Free downloadable article from the Web Design Basics Newsletter

Web Designer Tools

All webmasters and web designers need tools. This is short our list of must-have programs that help us work faster and smarter. We are not affiliated with these companies and get no compensation for linking to them ... just the satisfaction of helping to promote those who have been a help to us over the years.

Website Authoring Programs

Adobe.com

- **Photoshop** — the industry-standard image creation and editing program.
- **ImageReady** — comes bundled with Photoshop; you can optimize and cut up images (it'll generate your tables for you), mak animations and rollover effects.
- **Acrobat** — the program for making Adobe Acrobat files.
- **Photoshop Elements** — a less expensive image creation/editing program.

Macromedia.com

- **Dreamweaver** — the most popular WYSIWYG *and* HTML web page editor; helps make smarter work of web design, and its automated site maintenance features make tedious chores fast.
- **Allaire HomeSite** — for the HTML hand-coders among us. But Macromedia has now apparently built HomeSite-like features into Dreamweaver MX, for the best of both worlds.
- **Flash** — state-of-the-art mini-movies.

Bradbury Topstyle

From the creator of HomeSite, Topstyle is now a cascading style sheet generator *and* HTML editor in one. If you're just getting into CSS — or wondering which styles you're *not* using — this is a great help. We haven't tried this latest version, but it looks terrific — and integrates with many popular website authoring tools.

Note Tab Pro

A truly great text editor for scripting and editing HTML. No nonsense, no crashing, and more useful features than many will probably ever use.

Screen Ruler

"Should we move it two pixels to the left?" If you've ever wished you could precisely measure elements on your screen, Micro Fox Software's Screen Ruler allows you to do exactly that ... horizontally, vertically, in pixels, in inches.

VisiBone Color Lab

One of the best color-related websites. Test your color schemes here.

Browsers

Test your websites in a variety of browsers — no need for nasty surprises! (We assume you've already got Internet Explorer.)

- Netscape Browser Archive
- Opera Browser
- WebTV Viewer

Server Tools

Ipswitch WS_FTP Pro

For uploading web pages to your web hosting account. It's easier to control *what* gets uploaded if you don't use your HTML editor's internal uploader (and you don't care to discover your in-progress pages on the Web!). Latest version(s) allow secure connections.

PuTTY: A Free Win32 Telnet/SSH Client

This freeware program is for managing web servers. We don't mind paying for good software, but this free Telnet program allows encrypted communications with your server. It *also* allows cut and paste (here's a hint: right-click).

Computer Stuff

Belarc Advisor

This truly *great* free program will generate an HTML list of what's on your computer. Fantastic stuff, and *most* useful if you need a record of what *used to be* on your computer(!).

Mail Washer (.net)

This shareware program (you pay if you like it) allows you to check for, read and delete email *while it's still on the server* — that is, before you download it. Has customizable options to check for spam, viruses, friends' email addresses, etc. You can check multiple email accounts at once, and see and read all your email in one window. You'll be surprised how many viruses you catch before you download them ... including the infamous virus-laden "your email has bounced" and "virus alert" messages.

That's our list! We hope it's of service to you.

Please visit us on the Web for more free articles — and our web design tutorials.

DianeV.

web design articles
Web Design Basics
Click here for
your free subscription