

The Essential Guide to
Dreamweaver CS3
with CSS, Ajax, and PHP

David Powers



The Essential Guide to Dreamweaver CS3 with CSS, Ajax, and PHP

Copyright © 2007 by David Powers

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner and the publisher.

ISBN-13 (pbk): 978-1-59059-859-7

ISBN-10 (pbk): 1-59059-859-8

Printed and bound in the United States of America 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Trademarked names may appear in this book. Rather than use a trademark symbol with every occurrence of a trademarked name, we use the names only in an editorial fashion and to the benefit of the trademark owner, with no intention of infringement of the trademark.

Distributed to the book trade worldwide by Springer-Verlag New York, Inc., 233 Spring Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10013. Phone 1-800-SPRINGER, fax 201-348-4505, e-mail orders-ny@springer-sbm.com, or visit www.springeronline.com.

For information on translations, please contact Apress directly at 2855 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 600, Berkeley, CA 94705. Phone 510-549-5930, fax 510-549-5939, e-mail info@apress.com, or visit www.apress.com.

The information in this book is distributed on an “as is” basis, without warranty. Although every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this work, neither the author(s) nor Apress shall have any liability to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in this work.

The source code for this book is freely available to readers at www.friendsofed.com in the Downloads section.

Credits

Lead Editor **Assistant Production Director**
Chris Mills Kari Brooks-Copony

Technical Reviewer **Production Editor**
Tom Muck Kelly Winquist

Editorial Board **Composer**
Steve Anglin, Ewan Buckingham, Dina Quan
Gary Cornell, Jonathan Gennick,
Jason Gilmore, Jonathan Hassell, **Artist**
Chris Mills, Matthew Moodie, April Milne
Jeffrey Pepper, Ben Renow-Clarke,
Dominic Shakeshaft, **Proofreader**
Matt Wade, Tom Welsh April Eddy

Project Manager **Indexer**
Tracy Brown Collins Julie Grady

Copy Edit Manager **Interior and Cover Designer**
Nicole Flores Kurt Krames

Copy Editor **Manufacturing Director**
Heather Lang Tom Debolski

In memory of my sister, Nimbia
November 21, 1941–April 24, 2007

CONTENTS AT A GLANCE

Foreword	xix
About the Author	xxi
About the Technical Reviewer	xxii
Acknowledgments	xxiii
Introduction	xxiv
Chapter 1: Dreamweaver CS3—Your Creative Partner	1
Chapter 2: Building Dynamic Sites with Ajax and PHP	33
Chapter 3: Getting the Work Environment Ready	67
Chapter 4: Setting Up a PHP Site	103
Chapter 5: Adding a Touch of Style	135
Chapter 6: Creating a CSS Site Straight Out of the Box	161
Chapter 7: Building Site Navigation with the Spry Menu Bar	183
Chapter 8: Sprucing Up Content with Spry Widgets	209
Chapter 9: Building Online Forms and Validating Input	247

Chapter 10: Introducing the Basics of PHP	295
Chapter 11: Using PHP to Process a Form	325
Chapter 12: Working with PHP Includes and Templates	363
Chapter 13: Setting Up MySQL and phpMyAdmin	401
Chapter 14: Storing Records in a Database	429
Chapter 15: Controlling Access to Your Site	473
Chapter 16: Working with Multiple Tables	519
Chapter 17: Searching Records and Handling Dates	571
Chapter 18: Using XSLT to Display Live News Feeds and XML	617
Chapter 19: Using Spry to Display XML	653
Chapter 20: Getting the Best of Both Worlds with PHP and Spry	693
Index	731

CONTENTS

Foreword	xix
About the Author	xxi
About the Technical Reviewer	xxii
Acknowledgments	xxiii
Introduction	xxiv
Chapter 1: Dreamweaver CS3—Your Creative Partner	1
Getting your bearings in Dreamweaver	3
Starting up	3
Creating a new document	4
Setting new document preferences	5
Exploring the workspace	7
Insert bar	9
Document window	11
Organizing your workspace	14
Rearranging panels	14
Saving and sharing customized workspace layouts	14
Accessing hidden files and folders in Windows	15
Displaying optional toolbars	15
Temporarily hiding all panels	15
Organizing visual assets with Bridge	16
Controlling thumbnails	17
Adding metadata	17
Renaming files	17
Dragging and dropping files	18

Creating standards-compliant web pages	18
Enhanced CSS support	18
Layers are dead . . . Welcome, AP elements	18
Seeing the impact of CSS changes in real time	20
Improved style sheet management	21
Using visual aids to understand your CSS structure	22
Checking for browser bugs	23
Checking what your page will look like on other media	24
Understanding Dreamweaver's approach to layout	25
Drawing absolutely positioned elements	25
Layout Mode goes into exile.	26
Getting the best out of Code view	27
Using the Coding toolbar	27
Setting Code view options	29
Using code hints and auto completion	30
Dynamic too	31

Chapter 2: Building Dynamic Sites with Ajax and PHP 33

Understanding how dynamic pages work	34
Making pages dynamic with client-side technology	35
Increasing user interactivity with server-side technology	35
Why choose PHP?	37
Taking dynamic functionality a stage further with Ajax	38
Understanding the limitations of Ajax	38
Dynamic terminology 101	39
Using Dreamweaver behaviors and Spry effects	40
Accessing the Behaviors panel	40
Giving elements a unique identity	45
Removing an id attribute.	47
Editing behavior and effect settings.	48
Removing behaviors and effects cleanly	50
Restoring a deleted behavior or effect	50
Exploring Spry effects.	51
Appear/Fade	52
Blind	53
Grow/Shrink.	53
Highlight.	54
Shake	55
Slide	55
Squish	56
Creating a wrapper <div> for the Slide effect	56
Applying multiple events to a trigger element	58
Handling dynamic data with Spry and PHP	59
Comparing how Spry and PHP handle data sets	59
Building PHP sites with Dreamweaver.	60

