



Web Design II

Adding Content

Pictures

Buttons, banners, backgrounds

More with Tables

Adding Content

The content is the stuff on your page. You can be as simple as plain text, a background color and an un-edited picture to many customized graphics like buttons, banners, backgrounds and photos.

PC Image Editor

I found a good (and free) program at www.download.com for creating and editing graphics for our web site called PC Image Editor. You can open any graphics on your computer and resize/edit them OR create brand new graphics on your own. The program has four main parts: a Word menu along the top, a top button toolbar, a side button toolbar and a workspace. We'll go through editing pictures and creating buttons, backgrounds and banners.



Editing Pictures

Click Open button, find and select picture

Click the box button on the left if you want to crop the picture down at all.

Click Image > Image Resize

(large: 600 L, medium: 400 L, small: 200 L)

You can use the buttons on the toolbars to draw on or erase from your picture

Use tools in Adjust and Filter menus to change look of picture

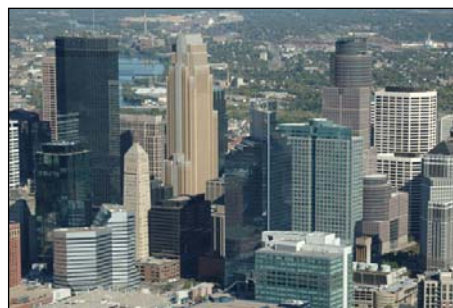
Remember you can use Edit > Undo in case you don't like the change you made.

Click File > Save As > NAME.jpg

You will be asked to change the quality of the picture, which will reduce the file size for web use.

Below are two pictures of Minneapolis. One is the original 800 x 600 picture just resized down to fit the space. It weighs in at 206k. The other is at 34% quality and resized to fit the space. It weighs in at just 70k. For web pages, you can get by with far less "quality" and it will look just as nice.

Tip: You can keep editing and just save as "NAME2" etc. to make several variations without over-writing the original.



Creating Graphics

Buttons

Simple buttons are easy to make. Click the New image button. Specify the size (150 x 30 is a good size; adjust to your liking) and click Canvas Color to specify a background color. Click OK and a blank appears.

Click File > Save As > type "button_blank.jpg" > Enter key.

You want to save a blank to use as your template for the future.

Click the Font button ("A"), select your Font, Style and Size.

Click on your blank button and type the button label

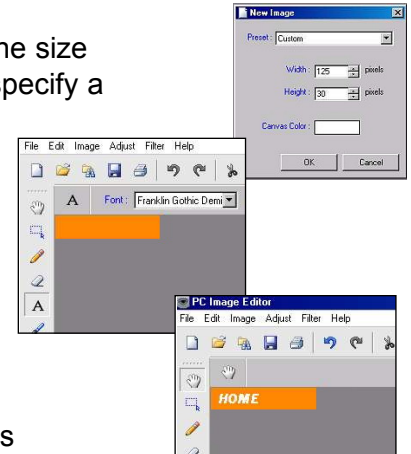
Click and sweep across your text to change it's color and attributes.

Click the "hand" button when finished

Click File > Save As > type "button_NAME.jpg"

Click Fiile > Edit > Undo and repeat text label steps to create more buttons

If Undo does not work, you can click Open and choose your "button_blank.jpg" file.



Backgrounds

Aside from just choosing a color to use on the whole background, you can make a "side bar" background (left hand strip down the page) OR a full-screen faded picture background.

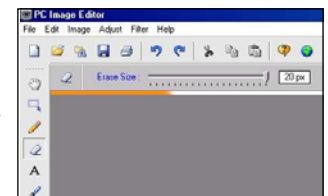
Click the New button; specify the size (side-strip: 1200 x 5)

Click the left color square on the side bar; choose a color

Click the paint brush button, click-hold to color the space L to R, release to stop.

For a "fade" look, click the spray can button and spray the end of the color

Click File > Save As > type "background_NAME.jpg"



For a full size background, open/find the picture you want to use.

Click Adjust > Brightness/Contrast

Set the Brightness up around 85 to 100 and the contrast to about -25 to -55.

You WANT it light or faded enough so text, etc. will be readable over the top.

When finished, click File > Save As > type "background_NAME.jpg"

Change the JPG quality to between 35 - 55 to reduce file size.



To add your background to your web page, click Format > Background in FPE window. Click the Background Image box, click Browse, click Browse again, click the background you want to use and click OK. It should put the background... in the background!

Banners

Click the New button, choose size: 800 x 150 for a header, 600 x 100 for inside banner or specify based on size of table cell you plan to put banner in. (or choose what looks good to you)

Click the Canvas Color if you want to specify it now.

Add text by using the Text button on the side tool bar (see instructions in buttons section)

Import/paste graphics by clicking Open, choosing graphic, resizing to fit banner space, click Edit > Copy and then Edit > Paste into your banner.

Use the various tools in the side, top, Adjust and Filter menus to customize your banner.

When finished, click File > Save As > "banner_NAME.jpg"

Keep customizing and save as "banner_NAME2, 3, etc" so you can compare.



More with Tables

We've made a basic table and saw how to split and merge cells. We've also seen what the border, padding and cell spacing does to our table. Now we'll fine tune our use of tables a bit by really turning our table into template for our whole site. We'll show how to incorporate buttons we made and how to use tables as spacers.

Simple Newspaper Format

Start with Rows

In each Row, split into columns where needed

Split columns into more columns or rows

Top/Side Nav button layout

Start with one table

Put a line of rows or columns inside so you have a cell lined up where you want buttons

Put a line of rows or columns in that cell for however many buttons you want

Set cell spacing, padding and border to 0 so buttons appear to mesh together

Event Calendar

In a long open cell in the body of your page, put a table that's 4 columns by 2+ rows

In top row, fill in DATE, EVENT, TIME and PLACE

Change color/style of cells and text to differentiate it, if desired

Set spacing/padding to a few to keep cells apart

Going down, start filling in events

To add rows, just go to last row and starting hitting "Tab" key

Contact Forms

While we won't be making the "fill in the blank" kind of forms with FPE, we can use tables to ensure that contact info and other forms are spaced consistently.

In a long open cell, put in a table that's 2 columns by 2+ rows

In the left hand column, start filling in the information labels (name, address, phone, etc)

In the right hand column, use the "Underscore" to make long, lines _____

Play with spacing, padding and border to get a look you like

You might even want to insert a row between every row just for extra space

Other Tips/Tricks

Since you cannot just add "spaces" to HTML, you need actual characters or HTML codes. To create space in a column, try using common letters/punctuation colored the same as the background.

You can justify rows or columns that have different sized content by going to the cell properties and trying different alignments.