

Creating a Webpage using Netscape 4.x

A Few Definitions

URL: Uniform Resource Locator (In other words, the address of a web page.)

<http://www.cameron.edu/~julie/>

HTML: HyperText Markup Language

This is the programming language used to write webpages. Using Netscape Composer, you won't have to mess with this.



Navigator: Netscape Navigator is the browser and the part you're most familiar with. Use this part of Netscape to view documents on the server and browse the web.



Composer: Netscape Composer is the editor you use to create and modify your own webpages on your computer's hard drive. After changes are made in the composer, you must upload the page to the web server. Then use the Navigator to look at your page.

In the Beginning

Open the Netscape Browser.

Click on **File, New, Blank Page** (OR CTRL+Shift+N)

This opens a blank page in the Netscape Composer and you are ready to start typing.

Just the Basics

There are several things you can do to text:

Bold

Italics

Change color

Change size

- Add bullets

1. Create Numbered Lists

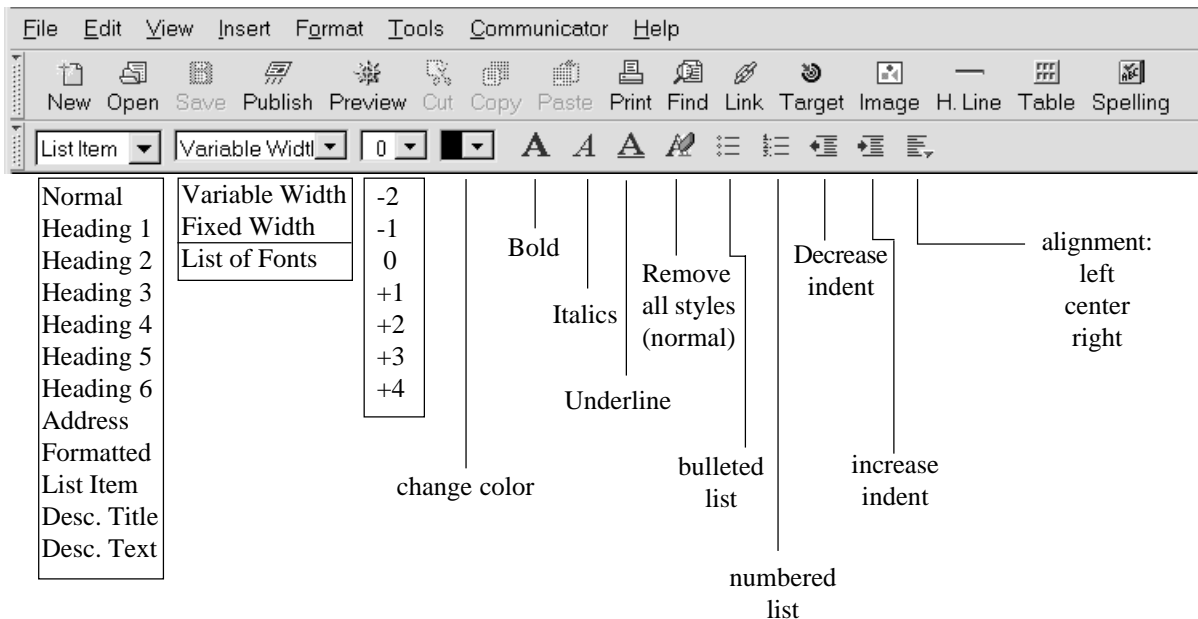
Make a Definition Title

with some Definition Text that's indented

Use a Fixed Width Font

It's easiest to type the text first.

Then select the text you wish to change and click on the appropriate box in the controls.





Linking it All Together

To create links, first type the text you want to be clickable (the words that are underlined on your webpage).

Use your mouse to select the words and click on the link button to get the link character properties window (see figure on right).

In the middle entry box, type the webpage address of the page to which you wish to link.