CONTENTS

Comparing different versions of files	61
Setting up the File Compare feature	61
Using File Compare.	62
Comparing two local files in the same site	63
Comparing two local files in different sites	63
Comparing local and remote files.	63
Meet Mark of the Web	64
The next step.	65

Chapter 3: Getting the Work Environment Ready 67

Deciding where to test your pages.	68
Checking that your remote server supports PHP.	69
Creating a local testing server	70
Choosing which versions to install.	70
Choosing individual installation or an all-in-one package.	71
Setting up on Windows.	72
Getting Windows to display file name extensions	72
Choosing the right web server.	73
Downloading the software.	73
Preparing for installation on Windows Vista	73
Turning off User Account Control temporarily on Vista	74
Before you begin	74
Checking that port 80 is free	75
Installing Apache on Windows.	76
Running the Apache Monitor on Vista	78
Starting and stopping Apache on Windows	79
Changing startup preferences or disabling Apache	79
Installing PHP on Windows.	80
Testing your PHP installation (Windows XP and Vista)	82
Changing the default Apache port	83
Changing the default IIS port	84
Setting up on Mac OS X	86
Starting and stopping Apache on Mac OS X	86
Upgrading PHP on Mac OS X	87
Checking your PHP configuration	90
Understanding the output of phpinfo().	90
Checking the location of php.ini	90
Checking PHP Core settings	92
Checking installed extensions	95
Checking supported \$_SERVER variables.	96
Editing php.ini	96
Accessing php.ini on Mac OS X	96
Configuring PHP to display errors.	98
Enabling PHP extensions on Windows	98
Enabling file uploads and sessions (Windows installer)	99

Overriding settings on your remote server	99
Suppressing error messages	99
Overriding default settings with ini_set().	99
Using .htaccess to change default settings	100
Summary	100
Chapter 4: Setting Up a PHP Site	103
Deciding where to locate your sites	104
Understanding document- and root-relative links	104
Document-relative links	105
Root-relative links	105
Keeping everything together in the server root	106
Working with virtual hosts	106
Finding the server root	107
Moving the Apache server root on Windows	107
Setting a default file for Apache on Windows	108
Adding a default PHP file to IIS.	109
Creating virtual hosts on Apache	110
Registering virtual hosts on Windows	111
Registering virtual hosts on Mac OS X	113
Registering virtual directories on IIS	115
Defining a PHP site in Dreamweaver	115
Opening the Site Definition dialog box	115
Telling Dreamweaver where to find local files	117
Telling Dreamweaver how to access your remote server	119
Defining the testing server	121
Selecting options for local testing	122
Selecting options for remote testing	123
Setting up other site options	125
Setting up for Spry	125
Saving the site definition	126
Testing your PHP site	126
Troubleshooting	128
Setting options for Preview in Browser	129
Managing Dreamweaver sites	131
Now let's get on with it	132
Chapter 5: Adding a Touch of Style	135
Avoiding bad habits	136
Stay away from the Property inspector for fonts	137
Creating simple CSS for beginners	138
Introducing the CSS Styles panel	140
Opening the CSS Styles panel	141
Viewing All and Current modes	141

CONTENTS

Exploring the Properties pane of the CSS Styles panel	142
Displaying CSS properties by category	142
Displaying CSS properties alphabetically	143
Displaying only CSS properties that have been set.	143
Attaching a new style sheet	144
Adding, editing, and deleting style rules	144
Creating new style rules	145
Defining a selector.	145
Defining the rule's properties.	146
Moving style rules	152
Exporting rules to a new style sheet.	152
Moving rules within a style sheet.	154
Moving rules between external style sheets.	155
Setting your CSS preferences	156
Creating and editing style rules.	157
Setting the default format of style rules.	158
Let's get creative	159
Chapter 6: Creating a CSS Site Straight Out of the Box	161
Using a built-in CSS layout	162
Choosing a layout	163
Deciding where to locate your style rules.	163
Linking to existing style sheets.	164
Making sure conditional comments are applied	164
Styling a page	165
Inspecting the cascade in Current mode	173
Finishing the layout	175
Removing the CSS comments.	179
How was it for you?	181
Chapter 7: Building Site Navigation with the Spry Menu Bar	183
Examining the structure of a Spry menu bar	185
Looking at the XHTML structure	187
Removing a menu bar.	188
Editing a menu bar	188
Maintaining accessibility with the Spry menu bar.	189
Customizing the styles.	190
Changing the menu width	190
Changing colors	190
Adding borders	191
Changing the font.	192
Styling a Spry menu bar	193
To wrap or not to wrap, that is the question	193
Building the navigation structure.	195
Customizing the design	198
A mixed blessing	206

