

## Outline of Webpage Workshop II

Second session, 24 February 2004

### Backgrounds

Adding a background can enhance a Web site and make it look more inviting. You have several options here:

1. To simply add a color. Netscape Composer, **Format, Page Colors and Background, Use custom colors, background.** Choose a color from the Netscape palette. Notice that there is a #, followed by six letters. This is called *hexidecimal* color coding. If you don't find a color here you like, create your own at the Color Picker site:  
<http://www.free-webmaster-tools.com/colorpicker.htm>

Remember to choose a color that works well with the font you're using.

Use the Color Picker, design the color you want, and paste the six letter code into the box in Netscape Composer. *Don't forget the #!*

You may also insert background images using **Format, Page Colors and Background, Background Image, choose file.**

2. To find textured or image backgrounds, visit sites like <http://www.free-backgrounds.com/> Choose a background, hold the arrow over it, and press the right mouse button. Click on "Save as..." and enter a filename. Done! Add it to your page using Netscape Composer, **Format, Page Colors and Background, choose file.** Navigate to where the file is on your computer, and select it.
3. View a Web site with a background you want and do the same: hold the arrow over any portion of the background, right mouse click, and save the file to the desktop so you can find it. You may want to rename the file so you can remember it.
4. Sounds and music – to embed sounds or a music file to play when your page is displayed go to <http://www.wdvl.com/Multimedia/Sound/> and follow the instructions.

### Pictures on the Web (.gif and .jpg files)

It's easy to capture an image found on the Internet and save it to your hard drive. GIF (graphic interchange format) and jpg (Joint Photographic Experts Group) are the most common formats you'll find on the Web, though there are others. Do this as if you are saving backgrounds, as described above. If you are using a PC, position the mouse arrow over the image you want, and Right Mouse Click. Choose "Save image as..." when the menu appears.

## Title Bar Information

You'll want to title your Web pages for two reasons – to make them more professional, and to allow some indexing robots on the Web to properly index your page (there are other ways to make your pages more indexable by using metadata tags – more information on this at <http://www.google.com/search?q=define:Metadata> ). *Titles should pertain to the information contained on the page, e.g., “Resume of Anne Smith, PhD candidate, Department of Linguistics, University of Hawaii.”* Give your site visitors current and useful information!

In Composer, use **Format, Page Title** and **Properties** to do this.

## Setting Permissions with SSH

A number of students encountered problems last week with enabling their pages, images, and other information to display correctly after uploading pages to their server account using Secure Shell for Workstations (SSH).

Occasionally you may have to manually set permissions for files that do not display properly in your browser once you have uploaded them to the server. It's easy:

1. First determine that files cannot be viewed correctly by uploading them and viewing them with your browser. Text files might display a forbidden message, and images will show as an image box with a red X in it.
2. To repair them Right Mouse Click on the offending file in the right frame, and choose **Properties**. Under “Read,” make sure that **Owner, Group, and Other** are checked.
3. Reload the page and it should display normally.

## Language fonts

Your Web page becomes more challenging when you use fonts for other languages, especially non-Roman script ones. First, decide how much of the language you want on the page. You have several options:

1. If you only want a greeting, you may find one on the Web as a gif or jpg file. Grab it and use it like an image file. Note: just because you can grab images doesn't mean that you can always use them legally!



or



2. You may elect to use a standard like Unicode and type the few characters you'll need if you want to personalize your site with a sentence or two.

Unicode is fast becoming the world standard for language character sets. It includes over 95,000 characters from the world's languages. Two helpful sites that will get you going on Unicode include:

<http://www.alanwood.net/unicode/index.html> - an overview of Unicode

<http://www.alanwood.net/unicode/htmlunicode.html> - an introduction on how to code HTML pages using Unicode.

The advantage to using gifs or Unicode is that almost all browsers above version 4.0, including Mac and Windows platforms, will easily display the language. It doesn't require a browser to be configured specifically to read the language(s) used.

3. For more extensive work, investigate the word processor you use for your language(s) to see if there is a way to easily export your work into an HTML format that can be uploaded and read with a browser.

### **HTML Coding**

As you can see, building a Web page can be easy but challenging. Ben, Diana and Kevin introduced you to the basics on building Web pages. However, time constraints cannot allow us to cover the more advanced topics.

You may want to invest some time and look at the following free sites on the Web to learn more about Web page building, and HTML:

[http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/authoring/html\\_basics/](http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/authoring/html_basics/)

<http://home.introcom.net/~gosoo99/index1.html> **(In Japanese)**

In Google, enter search words like "HTML" and "tutor" or "tutorial" or "making Web pages"

Don't forget to look for books on the subject in Hamilton library. *The more recently published, the better.*