<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>comparison</th>
<th>Dreamweaver® MX</th>
<th>Macromedia Flash™ MX</th>
<th>ColdFusion® MX</th>
<th>Authorware®</th>
<th>Director® Shockwave® Studio</th>
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<tr>
<td>overview</td>
<td>Dreamweaver MX is the professional choice for building websites and Rich Internet Applications.</td>
<td>Macromedia Flash MX is the solution for developing rich Internet content and applications.</td>
<td>Macromedia ColdFusion MX is the rapid server scripting environment for creating Rich Internet Applications.</td>
<td>Authorware is the industry-leading program for creating interactive, rich media e-learning applications.</td>
<td>Director is the solution for developing extensible, high-performance, rich media content for multiple mediums.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| main use   | • Web site development  
• Internet applications  
• Training developers | • Online learning and presentations  
• Motion graphics  
• Character animation  
• Web application development | • Dynamic websites or content and presentations  
• Web applications  
• Rich Internet Applications | • Computer-based training  
• Web-based training | • Web and CD-ROM/DVD-ROM based multimedia  
• Interactive training, simulations, and presentations |
| primary users | • Subject matter experts  
• Web developers  
• Application developers | • Web designers  
• Web developers | • Programmers  
• Web application developers  
• HTML and Macromedia Flash developers building dynamic sites or applications | • Training developers  
• Subject matter experts | • Multimedia professionals  
• Corporate presentation specialists  
• 3D animators |
| skill level of user | • 70% of projects require very little technical proficiency  
• 20% require medium level of technical proficiency  
• 10% require high level of technical proficiency | • 60% of projects require very little technical proficiency  
• 30% require medium level of technical proficiency  
• 10% require high level of technical proficiency | • 40% of projects require basic knowledge of HTML and database skills  
• 40% of projects require intermediate programming and database skills  
• 20% of projects require advanced programming and database skills | • 60% of projects require very little technical proficiency  
• 30% require medium level of technical proficiency  
• 10% require high level of technical proficiency | • 25% of projects require very little technical proficiency  
• 25% require medium level of technical proficiency  
• 50% require high level of technical proficiency |
| user interface | Highly customizable, dockable workspace with design and code views. | Component-based authoring with visual editing tools, timeline, and a runtime scripting language (ActionScript). | Page layout and editing using Dreamweaver MX. Server management using the ColdFusion MX Administrator, a web-based administration console. | Icons on a flowline. | Timeline-based, using a score and a powerful scripting language (Lingo™). |
| media support | Import  
• Text  
• Graphics  
• Rich media  
Create  
• Text  
• Basic animations (4.0+ browsers)  
Create  
• Rich text  
• Graphics  
• Sophisticated animations | Import  
• Graphics  
• Audio  
• Interactive video  
Create  
• Rich text  
• Graphics  
• Sophisticated animations | Support  
• Text  
• Graphics  
• Animation  
• Audio  
• Video  
Create  
• Text  
• Graphics  
• Animation  
• Audio  
• Basic animations  
Create  
• Text  
• Shapes  
• Basic animations  
Create  
• Text  
• Shapes  
• Sophisticated interactive animations | Import  
• Text  
• Graphics  
• Animation  
• Audio  
• Video  
Create  
• Text  
• Shapes  
Create  
• Text  
Create  
• Text  
Create  
• Text  |
| media control | Launch and edit integration with Macromedia Flash and Fireworks®.  
Provides tight synchronization and control of multiple media elements. | Provides tight synchronization through CourseBuilder for Dreamweaver extension, behaviors and JavaScript™ coding. | Compatible with media control provided through Dreamweaver MX or Macromedia Flash MX. | Provides some synchronization of graphics, animations, sound and video. Creates hyperlinks between any media types. | Provides tight synchronization and extensive control of media elements. |
| interactivity | Supports interactivity created through CourseBuilder for Dreamweaver extension, behaviors and JavaScript™ coding.  
