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Reflection #5

I said this would be a wrap-up of what designing a web page with Dreamweaver has meant to me: frustration. I'm going to stick to straight code.

In theory, once the design has been planned, it should be a matter of plugging in to the template. I finally just started all over with a new template, created the style sheets and library items, and deleted all old files on the server, and reloaded it all. I formally STOPPED using the Dreamweaver synchronization once I realized that it was doing so many things that only caused problems. At one point the files were scattered on the server between the root folder and the site folder (this was BEFORE I started all over again and abandoned the Dreamweaver synchronization).

It is a good thing that I enjoy fooling with HTML. Once things started going smoothly in Dreamweaver, of course that helped the enjoyment of the process. But when it was clear that things were going wrong, it undid all the good will I had toward Dreamweaver.

I wanted a text area on the last page for comments, but I had so much trouble with the CGI earlier in the semester, that I dropped that idea. I consulted my HTML Goodies book (Burns, Joe. (1999). HTML Goodies. Indianapolis: Macmillan Publishing)--but even those directions weren't much help.

I had started this reflection before Sunday afternoon, before I discovered, to my horror, that the Dreamweaver gremlin had been at it again. Here is a count-off of the problems I've had:

- Dreamweaver was capitalizing my filenames, so of course the computer could not find the file to link to. I thought I had taken care of that when I realized that it was still happening. The universal find-and-replace feature did not pick up all of the files.
- Then I noticed that the Style Sheet filename, no less, had been capitalized.
- I won’t even go into the business of Dreamweaver’s linking my files to the files inside a BACKUP folder I had placed on my desktop….
- Then just today I noticed that Library items had been switched also.
- Even the image in my header has been switched around….
- I had created a style for my links. I wanted the links to be dark green, to match the overall theme; then when hovered over, they would change to the lighter green that the menu items changed to when the mouse was held over them. Then, finally, after being visited, they would be an even lighter green. The Help files said that they would automatically take effect, and not show in the Design view. Sometimes it would work, and sometimes not. I hope they work for you!
- I had made a library item to use in placing the "page down" links, but then decided not to and (I thought) deleted it. Well, somehow, the library items I HAD made and used on nearly every page, got replaced with a "page down" library item. So I went back in and just replaced those library items with text. What a pain!

Better luck next time!