

Hands-On Lesson

to accompany

Curriculum Webs

A Practical Guide to Weaving the Web into Teaching and Learning

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LESSON 6: Designing a curriculum web with a consistent page format

Composer

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Goal for this lesson

- Create a navigation structure for a curriculum web
- Apply a consistent design to the pages of your curriculum web
- Upload your new curriculum web to the server.

In this lesson, we will create the file and link structure for a curriculum web that contains a home page, five pages containing demonstrations of steps or techniques, five activities implementing the demonstrated techniques, a final or culminating activity, and a list of useful links. This curriculum web is navigated in a linear fashion.

Figure 6-1 shows a Dreamweaver Site Map for the site you will create. The `index.htm` file is the home page; the five demonstration pages are called `demo1.htm`, etc; the five activities are called `activity1.htm` etc., and there is a list of links and a final activity. We will create this structure without including any content. Then, we will develop a template for the site that incorporates a consistent navigation scheme, and will apply this template to the pages in the site. Then, we will publish the site to the web server.

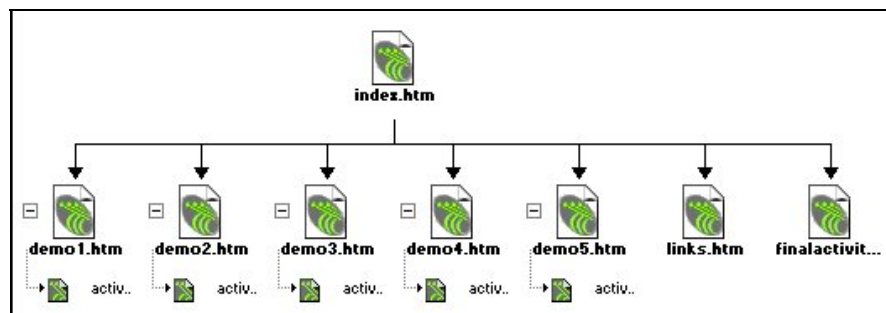


Figure 6-1: The structure of the curriculum web you will create in this lesson.

Creating a new server

If you have an account on a web server, you can use the space to support multiple curriculum webs (up to whatever limit is placed on your account size). To avoid having the web sites interfere with one another, it is necessary to create new directories for each

curriculum. Depending on what type of web server you are using, creating a new directory is a matter of logging in to the server using an application like Telnet or SSH, or using Windows Explorer or the Mac Finder, or using your web editing software to create the directory for you. We cannot cover all the possibilities here but will show you how to do it with Dreamweaver, GoLive, and FrontPage. Composer cannot be used to create new directories on the server. If you are using Composer you will have to find out the procedure from your technical coordinator or ISP.

First you need to define a site that has your top-level web directory (usually “www” or “public_html”) as the host directory. Then you will connect to this site, and use the web editing software’s tools to create a new subdirectory. Then, you’ll create a new site using this subdirectory as the host directory.

Composer

Composer cannot create directories on the server.

Creating a home page

(If you’re using GoLive, you already completed this step.)

Create a file called index.htm in the Lesson6curriculumweb folder. Define it as the home page of the site.

Composer

Composer does not allow you to define a page as the home page.

Creating the site structure

Now we will set up all the files in the curriculum web. To remind you, we need index.htm (already created), demo1.htm, demo2.htm, demo3.htm, demo4.htm, demo5.htm, activity1.htm, activity2.htm, activity3.htm, activity4.htm, activity5.htm, links.htm, and finalactivity.htm.

Composer

- You need to create each file individually. Use File|New|Blank Page and then File|Save As... to create the files.

Creating a template

Once you're done setting up your new site like this, you're ready to set up a template for the pages in the site.

Templates are files that control the layout of a number of HTML files in your site.

We will create a very simple template that will include a title and subtitle, and links to the demonstration pages, final activity, and links page. See Figure 6-2.

