

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

DREAMWEAVER MX 2004

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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 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.

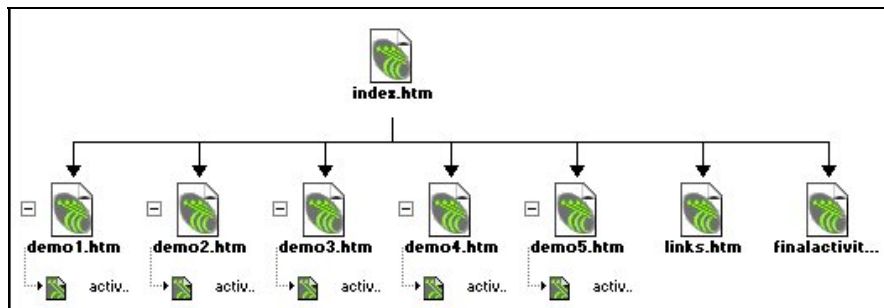


Figure 1: The structure of the curriculum web you will create in this lesson.

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## 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 or folders 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.

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### ***Dreamweaver***

- If you already have defined a site with your top-level web page directory as the Host Directory, use Site | Open Site... and select the site.
- ❖ If you have not already defined a site with your top-level web page directory as the Host Directory, do it now. Use Site | New Site.... Give the site a name like “Home Site.” Enter the necessary information. (See Lesson 5 for more.) Pay attention to where you define your local root folder. If you are in a public lab, we suggest a new folder on the Desktop. If you are using your own computer, then you might want to accept the default suggestion of a folder within your My Documents folder (for PCs) or Documents (for Macs).
- ❖ In the “Host Directory” field, type “www” or “public\_html” or whatever your top-level web page folder is called. Enter the remaining info. Click OK, then Done.
- Click the Connect button. Dreamweaver automatically switches to the Remote View. The top level folder should be “www” or “public\_html”.
- Right-click the top level server directory. Choose New Folder. Give the directory a name like “Lesson6.”
- Right-click the new directory you just created on the server and choose Get to copy it to your local computer.
- Now you need to set up a second site called “Lesson 6” with “Lesson6” (the new folder you just copied from the server) as the Local Root Folder and www/Lesson6 (or the correct path to the new folder you just created on the server) as the Host Directory.

- When you connect to the Lesson6 site, you should not see any other files or directories in the server listing (since this new directory is empty).

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## Creating a home page

Create a file called index.htm in the Lesson6 folder. Define it as the home page of the site.

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### *Dreamweaver*

- Right-click on the Lesson6 folder on the local listing of the files view. Choose New File. The new file will have the name untitled.htm. Right-click the new file. Choose Rename. Name the file index.htm.
- Use Site | Define Sites.... Choose the Lesson 6 site. Choose the “Advanced” site setup tab.
- Click on Site Map Layout on the left side of the site setup screen. Click the yellow folder icon to the right of the Home Page field. Choose the index.htm file in the Lesson6 folder to set this file as your home page.

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## 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.

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### *Dreamweaver*

- Create the files using the Site Map. The advantage of this method is that the link structure can be created along with the new files.
- To open the Site map, click the “expand” button at the top of the Files view. See Figure 2.

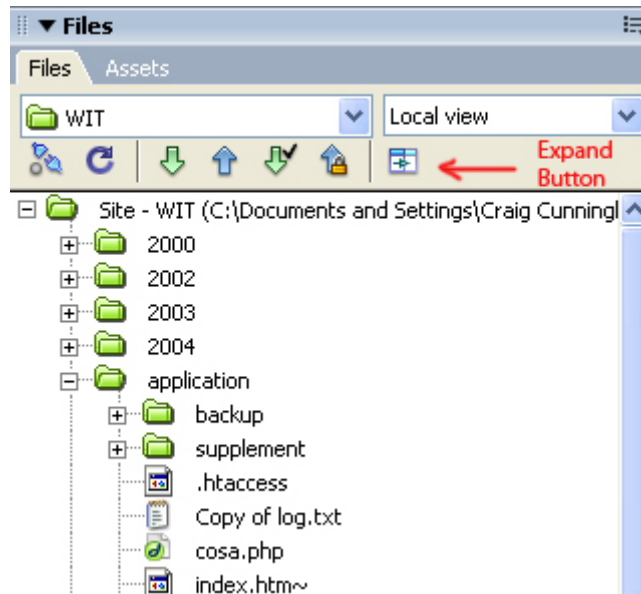


Figure 2: The Dreamweaver MX 2004 Expand button switches to a full-screen view of files on a web site.

- Once you are on the full-screen site files view, choose the site map button. See Figure 3.

