

Getting Started with Dreamweaver

Lesson Objectives:

In this lesson, you will explore and customize the Adobe Dreamweaver interface.

You will:

- Examine the basic concepts of web designing.
- Explore the Dreamweaver interface.
- Customize the Dreamweaver interface.

Introduction

Being a new user of Dreamweaver, you may want to familiarize yourself with its basic features before beginning to create a website. In this lesson, you will prepare to use the Dreamweaver application in an efficient manner.

Imagine using a computer without having a basic understanding of its components and operations. You may have to spend hours trying to accomplish a simple task. The same would be the case if you were to use Dreamweaver without understanding its components or their use.

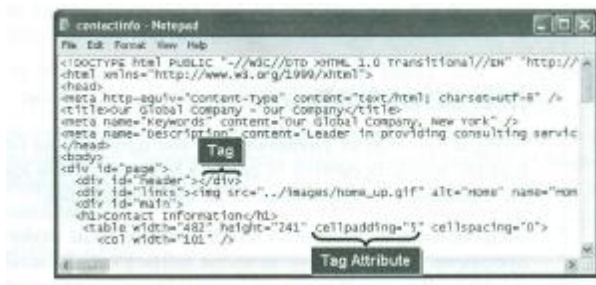
Examine the Basic Concepts of Web Designing

Designing a good website calls for adequate preparation. Before you begin to create a website, you need to understand what constitutes a website, and the underlying principles that govern its design. In this topic, you will examine the basic concepts of web designing.

Creating a well-designed website is as important as displaying accurate content on it. Understanding the basic concepts of web designing will help you create a website that is user-friendly and easily navigable, and contains information under relevant groupings.

XHTML

Extensible HyperText Markup Language (XHTML) is a markup language that is used to create web pages. XHTML is a reformulation of HTML, and it conforms to the XML syntax. It defines the structure and layout of a web page by using a variety of tags and attributes. It also allows you to add text and images to a web page, and it provides parameters that control how the web page should appear.



XHTML vs. HTML

XHTML is very similar to HTML but has stricter coding rules, resulting in a cleaner version of HTML. XHTML provides greater reliability and more flexible design, and results in more consistent layouts than HTML. The following table describes some differences in tagging between HTML and XHTML.

XHTML	HTML
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All tags and attributes must be in lowercase.• All tags must have a closing tag.• All tags must be properly nested• Proper nesting occurs when the opening and closing tags are completely within another pair of opening and closing tags.• All attribute values must be within quotes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tags can be in either uppercase or lowercase.• Some tags do not require closing tags. For example, the <p> tag does not require a closing tag.• Some tags can be improperly nested• Attribute values need not necessarily be within quotes.

Websites

A *website* is a collection of web pages displayed on the Internet. Typically, it consists of a home page that is linked to other pages through text or images. Each website is identified by a unique Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

A *Uniform Resource Locator (URL)* is an address that uniquely identifies a website on the Internet. The first part of the address indicates the protocol used to access the website, and the second part represents the IP address of the website's location or its domain name.

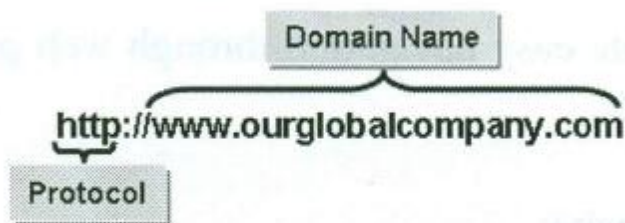


Figure 1-2: A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) with the protocol and domain name.

The Protocol

A protocol refers to the set of rules that govern the exchange of information on the Internet. *HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP)* is the standard protocol used to access websites. It is used to transfer and retrieve data from a web server.

The IP Address

An Internet Protocol (IP) address is a numeric address, such as 192.168.1.1, that helps identify a computer on the Internet. Each computer that is connected to the Internet, whether part of a large network on a university campus or in someone's home office, uses a unique *IP address*.

