

# Intro to Dreamweaver Interface

## **Window > Workspace Layout > Default**

- gives us the same starting point; arranges your panels to be the same as my computer when demo-ing
- you can move windows/panels around on the screen, this command will return them to default locations
- if you later find a custom setup you like, you can save it — *Window > Workspace Layout > Save Current...*

## **Welcome Screen (at launch)**

- gives you quick access to Recent Documents, Open File command, Create New, Create From Samples...
  - *Create from Samples > Starter Page: Themes & Basic* can be used for inspiration
  - *Dreamweaver Exchange* will be a good source for more Behaviors in the future (Javascript)
  - *Getting Started* takes you to Adobe's site for basic tutorials, etc.
- this screen can be helpful when your starting out in Dreamweaver, though later you'll probably want to turn it off

## **Mac & Windows Versions are very similar**

- they've tried to keep the differences at a minimum & usually any differences you find have more to do with the particular OS
- in Windows, all of DW is in one window; windows/panels are free-floating on the Mac
  - in Windows that can lead people to accidentally quit the program when they intend to close a file (clicking the X)
  - on Macs people sometimes end up closing panels instead of moving them out of their way
- Windows Menu is where you open panels/windows & see important keyboard shortcuts (save time!) (hold down the FN key if your Function Keys are controlling sound, etc.)
  - Remember Workspace Layout if you want to reset the panel layout

## **Insert Bar**

To look at the Insert Bar lets first create a New HTML file (welcome screen or New command) so that we have a space to work in

- Take a look at the Insert Bar at the top. It has a row of icons each representing an element that you can add to your webpage.
  - It's also broken into several tabs to help organize them (Common, etc.). Selecting a tab shows the icons for that category.
  - You can *Show As Menu* if you prefer that look (& takes up a slight bit less room)
  - You can also customize it by using Favorites. You're really not going to use half of the items up there, so after you've used it for awhile you might want to create a set of the ones you do use regularly.
- While all of these items are available to you in the Insert Menu, this is a quick way to get to them and you'll probably want to keep it open all the time

## **Properties Inspector**

- likely the most important panel to have open while you work in Dreamweaver
- it is a contextual panel, its contents changes based on what you have selected in your webpage
  - for instance, if you're working with text it will show a flashing text cursor on the page and text properties in the panel (format, font, size, etc)
  - but if I go to the *Insert Bar > Common* and insert a Table now we see Table Properties in the Properties Inspector

- Keep This Inspector Open! Unlike the Insert Bar whose items appear in the Insert Menu, most of the Properties Settings that appear here do not appear elsewhere in Dreamweaver.
- Also make sure that it is Expanded (not Collapsed) (triangle in bottom right corner), or you'll miss other settings
- Again, it can be opened/closed from the *Windows Menu* if you accidentally close it

## Document Toolbar

- within this window you will create your webpages
- *Code/Split/Design* buttons:
  - you'll usually use the *Design* view where you have a pretty good idea of what your page will look like in a browser
  - you can switch to *Code* to see all page code (looks like *View Page Source* in a browser)
  - *Split* view lets you see both in separate panes. Making changes in one immediately shows the change in the other
  - You can also use the *Code Inspector* panel to see all code while leaving this window in *Design* view
- *Page Title*: what you enter here appears at the top of the browser window when viewing a page. It is also what a page is bookmarked as, so be descriptive
- *File Management*: allows you to upload/download files with your web server (we've not yet setup a web server)
- *Preview In Browser*: launches your page in a browser so that you can see exactly what its going to look like
- *Refresh Design* button: in case changes in code haven't shown up yet
- *View Options*: how you turn on/off different viewing options; different sets for Code & Design views
- *Visual Aids*: lets you show/hide various items (we'll use it some later when we have items on the page); helps you see borders of elements that aren't always obvious
- *Validate Markup*: lets you check your code for tag or syntax errors
- *Check Browser Compatibility*: will check your file for problems with different browsers

## Document Window

- above the toolbar it shows the actual filename (not the title of the page)
  - the Asterisk indicates that there have been changes made to the file that have not yet been saved (also a dark dot in the red close button indicates unsaved changes)
- across the bottom of the page
  - you see the tag <body> in the *Tag Selector*; as we add more items, more tags will appear & you can select them to select items on your page (good when you're working on items that are hard to select)
  - Arrow is the *Select Tool* (used almost all the time)
  - *Hand Tool* lets you drag around the page (like in Photoshop)
    - <H changes to the Hand Tool; holding the Space Bar gives it to you temporarily>
  - *Zoom Tool* lets you zoom in; really helps when working with small items! <Option to zoom out>
  - *Magnification Settings* menu to select a zoom amount; just for viewing in Dreamweaver
  - *Windows Size* menu to show standard monitor resolutions (and how your page might look)
  - *Download Speed* display shows approximate file size and how long it would take to download at 28.8k connection (default)
    - If you think that a lot of your users will have older computers w/modems, you can keep an eye on this info
- when you open multiple documents, Dreamweaver opens them in the same window, but with tabs, making it easy to move between them
  - if you need a separate window, right-click on the filename and select *Move To New Window*

## Panels

- each tabbed area is a *Panel*, and they're organized into *Panel Groups* (shown with the collapsing triangle)
  - click between tabs to get to each Panel
  - the icon in the top bar of a Panel Group links to its Panel Menu; different for each group  
you can even Close A Panel Group from that menu
- you can pull off whole Panel Groups or (most) individual Panels each to new windows
  - you can also add Groups back into the same window
- Again, customizing your Panels will be much more important after you've working in DW for awhile

## Save Workspace

- if you have customized the layout of your Panels and Panel Groups and want to keep using that setup, you can save their positions by going to *Windows > Workspace Layout > Save Current...*
- you can have a different one for different websites, or for different users on a computer

## Browser Preview

- it is really important to preview your webpages to see how they look in different browsers
- your webpage is just a set of instructions that are interpreted by the browser into a display; modern browsers are better about consistency, but they can still vary
  - Mac: should check at least in Safari, Firefox, Netscape
  - PC: should check at least in Explorer, Firefox, Netscape
- you should do this throughout the process so that you can catch potential problems as you go, not moments before you upload the final site (and suddenly find that you have a lot of cleanup work to do)
- SETUP: go to *Dreamweaver (menu) > Preferences*, then select the *Preview In Browser* category
  - your installed browsers should already be listed; click the Plus Button to add any additional
  - you can select a primary and secondary browser which get keyboard shortcuts
  - *Preview Using Temporary File*: if checked, allows you to preview a file before you save its changes
- *Preview In Device Central*: launches another program & tries to display your page as if in another device (cell phone, PDA, etc.)