

Building a Website

Lesson Objectives:

In this lesson, you will build a website.

You will:

- Define a website.
- Create a document.

Introduction

You prepared yourself to use the Dreamweaver application. The next step is to define the structure of a website. In this lesson, you will build a website.

While creating a website, you may need to use various files that are in different file formats scattered in a number of folders. As a web designer, it is tedious for you to repeatedly search for files on your system. Managing the files using Dreamweaver will speed up your work and also maintain the organization of the site.

TOPIC A Define a Website

You customized the Dreamweaver environment to suit your work requirements. Now, you may need to define the site structure to specify where the site files will be stored. In this topic, you will define a website.

Building a website calls for the usage of many files. When you have these files stored in a common location that is easily accessible, you need not waste time in navigating extensively to locate them. Thus, you will be able to create the web pages quickly and efficiently.

The Site Definition Wizard

The **Site Definition wizard** is used to define a website. The site definition process consists of various phases.

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Allows You To</i>
Editing Files	Specify the site name, URL of the site, and the server technology to be used. You can choose to edit the files locally and upload them to a server, or edit them directly on the server. In either case, you need to specify the location of the files.
Testing Files	Specify the testing server location and other settings if a server technology is used.
Sharing Files	Specify the connection method to the remote server and its settings.

Advanced Site Definition Options

The **Advanced** tab in the **Site Definition** wizard allows you to modify the site definition information. The options are grouped under different categories. This tab allows you to modify the local, remote and testing server settings, and other site settings in addition to the options available on the **Basic** tab. The entire site definition process can also be completed using the options on the **Advanced** tab.

The Manage Sites Dialog Box

The **Manage Sites** dialog box enables you to manage the sites that are defined in Dreamweaver. It allows you to edit site definition information such as the site name, location of the local root folder and the default images folder, and other site settings. It also allows you to create a new site, duplicate or delete an existing site, and import or export a site's settings.

The FILES Panel

The FILES panel displays a list of files necessary for the website. These files include graphics, HTML files, and other objects. It allows you to access the defined sites as well as other files on your local system. It also allows you to manage most aspects of the website, such as viewing, organizing files and links, and uploading files to a web server. Organizing the files within Dreamweaver helps you to maintain the structure of the site and the links. The FILES panel can be expanded to view both the local and remote files simultaneously.

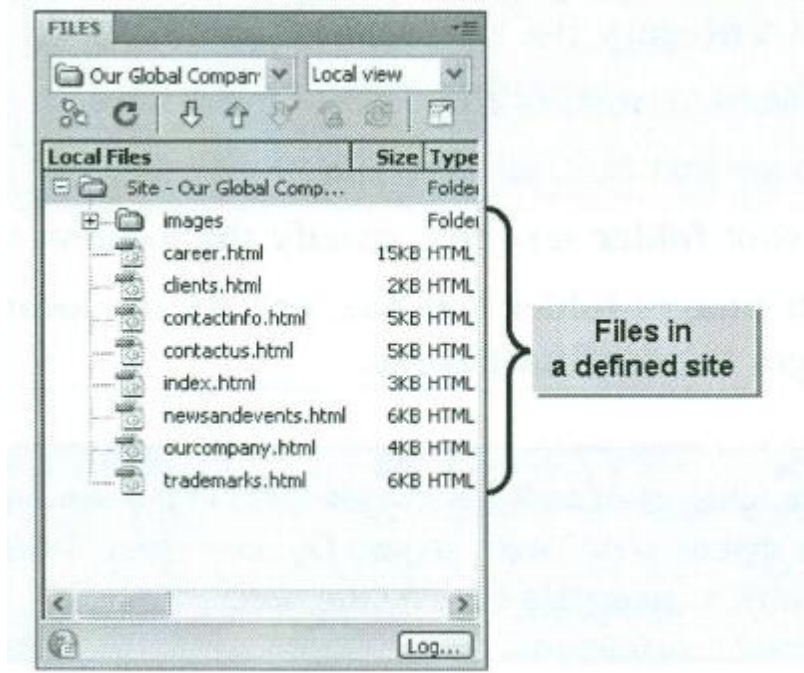


Figure 2-1: The FILES panel displaying a list of files.