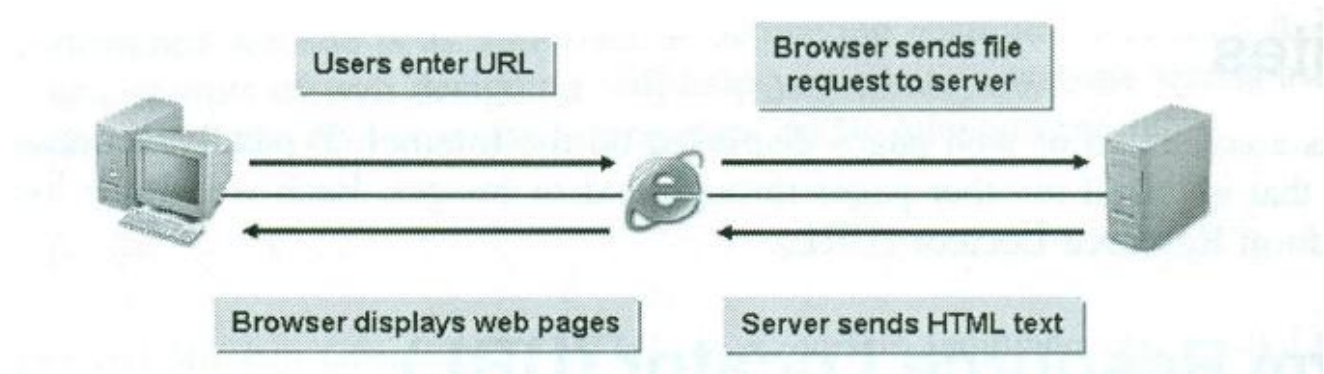
The Domain Name

A *domain name* is the unique textual name of a website, such as www.ourglobalcompany.com that corresponds to the IP address of a computer. A website is usually accessed by using the domain name instead of the IP address. Domain names are easier to remember and also help users to easily find a website on the Internet.

The Website Access Process

A web server makes web pages accessible to users based on their request. This process consists of the following stages:

1. The user types the URL of the website in the web browser.
2. The browser sends a request for the file to the web server through HTTP.
3. The web server sends the HTML content of the web page to the browser.
4. The browser reads the HTML content, formats the page according to the instructions provided in the HTML code, and displays it.



Principles of Web Designing

Well-designed websites facilitate easy navigation through web pages for accessing the relevant information.

Guidelines

To develop a user-friendly website:

- Determine the purpose of the website.
 - What do you want the website to do?
 - Why are you creating the site?
 - Why will people come and visit the site?
- Identify the audience who will be visiting the site.
 - Are they new or experienced web surfers?
 - What will be the demographics of site visitors?
 - What will be the connection speed to the Internet available for site visitors?
 - Will the visitors be computer savvy?
 - What will visitors want to do on the site?
- Organize the content for the website.
 - What topics or content will you have on the site?
 - Determine the content that can be grouped logically.
 - Frame a title for each of the groups.
 - Verify that there is flow of information across groups.
- Create a layout, an outline, or a site diagram that may make navigation easier and user friendly.
 - How will information flow?
 - How will site visitors navigate through the site?

- Standardize the text format for the web page.
 - What text and background colors should be used?
 - What should be the font size of headings and paragraph text?
 - What should be the font and font style of the text?
 - What is the paragraph format?
- Provide support for better user interactivity.
 - Provide appropriate file names for web pages.
 - Provide information on the **About Us** and **Contact Us** pages, which will be helpful for users.
 - Use feedback and contact forms to get feedback from visitors.

Example:

Global Company Inc. is a professional services firm operating internationally. The company's website aims to provide its existing clients with information about recent news and events, and also attract new clients. The target audience has been identified as predominantly other large companies. Therefore, the site can be designed to be accessed through high speed connections. The site should have a page that lists the existing clients, and another page that provides contact details of all the firm's offices so that users can contact the nearest office for more information.

ACTIVITY 1-1

Examining the Basic Concepts of Web Designing

Scenario:

You want to create a website that provides information about your company. Before proceeding with the task, you want to ensure that you are familiar with the basic concepts of web designing.

1. What does the first part of the **URL** indicate?
 - a. IP Address
 - b. Domain Name
 - c. File Name
 - d. Protocol
2. Which statement is true about websites?
 - a. A website can contain only one web page.
 - b. The web pages on a website cannot be linked through images
 - c. A website is accessed using its URL.
 - d. Websites can contain information only in the form of text.
3. True or False? Before creating a website, you need to identify the audience who will be visiting the site.

Explore the Dreamweaver Interface

Having examined the basic concepts of web designing, you are now ready to create a website using Dreamweaver. However, being a new user of the application, you may not be familiar with the functionality of the various components of its interface. In this topic, you will explore the Dreamweaver interface.

