

How to Design a Website

April 20

2009

This manual contains detailed instructions, descriptions and explanations on how to design and upload a webpage.

Written By Jake
Blakely

Dw
ADOBE® DREAMWEAVER® CS3

Open a Recent Item

- New Folder (2)/home.html
- website/home.html
- website/home.html
- Homepage/homepage.html
- website/register.html
- website/calendar.html
- Desktop/games.html
- Students/mm_menu.js
- New Folder/showplaneinfo.php
- Open...

Create New

- HTML
- ColdFusion
- PHP
- ASP VBScript
- XSLT (Entire page)
- CSS
- JavaScript
- XML
- Dreamweaver Site...
- More...

Create from Samples

- CSS Style Sheet
- Frameset
- Starter Page (Theme)
- Starter Page (Basic)
- More...

Extend

- Dreamweaver Exchange »

Getting Started »

- New Features »
- Resources »

Adobe® Creative Suite® 4
Deliver innovative ideas in print, web, interactive, video and mobile design.

Don't show again

Table of Contents

- Introduction.....03
- Chapter 1.....04
 - Equipment Needed
- Chapter 2.....05
 - Designing your website
- Chapter 3.....12
 - Uploading your website
- Chapter 4.....15
 - Validating your website

Introduction

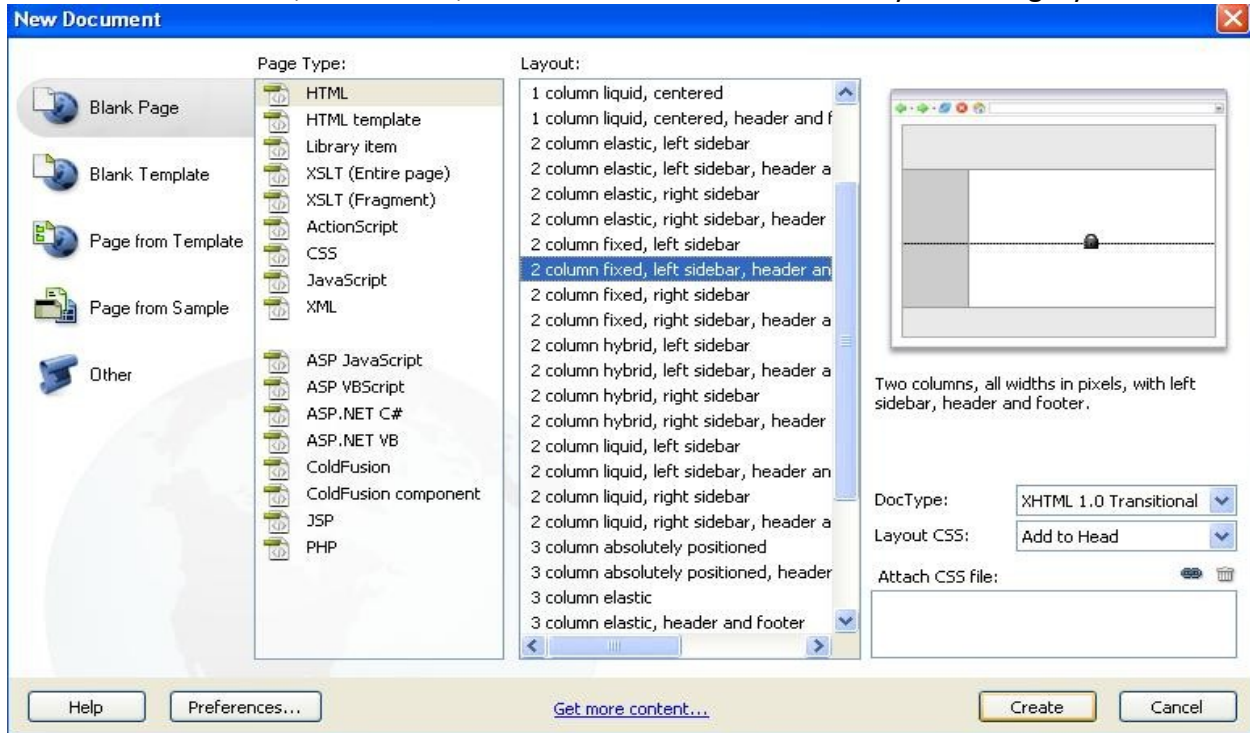
This technical manual is a “how to” step-by-step guide to design and upload a simple website to a webhost. For this manual it will be assumed you have moderate level coding abilities in HTML. This manual will begin by stating the programs needed to properly build and upload a website. Next it will show the proper steps to customize an already existing website template. Then this manual will explain how to properly upload the website files to any given webhost of your choosing. Finally, a brief explanation will be given as to how to check if your website is W3C compliant and what to do if it isn't.

