

IT111 Week 2 Podcast

Hello and welcome to the Week 2 Podcast for IT 111.

In this podcast I'd like to offer some tips on workflow as you begin creating web pages and talk a bit about the web developer toolbar you can add to Firefox.

I thought I'd offer a suggestion on workflow for the Chapter 2 assignment that I've found helpful. First, open the software you'll be using to create your XHTML code. For Windows users that will be either Notepad or LopeEdit (or Notepad++ or PSPad) and for Mac users it will be TextEdit.

Next, open the software you'll be using to copy your web page files to your compass web server account. For Windows users that will be WinSCP and for Mac users, it will be FUGU.

Then, open Firefox or another web browser. I strongly encourage you to use Firefox since it is less forgiving of incorrect code than Internet Explorer is. You should be able to see problems in Firefox that Internet Explorer won't show you.

Keep all three of these programs open while you work.

As I mentioned in my short tips video, make sure you've checked the chapter updates and made corrections to your textbook before you begin typing your XHTML code. This will save you time and frustration. Use the instructions from the textbook to type the code needed for the web pages in the hands-on activities.

When you've finished typing the code and saved the file to your hard drive, copy it to your web account. Make sure to copy all your web page files into the folder labeled public_html.

Type the URL for the web page into Firefox (or another web browser). For example, if your user name is hsmith and the web page file is template.html, the URL will be <http://compass.northseattle.edu/~hsmith/template.html>.

Open a second tab in Firefox (or the web browser you're using). If you haven't done this before, select **File -> New Tab** from the browser menu bar. Open the W3C validator in the new tab and make sure you either bookmark it or make it a favorite.

Click on the Tab that is displaying your web page and copy the URL to the clipboard. Click on the Tab that has the W3C validator and paste your URL into

the Address box. Click in the “**Show Source**” box before you click the “**Check**” button.

If the W3C validator reports that the XHTML code for your page passes, meaning it has no errors, congratulations! Now you can proceed to the next hands-on activity.

If you have errors in your code, make corrections to the file on your hard drive using Notepad, LopeEdit, Notepad++, PSPad, or TextEdit. Save the file and copy it to the compass web server. You’ll be overwriting the earlier version and you should get prompted by WinSCP or FUGU about this.

Click on the “**Revalidate**” button in the W3C validator to see if your corrections have fixed the errors. If there are still errors, make additional corrections to the file on your hard drive. Save the file and copy it to the compass web server. Click the “**Revalidate**” button.

Cycling among these three applications is the most efficient way to test and correct your code. It might seem complicated at first but with some practice, you’ll get the swing of it, I promise.

Finally, I recommend you work on the errors one by one. Often fixing one coding error will solve several validation errors.

A few months ago, my sister-in-law, the webmaster for Highline Community College, told me about the web developer toolbar that can be added to Firefox. Once I installed the toolbar with its many excellent tools, I couldn’t imagine working without it. I suspect you’ll find them helpful, too so I’m adding a link to the toolbar web site and a couple short YouTube videos that show many of the tools.

In our first real time, virtual session, I’ll also point out the tools I think you’ll find most helpful at this stage in the quarter. And, speaking of the real time meetings, thanks to those of you who have submitted answers to the short survey about your availability to attend the meetings. Right now 15 out of 23 students have indicated their preferences. If you haven’t taken the survey yet, please do so by Tuesday, April 14. I’m hoping to schedule the first meeting this week.

So far, Monday has 4 first choice and 2 second choice responses. Tuesday has 3 first choice and 6 second choice responses. Wednesday has 4 first choice and 3 second choice responses. Thursday isn’t in the running. I’ll let everyone know after tomorrow when the meetings will be held

Well, that it for this podcast. Thanks for listening and stay tuned next week for another IT 111 podcast.