

Introduction

Ten years ago, when I used FrontPage for the first time, I was amazed at how far ahead of its time the program was. The ability to work with tables, visual formatting, styles, and pinpoint accurate designs truly amazed me. I was a skeptic when it came to visual editors, and preferred Notepad whenever possible. FrontPage changed that in me, and made me look at Web development in a whole new light.

Still, many considered FrontPage a simple visual editor that accomplishes little but aid in the development of static Web pages. The mindset is that visual editors lack the true complexity that it takes to create rich and powerful Web applications that encompass client-side technologies such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, while leveraging server-side technologies such as ASP.NET.

Enter Expression Web. As FrontPage's successor, Expression Web obliterates that stigma by captivating the developer in a vast, intuitive, and feature-rich environment. Whether you're designing a Web site for personal use, a government institution, or a private organization, Expression Web's tools are geared to aiding in the development of feature-rich, accessible, and captivating Web pages.

Who This Book Is For

If you've picked up this book, chances are you're interested in the world of Web design and development and, more specifically, how Expression Web can help you succeed in these endeavors. Whether you're a seasoned developer, a print designer looking to expand your base of knowledge to the Web, an existing FrontPage user looking to see what the fuss is about, or a home user who simply aims at creating a family Web site, Expression Web offers the features and flexibility to get you on your way quickly and effortlessly. This book introduces you to the many features available through Expression Web.

What You Need to Use This Book

To work through and run the samples in this book, you must have the following:

- ☐ A computer running the Windows operating system.
- ☐ The .NET Framework 2.0. (The .NET Framework 2.0 will be installed along with Expression Web. You can download it separately from <http://www.asp.net>.)
- ☐ Expression Web. (A trial version can be downloaded from Microsoft's Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/products/expression>.)
- ☐ A database such as Microsoft Access or the free Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Edition.
- ☐ Internet Information Services (IIS) is needed for the validation and authentication examples in Chapter 14, "Securing Your Web Applications." You will also need IIS to install WebDAV as described in Chapter 3, "Working with Web Sites."

All of the files required for working with the examples in this book can be downloaded from our Web site at <http://www.wrox.com/dynamic/books/download.aspx>.

Conventions

To help you get the most from the text and keep track of what's happening, a number of conventions have been used throughout the book.

Try It Out

The “Try It Out” section is an exercise you should work through, following the text in the book.

1. They usually consist of a set of steps.
2. Each step has a number.
3. Follow the steps through with your copy of the database.

Boxes like this one hold important, not-to-be forgotten information that is directly relevant to the surrounding text.

Tips, hints, tricks, and asides to the current discussion are offset and placed in italics like this.

As for styles in the text:

- ❑ Important new terms and important words are *highlighted* when we introduce them.
- ❑ Keyboard strokes are shown like this: Ctrl+A.
- ❑ File names, URLs, and code within the text are shown like this: `persistence.properties`.
- ❑ Code is presented in the following two ways:

In code examples, we highlight new and important code with a gray background.

The gray highlighting is not used for code that's less important in the present context, or has been shown before.

Project Files

As you work through the examples in this book, you will need the project files that accompany the book. The entire set of project files used in this book is available for download at <http://www.wrox.com>. Once at the site, simply locate the book's title (either by using the Search box or by using one of the title lists), and click the Download Code link on the book's detail page to obtain all the project files for the book.

Because many books have similar titles, you may find it easiest to search by ISBN; for this book the ISBN is 9780470073155.

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Errata

We make every effort to ensure that there are no errors in the text or in the code. However, no one is perfect, and mistakes do occur. If you find an error in one of our books (such as a spelling mistake or faulty piece of code), we would be very grateful for your feedback. By sending in errata you may save another reader hours of frustration and at the same time you will be helping us provide even higher quality information.

To find the errata page for this book, go to <http://www.wrox.com> and locate the title using the Search box or one of the title lists. Then, on the book details page, click the Book Errata link. On this page, you can view all errata that has been submitted for this book and posted by Wrox editors. A complete book list including links to each book's errata is also available at www.wrox.com/misc-pages/booklist.shtml.

If you don't spot "your" error on the Book Errata page, go to www.wrox.com/contact/techsupport.shtml and complete the form there to send us the error you have found. We'll check the information and, if appropriate, post a message to the book's errata page and fix the problem in subsequent editions of the book.

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At <http://p2p.wrox.com> you will find a number of different forums that will help you not only as you read this book, but also as you develop your own applications. To join the forums, just follow these steps:

1. Go to p2p.wrox.com and click the Register link.
2. Read the terms of use and click Agree.
3. Complete the required information to join, as well as any optional information you wish to provide, and click Submit.
4. You will receive an e-mail with information describing how to verify your account and complete the joining process.

You can read messages in the forums without joining P2P, but to post your own messages, you must join.

Once you join, you can post new messages and respond to messages other users post. You can read messages at any time on the Web. If you would like to have new messages from a particular forum e-mailed to you, click the Subscribe to this Forum icon by the forum name in the forum listing.

For more information about how to use the Wrox P2P forums, be sure to read the P2P FAQs for answers to questions about how the forum software works, as well as many common questions specific to P2P and Wrox books. To read the FAQs, click the FAQ link on any P2P page.