

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

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LESSON 9: Creating a navigation bar

GoLive

This lesson was written by

Craig A. Cunningham and Russ Revzan

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Goal for this lesson

- Create a navigation bar for the small curriculum web site you designed in Lesson 6.

Building a navigation bar

A navigation bar, often referred to as a “nav bar,” is a set of buttons that are used to access the major sections of a web site. These buttons usually appear on every page of the site, and often have various effects applied, such as a visual change when you point to a button with the mouse, or a clicking sound when you click on a button.

To create a nav bar, you either create your own buttons in a graphics editing program, or else use pre-designed buttons. Dreamweaver includes easy-to-use Flash buttons (you don’t need to know any Flash to use them). GoLive and FrontPage include tools to help you create rollover effects on images you create or download. (The Web is full of sites offering button sets that can be used and sometimes edited for your use. See the companion web site at <http://curriculumwebs.com> for some links.)

Good tools for creating your own images are Photoshop and Fireworks. You can use any web-supported file format: JPEG, GIF, or PNG. See Chapter 7 in *Curriculum Webs* for more information about image formats.

Getting the buttons

For this lesson, you can use buttons that we have created. They are available on the companion web site, at <http://curriculumwebs.com/lessons/resources>. You can use GIF or PNG files; PNG files are smaller but may not work with all software packages.

- To use the buttons off the web site, download all of them into a folder called "img" in your local root folder. You can get all of them at once in a self-extracting zip file. Or right-click each and choose Save Image As....

There are 21 images in all. Each button requires three images and can use up to four, one for each one "state" of the button. The states are known as Up, Down, and Over (in Dreamweaver) and Main, Click, and Over (in GoLive). We will make 7 buttons, each with 3 states. The buttons are labeled Home, Demo 1, Demo 2, Demo 3, Demo 4, Demo 5, and Activity.

Building the bar

A nav bar can be located anywhere on your page, but usually on the left or the top. We will make our nav bar along the left.

GoLive

To create a nav bar in GoLive, you use multiple rollover buttons housed together in side a component.

- Open a new document. Set it as a component document by clicking the page icon at the top right of the document window, choosing the HTML tab from the Inspector, and clicking the Component button.
- Drag a Rollover Object from the Smart tab of the Object Palette.
- The Inspector shows the three states of the button. Choose an image file for the Main state (demo1up.gif, etc.). Click on the gray icon of the Over state and put a check in the box next to the file location field. Choose an image for the Over state (demo1over.gif, etc.). Repeat for the Click state (demo1down.gif).
- Choose a file to link to when the button is pressed. Choose a target if desired. If you want a message to appear in the status bar at the bottom of the screen, check Status and fill in the text.
- Make the other buttons by repeating these steps. Be sure to put some kind of space between the buttons on the page; otherwise the rollover effect will not work.

- Save the file as a Component. Use File|Save As... Click the pop-up button on the lower right of the Save As... dialog and choose Component. Give it a name you will remember.
- Open a new page or use one of the pages you built in Lesson 6. To place the new nav bar into the page, click on the Site Extras tab of the Object palette. The component you built should be there. Drag it onto the document. You will have to drag it onto each page individually.
- If you want to change the nav bar, double-click on it anywhere it appears, make your changes, and save the file. When GoLive asks if you want to update the other pages with the nav bar in it click OK.
- Test in a browser.