Lesson: Setting Up a Dreamweaver Site

The following materials have been modified from Macromedia’s Live Documents Web site: http://livedocs.macromedia.com/dreamweaver/8/using/wwhelp/wwhelpimpl/js/html/wwhelp.htm

ABOUT DREAMWEaver SITES

A Dreamweaver site provides a way to organize all of the documents associated with your Web site. Organizing your files in a site enables you to use Dreamweaver to upload your site to the Web server, automatically track and maintain your links, manage files, and share files. To take full advantage of Dreamweaver features, you should define a site.

A Dreamweaver site consists of as many as three parts, or folders, depending on your development environment and the type of Web site you are developing. You will be concerned with two folders: your local folder and the remote folder.

The local folder is your working directory. Dreamweaver refers to this folder as your “local site.” This folder can be on your local machine or it can be on a network server. It is where you store the files you will be working on for a Dreamweaver site.

All you need to do to define a Dreamweaver site is set up a local folder. In order to transfer files to a Web server, you need to also add information for a remote site.

The remote folder is where you store your files, depending on your development environment, for production, collaboration, and so on. Dreamweaver refers to this folder as your “remote site” in the Files panel. Typically, your remote folder is on the machine where your Web server is running.

Together, the local and remote folders enable you to transfer files between your local disk and Web server; making it easy for you to manage files.

SETTING UP A NEW DREAMWEaver SITE

You should define your site in Dreamweaver before you start developing. To set up a Dreamweaver site:

1. Select Site > Manage Sites.

The Manage Sites dialog box appears. If you don’t have any Dreamweaver sites defined, then the Site Definition dialog box appears automatically and you can skip the next step. If you do have other sites set up, the Manage Sites dialogue box appears.

2. Click the New button.

The Site Definition dialog box appears.
3. Click the **Basic** tab to use the Site Definition Wizard, which steps you through the setup process. For the Site Definition Wizard, answer the questions on each screen, then click **Next** to advance through the setup process or click **Back** to return to a previous screen.

In the first screen you will need to give your site a name. This is just for reference if you manage multiple sites. The name does not factor into the coding of the site.

4. You will not be using any server technologies for your Web site. So, choose the **No** option. If you were developing a database driven Web site, then you would choose **Yes**.
5. You will then be asked how you want to work with your files. You would rarely ever want to edit the files on the Web server directly. Choose **Edit local copies on my machine, then upload to server when ready (recommended)**. With this option, you will make all your changes on your local directory and then move the updated files to the Web server when you are finished.

You will then need to choose the folder that contains the local version of your Web site. Click on the folder icon next to the text box under *Where on your computer do you want to store your files?* You will then browse to the location of your local Web site folder > Click **Select**.

6. You will then be asked to set up the connection to the FAS Web server. Follow the sample screen at the left for your settings. You only need to change the FTP login and password information to your specific settings.

You can have it save your password so that you don’t have to log in every time you connect to the Web server. I prefer not to save passwords, but it is OK to do so if you wish.

Click the **Test Connection** button to check if your settings are correct.
7. Finally, a summary page is displayed in the wizard showing you the settings you have used. These settings can also be entered and edited using the **Advanced** tab. Since your sites are so simple, the basic wizard should work easily for you.
COPYING YOUR FILES TO THE FAS SERVER IN DREAMWEAVER

You are now ready to copy your local files to your account on the FAS Web server. As with most of this information, there is more than one way to do something. One way is to use Secure FX, an FTP program provided for free from FAS. The other way is to connect to the FAS server using Dreamweaver. The advantage to using Dreamweaver is that you don’t have to open up another program to move the files. SecureFX does have some advantages which will be discussed later. The interfaces are also slightly different and you may find yourself more comfortable with one over the other. We will discuss using Dreamweaver in the following section of this lesson.

As you work, the Files Palette will either be showing your local files or the remote files. Usually it shows your local files. To change the view, click the drop down menu at the top right of the palette and pick which one you want.

If you want to work with both the remote and local files, the easiest way to do so is to use the Expand/Collapse button to open a double window. Your local files will be on the right and your remote files will show up on the left once you connect to the server. It is from this window that you can transfer files back and forth between your local folder and the remote server.

