

Background-size

<http://www.css3.info/preview/background-size/>

Reading

Another new property introduced by the CSS3 Backgrounds and Borders module is background-size. The property adds new functionality to CSS allowing designers to specify the size of background images using either lengths, percentages, or by using one of two keywords; contain or cover.

Browser support has grown of late, with the current versions of most popular browsers now supporting background-size, including Firefox, Safari, Chrome, Internet Explorer and Opera, without the need for vendor prefixes.

Here's a very basic example. In the first box below background-size has been set to auto (the default value) meaning that the background image is shown at its original size. In the second box background-size has been set to 275px (w) x 125px (h). In both cases, the background image has been defined so as not to be repeated.

```
#example1 {  
background-size: auto;  
}  
#example2 {  
background-size: 275px 125px;  
}
```

How it Works

The background-size property can be used to specify the size of background images in one of three ways. Designers can choose to either supply one or two lengths, percentages or auto keywords, or use the contain keyword, or the cover keyword.

Like the various other background properties, background-size can accept multiple values, specified using a comma-separated list, when working with multiple backgrounds, keep reading for more information.

The Syntax

background-size: <bg-size> [, <bg-size>]*

<bg-size> = [<length> | <percentage> | auto]{1,2} | cover | contain

Examples

```
background-size: 200px;  
background-size: 200px 100px;  
background-size: 200px 100px, 400px 200px;  
background-size: auto 200px;  
background-size: 50% 25%;  
background-size: contain;  
background-size: cover;
```

Let's first take a look at how lengths, percentages and the auto keyword work, before moving on to look at the contain and cover keywords.

Specifying the Background Size using Lengths, Percentages or 'auto'

Specifying the background size using lengths and percentages does exactly what you'd expect. For each background image, two lengths or percentages can be supplied – the first relating to the width of the background image, the second relating to the height.

Note: when percentages are used, these relate to the width/height of the 'background positioning area' of the containing element (ie. the space available for the background), not the width/height of the background image itself.

The auto keyword can be used in place of either value, and if only one value (length/percentage/auto) is supplied for background-size, this will be treated as the width, and the height will be assumed to be auto.

Where one value is a defined length or percentage and the other value is auto, the background image will be scaled according to the specified length or percentage in such a manner that its intrinsic proportions (ratio) are maintained.

If background-size is not specified, the default value is auto for both width and height. Where both values are auto, the image is shown at its original size.

Let's take a look at a few examples to demonstrate this. The same background image is used in all of the examples below, it's original dimensions are 550px width x 250px height. In all examples the background image has been defined so as not to repeat, and the following code is assumed in addition to that shown for each example:

```
#example {  
width: 550px;  
height: 250px;  
background-image: url(background.png);  
background-repeat: no-repeat;  
background-color: #EEE;  
background-size: as defined in individual examples;  
}
```

Questions

What does background-size property allow?

Do you need any vendor prefix in order to use this property?

What is the default value?

What does it mean?

How many different ways can we specify the size of background image?

Does this property accept multiple values?

What is the first length or percentages related to?

What is the second length or percentages related to?

Can the auto keyword be used in place of either value?

Vocabulary

Background: fondo

keyword: Palabra clave

contain: contenido

cover: cubierta

support: admitir, soportar. Ej. which team do you ~? ¿de qué equipo eres (hincha)?;

various: varios, diferentes, diversos

to take a look: ojear

to move on to: seguir adelante, progresar

be related to: estar relacionado

be assumed: dar por hecho

manner: modo, manera

intrinsic: intrínseco