Chapter 8: Sprucing Up Content with Spry Widgets	209
Features common to all Spry widgets	210
Building a tabbed interface	211
Examining the structure of the tabbed panels widget	212
Editing a tabbed panels widget	214
Selecting harmonious colors	218
Converting to vertical tabs	223
Avoiding design problems with tabbed panels	227
Understanding Spry objects	228
Using the accordion widget	229
Examining the structure of an accordion	230
Editing and styling a Spry Accordion	232
Using the object initialization to change accordion defaults	236
Opening an accordion panel from a link	238
Using collapsible panels	239
Examining the structure of a collapsible panel	239
Editing and styling collapsible panels	241
Opening a collapsible panel from a link	243
Removing a Spry widget	244
Yet more widgets	245
Chapter 9: Building Online Forms and Validating Input	247
Building a simple feedback form	248
Choosing the right page type	248
Creating a PHP page	249
Mixing .php and .html pages in a site	250
Inserting a form in a page	250
Inserting a form in Code view	251
Adding text input elements	252
Setting properties for text input elements	255
Converting a text field to a text area and vice versa	257
Styling the basic feedback form	257
Understanding the difference between GET and POST	259
Passing information through a hidden field	260
Using multiple-choice form elements	262
Offering a range of choices with checkboxes	262
Offering a single choice from a drop-down menu	267
Creating a multiple-choice scrollable list	269
Using radio buttons to offer a single choice	272
Organizing form elements in logical groups	274
Inserting a fieldset	274
Validating user input before submission	275
Doing minimal checks with the Validate Form behavior	275
Using Spry validation widgets for sophisticated checks	277
Understanding the limitations of Spry validation widgets	278
Inserting a Spry validation widget	279
Removing a validation widget	279
Validating a text field with Spry	280

CONTENTS

Building your own custom pattern	285
Validating a text area with Spry	286
Validating a single checkbox with Spry	289
Validating a checkbox group with Spry	289
Validating a drop-down menu with Spry	292
Next, let's move to the server side	292

Chapter 10: Introducing the Basics of PHP 295

Introducing the basics of PHP	296
Embedding PHP in a web page	296
Ending commands with a semicolon	297
Using variables to represent changing values	298
Naming variables	298
Assigning values to variables	298
Displaying PHP output	299
Commenting scripts for clarity and debugging	300
Choosing single or double quotation marks	301
Using escape sequences in strings	303
Joining strings together	304
Adding to an existing string	304
Using quotes efficiently	305
Special cases: true, false and null	305
Working with numbers	306
Performing calculations	306
Combining calculations and assignment	308
Using arrays to store multiple values	308
Using names to identify array elements	309
Inspecting the contents of an array with <code>print_r()</code>	310
Making decisions	311
The truth according to PHP	312
Using comparisons to make decisions	313
Testing more than one condition	314
Using the switch statement for decision chains	316
Using the conditional operator	316
Using loops for repetitive tasks	317
Loops using <code>while</code> and <code>do . . . while</code>	317
The versatile <code>for</code> loop	318
Looping through arrays with <code>foreach</code>	319
Breaking out of a loop	320
Using functions for preset tasks	320
Understanding PHP error messages	321
Now put it to work	322

Chapter 11: Using PHP to Process a Form	325
Activating the form	327
Getting information from the server with PHP superglobals	327
Sending email	328
Scripting the feedback form	329
Using Balance Braces	336
Testing the feedback form	337
Troubleshooting mail()	338
Getting rid of unwanted backslashes	338
Making sure required fields aren't blank	341
Preserving user input when a form is incomplete	345
Filtering out potential attacks	348
Safely including the user's address in email headers	350
Handling multiple-choice form elements	354
Redirecting to another page	359
Time for a breather	360
Chapter 12: Working with PHP Includes and Templates	363
Including text and code from other files.	364
Introducing the PHP include commands.	364
Telling PHP where to find the external file	365
Using site-root-relative links with includes	368
Lightening your workload with includes.	369
Choosing the right file name extension for include files	369
Displaying XHTML output	370
Avoiding problems with include files	373
Applying styles with Design Time Style Sheets	374
Adding dynamic code to an include.	375
Using includes to recycle frequently used PHP code.	378
Adapting the mail processing script as an include	380
Analyzing the script	380
Building the message body with a generic script.	382
Avoiding the "headers already sent" error	388
Using Dreamweaver templates in a PHP site.	389
Creating a template	390
Adding editable regions to the master template	391
Creating child pages from a template	393
Locking code outside the <html> tags.	398
Choosing the right tool	398

Chapter 13: Setting Up MySQL and phpMyAdmin. 401

Introducing MySQL.	402
Understanding basic MySQL terminology	403
Installing MySQL	404
Installing MySQL on Windows	404
Deciding whether to enable InnoDB support.	404
Changing the default table type on Windows Essentials	410
Starting and stopping MySQL manually on Windows.	411
Using the MySQL monitor on Windows	411
Setting up MySQL on Mac OS X	412
Adding MySQL to your PATH	414
Securing MySQL on Mac OS X	416
Using the MySQL monitor on Windows and Mac	418
Using MySQL with phpMyAdmin	419
Setting up phpMyAdmin on Windows and Mac	420
Launching phpMyAdmin	423
Logging out of phpMyAdmin.	424
Backup and data transfer	424
Looking ahead	427

Chapter 14: Storing Records in a Database 429

Setting up a database in MySQL	430
Creating a local database for testing.	431
Creating user accounts for MySQL	432
Granting the necessary user privileges	432
How a database stores information	436
How primary keys work	436
Designing a database table	437
Choosing the table name	438
Deciding how many columns to create	438
Choosing the right column type in MySQL	439
Deciding whether a field can be empty	441
Storing input from the feedback form	441
Analyzing the form	441
Defining a table in phpMyAdmin.	444
Understanding collation	446
Inserting data from the feedback form	446
Troubleshooting the connection.	449
Troubleshooting.	451
Using server behaviors with site-root-relative links.	452
Inspecting the server behavior code.	453
Inserting data into SET columns	454
Displaying database content	457
Creating a recordset.	457
Displaying individual records	462
Displaying line breaks in text.	467
Merging form input with mail processing	469
A great deal achieved	471

