

Accessibility & Dreamweaver MX

A how-to guide prepared by Multimedia Services at The Citadel.

<http://www.citadel.edu/computing/mm/>

The instructions provided here are just a few of the steps needed to make a Web page Section 508 compliant. For a more in-depth look at accessibility and Section 508 compliance, please visit the Multimedia Services' online resources area, <http://www.citadel.edu/computing/mm/dw/accessibility/index.html#sites>.

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Setting Accessibility Preferences

Dreamweaver MX has the ability to prompt you to add accessibility features while you are adding content to a Web page. Of course, you can still use the Property Inspector Palette or edit the HTML code to make the page accessible. (WebAIM also has a helpful article on Dreamweaver MX and accessibility, called "How to Make Accessible Web Content Using Dreamweaver", <http://www.webaim.org/techniques/dreamweaver/> .)

To turn on the accessibility features, go under the Edit menu and choose Preferences. The Preferences dialog box will open. (Figure 1)

Click on the "Accessibility" subject in the category list on the left. (Figure 2)

You can turn on the accessibility options for Form Objects, Frames, Media, Images, and Tables. The two options that we will be taking a look at are the options for images and tables. (Figure 3)

Images Options

With the accessibility options turned on, you will now have two dialog boxes when you insert an image on the page. The first is the standard insert image dialog box, asking you to locate the image. The second is the dialog box that will prompt you for an alt attribute and a longdesc attribute for the image. (Figure 4)

Table Options

With the accessibility options turned on, you will now have two dialog boxes when you insert a table on the page. The first is the standard insert table dialog box, asking you to set up the dimensions of the table. The second is the dialog box that will prompt you for a caption, a summary, and where the headers will be placed. (Figure 5)