Maintaining a Site in Dreamweaver

When a site is defined in Dreamweaver, folder and file operations such as creating new folders, and moving, removing, and renaming files and folders must be done using the **FILES** panel. This allows Dreamweaver to keep track of the location of files and update any links or references to the files when they are moved or renamed. If file and folder operations are performed outside Dreamweaver, links and references will not be updated, resulting in errors when the web pages are viewed.

How to Define a Website

Procedure Reference: Define a Basic HTML Website


To define a basic HTML website:

1. Choose **Site > New Site**.
2. In the **Site Definition** wizard, select the **Basic** tab.
3. In the **What would you like to name your site** text box, type the desired name and click **Next**.
4. If necessary, select **No, I do not want to use a server technology**.
5. Click **Next**.
6. If necessary, select **Edit local copies on my machine, then upload to server when ready (recommended)**.
7. To the right of the **Where on your computer do you want to store your files** text box, click the folder icon.
8. In the **Choose local root folder for site <site name>** dialog box, navigate to the desired local root folder, which contains the files required to build the website, and click **Select**.
9. From the **How do you connect to your remote server** drop-down list, select **None** and click **Next**.
10. Click **Done** to define the site

Procedure Reference: Edit the Site Definition Information

To edit the site definition information:

1. Choose **Site > Manage Sites**.
2. In the **Manage Sites** dialog box, select the desired website and click **Edit**.
3. In the **Site Definition** wizard, select the **Advanced** tab.
4. If necessary, in the Category list box, select **Local Info**.
5. In the **Local Info** section, modify the desired information.
 - In the **Site name** text box, edit the site name.
 - In the **Local root folder** text box, specify the location of the local root folder.
 - In the **Default images folder** text box, specify the location of the folder, which contains the images required for the site.

	<p>This folder stores all the images used in the site. When images from other locations are inserted into web pages, Dreamweaver creates a copy of the image in this folder and uses this copy on the page.</p>
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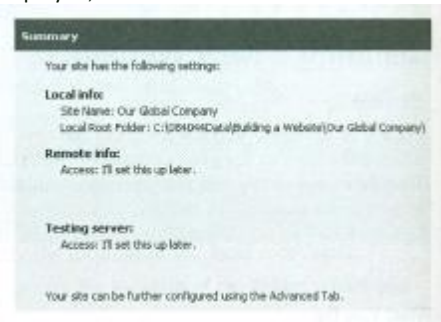
6. Click **OK** to modify the site definition.
7. In the **Dreamweaver** message box, click **OK** to recreate the cache for the site.
8. In the **Manage Sites** dialog box, click **Done** to apply the changes.

ACTIVITY 2-1

Defining a New Website

Scenario:

As a web designer, are assigned the task of creating website for your company. You have created the outline for your company's website and are now ready to build it. You decide to start by ensuring that the required files to create the website are accessible from a single location in order to work on the site as a whole.

What You Do	How You Do It
1. Specify a name for the new website.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Choose Site>New Site to display the Site Definition wizard.On the Basic tab, in the What would you like to name your site text box, type <i>Our Global Company</i>Click Next.
2. Specify the settings for the site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Verify that the No, I do not want to use server technology option is selected, and click Next.Verify that the Edit local copies on my machine, then upload to server when ready (recommended) option is selected.To the right of the Where on your computer do you want to store your files text box, click the folder icon.In the Choose local root folder for site Our Global Company dialog box, My Documents\Your Folder\Dreamweaver Files\Building a Website\Our Global Company folder.Click Select to specify the local root folder.Click Next.From the How do you connect to your remote server drop-down list, select None and click Next.Verify that the summary of the settings you specified is displayed, and click Done to define the site.  <ol style="list-style-type: none">In the FILES panel, observe that the content of the Our Global Company site is displayed.

ACTIVITY 2-2

Changing the local root folder of a defined website

Scenario:

You were on vacation last week and your coworker worked on the images required for Our Global Company Website in your absence. He provided you with the updated set of files for the site. Since there are changes in the images and in the structure of the site, you want to start your work with the updated set of files instead of copying only the changed files.