Chapter 1

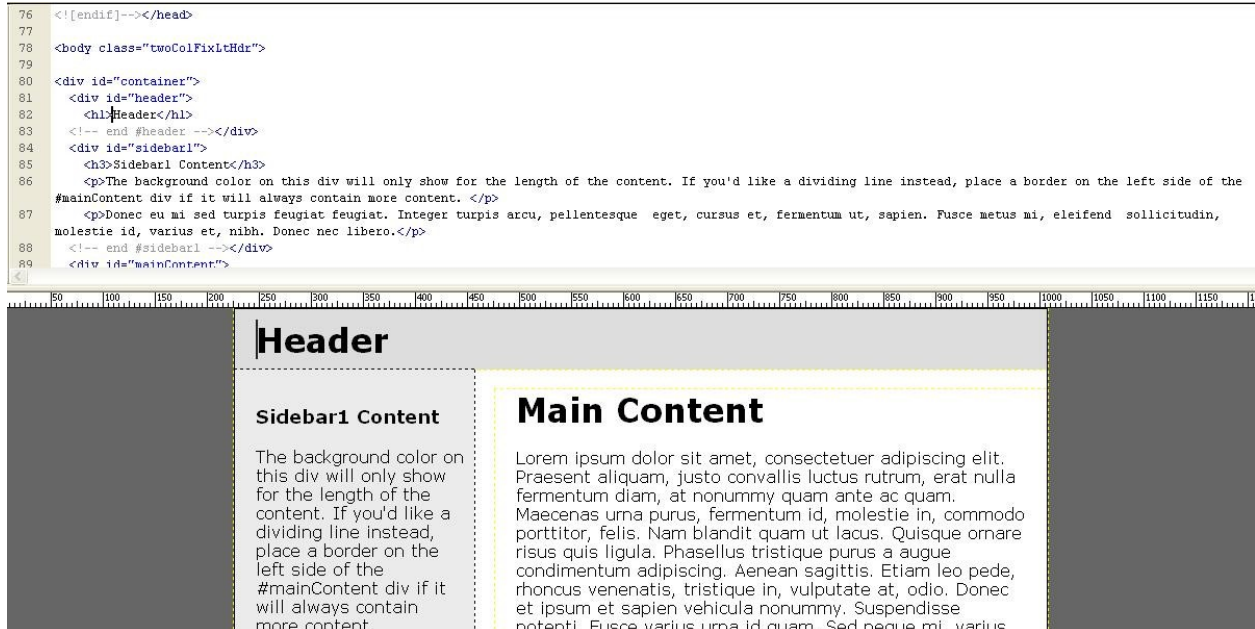
You do not need much to start designing a website, if you are a very good coder you can code a website by hand in notepad, however, for the rest of us we'll use a very useful program called Dreamweaver. Next we will need to find a webhost that suites our needs, you should compare price against the services offered preferably something with high bandwidth and storage capacity but for this manual we will be using NJIT's AFS servers. Then we need a file transfer protocol (ftp) program to upload our files to our webhost, there are many to select from, however, for the sake of this manual we will be using a program called WinSCP, which can be located at <http://winscp.net/eng/index.php>. Finally, to validate our website for W3C standards we will use the validation website <http://validator.w3.org/>.

Chapter 2

After you have chosen the “More” option from the “Create New” category, you should select “2 column fixed, left sidebar, header and footer” from the “Layout” category.



Once you’ve done that you should see some code and a visual display of the code.



We will work our way down the code so by the time we get to the bottom the page will be finished. To begin we will start by editing the title of the page, we will change it from “Untitled Document” to English 352.

```
3 <head>
4 <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
5 <title>Untitled Document</title>
6 <style type="text/css">
```

```
3 <head>
4 <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
5 <title>English 352</title>
6 <style type="text/css">
```

Next we will edit the background color of the page, for this you will need to know the Hex value of colors in HTML, a chart of colors can be located at http://www.homepagemadeeasy.com/color_chart.html. So now that we know the numbers of the colors we want to use, we will replace the background color with the color we want.

```
8 body {
9     font: 100% Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
10    background: #666666;
11    margin: 0; /* it's good practice to zero the margin
12    padding: 0;
13    text-align: center; /* this centers the container
14    color: #000000;
15 }
```

```
8 body {
9     font: 100% Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
10    background: #c06020;
11    margin: 10; /* it's good practice to zero the margin
12    padding: 0;
13    text-align: center; /* this centers the container
14    color: #000000;
15 }
```

Optional: You can change the “margin” number to space your main content away from the edge of the web browser **/Optional.**

Warning: Because so many different browsers are used if you change this number it could affect how your page looks depending on the browser **/Warning.**

Now that the background has color we will touch up the foreground objects, we'll start with the header.

```
23 .twoColFixLtHdr #header {
24   background: #DDDDDD;
25   padding: 0 10px 0 20px;
of text, you may want to rem
26 }

23 .twoColFixLtHdr #header {
24   background: #20c080;
25   padding: 0 10px 0 20px;
of text, you may want to rem
26 }
```

The next foreground object we will customize will be the sidebar.

```
31 .twoColFixLtHdr #sidebar1 {
32   float: left; /* since this element is
33   width: 200px; /* the actual width of
addition to the width */
34   background: #EEEEEE; /* the background
35   padding: 15px 10px 15px 20px;
36 }

31 .twoColFixLtHdr #sidebar1 {
32   float: left; /* since this element i:
33   width: 200px; /* the actual width of
addition to the width */
34   background: #20c080; /* the backgrou
35   padding: 15px 10px 15px 20px;
36 }
```

