

Moving into the Present of web site creation: Using Dynamic Web Templates and Cascading Style Sheets

Web Templates have been created for your use: for a Simple Course web site and Faculty Profile page.

The Course Web Site templates can be viewed in the webshares folder at

http://webshares.northseattle.edu/elearning/faculty_templates/newfac_profile/default.htm

or on the Front Page server (Login: faculty Password: profile)

https://frontpage.northseattle.edu/facweb_templates/

The Faculty Profile Page can be viewed in the webshares folder at

http://webshares.northseattle.edu/elearning/faculty_templates/newfac_profile/faculty_profile.htm

or on the Front Page server (Login: faculty Password: profile)

https://frontpage.northseattle.edu/facweb_templates/faculty_profile/faculty_profile.htm

The Faculty Profile page has a .dwt (dynamic web template) a htm page as well as an image folder.

- These files are contained in the folder labeled “faculty_profile”.
- These files work together to create the faculty_profile page that you can edit with your information to create a home page in your www folder.

The Simple Course web site has a file structure that includes a home page (default.htm) similar in format to the faculty_profile page.

- It also includes sub folders that provide structure to the web site.
- These folders are linked from the homepage for a selection of courses. Included in the site is an example of a course “GEL 100 Dinosaurs” thanks to our Director Tom Brazuinas.

To work with these templates you need to contact the e-Learning office for assistance to transfer the selected files into your www folder on your I drive. You will need to access your I drive and the Front Page web site to upload the files.

- ✓ Open the page in your desired web editor and make your modifications.
- ✓ If you want to move the entire folder structure of the course web site into your www folder please make an appointment in our office or in the TLC to help facilitate this.
- ✓ If you are familiar with Front Page 2003 these pages can be edited using this software. These pages were created using Expression Web but Dynamic Web Templates and Cascading Style Sheets are supported in Front Page 2003.
- ✓ If you need an orientation to Front Page please contact the e-Learning office.
- ✓ The e-Learning office has a copy of Front Page 2003 that can be checked out and downloaded onto your home computer.
- ✓ If you want to use Dream Weaver as your editor please contact Coryl in the TLC.
- ✓ There are also several web editors that are free to download from the internet – depending on the software they may or may not support .dwt or .css files.

Benefits of using Dynamic Web Templates and Cascading Style Sheets

The use of Dynamic Web Templates (files with extension .dwt) and Cascading Style Sheets (files with extension .css) are created and linked to pages effectively separating the layout and formatting from the actual content of your web pages.

This method of creating web pages has many benefits:

1. It creates cleaner better code that is more cross platform compliant.
2. The pages are easier to edit than using the old "inline" formatting.
3. Because content and layout are worked on separately your web site will have a consistent look as well as consistent navigation, mastheads and footers.
4. It creates code that will degrade effectively to the new technology such as PDA's and I Phones. As devices get smaller code must work in these new platforms and the older "inline" style will not work as effectively. (Inline style was the standard formatting used previous to Cascading Style Sheets and it required changes made to individual pages which can be very time consuming and which also can compound errors.)
5. When you need to make a change in your navigation, masthead, footers, resize type, change background color or picture you will simply need to do this in your .dwt or in the .css style sheet and then update all pages and this change in layout will be reflected in all of the pages associated with the specific .dwt without effecting your content.
6. The new code created is also more ADA compliant which is something that educators should strive for. It is important to created sites that are accessible.
7. Layouts are now achieved using elements called "div tags" and "span tags" these elements replace cumbersome and code heavy table layouts. Tables do have a place in this newer web creation but they are primarily used for columnar data such as schedules. These templates have used div and span tags for layout and content will fit within the editable areas.
8. If you need to create a table for columnar data you will select from the menu Table>Insert Table and size it as needed. You can insert the table in the editable region of the .dwt.

To edit existing templates (.dwt) and (.css) for layout using FrontPage 2003

Dynamic Web Templates : This page is a master page that defines the layout of your site. Within the .dwt there are areas that can only be changed in the .dwt (non editable areas that are locked in your htm pages) and there are areas that contain unique content for individual pages (editable areas). The templates here have editable and non editable regions. To create more individual pages you create an .htm page from the .dwt master. You will be able to manage these editable areas within the .dwt. You will also be able to modify existing elements in the .dwt that will affect all htm pages that are linked.