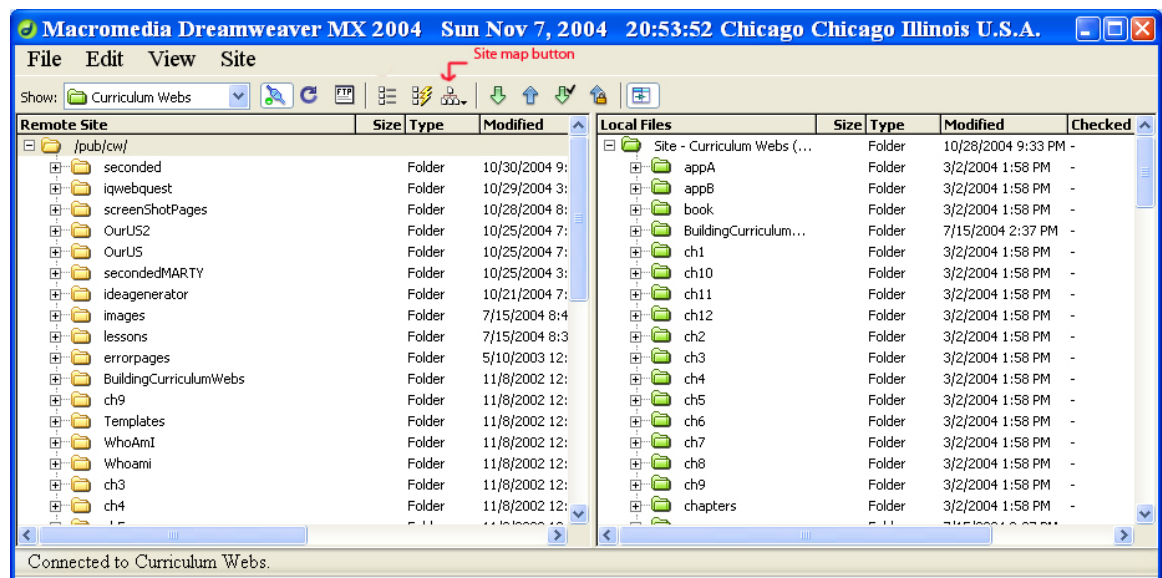


Figure 3: Site files view, showing the location of the site map button.

- Once you click the site map button, you will see your home page (index.htm) at the top center of the screen. To create new files, right-click on a file icon, and choose Link to New File. Give the new file a name (do not forget the \*.htm extension), title if you want it, and some text for the link.

We suggest the text simply be “Link to [name of the file]”. Repeat for each of the files you want to create.

If you open index.htm after you have created all the files, you’ll see several links. When you use the Site Map to create new files, the links are automatically created. You can either incorporate these links into your actual pages or replace them with the navigation structure we will create below.

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## 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 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 4 for a sample.

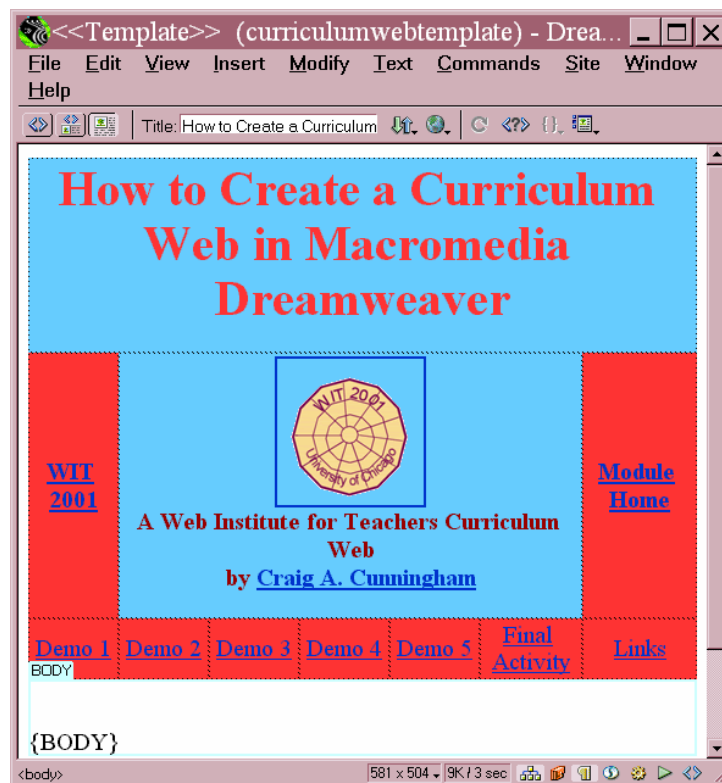


Figure 4: A sample template file for a curriculum web, shown in Dreamweaver.

## *Dreamweaver*

The KEY IDEA about Dreamweaver template files is that they are just like other HTML files except they have both “noneditable” and “editable regions.” Noneditable regions stay constant from page to page. Editable regions are the areas of a template file that contain variable information, depending on the particular page. Everything that is in a noneditable region is only editable on the template, and not in the individual files to which it is assigned. Generally, your template files will have at least two editable regions: doctitle and body. The doctitle region is created automatically. The body will be manually created later.

