

## Getting Started with Essential Suite

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Essential Suite is a collection of design and development extensions that give you the power to create functional and attractive websites easily.

This Getting Started Guide discusses one of the many approaches to taking advantage of what this suite has to offer.



You may find it helpful to read through this entire guide to get a feel for what you will be able to achieve. In particular, refer to the order by which each tool was used to get an idea of what tasks should be accomplished first.

You may find that you don't need to use all the extensions included at this time. However, you will want to remember you own them for possible use in the future.

### What Do You Need to Start?

- Dreamweaver 8, CS3, or CS4

### Essential Suite Extensions

- CSS Sculptor (CS3 or CS4)
- CSS Menu Writer
- SiteAssist Professional
- Surveyor
- DataAssist
- Digital File Pro (CS3 or CS4)
- SecurityAssist
- Cookies Toolkit
- Universal Email
- eCart
- iRite
- Site Import

## Installing your extensions



The first step to getting started with your purchase is to install your extensions. Essential Suite includes a number of Dreamweaver extensions (or add-ons) that are installed through the Adobe Extension Manager.



You do not need to install all extensions at once. Installing extensions can take a long time, and it is recommended that you only install the extensions needed to accomplish a certain task.

At the beginning of each section of this guide, you will be informed of which extensions need to be installed before you proceed. You should not need to uninstall any extensions before proceeding to another section.

Follow the instructions found in the following two TechNotes for downloading and installing each of your Dreamweaver extensions.

- [Downloading extensions and files](#) 
- [Installing WebAssist extensions](#) 

## Do you have a Dreamweaver site defined?

The first step in developing websites in Dreamweaver is to define a site. This helps you easily access your files from the Dreamweaver Files panel, ensures that templates and links are correct, and makes uploading to your testing server or live site easy.

If you haven't yet defined a site in Dreamweaver, review the Dreamweaver Simulation available from the [Getting Started with Dreamweaver](#)  tutorials.

## Have you signed up for a hosting provider?

Your hosting provider will store your website for public access on the web. Typically, your hosting provider will also provide the server for storing your database. You will need to purchase an account and create a domain with a hosting provider before you can place your site online.

Follow these instructions for signing up with a recommended hosting provider, [1and1](#).

- [Signing up with a Hosting Provider](#) 

## Designing your site with Eric Meyer's CSS Sculptor

The first step in website creation is to design your layout and create your pages.


Make sure you have the following 3 WebAssist extensions installed.

- Eric Meyer's CSS Sculptor
- CSS Menu Writer
- SiteAssist Professional

CSS Sculptor allows you construct a standards compliant, CSS-based website easily.



When working with CSS Sculptor, you can save yourself a lot of time by starting with one of the preset layouts.

Using the [CSS Sculptor Getting Started Guide](#) , create two layouts. One layout will be for the home page and another for the content pages of your site.


- Make sure to include a div element that you will insert you navigation menu to.  
*In most cases, this will be the Top Navigation div. However, if you wish to use a side navigation div, you may want to use a 2 or 3 column preset layout.*

Follow these steps after designing each layout to save it as a preset.

- On the Output tab, specify a name for your preset.  
*You will use these names to create your SiteAssist Professional layout.*
- On the Output tab, select **Don't generate page or styles, but save preset.**

## Design your navigation menu with CSS Menu Writer

CSS Menu Writer uses an interface similar to CSS Sculptor, allowing you to create a standards compliant CSS-based navigation system.

Create a new CSS menu by following the instructions in the [CSS Menu Writer Getting Started Guide](#)  .




As you design your menu, you will want to make sure that it looks appealing when inserted into your CSS Sculptor layout.

- In the first tab, be sure to choose **Create new preset**, and enter a name for your new menu.
- Do not specify any menu items as this will be determined by SiteAssist Professional when your pages are created.
- Select **Don't generate menu, but save preset**.

## Creating your new layout in SiteAssist Professional

Now that you have a layout and navigation design for your site, you are ready to work with SiteAssist Professional to create your pages.

Referring to the *Creating a custom layout* section of the [SiteAssist Professional Getting Started Guide](#) , create your new layout based off your new Sculptor layouts and Menu Writer menus.

As you create your layout, make sure to follow these steps:

- Select your CSS Sculptor Home page design in the first step.
- Select your CSS Menu Writer menu in the second step.
- Select your CSS Sculptor Content page design in the third step.
- Select your CSS Menu Writer menu in the last step.

With your layout created, you can begin creating your pages.

## Building your pages with SiteAssist Professional

Referring to the *Building your SiteAssist Professional site* section of the [SiteAssist Professional Getting Started Guide](#) , build your new web site.