To modify existing elements such as fonts, backgrounds or navigation within the Dynamic Web Template

- Modify font: from the menu select Format>Style
 - Select HTML tags or user defined styles
 - Click on the tag you want change such as “p” for paragraph or one of the “h” headline tags.
 - Then select modify – this will bring up a dialog box that will allow you to change the font attributes.

- To modify background colors or photos or to change the hyperlink colors
 - From the menu select Format>Background this brings up the Page Properties dialog box.
 - Select the Formatting tab: this allows the changes to the background element as well as to hyperlinks.

- To modify or change navigation links
 - Highlight the text you want to change and type in the new name.
 - Highlight the text you want to link and link it as any other hyperlink.
 - These changes need to be made within the Dynamic Web Template for them to take effect over the entire web site.

After you have made your changes to the .dwt template you will need to save the page. At this time a dialog box will display to show you how many pages are linked to this .dwt and it will confirm that they will all be updated. It is important to note that this action does update all of the files and the dialog box will indicate the number of files updated.

When changes are made to the .dwt page the appropriate code will be changed in the .css page that is linked to it. A dialog box will pop up requesting a confirmation of this action. So if you change the font size or style this code will be automatically transferred to the linked style sheet.

Dynamic Web Templates and Cascading Style sheets work in tandem to translate your layout and formatting actions so that when a change is made to the .dwt all of the linked pages will be effected.

Cascading Style Sheets Overview:

A Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) is used to apply consistent style information across multiple Web pages and this is delivered using a Dynamic Web Template or by attaching the style sheet to individual web pages. A CSS contains style definitions that describe the styles you want to apply to pages or page elements. To

FrontPage primarily deals with two types of cascading style sheets — embedded and external — A third type, inline was primarily used in legacy sites and now this type of style is discouraged because it requires every element on the page to be individually formatted. So when a change is desired every page must be formatted individually which can be very time consuming.

Embedded cascading style sheet. When you create or modify a style to be used on a single page, FrontPage creates a cascading style sheet for you. Called an embedded cascading style sheet, it is a collection of code stored between HTML <STYLE> tags between the <HEAD> tags of the page. Any style you create for that page is stored in the embedded style sheet as a class selector.

External cascading style sheet. External cascading style sheets are the most useful because they can be attached to multiple Web pages. You can apply the same styles consistently across an entire Web site.

To attach an existing CSS to a web page

- From the menu select Format>Style Sheet Links
- A dialog box will come up which will list the existing style sheets, select the desired sheet and it will be attached to the web page.
- Any changes made to the CSS sheet will then be transmitted to all pages that are attached to it.
- CSS works with DWT to facilitate changes made to the layout and formatting of the site while not impacting the content.

If you decide to change a style, you need only make one change, this can be done in the .dwt or directly in the .css or the external cascading style sheet — and the pages in your web site will reflect the change. The templates for the course and faculty profile utilize this type of CSS it is named style2.css and it is attached to all of the web pages so that the site has a consistent look.

The .css page is a listing of the format code for the web pages. If you are unfamiliar with working with this code directly and would like help understanding it please contact the e-Learning office. We will be able to walk you through changes if you desire. If you are happy with the look and feel of the templates you will not need to work with this code but if you want to make your site more specialized we can assist with this process.

Links to information about editing pages:

Using Dynamic Web Templates and Cascading Style Sheets.

Links to a Microsoft tutorials about working with Dynamic Web Templates.

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/frontpage/HA011872171033.aspx?pid=CL100570711033>

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/frontpage/HA010830191033.aspx?pid=CL100570711033>

http://www.outfront.net/tutorials_02/fp_techniques/dwt-1.htm

Links to a Microsoft tutorials about working with Cascading Style Sheets.

<http://office.microsoft.com/training/training.aspx?AssetID=RC012111061033>

Links to sites that offer tutorials in working with Front Page 2003

http://www.brainbell.com/tutorials/ms-office/FrontPage_2003/

<http://www.bridgewater.edu/~rbowman/acadcomp/FP2003-res.html>

For help with setting up a Faculty Profile page or a simple Course Web Site please contact the e-Learning office. We are located in LB 2237 (one door south of the main library entrance). By email distance@sccd.ctc.edu or by phone 206 527-3738. We are available by appointment Monday through Friday 9AM to 4PM.