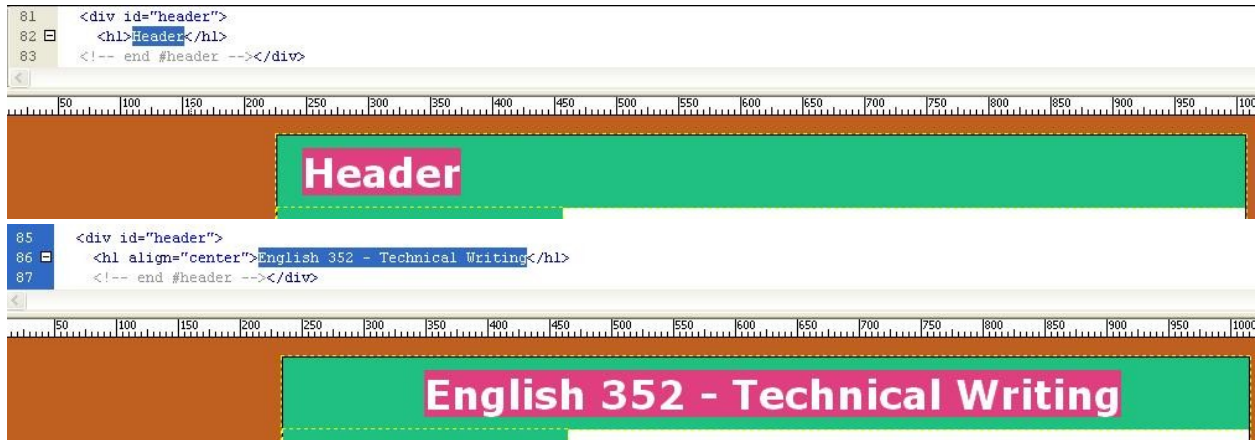
The last foreground object we will change will be the footer.

```
41 .twoColFixLtHdr #footer {
42   padding: 0 10px 0 20px;
43   background: #DDDDDD;
44 }

41 .twoColFixLtHdr #footer {
42   padding: 0 10px 0 20px;
43   background: #20c080;
44 }
```

If you properly followed these instructions you should see an immediate change in color in the visual display section.

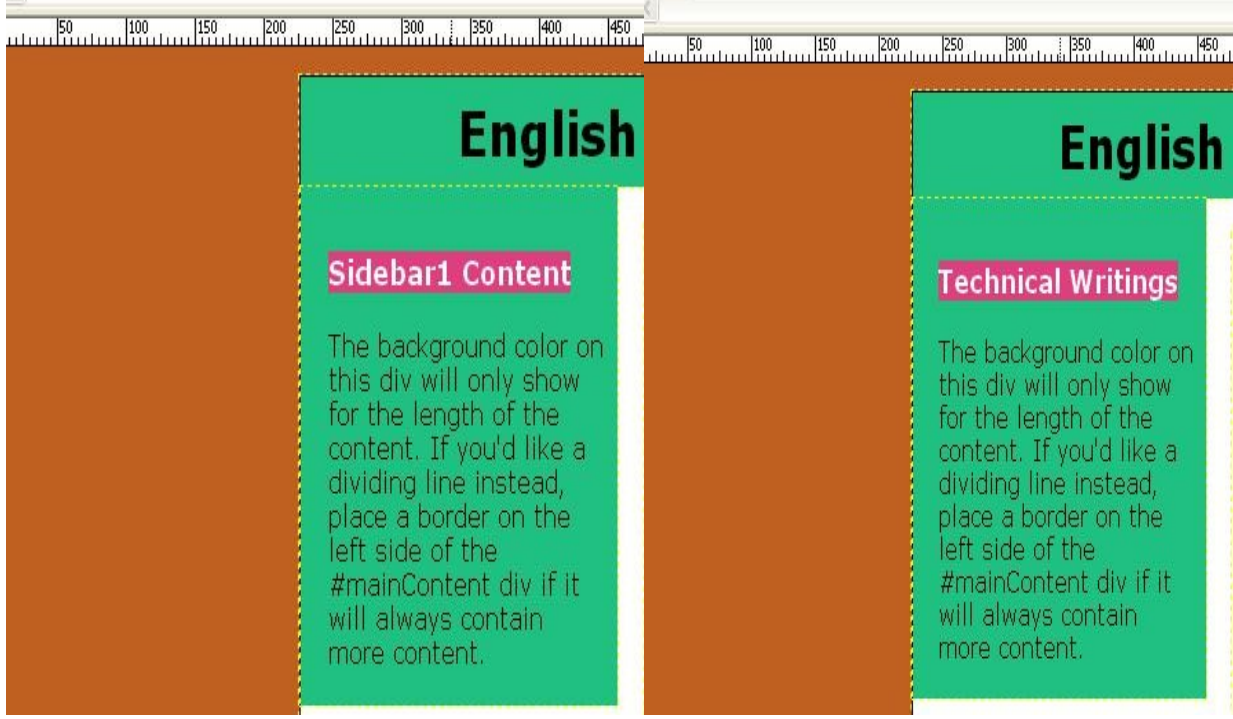
The next step will be to edit the contents of each foreground object. **Note:** The following images are set up so you can change the contents of the foreground objects in either the Display or Code sections of Dreamweaver **/Note.** The first object we will change will be the header; we will change its contents from “Header” to “English 352 – Technical Writing”.



