

Lesson 9

Adding Flash, Video, and Sound Content

In this lesson, students learn how to add Flash content to their web pages.

Inserting Flash content

Adding SWFs to your web site is a great way to add dynamic, animated content to your web site. Dreamweaver offers a couple of very easy ways to add SWF content to your web page.

Note: You'll need to work in Flash outside of Dreamweaver to develop your SWF files.

To insert an SWF file, students can follow these steps:

- 1 Create a new blank web page, and save it as **flash.html**.
- 2 Click in the Design pane, then go to the Insert bar and click the Common tab.
- 3 Select Media and click the SWF icon. Navigate to the folder containing your SWF files. Choose the file they want to insert and that's it! The SWF comes in just like an image does. They can examine the Property Inspector to see additional options for previewing the file in Dreamweaver.
- 4 Save the file.

An alternative to using the Insert bar for adding SWFs is the Assets panel. Open the Assets panel and click on the SWF button to access the SWFs in your root folder. You can simply drag and drop SWFs in your web page or press the Insert button at the bottom of the panel.

Adding background music

Preparation: Provide your students with several MP3 audio clips of different types of music: classical, new age, rock, and so on. Or, let them select their own.

In this exercise, students will add background music to their web page.

- 1 Have the students open the flash.html file. In Design View, have them place the insertion point where they want to embed the audio file and do one of the following:
 - In the Common category of the Insert bar, click the Media button and select the Plugin icon from the pop-up menu.
 - Choose Insert > Media > Plugin.
 - In the Property Inspector, click the folder icon next to the Link text box to browse for the audio file, or type the file's path and name in the Link text box.

- 2 Enter the width and height by entering the values in the appropriate text fields or by resizing the plug-in placeholder in the Document window. These values determine the size at which the audio controls are displayed in the browser.

Questions

- 1 True or False: Dreamweaver CS5 can create Flash (.swf) files.
- 2 What application do you need to have installed on your computer to view an SWF file?
- 3 True or False: Dreamweaver allows you to add a Flash Video Player "skin" for your videos.
- 4 How does Progressive Download Video work?

Answers

- 1 False. In earlier versions of Dreamweaver, there was a feature that allowed users to make custom Flash buttons and Flash Text. This is no longer an option.
- 2 The Flash Player must be installed to view an SWF file.
- 3 True.
- 4 Progressive Download Video works by downloading the video to the user's hard drive, and then playing it. Because it's a progressive download, the video will start to play as it downloads, so the user won't have to wait for the entire video to download in order to see it.