

CSS

CSS FUNDAMENTALS

POSITIONING

Position

Static / Relative / Absolute / Fixed / Sticky



IN A ROCKET

Learn front-end development at rocket speed.

position

static (default)

relative

absolute

fixed

sticky

position

static (default)

relative

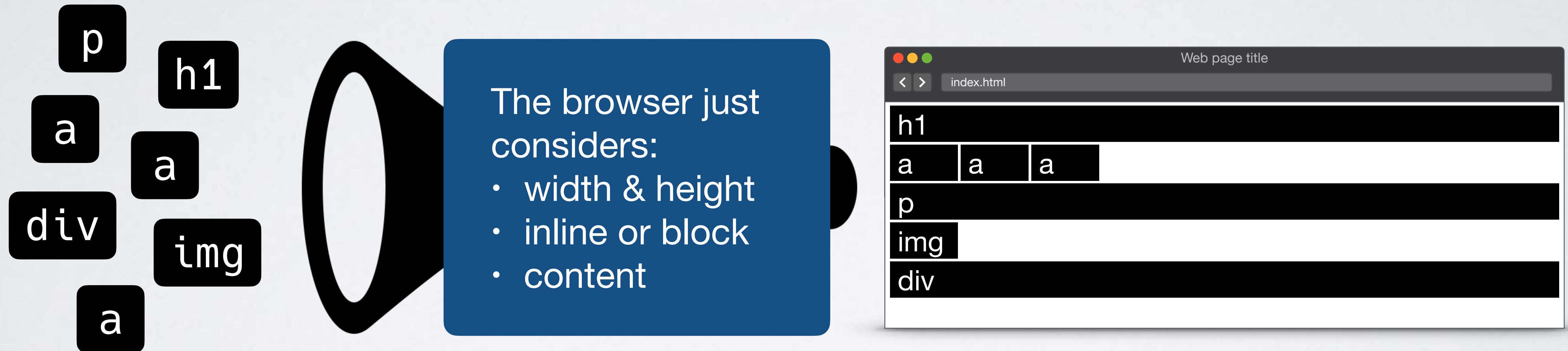
absolute

fixed

sticky

POSITION: STATIC

The elements are positioned according to the normal flow of the document.



POSITION: STATIC

HTML

```
<body>
<h1>Title</h1>
<a href="#">Link</a> <a href="#">Link</a>
<a href="#">Link</a>
<p>Paragraph here</p>

<div>More content here</div>
</body>
```

CSS

```
h1,
a,
p,
img,
div {
    position: static; /* Default */
}
```

Browser



position

static

relative

absolute

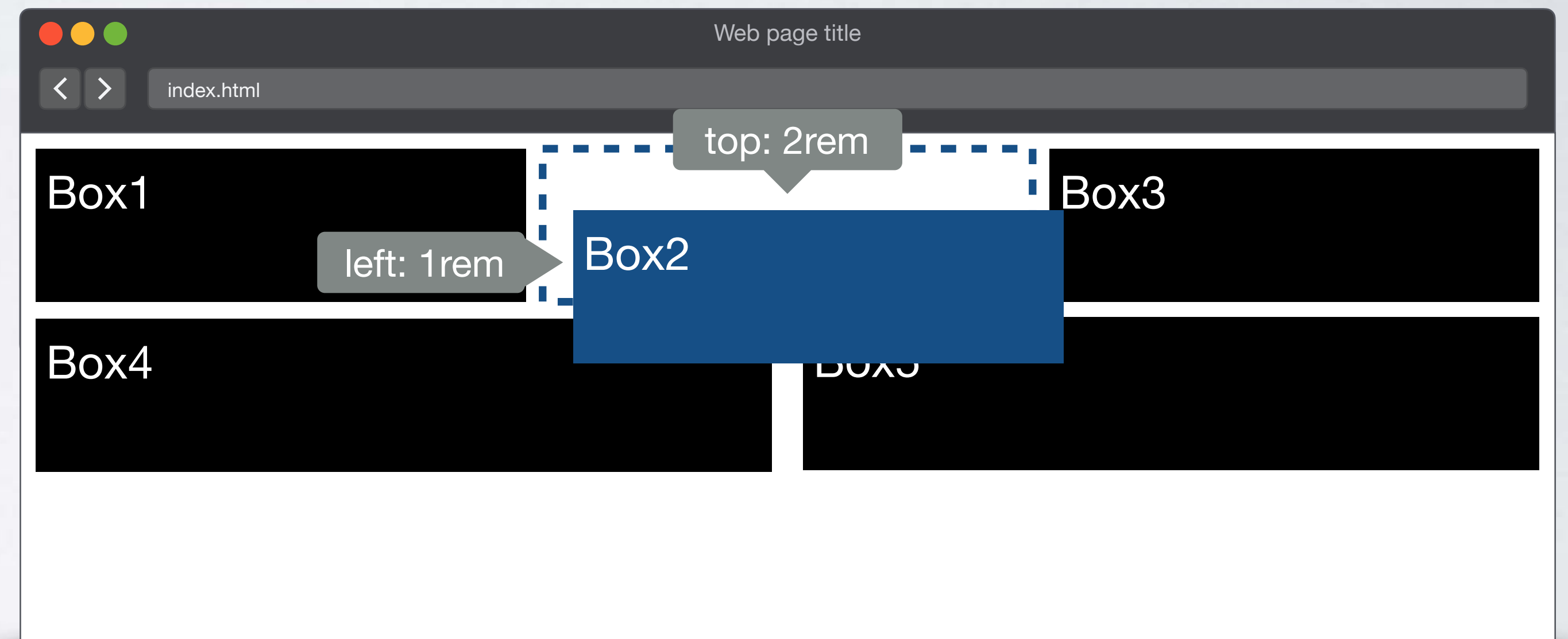
fixed

sticky

POSITION: RELATIVE

Once a box has been laid out according to the normal flow or floated, it may be offset relative to this position.

```
.box2 {  
  position: relative;  
  top: 2rem;  
  left: 1rem;  
}
```