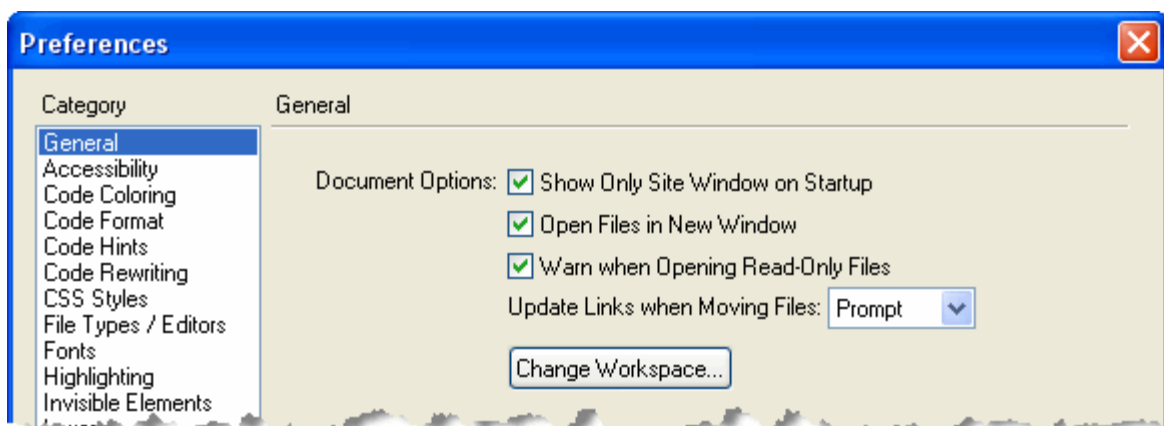


Figure 1

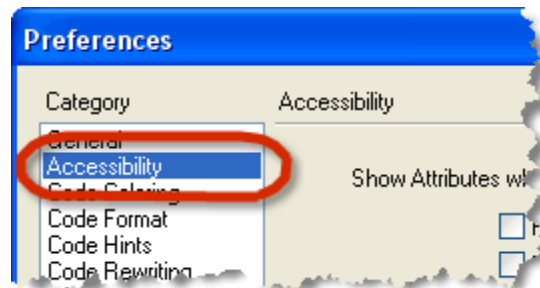


Figure 2

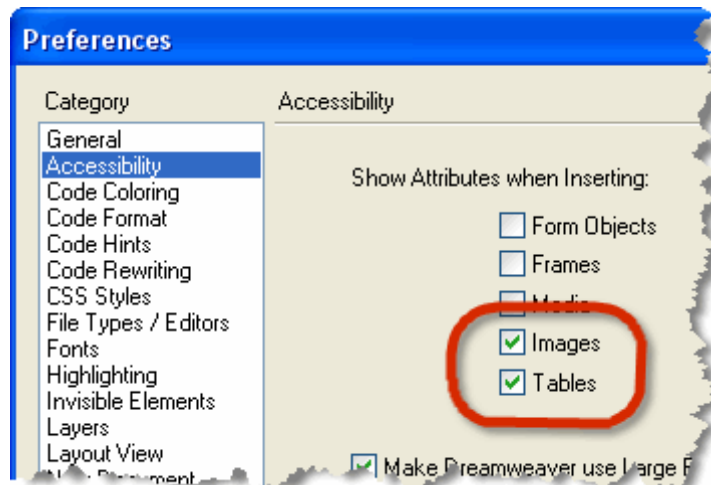


Figure 3

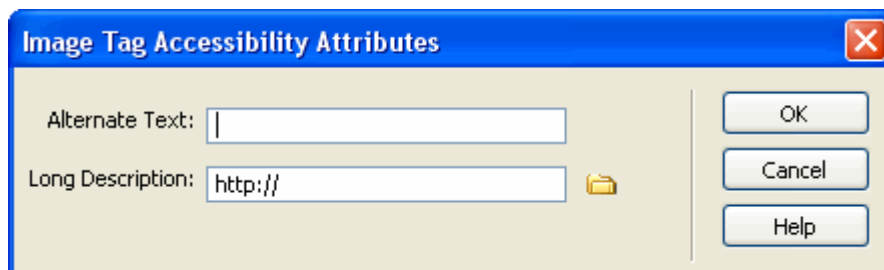


Figure 4

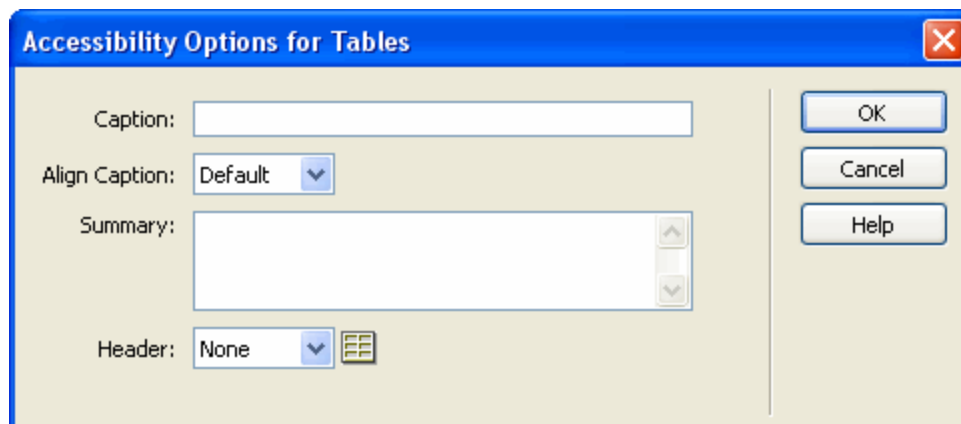


Figure 5

Adding a Descriptive alt Attribute

If the accessibility preferences are turned on, you will automatically be prompted to fill in an alt attribute when you insert the image.

If you *do not* have the preferences turned on, or if you forget to add the alt attribute when you insert the image, follow the steps below to add an alt attribute using the Property Inspector Palette.

1. Select the image. (Figure 1)
2. Fill in information in the Alt field on the Property Inspector Palette. (Figure 2)
3. You can view the alt attribute when you preview the Web page in Internet Explorer. Put the cursor over the image and the alt fly-out will appear. (Figure 3)

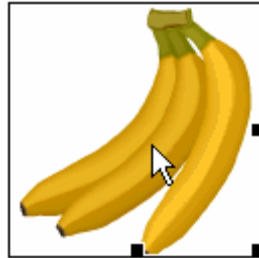


Figure 1

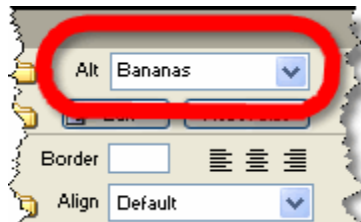


Figure 2

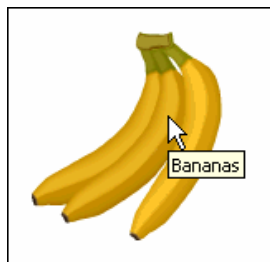


Figure 3

Adding an Empty alt Attribute

Even if you have the accessibility preferences turned on, you will still have to put in the empty alt attributes using the Property Inspector Palette.

