



# MS Expression Web vs Adobe Dreamweaver

## Interface differences and CSS variables

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Each program has its advantages and disadvantages. If you're upgrading from FrontPage, and prefer MS products, Expression Web is the easiest to learn, but DreamWeaver is a favorite in the professional web design community (!)



# Interface layouts

- “It’s all about what you’re used to.”
- DW has the tools on top, pallets on the right, although that can be customized
- EW has pallets both left and right with the main page view in the center
- Viewing local and remote folders:  
DW: local on right – EW: local on left



## Preparing a FP site for EW

- Good idea to remove themes and shared borders. They “may” still work but could become unreliable, and cannot be added to new pages.
- “Bots” can be rebuilt, but one cannot insert new web components.
- Remove font tags, CSS will be used to style text in EW

# DreamWeaver

The screenshot shows the Adobe Dreamweaver CS3 interface. The main workspace displays a web page for the Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS). The page features a navigation menu on the left, a main content area with a date announcement for Monday, February 2, 2009, and a sidebar with a newsletter sign-up form. The interface includes a menu bar at the top, a tool bar below it, and several panels on the right: CSS Styles, Files, and Properties. Handwritten text labels are overlaid on the image: 'Tool Bar' in red, 'CSS' in purple, and 'Properties' in green.

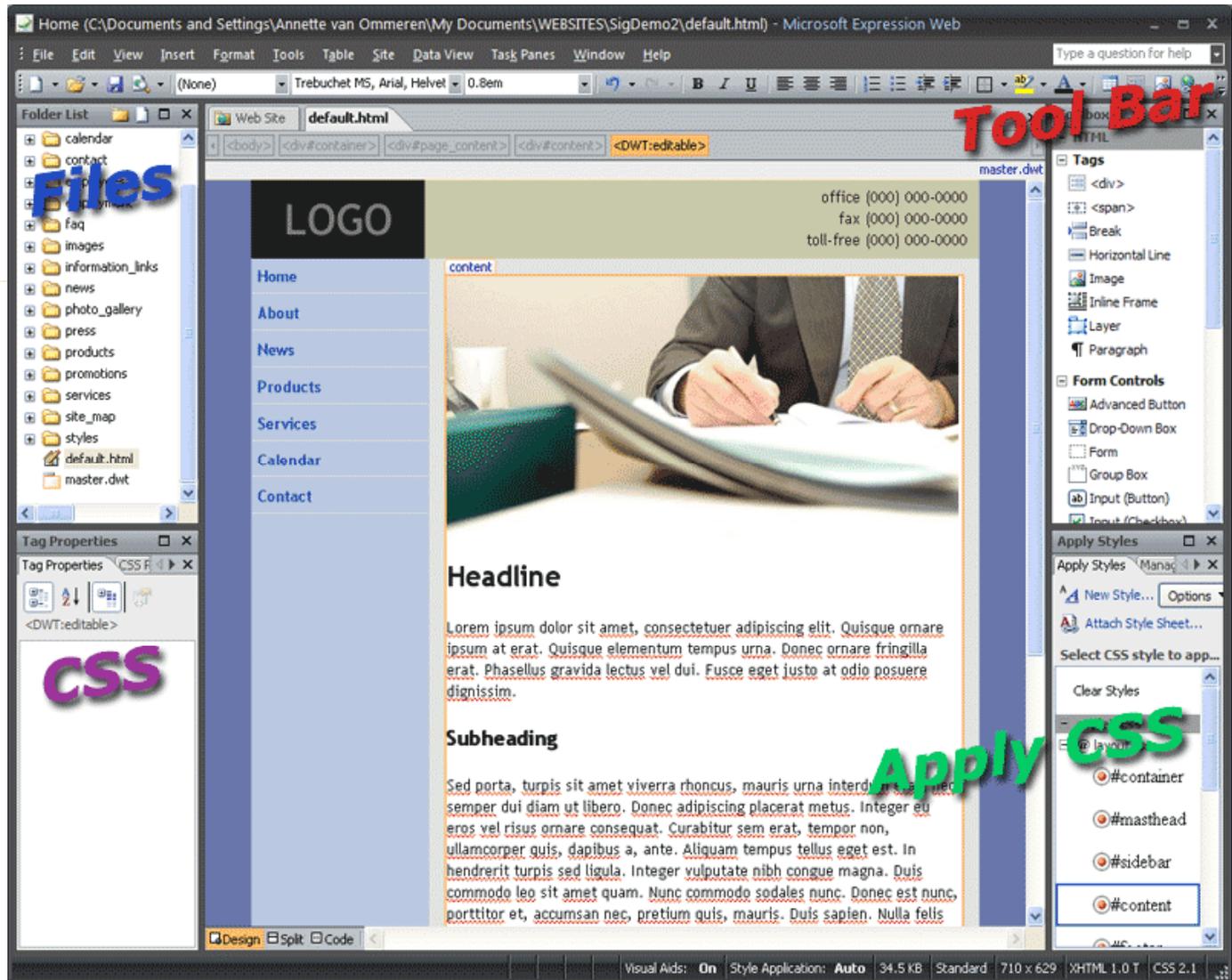
**Tool Bar**

**CSS**

**Files**

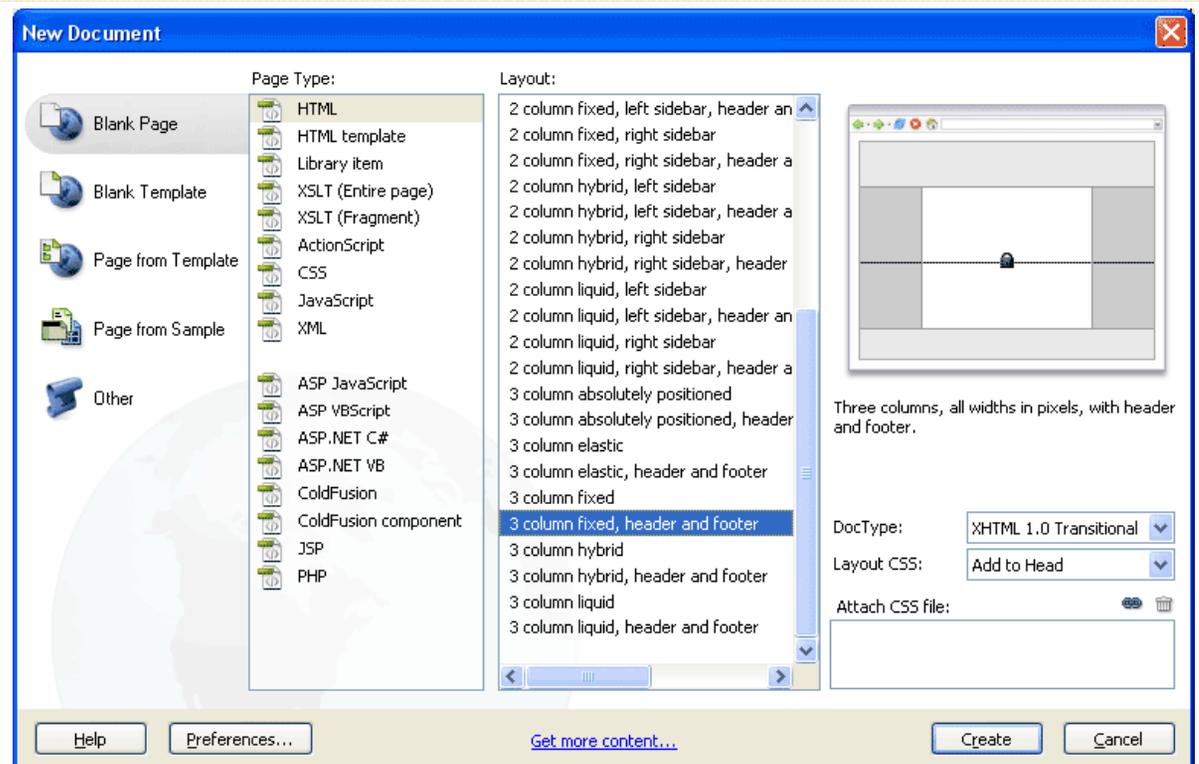
