ITEC447
Web Projects

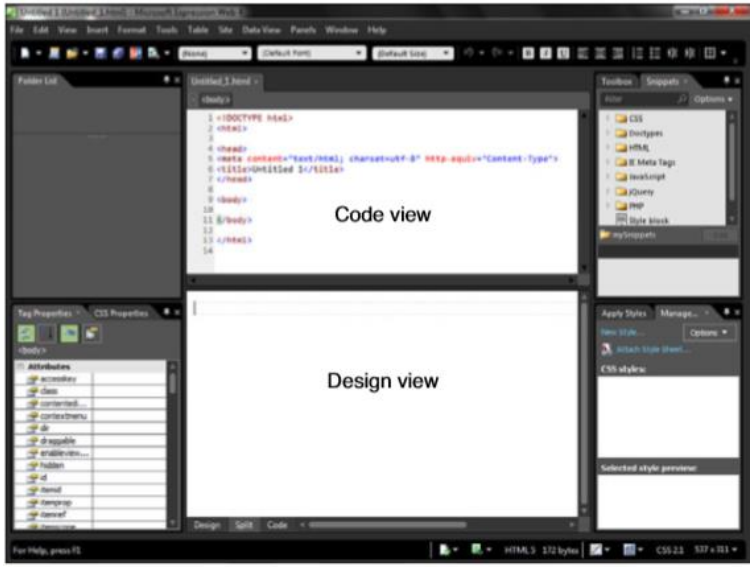
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

Getting and Installing Expression Web 4

- Expression Web 4 was launched in June 2010, and it is available through most software retailers or through the Microsoft Expression website.
- https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=36179

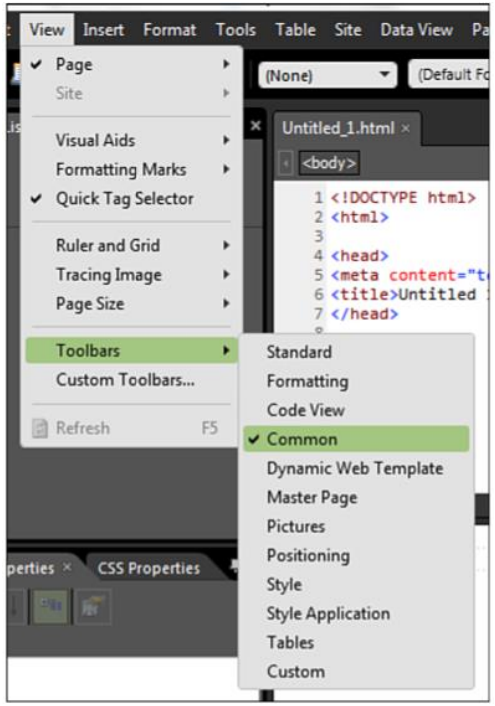
Getting Acquainted with the Workspace

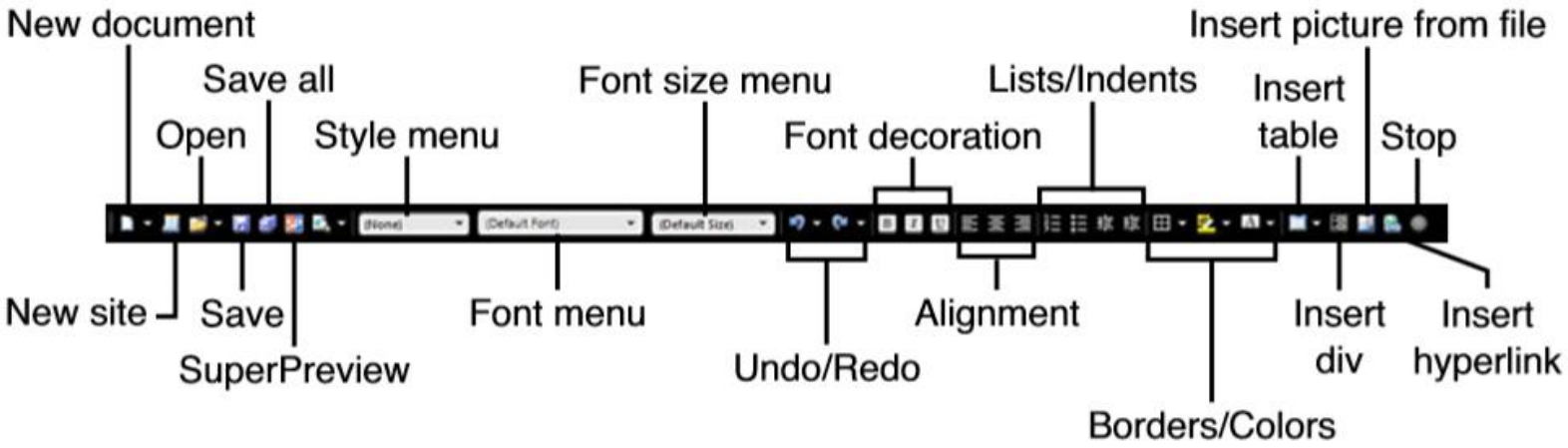
- When you open Expression Web 4 for the first time, it presents several views, panels, and toolbars containing tools and information. In the middle, the Code view and the Design view show you the current page. Together, these panels and toolbars give you a complete picture of the project you are working on and multiple ways of working with and editing that project.
- The menu bar is directly under the address bar. This bar is familiar to anyone who has used a computer program. The menu bar is the program's control center from which you can access any tool, feature, or functionality.



Common and Other Toolbars

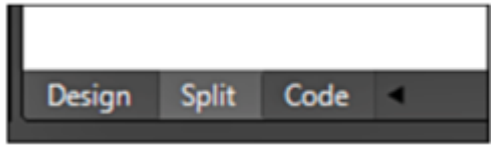
- The Common toolbar is under the menu bar. This toolbar contains the most commonly used functions in the program, such as New, Open, Save, Font, Alignment, and so on. In addition to being an excellent tool for quick access to frequently used functions, the Common toolbar also displays information about your current selections.





Code, Design, and Split View

- As you work on your pages, you need to switch back and forth between the different views.
- To make this as easy as possible, the View panel comes equipped with three buttons to toggle the different views on and off.

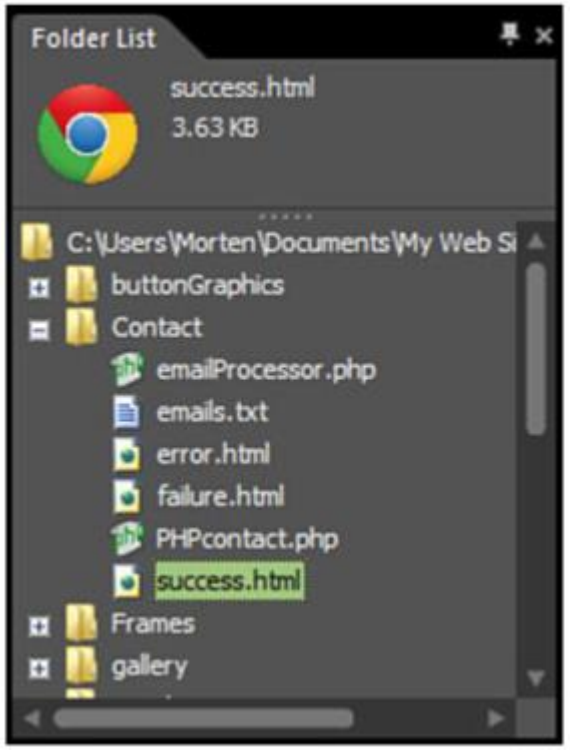


Left and Right Panels

- On the left and right sides of the workspace are four panels.
- These panels contain tools, information, and content you can use in the design process.

