

Introduction to Macromedia Dreamweaver MX

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Learn the basics of web design and create several web pages with HTML (the language of the Internet) and the industry-standard Macromedia Dreamweaver software. Students will also learn how to purchase a domain name (e.g. acme.com) and publish their web site. Basic familiarity with a word-processing program such as Word is a prerequisite for this workshop.

1. Setting up your web site locally (i.e. on your hard drive) – It is important to organize the numerous web page files and associated graphic files that you will eventually create by storing them in a newly created folder on your hard drive.
 - a. Click the Site/New Site menu command
 - b. Click the Basic tab
 - c. Fill in a name for your site and click the Next button two times.
 - d. When prompted browse to a folder on your hard drive to store your local web site files. (Local files are stored on your hard drive although a complete copy of these files will eventually be uploaded to a web server.)
 - e. Change the setting for remote server to None and click Next and then Done.
2. Creating a home page
 - a. Click File/New and then click Create to make a basic, HTML page.
 - b. Type text in the WYSIWYG window. Try out the Tab and spacebar keys.
 - c. Overwrite the default title of the Web page that is listed at the top of the window with a relevant title.
 - d. Save the page with the file name “index.htm” . It is important to save a web site’s home page with the filename index.htm, default.htm, or whatever other file name is prescribed by your network admin.
 - e. Click the File/Close menu command.
 - f. You should see your newly created web page in the Files window to the left of the screen.
 - g. Double-click the index.htm file in the Files window to open it again for editing.
 - h. Use the Property Inspector at the bottom of the computer screen to change font size, font color, alignment, text style (B for bold, I for Italics), etc.
 - i. Click the Modify/Page Properties menu command to change some interesting properties of the page itself such as background color.
3. Previewing a Web page locally
 - a. Toggle between the “Show Code” (HTML) view and “Design” (WYSIWYG) views. The Show Code view displays the real Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) that is “behind the scenes”. There are times when you must edit the HTML directly if Dreamweaver cannot do what you wish in the WYSIWYG design view. Highlight a piece of text in the design view and then go to the Show Code HTML view to see the corresponding HTML that matches the text that you selected.
 - b. Press the F12 key or click the File/Preview in Browser/iexplore menu command to review the web page the way it would really look in the Internet Explorer browser. It is important to realize that the Design View in Dreamweaver does not always accurately show a web page the way it really would like in a browser.
4. HTML
 - a. In the old days (1996 or so) you were required to create a web page by typing HTML. Now, of course, there are programs like Dreamweaver and FrontPage to help us by allowing us to create a page in a WYSIWYG design view.. However, some web page designers still write practically all of their web pages by writing HTML.

