

Lesson One: Your first Program

Before you can build your first CGI program you must understand how to build a web page. You want to use CGI to function on web pages so you must first program a web page so you can see your CGI work. I will not go into anything difficult just the basics of making a web page.

To get you started I will walk you through basic HTML. HTML stands for *Hypertext Markup Language*. HTML is a language that uses text to create web pages and is basic ASCII text. You can use any text editor to build a simple web page. All HTML uses a set of basic tags to make it work.

You need only the following 6 tags to create a web page.

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

<HTML> tells someone's browser that this is the beginning of a web page.

<HEAD> tells the browser that this is the beginning of the title of the page.

</HEAD> tells the browser that this is the end of the title portion.

<BODY> this is where most of everything of a web page goes including text.

</BODY> this tells your browser that this is the end of the body of the page.

</HTML> and this tells your browser to stop loading the page because it is the end.

If you haven't read and completed the section, *What you need to use this book*, do it now.

Step 1: Lets start the program Crimson Editor and make our first web page program. When the editor opens it will look like illustration 1.

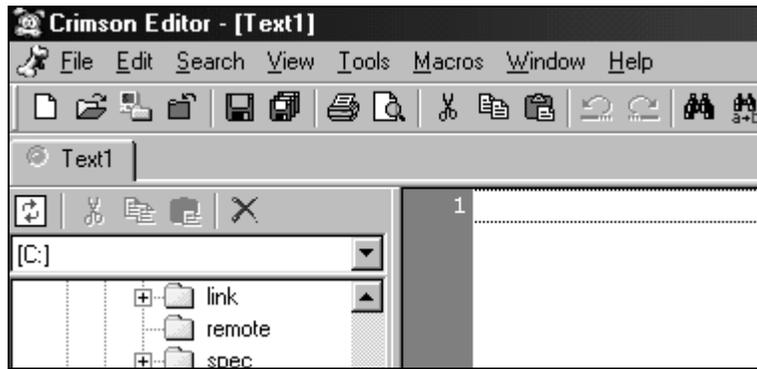


Illustration 1

Step 2. The editor will be blank. The problem with Crimson Editor is that it starts out with a font that is almost un-readable. Fortunately you can change the font to one that is reader friendly. Go up to the menu bar and click once on the menu that says *View* just like illustration 2.



Illustration 2

Step 3. A menu will open just like illustration 3. Move your mouse pointer to the area that says *Screen Fonts*.

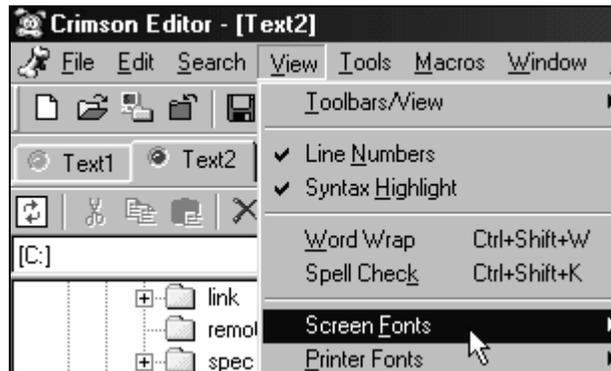


Illustration 3

Step 4. Another menu will open. Move your mouse cursor to the font that says *Custom 3* and click once as in illustration 4.

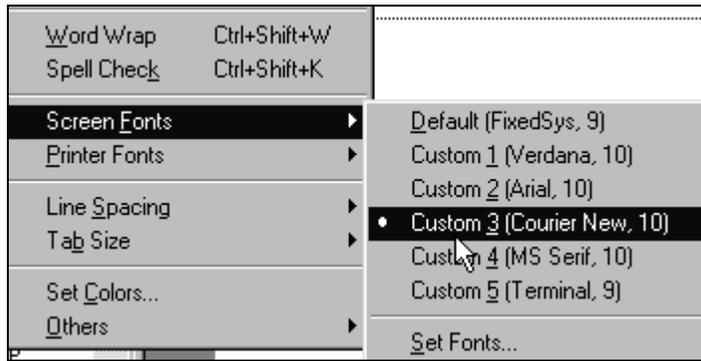


Illustration 4

Now you're ready to build your first HTML program so let's go to step 5.

