

CSS Animation Properties Reference

Animating SVG Backgrounds with CSS & SMIL

About This Document

This reference accompanies the article: Animating SVG Backgrounds with CSS & SMIL

Read the full article at: <https://svgeneration.com/docs/animating-svg-backgrounds>

Article Summary

From subtle breathing patterns to dramatic morphing tiles learn every technique for animating SVG background patterns.

The Two Animation Systems

SVG animations can use CSS (keyframes, transitions, and the Web Animations API) or SMIL (SVG's built-in animation elements: `<animate>`, `<animateTransform>`, `<animateMotion>`). CSS is more widely understood and easier to debug. SMIL is more powerful for path-following and transform animations, but is deprecated in Chrome (though not removed).

Animating background-position (Scroll Effect)

The cheapest SVG animation is shifting background-position with CSS. This moves the pattern tile offset, creating an infinite scroll or drift effect. The animation runs entirely on the compositor thread no layout, no paint making it silky smooth even on low-end devices.

Code example: `@keyframes drift { from { background-position: 0 0; } to { background-position: 40px 40px; }}.animated-pattern { animation: drift 8s linear infinite; background-image: url('data:image/svg+xml;base64,...');}`

Free Resources

Visit SVGeneration.com for 600 free SVG background patterns. No attribution required.

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