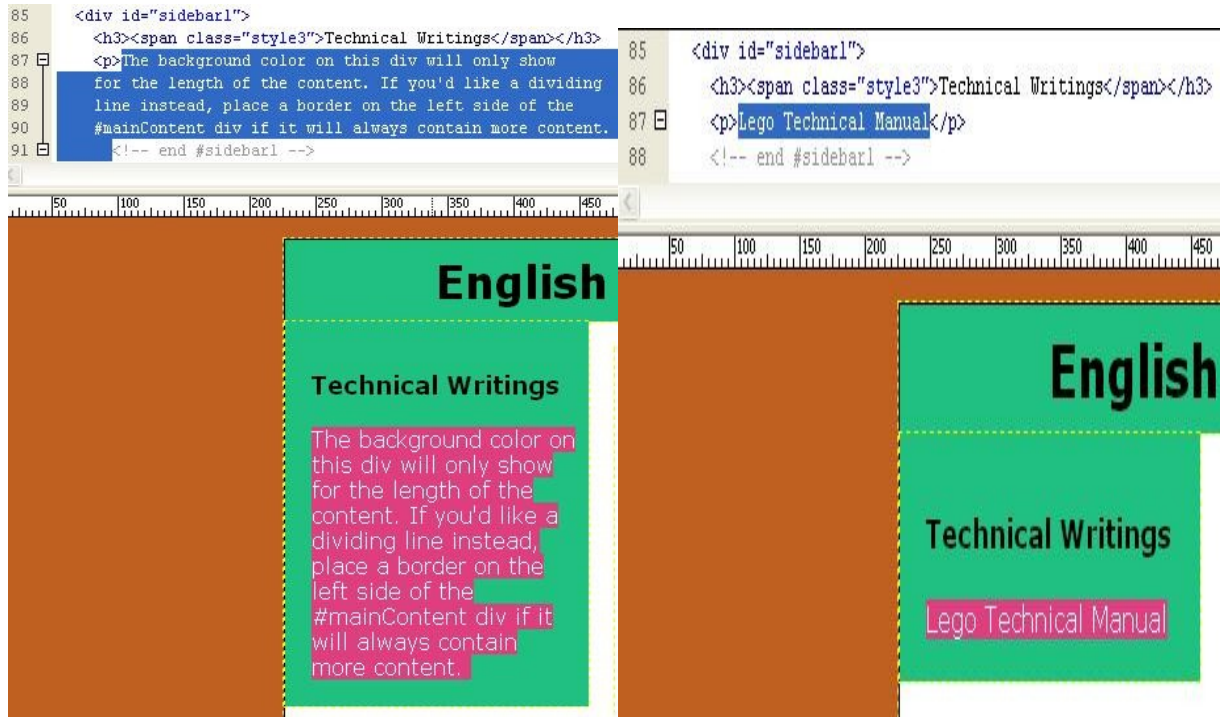
The next object we will customize will be the sidebar; we will start by changing the sidebar header from “Sidebar1 Content” to “Technical Writings”.

```
84 <div id="sidebar1">
85 <h3>Sidebar1 Content</h3>
86 <p>The background color on this div will only show
87 for the length of the content. If you'd like a dividing
88 line instead, place a border on the left side of the
89 #mainContent div if it will always contain more content.
90 <!-- end #sidebar1 -->
```

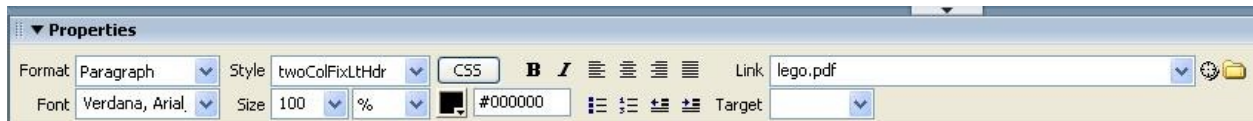
```
85 <div id="sidebar1">
86 <h3><span class="style3">Technical Writings</span></h3>
87 <p>The background color on this div will only show
88 for the length of the content. If you'd like a dividing
89 line instead, place a border on the left side of the
90 #mainContent div if it will always contain more content.
91 <!-- end #sidebar1 -->
```



The next part of the sidebar we will edit will be the main content, where we will change the description of the sidebar to “Lego Technical Manual”



