



Intermediate: Building a Website (1)

What is a Website?

A **website** consists of several web pages usually inter-linked. Web pages are simply documents compiled and stored in a computer programming language called *HTML* (Hypertext Markup Language) format. A web page does not have to conform to the size of a piece of paper but can be any size you wish. However, it is good practice to restrict its length so that the user doesn't have to scroll down lots of information and so that the page doesn't take a long time to download. It is better to split the information into sections.

What is a Website Homepage?

The **Homepage** is the starting page for your website. It is similar to the contents page of a book as it normally provides links to other pages on your website. It is usually the first page visitors to your site will view and therefore represents a splash page about your organisation. You might want to have a picture or photo on your homepage, a logo and some background information. Your homepage would normally be saved as *index.htm* or *default.htm* for some sites, depending on your Internet Service Provider.

What is an Internet Server?

An Internet Server is a computer that is permanently attached to the Internet. It is used to publish web documents containing information that can be viewed by people using Internet browser programs and who are attached to the Internet.

What is HTML?

HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is a computer programming language that is used to produce web pages. When you view a page coded in HTML through a web browser, the browser interprets the code and re-composes the page. You therefore see the effect the code produces rather than the code itself.

You can create HTML documents using any simple text editor, such as Notepad.

However, dedicated What You See Is What You Get (**WYSIWYG**) applications make life easier in creating web pages as the software programme inserts all the HTML coding for you, although it is useful to learn the basics so that you could manually modify some of the code behind your web pages if the need arises.

Hillingdon Libraries have provided three WYSIWYG applications:

- **Alleycode HTML Editor** (available on all Hillingdon Libraries PCs) contains templates, coding wizards and function buttons that insert paragraphs, lists, tables, images and more for you.
- **Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004** (only available on scanner PCs, and Uxbridge Library Learning Centre) is the professional, industry standard web authoring software that allows you to create and manage entire websites.
- **NVU** (available on all Hillingdon Libraries PCs) is a complete Web authoring system, to easily create and manage websites.

All the above come with built in tutorials accessible from the Help menu.

All Hillingdon Libraries scanner PCs have Dreamweaver MX 2004, Flash MX 2004, Fireworks MX 2004 and Photoshop Elements 3.0 installed on them, as well as CD-writing facilities.

Hillingdon Libraries sell interactive e-learning courses for Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks and Photoshop Elements, which come in two parts - fundamentals and advanced. Each part costs £40. If you are interested and would like to have a free taster session please contact us (contact details below). We also offer e-learning courses in HTML, Javascript, XML, the CIW Web Designers courses (which can lead to a qualification) and a wide range of other e-Learning courses.

For further information or to book a taster session please contact Helen Vincent, Learning & Web Development Manager, or Flora Bellini, ICT Learning Facilitator, Central Library,
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