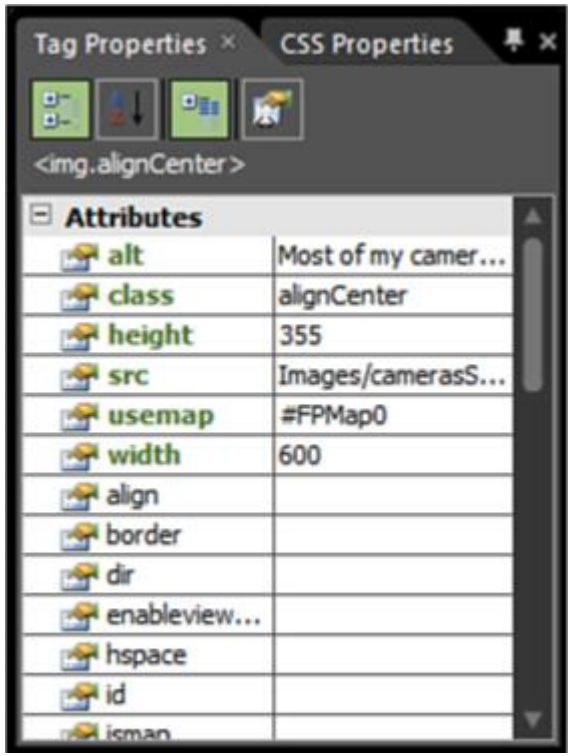
Folder List (Top Left)

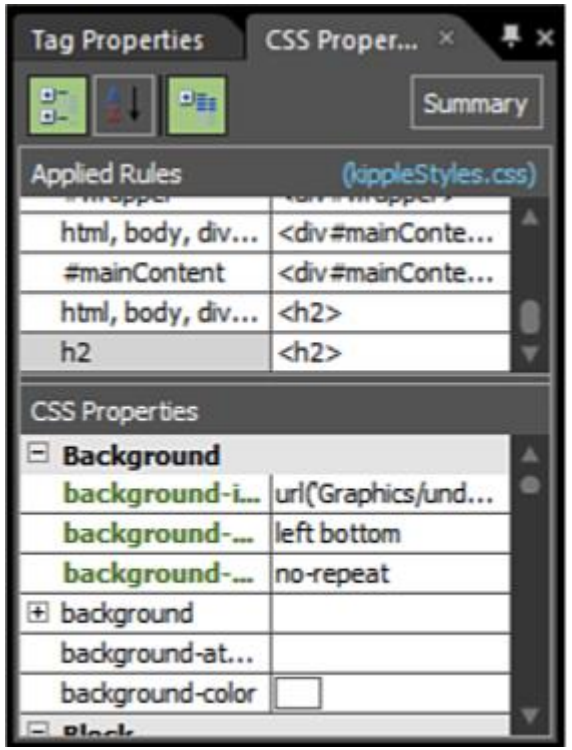
- The Folder List panel shows the folder and file tree in the project or site you are working within.



Tag Properties and CSS Properties (Bottom Left)

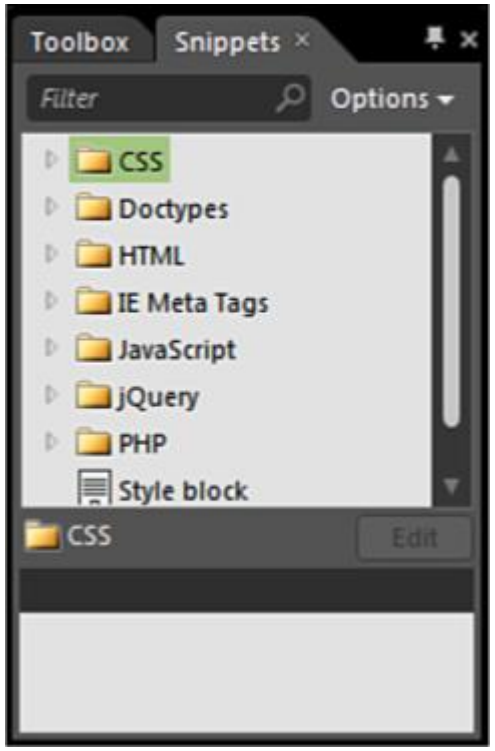
- This panel contains two tabbed subpanels. The Tag Properties panel and CSS Properties panel display the current tag or CSS properties of the selected object. Clicking different parts of the code in Code view shows how the tag properties change depending on the code you click.





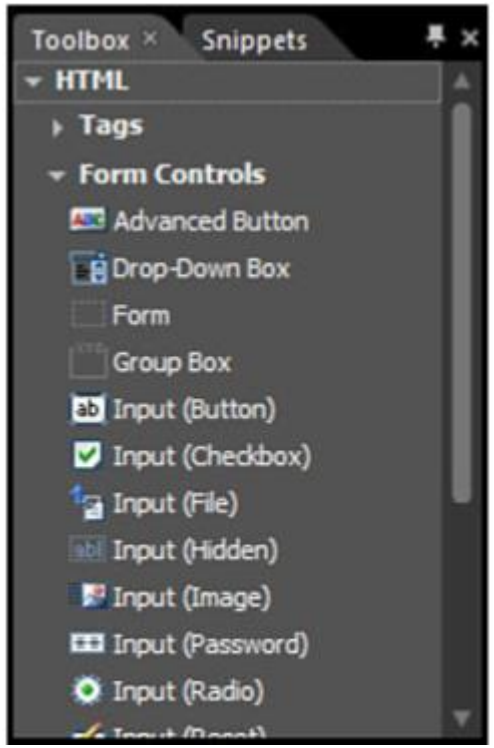
Snippets (Top Right)

- The Snippets panel enhances the code snippets function in Expression Web 4 and provides an easy way to insert code in a variety of languages and even create your own custom snippets.



Toolbox (Top Right)

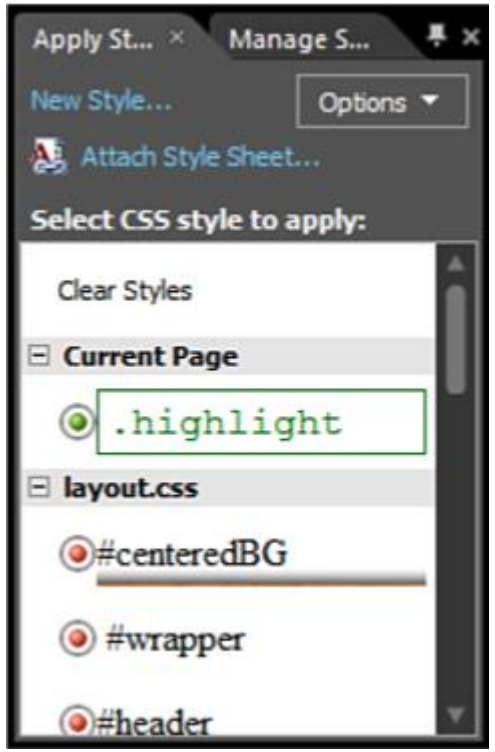
- The Toolbox panel contains code segments and tags frequently used while editing in Code view.
- The Toolbox panel is made up of two main sections, HTML and ASP.NET Controls, and each section has multiple subcategories.



