

SCOTT MITCHELL

*Fourth Edition*

# Create Your Own Website

## 8 Easy Projects in full color

Family or Personal Website • eBay Store to Sell Products • Online Storefronts •  
Websites to Share Images • Blogging Websites • Creating a Profile on MySpace  
• Social Networking with Facebook • Posting Video on YouTube

**SAMS**

# Create Your Own Website

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## INTRODUCTION

**Welcome to *Create Your  
Own Website!***

As the popularity of the Internet and the World Wide Web have risen since the beginnings in the early 1990s, virtually all businesses have established an online presence. Many individuals, too, have left their imprints on the web, creating a website for their family or posting pictures of their vacations. If you want to join the millions of people who have created websites but fear you lack the background or expertise for such an endeavor, this book is for you!

In this book you see just how easy creating a website can be. The CD included with this book contains professional website templates and a free web page editor. With the web page editor, you can quickly and easily customize the provided templates into your very own personal websites. Using the web page editor is as simple as using a word processor program. It's just point and click!

Since there are a number of different types of websites on the Internet, this book's CD includes templates for different types of sites. Specifically, the provided templates let you quickly create the following types of sites:

- ▶ **Family websites**—With a family website, you can share pictures of you and your family with friends and members of your extended family.
- ▶ **Hobby websites**—A hobby website allows you to share your hobbies with others who have similar interests.
- ▶ **Community websites**—With a community website, your church, club, bowling team, or other group or association can post information, schedules, pictures, and other pertinent information.
- ▶ **Online storefront website**—Sell products online by accepting credit card payments with an online storefront site.

In addition to showing you how to build your own websites from the ground up, this book includes chapters on how to use existing web-based services to quickly create common websites. Specifically, you'll see how to

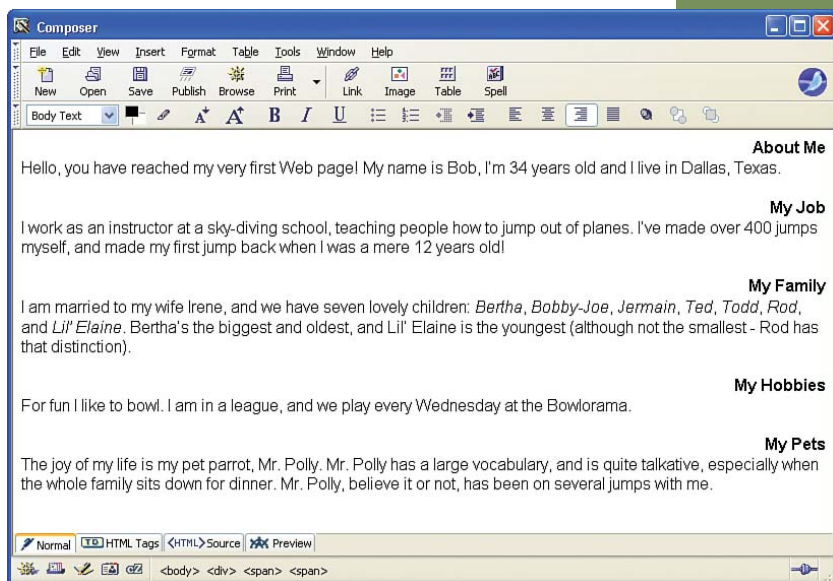
- ▶ **Sell products at eBay Stores**—eBay Stores are a quick and easy way to start selling products online. With eBay Stores, your products are listed on eBay.com, and payment processing is handled for you by eBay. You simply list your products for sale and ship them when purchased!
- ▶ **Publish content online with a blog**—A blog is a type of website designed to allow users to quickly and easily publish content online. Blogs are springing up all over the World Wide Web, used by both individuals and businesses alike.
- ▶ **Share your digital pictures**—You've just gotten back from your vacation to Tahiti with gobs of digital pictures. How do you easily share these beautiful pictures with your friends and family? Digital picture sharing websites make it easy to upload your pictures and share them with select friends and family.
- ▶ **Create a home page on MySpace**—MySpace is one of many "social networking" websites, where visitors can stay in touch with friends, meet their friends' friends, and make new social contacts. In addition to maintaining and growing your network of friends, MySpace makes it easy for you to create your own web pages, post pictures, share music, and host a blog.
- ▶ **Share your videos on YouTube**—With today's video cameras, it's easy to upload your home videos to your computer, where you can watch or edit them. Once a video is stored on your computer, you can upload it to YouTube and share it with a worldwide audience.

- ▶ **Build your social network with Facebook**—Facebook is another popular “social networking” website, like MySpace. Unlike MySpace, Facebook allows users to join one or more networks which are organized by facets like geographic region, employer, and school. It’s a great site for catching up with old friends from high school or college, as well as an excellent resource for making new friends at your company or in your neighborhood.

Whether you want to build your own, unique website or use a pre-existing web application, you learn everything you need to know to start building your own website today with this book. Get ready to see just how fun and easy it is to create your own website!

## CHAPTER 1

# Creating Your First Web Page



Have you ever wanted to create your own website but thought that the task was too daunting? Do you think that only folks with years of computer training and experience have the knowledge necessary for building web pages? These are common misconceptions that many people have. With the right tools and information, creating websites is as easy as pointing and clicking! If you are interested in quickly creating a professional-looking website, then you've picked up the right book.

## NOTE

**Don't have website building experience? Don't worry! This book's CD contains professional website templates that you can use to build your own website within minutes. You also learn how to use existing website applications to sell products, publish content and videos, and share images online.**

This book includes a CD with website templates, along with software for editing the web templates. This chapter looks at the fundamental building blocks of websites and then steps through the installation process of SeaMonkey, the web page creation software included on the CD. The next chapter examines the necessary steps to create a website and shows how to move the web page templates from the CD to your website. Chapters 3 and 4 illustrate how the templates on the book's CD can be customized to create your own website.

In addition to the website templates, Chapters 5 through 10 examine online tools that assist

in creating websites. Specifically, you learn how to sell products through a website using eBay Stores and publish content through a blog at Blogger.com. You see how easy it is to share photos and videos with friends and family via Snapfish.com and YouTube. You also learn how to get started with two popular social networking sites: MySpace and Facebook.

While there are literally millions of websites available on the Internet, virtually all fall into one of three categories:

- ▶ **Family/Personal Website**—Keep your extended family and friends up to date with the latest happenings of your family.
- ▶ **Online Storefront Website**—Sell products and services online! A great revenue stream for home-based businesses.
- ▶ **Content Publishing Website**—Publish your content on the World Wide Web. Be it your poetry, your political or philosophical views, or your hilarious home videos, by distributing your content online, you open it up to a potential worldwide audience of millions.

