# S Your Content Ready For the Web?

### Rob Amos Senior Services Consultant





- Planning the Web Site
- **■** Determining Content
- Selecting Development Tools
- Designing Individual Components
- Publishing Your Content
- Questions and Answers

## Planing The Web Site

- What are the goals and purposes of the site?
- What is the desired look and feel of the site?
- Who is the intended audience of the site?
- What is the target environment?
- What resources are available for site development?

### Goals and Purposes

- Attract new customers?
- Introduce a new product to market?
- Provide marketing and technical information to prospects and customers?
- Provide on-line technical support?
- Share information across departments? Divisions? Companies?
- Just to have a presence on the web?



- Determine your target audience
  - ✓ Prospects
  - ✓ Customers
  - ✓ Employees
  - ✓ Business partners?
- Cross-cultural, language support needed?
  - ✓ Where does your target audience reside?
  - ✓ Remember that the Internet can bring the entire world in to your local "neighborhood"
  - ✓ International borders are no longer obstacles

## Target Environment

- Determine what is the lowest technical platform your Web site will support
  - ✓ Server
  - ✓ Browsers
  - ✓ JavaScript, Java, ActiveX
  - ✓ Secure Socket transmissions
  - ✓ Screen resolution and color

## Target Environment I

- Once you decide on that level, make sure that you tell your audience what they need (if not there)
  - ✓ Provide links to required tools
  - ✓ Verify whenever possible that the requirements are there

## Site "Look and Feel"

- How do you want the site to look? Complexity?
  - ✓ Have you seen other Web sites that have your desired "look and feel"
  - ✓ What makes these sites interesting?
  - ✓ How would this look assist you in reaching the goals and purposes of the site?
- ■Plan on using browser safe colors to obtain a common color palette for pages
  - ✓ Browser Safe Colors

## Development Resources I

- What are budget restraints?
  - ✓ Hardware
    - ✓ Can existing platform support planned system load?
  - ✓ Software
    - ✓ Do you need to obtain new software, upgrade or extend licenses?

### Development Resources I

#### Personnel

- ✓ What experienced personnel do you already have on board?
- Can you hire or train to cover technical exposure?

#### Legal

✓ Do you own the domain?

### Typieal Project

- Intranet site for cross department support
  - ✓ Should allow for sharing project information
    - ✓ Documents
    - ✓ Spreadsheets
  - ✓ Graphics (images, charts) should be available to assist reader
- Needs to support Internet Explorer 4.0 +
  - √ 800x600 resolution,256 color support
  - ✓ JavaScript and Java support



- Text
- Graphics
- Multimedia
- JavaScript
- Java Applets



- Could consist of static documents and files
  - ✓ Word processing files
  - ✓ Presentations
  - ✓ Spreadsheets
- Dynamic documents provide for a Web site that is a "living entity"
  - ✓ Extract information from databases
  - Links to existing documents that are updated frequently
  - ✓ Direct application support

## Graphies Content

- Graphic images can be
  - ✓ Images
  - ✓ Titles and logos
  - ✓ Icons
  - ✓ Buttons
  - ✓ Rules
- Graphics heavy Web pages increase download time
  - ✓ What access methods will your intended audience use to connect to your site?

### Mulitimedia Content

- What video and audio components do you need to help you realize your site's objectives?
- Pre-recorded or real-time video?
  - ✓ Company meetings?
  - ✓ Project meetings?
- Pre-recorded or real-time audio?
  - ✓ Teleconferences?
  - ✓ Real-time discussions?

