

How to make a website in Dreamweaver

Making a webpage is not hard. Do not panic. Take it one step at a time and it'll be fine. If you make a mistake it is frustrating but always fixable.

Do not be intimidated by Dreamweaver – it is a handy piece of software, a good way to learn some html and a tool so that you can customize your own website and not be dependent on a template. You do not need to know html to use this program.

Think about your site before you start building – don't skip the first steps as it will cause you more work in the long run.

1. Create a wireframe and a sitemap:

- A wireframe is a sketch of what you want your page to look like, make sure you include a header, navigation, links, pictures contact info.
- A site map is a layout of your entire website. Think about all of the pages you need now and may need in the future and how to navigate from one page to the other.
- For this class you should include an index (home) page, a contact/bio page, a gallery and a multimedia page. You may also want to include a blog, but that can come later.

2. Gather your assets:

- Think about all the elements you want to put on your page, including a header, an image for your front page, navigation, etc. These are your assets. Make your header and resize your image for the front page in Photoshop.
- Create a folder on your external hard drive called “your_name_website” and within that folder create another folder called “images”. This is where you are going to keep your web pages and all of the ‘stuff’ you use on your website (pictures, headers, buttons, rollovers, etc.)
- Put all of your assets within your images folder.
- It is important not to move your assets or pages from their files once you have started creating your site, as it will make it more difficult to edit your page. Keep everything filed in a clear, logical way.
- When naming files for the web use underscores _ instead of spaces and use all lowercase letters. This will help cut down on typos.

3. Open Dreamweaver:

- Click file> new. Select html page – you can select a template if you want but you can customize a blank document just as easily. Select <none> for a blank document.
- When your page is open, on the menu bar select site>new site. This will allow you to set up your site so that Dreamweaver can see where all your files are kept and you can make your links. At the top of the site definition box, there are two tabs – click on Advanced. Name your site, e.g. your_name
- Under ‘local root folder’ select the folder you just created on your hard drive. Select your default images folder: this should be the images folder within your

web folder, where you put all of your assets.

- Do not worry about the settings below the line, just leave them as the default. As we are not using DW to put our site on line, we do not need to fill in the http address here.
- Click OK and you will see your site map build in the files tab on the right side of your page. There won't be much there yet, but this is where you will make your links.
- Every time you open your site in DW you will need to set it up and ensure that DW knows where to find your local root folder and your images folder.
- When you are using DW you have a choice as to how you view your screen, either as design view, split view or just code. The best option is split, as this will allow you to layout your page and see the code that you are creating as you do so.

4. Start designing your page:

- Begin by dragging your header from the images folder, in your files window at the right of your page and drop it on your DW document. It will automatically position itself at the top of your page.
- Next, make a box for your navigation. You can create a layout in DW easily by using the AP Div objects. You can access these by clicking on Insert> layout objects > AP Div. This will create a blue box on your page. You can move it around with the blue handle in the top left corner and resize it by clicking on the box and dragging the edges as required.
- Once the box is sized and it is in the correct position you can add your text. When you have added your text you can format it, using the formatting palette. Once you have formatted your text DW will automatically create a style sheet that you can apply to any text in another part of your page. When you open DW the formatting panel often shows up at the bottom of your screen. For easier workflow, move it to the top of the page, under your other DW tools.
- Continue inserting AP Div objects to layout elements on your page. You can also insert images using the AP Div.
- For this class you should put a header at the top of the page, navigation horizontally under the header or vertically on the left of the page, and an image in the center. The image will act as a placeholder so that you can insert a gallery and a multimedia presentation on subsequent pages.
- Give your page a title – the title box is located at the top of your screen and you can type your title directly into this box. Your page title will be used for SEO and will be visible to anyone viewing your page. Call it “My Name, photojournalist” or similar.

5. Save and link:

- Before you create your links to other pages, you need to create the pages. First save the page you are working on in your root folder. Your first page must always be named ‘index’ in order for it to work on the web.
- Once you have saved your index page, use it as a template to create your other pages. It doesn't matter what it looks like at this point, the pages you are creating are only placeholders for your final pages. Using your index page, do a

'save as' and save the page as one of the other pages on your site. For this class you should create three more pages: contact.html, index2.html and multimedia.html

- Your multimedia and contact/bio pages should be saved on the top level of your root folder. As you create them they will appear in the files menu on the right side of your monitor.
- "Index2.html" is the page that will hold your gallery. This should be saved in it's own folder named 'gallery'. If you have already created your Simpleviewer gallery, then you should rename the folder 'gallery' and place it inside your web folder (using the finder) and save your 'index2' page there.
- When you have saved all of your pages, reopen your index page and make your links. To make links - highlight the words or image on the page that you want to link. Navigate to the formatting palette and make your link using the link box. You can either type in the link address, browse for the link using the folder or use the target tool and trace a path to the page you want to link to in the files panel on the right side of your page.
- Add any pictures you want to your index page - or you can add a slideshow (using 'Soundslides') or make buttons in Photoshop to link to different pages.

6. Now what?

- When you are happy with your index page you can save it and test it in the browser. You cannot test in the browser until all your changes are saved. If you have not saved changes, an asterisk will appear next to your file name on your document. Click on the little globe at the top of your window and select the browser you want to test in. It's a good idea to test in several browsers so you can see what your site will look like across the board.
- Open up your other pages and embed a gallery, a multimedia project or text into the body of your page, where the picture is on the index page. This will allow you to create your site while maintaining the links and navigation you have already established. You do this for any new page using 'save as' and saying 'yes' when prompted to update links.

8. Putting your site on-line

- So your page looks great on your computer (after several days of work....) but how do you make it show up on the web?
- You need to use a program called 'Cyberduck' or any other FTP program.
- When you open up Cyberduck, you will need to tell it where to put your website. The information you need is the host name (people.bu.edu) your username, which is your BU username and your password (your Keberos password).
- When you are connected you will see a series of files. Drag and drop the contents of your web folder into the window. You need to ensure that your index page is on the top level (not within a folder).
- When your site is uploaded go and test it using a browser. Type in your url: people.bu.edu/your_user_name and your index page should pop up.
- Congratulations! You have just created a website from scratch.

9. But it doesn't work.....

- Sometimes things don't quite look the way you expect or your links aren't working. Here are a couple of things to look out for:
- Make sure you have used lower case letters to name things and have typed in the URL exactly.
- Your on-line files should match your local files.
- Make sure you have uploaded a page once you have changed it.
- If your site does not upload using Cyberduck, check to make sure you have enough space. You should have asked for 100MB. If it still does not upload, make sure you have compressed your FCP movie to the right level for the web.
- If your gallery loads slowly, then your pictures are too big, re-do your gallery and compress your files to a jpg 10.
- If there are blue boxes around everything in Firefox, go and set your borders to 0 in DW.
- If your links don't work, go back to DW and redo them.
- If your gallery does not show up in your index2 page, make sure index2 is saved within the gallery folder.