

Hands-On Lesson

to accompany

Curriculum Webs

A Practical Guide to Weaving the Web into Teaching and Learning

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LESSON 10: Building a frameset

FrontPage 2003

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Goals for this lesson

- Create a simple frameset that could be used for a curriculum web.
- Upload and test the frameset.

Key concept

To create frames, you need at least three documents

- a "frameset" page that actually sets up the screen and divides it into two or more frames. The frameset contains no content, but is essential to make the frames work;
- at least two documents that will appear in the frames when the frameset first loads,
- any additional documents that will load when links are followed.

Building a sample frameset

We will build a frameset with three frames, like the one shown in Figure 10-1. We will use the left-hand frame for a menu, the top-right frame for a title, and the bottom-right frame for content.

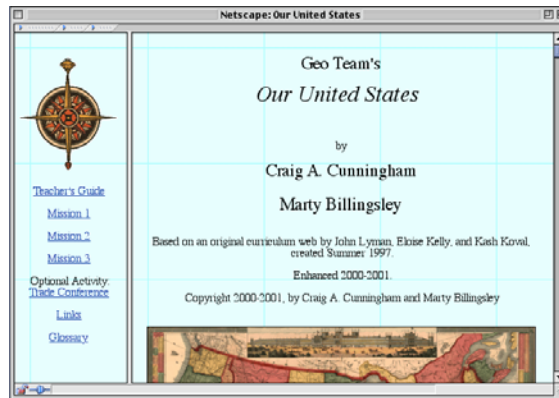


Figure 10-1: A simple frameset.

FrontPage

- Open a new page by choosing File | New | Page or Web. The Task Pane opens.
- In the New from template section, click Page Templates...
- Click the Frames Pages tab.
- Click on the frame style you wish (don't worry if none are exactly what you want, you can adjust them later) and click OK.

Each frame needs to be filled with either an existing page or a new page.

- Click the New page button to create a new page to fill the frame, or
- Click the Set initial page button and browse to the page you wish to fill this frame.

Adjusting frameset properties

You can control the frames borders, border color, width of borders, and the size of a frame.

You can also give the frame a name, which can be used as a target for links. (Have new pages open in that frame instead of the frame with the menu, for example.)

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- Right click in any frame and click Frame Properties to adjust any attribute of the frame.

Saving the frameset and the frames

Be careful at this point. You need to give the frames names that you will remember.

The frameset we have just made will require four files: the frameset, plus the three files that will provide the initial contents of the left frame, the top right frame, and the bottom right frame. Save the frameset as frameset1.htm, the left frame as left.htm, the top-right frame as top.htm, and the bottom-right as bottom.htm.

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- Use File|Save. Type a name for the highlighted frame and click save.
- Repeat the above step until all frames have been saved.

Naming frames

Now we will name the frames. Saving the documents is not the same as naming the frames.

FrontPage

- Right on each frame and select Frame Properties.
- Fill in each frame's name and click OK.

Creating additional content pages

We will make new documents will be loaded into the Bottom frame by the menu choices in left.htm.

- In the same folder you created a moment ago, create two new documents, page1.htm and page2.htm. These should be empty for now, except for a label, "Page 1" and "Page 2"

Linking the menu choices

- Now add links to the menu, which is in the left.htm file.
- "Home" should be linked to bottom.htm. "Page 1" should be linked to page1.htm, and "Page 2" to page2.htm. The Target field in each of link should be set to the "Bottom" frame.

Modifying content pages

Each page in the frameset has its own properties, and so can have different titles, background colors, text colors, or images. You might add some subtle colors to each of your documents so they are easier to distinguish for testing purposes.