When building your site, make sure to follow these steps:

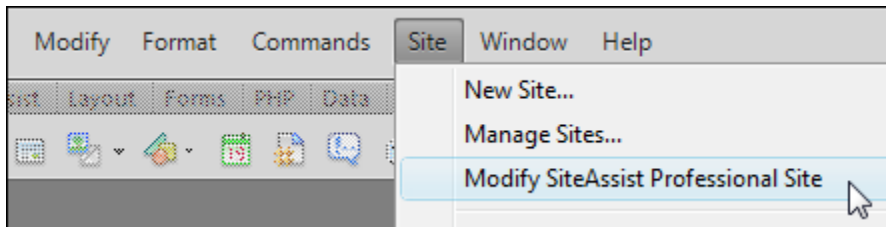
- Choose your new Layout in the second step.  
*You do not need to choose a design when using a custom layout.*
- For the pages and navigation step, create all the pages you wish to be included in your site. Additionally, pages may be created by other WebAssist extensions at a later point.  
*You will be able to reenter the SiteAssist Professional wizard at any time to add or remove pages.*
- On the last tab, choose to **Create a new site type**, and enter a name in the Name field.  
*This will allow you to create new sites based off the site structure and page types you have selected.*

Once Dreamweaver has completed creating your pages, you will have complete website with navigation.

### Reentering the SiteAssist Professional Wizard

The SiteAssist Professional wizard can be reentered at any time allowing you to easily add, remove or rename pages. You can also reorganize your navigation or even choosing a completely different layout or design for your site.

To reenter any SiteAssist Professional site, make sure the site is defined in Dreamweaver and navigate to **Site > Modify SiteAssist Professional Site**.



After making your changes, click Finish in the SiteAssist Professional wizard, and all your pages will be updated. This could take some time depending on how many pages or items you modified.

### Changing the design using a new CSS Sculptor or Menu Writer design

You can easily update the design of your site with a new CSS Sculptor layout and CSS Menu Writer design. Follow this How To for instructions on updating your existing SiteAssist Professional website.

[Updating your SiteAssist Design with CSS Sculptor and Menu Writer](#) 

## Let Google and other search engines know you exist with Surveyor

Surveyor will create HTML and XML site maps for your website. The HTML version is created to provide site visitor's with a method for locating a specific page within your site. The XML site map will contain paths to all the pages within your site. This site map is then sent to a number of search engines, and used as a reference for crawling you site and determining when your site will appear in search results.

Make sure to install Surveyor before proceeding.



You will want to have a site map page already created for your HTML site map. If you have not yet created one, you may want to modify your SiteAssist Professional site to have one created.

Referring to the [Surveyor Getting Started Guide](#) , create HTML and XML site maps.

- Once your XML site map is complete, submit it to the search engines of your choosing.



It is easiest to create your XML site map with Surveyor after you have uploaded your entire site to a live server. This way, the paths that are included in the site map will be direct URLs to your live site.

## Use Site Import to backup your site, or learn from others

Site Import will scan any specified website and retrieve the pages for you. This can be useful if you need to download a site for backup purposes. Alternatively, you can use this to see how other web designers have achieved various functionality or effects.

Site Import can also be used to report on any site, letting you know useful information such as, if any links are not working, or alt text needs to be added to images.

Install the Site Import extension to retrieve pages from a website.

Using the Site Import Getting Started Guide, retrieve the pages or files from any website that you desire or perform a report on a site you are working on.



You may find that Site Import is not discovering any pages on a site that you know contains many pages. If this occurs, make sure that the address you entered in the Main web site field is a complete path to a page such as <http://webassist.com/index.php>.

## Using DataAssist to build your dynamic product catalog


When developing an online store, your product catalog is the main area that your customers will see. With DataAssist, you can create a product catalog that contains all the products listed in your database.

**Note:** You will need to have your database setup with a products table containing the products you intend to sell.

For this section, make sure that the DataAssist extension is installed.



If do not intend to create a dynamic product catalog, and already have static product pages, you can skip this step.

Use the DataAssist wizard to create your Results, Search, Detail, Update, Insert, and Delete pages. Refer to the [DataAssist Getting Started Guide](#)  for instructions.

**Note:** Although you may not intend to use all these pages right now, it is easiest to create them all at the same time.