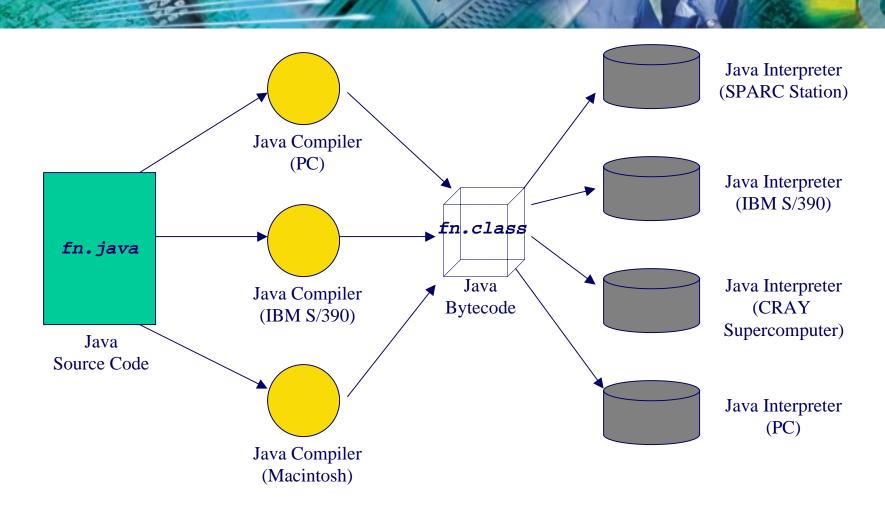


- Browser-side scripting language
  - ✓ Not to be confused with Java!
- Advantages
  - ✓ Fast
  - ✓ Less burden on web server and network
- Provides means of using user's workstation to pre-process input
  - ✓ Use to validate data input fields
  - ✓ Provide field sensitive help
  - ✓ Used to create Dynamic HTML (DHTML)

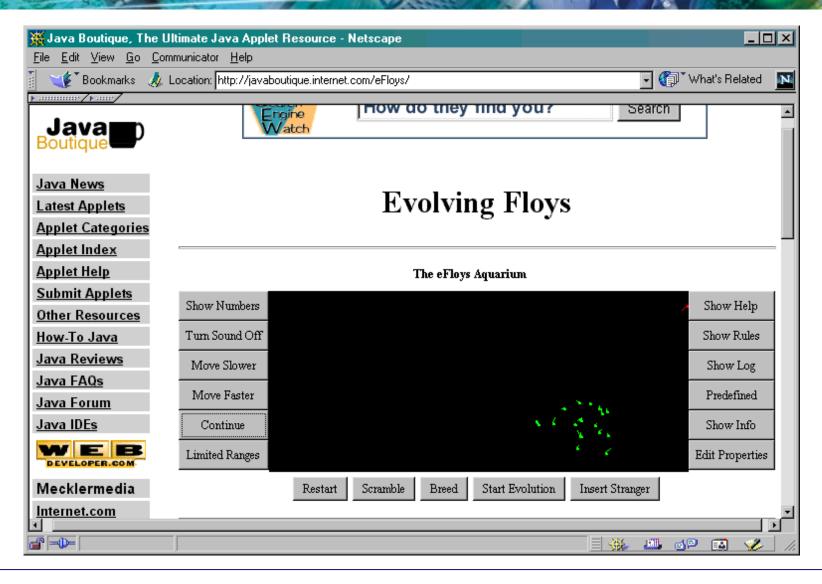


- Object-oriented programming language
  - ✓ Developed by Sun Microsystems in 1994
  - Excellent general purpose language for writing small Web applications called "applets" or for larger, more general purpose applications
- Major strengths include
  - ✓ Platform-independent, at both source and binary level
  - √ Simplicity

### Java Applet Components







## Site Development Tools I

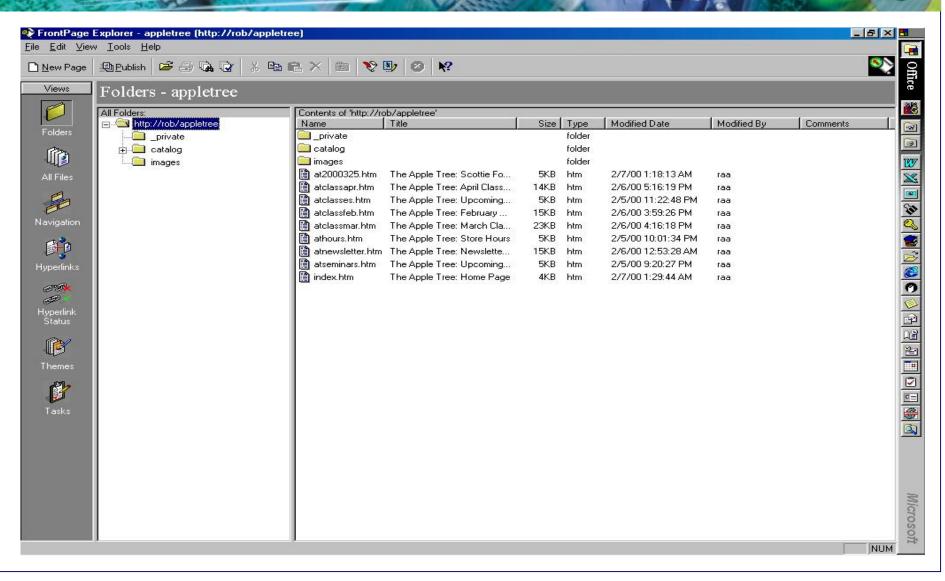
- Xedit, Notepad, WordPad
  - ✓ Basic Web page editing tools
  - ✓ Difficult to visualize how your changes look
  - ✓ Be sure to save files as text format files.
    - ✓.TXT doesn't guarantee file format!