Chapter 15: Controlling Access to Your Site	473
Creating a user registration system	474
Defining the database table	475
Building the registration form	476
Preserving the integrity of your records	480
Building custom server behaviors	486
Completing the user registration form	489
Updating and deleting user records	493
Adapting the Sticky Text Field server behavior	496
Building the update and delete pages	497
What sessions are and how they work	507
Creating PHP sessions	507
Creating and destroying session variables	508
Destroying a session	508
Checking that sessions are enabled	509
Registering and authenticating users	509
Creating a login system	509
Restricting access to individual pages	511
Logging out users	512
Understanding how Dreamweaver tracks users	513
Creating your own \$_SESSION variables from user details	515
Redirecting to a personal page after login	515
Encrypting and decrypting passwords	516
Feeling more secure?	516
Chapter 16: Working with Multiple Tables	519
Storing related information in separate tables	520
Deciding on the best structure	520
Using foreign keys to link records	521
Avoiding orphaned records	523
Defining the database tables	524
Adding an index to a column	525
Defining the foreign key relationship in InnoDB	526
Populating the tables	530
Restoring the content of the tables	530
Selecting records from more than one table	530
The four essential SQL commands	534
SELECT	535
INSERT	537
UPDATE	538
DELETE	538
Managing content with multiple tables	538
Inserting new quotations	539
Using a MySQL function and alias to manipulate data	543
Inserting new authors	545
Using variables in a SQL query	546
Updating authors	551

CONTENTS

Deleting authors	556
Improving the delete form	560
Performing a cascading delete with InnoDB tables	560
Updating quotations.	563
Solving the mystery of missing records	564
Deleting quotations	567
What you have achieved.	568

Chapter 17: Searching Records and Handling Dates 571

Querying a database and displaying the results	572
Enhancing the look of search results.	573
Displaying the number of search results	573
Creating striped table rows.	574
Understanding how Dreamweaver builds a SQL query.	576
Troubleshooting SQL queries.	579
Setting search criteria	580
Using numerical comparisons	581
Searching within a numerical range	583
Searching for text	586
Making a search case sensitive.	586
Displaying a message when no results are found	587
Searching multiple columns	588
Searching with a partial match	589
Using wildcard characters in a search	589
Using wildcard characters with numbers	592
Using a FULLTEXT index.	595
Solving common problems	598
Counting records	599
Eliminating duplicates from a recordset.	599
Reusing a recordset	599
Understanding how a repeat region works	602
Formatting dates and time in MySQL	603
Using DATE_FORMAT() to output user-friendly dates	604
Working with dates in PHP	607
Setting the correct time zone	608
Creating a Unix timestamp	609
Formatting dates in PHP.	610
Storing dates in MySQL	612
Validating and formatting dates for database input	612
Continuing the search for perfection.	615

Chapter 18: Using XSLT to Display Live News Feeds and XML 617

A quick guide to XML and XSLT.	618
What an XML document looks like.	618
Using HTML entities in XML	620
Using XSLT to display XML	621
Checking your server's support for XSLT	621

Pulling in an RSS news feed	622
How Dreamweaver handles server-side XSLT	623
Using XSLT to access the XML source data	624
Displaying the news feed in a web page	632
Being a bit more adventurous with XSLT	633
Setting up a local XML source	634
Understanding how XSLT is structured	636
Accessing nested repeating elements	637
Creating conditional regions	639
Testing a single condition	639
Testing alternative conditions	640
Sorting elements	642
Formatting elements	643
Displaying output selectively	644
Filtering nodes with XPath	644
Using XSLT parameters to filter data	646
More XML to come	650
Chapter 19: Using Spry to Display XML	653
How Spry handles XML data	654
Making sure Spry can find data	655
Creating a Spry data set	656
Displaying a data set in a Spry table	662
Understanding the Spry data code	668
Validating pages that use Spry	668
The fly in Spry's ointment	669
Displaying a data set as a list	670
What's the difference between repeat and repeatchildren?	674
Case study: Building a Spry image gallery	676
Planning the gallery	676
Dynamically selecting the gallery data set	677
Controlling the structure with CSS	677
Putting everything together	678
Activating the event handling	688
Distinguishing between data sets	688
Creating a data set dynamically	689
Nearly there	691
Chapter 20: Getting the Best of Both Worlds with PHP and Spry	693
Generating XML dynamically	694
Preparing the database table	695
Using phpMyAdmin to generate XML	696
Using the XML Export extension	697
Updating the includes folder	702
Building XML manually from a recordset	703
Using a proxy script to fetch a remote feed	706

CONTENTS

Creating an XML document from a dynamic source	707
Setting permission for PHP to write files	708
Using PHP to write to a file.	708
Using Spry in pages that work without JavaScript.	711
How to incorporate a Spry data set in an ordinary web page	711
Using XHTML with Spry	716
Case study: Making the Spry gallery accessible	717
Creating the gallery with PHP.	717
Generating the XML sources with PHP.	725
Enhancing the accessible gallery with Spry	727
The end of a long journey	729
Index	731

FOREWORD

The Macromedia community was unique. There was a synergy among developers, designers, marketers, and the Macromedia product teams that kept the product line alive and growing year after year. I say “was,” because Macromedia is now part of Adobe. Since Adobe acquired Macromedia, the community has gotten larger. Adobe did not previously have a reputation for fostering a community spirit, however, even though the Adobe umbrella is now over the entire former-Macromedia product line, the community has flourished and become even more pervasive. Adobe now feels more like Macromedia than even Macromedia did, because Adobe has somehow taken the best of Macromedia and made it even better.

