

# 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 2: Creating

# your first web page

## DREAMWEAVER MX 2004

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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.

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### **Opening a new document**

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#### ***Dreamweaver***

- Choose the blank window that appeared when you opened the software or (untitled document) or use File|New|General|Basic Page, and then pressing the Create button.

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### **Saving your file**

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

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#### ***Dreamweaver***

- Use File|Save.
- Browse to the folder you wish to use to save the file.
- Type a filename and click Save.

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### **Creating a simple home page**

Include your name, information about you, your job, your family, and your interests.

- Type text as you would in a word processor.
- Use the settings on the Property Inspector to create some headings, alter the text size, and change the background color. Add bulleted and numbered lists. (Specific steps for these tasks are listed below.)

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## Using headings

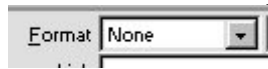
HTML includes six levels of predefined heading styles. Headings always have extra space before and after the line, and are bolded. Available headings from largest to smallest are Heading 1 through Heading 6. Heading 4 is the same size as regular type, but is bolded with space before and after.

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

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### *Dreamweaver*

- Click the drop-down format box on the Property Inspector:



or use Text | Paragraph Format.

- Or press CTRL+x, where “x” is the level of the heading. Thus, CTRL+1 sets the selected paragraph to Heading 1. CTRL+0 sets to no style. CTRL+SHIFT+P sets to paragraph format. (Paragraph format differs from no style in that there is space between the paragraphs.)

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## Changing text size

Fonts can be defined relatively (using words such as xx-small and large) or absolutely (using a variety of measurements, including pixels, points, inches, and centimeters).

Font sizes can also be defined in a Cascading Style Sheet (CSS). 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 the topic “Using Cascading Style Sheets” in Help | Using Dreamweaver or see our companion web site at <http://curriculumwebs.com>.

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**Dreamweaver**


- Click on the drop-down box on the Property Inspector: , and choose either a word or a number. If you choose a number, another drop-down box will appear, .

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**Making bulleted lists**

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**Dreamweaver**


- Create your list, then highlight the list, then click the bullet button on the Property Inspector: .
- Or press "enter" to go to new line, then click bullet button and start your list.
- You can also use Text|List and choose "unordered".
- Click the "List item..." button on Property Inspector to change to square bullets, or to use letters instead of numbers, or to start list at a number other than 1. Alternatively, you can right-click on a list item and choose List|Properties.

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**Making numbered lists**

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**Dreamweaver**

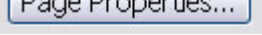

- Create your list, then highlight the list, then click the numbered list button on the Property Inspector: .
- Or press "enter" to go to new line, then click numbered list button and start your list.
- Click the "List item..." button on Property Inspector to change to square bullets, or to use letters instead of numbers, or to start list at a number other than 1. Alternatively, you can right-click on a list item and choose List|Properties.
- You can also use Text|List and choose "ordered".

## 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.

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### *Dreamweaver*

- Click the Page Properties button  on the Property Inspector:
- Or, use Modify | Page Properties. Click on the color picker next to the word “Background”  and then click on the color you want. You can use the Page Properties screen to adjust default text and link colors on the page as well.

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## 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.”

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### *Dreamweaver*

- Type the page title into the Title box at the top of the page editing window.
- After you type in a title, press “Enter” or click somewhere else on the page to apply the title.

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## Viewing your page in a browser

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

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## ***Dreamweaver***

When you browse, Dreamweaver automatically adjusts links to allow you to browse your site in the Local Root Folder.

- Use File | Preview in Browser, then choose a browser from the list.
- You can add new browsers to the list by using Edit | Preferences | Preview in Browser.

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## **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 objects of the Palettes and Toolbars.

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## ***Dreamweaver***

- Try playing with the Insert panel:



- The drop-down box at the left of the panel give you access to varied groups of elements to be inserted. Some of the buttons are used for entering Flash, Shockwave, tables, images, etc.

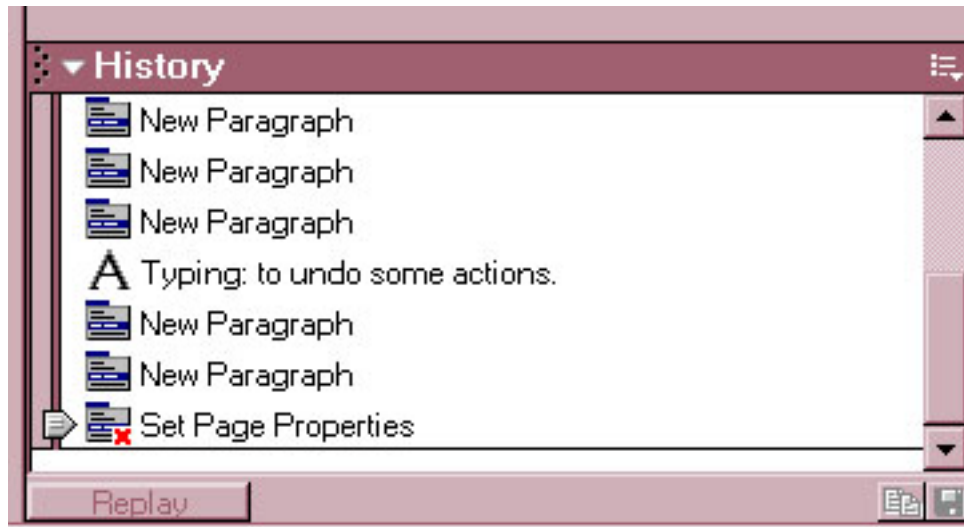
## **Using undo**

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.

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***Dreamweaver***

- Use Edit|Undo.
- To undo multiple steps, use Window|History. Use the slider on the left side of the History panel (see Figure 2-1) to go back to a previous state of the document.
- Try sliding the slider up and down. You can see your page grow and un-grow before your very eyes!!



**Figure 2-1: The Dreamweaver History panel.**

- Right-click in the History Window to clear the history (to free up some memory) or replay one or more steps (if the steps are selected). Replaying steps is a great way to do something you need to repeat many times.

Any sequence of steps can be saved as a command (appearing on the Commands menu). Advanced users often define commands to perform tasks they have to do often, to save incredible amounts of time.