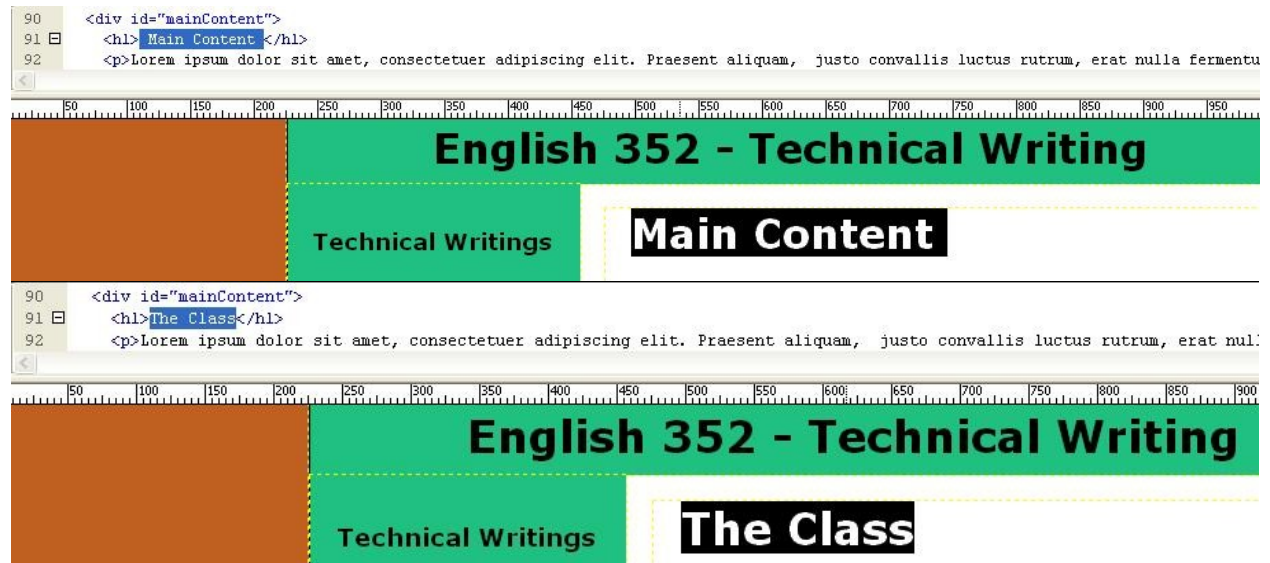
Now that we know how to edit text on our page it is important to learn how to create links to other sites or upload work to our work. First you begin by designating which group of words you wish to make a link, as shown in the picture above. Next at the bottom of the screen you should notice a "Properties" bar where you can easily designate where you want your link to take the user.



Finally you should notice a distinct change in the group of words you designated now that they are a hyperlink.

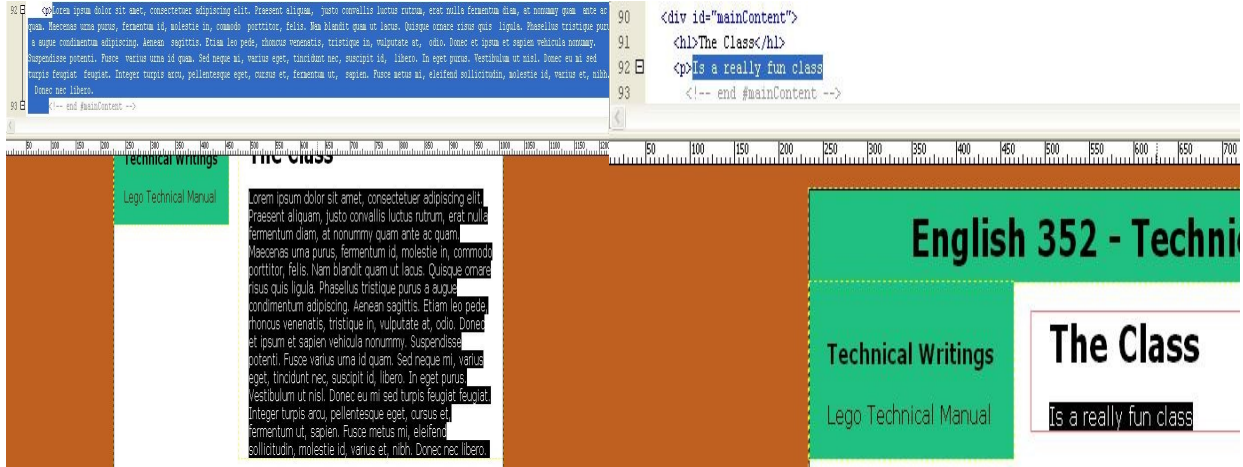


Next we will learn how to edit the main content; we will start with the main content header. The header is designated before all the content and can easily be spotted by being any words in between the <h1> and </h1> brackets.