What You Do	How You Do It
1. Display the Site Definition wizard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Choose Site>Manage Sites.b. In the Manage Sites dialog box, verify that Our Global Company is selected and click Edit.
2. Change the location of the local root folder of the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. In the Site Definition for Our Global Company wizard, select the Advanced tab.b. In the Category list box, verify that Local Info is selected.c. In the Local Info section, to the right of the Local root folder text box, click the folder icon.d. In the Choose local root folder for site Our Global Company dialog box, navigate to the My Documents\Your Folder\Dreamweaver Files\Building a Website\Our Global Company – Updated folder.e. Click Select to specify the local root folder.f. To the right of the Default images folder text box, click the folder icon.g. In the Choose local images folder for site Our Global Company dialog box, navigate to the C My Documents\Your Folder\Dreamweaver Files\Building a Website \Building a Website\Our Global Company - Updated\ images folder.h. Click Select to specify the default images folder.i. In the Site Definition for Our Global Company wizard, click OK to apply the changes.j. In the Dreamweaver message box, click OK to recreate the cache for the site.k. In the Manage Sites dialog box, click Done.l. In the FILES panel, expand the Site – Our Global Company - Updated folder.m. Observe that the content of the Our Global Company - Updated folder is displayed



TOPIC B Create a Document

You defined a website. You now need to start creating the elements that constitute a website. In this topic, you will create a document.

The main purpose of creating a web page is to display information. Knowing how to create web pages will help you present information in the appropriate format.

File Naming Conventions

While naming files, it is better to use lowercase characters without any spaces, punctuation, and special characters between the names. This is because some web servers, such as UNIX and LINUX, are case sensitive and do not support special characters and punctuation. When you need to separate the words in a file name, use an underscore or a hyphen.

HTM vs. HTML

Web pages can be saved with either the HTM or HTML file extension. By default, Dreamweaver saves a file with the HTML extension. In earlier days, the HTM extension was the supported format for Windows servers that recognized only 3-character extensions. At present, both file extensions are recognized by UNIX and Windows servers.

Page Size Resolution

Page size resolution refers to the number of individual pixels that a predetermined area or space on a page can contain. The standard resolution for web pages is 800 x 600 pixels. A page size of 800 x 600 denotes that 800 pixels are displayed horizontally and 600 pixels are displayed vertically. At this resolution, the width of the page should be restricted to fewer than 800 pixels. This will allow the entire width of the page to be displayed, without a horizontal scroll bar, when the browser window is maximized. The higher the resolution, the smaller the screen elements will appear. When a web page with low resolution is viewed on a screen with higher resolution, the screen will display empty or white spaces in the remaining area.

The New Document Dialog Box

The New Document dialog box contains categories based on which you can create different types of documents. The following table describes those categories.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Used To Create</i>
Blank Page	Blank web pages of various types, such as HTML, JavaScript, and ColdFusion. It also allows you to select predefined CSS layouts for the pages.
Blank Template	Templates of various types with predefined CSS layouts.
Page from Template	Web pages based on existing templates.
Page from Sample	Web pages based on sample pages that contain predefined elements, such as CSS style sheets, framesets, and themes.
Other	Various types of pages, such as ActionScript, C#, Java, and VB Script pages.

Document Types

The document type defines the tags and structure of the web page being created. Dreamweaver allows you to create web pages using various document types, such as HTML 4.01 Transitional, HTML 4.01 Strict, XHTML 1.0 Transitional, XHTML 1.0 Strict, XHTML 1.1, and XHTML Mobile 1.0. By default, Dreamweaver creates web pages using the XHTML 1.0 Transitional document type. Transitional document types allow usage of deprecated tags and attributes, though it is discouraged, whereas strict document types do not allow usage of deprecated elements.

The Home Page

The *home page* is the entry point of a website, providing access to other pages on the site. By default, the home page is named `index.html` so that the web server identifies it as the entry point of the site when it is accessed using the URL of the site. If the home page of the website is referred to by any other name, such as `home.html`, then it can be accessed only by typing the URL of the site followed by "`home.html`." This will force visitors to remember the home page names of every site they visit.