1. When choosing the Database table, choose the table that contains your products, or which you intend to use for your products.  
*This database table needs to contain all the necessary columns prior to using DataAssist, but content can be added later.*
2. If choosing a Dreamweaver template, the menu list displays all .dwt files that are including in the Templates folder of your defined site.  
*If you have used SiteAssist Professional to create your site's other pages, you would choose the siteassistpro\_template option.*
3. If desired, rename the pages that will be created to suit your preferred site navigation.
4. As you proceed through the DataAssist wizard, make sure to choose options that best suit your site's design and structure.
5. For each page that will be created you have the opportunity to customize the labels for each form field and delete any fields you wish not to display.
6. Once you click Finish and DataAssist creates all your pages, you can open each page individual in Dreamweaver to make further modifications to the design.




With your DataAssist insert and update pages created, you can start adding products to your database by opening the insert page in your browser.

### Using Digital File Pro to add image upload functionality

When inserting images to your product catalog, there is a good chance you'd like to include the ability to upload an image for your products. Using Digital File Pro, you can provide a File Upload field on your DataAssist Insert and Updates pages.

Before proceeding, make sure that Digital File Pro is installed.

Referring to the [Digital File Pro Getting Started Guide](#)  add the file upload field to your DataAssist Insert and Update pages.

## Add security and log-in functionality

With SecurityAssist and Cookies Toolkit both installed, you can easily add log-in functionality and apply cookies to your site.

Make sure to have both SecurityAssist and Cookies Toolkit installed before proceeding.

You will also need to have a properly structured database table for storing user registrations. At a minimum, this table will need an ID column, username, email address, and password.

Referring to the [SecurityAssist Getting Started Guide](#)  create the **registration, user update, log in,** and **email password** pages.

- On Step 4, you will have the opportunity to customize the log in page. The 'Remember Me' and 'Automatic Login' options will only display if Cookies Toolkit is installed.



By referring to the [User Level Authentication Solution Recipe](#), you can apply security restrictions to your DataAssist Insert and Update pages to only allow Administrators to view these pages.

## Create shopping cart functionality with eCart



eCart is the essential part of your online store since it creates the pages necessary for processing transactions. When installed, Universal Email will provide additional functionality for sending email confirmation receipts.

Make sure to install eCart and Universal Email before proceeding.



Before you begin, you should sign up for a supported payment gateway merchant account and, if desired, create an account with a shipping provider to provide shipping rate lookup.

Refer to the following two documents for assistance:

- [Signing Up with PayPal and Obtaining your PayPal Settings](#) 
- [Signing Up for USPS Shipping APIs](#) 

Referring to the [eCart Getting Started Guide](#)  use eCart to add shopping cart functionality to your site.

At a minimum, you need to complete the following steps with eCart in order to process transactions:

1. Create an **eCart object**.
2. Apply **Add to Cart** buttons to your DataAssist detail pages, and DataAssist Results pages.  
*You will want to create an Add to Cart in each location that a product will be displayed on your site. Making it easy for customers to purchase that item.*
3. Run through the **eCart Display Manager** wizard to create your cart display page.
4. Run through the eCart wizard to
  - a. create the various checkout pages
  - b. specify your payment gateway
  - c. specify your shipping provider  
*If you intend to include shipping rate calculations with each purchase.*

**Note:** The eCart Getting Started Guide is divided into two sections, one for static shopping carts, and another for database-driven shopping carts. If you used DataAssist to create your product catalog, you will want to create a database-driven shopping cart.

**Note:** Universal Email only sends confirmation emails when using local checkout for processing transactions.

## Validation

Now that you have all your forms created, you may find it necessary to apply validation to those forms to ensure that the data entered into your database is accurate and appropriately formatted. Validation Toolkit, which is not included in Essential Suite, will allow you to accomplish this.



[Click here to learn more about Validation Toolkit.](#)

## Create an Administrative Back-end

Now that you have your online store ready to handle transactions, you may want to create an administrative back-end. Here, you (the administrator) can track purchases, manage user registrations, and add/update/delete products from your catalog.

Some of the steps for creating an administrative back-end may already have been achieved in the DataAssist section earlier.

The following outlines the steps that are necessary for creating an administrative back-end:

- Use DataAssist to create product insert, update and delete pages  
*Already completed in previous DataAssist section.*
- Run through the DataAssist wizard to create insert, update, delete, search, and results pages for your users table.  
*Allows you to search your users, modify details, and delete accounts if necessary.*
- Again, use the DataAssist wizard on your Orders table to create additional pages for searching, inserting, updating, and deleting orders.
- Use SecurityAssist to apply access page rules restricting anyone but administrators from accessing the administrative pages.
- *(Optional)* Use Dynamic Web Charts to create charts for tracking total revenue, user registrations, and sales by product.  
*For assistance, refer to the [Dynamic Web Charts Getting Started Guide](#) .*
- *(Optional)* Use iRite to add WYSIWYG functionality to your product insert and update pages.  
*For assistance, refer to the [iRite Getting Started Guide](#) .*