

GoLive

Windows/Mac: I want to place the same graphics and links at the top of each page in my site, but since they will frequently be updated, I don't want to have to change them on every page. And I'd rather not use frames, since they can prevent search engines from finding information. Is there another way?

You bet. You can store common design elements in what's called a *component*, which is an HTML file that's loaded into your site as a separate piece. When you want to change your common graphics and links, you make the change once in the component file, and the changes will show up wherever you've placed the component object. Here's how to set it up.

The four astrological signs, saved in a separate HTML file, can be easily added to any page by dragging and dropping the component from the palette.



1. In GoLive, choose New from the File menu to create a new page and add the graphics and text that you want to use throughout the site.
2. Click the small page icon in the upper-left corner of the page (just under the Layout tab icon) to open the Page Inspector. In the Page Inspector, select the HTML tab and click the Component button (which becomes grayed out). This changes the settings in the tab to those appropriate for a component.
3. Save the file into the Components folder in your site's data folder. The data folder is created when you create your site; its name is the same as that of the folder that contains your home page, with *.data* added to the end.
4. Click the Site Extras tab in the Palette and choose Components from the pop-up menu at the bottom of the Palette. The tab displays all of the components that you've saved in the Components folder of your site data folder. Just drag a component from the Palette to the appropriate spots on your pages to add the common elements. When you change the component file, GoLive notifies you that it will update the pages that contain the component.

Windows/Mac: The home page of my Web site contains dynamic HTML (JavaScript animation and cascading style sheets), but I know that some older browsers can't read

these features, so I created a static version of my home page for viewers who haven't upgraded. What's the best way to direct users to the appropriate page?

You could create an initial page that lets viewers choose the home page by clicking on an appropriate link, but it's probably a better idea to direct them automatically. There's some nifty code in HTML that lets your Web site figure out what browser version the viewer is using and then steer the browser to either the static or the dynamic page.

To do this, you set up three "home" pages: the one containing the animation, the static version for older browsers, and an "usher" page, which does the directing. The usher page actually uses the true home-page URL of your site (since you obviously want viewers to go there first), but the page itself contains no content at all—its function is simply to direct visitors. In Web terminology, this sort of action—sending a visitor somewhere else—is known as a "redirect." Visitors to your site probably won't know they were redirected, unless they examine the URL.

In Adobe GoLive, you can create this usher page by adding two objects to it: a *browser switch headitem* and a *meta refresh head*. The browser switch headitem reads the version of the browser that's loading your home page and redirects specified versions to the appropriate page. You'll use this object to direct versions 4.0 and 5.0 of Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer to the version of your home page that uses the dynamic HTML. The meta refresh head handles all of the other versions (3.0 and earlier), sending them to your static home page. Here's how to make all of this work.

1. In GoLive, create the usher page: add only a background color or a simple logo, and give the page the URL that you're advertising as the home page of your site.
2. Add the browser switch headitem: With the Layout tab selected in the page window, click the small arrow in the upper-left corner to open the head area of your page. Choose Palette from the View (Windows) or Window (Mac) menu to open the Palette, click the CyberObjects tab, and drag the Browser Switch Headitem object from the Palette to the head area of your page.
3. With the Browser Switch Headitem selected, choose Inspector from the View or Window menu (if it's not already open). The Inspector's title changes to Browser Switch Inspector, and it now displays controls for the switch. Uncheck the Auto option, make sure that All is selected in the Supported Platform pop-up menu, and then uncheck the four boxes for versions 4.0 and 5.0 of both Netscape and Explorer (unchecked browsers will be directed to the page you specify in the next step).
4. Add the URL of your dynamic home page to the Alternate Link text box by typing it, clicking the Browse button, or using the Point And Shoot button.
5. Add the meta refresh head: in the Palette, click the Head tab and drag the Refresh object from the Palette to the head area of your page.
6. In the Inspector (whose title is now Refresh Inspector), type "1 second" for the delay, select the URL option for the target, and then add the URL of your static home page to the text box. Now your usher page is all set to automatically direct visitors to the right place. ♦