Step 5. Fill in your editor window so it looks exactly like illustration 5.

```
1 <HTML>
2 <HEAD>
3 </HEAD>
4 <BODY>
5 </BODY>
6 </HTML>
7
```

Illustration 5

Step 6. Ok, now after the first <BODY> tag type the two words, *Hello World* and make it look like illustration 6.

```
1 <HTML>
2 <HEAD>
3 </HEAD>
4 <BODY>Hello World
5 </BODY>
6 </HTML>
7
```

Illustration 6

Step 7. Next when you're ready, we will use your editor to save the file to a place you will remember. Move your mouse pointer up to the file menu like in illustration 7 and click it once.

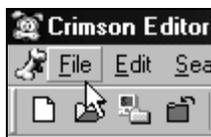


Illustration 7

Step 8. A menu will open like illustration 8. Click once where is says, *Save As*.

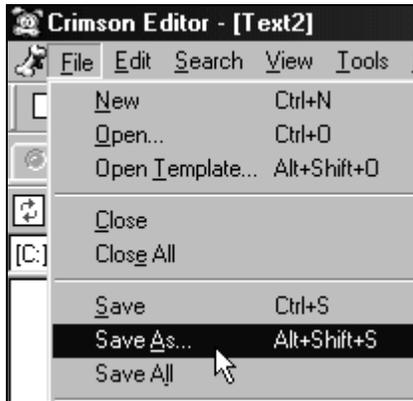


Illustration 8

Step 9. A window will open like illustration 9. Save the file as *samp1.html* to the folder of your own choosing but one you will remember and be able to find.

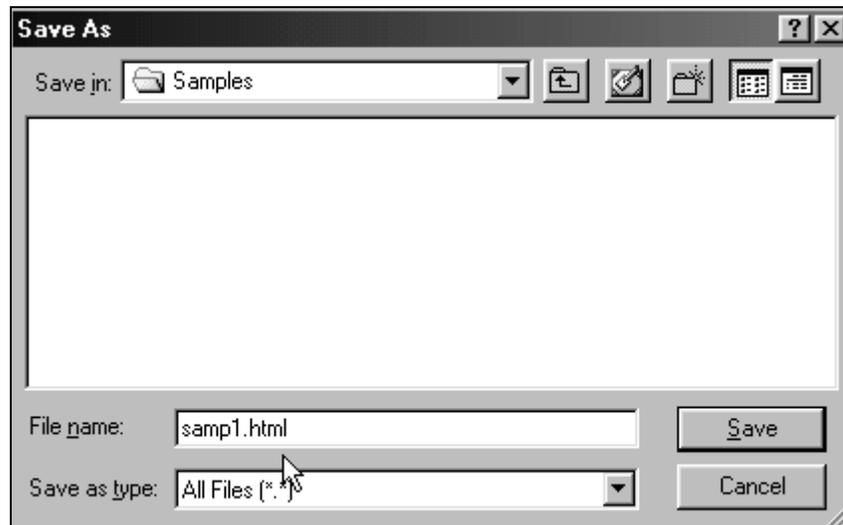


Illustration 9

Step 10. Start Windows Explorer. If you don't know how to do this go back to the *What you need to use this book* section and read it. Find the file *samp1.html* like in illustration 10 and double click it real fast.

