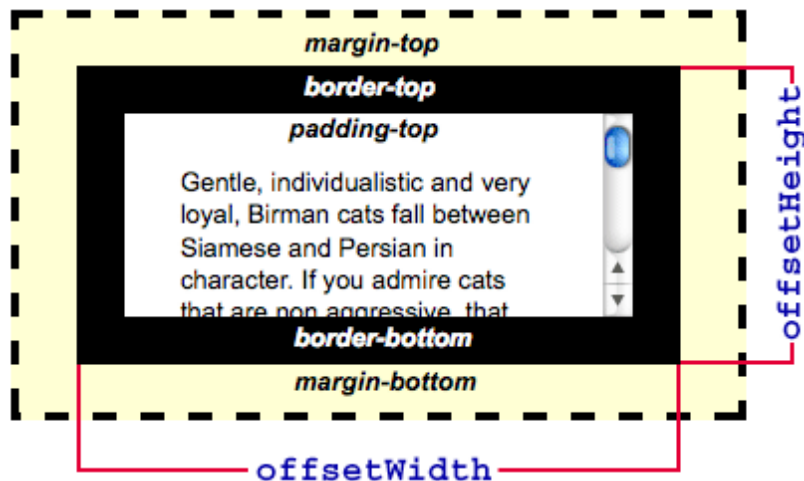
Table of contents

1. [How much room does it use up?](#)
2. [What's the size of the displayed content?](#)
3. [How big is the content?](#)
4. [Specifications](#)
5. [References](#)

There are several properties you can look at in order to determine the width and height of elements, and it can be tricky to determine which is the right one for your needs. This article is designed to help you make that decision.

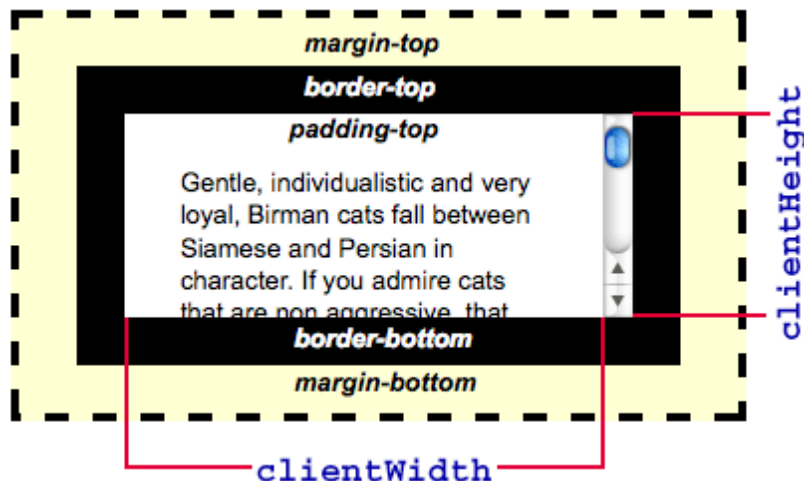
How much room does it use up?

If you need to know the total amount of space an element occupies, including the width of the visible content, scrollbars (if any), padding, and border, you want to use the [offsetWidth](#) and [offsetHeight](#) properties. These are the same as the width and height of [getBoundingClientRect\(\)](#).



What's the size of the displayed content?

If you need to know how much space the actual displayed content takes up, including padding but not including the border, margins, or scrollbars, you want to use the `clientWidth` and `clientHeight` properties:



How big is the content?

If you need to know the actual size of the content, regardless of how much of it is currently visible, you need to use the `scrollWidth` and `scrollHeight` properties. These return the width and height of the entire content of an element, even if only part of it is presently visible due to the use of scroll bars.

For example, if a 600-by-400 pixel element is being displayed inside a 300x300 pixel scrollbar, `scrollWidth` will return 600 while `scrollHeight` will return 400.

Specifications

<http://www.w3.org/TR/cssom-view/>

References

[MSDN: Measuring Element Dimension and Location](#)

Tags (4)

Edit tags

- [AJAX](#)
- [DOM](#)
- [NeedsEditorialReview](#)
- [NeedsTechnicalReview](#)

Attachments (0)

Images 0

No images to display in the gallery.

Attach file

Page last modified 21:33, 7 Sep 2010 by yonathan



© 2011 Mozilla Developer Network

Content is available under [these licenses](#) • [About MDN](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Help](#)