

MCM 545 Web Design

with your host Joshua Logsdon

HTML — <table>

Tables are like spreadsheets in the fact that they are made up of intersecting horizontal rows and vertical columns. These intersections are called cells, which is where visible content is placed. Here is an example of table syntax:

<table> (opening table tag)

<tbody> (opening table body tag)

<tr> (opening table row tag)

<td>Content Here</td>

<td>Content Here</td>

</tr> (closing table row tag)

<tr> (opening table row tag)

<td colspan="2">Content Here</td>

(effectively merges two columns)

</tr> (closing table row tag)

</tbody> (closing table body tag)

</table> (closing table tag)

As you can see, tables consist of nested tags specific to tables. It is important to be comfortable with table syntax; it is what creates your HTML grid system.

Attributes

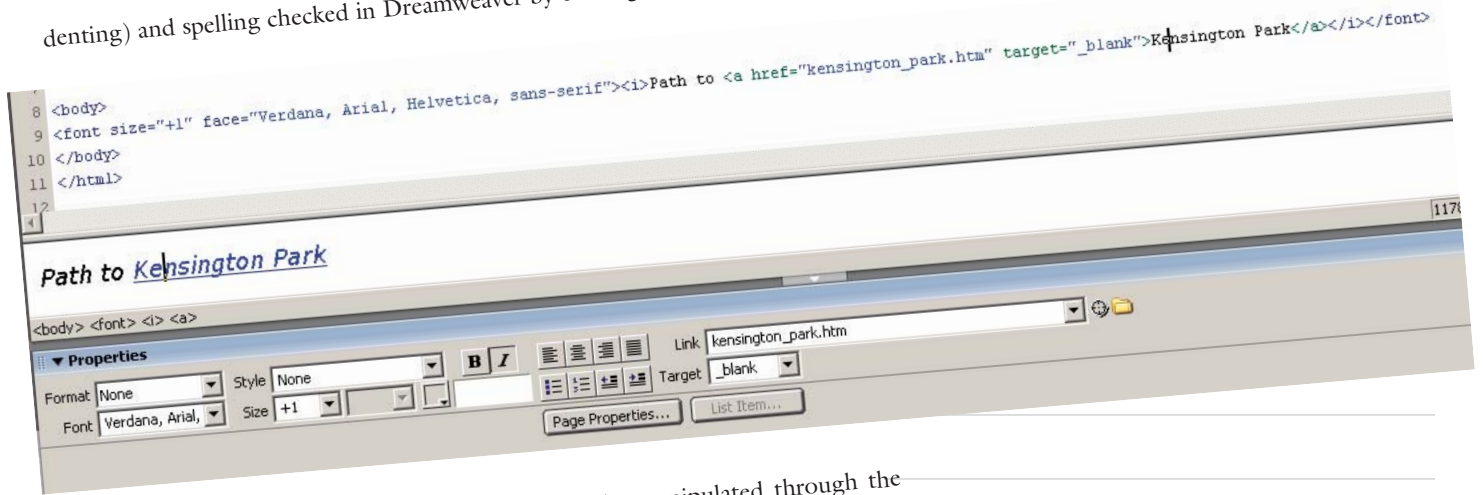
Tables tags have many attributes, such as width, height, alignment, border, cell-padding, cellspacing, and color, that are easily edited through Dreamweaver.

MCM 545 Web Design

with your host Joshua Logsdon

Dreamweaver Text Editing

Text can be manipulated (size, font, bold, linkage, alignment, list style, and indenting) and spelling checked in Dreamweaver by clicking **Text** from the menu



bar and then selecting an option. Text can also be manipulated through the Properties panel (Window > Properties). The Page Properties button or Modify > Page Properties will bring up a dialogue window that will allow you to specify a background color or image for the entire page, as well as margins, link appearance, and page parameters.

Special Characters

There will be times when you will need to enter a character, such as the copyright character ©, that cannot be found on the keyboard. To insert special characters, click **Insert > HTML > Special Characters**, and choose a character.

Easy Nested HTML Tag Selection

Take a look above the Properties panel. You will notice a series of opening tags. These tags are in sequence, depending on where the cursor is placed. To quickly and cleanly select nested HTML content, click on a tag to select its content.

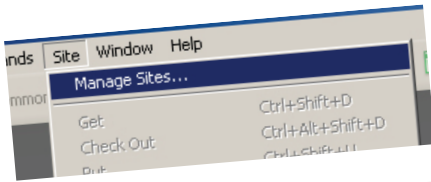
MCM 545 Web Design

with your host Joshua Logsdon

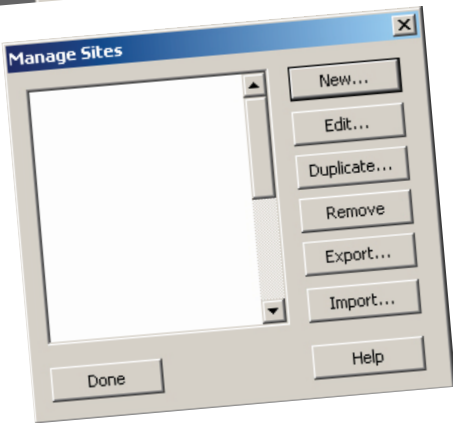
Dreamweaver — More Than Just a Text Editor

Besides being a robust HTML editor, Dreamweaver is also a valuable site manager. You can use it to keep track of a site's files, update links, process templates, upload files, and even generate a site map. Here's how to set up a site...

