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Teaching how to create a home page on the World Wide Web

Alberto M. Bento

University of Baltimore, abento@ubmail.ubalt.edu

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Alberto M. Bento
Merrick School of Business
University of Baltimore

1420 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
voicemail: (410) 8375272
email: abento@ubmail.ubalt.edu
http://ubmail.ubalt.edu/~abento/home.html

Introduction

There is a variety of sources for learning HTML and the World Wide Web (Web) on-line, and in printed format, as shown in the references of this paper. But, there is none, to my knowledge, on teaching . The objective of this brief is to allow instructors to teach students, in an one and a halfhour class meeting, how to create their own Web home page.

Prerequisites to the class

There are three prerequisites to teach effectively this class:

students should have

- an Internet account: a regular account readily available at most Universities.
- familiarity with email: use of e-mail is a first step in understanding the Internet.
- a previous survey class on the Internet: what is, its tools, telnet and FTP.

technical site (if students will develop a home page)

- an Web browser available for student use: Lynx, Mosaic, Netscape, etc.
- an Web server at the site (School or University): without it the Web can be seen, but no page can be created and displayed.
- setup allowing a directory in students' accounts to be recognized by the Web server: files included in this directory are displayed on the Web, tipically using the convention:
  machine.university.edu/~account/page.html.

technical classroom (necessary to show the presentation)

- a PC or workstation with an Web browser, connected to a LCD (liquid crystal display) adapter, and

- a TCP/IP connection for online demonstration (not many Universities have it yet), or
- a phone jack, a modem of 14,400 bps or better, and an account with a provider of SLIP/PPP connection, or
- a PC or workstation with a Web browser and class materials loaded locally for offline demonstration.

Class materials

class content

- what is HTML? Not a programming language, but tags, marks, on ASCII files
- what am I supposed to do? (overview of page development)
- how do I start? (building, copying a basic page architecture)
    - a page model (HTML, HEADER, TITLE, BODY tags, page authoring, disclaimer)
    - a student home page template
- what should I do next?
    - a simple HTML editor: HTML Assistant
    - wordprocessors HTML interface: Word Internet Assistant, WordPerfect Internet Editor
    - a simple and powerful image editor: Lview (creates interlaced and transparent GIFs)
- what tags should I know? (the essential elements)
    - Headers: organizing text hierarchy
    - Paragraphs: breaks streams ox text on logical paragraphs
    - Emphasis: highlight text
    - Links: connections to other pages
    - Images: include graphics in HTML
    - Lists: create bulleted and numbered lists of items
    - Others: mailto, line, change line, preformatted, etc.
- special topics (suplementary)
    - special pages: index and sites
    - adding sound: Sox and Wham
    - graphical editors: Lview, Photoshop, etc
    - imagemaps: click and go graphics
    - forms: basic use and CGIs
    - other filters and viewers for the browsers

Instructor resources

- how to load software locally to teach the class offline
    - copy of class presentation materials included in diskette distributed at the Conference
    - copy of basic editing software included in diskette distributed at the Conference

- o copy of Winsock and Mozock include in diskette distributed at the Conference
  - o remote copy of diskette through the Web and anonymous FTP
    ftp://ftp.ubalt.edu/user/abento/disktais.exe
    (this is a selft extracting file with all class materials and simulated links to teach the class off-line -- same as conference diskette, but the software)
- Web addresses for teaching class online:
  - o class materials:
    http://ubmail.ubalt.edu/~abento/html/essential.html
  - o HTML Assistant tutorial allowing download:
    http://ubmail.ubalt.edu/~abento/htmlasst/htmlasst.html
  - o tutorial on Lview allowing download:
    http://ubmail.ubalt.edu/~abento/cservgra/graphics.html
  - o Word Internet Assistant:
    http: //www.microsoft.com/pages/deskapps/word/ia/default.htm
  - o WordPerfect Internet Editor:
    http://wp.novell.com/elecpub/intpub.htm
  - o Trumpet Winsock:
    http://ftp.utas.edu.au/ftp/pc/trumpet/winsock/winsock.html
  - o Mozock:
    ftp://ftp.netscape.com/unsupported/windows/mozock.dll
- Web address for software required for both on-line and off-line presentation , not included in diskette:
  - o Netscape (many versions):
    http://home.netscape.com/comprod/mirror/index.html
- additional references suitable for beginners
  - o HTML tutorial:
    http://wwwpcd.stanford.edu:80/mogens/intro/tutorial.html
  - o Classic summary:
    http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General/Internet/WWW/HTMLPrimer.html
  - o other tutorials by the author (over 10 at this time and growing):
    http://ubmail.ubalt.edu/~abento/index.html