Working with the Dreamweaver application after learning its interface thoroughly will help you finish the intended tasks in an efficient manner. Also, understanding the utilities of its various interface elements will enable you to make appropriate use of them.

The Welcome Screen

The Welcome Screen is displayed when the Dreamweaver application is launched and also when you do not have any documents open. It serves as a launching pad for creating files and websites, lets you open recently used documents, and also provides links to Dreamweaver help resources. You can set your preferences to either show or hide the Welcome Screen.

The Dreamweaver Workspace

The Dreamweaver workspace consists of components that each provide a variety of tools and commands used for creating and enhancing web pages. The following table describes those components.

Component Description

Application bar	Contains menus, workspace switcher, and other application controls for changing the document window layout, managing Dreamweaver extensions, and creating and managing websites.
Document toolbar	Contains options that help you perform tasks such as switching between different views, previewing web pages, managing files, controlling the visual dynamics of a page, and checking web pages for accessibility standards and compatibility.
Status bar	Contains components that help in the selection of various page elements. It also provides information about the current page, such as its size and magnification level.
Property Inspector	Contains options for modifying the properties of various objects, such as text and graphics, placed on the web page. The options in this panel vary based on the object that is selected.
Panel groups	Contain various panels grouped by function, such as managing files, editing HTML tags, adding dynamic content to pages, and tracking CSS rules and properties for pages. Each panel in a panel group appears as a tab.
Document window	Displays the current document. It is the main work area where you can insert and modify page elements.