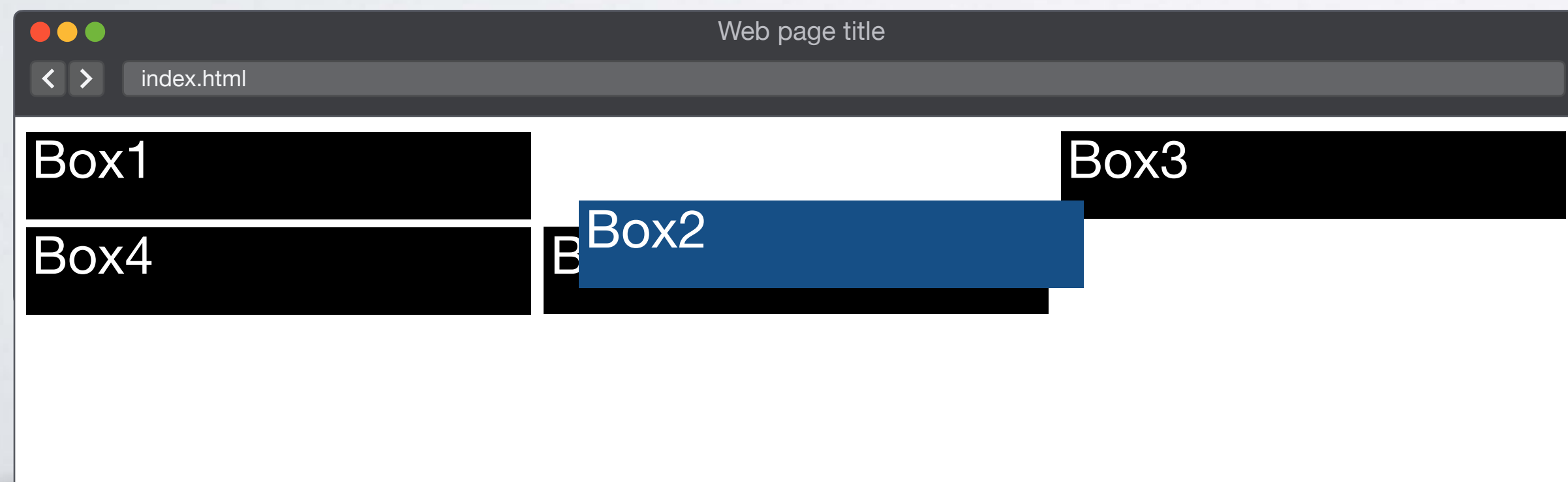
HTML

```
<body>
<div class="box1">Box1</div>
<div class="box2">Box2</div>
<div class="box3">Box3</div>
<div class="box4">Box4</div>
<div class="box5">Box5</div>
</body>
```

