

## Linking in HTML

### Overview

- Basis for the entire web—you can go anywhere at anytime.
- Allows for the stream-of-conciseness browsing, where one interest leads to the next, which leads to another one, and so on.
- Linking not only applies to text and graphic hyperlinks, but to links to graphics and documents as well.

### HTML Structure

- `<a href="my_file.html">This appears in blue and underlined</a>`
  - Tag: `<a>`
  - Attribute: `href`
  - Value: `my_file.html`
  - Closing Tag: `</a>`
  - Result: [This appears in blue and underlined](#)
- ``
  - Tag: `<img>`
  - Attribute: `src`
  - Value: `company_logo.gif`
  - Closing Tag: none
  - Result: logo is displayed
- This HTML structure is one reason why we have to be concerned with how we name our files.

### Relative Links

- The path to the file you're linking to is determined by its relative position to the current file.
- They only give directions from the file's current location.
- Relative links only reference files located in your local root folder, which also means they can only access files on your Web site.
  - You cannot link to files located in other locations, such as a zip disk or another Web site, using relative links.
- For relative links, web servers and browsers automatically add the necessary information to complete the link.
- Samples:
  - The table below shows three different examples of a relative link on the `start.html` to `imac.html`.

| Description  | HTML Link from start.html                                      | File Hierarchy  |
|--|--|---|
| If the file you are linking to is in the same folder as the current file, then you simply use the file name.   | <code>&lt;a href="imac.html"&gt;iMac&lt;/a&gt;</code>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>html           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>imac.html</li> <li>start.html</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |
| If the file you are linking to is one folder beneath the current file location, then the folders structure is specified.   | <code>&lt;a href="products/imac.html"&gt;iMac&lt;/a&gt;</code> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>html           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>products               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>imac.html</li> </ul> </li> <li>start.html</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| If the file you are linking to is one folder up from the current file location, then a <code>../</code> is used to go up. You can use as many <code>../</code> as it takes to get to the destination file. | <code>&lt;a href="../imac.html"&gt;iMac&lt;/a&gt;</code>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>html           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>about_us               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>start.html</li> </ul> </li> <li>imac.html</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

## Absolute Links

- Absolute links are links that give the entire path to a file, regardless of where the initial file is located.
- Absolute links always includes the prefix `http://`
- They allow you to jump to any page on the Internet at any time (hence the name *world wide web*).
- Sample:
  - A link to the GD 321A web site that is absolute:  

```
<a href="http://fac.aii.edu/~ph381/gd321a/">Web Design 321A</a>
```
  - An absolute link to a image located on a remote web server:  

```

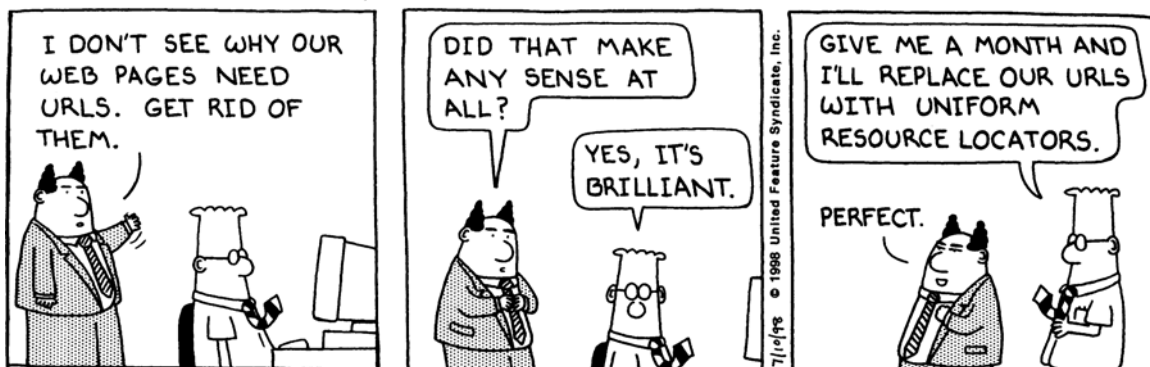
```
- Note that all the information needed to access this page is included in these links. The link can live anywhere and still take the user to the desired page.