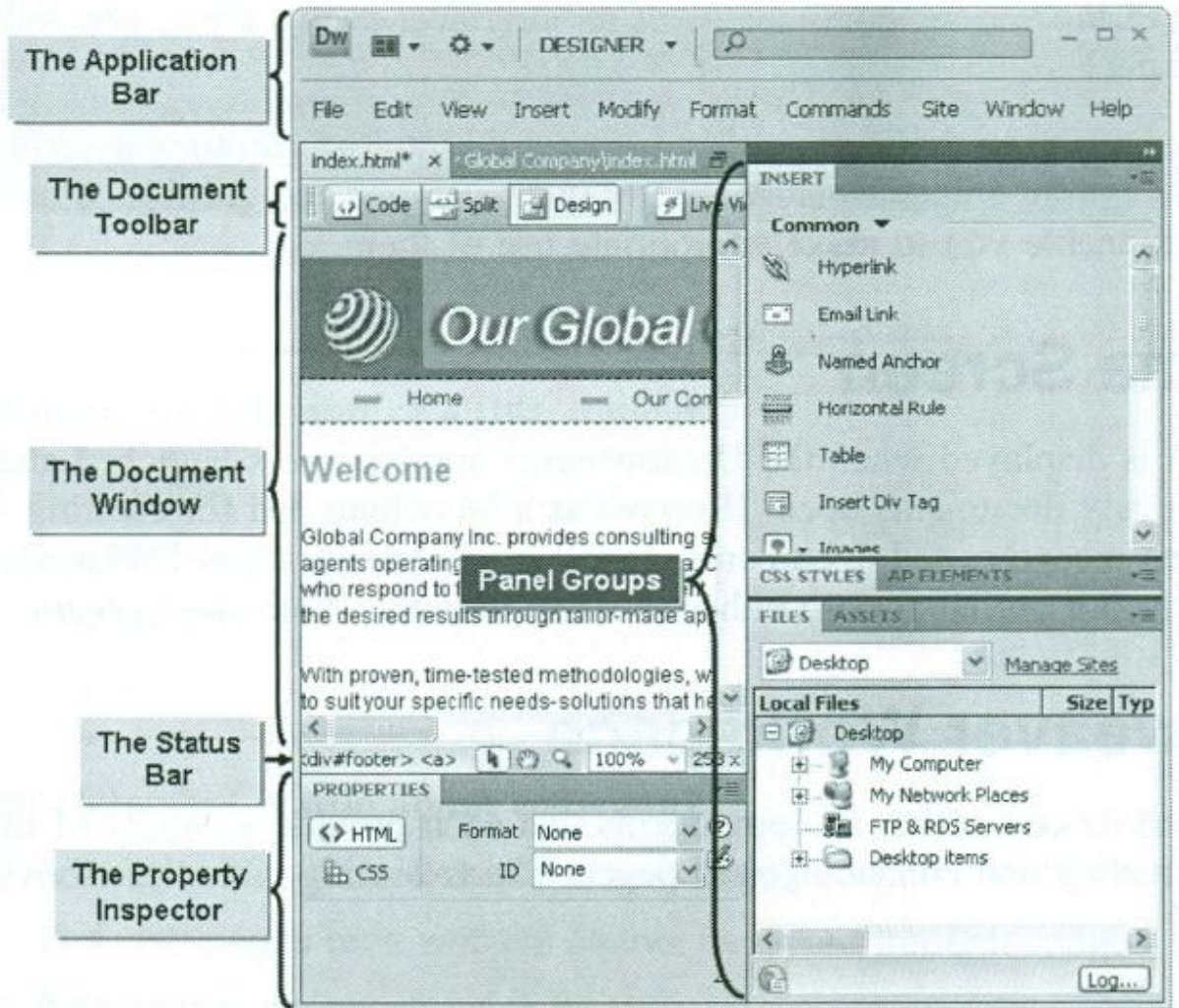


Figure 1-4: Components of the Dreamweaver workspace.

Guides

A *guide* is a reference line that is used to position and align objects in a document. It also helps you measure the size of page elements such as graphics. Guides can be moved, modified, deleted, and hidden. They can also be locked by using the **Lock Guides** option, so they are not moved accidentally.

Rulers

Rulers are visual aids that display graded units of measurement that appear at the top and left edges of the document window in Design view. They are used to make precise measurements of page elements and position and align layout elements accurately. The starting point of the grading on the horizontal and vertical rulers can be moved to any location within the visible portion of the ruler. In Split view, rulers are displayed only for the design section of the document window. Ruler units can be set to display in pixels, inches, or centimeters.

ACTIVITY 1-2

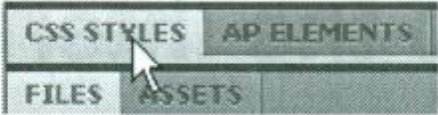
Exploring the Dreamweaver Interface

Data Files:

index.html

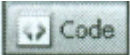
Scenario:

Now that you are familiar with the basic concepts of web designing, you want to start creating a web page. You want to accomplish this task using the Adobe Dreamweaver application. However, you want to start your work only after familiarizing yourself with the different tools and options needed to create the web page.

What You Do	How You Do It
1. Open the index.html file in the Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 application.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Choose Start > All Programs > Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 to open the Adobe Dreamweaver application.In the Default Editor dialog box, click OK to accept the default editing preferences.Observe the Dreamweaver Welcome Screen.Choose File > OpenIn the Open dialog box, navigate to the Getting Started with Dreamweaver folder.Select index.html and click Open.
2. Which component in the Dreamweaver interface provides information about the magnification level of a document? <ol style="list-style-type: none">The status barThe document windowThe Property InspectorThe Document toolbar	
3. Explore the Dreamweaver interface.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Double-click the CSS STYLES tab to view the options in the CSS STYLES panel. A screenshot of the Adobe Dreamweaver interface showing a horizontal tab bar. The tabs are labeled 'CSS STYLES', 'AP ELEMENTS', 'FILES', and 'ASSETS'. A mouse cursor is pointing at the 'CSS STYLES' tab, which is highlighted with a darker background.In the INSERT panel, from the drop-down list, select Text to view the various options that it contains.Observe that the Property Inspector displays the HTML properties of the page.

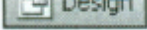
- d. In the **Property Inspector**, click **CSS** to view the CSS properties of the page.



- e. On the **Document** toolbar, click **Code**,  to view the document in Code view.

- f. Click **Split**,  to return to Split view.

- g. On the Application bar, click the **Layout** button,  and choose **Split Vertically** to split the document window vertically with the code displayed on the left and the design on the right.

- h. Click **Design**,  to view -the document in Design view.

4. When would you use the Property Inspector?

- a) To switch between different views to view a document.
- b) To open a new document.
- c) To view the size of the current document.
- d) To modify the properties of objects such as text and graphics.

TOPIC C Customize the Interface

Having explored the various components of the Dreamweaver interface, you are ready to work with them. Before you begin, you may want to modify the default settings of the interface elements to suit your preferences. In this topic, you will customize the Dreamweaver workspace.