Apply Styles and Manage Styles (Bottom Right)

- This panel contains two tabbed subpanels.
- The Apply Styles panel displays the CSS styles available to the current page and enables you to apply styles to objects in Design view.
- The Manage Styles panel has similar functionality with the addition of a preview area where you can see what each style does to your content.
- Both panels give you the ability to apply styles and create new styles.
- All the panels are intelligent; they learn from how you use the program.
- If you use a particular item often, it moves higher on the list to become more accessible.
- A rarely used item moves down on the list.
- The panels also help you by turning currently unavailable functions gray so that you don’t waste time trying to do something impossible.

Apply Styles and Manage Styles (Bottom Right) Cont.

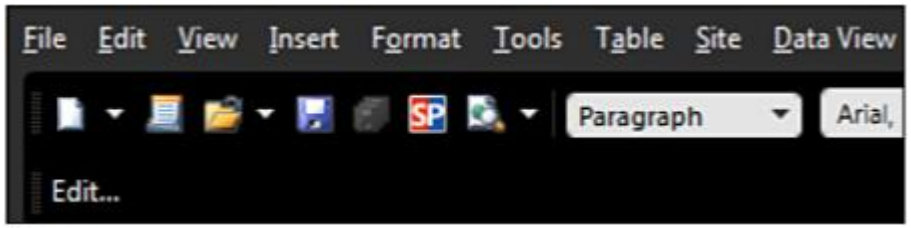


Status Bar

- The status bar appears at the bottom of the workspace.
- It provides information about the program itself as well as general information for the page you are working on, such as file size and overall settings (the code format you are using, for example).
- In addition, the status bar has tools that warn you if there is invalid or incompatible code in your page.

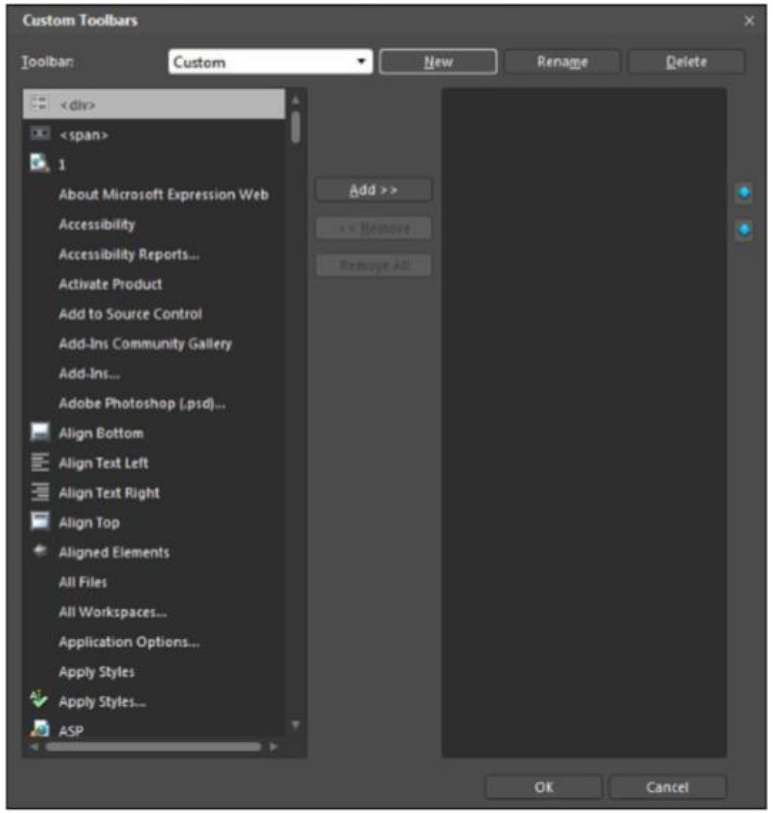
Add and Configure Your Own Custom Toolbar

- To use the custom toolbar, you first have to activate it.
- On the main menu, go to View, hover over Toolbars, and select Custom from the bottom of the pop-out menu. This adds a new toolbar to the top of the workspace with the text “Edit…”



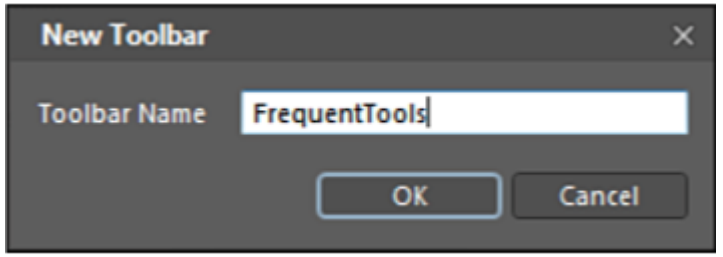
Add and Configure Your Own Custom Toolbar Cont.

- To add a new button to the custom toolbar, click Edit.
- This opens the Custom Toolbars dialog.



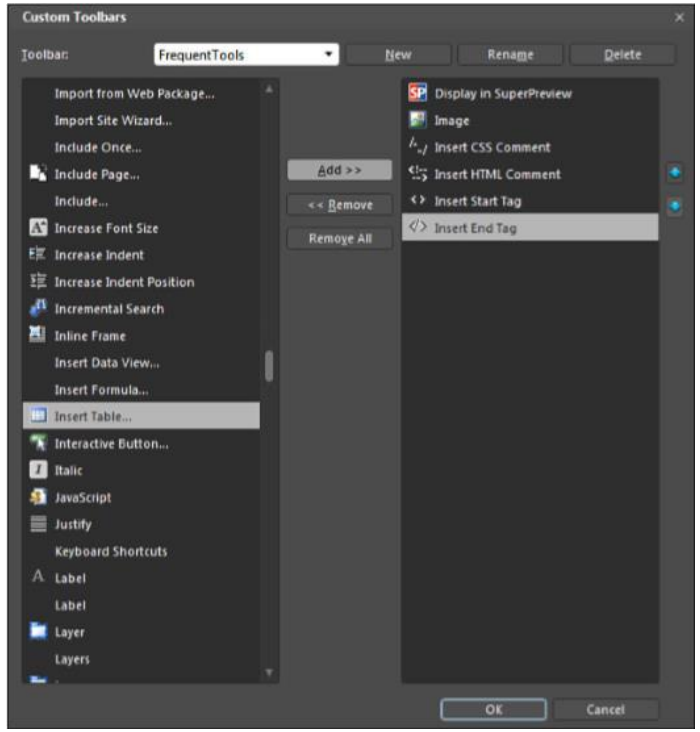
Add and Configure Your Own Custom Toolbar Cont.

- Click New to open the New Toolbar dialog.
- Here, you can give your custom toolbar a descriptive name.
- Note that the name has to be a single word with no spaces.



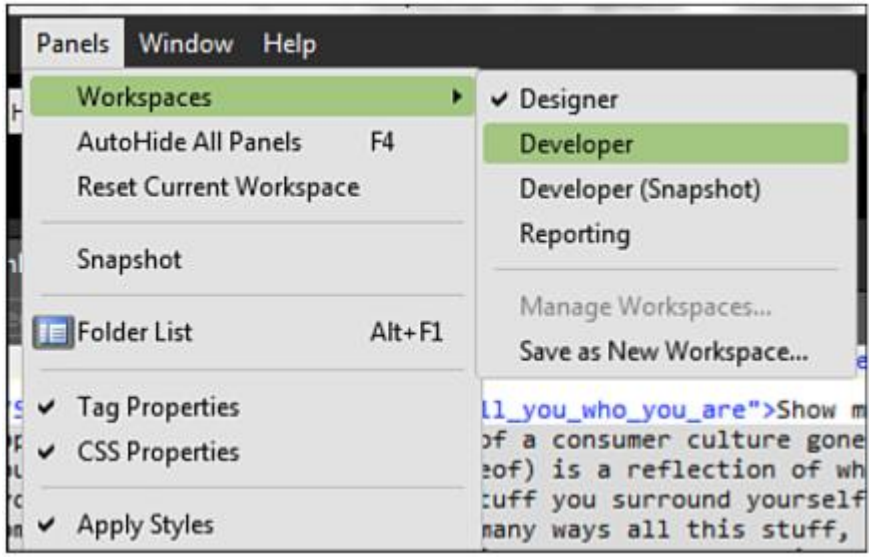
Add and Configure Your Own Custom Toolbar Cont.