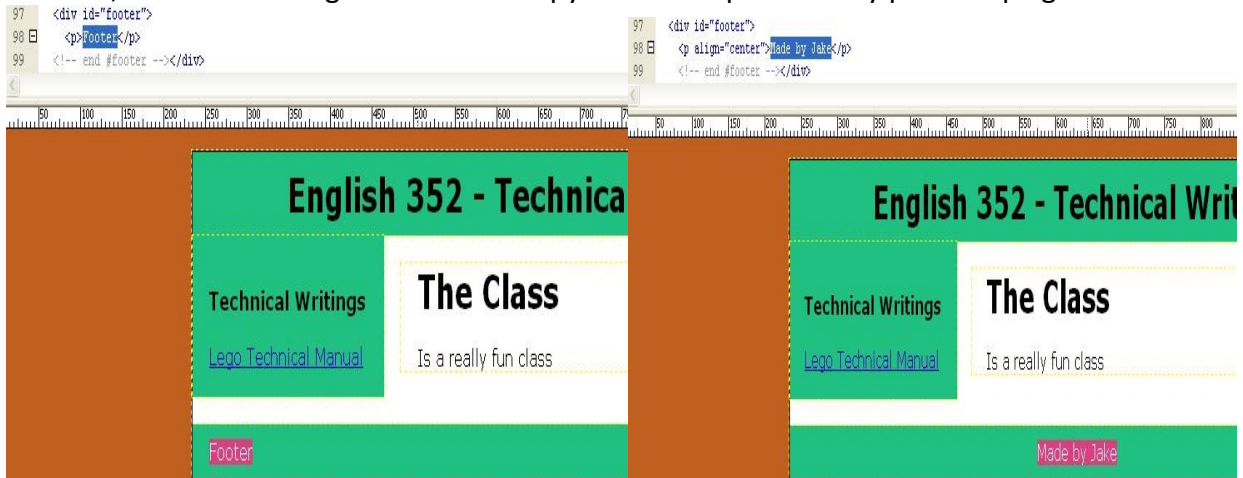


The brackets can be filled with any number following the h in the <> but it is important to always use a different number than the last header number.

Now we will learn to edit the content that is our main content. It is directly under the `<h1>` and `</h1>` brackets and makes up the majority of our page. This is what our users will read and it is important to grab the user's attention and state what your website is all about in this section. Remember most people leave a website within 3 seconds of arrival if they can't figure out what it is about so try to really make them realize who and what your website is for.

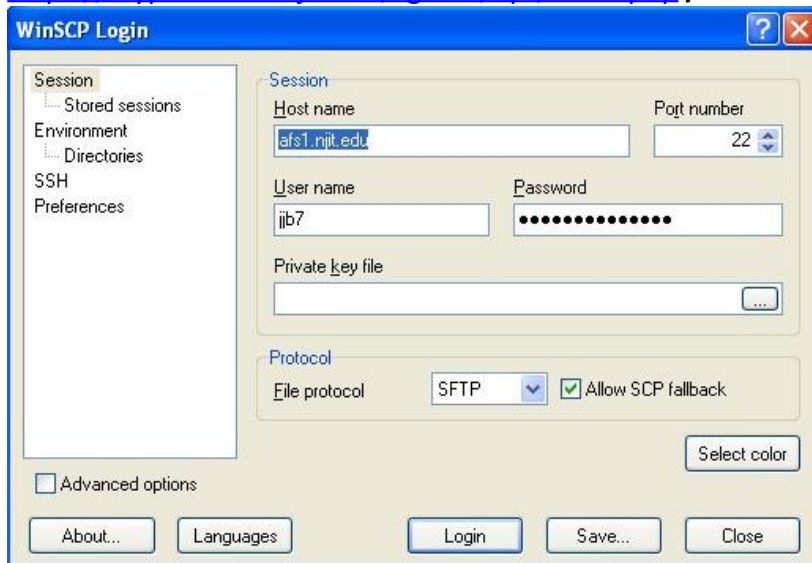


Finally we will learn how to edit the footer of our new website page. The footer mainly designates who the page was made by and if the content is copy written. To many people this doesn't seem like a big deal, however, if your page isn't copy written anyone could come in and steal your material to pass it off as their own. And what is even worse is once they steal your material they could just as easily copy write it themselves and accuse you of stealing from them. So, it is important to not only copy write all original material that is uploaded to the internet, but also to designate that it is copy written to prevent any possible plagiarism.