- To create a template file, just create a new file, and then save it as a template.
  - ❖ Use File | New Window. A new page layout window opens.
  - ❖ Save the new file immediately as a template by clicking File | Save as Template. Give it a name that makes sense, such as Lesson6template. Dreamweaver automatically adds the extension \*.dwt to template files. Notice (in the Site View) that a new folder (Templates) has been created for the new template file.
  - ❖ If you get an error that no editable regions have been created, ignore the message for now.
  - ❖ Saving it immediately as a template will spare you the problem of accidentally saving it as a regular document later.

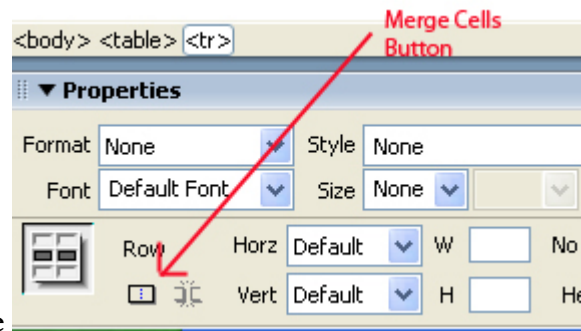
The navigation structure for your Lesson6curriculumweb will be contained within a table in “locked region” at the top of the page. Once the template is applied to the pages in your curriculum web, you will only be able to edit the navigation structure by opening the Lesson6template.dwt file, and then reapplying the template to the pages in the curriculum web.

These instructions will create a template similar to that shown in Figure 4.

- Insert a table at the top of the page with 3 rows and 7 columns, 100% of window, border = 0.

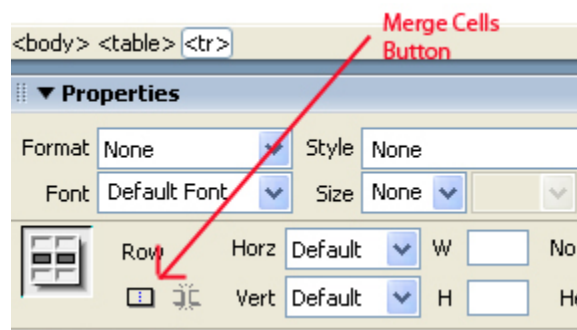
**Merge the cells in the top row of the table into one. To do this, hold the mouse just to the left of the top row. When the cursor looks like a right arrow, click. (Or,**

click and drag over the top row.) Then click the "merge cells" button on the



Property Inspector. See

- Figure 5. This will turn the top row into one cell.



**Figure 5: The Merge Cells button, available on the Property Inspector when you have selected multiple cells in a table.**

- Type a title into the cell, for example "Lesson 6 Curriculum Web". Center the title in the cell by clicking the center justification button.
- Now merge the center 5 cells of the middle row. Click and drag to select the five cells, and then use the merge button. Type some suitable text into this new merged cell, for example "A Curriculum Web produced by YOUR NAME."
- To change the background colors of selected cells, select them and use the Bg field on the Property Inspector to select a color.
- In the third row of the table, we will create a row of links to the major pages in your sample curriculum web, one label in each cell. Type in the text for the links as shown in Figure 4.
- Add links to the text you just typed. You do this by selecting each label in turn, then clicking the yellow folder icon next to the Link field on the Property Inspector, navigating to your Lesson 6 local root folder, and

choosing the correct file from the list. (Or, use the file pointer to create these links.)

- At the end of the table, put in a series of blank lines (press Enter four or five times.)
- Save the template file. (Since you already saved it as a template, you should use File|Save, NOT File|Save as... or File|Save as template...). If you get an error message that you haven't created any editable regions, just ignore the message for now.

So far, everything we have added to the template will be the same on all the pages of the site. The title and navigation buttons are "locked regions." Now it is time to add the main "editable region" of your template. This is where the parts that will vary by page will appear.

- To make a new editable region, select several of the lines at the bottom of the page. Then use Insert|Template Objects| Editable Region. Give the new region the name "body" (or something else descriptive). This will be the area of the page that will alter in each page in the site.

When you save your template, Dreamweaver will ask if you want to update the pages in your site that use the template. You'll usually choose "yes," even if there are no such pages (as now), unless there is a reason you do not want to update the pages.

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## Applying the template to pages

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### *Dreamweaver*

- Open each file in your site individually, then use "Modify|Templates|Apply Template to page." Select the Lesson6template from the list (if you have multiple templates). You will then be asked where to put the content of the page. Choose the "Body" region. When you save each document, it will be linked to the template.
- If, after you apply the template to your page, you want to edit the non-editable regions of the page, you can either open and edit the Template (Modify|Templates|Open Attached Template), or you can choose "Modify|Tempates|Detach from Template." The template's look and content will remain with the document. (However, if you detach the

template, new changes to the template will not be reflected in any pages with detached templates.)

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## 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 the links work.

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## Updating multiple pages

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### *Dreamweaver*

- Open your template. Change something in it (a background color in a cell, for example). Save it. You'll now be asked if you want to update all the pages in your site that use the template. Choose Yes.

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## 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.


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### *Dreamweaver*

Make sure you are connected to the Internet and that your site view is open.



Click the Connect button . You should see the server files listed on the left.

- Highlight the file or files you want to upload. Click the Put button .