- To remove an item from the toolbar, select the item on the right side and click the Remove button.
- When you are done adding buttons to the custom toolbar, click OK and the buttons appear.
- Once a custom toolbar is created, you can toggle it on and off using the Toolbars menu found under View, Toolbars.



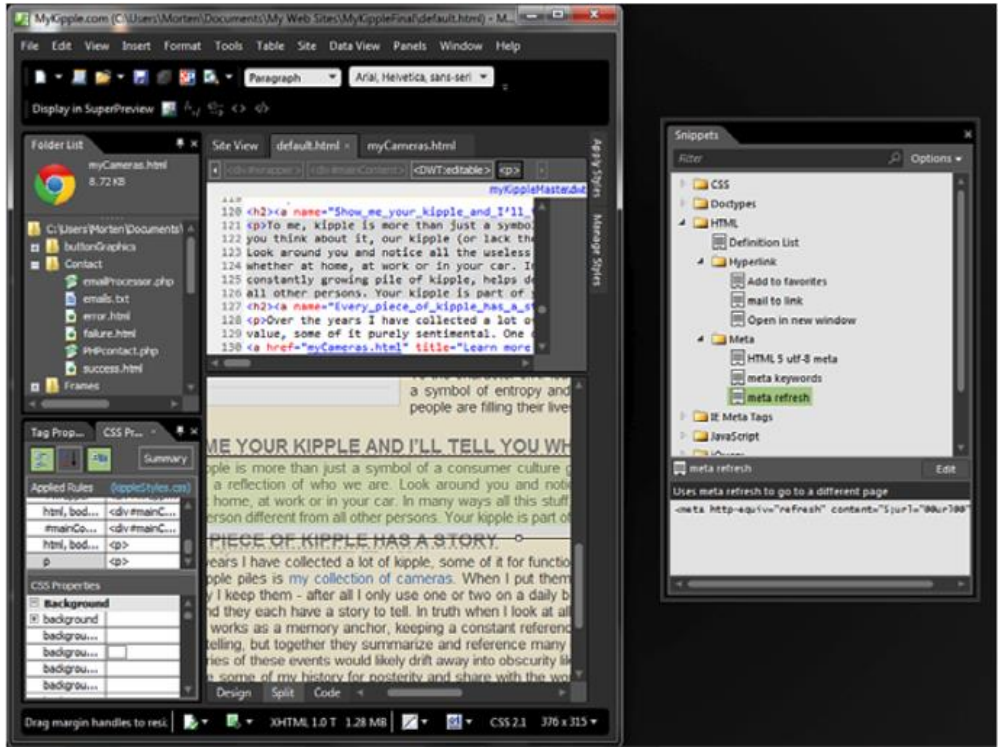
Using Default Workspaces

- One of the core user experience features in Expression Web has always been the flexible workspace.
- To accommodate the different needs of different types of developers, Expression Web's workspace is modular with panels that can be sized, docked, and moved around to fit most needs.
- The workspaces can be configured and switched from the Panels option on the main menu.



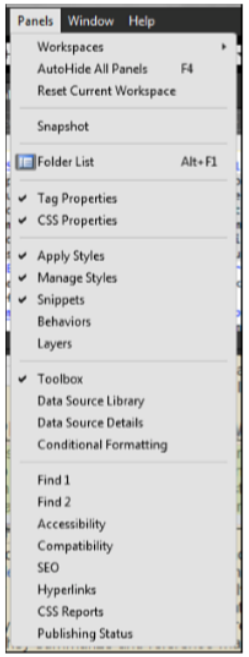
Modifying the Workspace

- You can grab any horizontal and vertical border within the workspace to make a panel smaller or larger.
- You can also grab panels and move them around both by repositioning them within the workspace and by undocking and floating them on top of or outside the window.



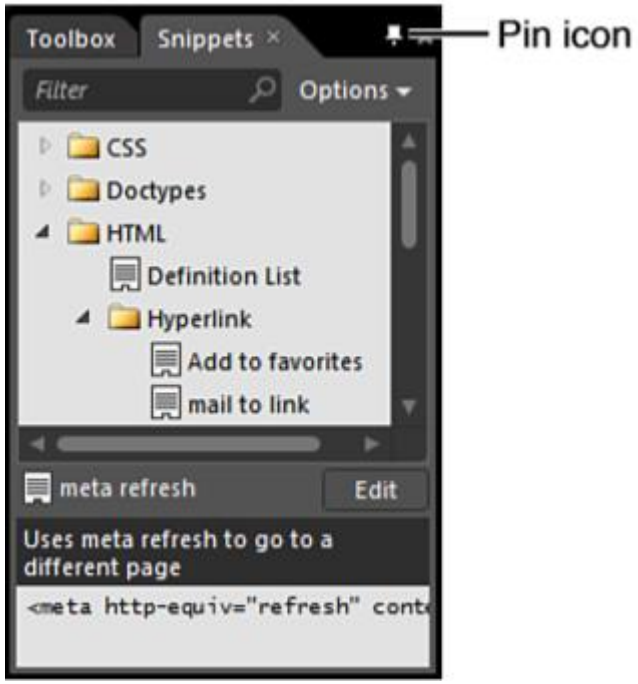
Modifying the Workspace Cont.

- The Panels menu on the menu bar controls the panels.
- From here, you can select what panels are active (indicated by a check mark).
- If you click one not currently featured in the workspace, the program adds it to the relevant panel.
- You can remove a panel from view by clicking the small X in its upper-right corner.



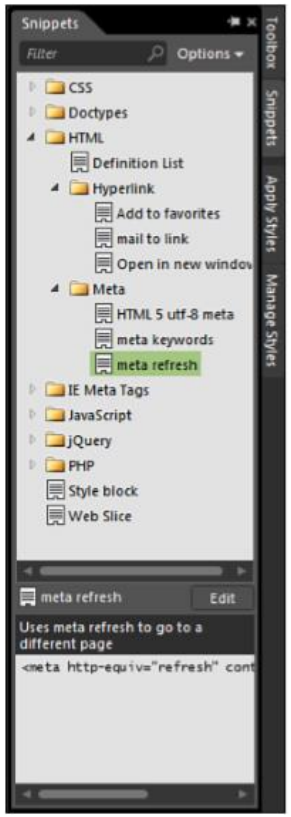
Modifying the Workspace Cont.

- Expression Web 3 introduced the ability to pin the panels to the sides of the workspace.
- This feature allows you to keep the panels handy in the workspace without them taking up much-needed real estate.
- To pin a panel to the side of the workspace, simply click the pin icon at the top-right corner of the panel.



Modifying the Workspace Cont.

