Dreamweaver 8 is a beauty of a program. With it and just basic HTML (HyperText Markup Language) understanding, you can create a working Web site with all the essentials—text, graphics, and links. What really makes Dreamweaver 8 shine is its depth. The more time you spend with the program, the further you can take your sites. One of the most common responses I hear when I demonstrate Dreamweaver 8 at conferences is, “I didn’t know you could do that!” Well, you can—and this book shows you how.
Designing CSS Layouts

Use Dreamweaver 8 to craft CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) layouts and reap the benefits of faster loading times, easier-to-read code, and more flexible designs. Dreamweaver 8 takes CSS to the next level with its enhanced design-time rendering and overhauled CSS implementation. In addition, Dreamweaver 8 offers a number of visual aids specifically designed to help your workflow: CSS Layout Outlines, CSS Layout Background, and CSS Layout Box Model. Open the Style Rendering toolbar to design page layouts for screen, print, and other mediums.

Creating Pure-CSS Navigation

Streamline your navigation with CSS and ordered lists—for either vertical or horizontal navigation bars. In addition, CSS navigation is easy to change; adding or removing items is as simple as changing a bulleted list item. The advanced CSS-rendering capabilities in Dreamweaver 8 give you the same in-browser experience you have with modern CSS-compliant browsers such as Safari and Firefox.


Automating Production with Templates

Work smarter, not harder, with advanced Dreamweaver 8 template features. Leverage the power of the template expression architecture to do less work in the production phase of site creation. Whether you want to automatically create named anchors and their corresponding links on a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page, set up “previous” and “next” links in a series of pages, or provide alternative CSS style sheets and properties at design time, templates are the way to go.

Chapter 6, “Working with Advanced Templates,” explains how to make the most of template expressions with repeating regions, navigation, and CSS.
Coding Faster Than Ever

Get more out of Code view than you ever have before. With the new Coding toolbar, you can more quickly select and manipulate your code. The new code collapse feature is terrific for hiding sections of your code so you can hone in on just what you want to see. One surefire way to push your productivity through the roof—whether you’re in Code or Design view—is to take advantage of the Insert bar’s Favorites category.

Chapter 7, “Utilizing Rapid Coding Techniques,” covers how to use all these features, and more, to gain productivity.

Incorporating RSS Feeds

Bring a wealth of fresh information to your site, every day, with RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds. The new XML (eXtensible Markup Language) features allow you to incorporate standard or dynamically generated information streams. Best of all, you can style the feeds within Dreamweaver 8 and get a clear view of how your page will look when published.

Chapter 8, “Setting Up an XML Feed,” describes how to create an XML data file and how to integrate an XML feed on both the client and on the server.
Building Ajax-Driven Pages

Set up smoother, more exciting interactions for your site visitors with Ajax-powered pages. Ajax (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML) allows users to choose the data they want to see and refresh only the appropriate portions of your page, not the whole page. With one or two commonly available code libraries, you can incorporate Ajax technology into your sites today.

![Ajax Example - Mozilla Firefox](image)

Chapter 9, “Implementing Ajax in Dreamweaver,” gives step-by-step instructions on how to use this new technology to enhance your users’ experience when visiting your Web site.

Using Flash Designer Fonts

Overcome Web font limitations with accessible, CSS-compliant Adobe Flash headlines. Using a technique known as sIFR (scalable Inman Flash Replacement), you can substitute boring, everyday Web browser fonts with designer-selected typefaces. Done correctly, your new, improved typography will work with your CSS style sheets while remaining friendly to search engines.

Chapter 10, “Incorporating sIFR Text,” covers how to implement sIFR in Dreamweaver 8.
Working Collectively

Expand productivity throughout your organization by developing team-oriented Dreamweaver 8 sites. When properly used, the check-in/check-out system makes it possible to spread the workload for major sites more effectively. Other features, such as Design Notes, streamline the team’s to-do lists.

Chapter 11, “Working in Groups,” shows you how to use the check-in/check-out system and how to incorporate Design Notes into your workflow.

Designing for Contribute

When Contribute was introduced, a whole new market for Dreamweaver designers emerged. Now, Dreamweaver designers can create sites for small-businesses, educational facilities, non-profits and other markets—without having to worry about maintaining the content. Designing sites for Contribute users to maintain, however, is far different from designing them for yourself to manage.

Chapter 12, “Designing for Contribute,” describes how to set up Contribute administration from within Dreamweaver, how to build Contribute-friendly templates, and how to structure your CSS correctly with Contribute in mind.
Optimizing Your Site for Search Engines

Search engine optimization is an essential Web developer skill—and one Dreamweaver 8 can help you master. Whether you’re adding `<meta>` tags, developing a site map, or submitting your site to Google, Dreamweaver 8 can make your sites more accessible to search engines.

Chapter 13, “Optimizing for Search Engines,” shows you how to optimize your pages for search engines, develop a site map, and craft a Google sitemap.

Outputting Accessible Forms

Make it easy for your site visitors—all your site visitors—to provide the information you need in a usable format. Forms are Web constants, but they often don’t get the attention they deserve. With Dreamweaver 8, you can apply fieldsets and add legends to improve your forms’ readability and ease of use.

Chapter 14, “Building Usable Forms,” describes how to add fieldsets and legends to your forms, how to style form elements, and how to make your forms accessible.
Integrating Podcasts and Video

Turn your Web pages into media-rich environments. Dreamweaver 8 includes all the tools you need to add podcasts to your site and extend your site’s reach to MP3 players and beyond. Import Flash video for an in-page video experience available to almost everyone instantaneously.

Chapter 15, “Integrating Multimedia Content,” covers how to create podcasts and add Flash video to your site.

Now that you’ve gotten a sense of what you can do with Dreamweaver 8, let’s get to it! The next chapter starts with an exploration of crafting CSS layouts—from starting graphic compositions to completing Dreamweaver 8 Web pages.