

# Hands-On Lesson

to accompany

## *Curriculum Webs*

*A Practical Guide to Weaving the Web into Teaching and Learning*

By Craig A. Cunningham and Marty Billingsley

Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2003

# LESSON 7: Dealing with images

## Composer

This lesson was written by

Craig A. Cunningham and Russ Revzan

Copyright 2002. All rights reserved.

## Goals for this lesson

- Learn about some techniques for controlling how images are displayed.
- Learn about and create image maps.
- Use image editing software with your web page editing software.

---


---

## Inserting an image

---

### *Composer*



- Click the Image button . Browse to the image by clicking the Choose File button and then you find the file, select it and then click Open. Put some descriptive text into the “Alternative Text” field. Then click OK

---

---

## Changing an image's display size

When you alter the display size of an image, you don't actually change the size of the image; only its display. To change the actual size of the image, you'll have to "edit" it in image editing software.

---

### *Composer*

- To alter displayed size, double-click on image click More Properties; then click Custom Size and change the Height and Width values. NOTE: if you change both, you might alter the proportions. To avoid this, make sure the Constrain box is checked.

---

---

## Adding “alt” text

“Alt” text appears instead of the image when a browser is set so that images are not displayed. Alt text also allows visually-impaired users to know what is displayed in an image.

---

### *Composer*

- Double-click the image, and fill in the Alternative Text field.

---

---

## Information about your image

Once you've placed an image into your page, there are a couple of ways that you can get information about the image's size and how it affects the loading time of the page.

Open a new file and save it as "imagetest.htm." Right now the page should be empty.

Add this image to the page (you can download it from the companion web site at

<http://curriculumwebs.com/lessons/resources.>)



This image is much less than 1K in size. When you add it into your web page, it adds an insignificant amount of size and time to the page loading. However, when you add pictures or other complex or large graphics to your page, you may drastically increase the time it takes for the page to load.

For example, if you add a 34K file, it takes about 10 additional seconds to **download** the page over a 28.8 Kbit/sec modem connection. Think about the overall size of your page and try to keep the page under about 30 seconds or, for a long page with lots of images, no more than 120 seconds.

Keep in mind that it doesn't add any additional downloading time to add the same image more than once in a page. As long as each instance of the image refers to the same file, the browser will know to display it again without downloading it.

---

### *Composer*

- Double-click the image and look at the Image Preview Box. In Composer, this information does not include the file size (only the height and width in

pixels.) To get the file size, you'll have to look at the image file in Windows Explorer or in the Mac Finder.

- Composer does not provide information about download times. You will have to estimate based on what you know about the size of the images you have inserted.

---

---

## Linking to a low resolution source

You can refer to "Low resolution source" file that is downloaded when someone is using a very low resolution monitor or certain kinds of older browsers.

---

### *Composer*

- Composer does not make it easy to supply a low resolution alternative image. However, you can do it by editing the HTML yourself by including the attribute `LOWSRC="filename"` in the IMG tag. See Chapter Seven of *Curriculum Webs* for more details.

---


---

## Using images as links

Images can be linked to other images or pages.

---

### *Composer*

- Click the image once and then click the link button. . Type in a URL into the Link Location field. You may also browse to the file to link to, by clicking on the Choose file button.
- If you want the link to open into a new window, click the Advanced Edit button on the Link Properties dialog. Choose "target" from the Attribute drop-down menu. Then type "\_blank" (without the quotation marks) into the Value field. See Figure 7-1.
- Click Ok and then click Ok again.

