

Learn SWFObject

Tutorials for using SWFObject — a standards-friendly SWF embedding system

Placing HTML Elements Over a Flash Movie

Sometimes you might want your SWF to go *under* some page elements. This has always been a tough nut to crack for Flash developers, because the Flash Player always writes the SWF on the topmost layer of the page, regardless of z-index order. This is especially annoying for people who use CSS-based menus, such as the famous Suckerfish menu method.

The answer is to use `wmode="opaque"` combined with *positioning* in your CSS.

Start by establishing the *position* relationship between the element you want to place over the SWF (we'll call this the *overlay* element) and its parent. I won't get into how CSS positioning works; it's covered well enough on other sites, such as [CSS-Tricks](#).

In the examples presented here, the SWF will be embedded in a div that has a wrapper div. This wrapper div has established its position through the declaration `position: relative;` which allows us to control the overlay's placement via `position: absolute`.

```
#wrapper { position: relative; }
#overlay { position: absolute; }

/*
  Look ma, no code!
  We don't need to specify any
  CSS for the Flash SWF's <object>.
*/
#flash { }
```

Next, make sure the `wmode` is set to "opaque". SWFObject 2.x's dynamic publishing method makes this a breeze; just add the parameter to the "params" object:

```
var flashvars = {};
var params = { wmode: "opaque" };
var attributes = {};

swfobject.embedSWF("movie.swf", "flash", "550", "400", "7",
    "expressinstall.swf", flashvars, params, attributes);
```

Setting `wmode` with SWFObject 2.x's static publishing is equally easy:

```
<object id="flashcontent" classid="clsid:D27CDB6E-AE6D-11cf-96B8-444553540000" width="550" height="400">
  <param name="movie" value="movie.swf" />
  <param name="wmode" value="opaque" />

  <!--[if !IE]>-->
  <object type="application/x-shockwave-flash" data="movie.swf" width="550" height="400">
    <param name="wmode" value="opaque" />
  <!--<![endif]>-->

  <p>Please update your Flash Player</p>

  <!--[if !IE]>-->
  </object>
  <!--<![endif]>-->

</object>
```

Reminder: SWFObject's static publishing requires setting the `wmode` param for each object.

Demos: [static publishing](#) | [dynamic publishing](#)

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