To copy files to the remote host:

1. Expand the files palette by clicking the Expand/Collapse button.
2. Click the Connect to Remote Host button to view the files and folders on the remote server.
3. Select and local files you want to transfer.
4. Drag them to the public_html folder on the FAS server.
By default, Dreamweaver will ask if you want to **Include dependent files?** This copies other files that are linked within the file you are moving (images, style sheets, sound files, plug-ins, etc. but NOT documents). If you say **Yes**, Dreamweaver will not only copy the file you are transferring, but also any images or other linked files connected to that page. If you answer **No**, Dreamweaver will only move the file(s) you selected. An example where answering **Yes** would be useful is if you edited a page and the CSS style sheet. You not only would have updated the HTML page, but you would have also updated the style sheet. But if you know you only need to update an HTML file and no dependent files, answer **No**, because it does take longer to transfer the files if you click **Yes**.

You can disable this message if you like. Personally, I rarely answer **Yes**, but I leave it enabled because it gives me a way to cancel a transfer if I need to. Otherwise, the files would be transferred and written over with no intermediate step.

It is a good idea to disconnect from the remote server if you are not transferring files.

Dreamweaver has many ways to manage and move your files. This is the most straightforward. Use Dreamweaver’s Help to learn more options.
FAS FILE PERMISSIONS AND SECURE CRT

When you first move new files to the FAS Web server, they will not have the correct UNIX permissions set so that people can view your site. Dreamweaver does not have a way for you to fix those permissions.

As a result, if you add new files to your public_html folder, and then excitedly go online to look at your site, you will get this lovely message:

```
Forbidden
You do not have permission to access /headtemplate Boyle.htm on this server.
```

Luckily, FAS has created a simple way for you to fix those permissions. The easiest way is to use Secure CRT, a secure shell client available for free from FAS. (If you are on a Mac running OSX, your computer comes with its own secure shell software. It is called Terminal and you can find it in your utilities folder.)

There should be an FAS session already available when you start Secure CRT. If so, you will see FAS listed in the Session box when the program opens.

1. If not, click the New Session button.

2. Fill out the dialogue box as shown in the screenshot at the left, except you will put in your own login name.

3. Click OK.

FAS will now appear in your session box.

1. Select FAS and click Connect

You will then get a screen that looks similar to the image below.

2. At the FAS prompt (FAS%) type the command: `fixwebfiles` and hit Enter.

You should then get a response from the server saying that the permissions are fixed.

4. End the session by typing exit.

Your file permissions should now be set correctly.
SecureFX is a secured File Transfer Protocol Program, meaning that you can use it to safely transfer files from one server to another.

If there isn’t an FAS option available when you open up SecureFX, you will need to create a session.

This is done in the same manner as with SecureCRT. Except that it will take you through a wizard where you will input all the necessary information to connect to the server.

The only information you will need is the server address: fas.harvard.edu

The wizard will ask you for your login and password and an initial directory, but it is not necessary for you to fill in this information.

If you leave the username and password blank, you will be asked for both when you connect. This is the safer way to login to FAS anyway. And SecureFX will find your root directory on its own based on your login information.

Much like the file window in Dreamweaver, your local files will be on your right and the remote ones will be on your left. And just like Dreamweaver, you can select and drag files back and forth from the two locations.

Unlike Dreamweaver, SecureFX will ask you if you want to overwrite a file. If you prefer taking that extra step when updating files, you might find using SecureFX better than transferring your files in Dreamweaver.

You can also see what files have transferred in its activity window as shown below.

**File Permissions**

Another feature in SecureFX is that you can set the permissions on individual files and folders.

To do so:

1. Right click on the file you want to change permissions for.

2. Go down to the properties option

A dialogue box shows up that shows all the properties of that file including the permissions that are set for it.

3. Use either the text box to input the UNIX value for the permission you want, or use the check boxes for Read, Write and Execute, on Owner, Group, and World.
Setting up a Dreamweaver Site

To learn more about UNIX permissions, visit the site: (It is a link on your del.icio. us page)


This method is most useful if you take some time to read about UNIX permissions on folders and files. But if you are already using SecureFX to upload your files and don't have the time or inclination to run the fixwebfiles command from SecureCRT. This is also a good option.

Your Dreamweaver site is set up.

You know how to transfer files to your remote host.

Your permissions are corrected.

You are ready to edit your pages.

The URL for your site will be http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~FASuserID

When your site is ready to be promoted, let me know the address and I will put that information on your contact page on the WCFIA Web site.