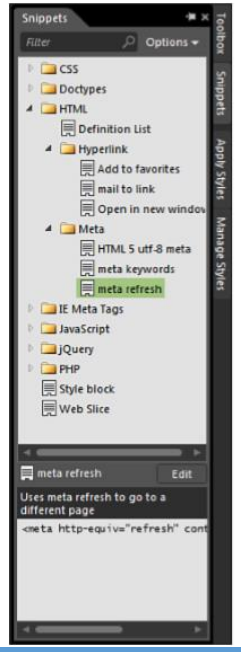
- When a panel has been pinned, the panel name is written vertically down the side of the workspace.
- To access the panel, simply hover your mouse over the name of the desired panel, and it “pops” out to cover your workspace.



Pinned panels

Modifying the Workspace Cont.

- To unpin the panels and place them back in their normal configuration, simply click the horizontal pin in the top-right corner of the currently active pinned panel.
- If you want to quickly pin all the panels in your workspace, go to Panels on the main menu and select Hide Panels.
- To unpin them again, go back to the menu and uncheck the same function.



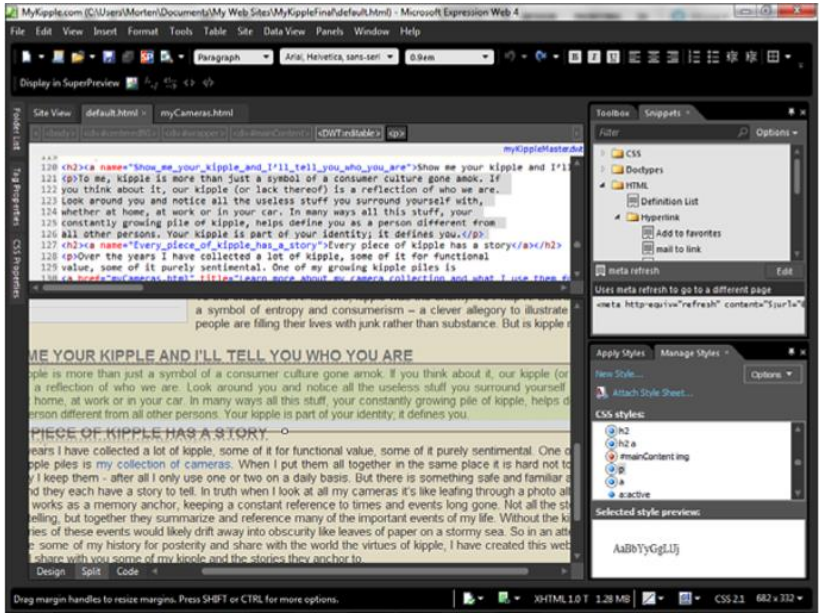
Pinned panels

Create and Save a New Workspace

- As you perform different tasks while working on a page or website, your needs will change in terms of what tools and information should be prominently displayed and what can be hidden. For this reason, Expression Web 4 gives you complete control over what panels are available and where they are positioned at any time.

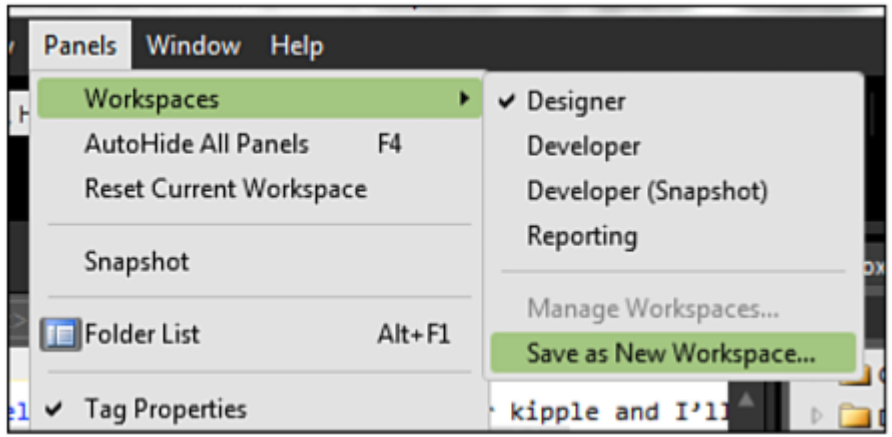
Create and Save a New Workspace Cont.

- Hover your mouse over the vertical line that separates the Code and Design views from the right panels.
- Click and drag the separator to the left to create more space for the panels.
- Use the pin icon in the Folder List panel to pin the folder list to the left side of the workspace. When the Folder List is pinned, the Tag and CSS Properties panel shifts up to fill out the space.
- Pin the Tag and CSS Properties panel to the side to free up space for the View panel.



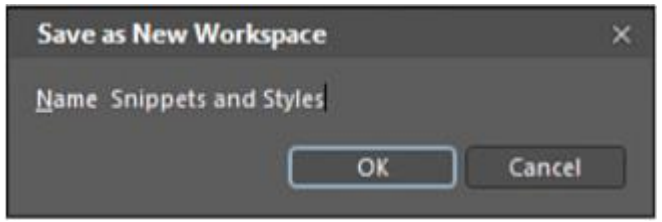
Create and Save a New Workspace Cont.

- When you are happy with the look of the workspace, go to Panels on the main menu, hover over Workspaces, and select Save as New Workspace.



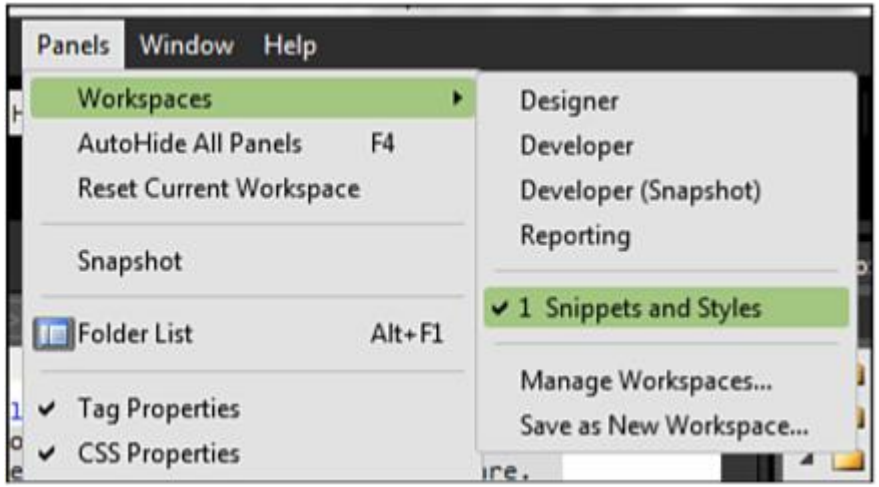
Create and Save a New Workspace Cont.

- This opens the Save as New Workspace dialog.
- From here, give your new workspace a descriptive name.
- Note that the name can have spaces but cannot end with a space or a period.



Create and Save a New Workspace Cont.

- Click OK, and the new workspace is saved and appears on the Workspaces pop-out menu.



Reset Your Workspace

- You can see that creating new workspaces is easy, and there is no “right” or “wrong” in terms of workspace layout: Whatever works for you is the right layout.
- But what if your workspace gets too “messy,” or you accidentally close a panel or lose it altogether?
- To simplify the process of cleaning up your workspace, click the Panels button on the menu bar and select Reset Current Workspace to restore the current workspace to its original configuration.