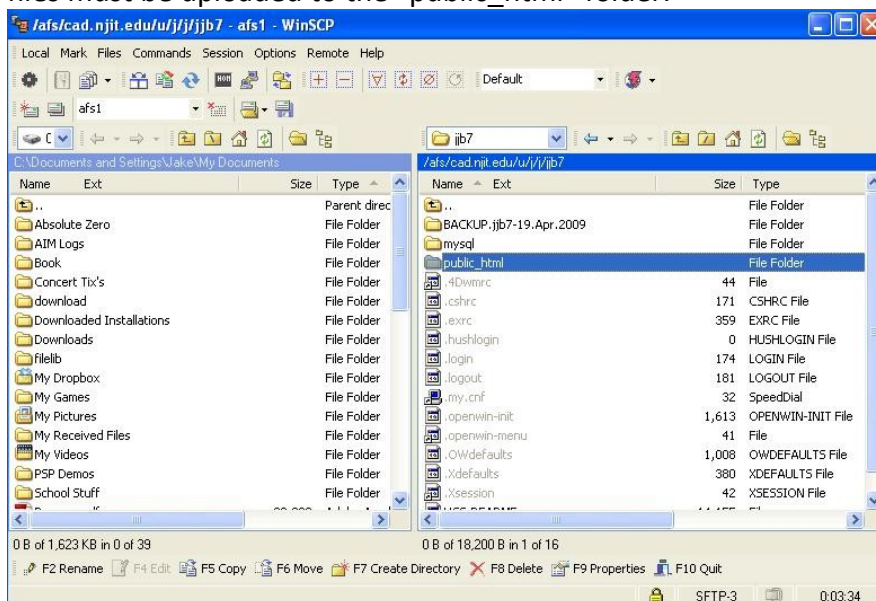


Chapter 2

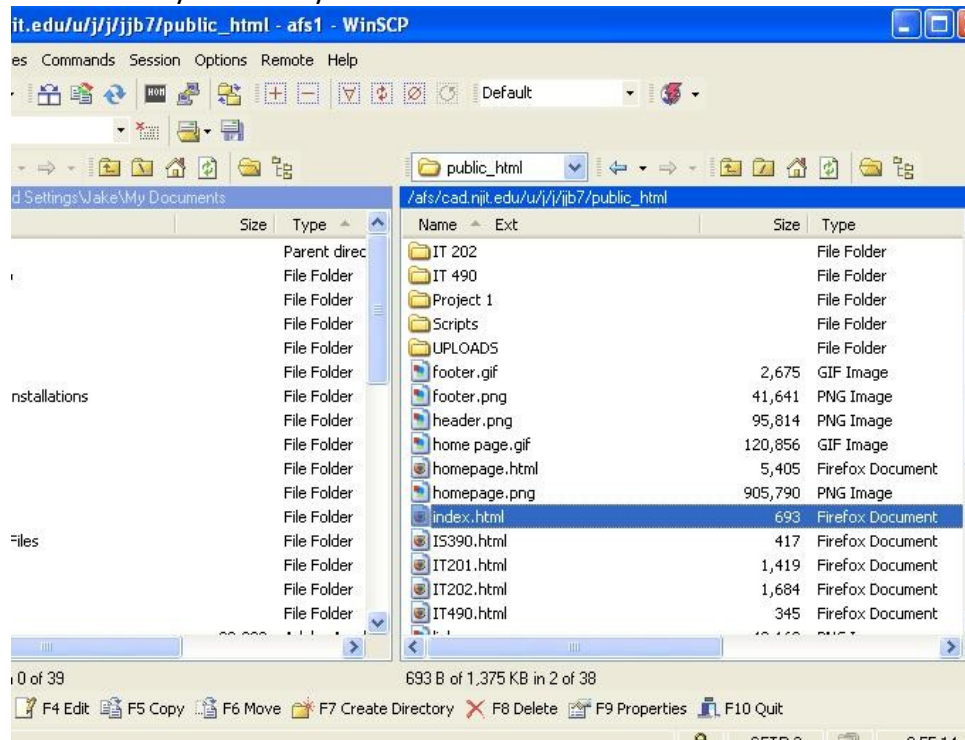
In this chapter you will learn how to upload your newly made website to a web hosting server. For the purposes of this manual we have decided to use the file transfer protocol program WinSCP. First we begin by designating the location of the servers, and in this case since we are using the NJIT AFS servers the host name would be “afsX.njit.edu”, the X can be any number between 1 and 33. Next if your server is password protected, as it should be and in the case of NJIT they are, you need to enter your “User Name” and “Password” which here are your “UCID” and “UCID Password”. **Note:** At NJIT if you haven’t logged into the computers in a while your AFS servers may not work, so you may have to reset your password at <https://mypassword.njit.edu/cgi-bin/upr/usecr.php> /Note.



Next you must designate the path the user must follow to get to your website, so your files must be uploaded to the “public_html” folder.



Now that you are in the “public_html” folder you need to create a file called “index.html”. This will be the homepage for your website that the user will first see the moment they arrive to your website.