1. Select the image. (Figure 1)
2. Click on the drop-down menu for the Alt field and choose <empty>. (Figure 2)



Figure 1

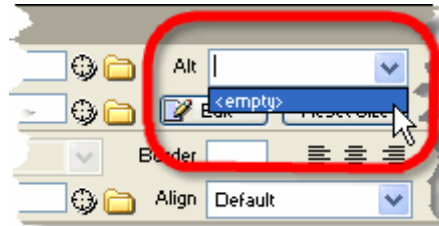


Figure 2

Adding a longdesc Attribute

If the accessibility preferences are turned on, you will be prompted to add the longdesc when you insert the image on the page. (However, you will need to have already created the other page with the long description if you use this method.) Simply click on the yellow file folder icon to the right of the "Long Description:" field, and browse for the Web page containing the long description. (Figures 1 & 2)

If you do not have the preferences turned on, follow the steps below to add a longdesc attribute using the HTML code editor.

1. Create a page that contains the in-depth description of the image.
2. On the original page, select the image. (Figure 3)
3. Open the HTML code editor by clicking on the purple brackets on the upper-left corner of the Dreamweaver window, or go under the "View" menu to "Code". (Figures 4a and 4b)
4. The img tag for the image should be highlighted. (Figure 5)
5. Click inside of the tag, after the src="". (Figure 6)
6. Give yourself one space and type longdesc="" in the tag.
7. Put the address of the page with the in-depth description in between the quotes. (Figure 7)
8. Close the HTML code editor and save the page.

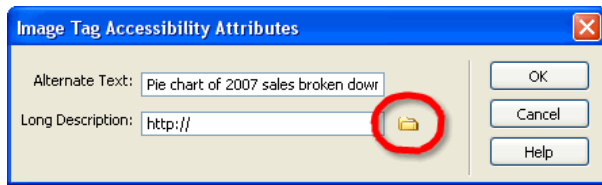


Figure 1

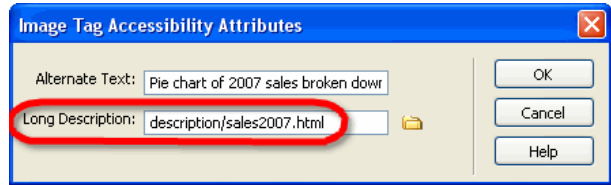


Figure 2

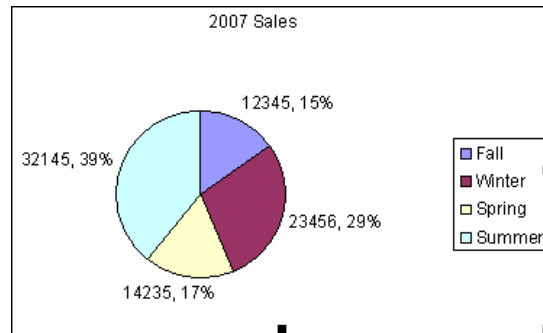


Figure 3

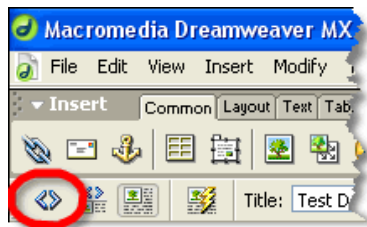


Figure 4a

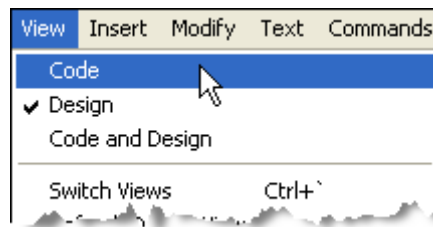


Figure 4b

```

```

Figure 5

```

```

Figure 6

```

```

Figure 7

Adding Headers to Data Tables

If the **accessibility preferences are turned on**, you will be prompted to choose the location of the table headers when you insert the table on the page. (Figure 1)

If you **do not have the preferences turned on**, follow the steps below to choose the location of the table headers using the Property Inspector Palette.