Working with a Completed Website

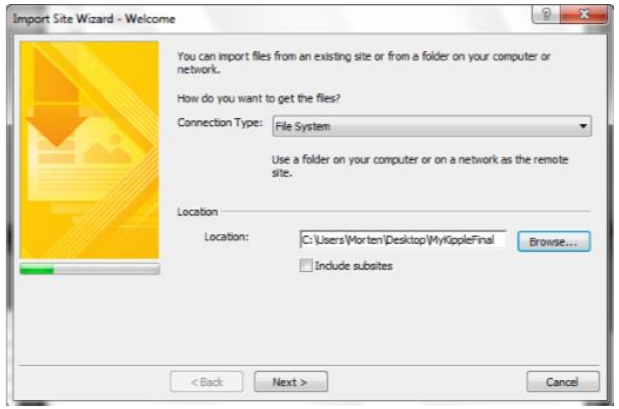
- To work efficiently in Expression Web 4 (or any web design application, for that matter), it is important to understand how the application handles files and file relationships.
- By working with a completed website, you can experiment and learn how Expression Web 4 works with you to keep everything functioning properly as you edit and reorganize the different elements.
- The Import Site Wizard is a helpful tool that saves you a lot of time when you need to work on a website built in a different application or by a different designer.

Importing a Completed Website

- A website is actually just a folder with a group of files linked together.
- What makes it a website is that the files within that folder can be viewed using a web browser.
- To start, use the Import Site Wizard to import the finished project into the application as a new website.
- You can use it to import sites from your local computer or network and from external web servers or even directly from the websites themselves.

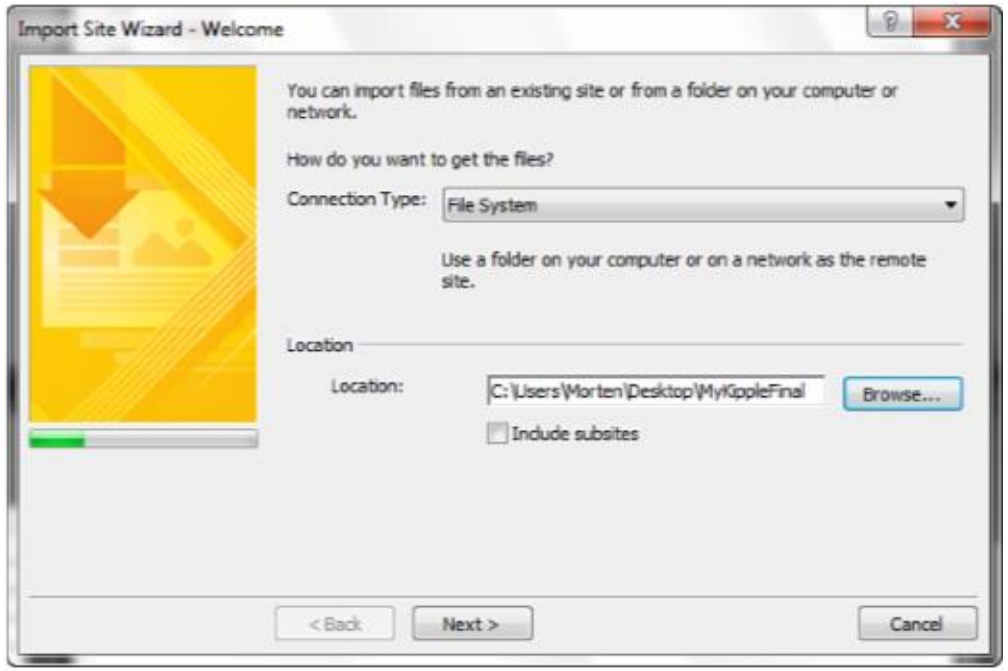
Importing a Completed Website Cont.

- Please, create a folder under the *T:* directory.
- Name it as your student number and course code. (eg. *135478 ITEC447*)
- Go to this course's website, download the *All Hours* file.
- Unzip the lesson files using your operating system's native file-extracting function or an application such as 7-zip.
- Place the lesson files in the file you have just created on your computer.
- Open Expression Web 4.
- Go to Site, Import, and then select Import Site Wizard. (*Step 8*)



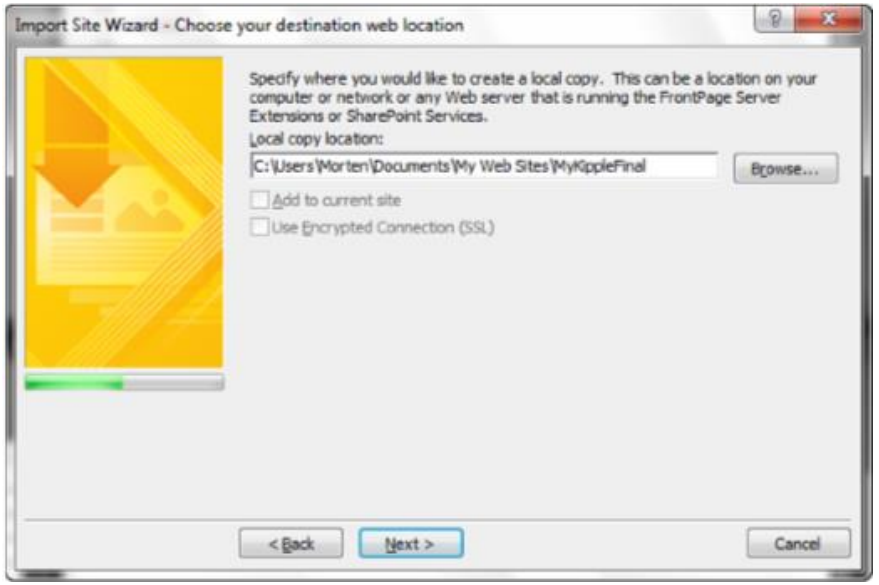
Importing a Completed Website Cont.

- Select the File System option and use the Browse button to navigate to the location where you placed the unzipped lesson files for this hour.
- Select the folder called *MyKippleFinal*.
- With the address set, click Next.



Importing a Completed Website Cont.

- On the next page, you are asked to define where the local copy of the site should be created.
- You need to select a folder different from the one the files are in right now.
- It is always a good idea to keep all of your website projects in one location on your computer so that they are easy to find.
- Browse to the location you want the new website to be created in, create a new folder called *MyKippleFinal*, and select it.
- Click Next.



Importing a Completed Website Cont.

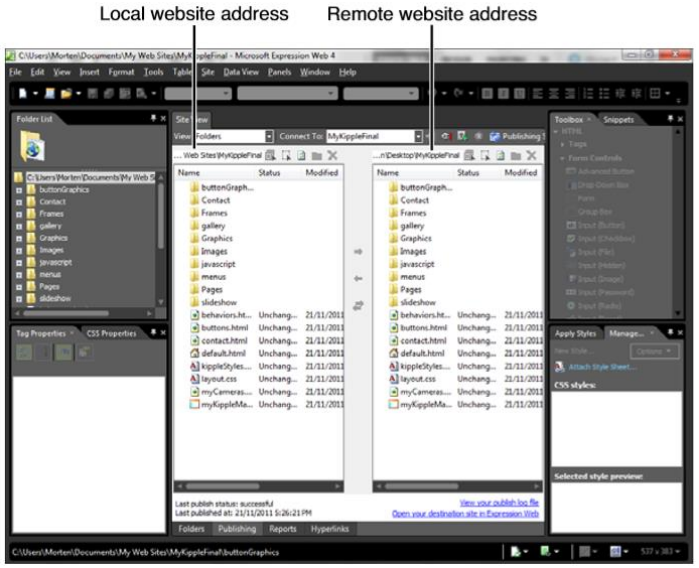
- Expression Web 4 will most likely flash two warning messages at this point:
- The first one tells you that there is no site at the location you defined in Step 8 and the second message asks you if you want to set up a site in that location.
- Click OK to both.
- The final page of the Import Site Wizard tells you that the website has been set up and that you can now start importing files.
- Click Finish.