As you'll see, creating websites that fall into any of these three categories is a snap with the provided templates and website tools. To get started, all you need is this book, its CD, and access to a computer with Internet connectivity.

***"Creating websites is a snap with the provided templates. To get started, all you need is this book, its CD, and access to a computer with Internet connectivity."***

# The Components of a Website

In your experiences with the Internet, you've likely visited several different websites. Some of the more popular websites in terms of the number of people who visit the site on a daily basis include Yahoo.com, CNN.com, Google.com, Amazon.com, eBay.com, MSN.com, and others.

To visit a website, you must have an Internet connection. Virtually all computers in places of business have an Internet connection, while millions of home users connect to the Internet through services provided by companies such as AOL, MSN, EarthLink, or local cable or telephone providers.

## NOTE

**Companies that provide Internet connectivity—such as AOL, MSN, and others—are commonly referred to as ISPs, which stands for Internet service provider.**

Visiting a website from an Internet-connected computer is a cinch. Simply open up a **web browser** and type the **domain name** of the website into the web browser's Address bar.

## NEW TERM

**Each website has a unique *domain name*. To view a particular website, a user simply types the domain name of the website she wants to visit in her browser's Address bar. We'll discuss the purpose of domain names in more detail shortly.**

Figure 1.1 shows a screenshot of Amazon.com's website when viewed through Internet Explorer.

Notice that Figure 1.1 has the browser's Address bar circled. To visit Amazon.com simply enter the domain name of the site—www.amazon.com—into the browser's Address bar. That's all you have to do.

Before you begin creating your own web pages, it is vital that you know of the basic components inherent to all websites. Specifically, all websites are made up of the following three components:

- ▶ **A Web Server**—A web server is an Internet-connected computer whose sole purpose is to provide a location for the web pages of a website and to handle incoming requests for these web pages.
- ▶ **A Domain Name**—A website's domain name is a unique identifier for a website, much like your mailing address is a unique identifier for your home. A website's domain name identifies the web server on which the site's web pages are located.
- ▶ **Web Pages**—A collection of files that make up the content of a website.



## Serving Web Pages with a Web Server

All websites are located on a special type of computer referred to as a **web server**, which is an Internet-accessible computer that holds the contents of the website.

When visiting a website through a web browser, the web browser makes a **request** to the web server that hosts that particular website. The web server then returns the requested web page to the browser. Finally, the browser displays the web page, as shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.2 details this interaction from a high-level view.

If the details of this interaction seem a bit hazy, don't worry; you don't need to be concerned about the specifics. For now, just

realize that the contents of a website reside on a remote computer that, like your computer, is connected to the Internet. The browser obtains the contents of the website you are visiting by making a request to the site's web server. The web server returns the web pages being requested, which are then displayed in the browser.

## Understanding Website Domain Names

Did you know that there are literally *millions* of websites in existence? To visit a particular website from the list of millions, it is vital that all websites be uniquely identified in some manner. The way websites are uniquely identified is by their **domain name**.

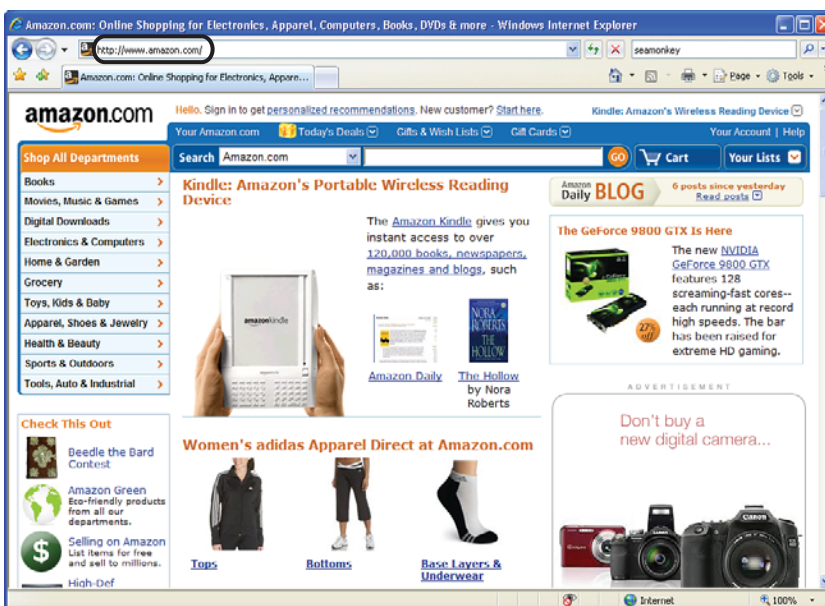
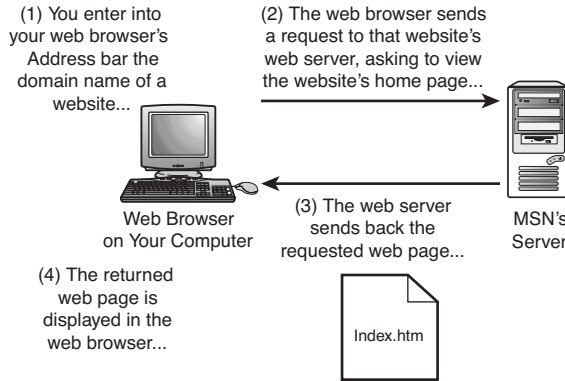


FIGURE 1.1

Amazon.com is displayed in the web browser.

FIGURE 1.2

Visiting a web page involves a request to a web server.



A domain name is, ideally, an easily remembered phrase, like eBay.com, Yahoo.com, or CNN.com. All domain names end with some sort of *extension*, which is a period followed by two or more letters. Most domain names end with extensions like .com, .net, or .org. Other extensions are available, though.

## NOTE

Domain names provide a means to uniquely identify a website.

Microsoft Word to write a letter to your nephew, you can save the letter. This saved letter is referred to as a file.

You can request a particular web page from a website by typing the web page's URL into a web browser. You don't have to type in a URL to view a web page. As we saw earlier in Figure 1.1, typing in *just* the domain name of a website displays a web page as well. When typing in just the domain name of a website, a specific web page is automatically loaded—this page is referred to as the *home page*.

## Getting Around a Website

A website is composed of a number of web pages. Each web page is uniquely identified by a URL. To visit a particular web page, you can enter the web page's URL in your browser's Address bar. However, as you know from surfing the Web on your own, rarely, if ever, do you take the time to enter a URL directly into the browser's Address bar.