Here are some examples:

webpage

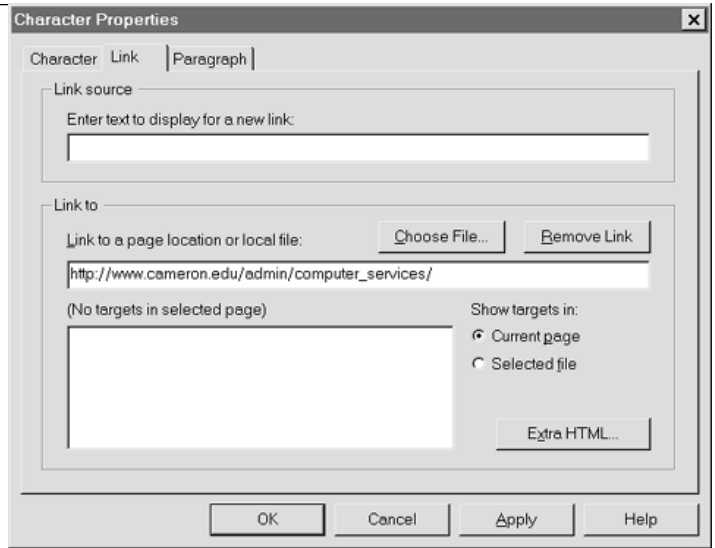
http://www.cameron.edu/admin/computer_services/

webpage within same directory

<resume.html>

e-mail

<mailto:julied@cameron.edu>

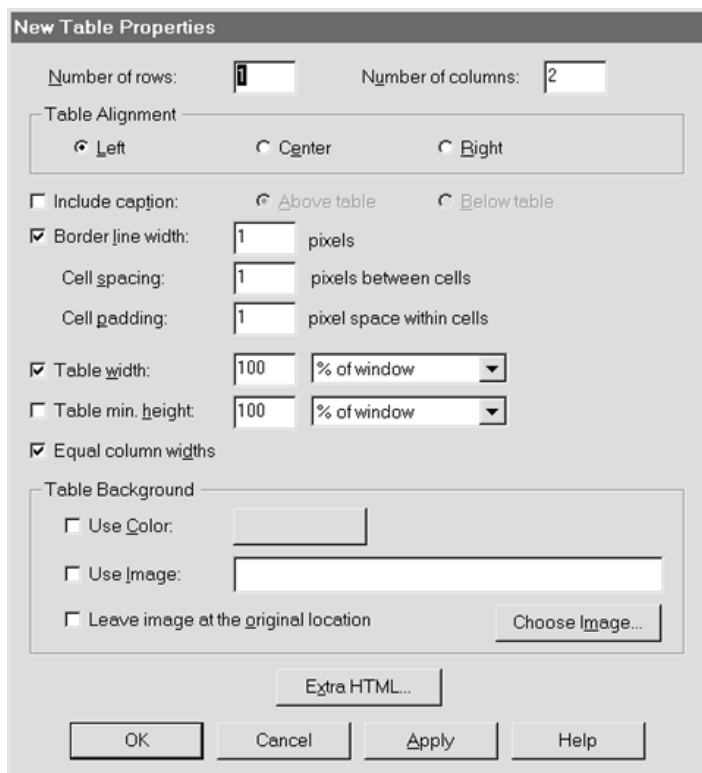


No Typing Tip: Within *navigator*, go to the page to which you wish to link. Highlight the address in the location box and press Ctrl-C (for copy). Then go back to your link character properties window (figure above) in *composer* and press Ctrl-V to paste the address.



Add a Table

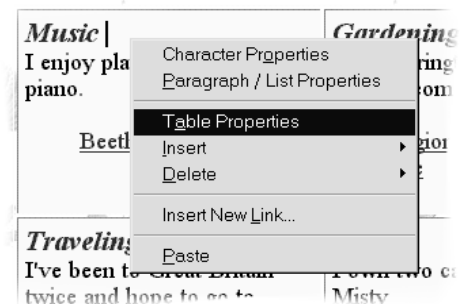
Tables are a great way to add character and organization to your page. They also provide the best possible “page-layout” control for a webpage. To add a table, move your cursor to where you want the table inserted and click on the table button from the control palette. The resulting window is shown below.



