Are there specific concerns to be aware of when setting margins, padding, and borders?

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So, hopefully, by now in your studies, you understand that the box model consists of a border. That's pretty straightforward to understand. Inside the border is the padding. Outside the border is the margin. That's pretty straightforward.

When we talk about the width property, by default, the width is only the width of the content. So, when you're talking about the total width of an element on the webpage, you're actually going to have to add together all the margin--don't forget both sides, both sides of the border, both sides of the padding going horizontally across the page to determine the overall width of this particular element. This is called the content box model. It is what is used by default in your CSS.

That's a lot of math. And it gets really hairy laying things out, trying to do all of that math if you put in multiple elements next to each other on the screen.

So, a better way to do this, and what we tend to do now, is to use the border box model. And there's a guy named Paul Irish who worked for Google. If you Google "Paul Irish border box model," you'll find his little bit of code that you can just drop right into your CSS. Just set it up that way every time.

Because what the border box model says is that that width property is going to include the content, the padding, and the border. So, the only other thing you have to worry about is the margin. The margin stays separate. When you're thinking about the overall width of an element.

It's a little bit more intuitive. And it's way easier to work with when you go to responsive design. So, be sure you Google that: "Paul Irish and the border box model." You'll find his article that has the bit of code you need.