

How to create links

After you've set up a Dreamweaver site to store your website documents and have created HTML pages, you'll want to create different types of links. Understanding the file path between the document you're linking from and the document or asset you're linking to is essential to creating links.

Each web page has a unique address, called a Uniform Resource Locator (URL). However, when you create a local link (a link from one document to another on the same site), you generally don't specify the entire URL of the document you're linking to; instead, you specify a relative path from the current document or from the site's root folder.

There are three types of link paths:

- *Absolute paths* provide the complete URL of the linked document, including the protocol to use (usually `http://` for web pages). An example is, `http://www.oceanviewhighschool.net/index.html`. For an image asset, the complete URL is something like `http://www.oceanviewhighschool.net/images/image1.jpg`. You must use an absolute path to link to a document or asset in a different site.
- *Document-relative paths* are usually best for local links (within a website). They're particularly useful when the current document and the linked document or asset are in the same folder and are likely to remain together. You can also use a document-relative path to link to a document or asset in another folder by specifying the path through the folder hierarchy from the current document to the linked document. For example, suppose you have a site with the structure shown in **Figure 1**:

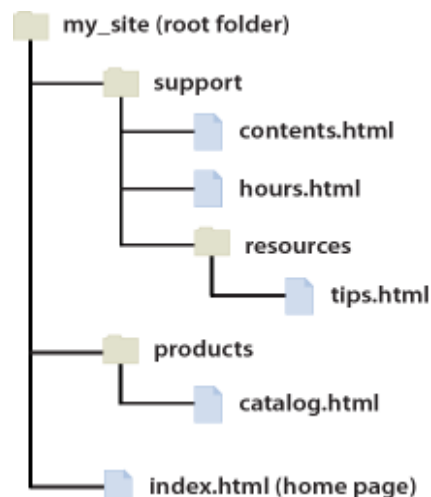


Figure 1 Example site folder structure

- To link from `contents.html` to `hours.html` (both in the same folder), use the relative path `hours.html`.
- To link from `contents.html` to `tips.html` (in the `resources` subfolder), use the relative path `resources/tips.html`. At each slash (`/`), you move down one level in the folder hierarchy.
- To link from `contents.html` to `index.html` (in the parent folder, one level above `contents.html`), use the relative path `../index.html`. Two dots moves you up two levels in the folder hierarchy (to the root folder) and `/index.html` moves you back down one level (to the index page).
- To link from `contents.html` to `catalog.html` (in a different subfolder of the parent folder), use the relative path `../products/catalog.html`. Here, `..` moves you up to the root folder, and `/products` moves you down to the `products` subfolder, and `/catalog.html` moves you to the `catalog` page. When you move files as a group—for example, when you move an entire folder, so that all the files inside that folder retain the same relative paths to each other—you don't need to update document-relative links between those files. However, when you move an individual file that contains document-relative links, or an individual

file targeted by a document-relative link, you do need to update those links. (If you move or rename files using the Files panel, Dreamweaver updates all relevant links automatically.)

- Site root–relative paths describe the path from the site’s root folder to a document. You may want to use these paths if you are working on a large website that uses several servers, or one server that hosts several sites. However, if you are not familiar with this type of path, you should stick to document-relative paths.

Using Dreamweaver, you can easily select the type of document path to create for your links.

Four different types of links are discussed in this guide:

- An *internal link* goes to another page within in your site using a document-relative path.
- An *external link* goes to another site external to your own using an absolute path.
- A *named anchor link* goes to a specific position on a page within your site using a combination document-relative path and anchor link.
- An *e-mail link* opens a blank e-mail message window in a user’s default e-mail client, with the recipient’s address filled in.

Creating an internal link

You can use the Properties panel and the Point-To-File icon to create links from an image, an object, or text to another document or file (**Figure 2**). Dreamweaver creates the links to other pages in your site using document-relative paths.

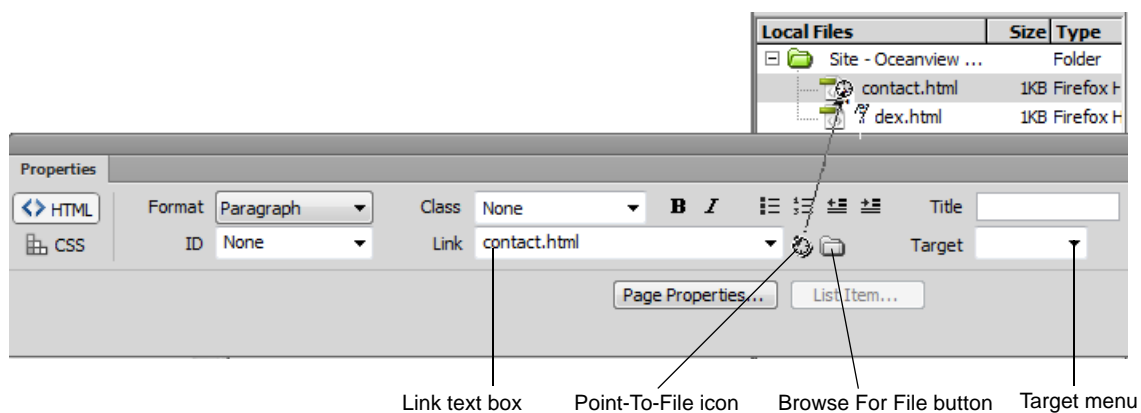


Figure 2 Properties panel

To create a link to another document in your site:

1. Start Dreamweaver.
2. Open an existing file, or create a new, blank page and save the file.

Note: Always save a new file before creating a document-relative path; a document-relative path is not valid without a definite starting point. If you create a document-relative path before saving the file, Dreamweaver temporarily uses an absolute path beginning with file:// until the file is saved; when you save the file, Dreamweaver converts the file:// path to a relative path.

3. Select text or an image in the Document window's Design view.
4. Open the Properties panel (Window > Properties) and do one of the following:
 - Drag the Point-To-File icon (target icon) to a document in the Files panel (**Figure 2**).
 - Click the Browse For File button to browse to and select a file.
 - Type the path and filename of the document in the Link text box.

Creating an external link

To link to a document outside your site, enter an absolute path, including the protocol (such as `http://`). You can enter these by hand or copy them from a browser address bar and paste them into the Link text box in the Properties panel.

To add a link to a page on another site:

1. Select an image or text you want to format as a link.
2. In the Link text box in the Properties panel, type or paste the address (URL) of the site to which you want to link.

Note: If you're linking to a page outside of your site, it is a best practice to set the Target menu to `target="_blank"` (**Figure 3**). This causes the link to open in a new browser window, so that the page doesn't appear to be part of your site.

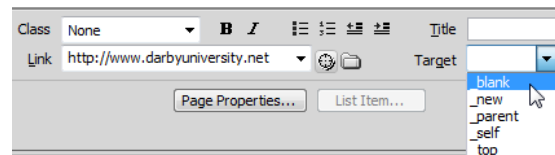


Figure 3 Properties panel, Target menu

Creating a link to a named anchor

To link to a particular section of a document, first create a named anchor at that location, and then link to the named anchor. Named anchors are frequently placed at the beginning of each topic and at the top of a document, so users can readily go to these locations.

To create and link to a named anchor:

1. Position the insertion point at the location on the page where you want to define an anchor.
2. Select Insert > Named Anchor.
The Named Anchor dialog box opens (**Figure 4**).
3. Enter a short anchor name without any spaces.
4. Click OK.
5. Select an image or text to link to the named anchor.

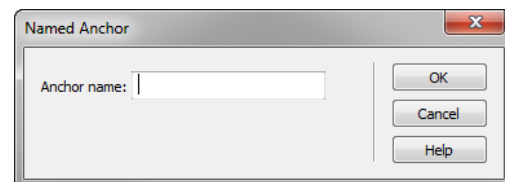


Figure 4 Named Anchor dialog box

6. In the Link text box in the Properties panel, type # and then type or paste the anchor name.

In the example code (**Figure 5**), an anchor named Top is placed at the top of the document, and a link to the anchor added at the bottom of the page.

Note: Anchor names are case-sensitive.

You can also use any ID attribute as a destination anchor so that links can be made to divisions, paragraphs, and most other elements.

```
<a name="top" id="top"></a>
<h1>Ocean View High School</h1>
<p>Ocean View High School is ded
academic excellence. We offer a
successful preparation for colle
impressive breadth of extracurri
activities including both athlet
arts.</p>
<p>Ocean View is a technology-dr
where many of our classrooms co
computers for each student and c
is enhanced by the use of a vari
technologies.</p>
<p><a href="#top">Top</a></p>
```

Figure 5 Named Anchor dialog box

Creating a link to an e-mail address

When a user clicks an e-mail link, a new blank message window opens, using the mail program associated with the user's browser. In the e-mail message window, the To box is automatically updated with the address specified in the e-mail link.

To create a link to an e-mail address:

1. In the Document window's Design view, position the insertion point where you want the e-mail link to appear, or select the text or image you want to appear as the e-mail link.
2. Do one of the following to insert the link:
 - Select Insert > Email Link.
 - In the Common category of the Insert bar, click the Email Link button.

The Email Link dialog box opens (**Figure 6**).

3. In the Text box, enter text for the link.

If you selected text to format as the link, that text appears in the Text box.
4. In the Email text box, type the e-mail address.
5. Click OK to close the Email Link dialog box.

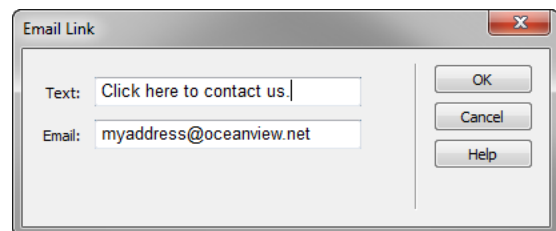


Figure 6 Email Link dialog box