- b. See the Intro to HTML article at webmonkey.com/authoring/html_basics to learn basic HTML.
 - c. Try updating your index.htm page by typing in the HTML view rather than the design view.
5. Inserting graphics & other multimedia onto a Web page
 - a. If you would like to add one or more graphics to any of the web pages in your web site, you should first create a folder named images (or something like that). Graphics should be placed in this folder before you insert them into a home page. Note that a graphic does not become part of the Web page. Rather it is stored separately. You can download free graphics including animated gif's
 - b. You can always creating your own graphics with Macromedia Fireworks, Adobe Photoshop, or Microsoft Paint or other graphics programs. But you must export them as gif, jpg, or png files for inclusion on a web page.
6. Using tables or layers for advanced Web page design and layout
 - a. Delete the content on your index.htm home page. Design the layout of your revised home page on a piece of blank paper held sideways. Organize the content into blocks since tables and layers only permit web page content to be arranged in rectangular, block areas.
 - b. Use the Insert/Table menu command to insert a table with a specified number of rows and columns. Note that some designers set the width of a table to 760 pixels so that people with screen resolutions of 800 x 600 pixels can see the complete width of the table without having to scroll sideways.
 - c. Type your text content into the appropriate table cells and insert desired graphics into the appropriate cells. Designers do this because it is now possible to use tabs in HTML like you would in MS Word for example.
 - d. You can change various properties of a table (including width) in the Property Inspector.
 - e. You can even insert a table inside of a cell of another table if your design requires it.
 - f. Some contemporary web designers use layers instead of tables to organize the content on a web page. Click the Insert/Layer menu command to insert a layer which can contain text and graphical content. You can drag a layer around a web page and you can resize a layer quite easily.
 - g. You can include numerous layers on a web page and you can insert a layer into another layer or you can even insert a table into a layer.
7. Creating a second web page that is linked to your home page
 - a. After saving your index.htm file, click File/New to create another web page.
 - b. Type Home | Minich Web Design on the page and highlight the phrase Minich Web Design.
 - c. Type the address <http://www.minich.com> into the Link area of the Property Inspector. Press F12 to preview this web page and click the "external link".
 - d. Return to Design View, highlight the Minich Web Design phrase again and change the Target in the Property Inspector to _blank. Preview the web page & test the link again in your browser. Can you tell the different effect?
 - e. Highlight the word Home on your web page. Click the yellow "Browse for File" icon on the Property Inspector and double-click the index.htm entry that you will find in your local web site folder.
 - f. Preview the page and click this "internal" link.
8. Setting up Dreamweaver so that you can upload your web pages to a web server
 - a. In order for other people to be able to see your web site you must "upload" it to a web server. While it is possible to run a free web server from your home computer, it is

much easier to rent web server space from a virtual web hosting company. You can expect to pay from \$5 - \$25/month for web server space. There are free web servers though but often your site is covered up with annoying banners and there may be other “strings attached” to free accounts.

- b. It is also best (and more prestigious) to register your own unique domain name. Rather than having your site hosted at the address www.att.net/~johndoe isn't it more impressive to tell friends to visit your web site at www.johndoe.com ? The virtual web hosting company will help you reserve a domain name but you may want to check out the availability of domain names first. Visit www.betterwhois.com in order to see if a .com or .org address that you are interested in is still available. It will cost anywhere from \$15 to \$35/year to keep a domain name registered.
- c. See www.minich.com/education/racc/web115/class13lrx.htm (where lrx is short for lecture) and the bottom of www.minich.com/education/racc/web/links.htm for more information about setting up a dependable, inexpensive web hosting account.
- d. It typically only takes a few minutes and a credit card number to set up a virtual web hosting account. The hosting company will even register your domain name for you. Next they will send you email instructions to upload your web pages to your web site.
- e. Usually, you only need an FTP login (i.e. username), an FTP password, and an ftp server address or name (usually [ftp.johndoe.com](ftp://johndoe.com) where johndoe.com is your domain name). Then you can type these pieces of information into area reached by clicking the Site/Edit Sites menu command. Change the remote server setting to “FTP”.
- f. Once you have set up your remote site FTP instructions on your computer, you may upload your web pages and their associated graphics.

9. Advanced Graphics

- a. To add a rollover to your web page you can use the Insert/Interactive Images/Rollover Image menu command.
- b. To add an image map to your web page, you must first select the graphic (i.e. image) and then use the hotspot tools in the lower left corner of the Property Inspector.
- c. The program Macromedia Fireworks works hand-in-hand with Dreamweaver. You can efficiently create and add rollovers, image maps, and other interesting kinds of graphics to a web page using Fireworks.

10. Miscellaneous

- a. You can download a 30-day demo version of any Macromedia program including Dreamweaver by visiting the Dreamweaver area of macromedia.com. You can also purchase Dreamweaver at an academic discount at www.campustech.com among other places.
- b. To learn more about using Dreamweaver, you can:
 - i. Follow the tutorials that are found under the Help menu in Dreamweaver
 - ii. Visit the tutorials at the Macromedia.com web site
 - iii. Buy a book on Dreamweaver at your local bookstore.
 - iv. Search the web for Dreamweaver tutorial web sites.
 - v. Take WEB 115 Dreamweaver (www.minich.com/education/racc/web115) at RACC. High school students may take RACC courses as long as they register appropriately.