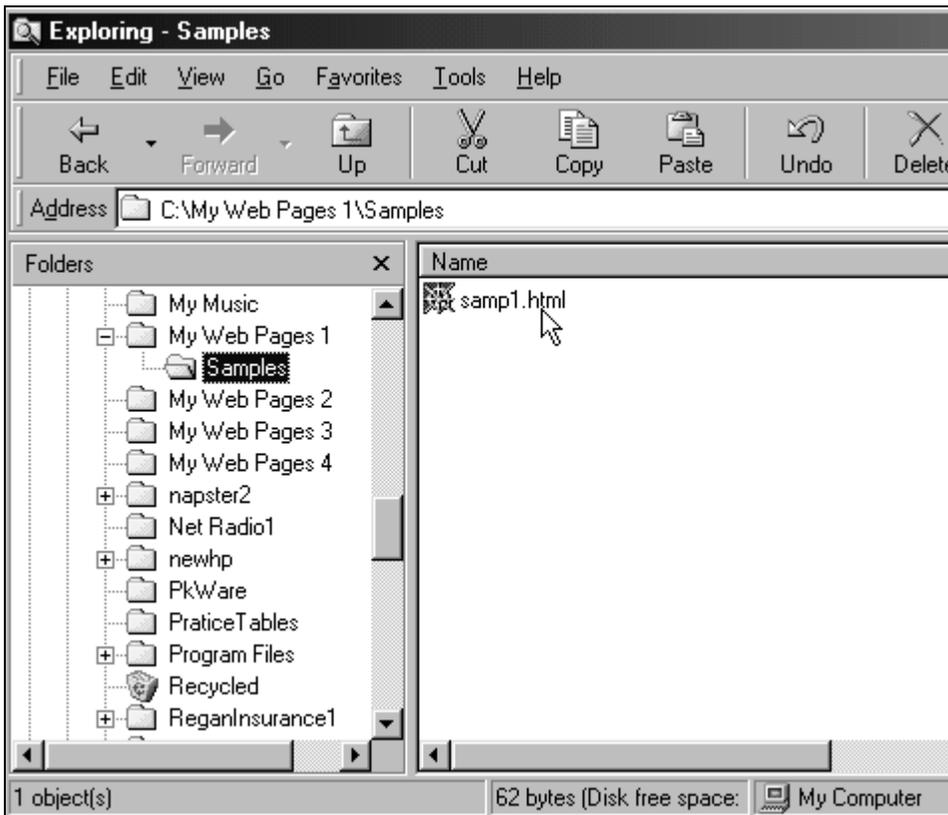


Illustration 10

It should now be working in your Internet browser either Netscape or Explorer and look like illustration 11. If it doesn't work, start over beginning at step 1.

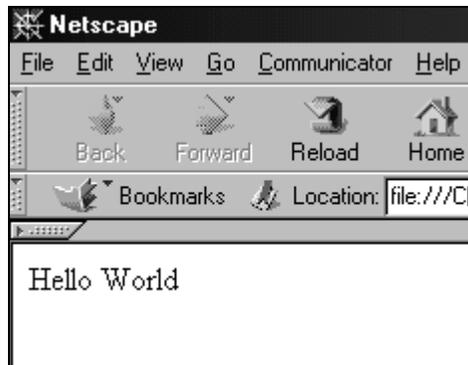


Illustration 11

Step 11. It is time to load your program to your web site. Log on to the Internet and get connected. If you haven't followed the instructions in the *What you need to use this book* section go back and read it now.

Step 12. Start the program CuteFTP. A window will open. Click once on the connect button just as in illustration 12.

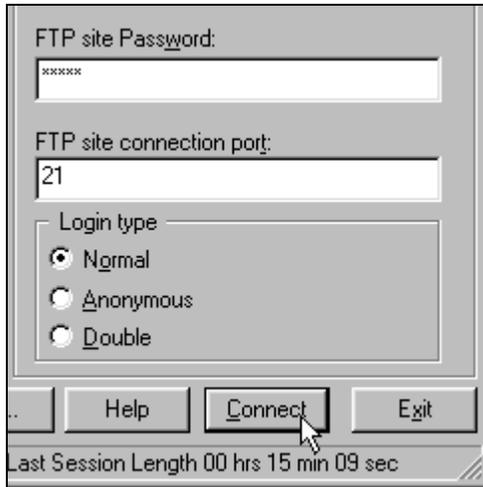


Illustration 12

Step 13. First go to the right side of CuteFTP and line up the directories so your web page will go to the correct directory area where the instructions that came with your web site said to put your web pages like illustration 13.