Importing a Completed Website Cont.

- Now that you have defined a location for the new website, Expression Web 4 opens in Site view, and you see all the files in the remote location (the folder you downloaded the lesson files to) on the right and your new site location on the left.
- To begin with, the left side is blank.
- To populate your new site with the files from the finished project, select all the folders and files on the right side and click the blue left-pointing arrow between the two views.
- This button publishes the existing files to your new site. This might seem odd, but if you consider a scenario in which you were downloading files off a web server, it makes sense.

Importing a Completed Website Cont.

- When the transfer is complete, you see a view like the one shown in the figure. This view shows you the local website on the left and the remote website on the right.
- This is your site management window from which you can synchronize two locations or move files and folders between the local and remote locations either one by one or in groups.
- Expression Web 4 keeps tabs on what files have been moved and what files have been modified in the program, and whenever you come back to this view, it tells you what files need to be updated on either the local or remote location.

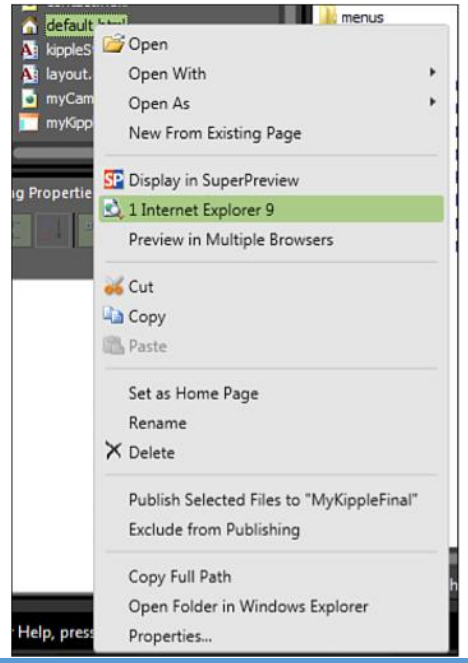


Importing a Completed Website Cont.

- You have successfully imported the new website when you can see that the local and remote websites are identical in terms of files and folders and that the Folder View panel shows all the files and folders.
- You can now click the disconnect button (a power plug with a red bar next to it) to sever the connection.
- Don’t Be Confused by the Names “Local” and “Remote”!
- Expression Web 4 considers the website you open in the application as the local website and the one you are publishing the files you have worked on to as the remote website, regardless of the actual location of either.
- This can lead to some interesting and confusing results: If you want to, you can set up a website so that the files you are working on are on a web server (technically, a remote location) and publish these files to a hard drive on your computer (technically, a local location). In that case, the web server would be considered the local website and placed on the left, whereas the folder on your hard drive would be considered the remote website and placed on the right.

Previewing the Site in Your Browser

- One of the most important habits you need to establish when working with web design is to constantly test what you are doing in one browser (or preferably several browsers) to see that everything is working as it should.
- To see the new site as it would appear for any visitor when it is on the Web, go to the Folder List panel, right-click the default.html file, and select the current preview browser (prefixed by a browser icon) from the pop-up menu.



Previewing the Site in Your Browser Cont.

- This opens the default.html page of the *MyKipple* website in your browser.
- The default.html page is the home page of the website, and from here, you can navigate through all the different pages that have been created.

Setting Up a Website and Building Pages

- All websites consist of a group of web pages.
- These pages can contain anything from text to images to interactive elements such as Flash movies or Silverlight applications.

Hyperlinks

- On the *MyKipple* website, you can see that several segments of text are highlighted in blue.
- These are hyperlinks that point the browser to different pages either within the website or in external websites.

Images

- If you scroll down to the last paragraph and click the link with the text “my collection of cameras,” you are taken to a new page with a large image of a collection of cameras.
- Images are an important part of web design and can serve both as content, such as the camera image; as functional elements, such as buttons; or even as design elements.

Tables

- At the bottom of the camera page, you find a standard HTML table.
- In the past, tables were heavily used as design elements to structure the contents of web pages.
- However, this was never an ideal situation, and it caused a lot of problems for designers and the people visiting their sites.
- As a result, designers are moving away from using tables as design elements and now use them only for their intended purpose: to display tabular data.

Styling the Content

- Go back to the home page by clicking the Home button, and you see that the text in the page has many different styles.
- The heading is big, uppercase, and gray; the paragraph text is smaller, darker, and justified. There are subheadings that look different from the main heading, links, a sidebar with a text box and links, and so on.

Styling the Content Cont.

- If you were working in a word-processing application, you would have applied these different looks or styles to each of the sections.
- But in standards-based web design, you create an external set of styles that define how the different elements look and behave.
- These styles are created with a code language called Cascading Style Sheets (CSS).

Page Layout

- As you just learned, designers used to use tables to create page layouts, but this practice is on the way out.
- In its place, designers are now turning to CSS as their primary layout tool. In addition to changing the look and feel of text and other content, CSS can build containers or boxes that wrap the content.
- Using this technique, you can group different elements together and create styles and sub-styles to define how these different elements should look and behave.
- With the proper use of CSS, you can create visually stunning and easily approachable web layouts that look the same across all browsers and platforms.

Buttons

- Buttons are a subgenre of the common hyperlink in which the hyperlink is attached to a visual element, such as an image or a text box.
- Because there are many different types of buttons, there are many different ways to make them, and each serves its own purpose.

The Main Menu

- Aside from the content itself, the navigation is the most important feature of any website.
- There are many ways to create functional navigation, and some ways are better than others.
- One of the most intuitive and visually exciting navigational tools you can put on your website is the image-based menu.
- As with everything else, there are several different ways you can make such menus, and each has advantages and drawbacks.

Contact Forms

- The Internet allows for a two-way conversation between the website owner and the visitor.
- To facilitate this type of communication, a large group of tools, known as forms, is built in to the main code language of the Internet, HTML.
- Using forms, you can create anything from a simple email form to advanced forum, blog, and even ecommerce functionalities.
- If you click the Contact button on the main menu, you are taken to a page with a contact form.

Flash and Other Embeddable Content

- Flash movies are created using a dedicated application, and you can use Expression Web 4 only to insert them into your pages and configure their data files.
- On the main menu is a button named Flash.