An easier way to visit a particular web page is by first loading a website's home page, and then clicking on *hyperlinks* that take you to other pages on the site. Hyperlinks are clickable

## Web Pages, the Building Blocks of a Website

*Web pages* are the atomic pieces of a website; each website is a collection of web pages. When visiting a website with a web browser, what you are actually viewing is an individual web page.

On a website, each web page is, in actuality, a separate *file*. A file is a document that's stored on a computer. For example, if you use

The screenshot shows a Wikipedia page titled "Comparison of web browsers". It features a large table with columns for various browser features and rows for different web browsers. The table is color-coded with green and red cells to indicate compatibility or support for specific features. The browsers listed include Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Opera, and others. The features listed include CSS, JavaScript, XMLHttpRequest, and many others.

## DOES YOUR WEBSITE LOOK RIGHT IN EVERY BROWSER?

Webmonkey is a particularly good site for tutorials on web building. We found a nice article and chart on what standards different browsers support. You may design and test your website using the browser on your computer. It may look fine to you, but what about all of your visitors and the browsers they're using? If you check out the browser statistics on <http://www.thecounter.com/stats/>, you'll find that 41% of people are using Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.x, 37% are using Internet Explorer 6.x, and 16% use Firefox. That at least narrows it down for you when you're trying to make sure your site can be viewed properly by most people. If you want to accommodate more people than that, pay attention to the standards on Mozilla, Netscape, Safari, and Opera, too.

regions on a web page that, when clicked, whisk you to some other, specified web page.

### TIP

Think of a website as a book and a web page as a page in a book. When visiting a website, you can navigate through the various web pages, just like when picking up a book you can flip around to different pages. You navigate through the pages of a book by thumbing through the pages; for a website, you navigate through its web pages by clicking on hyperlinks.

To demonstrate page navigation in a website, take a moment to visit the website of the San Diego Chargers football team at [www.chargers.com](http://www.chargers.com). As Figure 1.3 shows, this website (like all websites) has a number of hyperlinks. Along the top of the page, there are several hyperlinks to various sections of the site: Schedule, Team, News, Charger Girls, Tickets, and so forth.

Clicking the Schedule hyperlink whisks you to a new URL—<http://www.chargers.com/schedule/schedule.htm>—which is shown in Figure 1.4. Notice that the Address bar in Figure 1.3 differs from that in Figure 1.4. In Figure 1.3, the Address bar reads <http://www.chargers.com>, the domain name of the San Diego Chargers website. After clicking on the Schedule hyperlink, we were taken to a different URL. The Address bar has been updated accordingly, illustrating that we are viewing a different web page.

**NOTE**

If you visit [www.chargers.com](http://www.chargers.com) while reading this book, the screenshots in Figures 1.3 and 1.4 may be different from what you see on your screen. That's because, unlike a book, a website is dynamic, allowing for its contents to be changed easily.

Figure 1.5 shows the interactions that take place between the web browser and the Chargers.com web server when first visiting the Chargers.com home page, and then when clicking on the Schedule hyperlink. (Again, if you do not fully understand this interaction, don't sweat it!)

**FIGURE 1.3**

Visiting a web page involves a request to a web server.





FIGURE 1.4  
The Schedule web page  
is displayed.

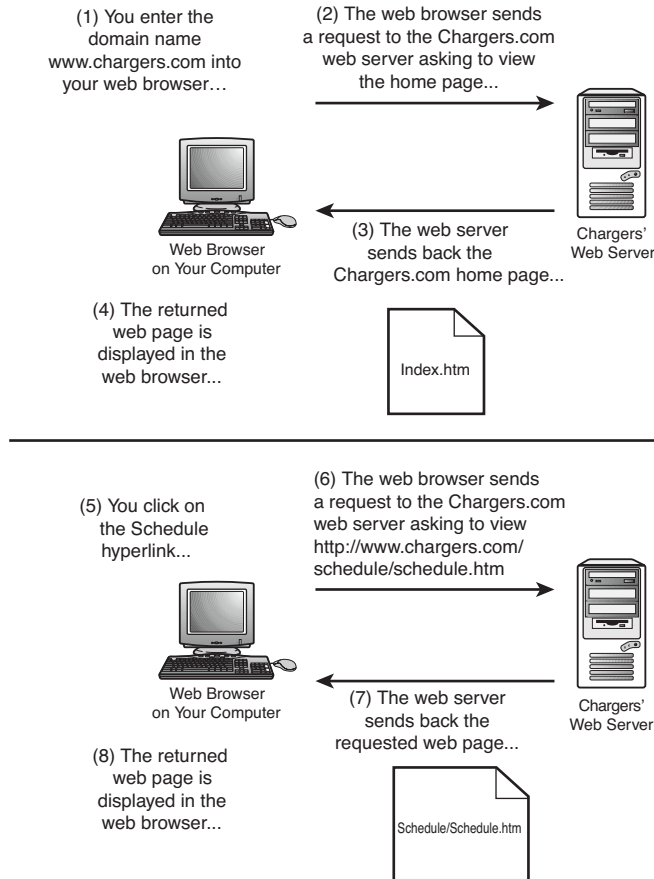
Table 1.1 summarizes the core pieces of a website.

Table 1.1 Key Website Building Blocks	
Building Block	Description
Web Server	A web server is an Internet-accessible computer that hosts one or more websites. When viewing a web page, your browser sends a request to the web server for the specified URL.
Website	A website is a collection of related web pages. Websites have a bevy of purposes: They can be used to share pictures, provide information, or even sell products. Each website is uniquely identified with a domain name.

Building Block	Description
Web Page	A web page can have a mix of text and graphics. A web page is like a single page in a book. Web pages can be linked to one another using hyperlinks, allowing the visitor to quickly jump from one web page to another.

FIGURE 1.5

**Each time a new web page is navigated to, the web browser requests the web page from the web server.**



## Knowing Your Options

There are two ways to leave your imprint on the World Wide Web: Build your own website from the ground up or use existing websites to facilitate the process. If you want a truly personal website with its own domain name that you have complete control over the appearance and content on the site, you want to build your own website from the ground up. This involves installing software on your computer to assist with creating web pages and

requires using a web hosting company to host your website.

Alternatively, you can create a less personalized website to share your content and keep in touch with friends and family using any number of web-based services. For example, you can sell products online using eBay Stores or share your vacation photos with friends and family using Snapfish.com.

The benefit of using web-based services is that they simplify the process of setting up and configuring your website, whereas building a website from the ground up requires more effort. However, web-based services allow you less control over the look and feel of your website.

