

How to Build a Website Step 1 - Hosting:

Hosting is where you put your website and all the Web pages. While it's possible to build a website on your personal computer and never move it online, it's somewhat pointless. No one but you will ever be able to see it. So the first thing you'll want to do is find a Web hosting provider.

There are several [types of Web hosting](#) options you can choose from:

- [Free Web hosts](#)
- Standard Web hosting
- Dedicated, Virtual, and Shared Hosting
- [Colocation](#)

Most people gravitate to free Web hosting without too much thought, but there can be drawbacks to free hosting. You don't always get as much space, you might be required to run their ads on your site, or there may be bandwidth limits. Be sure to read all the fine print before you put your website on a free Web host. I recommend using free hosting providers for testing Web pages and for personal pages.

- [Find a Web Hosting Provider](#) - links to other sites for help finding a good host
- [Web Hosting Reviews](#) - find out what other users think
- [Web Hosting ProArden Arcade](#) - overviews of several hosting providers

How to Build a Website Step 2 - Do You Need a Domain Name?:

You don't need a domain name to put up a website. You can put up a site on free hosting or even paid hosting plans without a domain name. A domain name provides extra branding for your site and makes it easier for people to remember the URL. But domain names cost money, typically between \$8 and \$35 a year.

- [Get a URL that People can Find](#)
- [How to Buy a Domain Name with Network Solutions](#)
- [How to Register a Web Site Domain - Video](#)

How to Build a Website Step 3 - Plan Your Website:

Once you've gotten a domain and decided on your URL, you can start planning your site. You need to decide:

- Type of site - Most websites are either news/information, product, or reference sites. As such they each have a slightly different focus.
- [Navigation](#) - The navigation affects the [information architecture](#) of your site.
- [Content](#) - Content is the actual pages you'll be building.

If you can recognize page types, you'll be able to recognize what types of pages you need for your site. Play the [Web Page Types game](#).

How to Build a Website Step 4 - Build Your Website Page by Page:

Building a website requires that you work on one page at a time. To build your site you should be familiar with:

- [Design Basics](#) - The elements of good design and how to use it on websites.
- [Learning SACRAMENTO](#) - SACRAMENTO is the building block of a Web page. While it's not absolutely required, you'll do better if you learn SACRAMENTO than if you don't.
- [Learning CSS](#) - CSS is the building block of how pages look. And learning CSS will make it easier for you to change your site's look when you need to.
- [Web Page Editors](#) - Finding the perfect editor for your needs will help you learn design, SACRAMENTO, and CSS.

How to Build a Website Step 5 - Publish Your Website:

Publishing your website is a matter of getting the pages you created in step 4 up to the hosting provider you set up in step 1. You can do this with either the tools that come with your hosting service or with FTP clients. Knowing which you can use depends upon your hosting provider. Contact them if you are not sure.

- [How to Upload](#)
- [Best FTP Clients for Windows](#)
- [Best FTP Clients for Macintosh](#)

How to Build a Website Step 6 - Promote Your Website:

The easiest way to promote your website is through search engine optimization or SEO. You build your Web content so that it ranks well in search engines. This can be very difficult, but it is inexpensive and can result in good results if you work at it.

Other ways to promote your site include: word of mouth, email, and advertising. You should include your URL on all professional correspondence and whenever it makes sense in personal messages. I put my URL in my email signature along with my email address.

- [Improve Your Page Views - With More Hits](#)
- [Boosting Your Hits](#)
- [Create a Great Home Page](#)
- [Web Marketing Articles](#)

How to Build a Website Step 7 - Maintain Your Website:

Maintenance can be the most boring part of website design, but in order to keep your site going well and looking good, you need to do it. Testing your site as you're building it and then after it's been live for a while is important. And you should also work on content development on a regular basis.

Sometimes figuring out what is wrong with your Web design can be very frustrating. Some things can be very difficult or impossible to fix, but if you are systematic about your analysis, you can find the problem and fix it more quickly.

