

How to preview and test a web project

Because you can't control which browsers or operating systems visitors will use to view your site, it is important to test your site in different browsers. You have two methods for previewing and testing a web project: from within Dreamweaver, using Live view, or using Preview in Browser (**Figure 1**).

Design view gives you an idea of how your page will look on the web but does not render pages exactly as browsers do. Live view presents a more accurate depiction, and lets you work in Code view so that you can see changes to the design. The Preview in Browser feature lets you see how your pages will look in specific browsers.

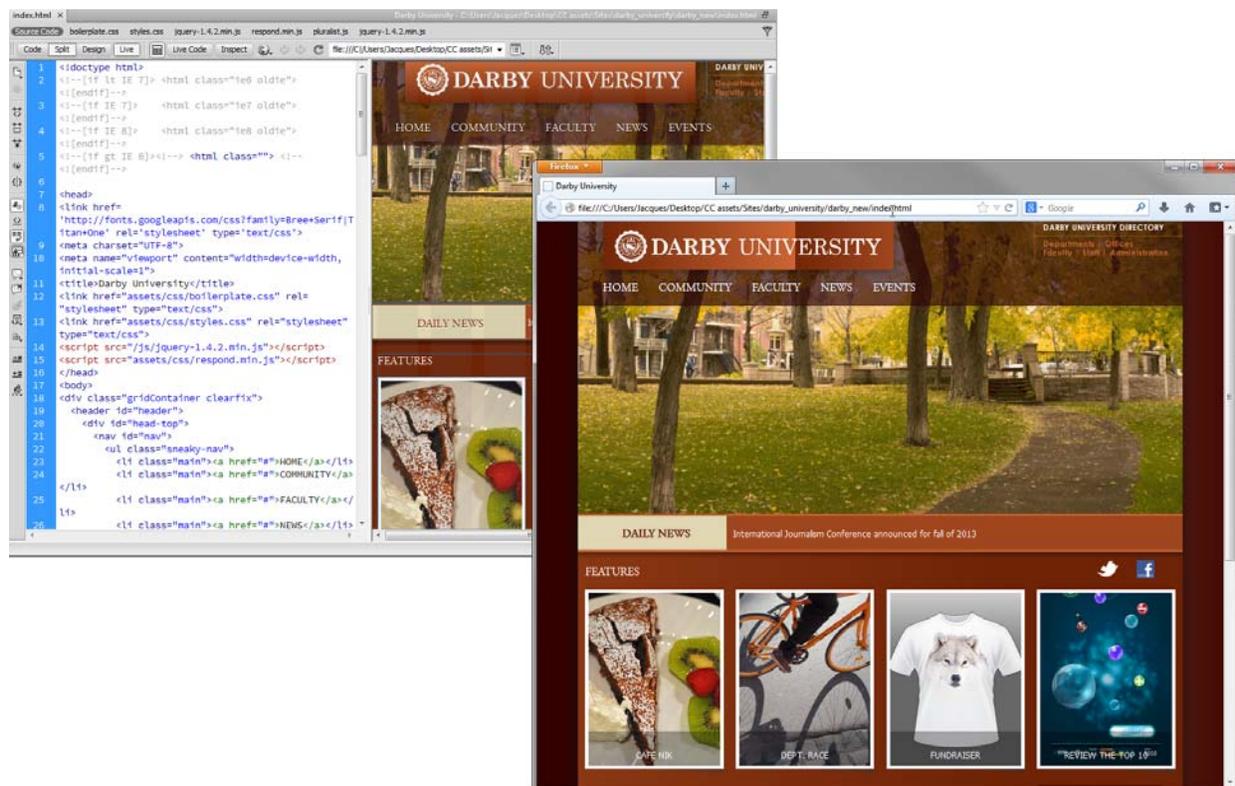


Figure 1 Dreamweaver Live view (left) and previewing in a browser (right)

Previewing pages in Dreamweaver

Live view differs from the traditional Dreamweaver design view in that it provides a non-editable, more realistic rendering of what your page will look like in a browser. Live view does not replace the Preview in Browser command, but rather provides another way of seeing what your page looks like “live” without having to leave the Dreamweaver workspace.

You can switch to Live view any time you are in Design view. Switching to Live view, however, is not related to switching between any of the other traditional views in Dreamweaver (Code/Split/Design). When you switch to Live view from Design view, you are simply toggling the Design view between editable and “live”.

While Design view remains frozen once you enter Live view, Code view remains editable, so you can change your code, and then refresh Live view to see your changes take effect. When you're in Live view, you have the additional option of viewing live code. Live Code view is like Live view in that it displays a version of the code that the browser is executing in order to render the page. Like Live view, Live Code view is a non-editable view.

The technology behind Live view is WebKit, a layout engine software component that is the standard rendering engine for wide range of popular web browsers as Chrome, Safari, and many mobile devices. Recent WebKit improvements provides enhanced support for HTML5 and JavaScript in Live View.

How to preview pages in Live view:

1. Open a file in Dreamweaver you want to preview (**Figure 2**).
2. Make sure that you are in Design view (View > Design) or Code and Design views (View > Code and Design).
3. Click the Live view button in the Document toolbar (**Figure 3**).

The web page content is previewed in the Design view window (**Figure 4**).

4. (Optional) Make your changes in Code view, in the CSS Styles panel, in an external CSS style sheet, or in another related file.

Even though you can't edit in Live view, your options for making edits in other areas (for example, in the CSS Styles panel or in Code view) change as you click in Live view.

Note: You can work with related files (such as CSS style sheets) while keeping Live view in focus by opening the related file from the Related Files toolbar at the top of the document.

5. If you've made changes in Code view or in a related file, refresh Live view by clicking the Refresh button in the Document toolbar (**Figure 5**), or by pressing F5.
6. To return to the editable Design view, click the Live view button again.