### Site Development Tools II

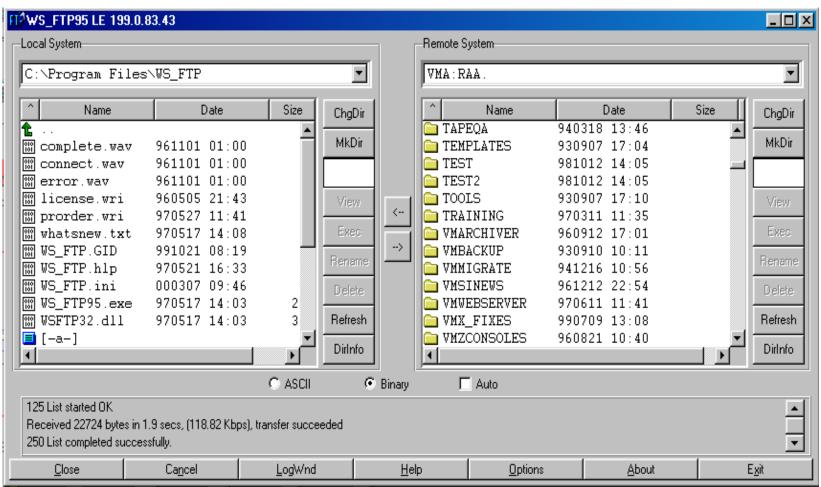
#### ■ Microsoft FrontPage

- ✓ WYSIWYG Web site administration, creation, and management tool
- ✓ Interfaces with Microsoft Office Suite and database products
- Netscape Composer
  - ✓ Similar to FrontPage
  - ✓ Doesn't support Web site management just creating and updating

### Microsoft Front Page







## Graphic Development Tools

■ JASC: Paint Shop Pro 6.0

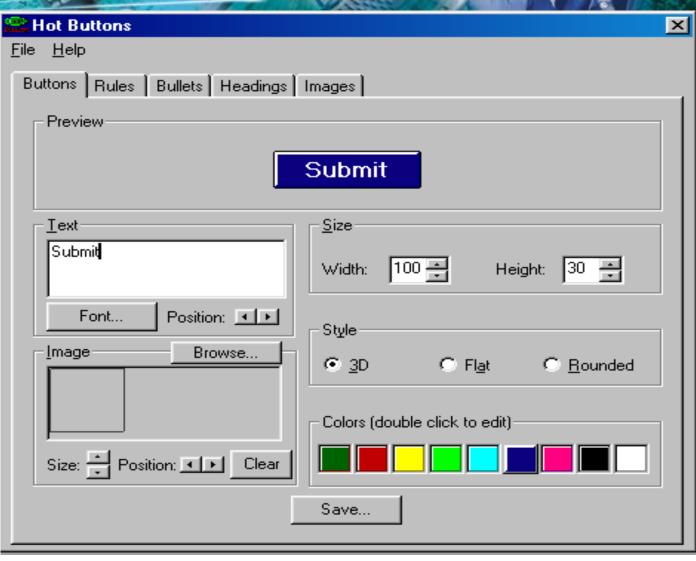
■ Xara: Xara3D3

■ Jalapeno: Hot Buttons

### Web Graphie Formats

- GIF (.gif) Graphic Interchange Format, 8-bit, indexed 256 color palette, supports transparency and animation
- JPEG (.jpg, .jpeg) Joint Photographic Experts Group, 24-bit, millions of colors, great for photographs
- PNG (.png) Portable Network Graphics, 48-bit, billions of colors, supports alpha transparency and gamma correction, combines benefits of both GIF's and JPEG's without the weaknesses...but not currently supported by many browsers