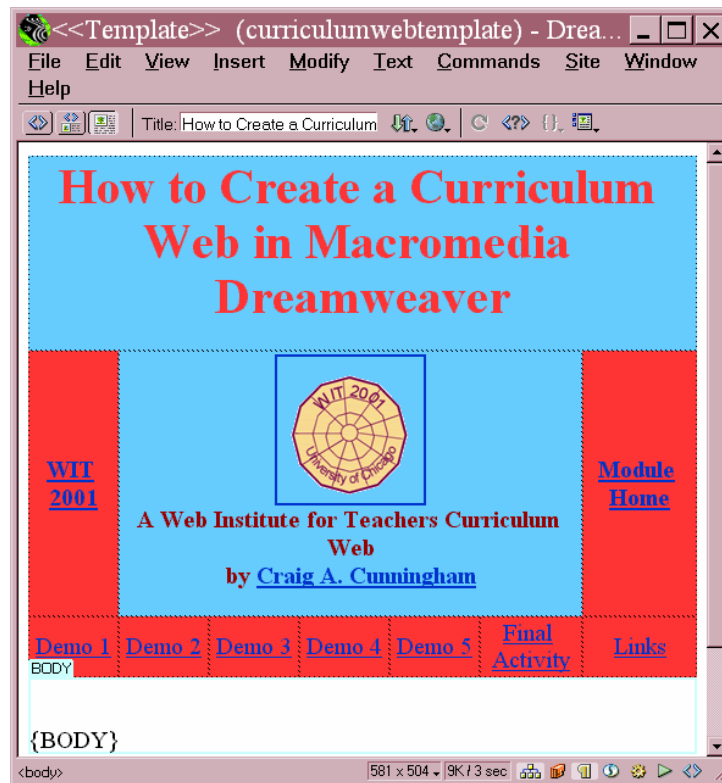


Figure 6-2 A sample template file for a curriculum web, shown in Dreamweaver.

Composer

Composer does not allow you to create a template in the same sense that the other packages do. However, you can create elements that are common to multiple pages. (You update all the pages automatically, as you can in the other packages.)

It is difficult to create tables with non-standard cell sizes in Composer. Therefore we have chosen to demonstrate a very simple template here.

- Click the Table button. Insert a 1 row by 1 column table, with Table Width set to 100%. Type a title for your curriculum web into this box. Make it a Heading 1 and center it.
- Press the down arrow. Insert another Table, 1 row by 3 columns. Type a subtitle for the curriculum web into the middle box on the new table. Make it a Heading 3 and center it.
- Press the down arrow. Insert another Table, 1 row by 7 columns. Type Demo 1, Demo 2, etc, Final Activity, and Links into these cells. Center these within their cells
- To change cell colors, right-click within cells and choose Table Properties. You can adjust the color of individual cells, rows, or columns by choosing the correct tab and clicking Use Color and choosing a color.
- At the bottom of the third table, press the down arrow. Type in some placeholder text for the body of the page. Press Enter 10 times. Put contact information with a mailto link (introduced in Lesson 3) at the bottom of the page. See Figure 6-3.

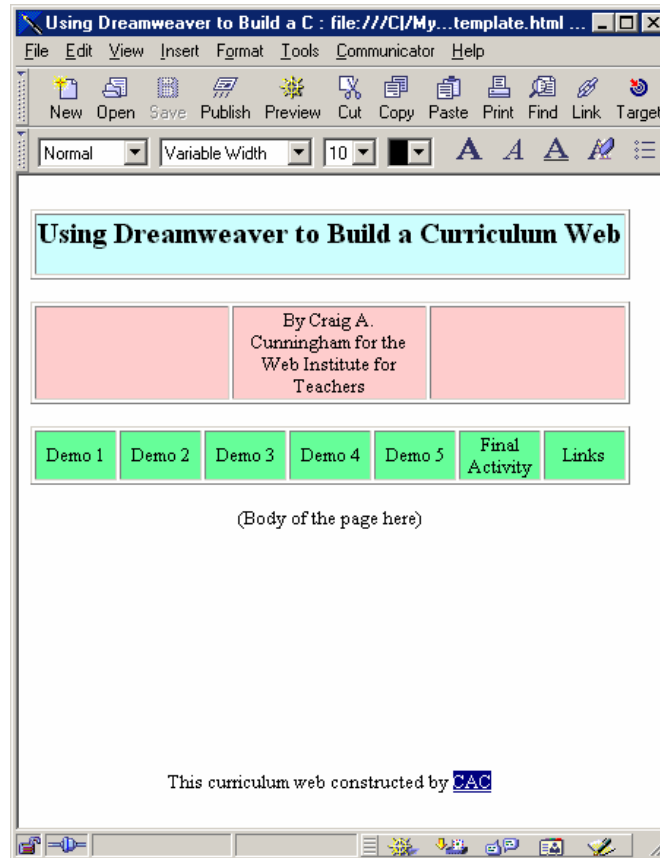


Figure 6-3: Using Composer to build a page template.

- Use File | Save as... and name the file “template.htm”.
- Use File | New | Page from Template... Choose the file you just saved as a template.
- Repeat previous step for each page you want to create in your page..

Applying the template to pages

Composer

Composer cannot apply templates to pages.

Adding content

Normally at this point in the development of your curriculum web, you would be adding content to the pages. But we are going to skip that step here. However, you should make sure all the pages have appropriate titles. (We covered this in Lesson 3.) Make them short and descriptive. For now, just call them “Demo 1” etc. so you can see that all the links are working.

Updating multiple pages

Composer

Composer does not have automatic updating.

Uploading your site to the server

Once you've created your template and applied it to all the pages in your sample curriculum web, upload the site to the server.

Composer

With Composer, you have to use a separate FTP client to publish pages. See <http://directory.google.com/Top/Computers/Software/Internet/Clients/FTP/> for listings of FTP clients, and refer to the manuals of each program for use.