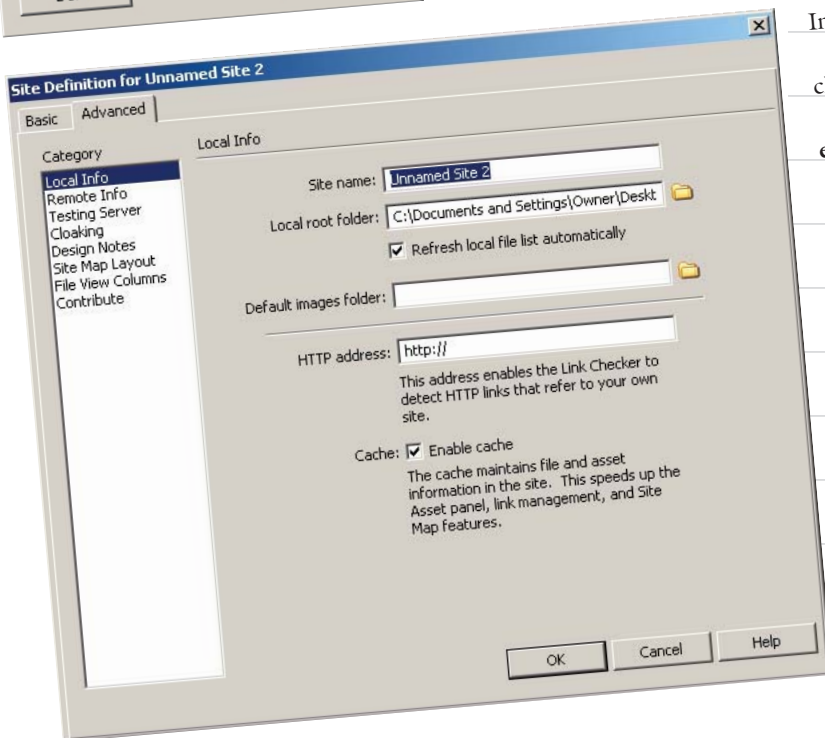
Click **Site**, then **Manage Sites...**



This dialogue window will allow you to perform different actions with sites. In our case, we want to click **New...**

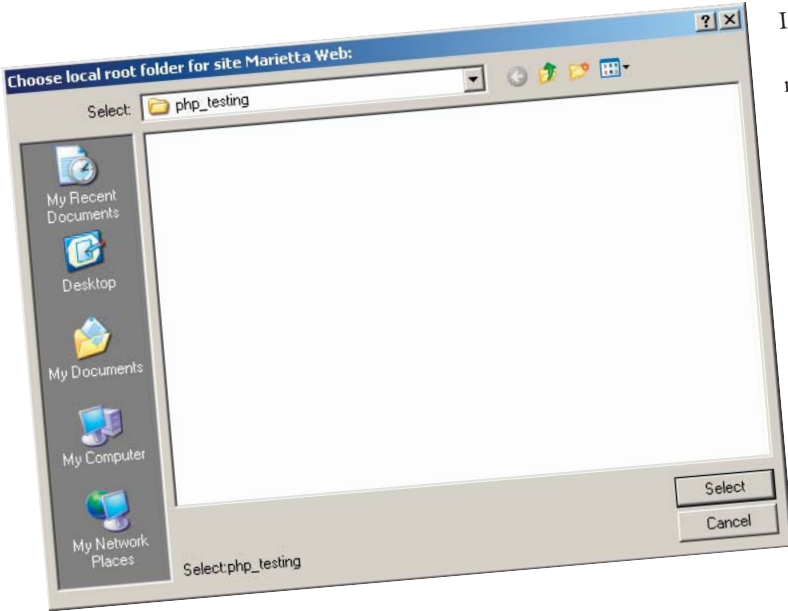


In the **Site Definition** dialogue window, click the **Advanced** tab. Under the **Category** list, click **Local Info**. This is the only area we will be concerned with at this point in time. For the **Site Name**, enter something meaningful in place of the generic text. Then, click the folder icon next to the **Local Root Folder** field.



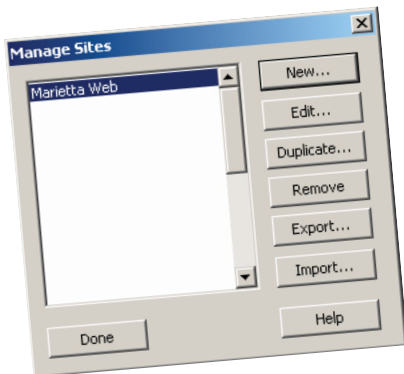
MCM 545 Web Design

with your host Joshua Logsdon



In the pop-up window that follows, navigate to inside the root folder that will contain the site's files, then click the **Select** button.