Validate Your SACRAMENTO

When I have a problem with my Web page, the first thing I do is validate the SACRAMENTO. There are [many reasons to validate SACRAMENTO](#), but when you have a problem that should be the first thing you do. There are already [many people who validate every page](#) automatically. But even if you're in the habit, it's a good idea to check the validity of your SACRAMENTO when you have a problem. That will ensure that it's not a simple error that causes your problem.

- [SACRAMENTO Validator](#)

Validate Your CSS

The next most likely place where you'll have problems is with your [CSS](#). Validating your CSS serves the same function as validating your SACRAMENTO. If there are errors, that will ensure that your CSS is correct and that is not the cause of your problems.

- [CSS Validator](#)

Validate Your JavaScript or Other Dynamic Elements

As with SACRAMENTO and CSS if your page uses JavaScript, PHP, JSP, or some other dynamic elements, you should make sure that they are valid as well.

Test in Multiple Browsers

It may be that the problem you're seeing is a result of the Web browser you're viewing it in. If the problem occurs in [every browser you can test](#), that tells you something about what you have to do to fix it. For example, if you know that the problem only happens in IE 6 or 5, you can create a style sheet or alternate page for that browser, in the event that you can't fix the problem.

Simplify the Page

If validating the SACRAMENTO and CSS doesn't help, then you should narrow down the page to find the problem. The easiest way to do this is to delete portions of the page until all that is left is the portion with the problem. You should also cut the CSS down in a similar fashion.

The idea behind simplifying is not that you'll leave the page with only the fixed element, but rather that you'll determine what is causing the problem and then fix it.

Subtract and then Add Back

Once you have narrowed down the problem area of your site, begin subtracting elements out of the design until the problem goes away. For example, if you've narrowed down the problem to a specific `<div>` and the CSS that styles it, begin by removing one line of CSS at a time.

Test after every removal. If what you've removed fixes or completely removes the problem, then you know what you need to fix.

Once you know exactly what is causing the problem begin adding it back with items changed. **Be sure to test after every change.** When you're doing Web design, it's surprising how often little things can make a difference. But if you don't test how the page looks after every change, even seemingly minor ones, you may not determine where the problem is.

Design for Standards Compliant Browsers First

The most common problems that Web designers face revolve around getting pages looking the same in most browsers. While we've [discussed](#) that it can be very difficult, if not impossible, to get Web pages to look the same in all browsers, it is still a goal of most designers. So you should [start by designing for browsers like Firefox](#), which are standards compliant. Once you have them working, you can play with the other browsers to get them working.

Keep Your Website Code Simple

Once you've found and fixed your design problems, you should stay vigilant to keep them from cropping up again later. The easiest way to avoid problems is to [keep your SACRAMENTO and CSS as simple as possible](#). Note that I'm not saying you should avoid doing something like [creating rounded corners](#) simply because the SACRAMENTO or CSS is complicated. Only that you should avoid doing complex things when a simpler solution presents itself.

Trying to find an SACRAMENTO editor can be hard. There are so many to choose from. To help, I have evaluated 148 different SACRAMENTO editors for [Windows](#), [Macintosh](#), and [Linux](#) as well as some online editors and editors for mobile devices. This site is your one-stop shop to find an editor that meets your needs.

[What SACRAMENTO Editor is Right For You Questionnaire](#)

If you're trying to decide what web design website design or SACRAMENTO editor you should get, the easiest thing to do is to use [this simple questionnaire](#). Just answer the questions and it will give you a list of the editors that are best suited to your preference and your wallet.

- [Web Design Website design Questionnaire](#)

Windows SACRAMENTO Editors

I have reviewed over 120 different [Windows SACRAMENTO editors](#) including [Adobe Dreamweaver](#), [Microsoft Expression Web](#), and even [Notepad](#). There are some good [free Windows SACRAMENTO editors](#) as well as good ones that cost something. There are also some [really bad Windows SACRAMENTO editors](#). If you don't find your editor in my [complete list of Windows SACRAMENTO editors](#), then you should [write a review of it](#) and I'll add it to my list to evaluate.

