



Dreamweaver MX for Developers: Making The Most of It for Studio/HomeSite Users

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Quick Bio

- Team Macromedia member
- Tech Co-Editor ColdFusion Dev Journal Magazine
 - Frequent writer for them, Macromedia DevCenter
- Macromedia Certified Instructor
- Macromedia Certified Advanced CF Developer
- Consultant/Trainer/Frequent Speaker to User Group, Conferences worldwide
- ColdFusion User Group Manager (Southern MD)
- Based in DC area
- Founder/CTO SystemManage

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Don't Fear the Weaver!

I've just closed my eyes again
Climbed aboard the Dreamweaver train
Driver take away my worries of today
And leave tomorrow behind

- Gary Wright, from the song "Dreamweaver"

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On the Fence? Tried and Gave Up?

- Macromedia has spurned HomeSite/Studio
- Dreamweaver MX is to be the developer environment of choice
 - Some have tried it, ran away
 - Others use it, but miss out on many features
- Very rich environment, many features
 - Some best suited to designers
 - Plenty to offer coders and application developers

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Could Spend All Day on This

- Even just limiting discussion to features of interest to HomeSite/Studio users
 - We could talk all day
 - Obviously don't have time for that
- Could demonstrate many, many features that are useful to CF/ASP/JSP/PHP developers
 - Let's focus on just a couple key aspects
 - May help to consider complete day-long agenda

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Day-long Seminar Topics

- I. Transitioning From Studio/HomeSite
- II. Speeding Up DWMX
- III. Annoyances
- IV. Tips and Hidden Gems
- V. Useful Extensions
- VI. Where to Learn More

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I. Transitioning From Studio/HomeSite

- A. Some challenges
- B. Features still there
- C. Changes versus Studio
- D. Features expanded versus Studio/HomeSite
- E. Features lost that are recoverable
- F. Features lost, not recoverable (or not easily)
- G. Features gained versus Studio
- H. Some new features in DWMX
- I. Non-CF Coder features
- J. Additional topics

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I.A Some Challenges

- Memories of older Dreamweaver versions
- Ultradev's next steps
- Designers versus developers
- Code editing versus code generation
- Code changing features can be tempered
- Speed issues can be tempered
- Differences versus Studio can be overcome

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I.B Features Still There

- Tag/function Insight (now called "code hints")
- Tag Editor (ctrl-f4, modify>edit tag)
- Tag Help (shift f1)
- Tag Chooser (insert>tag or ctrl-e)
- Tag Inspector (window>tag inspector)
- Snippets (window>snippets)
- Toolbars
- Syntax Coloring

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I.B Features Still There (cont.)

- Database tool (window>databases)
- RDS support
- Browser preview (file>preview in browser or F12)
- Internal browser (view>server debug)
- Spell checking (text>spell checking)
- Link checking (file>check page>check links)
- Indent/outdent line (edit menu, same shortcuts)
- can open CFINCLUDE files (right click and choose "open document")

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I.C Changes Versus Studio

- Tag Help (was f1 on tag, now ctrl-f1)
- Tag Editor (was ctrl-f4, now ctrl f5)
- Hide panels (was f9, now f4)
- Could alter these with keyboard shortcut changes (edit>keyboard shortcuts)
- Replace is now within Find
 - Extended find/replace also in Edit>Find

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I.D Features Expanded Versus Studio/HomeSite

- Popup of available names of predefined variables (like server., cfhttp., error., etc.) while typing
- Snippets: dozens of preconfigured ones
 - Especially accessibility, form elements>drop downs, JavaScript, navigation, headers/footers
- Wizards: replaced by server behaviors (window menu)
 - Also see insert>application objects feature
- Find/replace: "find in" and "search for"
- Richer help references
 - HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Accessibility, ASP, JSP, CFML
- Select Parent/Child Tag (see Edit menu)
- Debugging Panel (view>server debug)
- Tag Hints come up immediately

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I.E Features Lost That Are Recoverable

- Expression Builder, File Close All, Context-sensitive help for functions, Go To Line
 - Available as extensions
- Shortcut for surround with pounds/comments
 - See Insert>ColdFusion Basic Objects
 - Use Edit>Keyboard Shortcuts

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I.F Features lost, not recoverable (or not easily)

- CF code debugger
- Query builder (there is one, but not the visual style in Studio)
- Replace across multiple files doesn't offer "make backups"
 - But does warn that only open files can be undone
- Shortcuts for snippets

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I.G Features Gained Versus Studio

1. ColdFusion MX-specific features
2. Developer features
 - a. That don't change code
 - b. That generate code
3. HTML coder features
 - a. That don't change/generate code
 - b. Int/Adv HTML coder features that can change code
 - c. Int/Adv HTML coder features that generate code
 - d. Basic HTML coder features that can change/generate code

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Just No Time To Detail Them All

- Will cover them, and demonstrate them, in day-long seminar
 - And finish remaining portion of Part I
 - As well as Parts II-VI
- But let's at least list some key features...

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Key Features That Don't Change Code

- Component/Web Services integration
- Site Management (remote/testing server/check in-out)
- Code Validation (File>Check Page)

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Key Features That Can Change Code

- Live Data Preview
- Templates
- HTML Cleanup
- Source Formatting
- Change Links Sitewide
 - And by moving files
- Design View

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Key Features That Generate Code

- Insert>Application Objects
 - Recordset, dynamic table (scroll records), master/detail pages, insertion/update forms
- Window>Server Behaviors>+
 - Those above and stored procedures, user authentication code
- Window>Components
 - Create, use components/web svcs (get details, insert code), view all installed components/web svcs

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Key Features That Generate HTML

- File>New
 - Page designs, stylesheets, framesets, more
- Window>Behaviors>+
 - Several JavaScript features
- Insert>Interactive Images
 - Flash buttons/text, Rollover images, Nav bar
- CSS features
- Site Assets
- Creating animations with "timeline"
- Create Web Photo Album

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Still Not Listing All Useful Features

- Will list more, and demonstrate these as well, in day-long seminar
- May seem a sales pitch or tease
 - Hope info offered has been helpful
- Would certainly welcome any of you coming to the seminar

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Day-long Seminar Topics

- I. Transitioning From Studio/HomeSite
 - Including some topics we didn't finish
- II. Speeding Up DWMX
- III. Annoyances
- IV. Tips and Hidden Gems
- V. Useful Extensions
- VI. Where to Learn More

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Contact Info

- For questions, comments on presentation
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Additional Resources

- Articles on Studio/HomeSite-DWMX Migration
 - http://www.macromedia.com/support/dreamweaver/htmljava/migrating_hs_to_dwmx/
 - http://www.macromedia.com/support/dreamweaver/programs/migrating_cfs_to_dwmx/
 - http://www.macromedia.com/desdev/mx/dreamweaver/articles/why_migrate.html

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