### Jalapeno Hot Buttons



### Static Audio Formats

- MIDI (.mid) Musical Instrument Digital Interface, mathematical representation of notes contains no audio information, music only, super compact (a thousand times smaller than WAVE file) but poor quality
- WAVE (.wav) Waveform Audio File Format, originated on Windows but now cross-platform, supports arbitrary sampling rates, large file size
- AIFF (.aif, .aiff) Audio Interchange File Format, originated on Macintosh but now cross-platform, similar to WAVE
- u-LAW (.au) Unix standard audio format, supports a variety of sampling rates, gaining popularity because of Java

### Streaming Audio Formats

- MPEG (.mpa, .mp2, .mp3) Family of multimedia standards developed by Moving Picture Experts Group, high quality sound and video with excellent compression rates (nonstreaming and streaming)
- RealAudio (.ra, .ram) RealNetworks offers free client and server software, with additional upgrades available to buy. Available for most platforms. Has capacity to revert to HTTP if UDP connection fails
- Streamworks (.mpa, .mp2, .xsm, .xdm) Xing Technologies, commercial encoder and special server software required, aimed at high end connections

### Streaming Audio Examples

- Link to streaming audio
  - ✓ RealSound requires links to be made to special go-between files called metafiles (suffix .ram)

<A HREF="song.ram">Link to the Song</A>

✓ The metafile, "song.ram" contains the URL for the RealAudio file:

pnm://[ip.address]/song.ra

■ Embed streaming audio

```
<EMBED SRC="pnm://[ip.address]/song.ra" WIDTH="100"
HEIGHT="100" AUTOSTART="false"></EMBED>
```

### Villed Formats

- QuickTime Movie (.mov) Originated on Macintosh but now cross-platform, cross-browser. Popular because of superior compression and built-in streaming capability
- *AVI* (.avi) Audio/Video Interleaved, originated on Windows but now cross-platform
- MPEG (.mpg) Moving Picture Experts Group, high quality sound and video with excellent compression rates (nonstreaming and streaming)
- RealVideo (.rm) De facto standard for streaming media on web



- Simple link to video file
  - <A HREF="catdog.avi">Click Here for Movie</A>
- Embed audio for use with plug-ins

```
<EMBED SRC="chase.mov" WIDTH="160" HEIGHT="120"
   AUTOPLAY="false"
   PLUGINSPAGE="http://cgi.netscape.com/products
/communicator/plugins/>"
</EMBED>
```

### Serving Content Using VM:Webgateway I

- Upload content to VM:Webgateway server
  - √ FTP
  - ✓ Microsoft FrontPage
  - ✓ Netscape Composer
- Be aware of directory structure and file system of target directories
  - ✓ CMS
  - ✓ SFS
  - ✓ BFS

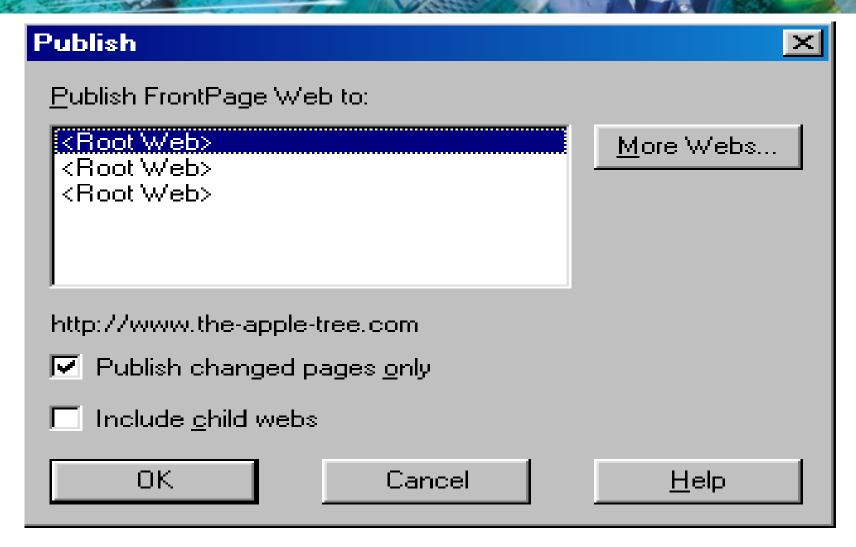
### Serving Content Using VM:Webgateway II

