

HUG 2005: Web Site Development

The following is a script of the Web Site Development training session. These tutorials should teach you how to create and publish web pages as well as link web pages built by halFILE's Publish Feature into your web site. While any web page development tool can be used, these tutorials are based around Microsoft FrontPage.

Tutorial 1: Creating your home page

The home page is the default web page that is shown when your web site domain is accessed. In our demonstration, we are building a web site at <http://hugdemo.halfile.com>. The host site defines what the default web page should be named. Typical names are default.htm or index.html. In our case, it is index.html

1. Go into FrontPage and select File-New.
2. Right click on the new page and select Page Properties so the page properties can be defined.
3. The General tab is used to define the title and description of the site as well as key words which search engines use to build their search indices.
4. The formatting tab is used to set the colors for the page. You can also set up a background image here.
5. The Advanced tab set more properties. Rollover style adds effects to your links and the Body Style button allows you to set the default fonts to use (see the Format button).
6. Save the settings and then enter some text on your page to be used as a header. Set the style to Heading 1 which automatically defines the font size.
7. Tables can be used to help format different articles within your web page. Insert a table beneath the header using the Table-Insert-Table menu. The form shown lets you set up the table including number of columns and rows, whether or not borders are shown, table width, and more. The Style button can be used to set default fonts (Format button).
8. Once the table is on the desktop, you can enter text or pictures into the cells. For text, just click in the cell and enter the text. For pictures, click in the cell then select the Insert-Picture menu. Add some text and pictures to your table.
9. Cells and Rows can be "spanned" to help your table formatting. For example, insert a row at the top of your table (click in the top cell and select Table-Insert-Rows or Columns menu then select Rows and Above selection). Once the new row has been inserted, right click in the first cell of the row and select cell properties. Set the Columns spanned option to 2 and save. The cell now spans the first two columns. The cell that was pushed to the right of the row can be removed by clicking in the cell and select the Table-Select Cell menu and pressing the delete key.
10. Most web pages include some kind of menu near the top. We will use a simple but effective menu in the top row of the table that takes us to different pages in our web site. So, in the top cell, enter the text "home | attendees | sessions | dinner & fun | publisher". Set the cell to be centered using the centering icon. Later, as we add web pages for these categories, we will add links.
11. Insert a horizontal line beneath the menu to make it stand out.
12. The Preview button at the bottom shows you what the page will look like on the web.
13. Save the page as index.html.

Tutorial 2: Publishing Web Pages

There are several ways to publish web pages as follows:

1. Let FrontPage publish them using web site setting that you define.
2. FTP the files using your browser, ftp command line, or ftp software.
3. If your web server is in house, you can edit the web page in place (immediately published) or copy them to the web site folders after editing.

FrontPage publishing:

1. Select the File-Publish Site menu.
2. Select the Remote Web server type.
3. Define the remote web site location.
4. Define what to publish on the Publishing tab.
5. Enter you logon credentials.
6. Select individual pages to publish or all pages.

FTP files using the browser:

1. Go to ftp:<your domain name> and enter the logon credentials.
2. Drag and drop files to the web site just as you do in My Computer or Windows Explorer.

Once the files are uploaded, you can browse to your site and you should see your new home page.

Tutorial 3: Linking to web pages

1. Back in FrontPage, let's open our "site" which is helpful for selecting and editing web page. File-Open Site.
2. Use index.html as a template to create a new web page. You can do this either by selecting the File-New menu and use the "from an existing web page" option or simply by saving index.html as a new name.
3. Create a web page named attendees.html and add some pictures.
4. Link the attendees menu in index.html to the new attendees.html web page by highlighting the attendees menu and selecting the insert-hyperlink menu. You should see the attendees.html listed in your folder for selection.
5. Link the home menu in attendees.html back to index.html.
6. Create similar web pages for the other menus and cross link them in the same fashion.
7. Preview and then publish your web pages.

Links can be added to pictures as well as text. The linked page can be set to come up in a new browser window as well (Hyperlink Properties – Target Frame).

Tutorial 4: halFILE Publish Feature

The halFILE Publish feature is capable of publishing a web page of halFILE data with links to documents. This tutorial will use the halFILE publish feature to publish the web page and then will link the web page into our new web site so it can be viewed over the Internet.

1. Set up the publish feature on your database as follows:
 - a. Go into halFILE Search.
 - b. Select the Tools-Option menu.
 - c. Go to the Publish tab.
 - d. Click the first html template button to populate the Published file header template box.
 - e. Click the PDF template button to populate the Published file detail line template box.
 - f. Click the bottom html template button to populate the Published file footer template box.
 - g. Create a publish folder under the folder where you web pages are located.
 - h. Set the Published path to this folder.
 - i. Enter a publish file name to save the html page to.
 - j. Check the Publish in HTML format box.
 - k. Check the Publish images as PDF files box.
 - l. Click OK to save the template.
2. Perform a search.
3. Double click the >> icon in the upper right corner of the hit list grid to mark all documents.
4. Select the Hit List-Marked Items-Publish menu to create the web page and preview.
5. Go into FrontPage and open up the publish.html file.
6. Add text to a cell describing the search.
7. Link it to the html file that was saved by the Search publish feature.
8. Publish the site including the entire publish folder and try it out.
9. Go back into search and change the publish folder to Publish2.
10. Run a second search, publish it. Then use FrontPage to modify the header of the publish web page. Finally, add the new page to the Publish web page.
11. Publish the site and now you have 2 published hit lists available on the web.

Summary:

1. The above tutorials showed how you can create a web site, publish halFILE searches and link them into your site.
2. With e.halFILE, of course, the publishing is done for you.
3. The Publish as PDF requires a Tiff2Pdf utility from Fastio.com.
4. You can publish TIFF images instead of PDF documents using different template settings.
5. You can modify the template or the resulting