## Which type should I use?

- Use **relative** links for all documents in your site.
  - It's easier to move the site from one location to another
  - Relative links are shorter than absolute links
  - Dreamweaver uses these by default
- If you need to access a page on another site, **absolute** links are the only way to go.

## What should you not do?

- Ask Dilbert...

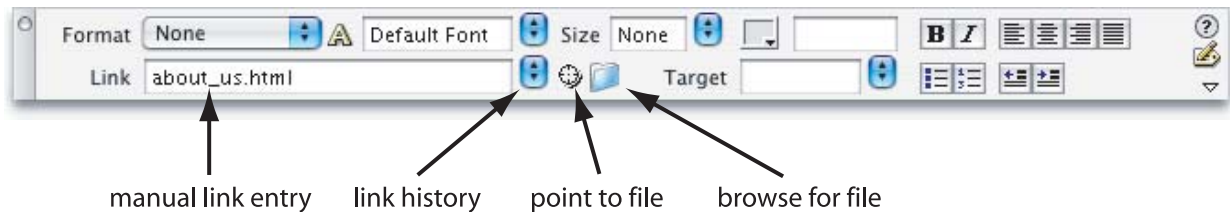


## Linking Methods in Dreamweaver


### Things to do before you begin linking

1. Create a Dreamweaver Site for your files, specifying your local root folder.
2. Make sure your HTML documents and images are located inside your local root folder.
3. Save all new documents in your local root folder before you begin working on them.

### Dreamweaver Properties Bar




### Point to File

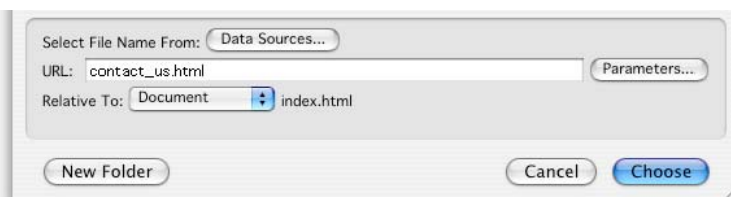
- Indicated on the Properties bar by the target icon. (  )
- Allows you to click and point at the file you want to link to.
- Why use it?
  - Is easier than typing in the file names
  - Helps eliminate typos
  - Ensures you are linking to files that are in your local root folder
- **Important:** You can only use Point to File if you've defined a Dreamweaver Site.

### Manual Link Entry


- The text field to the right of Link in the Properties bar allows you to manually type in the link's destination.
- Highlight the object or text you wish to make a link and manually enter the filename in the Link text box.

### Browse for File

- Indicated on the Properties bar by the folder icon. (  )
- Allows you to select a file to link to using the familiar Open dialog box.
- **Note:** Using Browse for File, it is possible to select a file that is outside your local root folder. Be careful to **not** do this!
  - Pay attention to any warnings Dreamweaver displays when using this method. If you do see a warning message, it's best to stop what you're doing and make sure your files are in your local root folder.
- Browse for File provides an option called *Relative To*. Always make sure this is set to *Document*.



### Link History

- Indicated on the Properties bar by the double-arrow menu to next to the target icon. (  )
- Provides a list of files that you have recently linked to using one of the other linking methods.

## Link Types




### Text

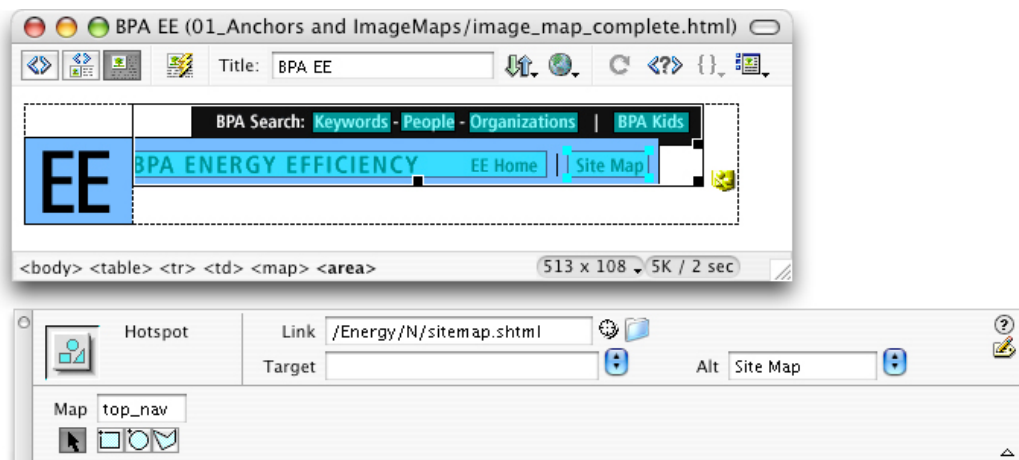
- HTML text can be designated as a link to another page or document.
- The text that is displayed is independent of the link itself.
- The text color changes (generally to blue) and becomes underlined, though the exact appearance can be customized using Dreamweaver's Page Properties dialog box or using Cascading Style Sheets.

