

Uploading Your Site

Site Reports

Before you upload your site it's a good idea to make sure you have taken care of all the little details. One good way of doing this is by using Dreamweaver's Site Reports. You can find these in the **Site menu > Reports**. That will bring up a dialog box where you can select specifics for Dreamweaver to check on. In the resulting report you can double-click on an error and it will take you directly to the problem code in the appropriate file.

Check Links

Another useful tool to use before you upload your site is Check Links. You can access it under the **Site menu > Check Links Sitewide**. It will make sure that all of your links point to existing files and that all of your files are actually linked to. Once you fix any problems run the report again to make sure you got everything. It will also give you a list of all external sites you've linked to.

Web Hosting

Once you have your website built (or possibly earlier in the process, when you have pages to show to your client) you're going to need a web hosting account for your site to reside on. This is a computer that is available on the internet 24/7 to serve your site to users. If you are creating a site for a business, then you'll want to find a reputable hosting company who offers the services they need (i.e. MySQL database access, PHP, etc.) and who is available for any tech support you might need. Some people prefer to find a local hosting company, but (unfortunately) I've found that only the larger (out-of-town) businesses have been responsive to my hosting needs.

For the purposes of this class a free web hosting account will do. There are a lot of them out there, but most add advertisements to your site, which makes it a little difficult to see exactly what your site looks like. I've recently discovered a hosting company that doesn't add the ads and you might want to try an account with them. You can sign up for their free account at <http://www.batcave.net/>

Once you setup an account with them they'll email you your login information. Once logged into the control panel you'll need to setup your domain (if you've registered one) and set the nameservers with your domain registration company. If you've not registered a domain then you can setup a subdomain with BatCave. They have a short list of domains that they'll setup a subdomain on for you to use. As an example, I created hayes.atwebpages.com with them (where you can see the infamous StupidDomainAboutBarns.com working site). You'll also need to use their FTP Manager and setup an FTP account for Dreamweaver to utilize.

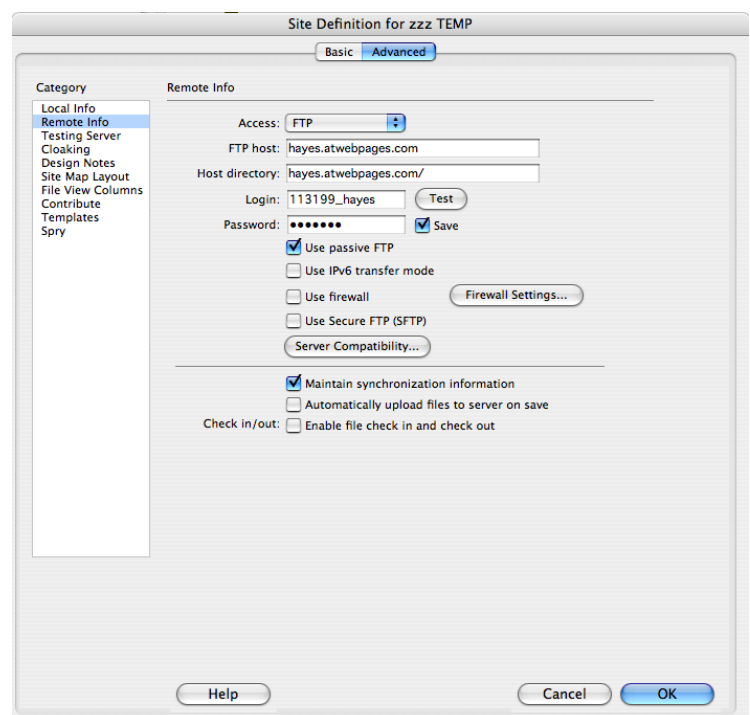
Again, you can use any hosting company that you are comfortable with, but I'm going to use BatCave as my example in the following tutorial.

Configuring Dreamweaver


Now we need to go to Dreamweaver and enter the remote site (hosting) information. You can do this for a site you've already setup by going to the **Site menu > Manage Sites**, selecting your site from that list and clicking on the **Edit** button.

Now click on the **Remote Info** Category (in Advanced Setup)


- At this point you enter the **FTP Host** (I have a BatCave subdomain, but you may have a domain you registered). It could also be an IP number.
- You enter the **Host Directory** (many hosting companies use a Public_HTTP folder or something like that; BatCave uses your subdomain name)
- Now enter your **Login** name (established when you create your hosting account) and your **Password**
- There is a convenient **Test** button to make sure it works
- I also found that with BatCave I needed to click the **Use Passive FTP** button
- The **Maintain Synchronization Information** button should also be checked
- now click **OK** and you're done with the setup




Publishing to your Remote Site

Now we're ready to publish the site to the remote server. In the **Files Panel** you'll see a button to **Grow To Show Local/Remote Site** . Click on that and it will give you a larger window showing both your local files and your remote files (the same button also collapses that view if you're already showing it). Your window should now look something like this one to the right.

You don't have to change the panel view like this, but I find it very useful to see what files are local and what files are uploaded to the server.

Now we need to click on the **Connect To Remote Host** button  to access the server. You will probably now see a few files on the remote site (a temp *index* file, *cgi-bin*, etc.). It's best to delete any temp *index* file first (click on it and push the delete key). Leave any *cgi-bin* or *.private* folders alone.


To publish your site for the first time, simply click on the

topmost folder on the Local Files side (*Site - zzz TEMP* in this example) and click on the Put File(s) button . Make sure that you've not stored your working Photoshop (PSD) or Fireworks (PNG) files in this folder or you'll be uploading them, too. Now you'll get a progress dialog to show the files uploading.

Once it's done you'll see a copy of all your files on the Remote Site side. Now you can go to your website in a browser and see how it looks!

Updating Your Site

At this point you'll make any changes to your site on the local files (as we've always done), but you need to upload the changed files once they're ready. If you just make a quick change to one file, then you can click on it on the Local Files side of the Files Panel and then click on the **Put File(s)** button. However, if you've made quite a few changes you might not remember exactly all of the files you changed. If your site is large you really won't want to re-upload the entire site, but you won't have to. Dreamweaver has a feature called **Synchronize** which will let you know what files have been updated locally (and therefore need to be uploaded).

To get started, just click on the **Synchronize** button  in the **Files Panel**. This brings up a dialog where you can select whether to synchronize **Selected Local Files Only** or the **Whole Site**. You can also choose to **Put Newer Files To Remote**, **Get Newer Files From Remote**, or **Get And Put Newer Files**. If you've been making updates to your local files then you probably want to check the **Whole Site** and **Put Newer Files To Remote**.

After you click on **Preview...** it will bring up a list showing you your local files that are newer than those on the server. You can choose not to upload any you don't want to, then upload the rest by clicking on the **OK** button.

Now your remote site is updated.

