

Dreamweaver: Site Control

Defining A Site

- instead of just creating a new HTML file, we need to let Dreamweaver know where on our hard drive we are going to store all of the files for our working website
- we should store everything for the site in one folder (remember your file/folder structure): the **site folder** or **root folder**
- once DW knows where this folder is, it can keep track of and handle all of the changes we make to our site
- it is especially important if we move any pages or images around (on the hard drive) after we've linked them
 - if we don't let DW make the change (we do it in the finder) you will quickly have broken links or missing images
- we're going to start off by defining a pre-existing site, though often you'll be defining one from scratch (but this is how you would do it if you inherit an older site to update)
- In the Welcome Window click on *Create New > Dreamweaver Site* OR in the menus *Site > New Site*
- You come to the Site Definition window which has *Basic* and *Advanced* tabs
 - Basic will lead you through questions, but since we're walking thru it, lets use *Advanced*
- The most important information (for the time being) is entered under the *Local Info* category. Later we'll use the *Remote Info* section when uploading site files to a web server.

File Management

- now that we've defined the site in DW, we want to make all changes to these file from within DW (especially moving files or folders!)
- you can create new files or move files and folders from within DW and it is actually changing the files on your computer (this is not a copy of your site; it actually is your site files)

Path Structure

Open the index file in the test-folder and take a look at the image link.

- the files are not actually copied into the HTML file, but only linked to the image location (a pointer)

Now if I move the image to another folder in the finder you'll see that the link is broken and the image won't be displayed.

However, if I move the image from within DW it will fix the link and the image will still display.

Site Map - you can view your site in a flow chart style of site map

- this can help you visualize the structure of your site; note the redundant/recurring links (navigation)