This book shows how to build websites from the ground up as well as how to use various web-based services. In this chapter and the next, you see how to get started with building a website from the ground up. Chapter 3 takes the lessons learned in Chapters 1 and 2 and looks at creating a family/personal website to share your family's latest news and photos with friends and extended family. Chapter 4 shows how to build an online storefront from the ground up.

Chapters 5 through 10 look at using web-based services.

## Building Web Pages Using Web Page Authoring Software Tools

Creating web pages is a simple task thanks to specially designed web page authoring software tools. These software tools allow you to visually construct a web page with a few points and clicks of the mouse. There are a number of different software packages out there that are designed to make creating web pages a snap. Table 1.2 lists some of the more popular ones, along with their price and a URL to learn more about the product.

**Table 1.2 Popular Web Page Authoring Tools**

Name	Cost	For More Information...
Adobe Dreamweaver	\$399.00	<a href="http://www.adobe.com/products/dreamweaver">www.adobe.com/products/dreamweaver</a>
Microsoft Expression	\$299.00	<a href="http://www.microsoft.com/expression/">www.microsoft.com/expression/</a>
SeaMonkey Composer	Free!	<a href="http://www.seamonkey-project.org/">www.seamonkey-project.org/</a>

As you can tell by their prices, Microsoft Expression and Adobe Dreamweaver are targeted toward the professional web developer. They are both world-class products that make building professional-looking websites an absolute breeze. Unfortunately, the price point for both of those products is a bit high for first-time web developers (like yourself).

Fortunately, there is a good, *free* web page authoring tool released by the open-source Mozilla group, called SeaMonkey Composer.

### NOTE

**Mozilla is a not-for-profit organization established in 1998. In addition to SeaMonkey, the organization created and maintains a free popular web browser called Firefox.**

The CD accompanying this book contains the SeaMonkey software, which includes a web browser and a web page authoring tool, among other utilities. To use SeaMonkey to create web pages, you first need to install it on your computer.

**NOTE**

The CD includes the most recent version of SeaMonkey at the time of this book's writing, version 1.1.9. You may optionally download and install the most recent version of SeaMonkey from the official website—[www.seamonkey-project.org](http://www.seamonkey-project.org). If you do, though, realize that there may be some slight discrepancies between what you see on your screen and the screenshots in this book.

## Installing SeaMonkey

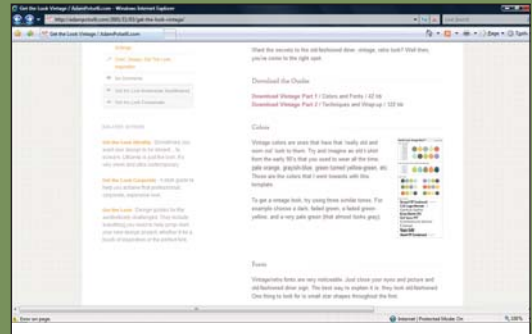
To begin the SeaMonkey installation, insert the CD into your computer. This will launch a program with three options:

- ▶ Browse Templates
- ▶ Install SeaMonkey
- ▶ Companion Website

Click the Install SeaMonkey option to begin the installation process, which starts by displaying the SeaMonkey Setup—Welcome dialog box (shown in Figure 1.6).

## IDEA GALLERY

<http://adampolselli.com/2001/11/03/get-the-look-vintage/>



## JUST GIVE ME A TEMPLATE!

What if you're not creative? What if you have no design education and experience? You still want a nice looking website that attracts visitors, and you have the skills to create it, but you need the look—the typefaces, the colors, the art. We just had to review Adam Polselli's site again for this reason[md]he offers you an array of choices from simple chic to corporate to vintage and tells you step by step how to get the particular look that you want. After you read through his reasons for choosing elements to achieve his theme, he lets you click a link called "Putting It All Together," where you see a bulleted list of typefaces he recommends, color schemes, shapes, borders, and photo finishes so that you can duplicate his design.

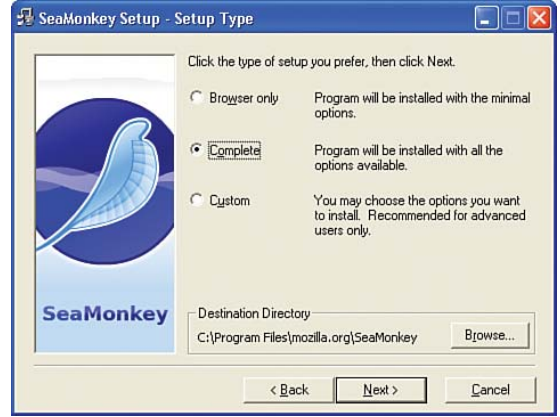
If you still want more than instructions to achieve a look, you can buy HTML templates from websites. Try sites like Boxedart.com and designload.net, where you can buy full-page templates or just buttons, art, and logos.





**FIGURE 1.6**  
**The SeaMonkey installation welcome message.**

Click the Next button to begin the installation. The second screen is the Software License Agreement screen, which provides the license for use of SeaMonkey. After you have read and agreed to this license, click the Accept button. Doing so takes you to the third screen, the Setup Type dialog box (shown in Figure 1.7). The Setup Type screen lets you determine what type of setup should be performed. Leave the default choice—Complete—selected, and click Next to continue.



**FIGURE 1.7**  
**Choose to do a Complete installation.**

The next screen asks you if you want to use SeaMonkey's Quick Launch option. Quick Launch adds an icon to the Windows taskbar, keeping SeaMonkey running even when you close it. This provides quicker startup times when you launch SeaMonkey. This option is unchecked by default, and I would encourage you to leave it unchecked unless you foresee yourself using SeaMonkey regularly.

When you have decided on the Quick Launch option, click Next to proceed to the final installation screen (shown in Figure 1.8). This final screen provides a summary of the components that will be installed.

When you are ready to begin the actual installation, click the Install button. Over the next several minutes, SeaMonkey will be installed on your computer. After it has completed installation, SeaMonkey's web browser automatically launches and displays a welcome web page. With SeaMonkey installed, we are now ready to start using Composer, the web page editing software we'll be using throughout this book.

