Using Source Files

The source files included with this tutorial are designed to enhance your learning experience by letting you follow along with the video tutorial. These source files are only intended to be used with this tutorial and thus may not work for other tutorials included with the Adobe Video Workshop.

To ensure that you have and are using the correct set of source files for this video tutorial, please follow the instructions below to define a new site in Adobe Dreamweaver CS3.

To begin, unzip the contents of the source files from the Details area of the Adobe Video Workshop to the Desktop of your computer. Follow the instructions below to define a site in Adobe Dreamweaver CS3 to use the DW_CS3 folder enclosed with this tutorial’s source files as the local root folder for the site.

Defining a website in Adobe Dreamweaver CS3

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Defining a website is an essential first step in Adobe Dreamweaver CS3. To manage your site properly, you need to let Dreamweaver know where on your hard drive all the assets for the site reside, including the images, HTML files, style sheets, and so on. One all-inclusive folder called the site or root folder should contain everything for your site. Telling Dreamweaver where this folder is located is called defining your site. Once you have defined a site, Dreamweaver can track changes which becomes especially important if you move pages and images after all the links are in place. Without the Dreamweaver file-management capabilities, moving a single image could cause broken links or missing images on pages. In this tutorial, you'll review the process for defining a new or existing website in Dreamweaver.

Requirements

To follow along with this article, you need this software:

- Dreamweaver CS3

Prerequisite knowledge:
General knowledge of Dreamweaver.

Defining a site

1. Start Dreamweaver CS3. The Start page will open automatically (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Use the Dreamweaver Welcome Screen to start a new website.
2. To start a new web page, choose Dreamweaver Site under the Create New heading in the Welcome Screen. You could choose HTML, but that would be inefficient, especially if your site will have more than just a few pages.

The Site Definition dialog box appears (see Figure 2).

Both the Site Definition Wizard (the Basic tab) and the Advanced tab in the Site Definition dialog box let you set up your site in exactly the same way. The wizard gives you a lot more information about each field and leads you step-by-step through the process. The Advanced tab lets you choose setup options from menus. All the information required to set up your site is in the Local and Remote view areas of the dialog box.

1. Select the Advanced tab and the Local Info category (see Figure 3). In this tutorial, you'll concern yourself only with the Local Info.

![Site Definition dialog box](image)

Figure 3: The Advanced part of the Site Definition dialog box has Local and Remote setup options.

4. For the Site Name, type **Aquo Site**. The Site Name is a name of your choice that's like a nickname for your site. It's an internal reference and won't appear anywhere within the site itself.
5. Next to the Local Root Folder field, click the folder icon. The Local Root folder is the most important information in the Site Definition dialog box. Selecting the folder defines your site.

6. In Windows, choose the DW_CS3 without opening any subfolders, and click the Select button. In Mac OS, navigate to the DW_CS3 folder, and then click the Choose button.

   Now you’ve supplied Dreamweaver with the bare minimum amount of information you need to get started working on your site.

7. Click OK to close the dialog box. Dreamweaver scans the local root folder and creates an index of its subfolders, web pages, and assets; then it displays the subfolders and files in the Files panel (see Figure 4).

   Figure 4: The files for the defined site appear in the Files panel.

8. In the Files panel, notice the site name displayed in the top pop-up menu. As you create more sites in Dreamweaver, they will appear in this menu. Other locations on your computer also appear in this list, in case you need to access files stored elsewhere.

9. Use the Files panel to do any file management for the site that you have defined in Dreamweaver. Don’t move files using operating system tools. Dreamweaver cannot track changes made to your site folders if you make them outside the Dreamweaver interface.

Browsing for the correct files in Adobe Dreamweaver CS3

To ensure you are in the correct location on your hard drive when inserting or linking to files in your site, please click the ‘Site Root’ button (see Figure 5) found in every window of Adobe Dreamweaver CS3 that allows the user to insert or link to a file. This ‘Site Root’ button instantly takes you to the local root folder that has been defined for the tutorial and ensures you are in the correct location on your hard drive.

   Figure 5: Site Root button included on every Insert or Link to window

Where to go from here

For more information and additional tutorials, visit the Adobe Design Center.