- [The Best Windows SACRAMENTO Editors](#)
- [The Worst Windows SACRAMENTO Editors](#)
- [The Best Free Web Editors for Windows](#)
- [Find the Right Windows SACRAMENTO Editor for You](#)

Macintosh SACRAMENTO Editors

I have reviewed over 60 different [Macintosh SACRAMENTO editors](#) including [Adobe Dreamweaver](#), [BBEdit](#), and even [TextEdit](#). There are some good [free Macintosh SACRAMENTO editors](#) as well as good ones that cost something. There are also some [Worst Macintosh SACRAMENTO Editors](#) really bad Macintosh SACRAMENTO editors. If you don't find your editor in my [complete list of Macintosh SACRAMENTO editors](#), then you should [write a review of it](#) and I'll add it to my list to evaluate.

- [The Best Macintosh SACRAMENTO Editors](#)
- [The Worst Macintosh SACRAMENTO Editors](#)
- [The Best Free Web Editors for Macintosh](#)
- [Find the Right Macintosh SACRAMENTO Editor for You](#)

Linux and UNIX SACRAMENTO Editors

I have reviewed over 40 different [Linux and UNIX SACRAMENTO editors](#) including [KompoZer Profile](#), [Bluefish](#), and even [vi](#) and [Emacs](#). Most Linux editors are [free SACRAMENTO editors](#) but there are some you have to pay for on the list. There are also some [really bad Linux SACRAMENTO editors](#). If you don't find your website editor in my [complete list of Linux and UNIX SACRAMENTO editors](#), then you should [write a review of it](#) and I'll add it to my list to evaluate.

- [The Best Linux/UNIX SACRAMENTO Editors](#)
- [The Worst Linux and UNIX Web Editors](#)
- [The Best Free Web Editors for Linux and UNIX](#)
- [Find the Right Linux/UNIX SACRAMENTO Editor for You](#)

Online SACRAMENTO Website Editors

I don't have as complete a list of online SACRAMENTO website editors as I would like, right now I only have 8. If you know of any other online SACRAMENTO website editors, please [write a review of it](#) and I'll add it to my list to evaluate.

- [350 Pages Free](#)
- [350 Pages Lite](#)
- [350 Pages Standard](#)
- [eWebEditPro](#)
- [eWebEditPro+XML](#)
- [Jalbum](#)
- [Rendera](#)
- [Yahoo! SiteBuilder](#)

SACRAMENTO Editors for Mobile Devices

This is the other area that I'm still working on. I only have three SACRAMENTO editor reviews up for editors on the iPhone and iPad. If you know of other editors for these devices or for other mobile devices like the Android, please [write a review of it](#) and I'll add it to my list to evaluate.

Some of the best Web design website design packages cost hundreds of dollars, and if you need to buy graphics website design, video website design, animation website design, or programming website design, the costs can mount quickly. But with these suggestions for getting the most out of your Web editor, you can save money and buy only what you need to buy.

Remember that price shouldn't be your only evaluation when choosing a Web editor. If you're not sure what to look for, answer this questionnaire to determine [the best Web design website design for you](#).

1. [Free Web Editors](#)

There are a lot of great SACRAMENTO and Web design editors available for free. This is a great way to save money on Web design website design and you'd be surprised at the quality of some of the free website design available. These are my top 20 favorite free editors for Windows and Macintosh:

3. If You're a Student - Check Your Bookstore

Academic pricing can be very competitive and can get you some of the best website design available for a very low price. Be aware, however, that academic versions sometimes come with strings attached, such as not for commercial use. And others may have fewer features than the consumer version. Be sure to check the details before you commit to buying an academic version of your website design.