CSS

```
.box2 {
  position: relative;
  top: 2rem;
  left: 1rem;
}
```

Browser



position

static

relative

absolute

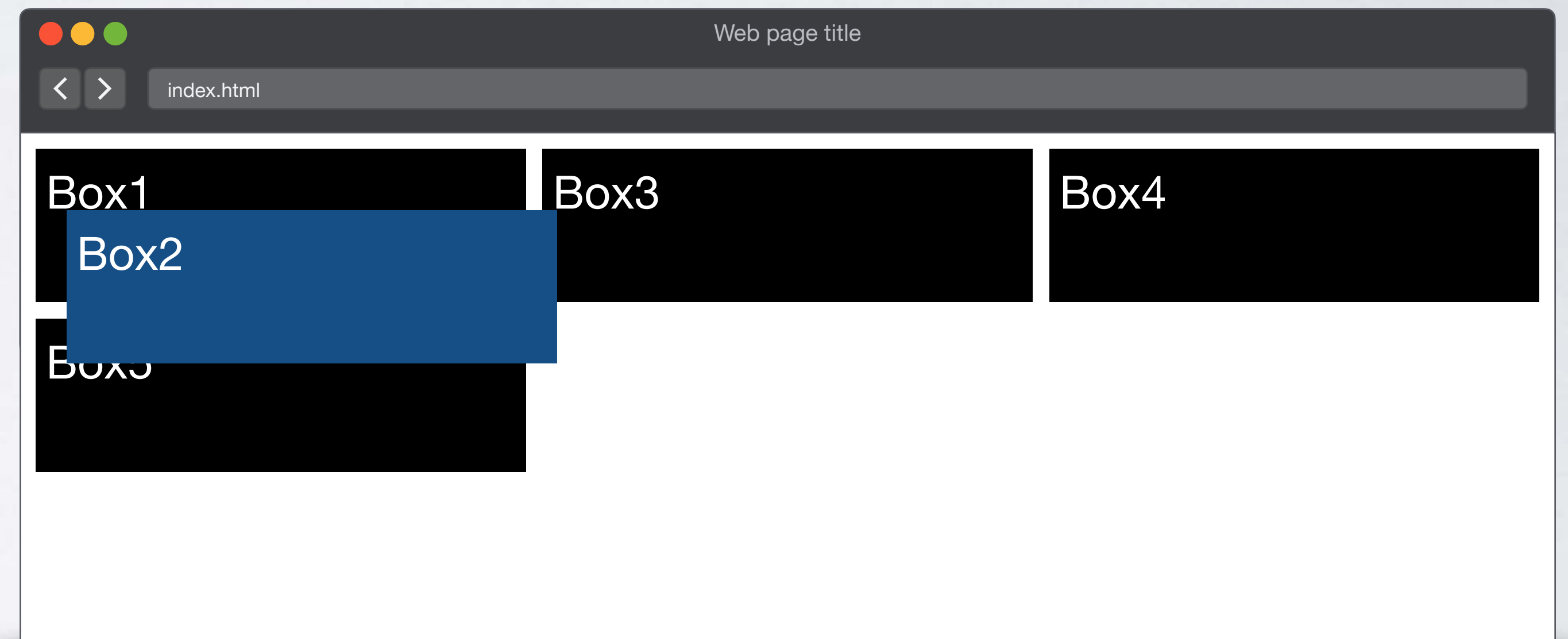
fixed

sticky

POSITION: ABSOLUTE

A box is explicitly offset with respect to its containing block.
It is removed from the normal flow entirely.

```
.box2 {  
  position: absolute;  
  top: 2rem;  
  left: 1rem;  
}
```



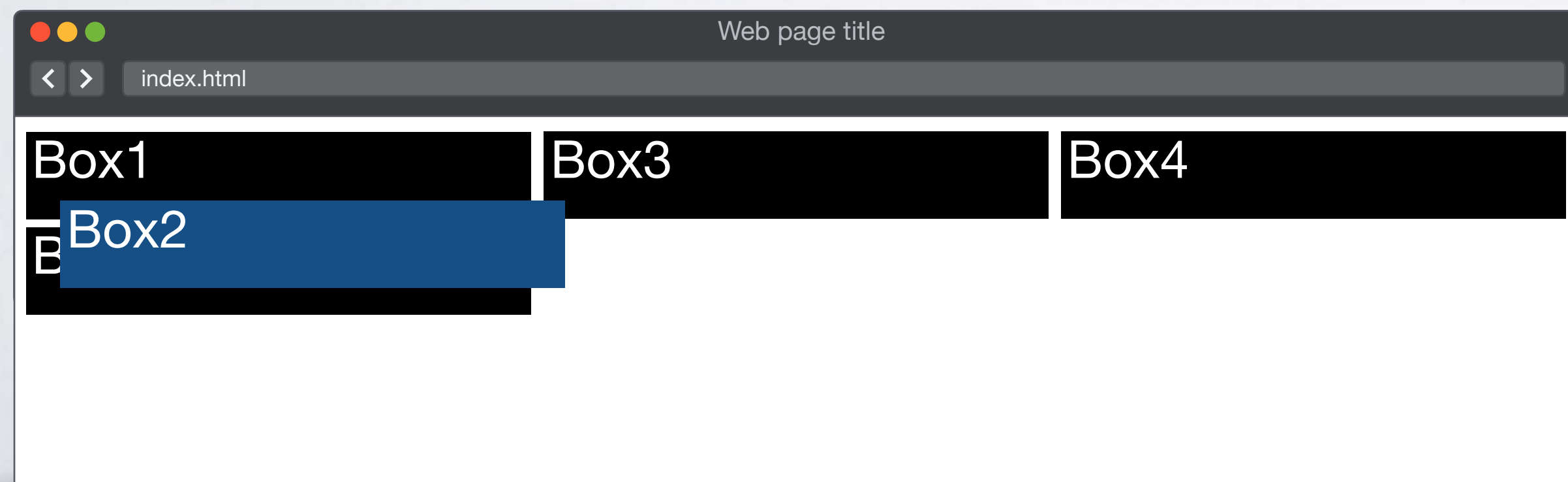
HTML

```
<body>
<div class="box1">Box1</div>
<div class="box2">Box2</div>
<div class="box3">Box3</div>
<div class="box4">Box4</div>
<div class="box5">Box5</div>
</body>
```