While creating a web page, you may have to use certain tools and commands more frequently. Making those tools and commands quickly accessible will help you work efficiently. Dreamweaver enables you to customize and save the workspace settings based on your work requirements.

Panel Groups

Panel groups are collections of related panels. Each panel appears as a tab in a panel group. Panel groups can be displayed in expanded view or collapsed to icon view, making it easier to access the panels you need without cluttering the workspace. When panels are displayed in collapsed to icon view, only the panel icon and the label will be visible. You can display a panel by clicking the respective panel icon.

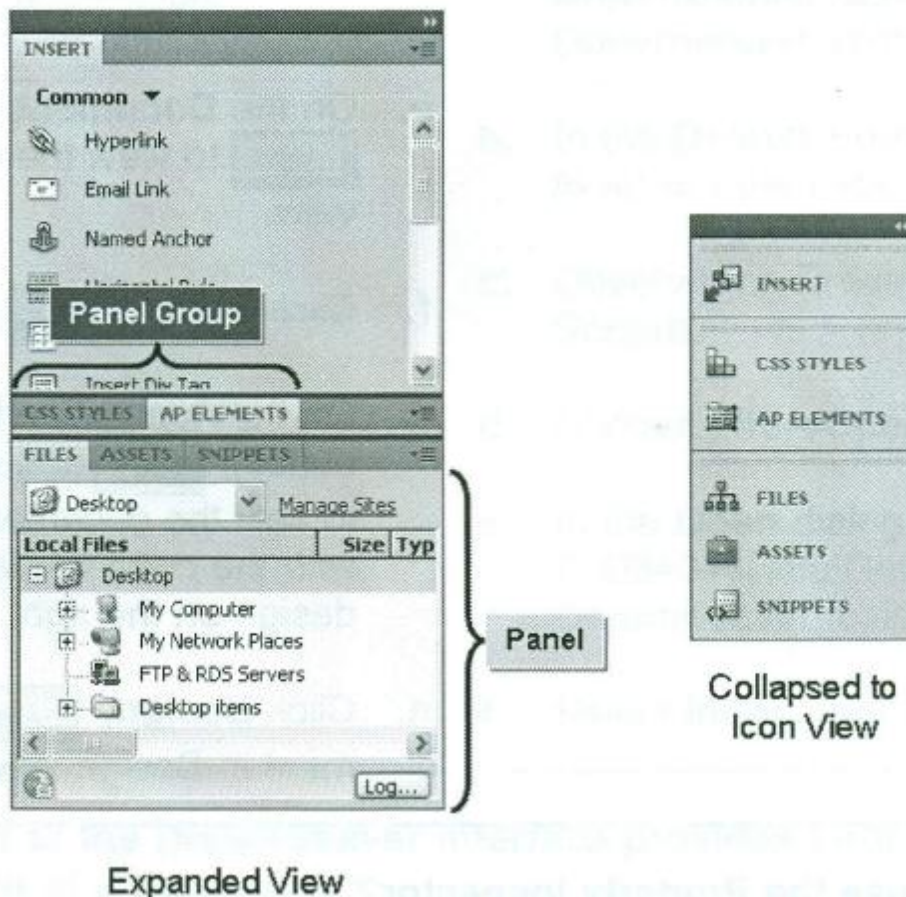


Figure 1-5: Panel groups in expanded view and collapsed to icon view.

The Dock

A dock is a region, usually located at the right edge of the workspace, where panels or panel groups are grouped together. Panels or panel groups can be repositioned within the dock and also moved out of the dock to float it. You can move the dock anywhere to make it a floating panel group or it can be docked to the left edge of the workspace. You can close all panels in the dock to hide it. You can restore the dock by adding a panel from the **Window** menu.

Panel Rearrangement

The appearance and positioning of panels can be customized by performing various operations such as docking, stacking, and grouping. The following table describes those operations.

Operation

Operation	Involves
Docking	Moving a panel or panel group into the dock on the left or right of the document window.
Undocking	Moving a panel or panel group out of the dock to make it a floating panel or panel group.
Stacking	Adding a panel or panel group to the top or bottom of a floating panel or panel group to create a stack.
Grouping	Adding a panel or panel group to another panel or panel group to create a new panel group.

Predefined Workspaces

Dreamweaver provides eight predefined workspaces that aid in designing web pages. The following table describes those workspace layouts.

