Macromedia Dreamweaver MX Tips

Index of Topics

Change Dreamweaver Workspace

When you install Dreamweaver MX on Windows, you are asked if you want the Dreamweaver 4 or Dreamweaver MX workspace. If you later change your mind as to which workspace you want to use, choose Edit > Preferences and in the General category click the Change Workspace button. Select the workspace you want and then click OK. You will then need to quit and restart Dreamweaver to use the new workspace.

Maximize Your Document Window

When using Dreamweaver MX in Windows, maximize your document windows when you have multiple pages open. Dreamweaver then displays a page tab at the bottom of the Document window. You can click a page tab to quickly switch to that page.

Change Folder Options to Show File Extensions

Dreamweaver (Windows) uses your system settings when displaying file names in the title bar. If you have the option selected to hide file extensions for known file types, then Dreamweaver doesn't display the extension (for example .htm) in the document title bar or in the page tab (see above tip) if you have your document page maximized. To change the setting, select your local disk and then choose Folder Options from the View menu (or the Tools menu in Win XP). Select the View tab, and deselect the option to hide file extensions.

Use the Integrated File Browser

In Dreamweaver MX, there is an integrated file browser within the Site panel that allows you to view local disks or network drives. You can use the file browser just as you would use Windows Explorer or the Macintosh Finder to add folders, move files, or rename folders or files. In Windows, the file browser is named Desktop within the Site panel. On the Macintosh, the file browser is named Computer.

Identify your default folder for your images

When defining your site, select the default folder for your images in the Site Definition dialog box. You can drag an image to a page from anywhere on your desktop (using the integrated file browser) and Dreamweaver makes a copy and places it in the default images folder.

Quickly access the Site Defintion dialog box

If you need to edit your site, you can quickly open the Site Defintion dialog box by double-clicking the site name from the Site pop-up menu in the Site panel.

Refreshing the Asset Panel

To refresh the Assets panel's Site list, click the Refresh Site List button (looks like a circular arrow) in the Assets panel. This action refreshes any images or other assets you may have added to your site. This action doesn't reflect any changes to the site that you may have made outside of Dreamweaver. To rebuild the site cache and the Site list to show changes made outside of Dreamweaver, Ctrl-click (Windows) or Command-click (Macintosh) the Refresh Site List button.

Cloak Your Files

Create a folder within your site to store the source files such as the FLA files for your Flash movies, or the PNG files frrom your Fireworks graphics. Select that folder and then right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Macintosh) and choose Cloaking > Cloak from the context menu. You'll see a red cross through the folder indicating that the folder is "cloaked". Now if you synchronize your local site with the remote site you won't be wasting time uploading large graphic files to your web server.