**Properties**

# Expression Web

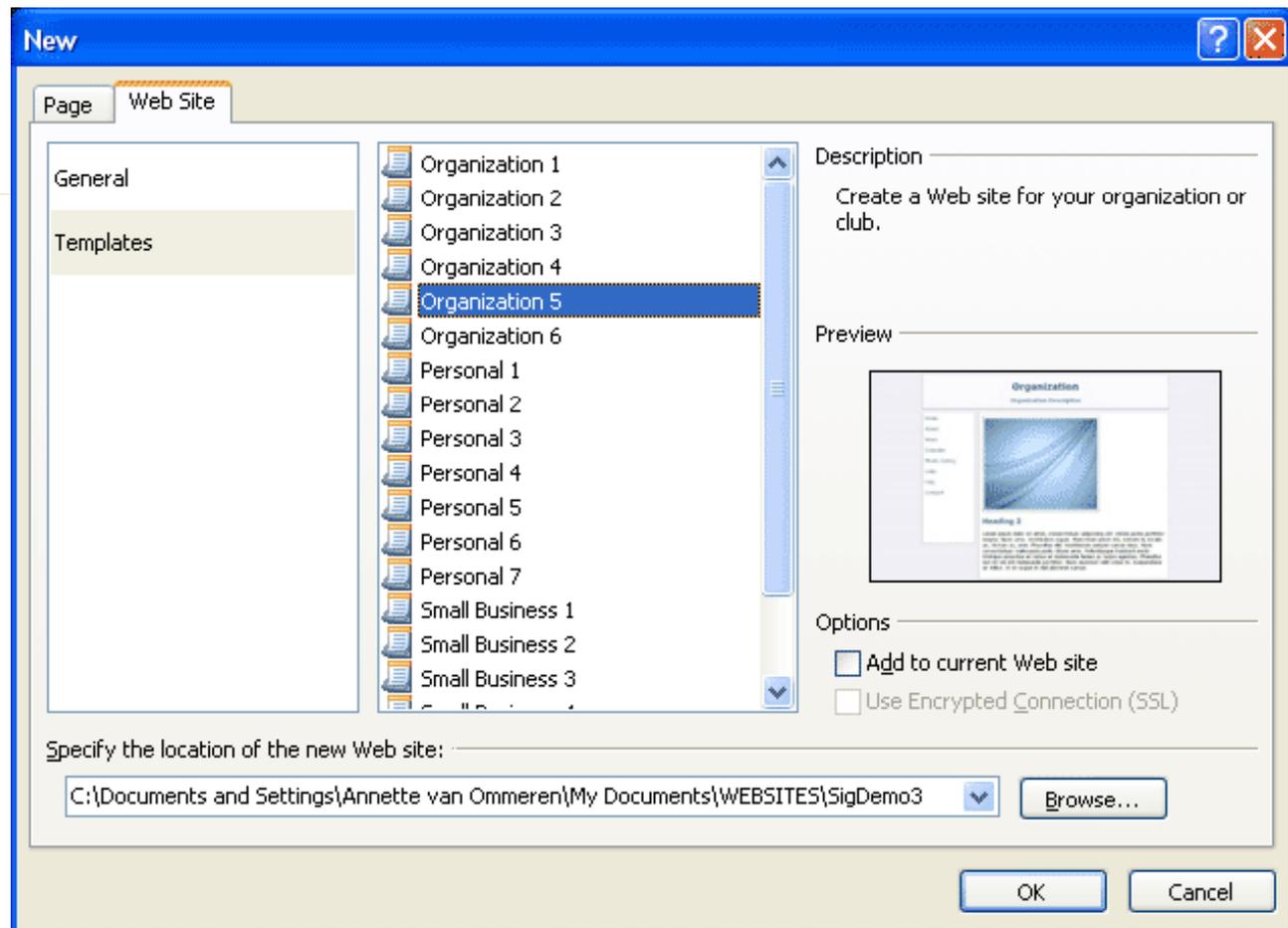


# Starter layouts DW

- Both programs offer CSS layouts – a good customizable starting point, and both offer “sample” sites which include graphics.



# Starter Layout EW





# Templates

- Both programs support the use of Templates (.dwt files) to manage pages.
- Build and save-as a template and apply to all pages in the site
- Locked areas remain the same on every page and editable areas contain page-specific data.
- Templates help maintain visual consistency
- A DW template will NOT work in EW and vice versa!



..... DW ..... EW .....

- When a file is “saved as” a template, DW creates a “Template” folder and places the .dwt file within.
- Any files based on that template will have “un-editable” areas updated when the template is changed
- When a “Dynamic Web Template” is saved as a template EW places the .dwt file in the ROOT of the site
- Some differences in updating when file is changed...  
*experimentation needed..*



# CSS

- Both DW and EW will write CSS rules by default when formatting is set.
- *This preference can be changed back to HTML in DW preferences. (Useful for laying out code for email newsletters as they should not use CSS.? )*



## Starting CSS layout in EW

- Drag a `<div>` tag onto the page
- Click “New Style..” name, and set appropriate specs
- Select the div, and click the style in the “Apply Styles” tab
- To edit the style, choose “Modify style” in the dropdown next to the style



# Formatting lists with CSS

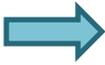
- Start with an unordered list