Illustration 13

Step 14. Then go to the left side of CuteFTP and line up with the directory where you put the web page you made named *samp1.html*. Now click once on your file *samp1.html* and hold down the left mouse button and drag and drop the file on to the right side of CuteFTP. When you are finished it should look like illustration 14 or a lot like it depending on your directory structures.

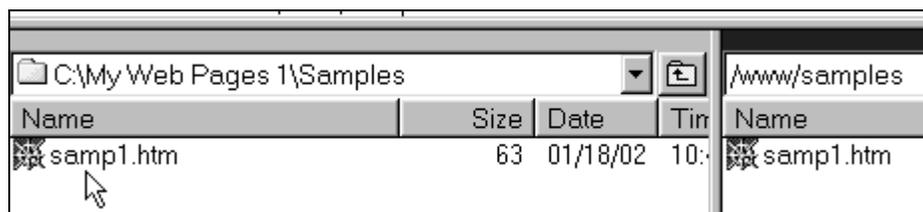


Illustration 14

Step 15. Start your browser, if it is not open already, and make sure you are still connected to the Internet. If you are not connected to the Internet do it now.

Step 16. In your browsers location area type in the name of your web site, then a forward slash “/” then the file name *samp1.html*. Do it like illustration 15 but put your web site name in where you see *yoursitename* typed it. Now press the Enter key once.

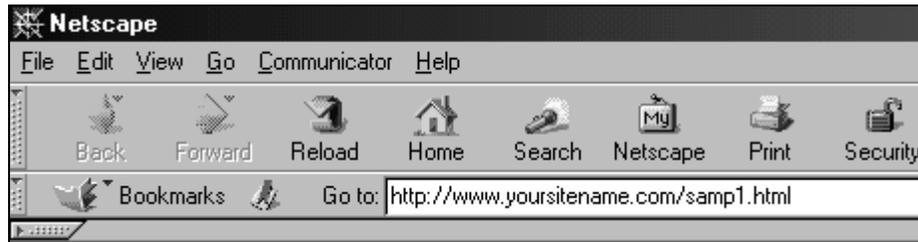


Illustration 15

You should have gone to your web page and it should look like illustration 16. If it did not work either change the path to your file and see if it works or start over at step 12. Notice that the path to my file is *http://www.beginnerscgi.com/samples/samp1.html*. If it did work, congratulations!

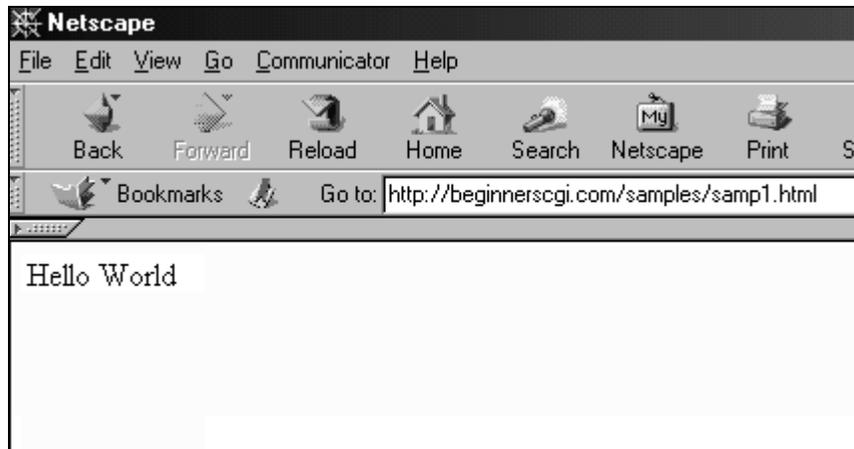


Illustration 16