

Website Development: Week 3

Multimedia Studies Certificate Program
Kansas City Art Institute
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HTML Overview

Principles of HTML markup syntax
How pages are built
HTML 4.0 with limited CSS vs xHTML/CSS

We will walk through

Creating simple HTML pages
Linking pages together
Incorporating tables into a page design

Exercise

Create HTML version of pre-defined layout including graphics generated from Photoshop in previous session.
We will also refresh our memory on site configuration and graphics optimization.

Homework Assignment

- Create a rough draft wireframe of your design based on pages created during class. Emphasis should be placed on getting pages and navigation in place first, adding content and refining the visual design second.
- Read Chapter 7: Tables (pages 196 - 255) from Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004 - Hands-On Training book

HTML Table Design Best Practices

Table structure options

You can create tables with varying levels of complexity:

Basic table with 4 rows and 4 columns

Basic table with top row cells merged

Two tables stacked - top with one row, one col and bottom with one row, two cols

1
2
3
4

Nested tables - maximum of four deep

Things to Remember

The pixel dimensions of all rows, columns, borders, cell spacing and cell padding must equal the total table size.

Tables can be pixel based or percentage based. Pixels will fix the width while percentages will make the table stretchy.

Varying table structures will allow you to line up sliced graphics in flexible ways that might be impossible with basic tables.

You should always align contents of a table cell by setting align properties of table data tag - example:

```
<td align="left" valign="top">
```

You can nest multiple tables side by side in the same "parent" table cell

Limit nesting tables to four deep - browsers have difficulty rendering overly complex nested tables (especially Netscape 4.x)

Tables align perfectly vertically when stacked. You cannot expect good horizontal alignment this way.

Remember to try stretching your browser window really wide and squishing it really small to see how your design holds up to varying screen sizes.

Always define dimensions to table cells. The more you tell the browser about your layout, the better results you will have.

Defining width is more critical than height for table cells.