Workspace	Description
App Developer	Displays the document window in Split view. It has panel groups located on the left.
App Developer Plus	Displays the document window in Split view. It has some panel groups on the left as expanded panels and some panel groups on the right, collapsed to display only icons. It also has the Property Inspector at the bottom.
Classic	Displays the window in Split view. It has panel groups located on the right and the Property Inspector at the bottom. It also has the Insert bar displayed above the Document toolbar.
Coder	Displays the document window in Code view. It has panel groups located on the left.
Coder Plus	Displays the document window in Code view. It has some panel groups on the left as expanded panels and some panel groups on the right collapsed to display only icons.
Designer	Displays the document window in Split view, with panel groups located on the right and the Property Inspector at the bottom.
Designer Compact	Displays the document window in Split view. It has panel groups collapsed to display only icons located on the right, and the Property Inspector at the bottom.
Dual Screen	Displays the document window and the Property Inspector on the primary monitor and all panels on the secondary monitor. It is useful in a two-monitor setup.

Colored Icons

Dreamweaver CS4 displays icons in color or grayscale. By default, icons appear in grayscale but they can be switched to colored icons by using the Color Icons option available on the View menu. Panel icons also appear in color when panels are collapsed to display only icons.

The Preferences Dialog Box

The **Preferences** dialog box allows you to customize the Dreamweaver environment based on the work requirement. It contains several options grouped under different categories. These options allow you to perform tasks such as customizing startup preferences, browser settings, the functionality of code, and the appearance of layout elements.

Categories in the Preferences Dialog Box

The **Preferences** dialog box contains a variety of customization options under different categories. The following table describes those categories.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Contains options for</i>
General	Modifying startup settings and editing preferences.
Accessibility	Prompting the user to add accessibility information for page elements, such as graphics and frames.
AP Elements	Modifying the default settings of the new AP elements that the user creates.
Code Coloring	Setting color preferences for tags and code elements.
Code Format	Formatting code, such as casing of tags, line length, and indentation for code.
Code Hints	Modifying the properties of code hints.
Code Rewriting	Specifying how Dreamweaver should rewrite code while modifying the properties of various elements.
Copy/Paste	Setting preferences for the Paste Special feature.
CSS Styles	Specifying how code that defines CSS styles needs to be written.
File Compare	Specifying the application to compare files. You need to install a third party utility to compare files in Dreamweaver.
File Types / Editors	Specifying an external editor that edits files with specific extensions.

Category	Contains options for
Fonts	Setting encoding preferences for fonts.
Highlighting	Customizing the colors that highlight library items, template regions, layout elements, third-party tags, and code in Dreamweaver.
Invisible Elements	Modifying the settings of icons that indicate invisible elements.
New Document	Specifying default properties for new documents opened in Dreamweaver.
Preview in Browser	Setting the default browser used for previewing a web page.
Site	Setting preferences for file transfer features available in the FILES panel.
Status Bar	Customizing the window size and connection speed displayed on the status bar.
Validator	Specifying the languages and problems against which the validator should check documents for errors.

How to Customize the Interface

Procedure Reference: Set General Preferences

To set general preferences:

1. Display the **Preferences** dialog box.
 - Choose **Edit > Preferences**.
 - Or, on a tab bar, right-click and choose **Panel Preferences**.
2. In the **Category** list box, select **General**.
3. Specify the desired options.
4. Click **OK** to save the changes and close the **Preferences** dialog box.

Procedure Reference: Customize the Interface

To customize the interface:

1. Open the Adobe Dreamweaver application.
2. If necessary, select the desired workspace layout.
 - On the Application bar, click the workspace switcher and select the desired workspace.
 - Or, choose **Window > Workspace Layout** and then choose the desired workspace.
3. Customize the interface.
 - Hide a panel.
 - a. If necessary, select the desired panel.
 - b. In the desired panel group, from the panel options menu, choose **Close**.