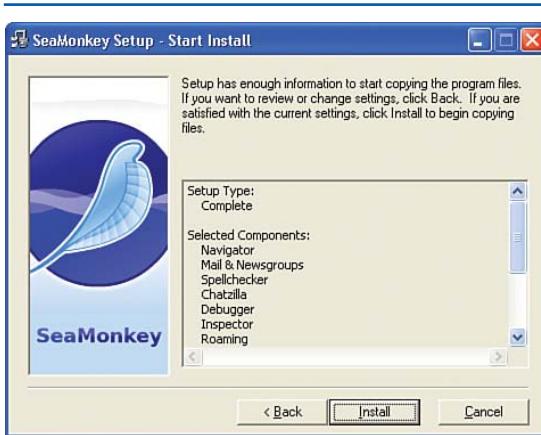


FIGURE 1.8

The final screen reviews the installation options.

## Starting SeaMonkey's Composer

After you install SeaMonkey, you are ready to start using Composer, which is a tool for creating web pages. To use Composer, you must first launch the SeaMonkey browser if it is not running already. To launch the browser, go to the Start menu, choose Programs, go to SeaMonkey, and select SeaMonkey.

When the SeaMonkey browser starts, you can launch Composer by going to the Window menu in the browser and clicking on the Composer menu item. Alternatively, you can press Ctrl and the 4 key on your keyboard simultaneously. Figure 1.9 shows a screenshot of the SeaMonkey browser and the Window menu.

After you select to launch Composer, the Composer window should appear. Figure 1.10 shows a screenshot of the Composer window.

In the next section, we examine how to use Composer to create a web page.

### TIP

By installing SeaMonkey Composer, you are also installing a full-fledged web browser. The SeaMonkey web browser has many features not found in Internet Explorer. I would encourage you to try out the SeaMonkey browser—you might just like it better than Internet Explorer! To learn more about SeaMonkey's features, check out [www.seamonkey-project.org/doc/features](http://www.seamonkey-project.org/doc/features).



FIGURE 1.9

Launch Composer by selecting Composer from the Window menu.

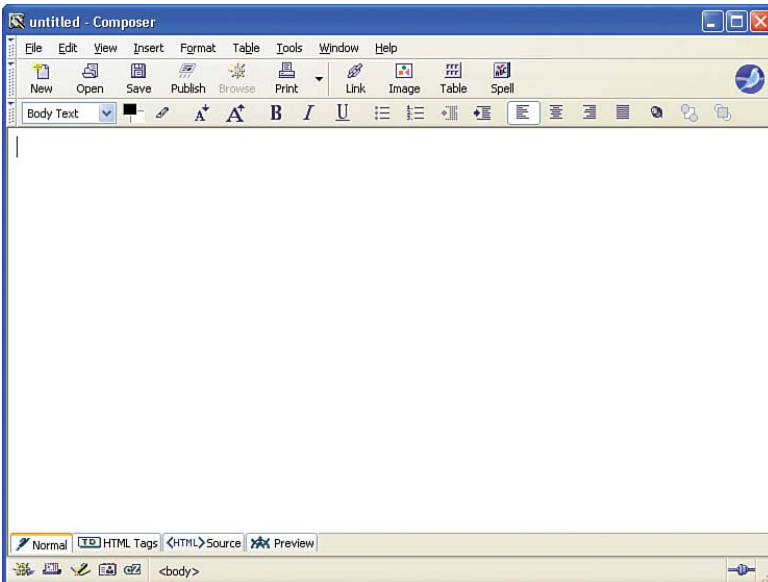


FIGURE 1.10

The SeaMonkey Composer window.

## Creating a Web Page with SeaMonkey Composer

Creating web pages with SeaMonkey Composer is as easy and intuitive as writing a letter using a program such as Microsoft Word. Let's look at using Composer to build a simple web page, one that provides information about some fictitious individual. We start by entering the content that we want to present in the web page; we will come back and make the content appear more eye-pleasing.

*“Creating web pages with SeaMonkey Composer is as easy and intuitive as writing a letter using a program such as Microsoft Word.”*

To follow along, start Composer, if you haven't already. Recall that this can be accomplished by launching the SeaMonkey browser, going to the Window menu, and choosing the Composer option. (Refer to Figure 1.9 for a screenshot of the Window menu in the SeaMonkey browser.)

Entering content into the web page is as simple as typing it in! The web page we'll be creating is about a fictitious fellow named Bob. In this page, Bob wants to share information about himself, including

- ▶ His age
- ▶ What he does for a living
- ▶ A bit about his wife and kids
- ▶ His hobbies
- ▶ Information about his pets

Start out by typing in the information Bob wants to share with the world. Feel free to be creative and make up a bevy of interesting facts about Bob to share in this web page. I decided to enter the following for Bob:

---

Hello, you have reached my very first Web page! My name is Bob, I'm 34 years old and I live in Dallas, Texas.

---

I work as an instructor at a sky-diving school, teaching people how to jump out of planes. I've made over 400 jumps myself, and made my first jump back when I was a mere 12 years old!

---

I am married to my wife Irene, and we have seven lovely children: Bertha, Bobby-Joe, Jermain, Ted, Todd, Rod, and Lil' Elaine. Bertha's the biggest and oldest, and Lil' Elaine is the youngest (although not the smallest—Rod has that distinction).

---

For fun I like to bowl. I am in a league, and we play every Wednesday at the Bowlorama.

---

The joy of my life is my pet parrot, Mr. Polly. Mr. Polly has a large vocabulary, and is quite talkative, especially when the whole family sits down for dinner. Mr. Polly, believe it or not, has been on several jumps with me.

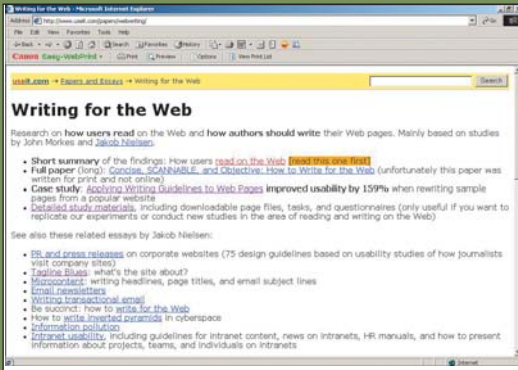
---

Figure 1.11 shows Composer after I have entered information about Bob.

Without a doubt, Bob's first web page is a bit of a disappointment. It doesn't look very exciting. Over the next several sections, we'll examine how Composer allows you to spruce up the appearance of a web page. With a few simple steps, you can radically improve the look and feel of a web page.

