Theory: Visibility

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Think of a website that has these two features: a menu that unfolds when you click on it, and a pop-up window with a hint that activates when you put the cursor over it. What do the menu and the hint have in common here? Both change the visibility of the element. When you think about how to hide elements or make them visible, it may seem quite difficult to implement. However, the CSS property `visibility` is actually quite easy to use. Let's talk about this property in more detail.

§1. Syntax

The `visibility` property is intended to hide or show the element without changing the markup of the HTML document. You can set it to the following values:

- `visible` is the default value, meaning that the element is displayed as visible.
- `hidden` makes the element invisible.
- `collapse` can hide rows and columns of a table, and the table will be reconstructed taking the missing elements into account. If you try to apply this value to something that is not a table element, the result will be the same as if you used `hidden`.
- `inherit` will allow you to inherit the value of the parent element.
- `initial` sets the property to its default value.
- `unset` is basically a combination of the `initial` and `inherit` values. The `unset` keyword sets the property value as `inherit` if the property is inherited from the parent element; otherwise, the value is set as `initial`.

§2. Examples of property usage

Consider an example of using the `visibility` property. Try to understand what happens in this code:

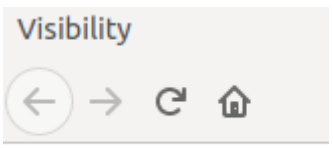
```
h1 {
  visibility: hidden;
}
```

In this example, it is specified that the `<h1>` element should be invisible.

Let's apply this to the following HTML code:

```
<h1>Chess online</h1>
<p>Start a new game</p>
```

This is the result that we will see in the browser:



Start a new game

Note that although the `<h1>` element is hidden, it can still be found in the HTML markup. You can use the developer tools (*Ctrl+Shift+I* or *Cmd+Opt+I*) to verify this:

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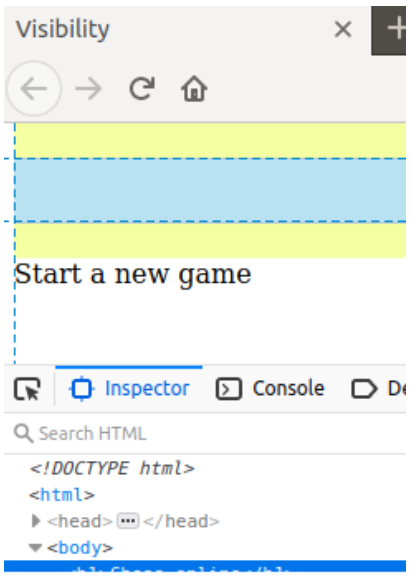

Even if you hide elements using the `visibility` property, they remain in the markup. If you want to skip completely when rendering the document as if the element did not exist at all, then instead of using `visibility` set the `display` property to the value `none`.

If you need more examples, check out the interactive page about the `visibility` property at MDN.

§3. Conclusion

Skilful magicians can make objects appear or disappear from the stage. Now you can compete with them, as in this topic you have learned the property that changes the visibility of elements. Abracadabra.

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