

05/21/09 - Coding Page Backgrounds in CSS for beginners

Background images can add a lot to the visual impact of a webpage. In this post I will demonstrate using CSS how to:

- position a background image
- specify whether to repeat (tile) or show the image only once
- fix the background image so that it stays stationary when the page is scrolled

Positioning a Background Image

This snippet of CSS will place a background image at the top left of the browser screen:

```
#body {  
background-image:url('http://[URL OF YOUR BACKGROUND IMAGE  
HERE]');  
background-position: left top;  
}
```

The first term after background image specifies the x-axis position, and the second the y-axis. Using simple english, you can specify the position as follows:

```
background-position: left top;  
background-position: right bottom;  
background-position: center center;
```

or you can specify position in pixels: `background-position: 75px 25px;`

or a percentage of the display size of the browser: `background-position: 30% 40%;`

Repeat a Background Image

To repeat or tile a background image use the following code:

```
#body {
```

```
background-image:url('http://[URL OF YOUR BACKGROUND IMAGE  
HERE]');  
background-repeat: repeat;  
}
```

You can also repeat along the x-axis only using `repeat-x`
, or along the y axis only using `repeat-y`

Show a background image once only

We use the code `background-repeat: no-repeat;`
to specify that the background image should only be used once:

```
#body {  
background-image:url('http://[URL OF YOUR BACKGROUND IMAGE  
HERE]');  
background-repeat: no-repeat;  
}
```

Fix a Background Image

So that the background image does not move when the page is scrolled, we use

```
back  
gr  
ou  
nd  
-a  
tt  
ac  
hm  
en  
t:  
fi  
xe  
d;
```

:

```
#body {  
background-image:url('http://[URL OF YOUR BACKGROUND IMAGE
```

```
HERE] ');  
background-attachment:fixed;  
}
```

Combining the above

We can of course combine various attributes to one image, for example:

```
#body {  
background-image:url('http://[URL OF YOUR BACKGROUND IMAGE  
HERE]');  
background-repeat: no-repeat;  
background-attachment:fixed;  
background-position:left bottom;  
}
```

Note re embedded CSS vs Stylesheets

I have assumed that you are embedding CSS in a style sheet rather than embedding CSS in your web-page.