CSS

```
.box2 {
  position: absolute;
  top: 2rem;
  left: 1rem;
}
```

Browser



POSITION: ABSOLUTE / INSIDE NOT POSITIONED

READY TO USE CODE

HTML

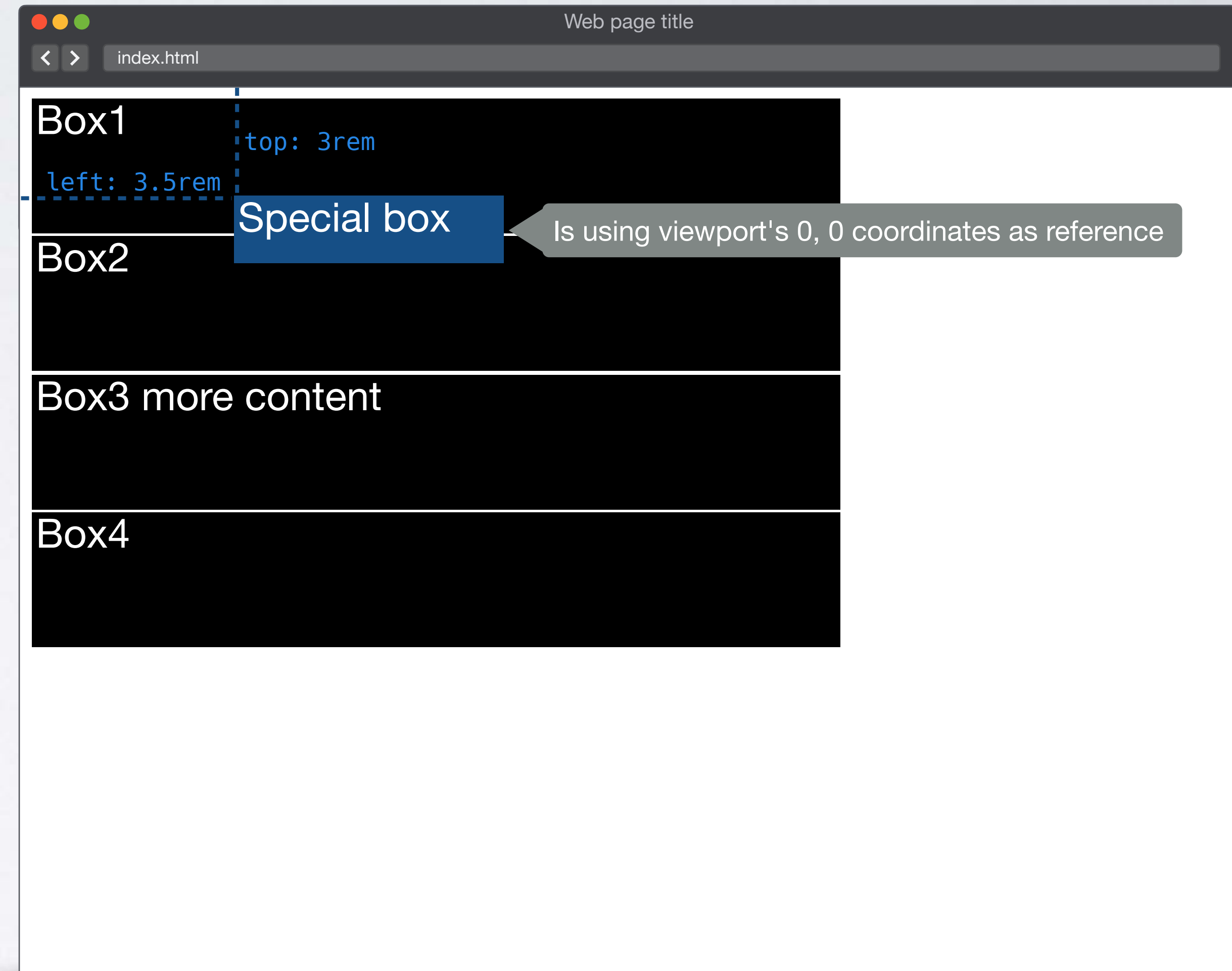
```
<div>Box1</div>
<div>Box2</div>
<div>
  <div class="special">Special box</div>
  Box3 more content
</div>
<div>Box4</div>
```

CSS

```
div {
  width: 10rem;
  height: 4rem;
  margin: .1rem;
  background: #000;
  color: #fff;
}

.special {
  position: absolute;
  top: 3rem;
  left: 3.5rem;
  width: 5rem;
  height: 1rem;
  background: #164f86;
}
```

Browser



POSITION: ABSOLUTE / INSIDE POSITIONED

READY TO USE CODE

HTML

```
<div>Box1</div>
<div>Box2</div>
<div class="box3"> ← Positioned
  <div class="special">Special box</div>
  Box3 more content
</div>
<div>Box4</div>
```

