

SiteAssist Professional - Getting Started Guide

This Getting Started Guide covers the basics of running through SiteAssist Professional to create your own site. It also demonstrates the steps required to create custom page types, layouts, and site types.

What Do You Need to Start?

- Dreamweaver CS3 or 8
- SiteAssist Professional version 1.0 or higher

Creating PHP pages

If you want SiteAssist Professional to create PHP pages for your site, you need to make sure your site is defined correctly in Dreamweaver.

Follow these steps to ensure that your site is defined for a PHP site:

1. In Dreamweaver, choose **Site > Manage Sites**.
2. Choose **New**, or **Edit** to modify an existing site.
3. Choose the **Advanced** tab.
4. Specify your **Local Info** settings.
5. Move to the **Testing Server** category.
6. From the Server model menu, choose **PHP MySQL**.
7. From the **Access** menu choose the appropriate access method.
 - If you have a local testing server configured, choose **Local/Network**.
 - If you wish to reference your live site as the Testing Server, choose **FTP**.
8. Enter the necessary details for accessing your testing server.
9. Click **OK**.

With PHP MySQL specified for your defined site, SiteAssist Professional will create your entire site in PHP.

Building your SiteAssist Professional site

The first step to creating your SiteAssist Professional site is to run through the SiteAssist Professional wizard.

Before you begin, make sure to define a site in Dreamweaver for your site files to be inserted.

1. From the Insert option of the Menu bar, choose **WebAssist > SiteAssist Professional > Build Site**.

Choosing Site Type

2. Choose a Site type that best matches the kind of site you are creating.

Note: The Description information provides more details on what pages will be created in this type of site.

3. Click Next.

Choosing a Layout and Design

4. From the Layout menu choose a layout.

Note: Each layout consists of a preset design and CSS Menu Writer navigation menu for the Home page and Content pages.

5. From the Design menu, choose a design color scheme.

6. Click Next.

Configure pages and navigation

7. Add, remove and duplicate any pages within the tree structure.
8. Rename pages by selecting the page from the tree structure and entering a new name in the Page title field.
9. Choose from a list of page types for any of your pages. Each page type will contain pre-designed placeholder content to aid in the layout of your pages.
10. Move page left or right within the tree structure to customize navigation.

Note: Your CSS Menu Writer navigation will include any pages in the first 3 levels of the tree structure.

11. Click Next.

Configuring site footer

12. Add remove or duplicate any pages listed in the pages window.
13. Rename pages by selecting the page from the page window and entering a new name in the Page title field.

Note: Options for moving pages left or right within the page window are not included in configuring the footer as this does not contain multiple level navigation.

14. Change the page types of any footer pages.
15. Click Next.

Configure output options

16. From the Placeholder Content menu, choose from the Full, Minimal or None to specify the amount of placeholder content you would like inserted into your content pages.

Note: For pages that you have a specified a page type, the placeholder content will be added despite your selection here.

17. Select whether to include CSS Comments

Note: CSS Comments can be included to help you understand the various CSS styles used throughout your SiteAssist Professional site.

18. Choose one of the three site type options:

- **Don't save a site type:** Creates your site based on your settings without saving a site type.
- **Overwrite existing site type:** Overwrites site type selected in step 1 with the page settings specified in steps 3 and 4 of the wizard.
- **Create new site type:** Creates a new site of the name entered in the name field. This site type will contain the page settings specified in steps 3 and 4 of the wizard, allowing you to easily recreate a site using this site type.

19. Click **Finish**.

Creating a custom layout

SiteAssist Professional allows you to create custom layouts that can be used when creating your sites. Each layout consists of a design and menu navigation.

SiteAssist Professional can create layouts using CSS Sculptor designs, Dreamweaver templates, and any menu design created using CSS Menu Writer.

Before starting, make sure you have designed the CSS Sculptor preset or Dreamweaver template, and the CSS Menu Writer menu you want to use for your site.

Note: Dreamweaver templates must have at least 2 editable regions, for the menu navigation and content area. An optional editable region for footer is advised as it is an option when configuring your new layout.

1. From the Insert option of the Menu bar, choose **WebAssist > Preset Manager**.
2. From the Preset Manager, choose **New**.

Home Page

3. Enter a name for your new layout in the Layout name field.
4. Choose either CSS Sculptor or Dreamweaver template for the design to use.

CSS Sculptor: From the menu list, choose any of the Sculptor presets you have saved.

Dreamweaver template: From the menu list, choose from any of the Dreamweaver template (.dwt) files located in the templates folder of your current Dreamweaver site.

5. Click **Next**.
6. Choose a CSS Menu Writer preset from the menu list.
7. Choose left or right alignment for the menu navigation.
8. Choose the editable region or div element for inserting your menu navigation.
9. Choose the editable region or div element for inserting your content.

10. Choose the editable region or div element for inserting your footer.

Content Page

11. Choose either CSS Sculptor or Dreamweaver template for the design to use.
12. Click **Next**.
13. Choose a CSS Menu Writer preset from the menu list.
14. Choose left or right alignment for the menu navigation.
15. Choose the editable region or div element for inserting your menu navigation.
16. Choose the editable region or div element for inserting your content.
17. Choose the editable region or div element for inserting your footer.
18. Click **Finish**.

Next time you run the SiteAssist Wizard, you will be able to choose this layout from the Layout menu list in Step 2.

Creating a custom page type

Page types are used to add pre-configured placeholder data in the content areas of your pages. SiteAssist Professional contains a number of built-in page types. Each page type is designed to suit the type of content your page may display.

Creating a custom page type will allow you to have SiteAssist Professional add the pre-configured content to any pages you specify, saving you time later.

To get started, you first need to have added your placeholder content to a page already created by SiteAssist Professional.

1. With your customized SiteAssist Professional page already open in Dreamweaver, choose the **SiteAssist Professional Create Page Type** option from the Insert bar.
2. Enter a name for your new custom page type.

Changing page types

When running through the SiteAssist Wizard, you can easily change a page type to one of your custom page types.

In Steps 3 or 4 of the SiteAssist Professional wizard:

3. Select the page you wish to change from the Site Structure tree.
4. In the Custom section of the Page type menu, choose your custom page type.
5. Click **Finish**.

SiteAssist Professional will now create your pages using the new page type.