

How to Build And Design A×



<http://learnhtmlcode.com>

BUILD AND DESIGN A WEBSITE

AN INTRODUCTION
TO HTML AND CSS

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Build and Design A Website: An Introduction to HTML and CSS

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Introduction

The Book

You can read “Build and Design A Website” on the web at <http://learnhtmlcode.com>. You can also download the book in various ebook formats including epub, mobi (Kindle), etc.

Getting Started

Building a website is a lot easier than you would think. Admittedly, there's a lot of terminology you need to remember, but like anything else, practice makes perfect.

If you can use a word processor, you can probably build a website. In fact, services like Webyly and Squarespace allow novices to create beautiful web sites (portfolios, blogs, business, etc.) using a step-by-step, point-and-click interface using ready-made templates. You can even build an online store with absolutely no programming knowledge, using a service like Shopify.

But no matter how easy it may be to create a website using tools like Webyly, Shopify or WordPress, it's in your best interest to have a basic understanding of how websites are constructed.

Overview

You might have heard of so-called WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) web design apps like Dreamweaver and GoLive. We won't be using anything like that in this guide because those apps are actually more cumbersome than typing out code (once you learn how to code).

What's more, building a website is more than just a technical challenge. You need to have a basic understanding (and appreciation) of good design even if you plan to have someone build a web site for you.

Things You'll Need

- A text/HTML editor (NotePad, TextPad, etc.)
- An FTP client (<http://cyberduck.ch>)
- Web hosting <http://learnhtmlcode.com/a2>

Before we get started, you'll probably want to explore our [glossary](#) of terminology that will be used in this guide.

Glossary

Here are some terms you need to know. You don't need to memorize these terms, simply familiarize yourself with them for future reference.

Text editor

Consider your word processor. When you use an app like MS Word, there is hidden code embedded in the document that you cannot immediately see. (This code terms how to format text and objects like table and images.)

And we can reveal this hidden code by using a text/code editor. There are dozens, if not, hundreds of text editors to available. And you can use any program you see fit. However, pretty much all computers already include a text editor. If you are a Windows user, you should have an program on your computer called Notepad. (Mac users have a program TextEdit.)

WYSIWYG

What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get
(pronounced “wizzy-wig”)

This is a term used to describe programs that offer a visual interface for building things.

URL / URI

Uniform Resource Location/Uniform Resource Identifier
(a.k.a. A webpage address such as “<http://learnhtmlcode.com>”)

A URL is basically a human-readable address for a web page (and other Internet resources). The terms URL and URI are used interchangeably (although there is a convoluted technical explanation for why they shouldn't be).

Domain name

A domain name consists of two parts, a **root** and an **extension**.

learnhtmlcode.com is a domain name as opposed to a url (“<http://learnhtmlcode.com>”), “learnhtmlcode” is the domain root (as in root word)

“.com” is the domain extension

There are many domain name extensions. The most popular (and oldest domain) extensions are .com, .net, .org and .gov

.com stands for “commercial” as is generally used by businesses

.net stands for “network” and is generally used when a .com is unavailable.

.org stands for organization and is generally used by non-profit groups, but such domain name can be registered by anyone.

.gov stands for government and is exclusively used by the U.S. government.

Additionally, every country around the world has been assigned a domain name extension such as “.ca” for Canada and “.in” for India. Generally, country-specific domain extensions suggest the target audience of the website is the country that the domain extension belongs to. However, there’s nothing stopping anyone from using a country-specific domain extension for an internationally audience. However, registration of some country-specific domain extensions is restricted to citizens of the country the extensions belongs to.

What’s more, sometimes companies register domain names where the root and extension form the name of their company. For example, blo.gs (“blogs”). This practice is called domain hacking and is generally used when more traditional domain extensions (.com, .net, etc) are unavailable.

What’s more, country-specific extensions are also used when they happen to have inherent (but unintentionally meaning) that’s suitable for branding.

.tv for example belongs to the island of Tuvalu and is often used for websites related to television and video.

.fm belongs to the Federated States of Micronesia and is often used by websites related to radio, broadcasting and/or music.

and so on...

NOTE: .co (pronounced “ko” or “cee-oh”) is an alternative to the “.com” extension and it is becoming increasingly mainstream. (Although, personally, I hate it.)

Domain name registrar

A domain registrar is a company that has been authorized to sell domain names. (e.g. NameCheap, GoDaddy, etc.).

IP address

(Internet Protocol Address)

If a URL is an address, an IP address is akin to GPS coordinates.

Link / Hyperlink

A webpage can have two types of links: internal and external.

These are relative terms based on where the link is found and where it points to.

Internal links point to files/pages within the website/server. For example, a home page could have a link to a contact page or “about us” page.

Meanwhile, external links point to files on another website/server. If you have a post a link to a YouTube on your Facebook page. The YouTube link is an external link since it’s pointing to a file on another server.

Program / application (app)

A computer program is code that can can manipulate the data on your computer.

File

A computer file is a computer document that can be read and modified by an application.

Folder / Directory

A file folder / directory is a kind of container for computer files, much like a physical folder is used to contain and organize paper documents.

File path

A file path expresses the location of a file or folder.

(e.g. “C://User/Bob/My Documents/resume.doc”)

Web browser

A web browser is a computer program that is used for navigating the world wide web (e.g. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, etc.) In theory, the look and functionality of a web site should not vary across web browsers. But in reality, there are times when a particular web site may not work as intended on a particular browser. Usually, there’s very little you can do about this.

Rendering

In terms of web browsing, rendering refers to the act of a web browser loading a web page.

Server

A server is any computer that is capable of sending and receiving data. There are specialized computers that are used as servers, but virtually any computer can be used as server including your Mac, PC or even your smartphone.

When you're at work and you connect to a co-workers computer, the computer you are connect to is a server.

When you connect to someone's iTunes library on a computer that is on your network, the computer that you are connecting to is a server.

When you access your e-mail using Microsoft Outlook or Mac Mail, you are connecting to a server.

When you run Skype to make calls on the Internet, you are connecting to a server.

There are different kinds of servers used for transmitting and receiving different kinds of information.

When you open your web browser and load a web page, you are connecting to a web server (or more specifically, an http server).

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