

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

FrontPage 2003

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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 FrontPage Navigation view 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.

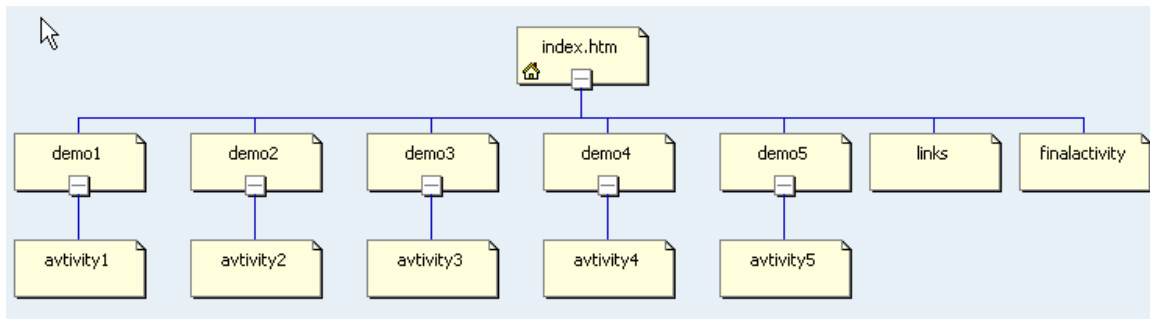


Figure 6-1: The structure of the curriculum web you will create in this lesson.

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 FrontPage.

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.

FrontPage

- Create a new empty web and call it Lesson6curriculumweb.

When you publish your site, you will define and create a server directory.

Creating a home page

FrontPage

- In the Folder view, use File | New | Page or Web and click Blank Page under the New section. The file will automatically named index.htm.

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.

FrontPage

- In the Navigation view, right click on index.htm, and then click the new page button. The page will be given a name.
- Right click on the page and rename the page demo1.htm.

- Repeat above for all the demo pages needed, and a links and a finalactivity page. (See above.)
- Repeat the above steps to create an activity page for each of the demo pages. Name each activity1.htm, etc.

Creating a template

Once you're done setting up your new site like this, you're ready to set up two types of templates for the pages in the site.

Templates are files that control the layout of a number of HTML files in your site. Dynamic Web Template are files that not only control the layout of a number of HTML files in your site, but can be changed and these changes can be applied to all or some of the pages attached to the Dynamic Web Template.

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.

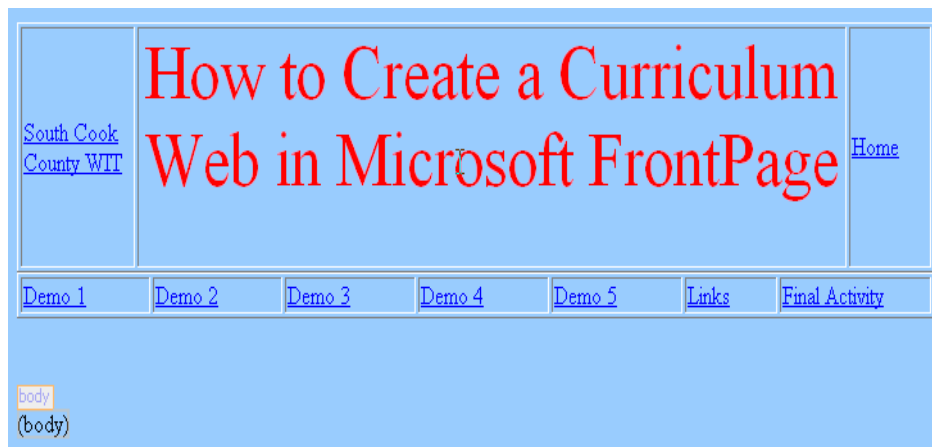


Figure 6-2: A sample Dynamic Web Template file for a curriculum web, shown in FrontPage.

FrontPage

You can create a template file and make new pages from this template. Or you can save this file as a Dynamic Web Template and attach it to other pages.

FrontPage also come with many of its own templates from which you can create new

pages. If you wish to create your own Template, design and create a web page and save it as a FrontPage Template. It will now appear as a template choice along with the templates that come with FrontPage.

To save as a Template,

- Use File|Save As and then select FrontPage Template (*.tmp) from the Save as Type list.
- To use one of Frontpage's templates or your own, use File|New|Page or Web and then click on Page Templates and decide which template to use.

To save as a Dynamic Web Template,

- Use File|Save As and then select Dynamic Web Template (*.dwt) from the Save as Type list.

Attaching the Dynamic Web Template to pages

- Switch to the folder view.
- select or highlight the files to which you wish to attach your Dynamic Web Template.
- Use Format|Dynamic Web Template and then Attach Dynamic Web Template.
- Select the Dynamic Web Template file from the list and click Open.

FrontPage will then attach the Dynamic Web Template to the files you selected and display a window explaining how many pages it updated, or explain any problems it may have had. Click Close.

The Dynamic Web Template has now been attached to the pages selected and you can now edit them (within the editable regions) as you would any other page. You can make changes to the original Dynamic Web Template and re-attach it to these pages and changes made will replace former attachments.

Themes

FrontPage also uses something it call Themes. Themes are a coordinated set of web page elements. Each has a different look or feel. A theme can be applied to an entire web or a single page.

To apply a theme, do the following.

- Open the web site or page you wish to change with a theme.
- Use Format|Theme.
- In the Themes Task Pane, select the Theme you wish to apply.
- Mark the check boxes of the options you wish to apply. These can be modified later.
- Click OK.

Open a page with the theme applied to it and have a look.

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

FrontPage

- Use Format|Themes
- Click the name of the theme you wish to change and then click modify.

- Change whatever you wish.
- Click OK.
- Click Yes
- In the box that opens up, type a new theme name and click OK.
- Open the web site or page you wish to apply the “new” theme to.
- Use Format | Theme.
- In the Themes dialog box Apply Theme To area, click the option button you choose.
- From the list box, select the “new” theme.
- Click OK.

Uploading your site to the server

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

FrontPage

- Use File | Publish Site and select the correct server from the list.
 - Click OK.