### NOTE

**If you make a mistake when working with Composer—be it choosing an incorrect color, an incorrect font, mistyping, or whatever—you can undo your last action by going to the Edit menu and selecting Undo.**



Site Version	Sample Paragraph	Usability Improvement (relative to control condition)
<b>Promotional writing</b> (control condition) Using the "year-end" fund in many commercial websites.	Nebraska is filled with internationally recognized attractions that draw large crowds of people every year, without fail. In 1996, some of the most popular places were Fort Robinson State Park (245,000 visitors), Scotts Bluff National Monument (132,165), Arbor Lodge State Historical Park & Museum (100,000), Cabela's (99,890), Shur Museum of the Prairie Pioneer (60,000), and Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park (28,445).	0% (the reference)
<b>Concise text</b> with about half the word count as the control condition.	In 1996, six of the best-attended attractions in Nebraska were Fort Robinson State Park, Scotts Bluff National Monument, Arbor Lodge State Historical Park & Museum, Cabela's, Shur Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, and Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park.	58%
<b>Scannable layout</b> using the same text as the control condition in a layout that facilitated scanning.	Nebraska is filled with internationally recognized attractions that draw large crowds of people every year, without fail. In 1996, some of the most popular places were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fort Robinson State Park (245,000 visitors)</li> <li>Scotts Bluff National Monument (132,165)</li> <li>Arbor Lodge State Historical Park &amp; Museum (100,000)</li> <li>Cabela's (99,890)</li> <li>Shur Museum of the Prairie Pioneer (60,000)</li> <li>Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park (28,445)</li> </ul>	47%
<b>Objective language</b> using neutral rather than subjective, scientific, or exaggerated language (offering the same as the control condition).	Nebraska has several attractions. In 1996, some of the most-visited places were Fort Robinson State Park (245,000 visitors), Scotts Bluff National Monument (132,165), Arbor Lodge State Historical Park & Museum (100,000), Cabela's (99,890), Shur Museum of the Prairie Pioneer (60,000), and Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park (28,445).  In 1996, six of the most-visited places in Nebraska were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fort Robinson State Park</li> </ul>	27%
<b>Combined version</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fort Robinson State Park</li> </ul>	

## WRITING FOR YOUR SITE

"The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do."

—Thomas Jefferson

Writing for the Web by Jakob Nielsen is an older website but still offers relevant information about writing styles and effective communications with people. Although not the most attractive page, Jakob leads you to articles and other places to reference style rules, usability studies, and guidelines for writing different kinds of text such as newsletters and press releases, as well as tips on writing headlines, subjects, and page titles that will get people's attention.

## Changing the Font

By default, the text you type into Composer is displayed using the web browser's default font. You can choose a specific font quite easily in Composer, though. To demonstrate this, let's have Bob's home page displayed in the Arial font.

Start by highlighting all of the text you've typed in thus far. To highlight the text, you can go to the Edit menu and choose Select All, or, using the mouse, you can click and hold the button within the text and drag the mouse cursor to select a portion of the text. To change the selected text's font, go to the Format menu and choose the Font option. This displays a long list of available fonts, as shown in Figure 1.12. To follow along, choose the Arial font.

Figure 1.13 shows Composer after the font has been changed to Arial.

## NOTE

Most professional web pages are displayed in one of three fonts: Arial, Times New Roman, or Verdana. Figure 1.14 shows the same sentence in these three different fonts.

FIGURE 1.11

Bob's first web page.

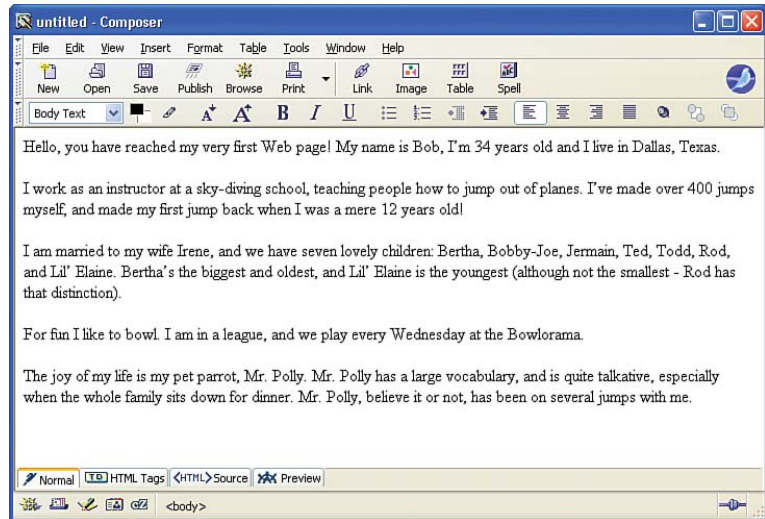
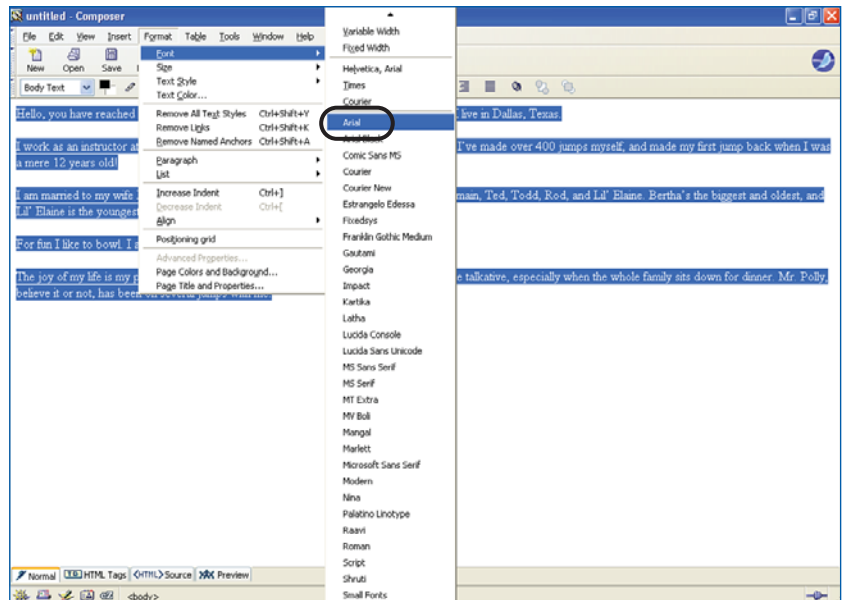


FIGURE 1.12

The Format menu's Font option lists the available fonts.