With that acquisition, we have one of the largest software rollouts ever—the CS3 release, which combined all of Macromedia’s biggest product lines with Adobe’s biggest product lines into one massive release. If it were a normal product release cycle, that would be big news by itself, but with all the major enhancements in most of the products in the line, it’s even bigger. Dreamweaver CS3 contains some great new features, most of which are covered extensively in this book, including the Spry tools, page layouts, and CSS tools. Dreamweaver CS3 (or Dreamweaver 9, if you’re counting) is the first Adobe version of Dreamweaver, but aside from the Adobe name and the Photoshop integration, it is instantly recognizable as the same great program.

One of the things that make the community great is the involvement of the company (Macromedia, now Adobe) with the designer/developer community. Adobe actively seeks feedback on products and welcomes give and take; it doesn’t just pay lip service to the concept of a developers’ community. The feedback forms on the website go directly to the product team, and product engineers contact customers directly. This kind of involvement brought PHP into Dreamweaver in the first place, and this kind of involvement keeps Dreamweaver at the top of the heap of all the web development tools available.

To give an example of the Adobe community involvement, Adobe sent a team of representatives to meet with everyone at the recent TODCon convention, which typically attracts a small, closely knit group of Dreamweaver designers and developers. They didn’t just send a couple of marketing people or low-level operatives; they flew in over a dozen of the cream of the crop, including product managers, development team managers, quality assurance managers, and others from locations in San Jose, San Diego, Romania, and Germany. On the first day of the conference, Dreamweaver product manager Kenneth Berger introduced

FOREWORD

the team, which looked like a wall of Adobe at the front of the room, and led a session about what is right and wrong with Dreamweaver, and the attendees of the conference got to give their input as to what Dreamweaver is doing well and what could be improved. There was plenty of praise along with plenty of venting that the product team will use directly. That wasn't the end of it though. The team was in attendance for the bulk of the conference, walking around with notebooks, getting valuable feedback that will help shape the next version of the product. This is the kind of personal contact that keeps the community and the product thriving.

Couple the company involvement with the extensibility of Dreamweaver, which keeps the development community buzzing with creativity by extending the program to do things that it won't do out of the box, and you have a program that gets exponentially better with each release. I say the same thing every time a new version of Dreamweaver comes out: I could never go back to the previous version. I feel the same way about the latest CS3 release.

I've never met David Powers, but know him well through the Adobe Dreamweaver community. He is a fellow Adobe Community Expert who freely shares his knowledge of the product in Adobe support forums, among other places. I know David by reputation as one of the most thorough yet easy-to-read authors on the scene today and as one of the most passionate and vocal Dreamweaver experts in the world. Among the scores of Dreamweaver books, David's are the books that I personally recommend to people as the best. This book is no exception. Having written a few books in the past myself, I know it's no easy task. As the technical reviewer of this book, it was frequently a challenge for me to find things to say about it—David leaves no stone unturned in his quest to provide the best instructional material on the shelves today. That is exactly what you are holding in your hands right now.

Tom Muck
June 2007

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



David Powers is an Adobe Community Expert for Dreamweaver and author of a series of highly successful books on PHP, including *PHP Solutions: Dynamic Web Design Made Easy* (friends of ED, ISBN-13: 978-1-59059-731-6) and *Foundation PHP for Dreamweaver 8* (friends of ED, ISBN-13: 978-1-59059-569-5). As a professional writer, he has been involved in electronic media for more than 30 years, first with BBC radio and television and more recently with the Internet. His clear writing style is valued not only in the English-speaking world; several of his books have been translated into Spanish and Polish.

What started as a mild interest in computing was transformed almost overnight into a passion, when David was posted to Japan in 1987 as BBC correspondent in Tokyo. With no corporate IT department just down the hallway, he was forced to learn how to fix everything himself. When not tinkering with the innards of his computer, he was reporting for BBC TV and radio on the rise and collapse of the Japanese bubble economy. Since leaving the BBC to work independently, he has built up an online bilingual database of economic and political analysis for Japanese clients of an international consultancy.

When not pounding the keyboard writing books or dreaming of new ways of using PHP and other programming languages, David enjoys nothing better than visiting his favorite sushi restaurant. He has also translated several plays from Japanese.

ABOUT THE TECHNICAL REVIEWER

Tom Muck is the coauthor of nine Macromedia-related books. Tom also writes extensions for Dreamweaver, available at his site www.tom-muck.com. Tom is also the lead PHP and ColdFusion programmer for Cartweaver, the online shopping cart software package, and a founding member of Community MX, who has written close to 100 articles on PHP, ColdFusion, SQL, and related topics.