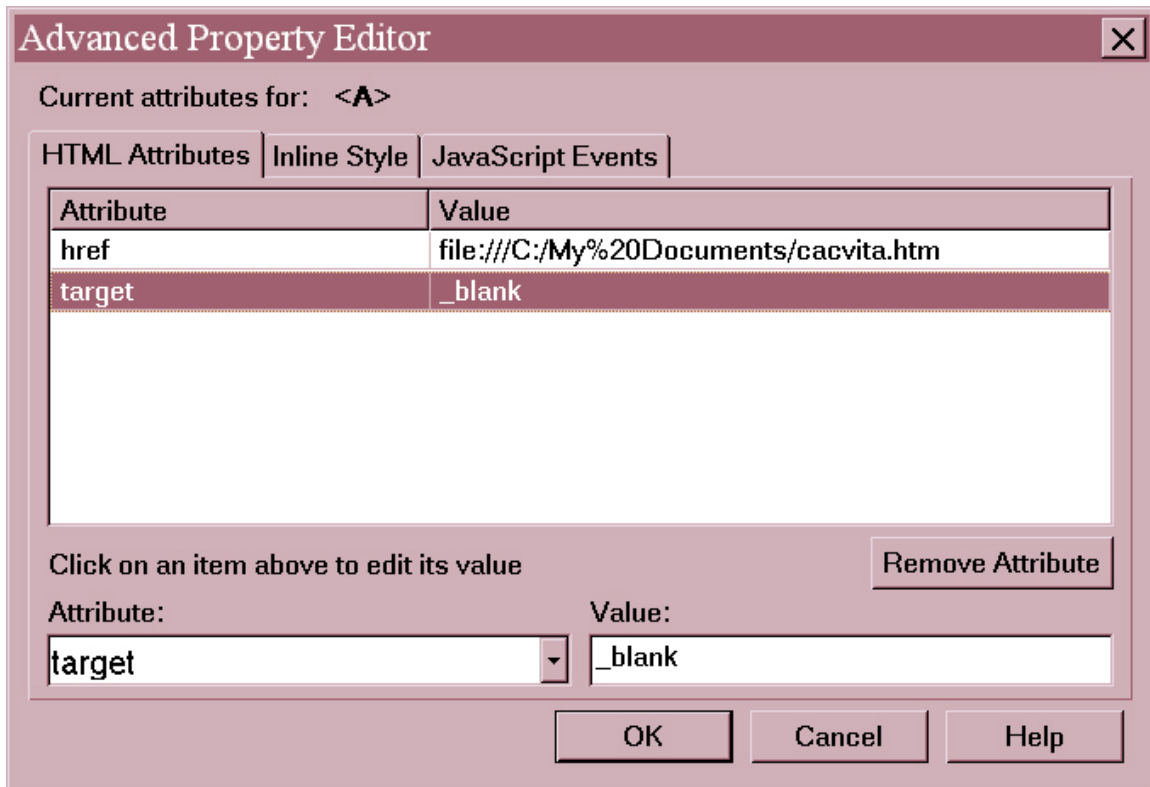


Figure 7-1: Composer's dialog box for adding attributes to a link (href) tag, showing the addition of the target = "\_blank" attribute.

---

## Creating Image maps

It is easy to create image maps, with different links for different sections of the picture, and behaviors assigned to these areas.

For example, say you want to use a picture of two people and you want to create a page about each person. By clicking on the person, you want the user to be able to access information about that person.

Find a picture that has two people in it, or visit our companion web site at <http://curriculumwebs.com/lessons/resources> to use a picture we've supplied. Download it to your Local Root Folder or subdirectory of your local root folder.

Now insert your picture into a new file. Let's say we want to link the first person's face to a page called firstperson.htm and the second person's face to a page called secondperson.htm. Create these new files. For now, just put descriptive comments in these

two files, such as "This file will contain information about the first person" and "This file will contain information about the second person." Save and close these two files.

---

### *Composer*

- Composer cannot create image maps. You can use a shareware product such as Mapedit to create the code for the image map. See <http://www.boutell.com/mapedit/>.

---

## Using tables to arrange pictures on a page

You can use a table to place a photo and a caption. See Figure 7-2.



**Figure 7-2: Using a table to format an image and caption.**

---

### *Composer*

- Insert a table by use Insert | Table. Set the table to 1 row, 6 columns, 80% of window, and border=0.
- Place the cursor each cell, and use Insert | Image and select each image in turn.
- You can then add coloring to the table cells if you desire. To do that, right-click in a cell, and choose Table Cell Properties.... Click the button next to Background Color and choose a color. Click OK and then click OK again.

## **Using image editing software**

Web editing software packages do not include built-in image editing functions. However, you can edit an image outside of your web page creation software using an image editing package such as Fireworks, Photoshop or Paint Shop Pro.

Say you want to edit an image after you have already placed it into a page. Crop an image to make it more of a close-up of the people.

---

### ***Composer***

Composer does not have an easy way to edit an image after it has been placed on a page. Instead, open the original image file into your image editor, and save the changes. To see the updated image in Composer, double-click the image and then click OK.