- c. If necessary, from the **Window** menu, choose the panel name to restore the panel.
- Dock a panel.
 - a. If necessary, from the **Window** menu, choose the desired panel name to display it.
 - b. Click and drag the panel to the desired location at the edge of the workspace to dock the panel.
 - c. If necessary, click and drag the panel to the desired location within the workspace to undock the panel.
- Group panels.
 - a. If necessary, from the **Window** menu, choose the desired panel to display it.
 - b. Click and drag the panel or panel group to the desired panel or panel group to group the panels.
- Stack panels
 - a. If necessary, click and drag the desired panel from the dock into the workspace to set it as a floating panel.
 - b. Click and drag the panel to be stacked to the drop zone at the top or bottom of a floating panel.
 - c. Click and drag the panel above or below the desired panel to rearrange the panel.
- Collapse panels to icons.
 - a. On the title bar of the panel groups, click the Collapse to Icons button to display the panels as icons with labels.
 - b. Click and drag the left edge of the panel to reduce the width and display only icons.
 - c. If necessary, on the title bar of the panel groups, click the Expand Panels button to expand the panels.
4. If necessary, specify the desired general preferences.
5. Save the customized workspace
 - a. Open the New Workspace dialog box.
 - On the Application bar, click the workspace switcher and select New Workspace.
 - Or, choose Window > Workspace Layout > New Workspace.
 - b. In the Name text box, type the desired name for the workspace and click OK.
6. If necessary, delete a workspace layout.
 - a. Open the Manage Workspaces dialog box.
 - On the Application bar, click the workspace switcher and select Manage Workspaces.
 - Or, choose Window-s Workspace Layout-e Manage Workspaces.
 - b. In the Manage Workspaces dialog box, select the desired workspace layout and click Delete.


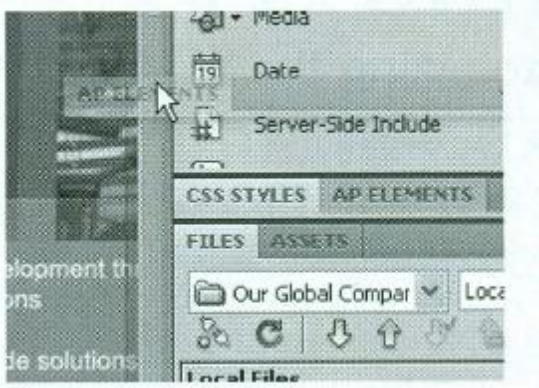
ACTIVITY 1-3

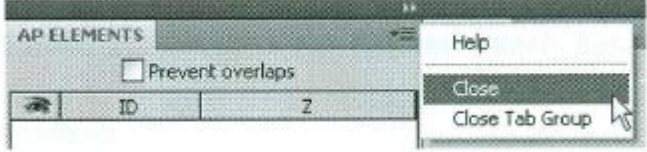
Before You Begin:

The index.html file is open.

Scenario:

Before you start using Dreamweaver to create a web page, you would like to make some changes to the Dreamweaver interface so that you can arrange commands and options to suit our preferences.

What You Do	How You Do It
<p>1. Explore the workspace layouts.</p>	<p>a. On the Application bar, click the workspace switcher and select Designer Compact to switch to the Designer Compact layout.</p>  <p>b. Observe that the Designer Compact layout has panel groups docked to the right of the document window in collapsed to icons view displaying only the icons and labels of the panels.</p> <p>c. In the collapsed to icons view of the panel groups, click INSERT to display the INSERT panel and view the options in the panel.</p> <p>d. Click INSERT again to hide the INSERT panel.</p> <p>e. On the Application bar, click the workspace switcher and select Designer to restore the Designer layout.</p>
<p>2. Customize the panel groups</p>	<p>a. Click and drag the AP ELEMENTS panel to the left to place it between the document window and the panel groups.</p>  <p>b. Observe that the AP ELEMENTS panel is docked between the document window and the other panel groups.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Click and drag the FILES panel group to the right of the INSERT panel until a blue rectangle appears around it. d. Observe that the FILES and ASSETS panels are now grouped with the INSERT panel. e. From the AP ELEMENTS panel options menu, choose Close. 
<p>3. Set general preferences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Choose Edit~Preferences. b. In the Preferences dialog box, in the Category list box, verify that General is selected. c. In the Document options section, uncheck the Show Welcome Screen check box to not display the Welcome Screen when the application is opened. d. In the Editing options section, check the Allow multiple consecutive spaces check box to create non-breaking spaces when you type two or more spaces consecutively in Design view. e. Click OK to save the changes.
<p>4. Save the customized workspace.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. On the Application bar, click the workspace switcher and select New Workspace. b. In the New Workspace dialog box, in the Name text box, type My Layout c. Click OK to save the workspace layout. d. Choose File>Close.