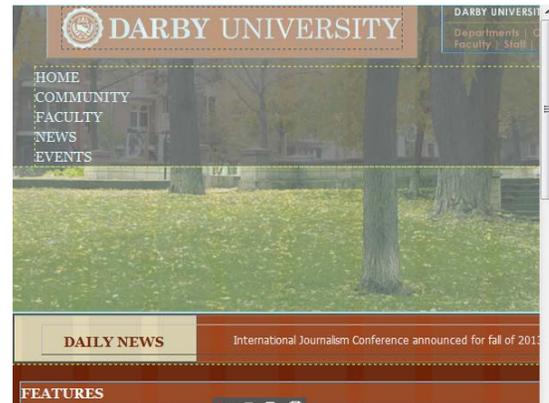


Figure 2 Project Design view

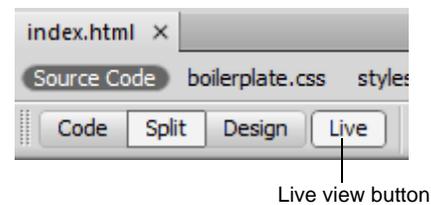


Figure 3 Document toolbar

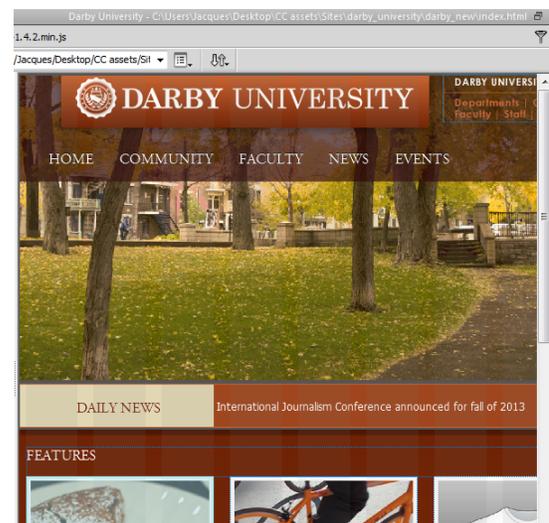


Figure 4 Project Live view



Figure 5 Document toolbar

Previewing pages in browsers

You can preview a page in a browser at any time; you don't have to upload it to a web server first. When you preview a page, all browser-related functions should work, including JavaScript behaviors, document-relative and absolute links, ActiveX® controls, and plug-ins, provided that you installed the required plug-ins or ActiveX controls in your browsers.

Before previewing a document, save the document; otherwise, the browser does not display your most recent changes.

How to preview pages in a browser:

1. Open a file in Dreamweaver you want to preview (Figure 2).
2. Select File > Preview In Browser, and then select one of the listed browsers (Figure 6).

The file opens in a browser window (Figure 8)

Note: If no browsers are listed, select Edit > Preferences or Dreamweaver > Preferences (Macintosh), and then select the Preview In Browser category on the left to define default primary and secondary browsers (Figure 7).

3. Click links and test content in your page.

Note: Content linked with a site root-relative path does not appear when you preview documents in a local browser unless you specify a testing server, or select the Preview Using Temporary File option in Edit > Preferences > Preview In Browser. This is because browsers don't recognize site roots—servers do. To preview content linked with root-relative paths, put the file on a remote server, and then select File > Preview In Browser to view it.

4. If you make any changes to the file in Dreamweaver, be sure to hit the browser's refresh button to see the most recent version.
5. Close the page in the browser when you finish testing.

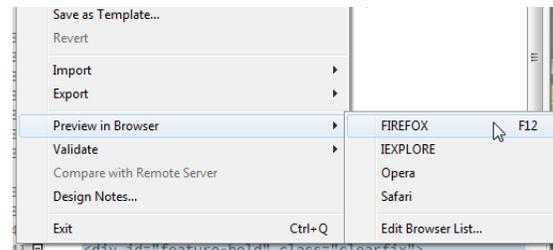


Figure 6 Start top of column

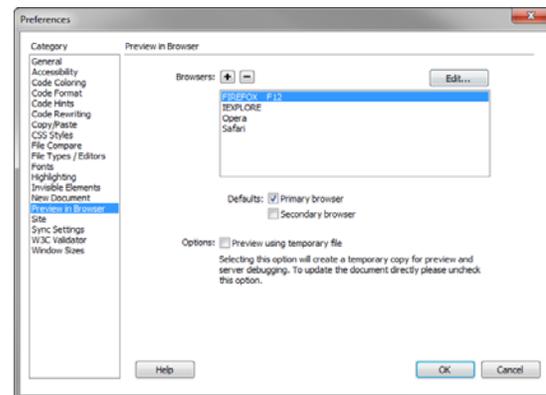


Figure 7 Dreamweaver Preferences dialog box

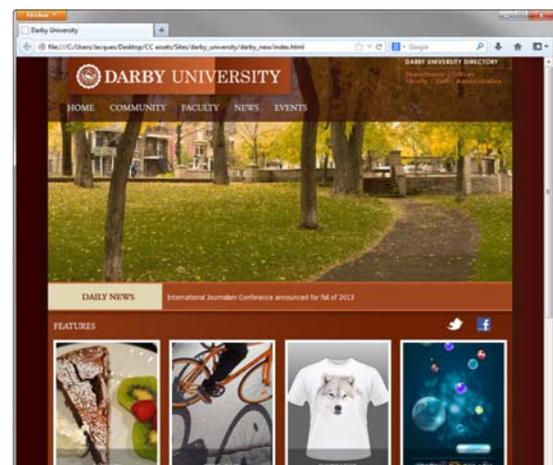


Figure 8 Previewing a file in a browser