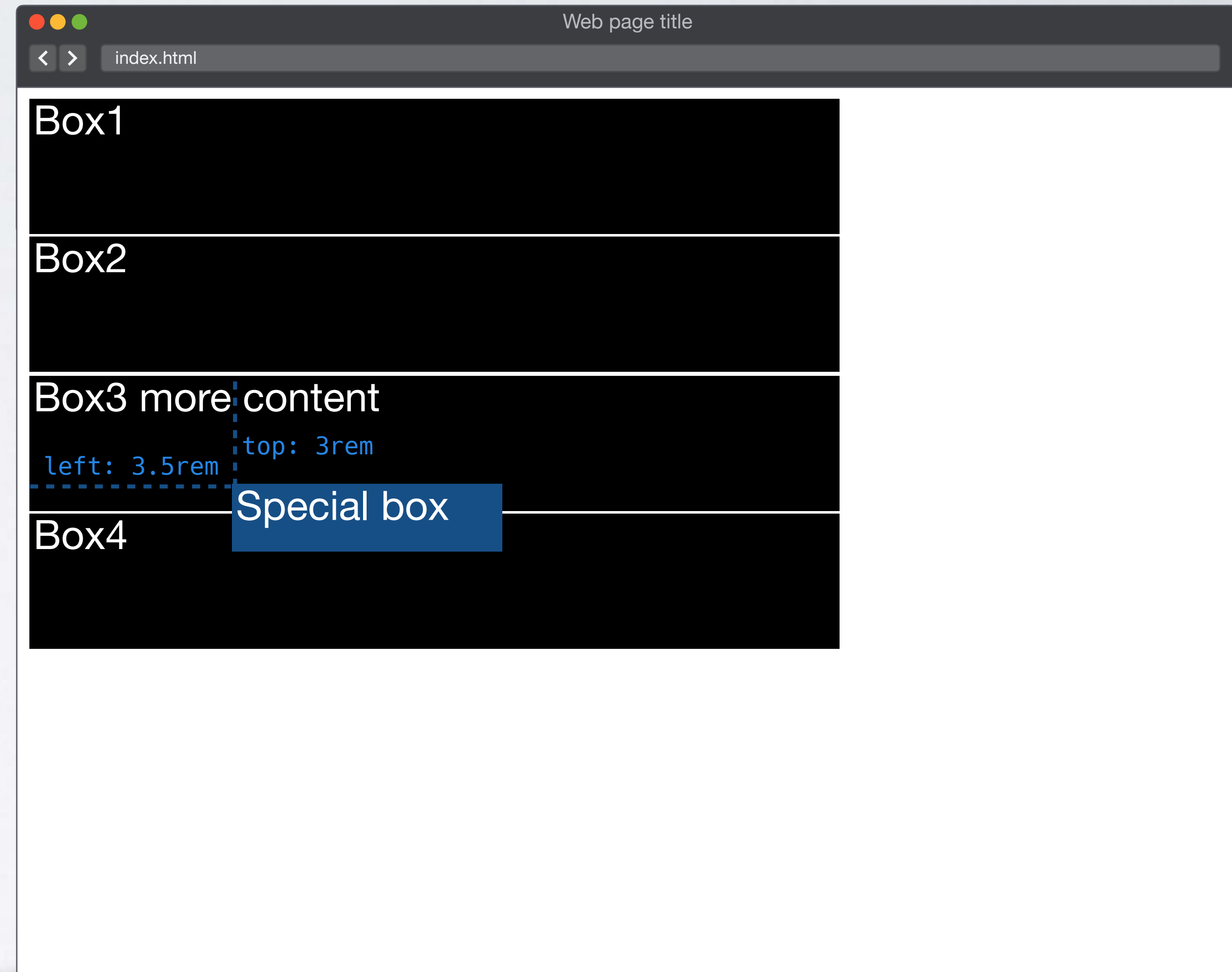
CSS

```
div {
  width: 10rem;
  height: 4rem;
  margin: .1rem;
  background: #000;
  color: #fff;
}

.special {
  position: absolute;
  top: 3rem;
  left: 3.5rem;
  width: 5rem;
  height: 1rem;
  background: #164f86;
}

.box3 { position: relative; }
```

Browser



position

static

relative

absolute

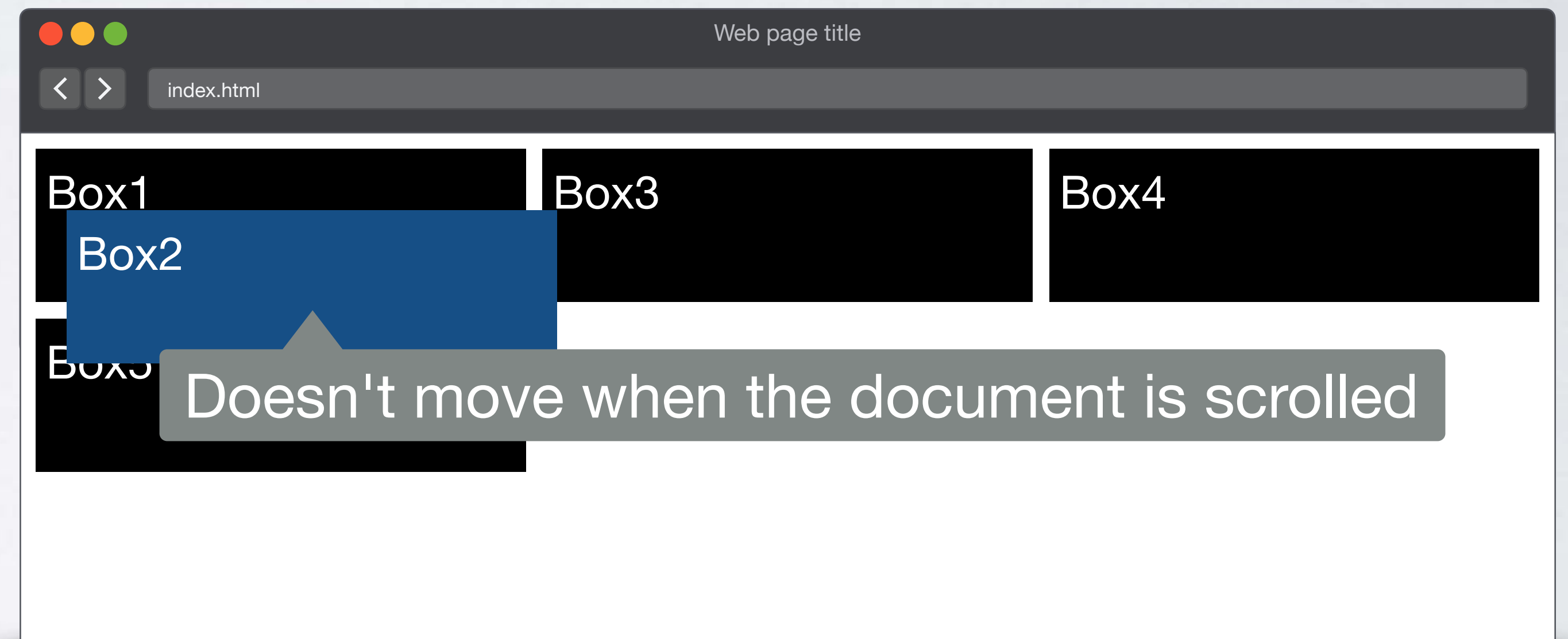
fixed

sticky

POSITION: FIXED

Similar to absolute positioning. The only difference is that the containing block is established by the viewport.

```
.box2 {  
  position: fixed;  
  top: 2rem;  
  left: 1rem;  
}
```