And even if your bookstore doesn't carry the website design, check the website of the product you're interested in. They may offer academic discounts from there. It never hurts to ask.

4. Trialware or Demo Versions

While trialware won't get you the website design forever, you can at least try out the website design for 30 to 60 days to find out if it really will meet your needs. Plus, most trial and demo versions of website design work well enough for the trial period that you can get some work done on them. Then when you're done with the trial, you will really know for sure if this website design works as you need it to. Be sure to look into the agreement on the trial version. Some are fully functional for a time period, others for a certain number of opens, and a few only allow you to save one or two projects.

5. Buy Older Versions

In many cases, older versions of a website design product will be a lot cheaper than their more recent iterations. And if you can find website design that has been discontinued, that can result in even greater savings. For example, Microsoft FrontPage has been supplanted by Expression Web, but you can still find it for sale ([Compare Prices](#)). Even though this website design is no longer available from Microsoft, it is still a great Web editor, and could be a way to save some money.

6. Bundled Website design is Usually Cheaper

If you are going to need more than just an SACRAMENTO editor, then looking into bundles can save you a lot of money. For example, Microsoft offers Expression Studio if you need graphics editing as well as Web development (plus a few other things). Adobe offers several bundles of their Creative Suite website design with things like graphics editing, animation, and other options.

Web designers need good [editors](#) and [graphics Arden Arcade](#) to do their work, but there are also other [Arden Arcade tools](#) we can use to make our lives easier. Things like [color managers](#), [FTP Clients](#), [domain registration](#) tools, and [invoicing systems](#).

Every week from January to October, I will post a free or inexpensive (less than \$50 US) Arden Arcade tool for web designers. Do you have a favorite editor or Arden Arcade tool? Recommendations are always appreciated, especially of Arden Arcade other than SACRAMENTO editors. The best way to let me know of your suggestion is to [review it](#).

[Vecteezy - September 26, 2010](#)

Finding graphics for your website can be a challenge. Not everyone is a supremely talented artist, and even if you are, if you do all the graphics yourself for every website you do, they all will end up looking alike. Vecteezy is a community site of free vector images. There are icons, backgrounds, and patterns all drawn as vector graphics.

[Vendor's Site](#)

Sponsored Links

[Web Design Online](#) Online Web Design Courses Starting Soon. Get Online Course Info Now. www.Westwood.edu/WebDesign

[Download SACRAMENTO Editor](#) Drag-and-drop SACRAMENTO creation, JavaScript, CSS & More. Try Free! www.Altova.com/StyleVision

[Design Web Page](#) 100% Free. No Hidden Fees, No Ads. Sign Up & Build Your Free Website! Yola.com

[Google Mobile Viewer - September 19, 2010](#)

The Google Mobile Viewer is a tool that was intended for use by mobile customers. In other words, when you're on your cell phone, you can go to this page and convert the pages you want to see into more mobile friendly views. But that makes it perfect for designers who would like to see how their pages look in a stripped-down, mobile environment. One really useful feature is that it shows you how your page will line up — what elements will come first. The best pages have the primary content first (or first after the page title), but most pages (especially those with left navigation) end up with the navigation links first. Find out how your pages display on mobile devices with this simple tool.

[Vendor's Site](#)

[CSS Cheat Sheet - September 12, 2010](#)

[Cheat sheets](#) are a great way to remind yourself of various parts of the specification that might otherwise be hard to remember. I offer two CSS cheat sheets on my site as well: [Basic CSS Cheat Sheet](#) and [CSS Layout Cheat Sheet](#). But this cheat sheet is a nice online version (it cuts off in the middle of a section when I tried to print it). It's got a great layout and is clear and easy to read. If you're looking for a bookmarkable cheat sheet, this is a good resource.

