

## Getting Started with the Web Designer Suite

---

The Web Designer Suite provides you with a slew of Dreamweaver extensions that will assist you in the design phase of creating a website. The tools provided in this suite are essential, whether you are a novice web designer who wants to create the perfect CSS-based site, or a freelance designer who wants to speed up the development process.

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

**Note:** The same steps are included in the Super Suite Getting Started Guide and Super Suite owners are advised to reference that document instead.



You may find it helpful to read through this entire guide to get a feel for what you will be able to achieve.

### What Do You Need to Start?

- Dreamweaver 8, CS3, or CS4
- Web Designer Suite
  - CSS Sculptor
  - CSS Menu Writer
  - SiteAssist Professional
  - Pro Maps for Google
  - Cookies Toolkit
  - Surveyor
  - Web Standards Advisor
  - Site Import
  - SiteScribe

## Installing your extensions



The first step to getting started with your purchase is to install your extensions. The Web Designer 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 Web Designer Suite 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](#) 

## 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:

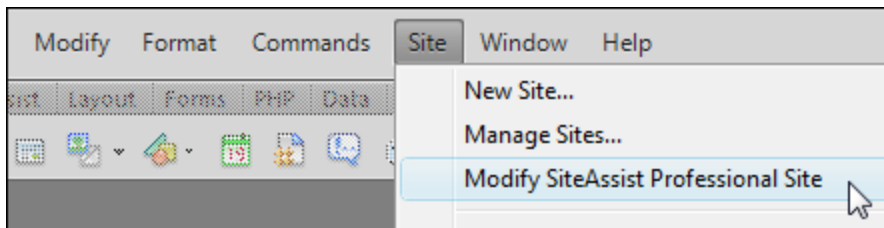
- Choose your new Layout in the second step.  
*You do not need to choose a design when using a custom layout.*
- For the pages and navigation step, create all the pages you wish to be included in your site. Additionally, pages may be created by other WebAssist extensions at a later point.  
*You will 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. The next step is to add to each of your pages using the other extensions including in the Web Designer Suite.

### 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](#) 


## Share your location with Pro Maps for Google

Pro Maps for Google enables you to quickly and easily add an interactive Google map to your website, displaying your location either statically or dynamically.

Before proceeding, make sure you have the Pro Maps for Google Dreamweaver extension installed.



You will most likely want to insert your Google map to a directions or location page. If you do not have such a page in your current site, you may want to [reenter](#) SiteAssist Professional and create this page.

Follow the instructions in the [Pro Maps for Google Getting Started Guide](#)  to insert a Google map to your location or directions page.

- Unless you have a specific location you wish to display driving directions from, leave Step 5 blank, and click **Finish**.

## Working with Dynamic Addresses

Depending on your needs, you may want to display dynamic addresses on your map. This requires that you have a database table containing your addresses, and a recordset that displays this data.

More information on setting up such a database can be found by reviewing the Database Starter Kit for ASP or PHP.

## Adding Driving Directions functionality

Now that you have a map on your page, you might want to add the ability for site visitors to enter their address and retrieve directions to your location.




View the [Displaying Driving Directions Solution Recipe](#) for instructions on creating the driving form fields, and modifying your map.

## Remember your visitors with Cookies Toolkit

With Cookies Toolkit, you can specify that a browser records what is entered into form fields on your website. This popular functionality is used on many websites to remember usernames or passwords.

For this Getting Started Guide, we are going to remember the address entered by a site visitor when retrieving directions. This way, when a site visitor accesses your directions page again, the form fields will already contain their address.

Make sure you have installed Cookies Toolkit before proceeding.

Follow the steps presented in the [Cookies Toolkit Getting Started Guide](#)  for remembering the data entered into your address fields.

**Note:** If you did not follow the Driving Directions Solution Recipe for Pro Maps for Google, you will not have these form fields applied.



For more details on remembering form data refer to the [Cookies Toolkit Solution Recipes](#).



### **Cookies Toolkit with SecurityAssist**

Cookies Toolkit works in conjunction with SecurityAssist, another WebAssist product that is not included with the Web Designer Suite.

If using SecurityAssist to create Login functionality on your site, and Cookies Toolkit is installed, you will also have the option to include a Remember me checkbox and a Save password checkbox.

## Using Web Standards Advisor to ensure standards compliance

Once you have finished inserting the data on your pages, and designing the various areas of your site, you should run Web Standards Advisor to ensure your code is up-to-par.

Web Standards Advisor helps you accomplish two different tasks:

- Validate HTML, CSS and Microformats.
- Analyzes your code to ensure proper coding practices, and provides recommended fixes.

Refer to the [Web Standards Advisor Getting Started Guide](#)  to run the Validator tool.

- Once the Validator tool has scanned your site, fix any recommended issues and run the Advisor tool.
- Once the Advisor tool is complete, review the report and fix any issues based on the recommendations provided.

Web Standards Advisor may detect a wide array of issues when running the Validator or Advisor tools.



Depending on your site's design, it is not uncommon to find errors that you cannot easily fix. Your goal should be to reduce the number of issues found to as few as possible.



You may find that you need to modify your CSS Sculptor preset or CSS Menu Writer design in order to fix a certain issue. In this case, once your fix has been made, you'll need to create a new custom layout, and modify your SiteAssist Professional site to apply the new design to your pages.

## 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>.

## **Create a PDF of a website with SiteScribe**

SiteScribe will scan your site from within Dreamweaver and create a PDF file based off what it finds. This can be very useful if, for instance, you are creating a site for a client and want to send it to be easily reviewed without internet access.

Make sure to install the SiteScribe extension to proceed.

Refer to the [SiteScribe Getting Started Guide](#) for assistance with creating a PDF from a website.

## **Closing**

You have now used all the tools provided with the Web Designer Suite to design and create your website. In addition, you've created a valuable Google map with driving directions, applied cookies and submitted a site map to various search engines.

With your site now up on the web, you may want to take a look at other WebAssist extensions to further enhance your site's functionality.