

Hands-On Lesson

to accompany

Curriculum Webs, 2nd edition

Weaving the Web into Teaching and Learning

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LESSON 12:

Extending your software

DREAMWEAVER MX 2004

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Goal for this lesson

- Learn about the potential to modify or enhance your software to increase your capacity to accomplish specific tasks.

Setting preferences

Dreamweaver

- Use Edit | Preferences.

Changing keyboard shortcuts

Dreamweaver

- Use Edit | Keyboard Shortcuts.

Creating new commands or macros

Dreamweaver

- To save a series of steps as a command, perform the steps.
- Select the steps in the History panel and right-click and choose "Save As Command." Whatever you name it will then show in the Commands menu.
- Edit the names of commands by clicking Commands | Edit Command List.

Recording a sequence of commands

Dreamweaver

- To record a sequence of commands, use Commands | Start Recording. Complete your sequence. When done, use Commands | Stop Recording. To play the sequence, use Commands | Play Recorded Command.)
- To save a recorded command for later use, play it back. A Run Command will appear in the history panel. Right-click the Run Command and choose Save as Command. Name the command something you will remember.

Adding extensions

Dreamweaver

Go to the Macromedia Exchange web site to download new extensions.

- Set your browser to <http://www.macromedia.com/exchange/dreamweaver>.
- If this is your first time at the Exchange, you'll have to create a membership. Choose "Get a Macromedia ID." Fill out the form. When you're done, make sure you write down your member name and password. Go back to Exchange home page, and log in (if necessary).
- Browse the extensions, all categories.
- The Anchors extension (by Scott Richards) works well. Click on the download link.

Extension Manager is already part of Dreamweaver MX so we don't need to get it from the web site.

- Choose your platform and click the icon to download the extension. Make sure you choose "Save" instead of open. Put it in the Dreamweaver\Downloaded Extensions folder. Remember the name of the extension..
- Use Commands | Manage Extensions. Then use File | Install Extension. The new extension should show up on the list. Choose it and click OK. It should now install.

Once installed, this extension is available immediately in the Command menu.

(Some extensions require you to restart Dreamweaver.) Create a simple page to test it on.

The page will have a bunch of anchors

- Create five anchors, with a few blank lines between them, and some labels. For example, anchor1, anchor2, etc.
- Open the "Goodies" object on the Object panel. (If the panel is not visible, use Window | Objects.) The drop-down menu on the panel includes a choice for "Goodies."
- Place your cursor at the top of your page and Type "Menu" and make it a heading.
- Choose the "Anchors" object on the Goodies page of the Object panel. Click the drop-down to choose which anchor to link to and what the link text will be: Repeat for each element in your menu.