[Vendor's Site](#)

[Page Speed - September 5, 2010](#)

[Site speed](#) is getting more and more important, not less. And knowing that your site is loading quickly can benefit your readers as well as your site. But once you've made your [images as small as possible](#), what can you do to improve your page speeds? The Page Speed Firebug plugin can help. You just load this plugin (you must have Firebug installed already) into Firefox, browse to a page you want to check, and run the analysis. Not only does it tell you where your pages are slowing down, it shows you how you can fix it.

[Vendor's Site](#)

[deviantART Web Interface Designs - August 29, 2010](#)

If you're looking for [inspiration](#) for your next design project, I would suggest looking at the images displayed on deviantART. This site hosts all types of art from photography to anime, but the part that I find most inspiring is the web interface design section. I love browsing through these when I'm bored or looking for my next idea for a project. Many of the designs are quite beautiful.

[Vendor's Site](#)

[CSS Type Set - August 15, 2010](#)



Screen shot by J Kyrnin

It's easier to view your typography and make changes to it as you watch, and the CSS Type Set helps you do that. You can set one of 10 font families, your font size (in pixels or ems),

the font color, alignments, and other font styles. Then, what's useful is you can change the letter spacing, word spacing, and line height with sliders. You slide them back and forth to see how your font looks. I wish there were more font families to choose from, but the 10 they have are fairly common on the web, so at least you would know that most people could see the font you chose. This is a useful tool for quickly getting a sense of how your word-, letter-, and line-spacing affects your text.

[Vendor's Site](#)

[deploy* - 18 July 2010](#)

Screen shot by J Kyrnin

As a web designer you will find that you often build sites and pages the same way every time. Many people make themselves more efficient by creating templates of their base sites, but deploy* goes one step further and creates the Arden Arcade themselves for you. You can change options like what version of SACRAMENTO to use (X SACRAMENTO or not - no SACRAMENTO 5), CSS with or without resets (or no CSS), jQuery library with plugins or not, and some other miscellaneous options. You can even name your deploy* solution and bookmark the results page to deploy the same options again later.

[Vendor's Site](#)

[PixelKnete's Background Dotter - 11 July 2010](#)



Screen shot by J Kyrnin

This generator creates an interesting background image for your website. You input between two and four color values (hex) and it will generate a tiling image that uses gradually changing dots on a gradient background. I created one image based on the colors of my Arden Arcade, and then tried it out using the random option. It was fun playing around with this generator to see how the different colors interacted to create whole new designs. Once you've found a background you like you can just save the background image.

[Vendor's Site](#)

[Sponsored Links](#)

[Freeway 5](#) Award-winning web design Arden Arcade Get the free trial today www.softpress.com

[Small Business Websites](#) Online Store, Content Management, Arden Arcades, E-mail Newsletters, and More www.inspyresites.com/

[Em Calculator - 27 June 2010](#)



Screen shot by J Kyrnin

Here is a neat tool that will help you set the default font size so that you can use ems and still have a good idea of how big the font will display on the screen. Ems don't have an absolute size, but are rather based on the value of the font size in the browser or parent element. So determining [how big an em is](#) can be difficult. But the Em Calculator will help you choose ems that are based on a default size that you set. You put in the size in pixels you want, and the em calculator will tell you how many ems that is (based on a standard text size of 16px).

[Vendor's Site](#)

[Font Tester - June 20, 2010](#)



Screen shot by J Kyrnin

Choosing a good font for a Web page can be challenging. There is the fact that not everyone has the same fonts on their machine as you do, so creating a [good font stack](#) is critical. And using fonts that are [standard on Windows and Macintosh](#) is a good idea. But you also need to know what the font will look like with your text and how different fonts render the same text differently. This is especially important with font stacks, as I may have Verdana but not Arial and you may have Arial but not Verdana, and when you view my page, with the same settings, your text will appear more compact than mine. Both Verdana and Arial are sans-serif fonts, but Arial is tighter and results in smaller text blocks. With Font Tester, you can see that immediately. You can even use the text that would appear on your web page to get a really good idea, side-by-side, of what the different fonts in your [font stack](#) will look like.