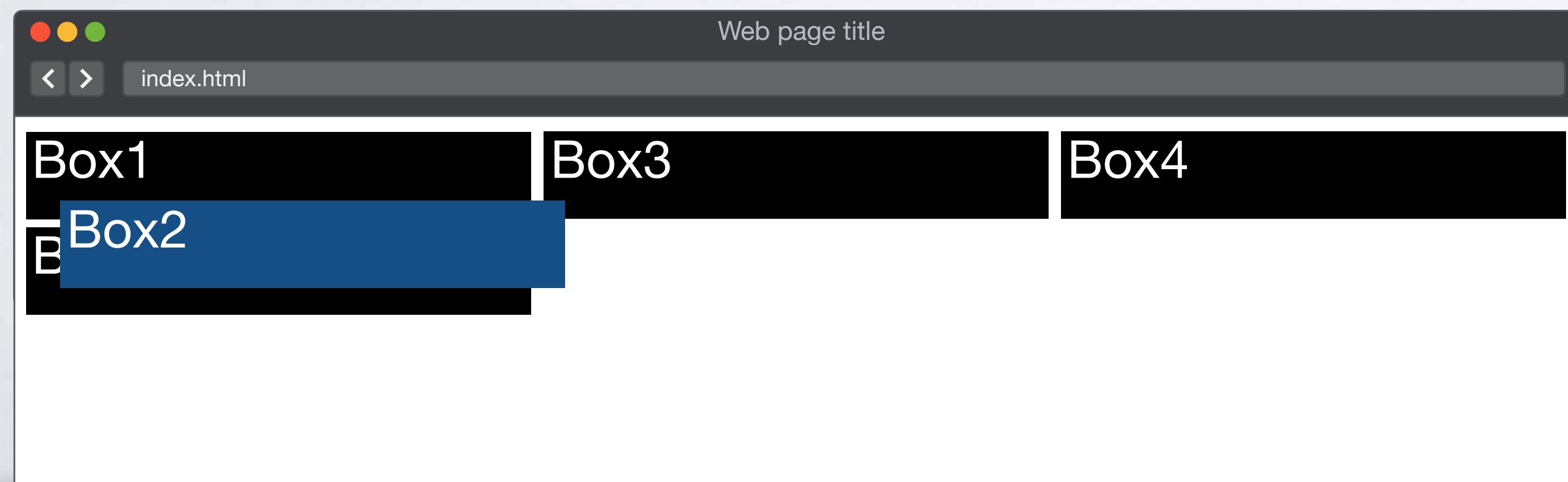
HTML

```
<body>
<div class="box1">Box1</div>
<div class="box2">Box2</div>
<div class="box3">Box3</div>
<div class="box4">Box4</div>
<div class="box5">Box5</div>
</body>
```