Tom is an extensibility expert focused on the integration of Adobe/Macromedia products with ColdFusion, ASP, PHP, and other languages, applications, and technologies. Tom was recognized for this expertise in 2000 when he received Macromedia's Best UltraDev Extension Award. He has also written numerous articles for magazines, journals, and websites and speaks at conferences on this and related subjects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For an author, writing a book means long, lonely hours at the keyboard, but the volume you're holding in your hands—or reading onscreen if you've got the electronic version—is very much a collaborative effort. The idea of writing an expanded book on the dynamic features of Dreamweaver came from my editor, Chris Mills, who was gracious enough not to complain each time I changed my mind about the final shape of the book. My thanks go to him and all the production staff at Apress/friends of ED for keeping this mammoth project on target.

I'm also indebted to the development team at Adobe, who gave me a sneak preview of their plans for Dreamweaver CS3 very early in the development process and helped me understand how many of the new features work. At times, I'm sure they were exasperated by my persistent questions and the occasionally hectoring tone of my suggestions for improvements, but they never let it show.

A particular thank you goes to my technical reviewer, Tom Muck. I'm deeply honored that such a respected expert on Dreamweaver agreed to undertake this role. Tom's in-depth knowledge of Dreamweaver, PHP, and SQL saved me from some embarrassing mistakes (any that remain are my responsibility entirely). He also provided helpful advice when he thought my explanations were too oblique.

My biggest thanks of all go to you, the reader. Without you, none of this would be worthwhile. If you enjoy this book or find it useful, tell all your friends and get them to buy a copy. Don't lend it to them. You might never get it back!

INTRODUCTION

The Essential Guide to Dreamweaver CS3 with CSS, Ajax, and PHP . . . Wow, the title's almost as long as the book! And what's that "essential" doing in there? "Essential" suggests that it's a book you can't do without. So, who's it for and why should you be reading it?

Dreamweaver isn't a difficult program to use, but it's difficult to use *well*. It's packed with features, and more have been added with each new version. The user interface has barely changed in the last few versions, so it's easy to overlook some great productivity boosters if you don't know where to find them. I have been using Dreamweaver on a daily basis for about seven years, pushing it to the limit and finding out its good points—and its bad ones, too.

So, the idea of this book is to help you get the best out of Dreamweaver CS3, with particular emphasis on building dynamic web pages using the improved CSS management features, Spry—the Adobe implementation of Ajax—and the PHP server behaviors. But how can you get the best out of this book?

Who this book is for

If you're at home with the basics of (X)HTML and CSS, then this book is for you. If you have never built a website before and don't know the difference between an `<a>` tag and your Aunt Jemima, you'll probably find this book a bit of a struggle. You don't need to know every tag and attribute by heart, but I frequently dive into Code view and expect you to roll up your sleeves and get to grips with the code. It's not coding for coding's sake; the idea is to adapt the code generated by Dreamweaver to create websites that really work. I explain everything as I go along and steer clear of impenetrable jargon. As for CSS, you don't need to be a candidate for inclusion in the CSS Zen Garden (www.csszengarden.com), but you should understand the basic principles behind creating a style sheet.

What about Ajax and PHP? I don't assume any prior knowledge in these fields. Ajax comes in many different guises; the flavor used in this book is Spry, the Adobe Ajax framework (code library) that is integrated into Dreamweaver CS3. Although you do some hand-coding with Spry, most features are accessed through intuitive dialog boxes.

Dreamweaver also takes care of a lot of the PHP coding, but it can't do everything, so I show you how to customize the code it generates. Chapter 10 serves as a crash course in PHP, and Chapter 11 puts that knowledge to immediate use by showing you how to send an email from an online form—one of the things that Dreamweaver doesn't automate. This book doesn't attempt to teach you how to become a PHP programmer, but by the time you reach the final chapter, you should have sufficient confidence to look a script in the eye without flinching.

Do I need Dreamweaver CS3?

Most definitely, yes. Although the PHP features in Dreamweaver CS3 are identical to Dreamweaver 8.0.2, you'll miss out on roughly half the book, because the chapters devoted to CSS and Spry are based on CS3. In a pinch, you could download the free version of Spry from <http://labs.adobe.com/technologies/spry/> and hand-code everything in an earlier version of Dreamweaver, but the focus in this book is on using the CS3 interface for Spry. If you want to use PHP in an earlier version, I suggest you read my *Foundation PHP for Dreamweaver 8* (friends of ED, ISBN-13: 978-1-59059-569-5) instead.

How does this book differ from my previous ones?

I hate it when I buy a book written by an author whom I've enjoyed before and find myself reading familiar page after familiar page. This book is intended to replace *Foundation PHP for Dreamweaver 8*, so a lot of material is inherited from that book. There's also some overlap with *PHP Solutions: Dynamic Web Design Made Easy* (friends of ED, ISBN-13: 978-1-59059-731-6), but I estimate that at least 60 percent of the material was written exclusively for this book. Every chapter has been completely revised and rewritten, and the chapters on CSS and Spry are brand new.

Even where I have recycled material from the two previous books, I have revised and (I hope) improved the scripts. For example, the mail processing script has increased protection against email header injection attacks, and I have adapted it so that it can be reused more easily with different online forms. The script also inserts the form content into a database after sending the email.

I have added a section on using Dreamweaver templates in a PHP site. There's a new chapter on building search queries, and the chapter on multiple database tables tells you how to use foreign key constraints if your MySQL server supports InnoDB. The final chapter shows you how to generate XML on the fly from a database and enhance a PHP site by integrating some features of Spry data management.

How this book is organized

My previous books have taken a linear approach, but I have structured this one to make it easier for you to dip in and out, using the Table of Contents and Index to find subjects that interest you and going straight to them. So, if you want to learn how to create tabbed panels with Spry, you can go directly to Chapter 8. Although the example pages use a design that was created in an earlier chapter, you don't need to have worked through the other chapter first. Nevertheless, there is a progressive logic to the order of the chapters.