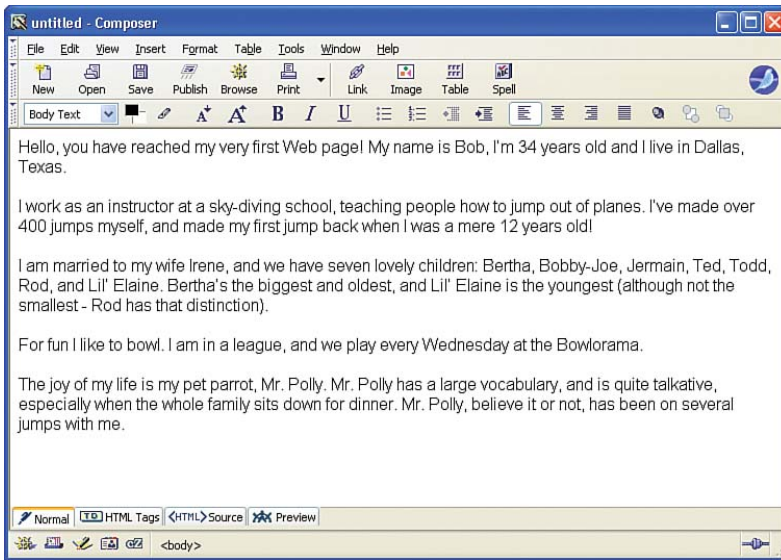


FIGURE 1.13

The text in Bob's web page is displayed in the Times New Roman font.

This is an example of Arial.

This is an example of Times New Roman

This is an example of Verdana

FIGURE 1.14

**Arial, Times New Roman, and Verdana are the three most popular fonts.**

## TIP

To change the text for a portion of the document, use the mouse to select just the text whose font you want to change. Then go to the Format menu's Font option and select the font you want to change the selected text to.

## Making Text Bold, Italic, and Underlined

You can make text bold, italic, and underlined using the toolbar icons shown circled in Figure 1.15. To apply such formatting to a given piece of text, highlight the text and then click the appropriate icons.

For example, let's have Bob's children's names italicized. To accomplish this, use the mouse to select Bob's children's names. When this text is selected, simply click the Italic icon (the *I* in the toolbar), and the text becomes italicized.

Also, let's add a brief title before each paragraph, where each title is made bold. Figure 1.16 shows Composer after the boldfaced paragraph titles have been added and the children's names italicized.



**TIP**

You are not limited to making text only bold or italicized or underlined. You can make text both bold and italic, or both italic and underlined, or any other combination of the three.

## Changing the Colors

Composer allows you to easily specify the foreground color for text, and the background color for a web page. To set the foreground color, simply select the text whose color you want to change, and then go to the Format menu and choose the Text Color menu option. Choosing this option displays the Text Color dialog box, which is shown in Figure 1.17.

FIGURE 1.15

These toolbar icons allow you to make text bold, italic, and underlined.

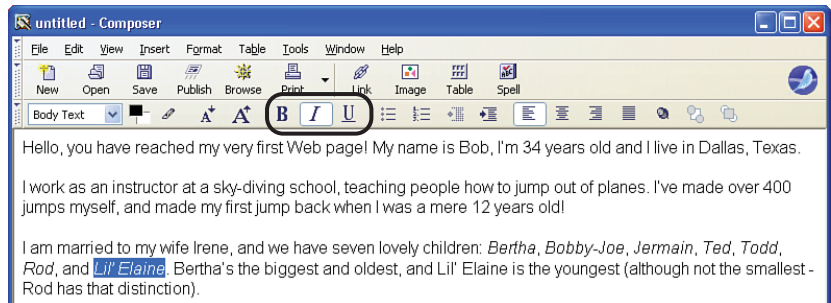
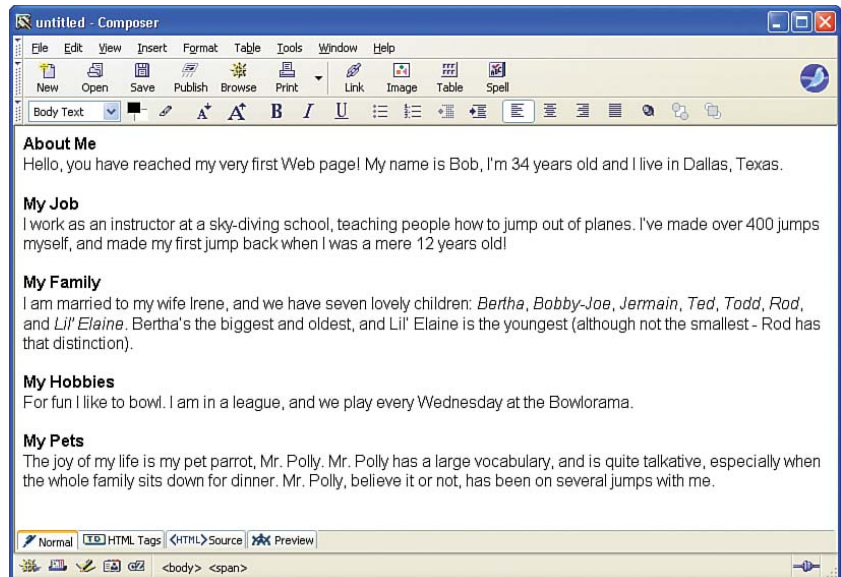


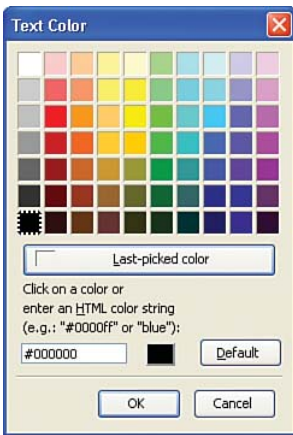
FIGURE 1.16

Some bold and italic formatting has been applied.



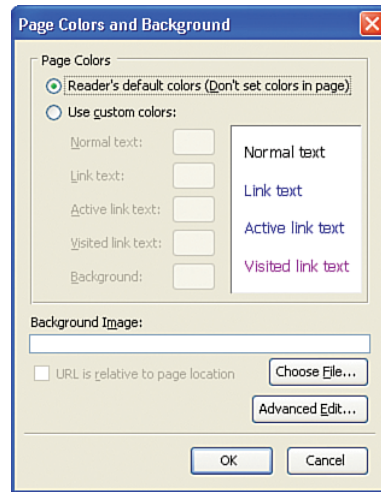


This dialog box allows you to choose a color from a palette of colors. After you select a color and click the OK button, the dialog box closes and the selected text's foreground color changes to the specified color. Take a moment to alter the foreground color of some text in Bob's web page.



**FIGURE 1.17**  
The Text Color dialog box allows you to select the text's color.

The web page's background color can be changed by going to the Format menu and choosing the Page Colors and Background option. This displays the Page Colors and Background dialog box (shown in Figure 1.18). To change the page's background color, select the Use Custom Colors radio button and then click on the Background button. This displays the Text Color dialog box shown in Figure 1.17. After choosing a color and clicking OK in both dialog boxes, you are returned to Composer, and the background color changes to the specified color.