Supports interactivity through user interface components, a native scripting language, as well as pre-built in-product Learning Interactions. | Supports interactivity through dynamic page generation, a powerful server scripting environment, and complete database connectivity. | Supports high level of interactivity through dynamic page generation, a powerful server scripting environment, and complete database connectivity. | Supports rich interactivity. Nearly all interactivity is created through smart icons and easy-to-use menus. A scripting language also supports extended capabilities. | Supports rich interactivity created through behaviors and a scripting language called Lingo™. |
### macromedia® eLearning product matrix

<table>
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<th>comparison</th>
<th>Dreamweaver® MX</th>
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<td><strong>updating applications over time</strong></td>
<td>Easy to change applications over time, such as updating information, changing media content or interactions.</td>
<td>Content can be updated dynamically by integrating with servers using external XML or HTTP GET/POST data requests.</td>
<td>Template-driven ColdFusion sites separate content from course presentation and layout, allowing developers to streamline updates and maintenance in the database.</td>
<td>Easy to change applications over time, such as updating information, changing media content or interactions. Provides simple ways to create reusable templates.</td>
<td>Primarily used for creating high-impact, one-time productions. Developers can create reusable code through behaviors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>student tracking</strong></td>
<td>• Easily connect data tracking and knowledge management systems to application servers • Free extensions provide custom e-learning interactions, including automatic hooks to an LMS</td>
<td>Possible to exchange data with an LMS through scripting</td>
<td>Data can be exchanged with an LMS through programming or built-in database connectivity</td>
<td>• Built-in data tracking • Automatic hooks to a Learning Management System (LMS)</td>
<td>Possible to return detailed data to an LMS with programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>data connectivity</strong></td>
<td>• Allows developers to easily build Internet applications using ColdFusion, ASP, ASP.NET, JSP, or PHP with drag-and-drop visuals or extensive code support</td>
<td>• Parses XML natively • Connects directly to a wide variety of application servers using products such as ColdFusion</td>
<td>• Built-in ODBC, Type III and Type IV drivers, OLE-DB, and native database drivers • Stored procedure support • Parses, generates, and handles XML natively • Consumes and exposes web services</td>
<td>• ODBC database access • Parses XML</td>
<td>• ODBC database access • Parses XML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>delivery platforms</strong></td>
<td>• Web (Internet, intranet, extranet) • LANs • Wireless</td>
<td>• Web (Internet, intranet, extranet) • LANs • CD/DVD-ROM • Devices</td>
<td>• Web (Internet, intranet, extranet) • LANs • Hybrid (CD-ROM and web) • CD/DVD-ROM</td>
<td>• Web (Internet, intranet, extranet) • LANs • Hybrid (CD-ROM and web) • CD/DVD-ROM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>web delivery requirements</strong></td>
<td>• 3.0 browsers for basic interactivity • 4.0+ browsers for rich interactivity and animation • Windows and Macintosh</td>
<td>• 3.0+ browsers • Macromedia Flash Player • Windows, Macintosh and selected Unix® platforms</td>
<td>• Windows for development • W3C compatible web browsers, Macromedia Flash Player or wireless for deployment</td>
<td>• 3.0+ browsers • Authorware Web Player • Windows® for development • Windows and Macintosh® for deployment</td>
<td>• 4.0+ browsers • Shockwave® Player • Windows and Macintosh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>extensibility</strong></td>
<td>Dreamweaver is highly extensible and easy to integrate with standard web technologies.</td>
<td>Macromedia Flash is extensible and easy to integrate with standard web technologies using user interface and code-only components.</td>
<td>ColdFusion is highly extensible and easily integrates with databases, directories, legacy applications, and common Internet technologies (FTP, LDAP, mail, HTTP, etc.).</td>
<td>Authorware can be extended with an extensive collection of Xtra® extensions, DLLs and ActiveX® controls.</td>
<td>Director can be extended for customized capabilities with an extensive collection of Xtra extensions, DLLs and ActiveX controls.</td>
</tr>
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