Head Elements

Head elements are tags that appear within the `<head>` tag, which includes `<meta>` tags and other elements that set the properties of a page. A few examples of elements that are defined in the head section of a page are page titles, background images, and default text.

Meta Tags

`<meta>` tags are HTML tags in the head section that describe a web page. A `<meta>` tag can include information, such as keywords, descriptions, and character sets. This information is invisible to viewers while they are browsing, but can be used by web server software applications to pick up the page and display it in the search results.

The keywords meta tag allows you to define certain descriptive words specific to your site. These words will be indexed by search engine spiders and will enable prospective viewers to find your site during web searches. For example, a keyword meta tag will appear in Code view as `<meta name="Keywords" content="Consultation, Project Services" >`.

The description meta tag allows you to include a short description on your site. You can use it to expand on keywords. For example, a description meta tag will appear in Code view as `<meta name="Description" content="Fastest growing project management and consulting company" >`. While the keywords will help your site to come up in response to a search containing matching keywords, the description is part of the search engine results that users see.

How to Create a Document

Procedure Reference: Create a Web Page

To create a web page:

1. Choose **File > New**.
2. In the **New Document** dialog box, specify the desired page type and layout.
3. Click **Create** to create the web page.
4. In the document window, add the desired content.
5. If necessary, copy the content from the desired source and paste it in Dreamweaver.
6. On the **Document** toolbar, in the **Title** text box, type a title for the page.
7. If necessary, insert the head elements.
 - a. Display the dialog box for the desired head element.
 - i. Choose **Insert > HTML > Head Tags** and then from the submenu, choose the desired command to insert a head element.
 - ii. Or, in the **INSERT** panel, click **Head** and select the desired option.
 - b. In the dialog box displayed for the head element, specify the desired information and click **OK**.
8. Choose **File > Save**.
9. In the **Save As** dialog box, navigate to the desired folder.
10. In the **File name** text box, click and type the desired file name.
11. Click **Save** to save the web page.

ACTIVITY 2-3

Creating a Document

Data Files:

Welcome.txt

Before You Begin:

- Navigate to the My Documents\Your Folder\Dreamweaver Files\Building a Website\Our Global Company -Updated folder and open the Welcome.txt file in Notepad.
- Switch to the Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 application.

Scenario:

You are ready to start working on the web pages for your company's website. As the first step, you decide to get the basic information about the company ready for display.

What You Do	How You Do It
1. Create a blank web page	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Choose File > NewIn the New Document dialog box, verify that the Blank Page category is selected, and in the Page Type list box, verify that HTML is selectedIn the DocType drop-down list, verify that XHTML 1.0 Transitional is selected and click Create to create a blank HTML document.
2. Add text to the web page.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Switch to the Notepad window.Choose Format > Word Wrap to view all the content.Choose Edit > Select All to select all the content in Notepad.Choose Edit > Copy to copy the content.Switch to the Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 application.Choose Edit > Paste to paste the content in the document window.
3. Add the page title.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">On the Document tool bar, in the Title text box, click before the word "Untitled," hold down Shift, and click after the word"Document" to select it.Type Our Global Company and press Enter.
4. Include metadata keywords and a description for the web page.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Choose Insert > HTML > Head Tags > Keywords.In the Keywords dialog box, in the Keywords text box, type Our Global Company, New YorkClick OK to insert the keywords.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">d. Choose Insert > HTML > Head Tags > Description.e. In the Description dialog box, in the Description text box, type <i>Leader in providing consulting services</i>f. Click OK to insert the description.g. On the Document tool bar, click Code to switch to Code view.h. Observe that the keywords and description are displayed in <meta> tags within the <head> tag.i. On the Document toolbar, click Design to switch to Design view.
5. Save the web page.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Choose File > Save.b. In the Save As dialog box, navigate to the My Documents\Your Folder\Dreamweaver Files\Building a Website\Our Global Company - Updated folder.c. In the File name text box, click and type <i>index.html</i>d. Click Save to save the web page.e. Choose File > Close to close the web page.f. Close the Notepad application.