Exploring the Website in Expression Web 4

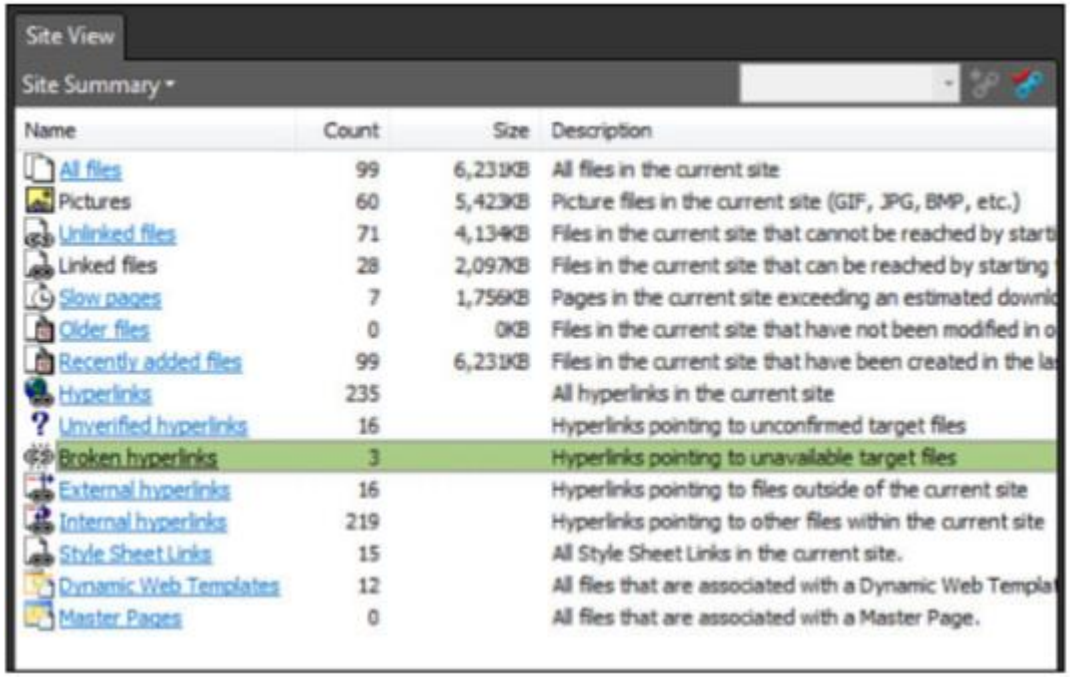
- The application comes equipped with a set of tools to help you get a quick overview of the different elements the site is made up of and how everything is put together to work.
- On the bottom of the Web Site view, you have four tabs: Folders, Publishing, Reports, and Hyperlinks.
- These are four different ways to view your website.

Exploring the Website in Expression Web 4 Cont.

- Folders gives you a regular browser view of the files and folders in your website. In other words, it works the same way as the Folder List panel.
- Publishing gives you a view of the local and remote websites side by side and lets you transfer files between the two locations either one at a time or in groups. This is where you actually publish your site to the Web.
- Reports gives you a rundown of all the assets in your website and the status of each of these assets. From there, you can see, for example, how many hyperlinks are in the site (and how many of them are broken), how many images it contains, and how many files are unlinked—meaning they can't be accessed by the visitor.
- Hyperlinks creates a visual map that looks a lot like a mindmap, showing your files and how they relate to each other through hyperlinks. This tool makes it easy to understand how the site is organized.

Exploring the Website in Expression Web 4 Cont.

- Click the Reports button to see the stats of the new website you imported. Expression Web 4 produces a list of all the different assets grouped in specific categories, as shown in the figure below.



Slow Page

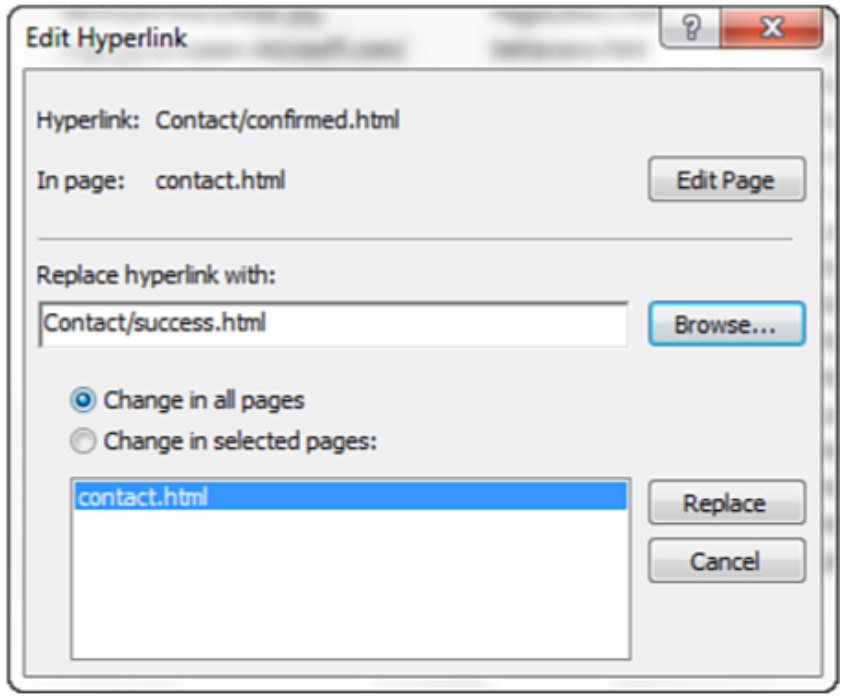
- Two of the most important items on this list are Slow Pages and Broken Hyperlinks.
- The Slow Pages report gives you a list of all the pages estimated to take more than 30 seconds to load on a 56Kbps connection.
- This report is important if you expect a lot of visitors with slower connections and shows you whether any of your pages is unnecessarily large or heavy to load.
- You can change the default connection speed the report tests for by going to Tools, Application Options and then selecting the Reports View tab.

Broken Hyperlink

- When you click Broken Hyperlinks, the Hyperlinks report opens displaying all the broken and unverified hyperlinks.
- By default, all external links are considered unverified until they are verified by the application.
- When you open the Broken or Unverified report, Expression Web 4 asks whether you want it to verify the external links for you.
- The application goes to each hyperlink location to ensure that it is valid. If so, the hyperlink is checked off as valid. If not, it is checked off as broken.

Fix a Broken Hyperlink

- After running the report, you should see one broken hyperlink pointing to a file called Contact/confirmed.html. You can fix broken hyperlinks right from the report without even opening the page itself.
- Right-click the broken hyperlink and select Edit Hyperlink. This opens the Edit Hyperlink dialog.



Fix a Broken Hyperlink Cont.

- From here, use the Browse button to find the correct file. It is under the Contact folder, and it is called success.html.
- Click the Replace button and the hyperlink is automatically updated in all the pages where it is featured.

Keeping Your Pages Functional

- As you previously learned, a website consists of a group of files and folders that are linked together. That means for the individual pages of the site to work, all the links between them have to be correct and up to date. One of the many important features of Expression Web 4 is that it keeps tabs on your files for you, making the necessary changes throughout all of your files when something is changed.
- As long as you make the changes to your pages, files, and folders inside Expression Web 4, the application makes all the necessary changes to the links within related files to make everything run smoothly.
- Therefore, if you want to move a file or folder into or out of another folder, always use either the Folder List panel or the Folder view, and the links to your files and folders will be updated automatically.

Keeping Your Pages Functional Cont.

- Right now, the root folder (main folder) of the website contains two files:
- *kippleStyles.css* and *layout.css*.
- These two files (known as style sheets) contain all the CSS or styling code for all the pages of the site, and as a result, every page has a link to them.

Keeping Your Pages Functional Cont.

- To make the style sheets easier to find, you want to put them in their own folder called Styles:
- Switch to Folders view and click the folder icon in the upper-right corner to create a new folder. Give it the name **Styles**.
- Drag and drop the kippleStyles.css and layout.css files into the new Styles folder.
- A dialog briefly appears, telling you that the files are being renamed. This means that all the links that point to these two files from all the pages are being updated to reflect the change in location.
- When the dialog disappears, preview the default.html page in your browser again to make sure nothing changed.

Keeping Your Pages Functional Cont.

- When you preview the pages in your browser, it appears as if nothing has changed, but in fact, the links to the external style sheets have been changed in every page.
- If Expression Web 4 hadn’t changed all the links to the two files you moved, all the pages would have appeared as regular text without the backgrounds and different styles.
- By using this drag-and-drop technique, you can move any and all files inside your site and be certain that Expression Web 4 updates the links that point to them so that everything keeps working as it should.