Here is sample code of how to link to your English 352 webpage from your index page.

```

/afs/cad.njit.edu/u/j/jjb7/public_html/index.html - afs1
<html>
<head>
<title>My Homepage</title>
</head>
<body>
IT Homepage

<p></p>Jake Blakely

<p></p>Major: Information Technology

<p></p>Concentration: Network & Information Security

<p>Email: <a href="mailto:jjb7@njit.edu">jjb7@njit.edu</a></p>

<p><a href="http://web.njit.edu/~jjb7/Project 1/homepage.html">Project 1</a></p>

<p><a href="http://web.njit.edu/~jjb7/Games/games.html">Games</a></p>

<p><a href="http://web.njit.edu/~jjb7/IS 431/IS431.php">IS 431</a></p>

<p><a href="http://web.njit.edu/~jjb7/Eco/home.html">Eco</a></p>

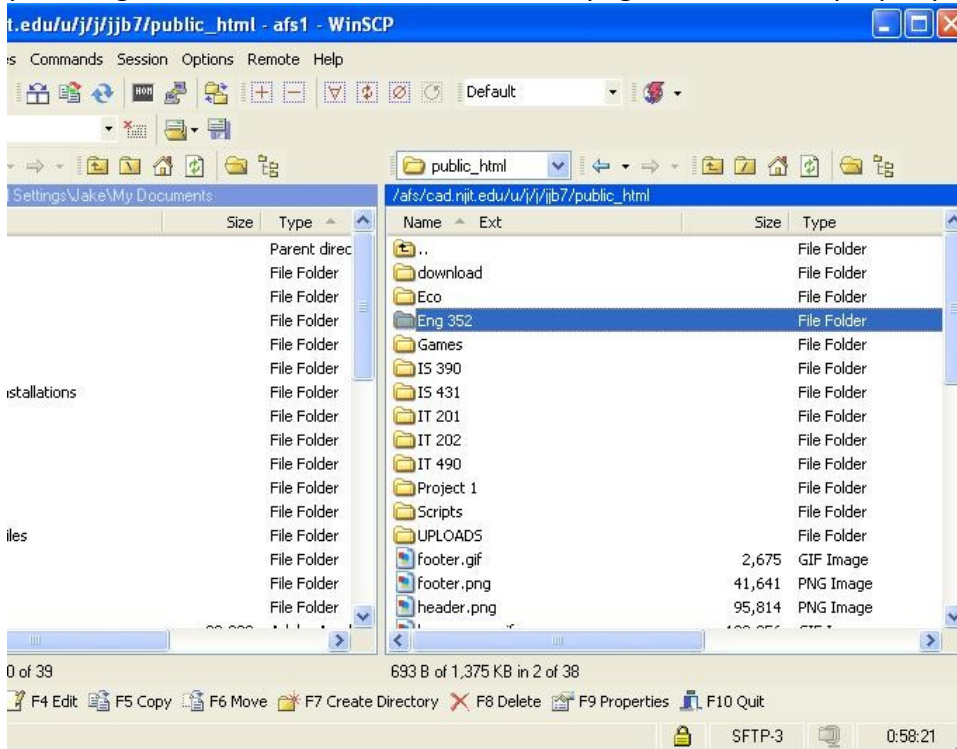
<p><a href="http://web.njit.edu/~jjb7/IT490.html">IT 490</a></p>

<p><a href="http://web.njit.edu/~jjb7/Eng 352/home.html">Eng 352</a></p>

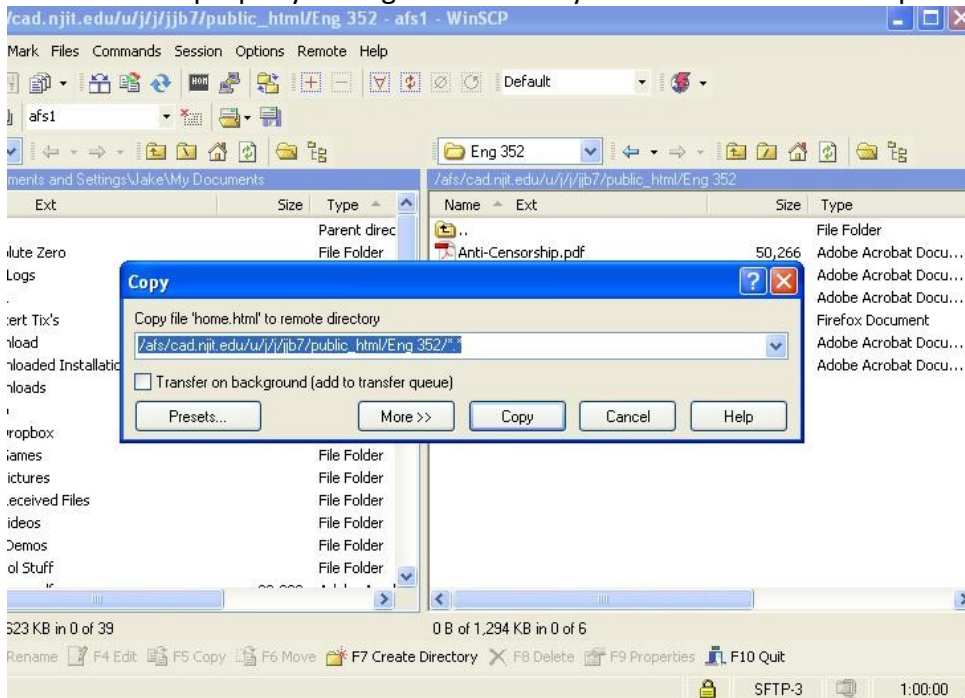
</body>
</html>

```

Next it is important to upload your files with the same names and in the same folders as you designated them in the code or else the page will not work properly.



Finally, copy the folders to the web server with the right names and in the right folders, with the code properly linking to them and your website should be up and running in no time.



Chapter 3

The final step in making a good website is validating it to the normal standards of website building. This step is more of a common courtesy to any future coders who may edit the site as to make their jobs easier so they experience code in a format they are familiar with. All that is needed for this is to go to <http://validator.w3.org/> and enter the URL of the page you just created and if there are any errors the website will tell you what is wrong and give you several suggestions on how to fix the problems. Once your webpage is error free you will get a message that looks like the image below.

This document was successfully checked as XHTML 1.0 Transitional!	
Result:	Passed
Address :	<input type="text" value="http://web.njit.edu/~jjb7/Eng820352/home.html"/>
Encoding :	utf-8 <input type="text" value="(detect automatically)"/>
Doctype :	XHTML 1.0 Transitional <input type="text" value="(detect automatically)"/>
Root Element:	html
Root Namespace:	http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml

Congratulations! Your webpage is now finished.