1. Select the row or column. (Figure 2)
2. Check the Header box on the Property Inspector Palette. (Figure 3)
3. The row will be automatically bolded and centered. (Figure 4)

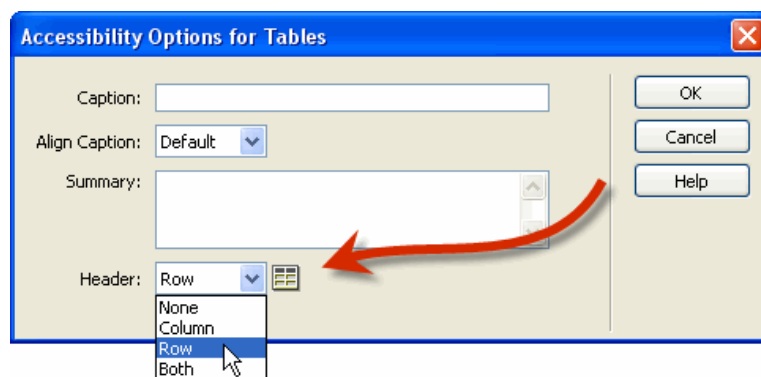


Figure 1

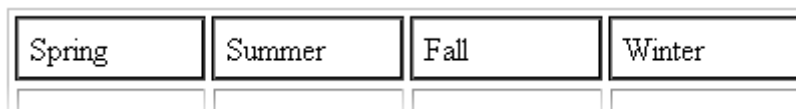


Figure 2

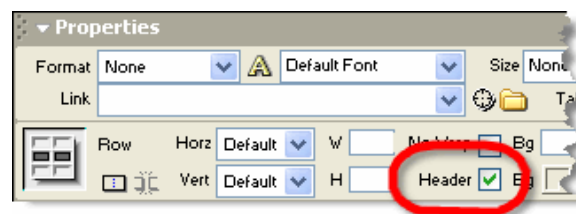


Figure 3

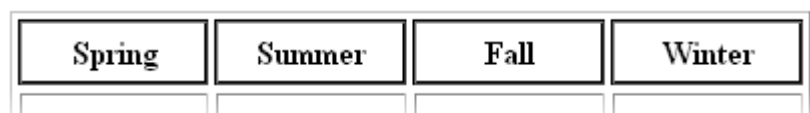


Figure 4

Adding a summary Attribute to Data Tables

Remember - A summary attribute is not necessary for small, basic data tables, and should not be used for layout tables.

If the accessibility preferences are turned on, you will be prompted to add the summary when you insert the table on the page. (Figure 1)

If you *do not* have the preferences turned on, follow the steps below to add a summary attribute using the HTML code editor.

1. Select the table. (Figure 2)
2. Open the HTML code editor by clicking on the purple brackets on the upper-left corner of the Dreamweaver window, or go under the "View" menu to "Code". (Figures 3a and 3b)
3. The tags for the table should be highlighted. (Figure 4)
4. Click inside of the opening table tag, after the cellpadding="". (Figure 5)
5. Give yourself one space and type summary="" in the tag.
6. Put the summary for the table in between the quotes. (Figure 6)
7. Close the HTML code editor and save the page.



Figure 1

Names	Dates
Wells Cathedral	Early English (c. 1180-1275)
Ely Cathedral	Decorated (c. 1275-1380)
Gloucester Cathedral	Perpendicular (c. 1380-1520)

Figure 2

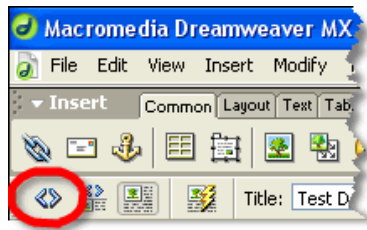


Figure 3a

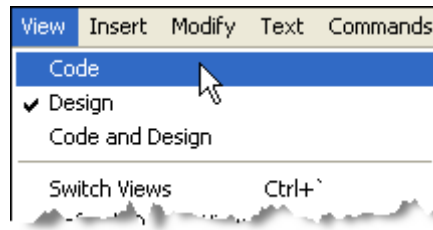


Figure 3b

```
<table width="400" border="2" cellspacing="2" cellpadding="5">
<tr>
<th width="47%">Names</th>
<th width="53%">Dates</th>
</tr>
<tr>
<td width="47%">Wells Cathedral</td>
<td width="53%">Early English (c. 1180-1275)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td width="47%">Ely Cathedral</td>
<td width="53%">Decorated (c. 1275-1380)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td width="47%">Gloucester Cathedral</td>
<td width="53%">Perpendicular (c. 1380-1520)</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

Figure 4

