

Dreamweaver: Linking

Link Basics (*hyperlinks*)

All pages that you access on the internet are linked to one another. That is the method in which you move between pages. So linking pages together is a vital part of building a website. Lets first look at the basics of linking.

To get started we need to define a new website within Dreamweaver. I've put a sample site folder on the server in today's folder named *Sample-Site*. Copy this to your desktop.

- define your sample site by going to the menu **Site > New Site...**
- in the **Site Definition** window (Advanced) give it a **Site Name**, set the **Local Root Folder** to be the *Sample-Site* folder you copied to your desktop, and the **Default Images Folder** to be the images folder within the root folder
- click on the OK button; Dreamweaver will create the site cache and you're ready to work

Now that we have a site to work on lets look at a page:

- open the file *advertisingstrategy.htm*
- on this page we have images to the left that we want to link to other pages, as well as text at the top (header) and bottom (footer) that we want to use as links
- starting with **text links**, lets create links for the footer navigation at the bottom
 - select the text *Advertising Strategy* at the bottom left corner of the page (don't get the space or pipe)
 - now look for the **Link** field in the **Properties Inspector**; here we can link to another file in a few ways:
 1. type the filename of the file you want to link to; since it's in the same folder you would just type *contactus.htm* (be careful to not typo the name!)

If you link to a file in a subfolder you have to type the folder name as well (i.e. *foldername/filename.htm*)
 2. (select *Routes* and) click on the **Browse For File** folder icon to the right of the Link field and select the file in the following window
 3. (select *Prices* and) use the **Point To File** icon (looks like cross hairs) to the right of the Link field (rubberband thingie)
 4. (select *Advertisers* and) drag the appropriate file from the Files Panel to the Link field in the Properties Inspector
 - note how the link is now underlined; that's controlled by styles
- Save your file and preview in Firefox
 - note that when you rollover you get the "Pointy Finger"
 - click on it to go to the page
- Switch back to Dreamweaver and lets look at **image links**; select the *Advertising Strategy* image towards the top left
 - select the file *advertisingstrategy.htm* in the **Link** field of the **Properties Inspector** (using **Browse For File**, **Point To File**, or **Drag The File Icon** to the field)
 - if you **Point To File**, make sure you don't accidently grab the icon from the Source (Src) field in the Properties Inspector (note that the Link field is in a different location within the Properties Inspector now, and immediately below Source/SRC)
- Save and preview again in Firefox
- Take a look at Code view and see the <a> Anchor tag for both text links and image links (note how they reference the linked to files)
- this is a good way to learn something about HTML: as you change things in DW see how it edits the code

External Links

So far all of the links we've created are **internal links** (linked to pages within our website), but sometimes you'll want to link to external websites (create **external links**).

Lets create an external link: start by highlighting *creative by michaelhayes* in the footer

- now type the full URL (web address) of the site you want to link to in the **Link** field of the **Properties Inspector**
 - if you just type `www.michaelhayes.biz` it won't work right; it will look for a (local) file by that name
 - must include the `http://` at the beginning of the address (**hypertext transfer protocol**)
 - if it's a really long address it's best to go to the site in a browser and copy the address
- you might want to use the **Target** field in the **Properties Inspector**, which specifies what window the link opens in
 - `_blank` has it open in a new window; this can be useful because users will often close the window (or tab) that the new website is opened it when they are done. If you've had it open in a new window, then your website will still be open.
 - we won't be using the other options; they specify which frame of a window to open into

eMail Links

When you click on an email link (in a browser) it opens your default email program and creates a new addressed email. Lets setup a few of those (looking at three ways to do it):

First open the file *contactus.htm* from our sample site:

1. highlight *Information Desk* text after the first paragraph
 - go to the **Insert Bar/Common** and click on the **Email Link** icon (2nd from left)
 - that opens up a window in which you type the **Email Address** `infodesk@website.com`; The **Text** will already be there because you highlighted it; now click **OK**
2. now highlight *Customer Service* text
 - go to the Insert menu and select Email Link; that brings up the same window in which you type `service@website.com`
 - Take a look at the code and see the `<a>` Anchor tag and its syntax using `mailto`
3. for the last one, highlight *Suggestion Box* text
 - in the **Link** field of the **Properties Inspector**, type `mailto:suggestions@website.com`

People who use webmail and don't have a default email program installed will get an error

- one reason to use a **contact form** on your website
- you could type your actual email address in the text, but that can lead to spiders harvesting your address for spam (actually a problem with doing email links like this, too)
 - there are JavaScript workarounds to protect your address

Named Anchors

These let you link to specific areas on a page (links within a page). You often see these on FAQ pages that have long lists of questions/answers. We'll keep working in the Contact Us page.

- click on the line of the first item we want to link to, *Sales Questions*
 - in the Insert Bar click on the **Named Anchor** icon (3rd from left)
 - opens a window in which you give it a name; keep it simple, no spaces or special characters—let's use `sales`
 - the little yellow icon is an invisible character that only shows up in DW
 - take a look at the Anchor in the code

- now add an Anchor next to Customer Service Questions (use *customerservice*) and Tech Support Questions (use *techsupport*) (note that you can change the name in the Properties Inspector if you need to)
- Look at the top of the page where that says “Check out the FAQ for Sales, Customer Service and Tech Support.” We want to use the text of our three categories here to link down the page to the sections.
 - highlight *Sales*, use the **Point To File** icon and point to the **Sales Anchor**; that’s a link pointing to that anchor; note that the code is *#sales*
 - highlight *Customer Service*, use the **Point To File** icon and point to **Customer Service Anchor** (page will scroll)
 - highlight *Tech Support* and in the **Link** field of the **Properties Inspector** type *#techsupport*
- Lets create a **Top Anchor** link to return people to the top of the page (*Back To Top*)
 - create the **Top Anchor** at top (name it *top*)
 - after the first batch of questions type *Back To Top*, highlight and click **Hyperlink** icon in the **Insert Bar**
 - in the Hyperlink window click on the popup window after **Link** and all your **Named Anchors** will be listed, select *#top*
 - highlight the *Back To Top* link, copy and paste further down the page (this copies the text & link)

Link To File

Linking to a PDF or other file is basically the same. Lets open the file *advertisingstrategy.htm* again.

- in our Site Folder we have a PDF document that we’re going to link to
- in text “View a PDF version of this info” highlight the words *PDF version*
 - go to **Link** in the **Properties Inspector** and link to the PDF file
 - preview in Firefox (PCs tend to display a PDF when you click on this kind of link, Safari on the Mac will do the same, other Mac browsers tend to download the file or require a PDF plugin to display it)
 - it’s considered common courtesy to provide a link to the Adobe Reader website
- you can link to any file/image this way, but linking to an image doesn’t work well
- you can link to a Microsoft Word document or a Photoshop file for downloading (things that can’t be viewed in a browser; however, sometimes a browser tries to display it, but displays garbage; best to ZIP and have that available for download)

Image Maps

Useful when you have one image that you want to link to multiple pages (there is only one **Link** field per image in the **Properties Inspector**). To look at this lets open the file *sacto.htm* in the *Routes* folder.

- select the map image and look for the **Map** section in the bottom left of the **Properties Inspector**
 - you have a **Pointer Tool, Rectangular, Circular & Polygon** drawing tools
 - you use them to draw **Hot Spots** on your image (you’ll often use the polygon tool)
 - draw Hot Spots on the map for each Sacto route
 - enter the ALT text & link to the appropriate page; you can type a # as a placeholder if you don’t have the page created yet