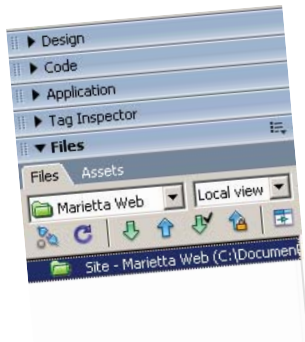
Click the **OK** button in the **Site Definition** window to close it.



Now that we have just managed our new site, click the **Done** button on the **Manage Sites** window.



Dreamweaver will now build information about your site. How quickly depends on the number of files located in your site.



Your new site will be active in the **Files** (Window > Files) panel.

From the site name drop-down, you can make other sites active or choose the **Manage Sites...** option to provide more detail.

From the Files panel, your site structure will shown; this panel is interactive, i.e. you can double-click a file to open it for editing. **Don't forget the options widget at the top right of the panel for extended functionality!**

MCM 545 Web Design

with your host Joshua Logsdon

Use a Grid System

Web design is done on a grid system; even curvy, organic sites are cleverly played around a horizontal and vertical grid that accommodates for areas of diverse visual content. When you have a Photoshop sketch, you can drag out guides from the rulers to help line up or reposition elements along your grid. This will help keep your design consistent and make site creation easier.

Photoshop — The Slice Tool

Before the slice tool, a technique was to drag a selection around your Photoshop guides individually, copy, paste to new, and then save the image. Now, the Slice Tool will let you make these selections along your grid (by dragging the Slice Tool as needed, snapping to pixels and/or guides), name the selected section (by clicking on the slice's icon), and then save all the individual sections as their section name (in the Save for Web dialogue). Photoshop saves the slice information when you save the file in case you need to make changes later.

Photoshop — Save for Web

When you have a sliced design for output, click **File > Save for Web...** This will bring up its dialogue that has quite a few uses for optimizing images. With it, we can view and adjust multiple displays of the image or slices (with the Slice Select Tool) at different compressions (the 2-Up or 4-Up tab). When you are pleased with your image's or slices' settings, you can click **Save**. From within the Save dialogue, you can choose to save only the selected slices instead of all of them at once. When slices are saved, they will generate and populate an "images" folder.

MCM 545 Web Design

with your host Joshua Logsdon

Designing in Photoshop

Anti-aliased Text

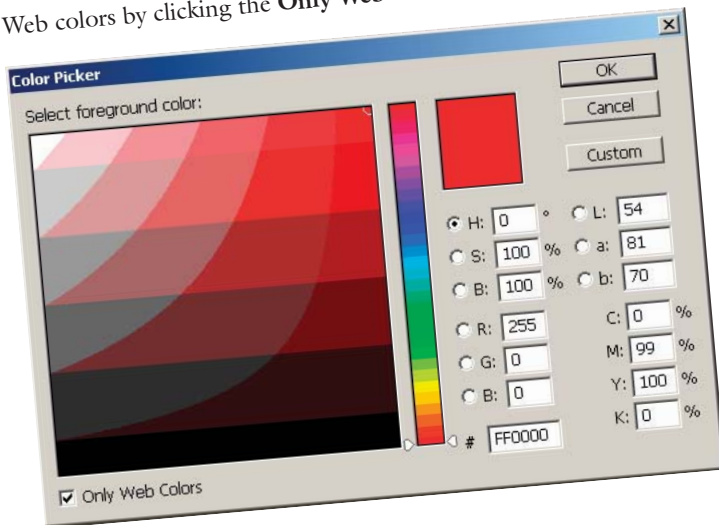
Text on the Web is not anti-aliased, so it does not appear smooth. Anti-aliasing, a method of smoothing pixels, can be found in Photoshop, where you can choose the type of anti-aliasing used. To mimic Web text, choose **None**. Any text that you wish to be anti-aliased will need to be saved as an image for later use.



Color Mode & Color Picker

It is important to remember that you are working within RGB and not CMYK colors for the Web. (To double check, click **Image > Mode**)

If designing within the Web palette, you can use the Color Picker to select only Web colors by clicking the **Only Web Colors** checkbox.



MCM 545 Web Design

with your host Joshua Logsdon

HTML —

As straightforward as the tag is, there are some nifty attributes, especially for accessibility. Here is a stripped-down version:

```

```

You can place images within your document by clicking **Insert > Image** and then selecting the image location. Once inside Dreamweaver, you can click on the image and adjust its attributes in the **Properties** panel.

Attributes

The **src** attribute is a reference to the image's source. The **alt** attribute is the alternative text to be shown if the picture cannot be displayed. Others include border, alignment, name, height, width, and hspace (horizontal space).

Image Maps

Like text, images can also link to content. An **img** tag can be directly placed between an **<a>** tag, making the entire image clickable, or an image map can be created to make certain areas of the image link to certain locations. Image maps are a set of tags with coordinates stating what areas of

the image should link to what locations. Image maps are then linked to an image through an image attribute. To create an image map, first click on the image, then look at the Properties panel. At the bottom left, you are given a move tool and three cyan shapes to draw and move "hotspots" on the image. After clicking on a hotspot with the move tool, you can change its link properties.

