

Hands-On Lesson

to accompany

Curriculum Webs

A Practical Guide to Weaving the Web into Teaching and Learning

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Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2003

LESSON 2: Creating your first web page

Composer

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Goals for this lesson

- Create a simple first web page and apply various formatting.
- Play with your software to get a sense of what it can do.

Opening a new document

Composer

- Use New | Blank Page to Edit from any Netscape menu. This will start Netscape Composer and open a new blank page.

Saving your file

Type “Welcome to my home page,” or something like that, just to create some content to save. Save your file in a folder on your computer. Give the file a name and location that you will remember later.

Composer

- Use File | Save.

Creating a simple home page

Include your name, information about you, your job, your family, and your interests. Simply type text as you would in a word processor.


Try to create some headings, alter the text size, and change the background color. Add bulleted and numbered lists. Specific steps are listed below.

Using headings

HTML includes six levels of predefined heading styles. Headings always have extra vertical space before and after the line, and are bolded. Available headings from largest to smallest are Heading 1 through Heading 6. Heading 4 is the same size as regular type, but is bolded with space before and after.

First, make sure the cursor is in the paragraph you wish to turn into a heading.

Composer

- Use Format | Paragraph and choose a heading from the list.
- OR click the Paragraph Style drop-down box and select a style: .

Changing text size

Font size is always defined relatively, since the user's browser sets the default font size.


Font sizes can also be defined in a Cascading Style Sheet (CSS). These are not covered in this book. CSS's allow specific pixel dimensions (and various other font attributes) to be assigned to all instances of a given style appearing in a document. To find out more about CSS, see our companion web site at <http://curriculumwebs.com>.

Composer

- Use Format | Size and choose to make the text smaller, larger, or one of the following sizes: x-small, small, medium, large, x-large.


Making bulleted lists

Composer

- Create your list, then highlight the list, then click the Bullet List button  on toolbar.
- You can also use Format | List and select Bulleted.
- After your list is created, you can change the bullet type (circle or square, open or solid) by highlighting the list and using Format | List | List Properties....

Making numbered lists

Composer

- Create your list, then highlight the list, then click the numbered list button  on the toolbar.
- Or use Format | List from the menu and then select Numbered.
- After the list is created, you can change the numbering format (roman, Arabic, outline format) by highlighting the list and using Format | List | List Properties....

Changing the background color

In general, it is a good idea to be cautious when adding background colors. Try to maintain high contrast between the color of the text and the color of the page.

Composer

- Use Format | Page Colors and Background and then click “Use Custom Colors.” Then, click the rectangle next to “Background” and choose a color from the color picker.

Giving your page a title

The title of your page appears in the browser's title bar when the page is viewed. The title also becomes the name given to your page if someone bookmarks it or creates a favorite. Every page you create should have a descriptive title.

Call your page "My Home Page."

Composer

- Use Format | Page Title and Properties. Type a title into the Title field.

Viewing your page in a browser

Save your page again by using File | Save. Preview your page in a web browser.

Composer

- Click the Browse button on the toolbar.

Playing with your software

Before you've actually done any work in your software, it is a good idea to simply play with it for a while. See what you can do with the tools. Experiment with the right mouse button (on a PC) or holding down the mouse button (on a Mac). The pop-up menus that appear usually have the commands most relevant to what it is you right-click on.

Try some of the buttons on the Toolbars.

Composer

- Try some of the choices in the Insert menu.
- Save your file again, and look at it again in your browser by clicking the Browse button on the toolbar. (If you already have the document open in the browser, you can switch to that window, and then click the Refresh or Reload button in the browser.)

Using undo

All of the software packages will allow you to undo the previous action. This is very powerful because it allows you to experiment with tools without danger of ruining what you have created so far. Dreamweaver and GoLive allow you to see a “History” of your previous actions, and to return to a previous state of the document. FrontPage and Composer will allow you to undo up to 30 of the most recent steps.

Composer

- Use Edit|Undo.