**FIGURE 1.18**  
This dialog box allows you to change the background color of the web page.

## TIP

When specifying colors, be sure that the background and foreground colors contrast so that the text is readable. If you choose a dark text color on a dark background or a light text color on a light background, visitors to your web page won't be able to read the text!

Some examples of bad color choices include yellow text on a white background and blue text on a black background.

## Positioning Text

Like with a word processor, Composer allows you to position text in one of four ways:

- ▶ Left-aligned
- ▶ Center-aligned
- ▶ Right-aligned
- ▶ Justified

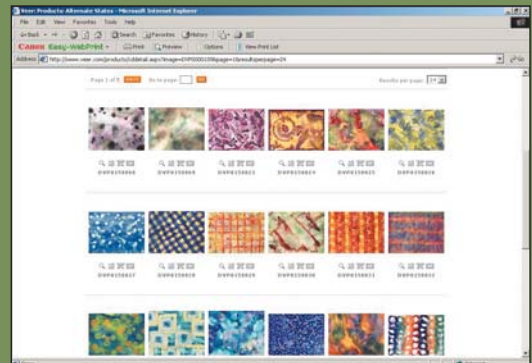
To specify the positioning, simply select the text you wish to position and then choose the appropriate positioning icon from the toolbar. Figure 1.19 shows the text-alignment toolbar icons circled.

To practice text positioning, take a moment to right-align the paragraph titles (About Me, My Job, and so on). To right-align the About Me title, select the text and then click the right-align toolbar icon. Repeat this process for all paragraph titles on the page.

After the right-aligning has been performed, your screen should look similar to Figure 1.19.

## Saving the Web Page

There are many more formatting options in Composer, and we examine these in detail when we start building full-blown websites. The goal of the past few sections was to introduce you to some of the more basic formatting options Composer provides and to hammer home the concept that formatting in Composer is synonymous to formatting text in a word processor.



## Fonts, Images, Photos, and Illustrations for Your Site

What if you want beautiful photos or illustrations for your site, but you're not an artist? Veer.com and plenty of other stock image sites offer great deals on images.

We liked Veer because it also prints catalogs and offer them in PDF format from its website. The catalogs are works of art and can give you some great ideas for how to use images and type.

Here are a couple of tips to remember when looking for a stock image:

1. Royalty-free images are your best buy.
2. If you want the same look to your website, buy a CD of images that were designed to go together.

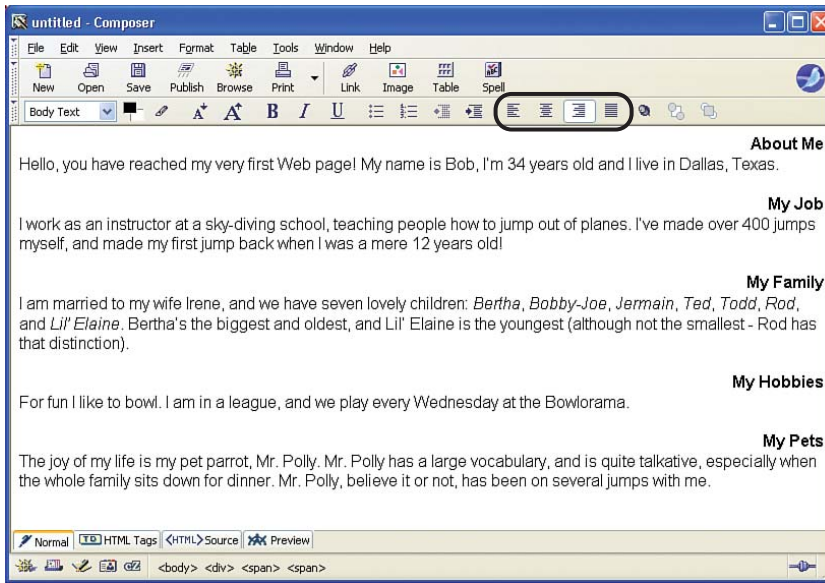


FIGURE 1.19

These toolbar icons allow for positioning of text.

*“There are many formatting options in Composer, and we examine these in detail when we start building full-blown websites.”*

Now that you have completed Bob’s first web page, save it. To save the web page, go to the File menu and choose the Save option. This displays a dialog box prompting you for the **title** for this web page.

## NEW TERM

The page’s title is displayed in the web browser’s title bar when the page is visited.

Choose a title, such as “Bob’s First Web Page,” and click OK. Next, you are prompted for where to save the file. You can save it anywhere on your computer you’d like, such as in the My Documents folder, on the desktop, or in a custom folder.

When saving the web page to your computer, be sure to remove any spaces from the file-name. While your computer can certainly store files whose names contain spaces, URLs cannot. Consequently, it’s good practice to omit spaces from the filenames of your web pages.

At this point, the web page is saved only on your computer. There is no way that your grandmother in Toledo could visit this web page through her web browser. To make this web page accessible to anyone with an Internet connection, we need to create a website and

then copy this file to the web server that hosts our website. This involves a number of steps, which are examined in detail in the next chapter.

## TIP

**After you save a web page, you can open it for further editing by starting Composer, going to the File menu, and choosing the Open option.**

## Summary

With the completion of this chapter, you've taken your first step in your journey to create websites. This chapter was a big first step, covering many important facets of websites, web pages, and web page authoring tools.

This chapter began by looking at the three things all websites have:

- ▶ A web server to return the requested web pages to the requesting web browsers
- ▶ A domain name to uniquely identify the website
- ▶ Web pages, which make up the building blocks of a website

A web server is a computer where a website's web pages reside. It is this web server that is queried when a user visits the website through a web browser. The domain name is a unique identifier for a website. To visit the home page for a particular website, simply enter the domain name in your web browser's Address bar. Finally, a website is composed of one to

many web pages. Each web page is, in actuality, a file residing on the web server. Web pages contain HTML markup that specifies how their content should be displayed in a web browser.

In this chapter you also saw how to use SeaMonkey Composer to create a simple web page. Composer enables you to create and edit web pages just like you would work with documents in any word processor program. Before you can start using Composer, though, you need to install the SeaMonkey software located on this book's accompanying CD.

In the next chapter, "Creating a Website," we'll take a deeper look at the communication interactions involved between a web browser and a web server. We'll also look at how to get started creating a website, which involves finding a web host provider and registering a domain name. Finally, we'll see how to upload web pages from your computer onto your public website's web server. You find all this and more in the next chapter

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