Chapters 1 and 2 serve as an overview of the whole book, explaining what's new and what has changed in Dreamweaver CS3. Chapter 2 also explains in detail how to use Spry effects. They are simple to apply and don't require knowledge of CSS or PHP. If you're new to Dreamweaver, these chapters help you find your way around essential aspects of the Dreamweaver interface.

Chapters 3 and 4 show you how to set up your work environment for PHP and Dreamweaver. If you already have a local testing environment for PHP, you can skip most of the material in these chapters. However, I urge you to follow the instructions at the end of Chapter 3 to check your PHP configuration. The section in Chapter 4 about defining your testing server in Dreamweaver is also essential reading. These two subjects are the most frequent causes of problems. A few minutes checking that you have set up everything correctly will save a lot of heartache later.

Chapters 5 and 6 cover in depth how Dreamweaver handles CSS. If you're relatively new to CSS, Chapter 5 shows you how *not* to use Dreamweaver to create style rules. For more advanced readers, it provides a useful overview of the various CSS management tools, including the ability to reorder the cascade and move rules to different style sheets without ever leaving Design view. Chapter 6 uses one of the 32 built-in CSS layouts to create an elegant site, and in the process, unravels the mysteries of the CSS Styles panel.

Chapters 7 and 8 return to Spry, exploring the Spry Menu Bar and the tabbed panels, accordion, and collapsible panel user interface widgets. Because these widgets make extensive use of CSS, you'll find these chapters easier to follow if you're up to speed on the previous two chapters. Of course, if you're already a CSS whiz kid, jump right in.

Chapter 9 sees the start of practical PHP coverage, showing you how to construct an online form. The second half of the chapter completes the roundup of Spry widgets, showing you how to use Spry to check user input before a form is submitted. This is client-side validation like you've never seen before. If you want to concentrate on PHP, you can skip the second half of the chapter and come back to it later.

As noted earlier, Chapter 10 is a crash course in PHP. I have put everything together in a single chapter so that it serves as a useful quick reference later. If you're new to PHP, just skim the first paragraph or so of each section to get a feel for the language and come back to it later to check on specific points.

Chapters 11 and 12 give you hands-on practice with PHP, building the script to process the form created in Chapter 9. Newcomers to PHP should take these chapters slowly. Although you don't need to become a top-level programmer to use PHP in Dreamweaver, an

understanding of the fundamentals is vital unless you're happy being limited to very basic dynamic pages. If you're in a hurry, you can use the finished mail-processing script from Chapter 12. It should work with most online forms, but you won't be able to customize it to your own needs if you don't understand how it works. Chapter 12 also looks at using Dreamweaver templates in a PHP site.

Chapter 13 gets you ready to bring out Dreamweaver's big guns by guiding you through the installation of the MySQL database and a graphic interface called phpMyAdmin. This chapter also covers database backup and transferring a database to another server.

Chapters 14 through 17 show you how to build database-driven web pages using PHP, MySQL, and Dreamweaver's PHP server behaviors. You'll also learn the basics of SQL (Structured Query Language), the language used to communicate with all major relational databases. To get the most out of this section, you need to have a good understanding of the material in the first half of Chapter 9. You'll learn how to create your own content management system, password protect sensitive parts of your site, and build search forms.

The final three chapters (18–20) introduce you to working with XML (Extensible Markup Language), the platform-neutral way of presenting information in a structured manner. XML is often used for news feeds, so Chapter 18 sets the ball rolling by showing you how to use Dreamweaver's XSL Transformation server behavior to draw news items from a remote site and incorporate them in a web page.

Chapter 19 explains how to generate a Spry data set from XML and use it to create an online photo gallery. The attraction of Spry is that it provides a seamless user experience by refreshing only those parts of a page that change, without reloading the whole page. The disadvantage is that, like most Ajax solutions, the underlying code leaves no content for search engines to index, or for the browser to display if JavaScript is disabled. So, Chapter 20 shows how to get the best of both worlds by creating the basic functionality with PHP and enhancing it with Spry. The final chapter also shows you how to generate your own XML documents from content stored in your database.

What this book isn't

I like to credit my readers with intelligence, so this book isn't "Dreamweaver CS3 for the Clueless" or "Dreamweaver CS3 for Complete Beginners." You don't need to be an expert, but you do need to have an inquiring mind. It doesn't teach the basics of web design, nor does it attempt to list every single feature in Dreamweaver CS3. There are plenty of other books to fill that gap. However, by working through this book, you'll gain an in-depth knowledge of the most important features of Dreamweaver.

A high proportion of the book is devoted to hands-on exercises. The purpose is to demonstrate a particular technique or feature of Dreamweaver in a meaningful way. Rather than racing through the steps to finish them as quickly as possible, read the explanations. If you understand why you're doing something, you're far more likely to remember it and be able to adapt it to your own needs.

Windows- and Mac-friendly

Everything in this book has been tested on Windows XP SP2, Windows Vista, and Mac OS X 10.4—the minimum required versions for Dreamweaver CS3. The overwhelming majority of screenshots were taken on Windows Vista, but I have included separate screenshots from Windows XP and Mac OS X where appropriate.

Chapters 3 and 13 have separate sections for Windows and Mac to guide you through the setup of PHP and MySQL, so Mac users aren't left trying to adapt instructions written for a completely different operating system.