#### ■ Set MIME types

Query existing filetype definitions

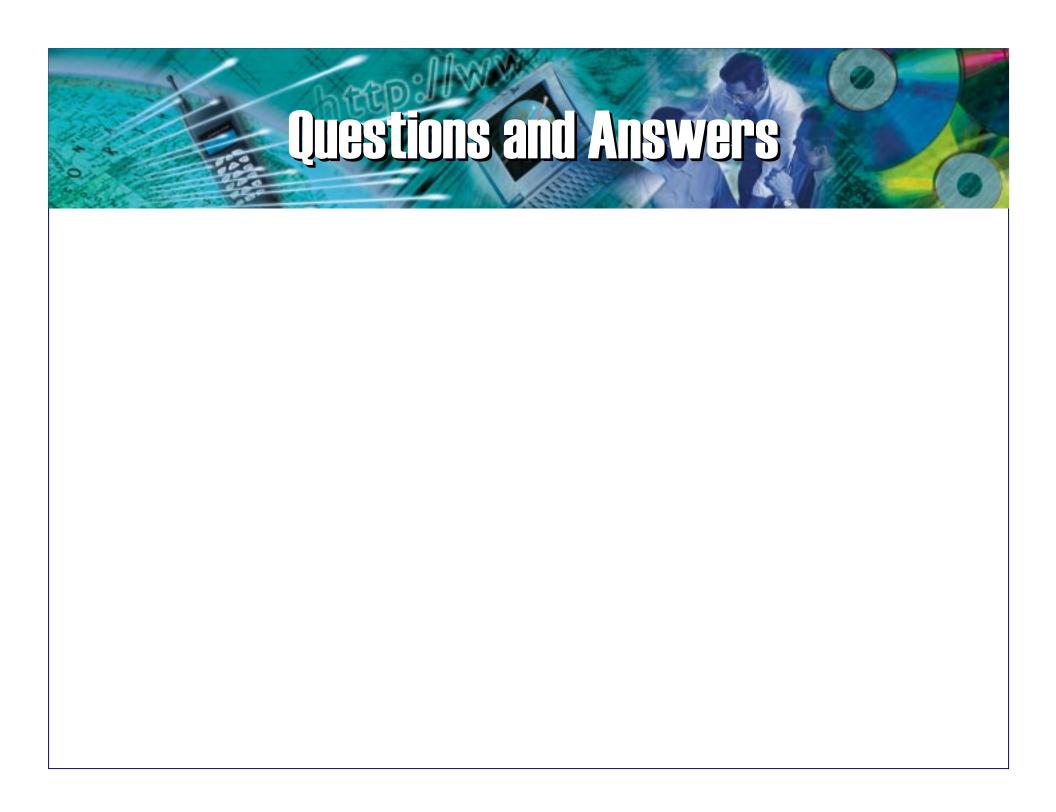
#### ✓ Add new filetype definitions, if necessary

### Publishing Your Content





- Plan the Web Site Design
- Select Development Tools
- Design Individual Components
- Publish Content to VM:Webgateway



## Resources

- Web Design in a Nutshell, O'Reilly
  - ✓ Jennifer Niederst, 1999
- *UltraEdit-32*, IDM Computer Solutions, Inc.
  - ✓ http://www.ultraedit.com/
- FrontPage 2000, Microsoft
  - √ http://www.microsoft.com/
- *Netscape Composer*, Netscape
  - √ http://www.netscape.com/
- Barry's Clipart Server
  - √ http://www.barrysclipart.com/
- Paint Shop Pro 6, Jasc, Inc.
  - ✓ http://www.jasc.com/

### Resources, continued

- Xara 3D3, Xara, Ltd.
  - √ http://www.xara.com/
- Sound Forge XP 4.5, Sonic Foundry, Inc.
  - ✓ http://www.sonicfoundry.com/
- RealPlayer G2, RealNetworks, Inc.
  - √ http://www.real.com/
- Java Home Page, Sun Microsystems, Inc.
  - √ http://java.sun.com/
- WS\_FTP LE, Ipswitch, Inc.
  - √ http://www.ipswitch.com/



**Rob Amos** 

Senior Services Consultant

OS/390 Specialty Services

Computer, Associates, Inc.

E-mail: rob.amos@ca.com

Phone: 540-362-1408

Fax: 509-272-4451