CSS

```
.box2 {
  position: fixed;
  top: 40px;
  left: 20px;
}
```

Browser



position

static

relative

absolute

fixed

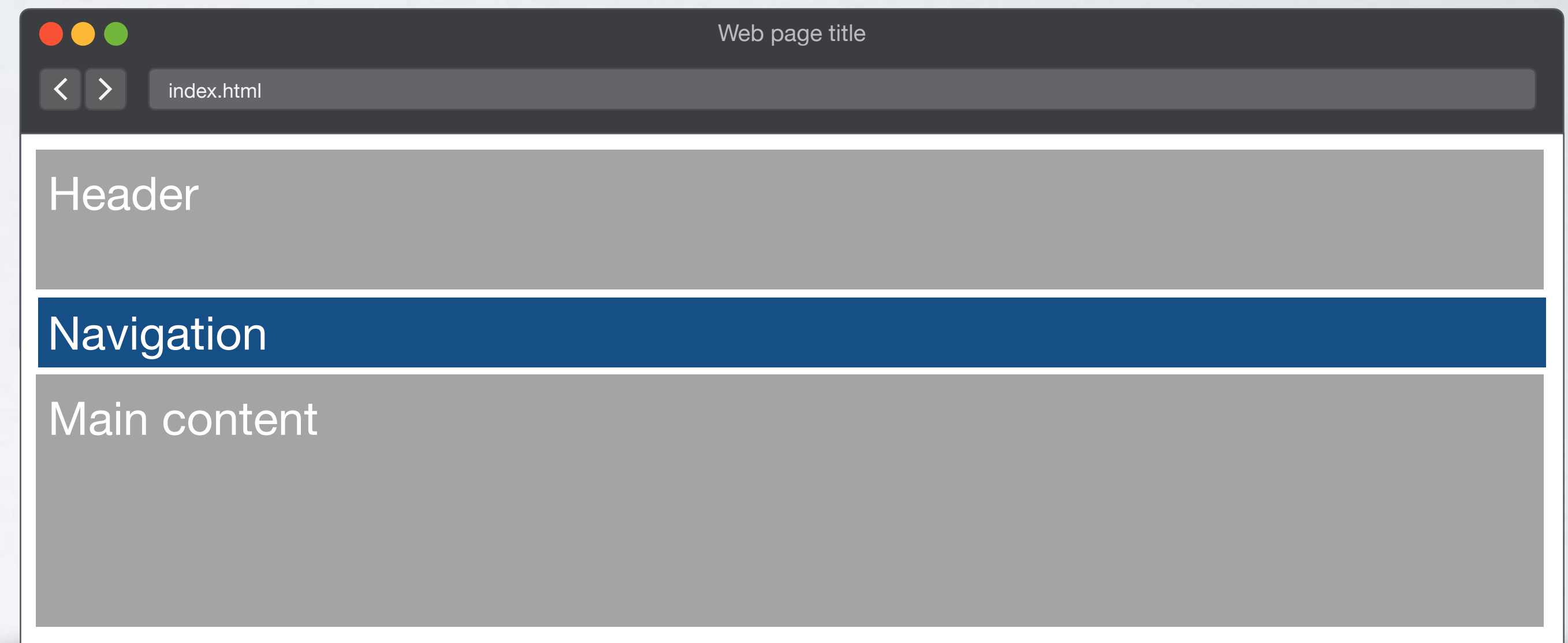
sticky

POSITION: STICKY

Similar to a relatively positioned box, but the offset is computed with reference to the nearest ancestor with a scrolling box, or the viewport if no ancestor has a scrolling box.

```
nav {  
  position: sticky;  
  top: 0;  
}
```

It scrolls with the page until it reaches this position.



POSITION: STICKY / VIEWPORT AS REFERENCE

READY TO USE CODE

HTML

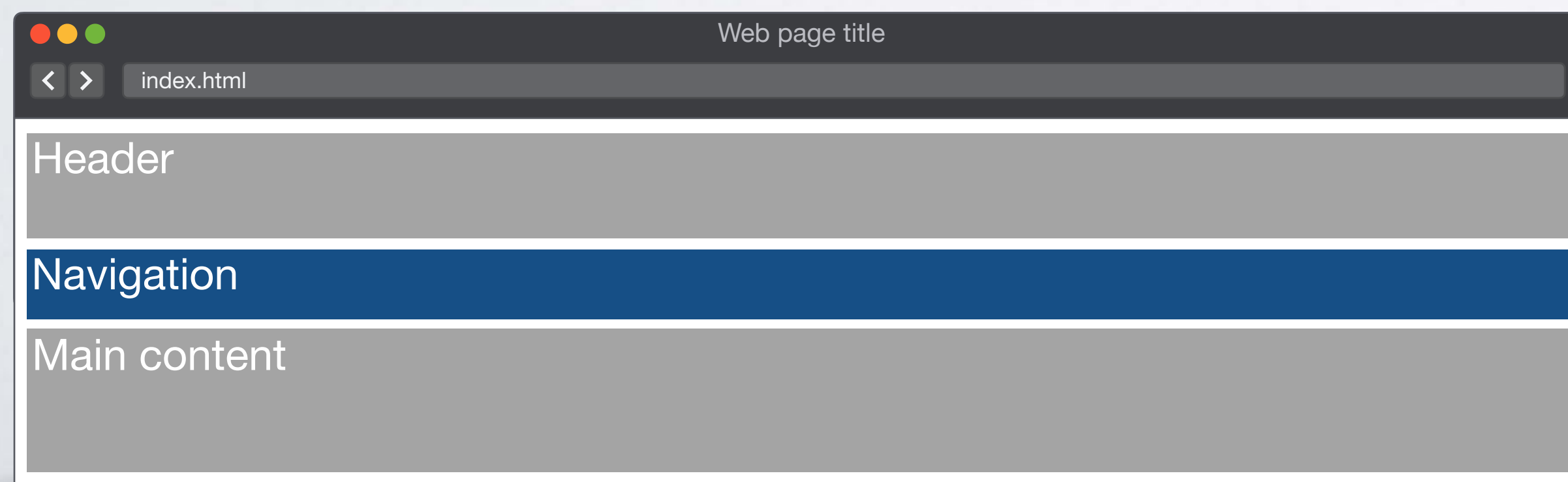
```
<body>
<header>Header</header>
<nav>Navigation</nav>
<main>Main content</main>
</body>
```

No ancestors with a scrolling box

CSS

```
nav {
  position: sticky;
  top: 0;
}
```

Browser



Fixed to the top when it reaches top: 0 of the viewport.