Keyboard shortcuts are given in the order Windows/Mac, and I point out when a particular shortcut is exclusive to Windows (some Dreamweaver shortcuts conflict with Exposé and Spotlight in the Mac version). The only place where I haven't given the Mac equivalent is with regard to right-clicking. Since the advent of Mighty Mouse, right-clicking is now native to the Mac, but if you're an old-fashioned kind of guy or gal and still use a one-button mouse, Ctrl-click whenever I tell you to right-click (I'm sure you knew that anyway).

Some Mac keyboard shortcuts use the Option (Opt) key. If you're new to a Mac and can't find an Opt key on your keyboard, in some countries it's labeled Alt. The Command (Cmd) key has an apple and/or a cloverleaf symbol.

A note about versions used

Computer software is constantly evolving, and—much though I would like it to do so—it doesn't stand still simply because I have written a 700-odd page book. A book represents a snapshot in time, and time never stands still.

Everything related to Dreamweaver in this book is based on build 3481 of Dreamweaver CS3. This is the version that was released in April 2007. The build number is displayed on the splash screen when you launch Dreamweaver. You can also check the build number by going to Help ► About Dreamweaver (Dreamweaver ► About Dreamweaver on a Mac) and clicking the credits screen. This build of Dreamweaver shipped with Spry version 1.4. About one month later, Adobe released Spry version 1.5.

At the time this book was ready to go to the printers, the information I had received indicated that, because Spry is still evolving, Dreamweaver won't automatically be updated for each new release of Spry. Any changes that affect this book will be posted on my website at <http://foundationphp.com/egdwcs3/updates.php>.

You should also check my website for any updates concerning PHP, MySQL, and phpMyAdmin. The instructions in this book are based on the following versions:

- PHP 5.2.1
- MySQL 5.0.37
- phpMyAdmin 2.10.1

Using the download files

All the necessary files for in this book can be downloaded from www.friendsofed.com/downloads.html. The files are arranged in five top-level folders, as follows:

- **examples:** This contains the `.html` and `.php` files for all the examples and exercises, arranged by chapter. Use the File Compare feature in Dreamweaver (see Chapter 2) to check your own code against these files. Some exercises provide partially completed files for you to work with. Where indicated, copy the necessary files from this folder to the `workfiles` folder so you always have a backup if things go wrong.
- **images:** This contains all the images used in the exercises and online gallery.
- **SpryAssets:** This contains the finished versions of Spry-related style sheets. With one exception, it does *not* contain the external JavaScript files needed to display Spry effects, widgets, or data sets. Dreamweaver should copy the JavaScript files and unedited style sheets to this folder automatically when you do the exercises as described in this book.
- **tools:** This contains a Dreamweaver extension that loads a suite of useful PHP code fragments into the Snippets panel, as well as a saved query for the Find and Replace panel, and SQL files to load data for the exercises into your database.
- **workfiles:** This is an empty folder, where you should build the pages used in the exercises.

Copy these folders to the top level of the site that you create for working with this book (see Chapter 4).

Support for this book

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, but mistakes do slip through. If you find what you think is an error—and it's not listed on the book's corrections page at www.friendsofed.com—please submit an error report to www.friendsofed.com/errataSubmission.html. When ED has finished with the thumbscrews and got me to admit I'm wrong, we'll post the details for everyone's benefit on the friends of ED site. I also plan to post details on my own website at <http://foundationphp.com/egdwcs3/updates.php> of changes to Dreamweaver or other software that affect instructions in the book.

I want you to get the best out of this book and will try to help you if you run into difficulty. Before calling for assistance, though, start with a little self-help. Throughout the book, I have added “Troubleshooting” sections based heavily on frequently asked questions, together with my own experience of things that are likely to go wrong. Make use of the File Compare feature in Dreamweaver to check your code against the download files. If you're using a software firewall, try turning it off temporarily to see whether the problem goes away.

INTRODUCTION

If none of these approaches solves your problem, scan the chapter subheadings in the Table of Contents, and try looking up a few related expressions in the Index. Also try a quick search on the Internet: Google and the other large search engines are your friends. My apologies if all this sounds obvious, but an amazing number of people spend more time waiting for an answer in an online forum than it would take to go through these simple steps.

If you're still stuck, visit www.friendsofed.com/forums/. Use the following guidelines to help others help you:

- Always check the book's updates and corrections pages. The answer may already be there.
- Search the forum to see if your question has already been answered.
- Give your message a meaningful subject line. It's likely to get a swifter response and may help others with a similar problem.
- Say which book you're using, and give a page reference to the point that's giving you difficulty.
- Give precise details of the problem. "It doesn't work" gives no clue as to the cause. "When I do so and so, x happens" is a lot more informative.
- If you get an error message, say what it contains.
- Be brief and to the point. Don't ask half a dozen questions at once.
- It's often helpful to know your operating system, and if it's a question about PHP, which version of PHP and which web server you're using.
- Don't post the same question simultaneously in several different forums. If you find the answer elsewhere, have the courtesy to close the forum thread and post a link to the answer.

The help I give in the friends of ED and Adobe forums is not limited to problems arising from my books, but please be realistic in your expectations when asking for help in a free online forum. Although the Internet never sleeps, the volunteers who answer questions certainly do. They're also busy people, who might not always be available. Don't post hundreds of lines of code and expect someone else to scour it for mistakes. And if you do get the help that you need, keep the community spirit alive by answering questions that you know the answer to.