### Image

- An image can be designated as a link to another page or document.
- The entire image becomes clickable, and by default a blue border will be displayed around the image.
- The blue border can be removed by setting the *border* attribute to 0.

### Image Maps

- Allows you to assign invisible link areas, called Hotspots, to an image, each with their own size, shape and URL.
- Hotspots within the same image can link to difference destinations.
- Each image map must have a unique name, though Dreamweaver takes care of this for us.
- Hotspot Shapes:
  -  Rectangle
  -  Oval
  -  Freeform polygon
- Hotspot shapes can be manipulated like slices in ImageReady.
- Sample Image Map:
  - Note that there are six rectangular Hotspots below: Keywords, People, Organizations, BPA Kids, BPA Energy Efficiency & EE Home, and Site Map.




- When to use Image Maps
  - When your navigation images do not include rollovers or other dynamic effects.
  - For quick functional mock-ups of a Photoshop web site design.
  - Programmer preference.
- Why not use them?
  - Large images with image maps do not gain the advantages of image slicing.
  - Individual rollovers are much more difficult to create and very inefficient in terms of download size.

## Named Anchors

- Allow you to mark a particular part of a long HTML document, scrolling the page for the user to that particular mark when the link is clicked.
- Named Anchors contain two parts: the **anchor**, and a **link** to that anchor.
  - When a user clicks on a link to an anchor, the web browser goes to that page and scrolls directly to the anchor.
- For long pages, anchors are often used to provide a *Back to Top* link at the bottom of page (The site for this class uses this method).
- HTML Samples:
  - Anchors:
 

```
<a name="five"></a>
<a name="top"></a>
```
  - Links to anchors on the current page:
 

```
<a href="#five">Download Week Five Handouts</a>
```
  - Links to anchors on a different page:
 

```
<a href="calendar.html#five">Download Week Five Handouts</a>
```
- Adding a Named Anchor in Dreamweaver
  - Insert > Named Anchor
  - Each anchor on a page must have a unique name.
  - Treat the name of the anchor just like you would a HTML file name (no capitol letters, spaces or special characters)
  - Be sure to name the anchor something meaningful.
  - Anchors look like this in Dreamweaver: 
- Linking to an Anchor
  - You link to an anchor just like you do to a file. Dreamweaver takes care of the HTML.
  - Dreamweaver Point and Shoot works well with anchors.
  - Anchor links add a # sign plus the name of the anchor to standard links.



## E-mail Link

- E-mail links launch the user's primary e-mail application and automatically creates a new e-mail with the specified address.
- HTML Sample:
  - E-mail links are created using the `<a>` tag
 

```
<a href="mailto:ph381@fac.aii.edu">E-mail the Instructor</a>
```
  - The `mailto:` text preceding the e-mail address is what triggers the user's e-mail client.
- Adding an E-mail Link in Dreamweaver
  - Insert > Email Link
- Options:
  - Text – The text you want to display as a link.
  - E-mail – The destination e-mail address.
- **Hint:** If you first select the text you want to use as a link, and then select E-mail Link in the Insert menu, the Text option will automatically be filled with the highlighted text.
- You can also add e-mail links manually by selecting the text you want to use as a link, and then in the Properties bar, under Link type `mailto:the_email_address@somedomain.com`, and press return.