- Figure out how many rows and columns you will need and enter the respective numbers.
- Table alignment refers to alignment on the page - *not text alignment* within individual cells.
- Keep the border line width to 1 or larger while working with the table so you can see the individual cells. You may choose to change this to zero and have an “invisible” border before saving and uploading your webpage.
- You can also change the color of your table. Changing the color in this window will affect all the cells in the table.

Changes to Individual Cells

After you have created your table, you may decide you want certain information in a cell centered or with a different background color than the other cells. Changes to rows and individual cells can be made by right-clicking in the appropriate cell and choosing Table Properties.



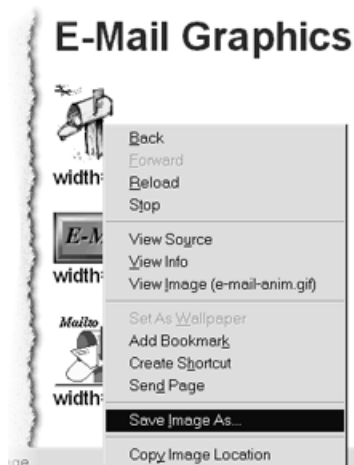
Finding Graphics

The best type of graphics are those you create yourself. They are copyright free and exactly what you want. But if you don't have time or the money to spend on graphic programs to create your own graphics, there are several sites that provide free graphics you can use on your webpage.

I have a few graphics and links to other sites on a webpage located at <http://www.cameron.edu/~julie/shapeup/graphics.html>. Karen Hardin in the Multimedia Design department also has some graphics for public use at <http://www.cameron.edu/~karenh/clipart.html>

If you'd rather strike out on your own, however, just type "public domain graphics" into your favorite search engine. Warning: this is a time-warp situation. You may start with one site and keep linking to other sites and look down at your watch to find that hours upon hours have gone by and you still haven't found "the perfect graphic." If you find a site you really like, bookmark it immediately!

Once you decide on a graphic you like, saving it is as simple as right-clicking on top of the graphic and choosing "Save Image As..." You will be prompted for a directory in which to save the graphic. The easiest way to keep things straight will be to save your graphic in the same directory as your web page file.

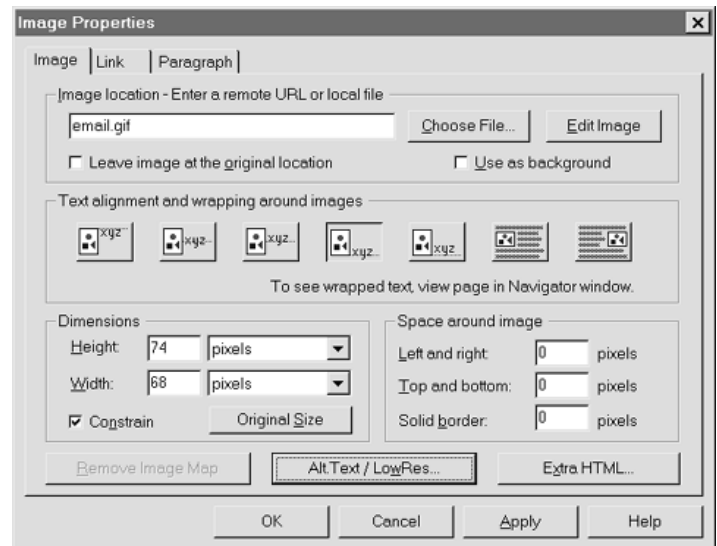


Be careful to read all the instructions on the pages from which you are downloading the graphics. Several sites offer free graphics but they request that you add an acknowledgement and/or link to their site. Simply add a short line at the bottom of your page that says something similar to "Graphics provided by [Realm Graphics](#)" and make the words "Realm Graphics" a link to the website.



Using Graphics

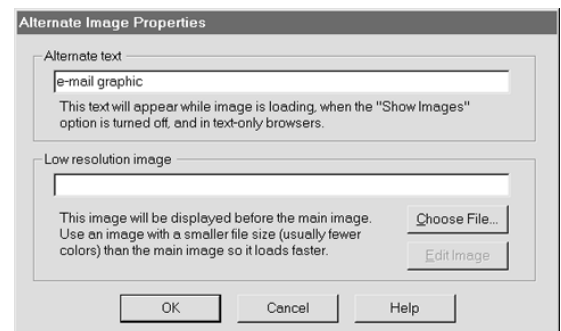
To place a graphic on your webpage, place the cursor where you want the graphic and click on the image button to get the window below.