- New style for `<ul>`
- Choose list style type (circle etc)
- Under box set properties for margins
- New style for `<li>`
- Set specs for that – spacing etc



## Publishing to the web in EW

- Make sure Site Settings are checked to “Manage .. Using hidden metadata files..”
- With nothing open, click “Remote Web Site at bottom of interface – then click Remote Web Site Properties on top of window.
- Set FTP location / directory root (or set a local folder for testing)

# Publishing

- EW shows local on left, remote on right
- New files or changed files on local side will show an arrow indicating they need to upload.
- Select file and click  to send it to remote folder
- Open any folders that may have changed files also. (folders don't show arrows)



## ASP.NET in DW

- DW will do some ASP.NET but does not offer as many options
- DW has many tools to work with ColdFusion and PHP
- *(ColdFusion for local testing use is available for download at Adobe for free.)*

# ASP.NET in EW

- EW excels at ASP.NET pages.
- New page: – choose .aspx and language
- ASP.NET controls in the toolbox become available
- Using Master Pages instead of templates
- EW has its own ASP.NET server for testing
- *ASP.NET “Master Pages” to be the subject of an upcoming meeting!*



# Links

- <http://www.learnexpression.com/>
- <http://expression.microsoft.com/en-us/cc197140.aspx>
- [http://www.g2w.net/expression\\_vs\\_dreamweaver.asp](http://www.g2w.net/expression_vs_dreamweaver.asp)
- <http://www.peachpit.com/articles/article.aspx?p=602975>
- <http://www.lucain.com/index.php/2008/04/17/ms-expression-web-vs-adobe-dreamweaver/>