POSITION: STICKY / ANCESTOR AS REFERENCE

READY TO USE CODE

HTML

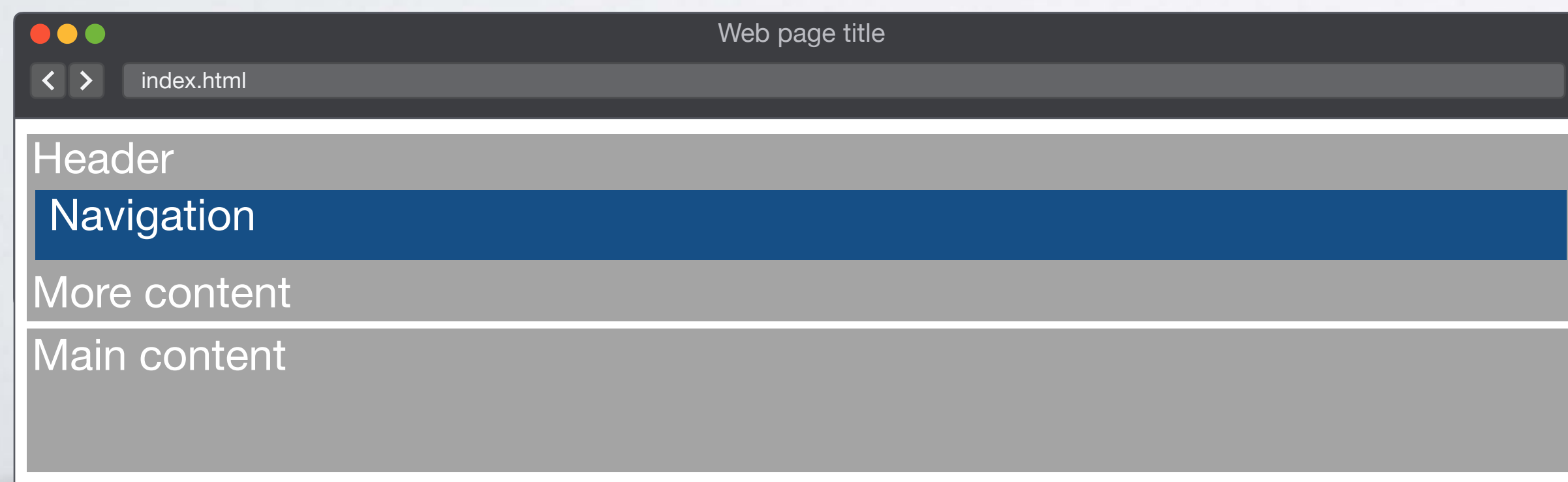
```
<body>
<header>
Header
  <nav>Navigation</nav>
More content
</header>
<main>Main content</main>
</body>
```

Inside the header scrolling box

CSS

```
nav {
  position: sticky;
  top: 0;
}
```

Browser



Fixed to the top when it reaches top: 0 but goes away with its ancestor.

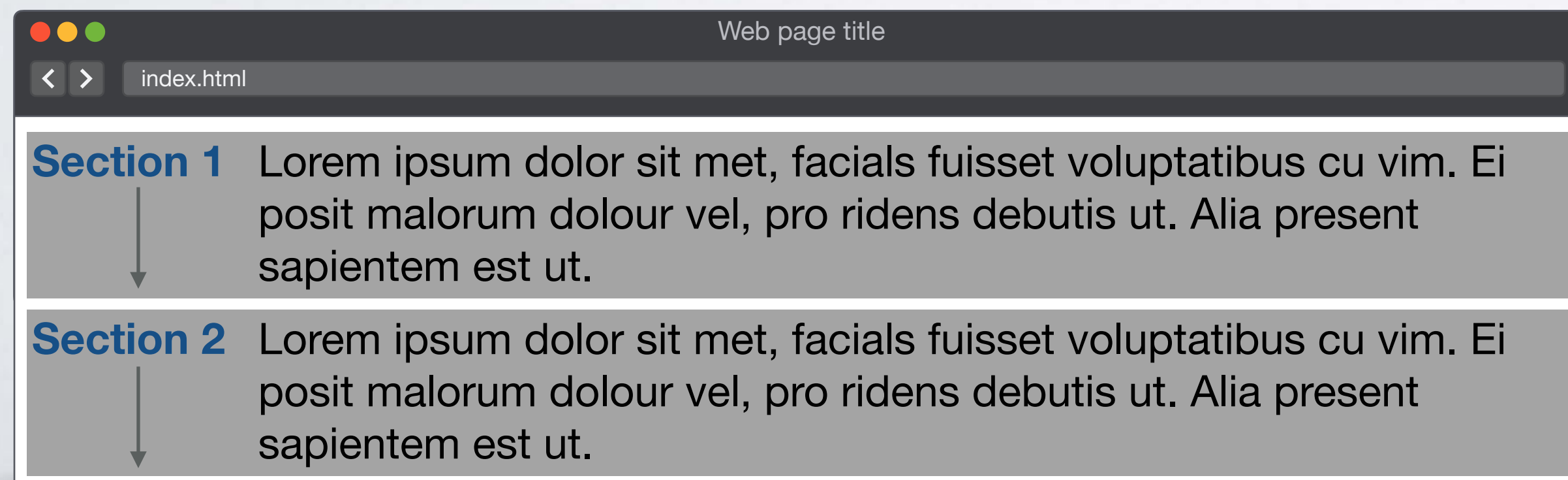
HTML

```
<body>
<article>
  <section>
    <h2>Section 1</h2>
    <p>Paragraph content goes here...</p>
  </section>
  <section>
    <h2>Section 2</h2>
    <p>Paragraph content goes here...</p>
  </section>
</article>
</body>
```

CSS

```
h2 {
  position: sticky;
  top: 0;
}
```

Browser



STATIC & RELATIVE

They **keep** their natural space in the flow of the document.

ABSOLUTE & FIXED

They **lost** their natural space in the flow of the document.

STICKY

Is a **hybrid** of both worlds.

Is treated as relative positioned until it crosses a specified threshold, at which point it is treated as fixed positioned.

SOURCE: [Sticky positioning by MDN](#).

- position**
- ✓ static
 - ✓ relative
 - ✓ absolute
 - ✓ fixed
 - ✓ sticky

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