Demonstration -- a laptop running Windows, including:

- a browser: Netscape 1.1 or above
- the class materials: Essential HTML
- simulated links to other pages and materials
- a simple HTML editor: HTML Assistant
- a simple image editor: Lview

Experiences in teaching the class

undergraduate MIS core course

- Internet overview class at :
  http://ubmail.ubalt.edu/~abento/797/overview/netview.html
- a lab session was needed to get them started
- another lab session was needed to help them take their pictures and include in their pages
- most finished the text of the home page in one week after the class and first lab.
- very few changed the code in the template, just tailoring it to their personal data

graduate Internet and Business class (see author index page for class materials)

- teaching similar to undergraduates of individual home page materials
- most finished the page (text and picture) in less than a week
- many changed the codes in the template, included links, etc
- as the course progressed, they went back and included bells and whistles: background, images, favorite sites, sounds, etc, although this was not required
- served as a baby project for their final project of creating business home pages (teamwork).

References

Selective printed references

Lemay, Laura., <u>Web Publishing with HTML,</u> Indianopolis, Indiana: SAMS Publishing, 1995.

Krol, Ed, <u>The Whole Internet</u>, Sebastopol, California: O'Reilly and Associates, 1995.

Selective references on the Web (additional)

Internet Roadmap:
http://www.brandonu.ca/~ennsnr/Resources/Roadmap/Welcome.html

World Wide Web FAQ:
http://sunsite.unc.edu/boutell/faq/www_faq.html

ISWorld Design Center:
http://www.cis.temple.edu/isworld/design.html

Appendix:
HTML for a student home page template

<HTML>

<HEAD><TITLE>yourname home page.</TITLE></HEAD>

<BODY>

<center><IMG ALIGN=CENTER SRC=yourpict.gif></center>

<center><H3>Your name

street address

City and zip
phone:(410)9999999

email: yourid@ubmail.ubalt.edu </H3></center><HR>

<H2>Biographical Information</H2>

Jacel Doe is a business administration graduating senior,<A
HREF=http://www.ubalt.edu/www/msb/msb.html> Merrick School of Business</A>, <A
HREF=http://www.ubalt.edu/>University of Baltimore</A>, majoring in information
systems. S/he is a native Baltimorean and has travelled frequently to the Bahamas in the
Winter.

<P>

<H2>Educational background</H2> Jacel has attended the following schools:

<UL>

<LI>Kitcat Elementary, Salem, MA 19701975

<LI>Wildwest Middle, Frontier, CA 19761980

<LI>Always High, Dope, MD 19811983

<LI>Merrick School, Baltimore, MD 1983 on

</UL>

<P>This has prepared her/him to work as systems engineer, programmer and enduser
systems support.

<H2>Work experience</H2> Jacel has worked at:

<UL>

<LI>Dancing Monkeys, Inc., <STRONG>Stage manager</STRONG>, from 03/94 to
09/94.

<LI>Lovely Corral, <STRONG>Equinus Analyst</STRONG>, from 09/94 to date.

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<H2>Hobbies and interests</H2>Jacel is famous for his/her partygoing interests, in addition to swimming, baking in the sun, and weekend wakeup late activities.

<P>References available on request, but please do not ask ...

<HR>

<P>This page is maintained by Jacel Doe who can be reached at <A

HREF="mailto:yourid@UBmail.ubalt.edu" >yourid@UBmail.ubalt.edu</A>

This page was last updated on March17,1995. Although I will attempt to keep this information accurate, I can not guarantee the accuracy of the information provided.</P>

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