```
<table width="400" border="2" cellspacing="2" cellpadding="5">
```

 A screenshot showing the opening tag of a table: `<table width="400" border="2" cellspacing="2" cellpadding="5">`. A red arrow points to the right, ending at the closing angle bracket of the tag.

Figure 5

```
<table width="400" border="2" cellspacing="2" cellpadding="5" summary="While
the Gothic movement may have started in France, England's many gothic
cathedrals are superb examples of this period and the craftsmanship of the
artisans who worked on them.">
<tr>
```

Figure 6

Adding a caption Tag to Data Tables

Remember - a table caption is not necessary for small, basic data tables, and should not be used for layout tables.

If the accessibility preferences are turned on, you will be prompted to add the caption when you insert the table on the page. You can also choose where you would like the caption to go in relation to the table: top, bottom, right, or left. (Figures 1 and 2)

If you *do not* have the preferences turned on, follow the steps below to add the caption using the HTML code editor.

1. Select the table. (Figure 3)
2. Open the HTML code editor by clicking on the purple brackets on the upper-left corner of the Dreamweaver window, or go under the "View" menu to "Code". (Figures 4a and 4b)
3. The tags for the table should be highlighted. (Figure 5)
4. Click after the opening table tag. (Figure 6)
5. Give yourself a hard return and type `<caption> </caption>`. (Figure 7)
6. Type the caption for the table in between the opening and closing CAPTION tags. (Figure 8)
7. Close the HTML code editor and save the page. The caption will appear at the top of the table. (Figure 9)
8. If you want to change the location of the caption, you have four options: top, bottom, left, or right. Here is an example of the code you would insert if you wanted the caption to appear on the top-left of the table.
`<caption align="left"> English Gothic Cathedrals</caption>` (Figure 10)



Figure 1



Figure 2

Names	Dates
Wells Cathedral	Early English (c. 1180-1275)
Ely Cathedral	Decorated (c. 1275-1380)
Gloucester Cathedral	Perpendicular (c. 1380-1520)

Figure 3



Figure 4a

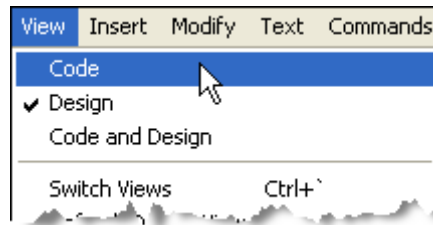


Figure 4b

```
<table width="400" border="2" cellspacing="2" cellpadding="5">
  <tr>
    <th width="47%">Names</th>
    <th width="53%">Dates</th>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td width="47%">Wells Cathedral</td>
    <td width="53%">Early English (c. 1180-1275)</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td width="47%">Ely Cathedral</td>
    <td width="53%">Decorated (c. 1275-1380)</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td width="47%">Gloucester Cathedral</td>
    <td width="53%">Perpendicular (c. 1380-1520)</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

Figure 5

```
<table width="400" border="2" cellspacing="2" cellpadding="5">
  <tr>
    <th width="47%">Names</th>
```

Figure 6

```
<table width="400" border="2" cellspacing="2" cellpadding="5">
<caption> </caption>
<tr>
```

Figure 7

```
<table width="400" border="2" cellspacing="2" cellpadding="5">
<caption> English Gothic Cathedrals </caption>
<tr>
```

Figure 8

English Gothic Cathedrals

Names	Dates
Wells Cathedral	Early English (c. 1180-1275)
Ely Cathedral	Decorated (c. 1275-1380)
Gloucester Cathedral	Perpendicular (c. 1380-1520)

Figure 9

English Gothic Cathedrals

Names	Dates
Wells Cathedral	Early English (c. 1180-1275)
Ely Cathedral	Decorated (c. 1275-1380)
Gloucester Cathedral	Perpendicular (c. 1380-1520)

Figure 10