

Dreamweaver Basics

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If you use a good HTML editor program such as Macromedia Dreamweaver, you can build Web pages that look great and conform to current professional guidelines. You can also use Dreamweaver to declare and apply CSS styles.

Getting Dreamweaver

You can download a free 30-day trial version of Dreamweaver from the [Macromedia Web site](#). (**Note:** The newest version is Dreamweaver 8.) The program includes tutorial “movies” and also some good interactive lessons to help you learn how to use the software. If you decide to buy Dreamweaver, check the price for Macromedia Studio: It includes Dreamweaver and several other programs, including Flash Professional. The educational pricing is *excellent*. (Check prices at [JourneyEd.com](#).)

Elements of Dreamweaver

You should be comfortable finding and using these tools and objects in Dreamweaver (there are many more, but these are essential):

CSS Styles: A *panel* that allows you to apply styles (fonts, colors, alignment) to your Web page. Part of the **Design** panel group in older versions of Dreamweaver; part of the **CSS** panel group in Dreamweaver 8.

Document toolbar: Above the *document window*. Buttons on the left side allow you to show and hide (Code View/Design View) the HTML code for the page, and a button farther to the right allows you to preview your new Web page in the browser(s) of your choice.

Document window: The large window in which you create a Web page. At the top of this window, you can see tabs for each document (Web page or CSS file) you have open—very convenient when you are working with many documents open at one time.

Files panel: This is where you manage your local and remote Web pages and other Web files. Part of the **Files** panel group. It is crucial that you “define a site” properly (see below) in Dreamweaver before you start to create pages. The contents of the defined site are visible in this panel.

Insert bar: A row of icons between the menu bar and the *document toolbar* that let you insert objects into your Web page without typing code. Use these to

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