Type in the name of the graphic you saved. If you've forgotten what you named it, you can click on the "Choose File" button and find it. However, delete everything Netscape adds on to the front of the filename. For example, "file:///C:/web stuff/email.gif" should be "email.gif."

You can choose different alignments for the graphic to be in relation to text. However, *these will not show up in the Composer*. You must click on the preview button and view the document in the navigator to see the results of text wrapping.

Be sure to click on the "Alt. Text/LowRes" button and type in alternate text describing your graphic. This allows people who access webpages through a modem to save time by not loading graphics. An alternate text tells them what the graphic is and they can choose whether or not to download the graphic. Providing alternate text also gives text for special programs that read webpages to blind people.



In the Background

To add color and a background image to your page, click on **Format** and choose **Page Colors and Properties**. From the resulting menu you can change the colors of text, links, active links, and visited links by clicking on the color and choosing a new one.

To use a graphic as your page's background, click on "Use Image" and type in the filename of the image you wish to use. If you use a graphic, make sure you change the background color to a color similar to the image. For example if you are using a dark background image with white text, change the background color to black. This allows viewers with graphics turned off to still read the text on your page.



Publish

Publish

Your webpage is not complete until you save and upload it to the web server. Netscape calls this publishing your webpage.

To save, simply click on **File, Save**. The first time you do this, you will be prompted for a title which should be descriptive of your page. Save your document as index.html in the same directory as your graphics. (If you already have an index.html, be sure to save the file as another name such as resume.html.)

To upload the file, click on the publish button. The location to publish to is **ftp://www.cameron.edu/users/login/public_html/** where *login* is your user name. Also type in your user name and password. Click on the "**Select All**" button to also upload your graphics. Now click on **OK** and you're done!

Publish: C:\web stuff\index.html

Page Title: Julie A. Duncan's Home Page e.g.: "My Web Page"

HTML Filename: index.html e.g.: "mypage.htm"

HTTP or FTP Location to publish to: ftp://www.cameron.edu/users/julie/public_html/

User name: julie Use Default Location

Password: [REDACTED] Save password

Other files to include

Files associated with this page All files in page's folder

Select None

Select All

file:///C:/web stuff/background.jpg

file:///C:/web stuff/email.gif

OK Cancel Help

Page Properties

General Colors and Background META Tags

Page Colors

Use viewer's browser colors (No colors saved in page)

Use custom colors (Save colors in page)

Normal Text

Link Text

Active Link Text

Followed Link Text

Background (Background image overrides this color.)

Color Schemes: Netscape Default Colors

Background Image

Use Image: background.jpg

Leave image at the original location Choose File...

Save these settings for new pages

OK Cancel Apply Help

Been There, Done That

Click on **Edit, Preferences...**

Make sure that under Composer, Publishing, only "maintain links" under Links and images is selected and click on **OK**. You should only have to do this once.

After changing these preferences, to modify an existing page, go to that page in the Netscape Browser and click on **File, Edit Page**. This will automatically load the webpage from Netscape Navigator into Netscape Composer and you can make changes as necessary.

REMEMBER: You must save and upload (publish) the modified file to the web server for changes to take effect! Be sure to click on reload within Netscape Navigator to see the changes.

Preferences

Category:

Appearance

Fonts

Colors

Navigator

Languages

Applications

Mail & Groups

Composer

Publishing

Offline

Advanced

Publishing Designate the default publishing location

Links and images

When saving remote pages...

Maintain links

Adjust links to work from the page's location. (Links to local pages will work when local versions exist)

Keep images with page

Save copies of images to the page's location. Images will always appear in local version of the page and when page is published.

Tip: Check both options if you will be using remote publishing.

Default publishing location

Enter a FTP or HTTP site address to Publish to:

ftp://www.cameron.edu/users/julie/public_html

If publishing to a FTP site, enter the HTTP address to browse to:

http://www.cameron.edu/~julie/

OK Cancel Help