

Editing your SiteAssist Professional Template

This Solution Recipe shows you how you can edit your SiteAssist Professional created templates to suit your needs. SiteAssist Professional creates your entire site and menu navigation using standards compliant CSS, making customizing your site's design and layout, simple.

What Do You Need to Start?

- Dreamweaver CS3 or 8
- SiteAssist Professional version 1 or higher
- New site defined in Dreamweaver

Creating your site

First, you will want to quickly create your SiteAssist Professional site. Make sure that you have defined a site in Dreamweaver for your pages to be added to.

1. From the WebAssist category of the Insert bar, choose **SiteAssist Professional Wizard**.
2. Choose **Online Store** from the site type menu.
Note: You can see in the description list, all the pages that SiteAssist Professional will create for this site type. You'll have the opportunity later on in the wizard to change this and add or remove pages.
3. Click **Next**.
4. Choose **Texture**, from the Layout menu.
5. From the Design menu list, choose **Pacifica**.
6. Click **Next**.

The Configure pages and navigation step displays all the pages that SiteAssist Professional will create.

7. No changes are necessary on this step, click **Next**.

The Configure site footer step allows you to specify any pages that would be created and included in the site footer.

8. No changes are necessary on this step, click Next.

The final step of the wizard allows you to choose the amount of placeholder content you want to be inserted in your page, if any.

9. Leave **Full** in the Placeholder Content menu.

10. Leave the other settings at their default.

Note: You may want to create a new site type, if you made many modifications in steps 3 or 4 of the wizard. You would then be able to create multiple sites that use those settings.

11. Click **Finish**.

SiteAssist Professional now creates all the pages for this site, complete with navigation.

Note: Depending on the number of pages you are creating, this process could take up to a few minutes.

Template Overview

This next section provides an overview of how the SiteAssist Professional templates are structured. This will help you understand what you will need to change in the CSS style sheets, when customizing your template.

1. From the Files panel, expand the Templates folder.
2. Double-click to open **siteassistpro_template.dwt**.

This Dreamweaver template file is used by all content pages created in SiteAssist Professional.

SiteAssist Professional creates four editable regions. The most important editable region is the Content region, where you will insert the content for each of your pages.

3. Choose the **Code** button to enter Code view.

In Code view, you can see the other three editable regions.

The first editable region is wrapped around the title tag, allowing you to change the Page title for each of your content pages. By default, SiteAssist Professional has automatically added a Page title based on the page created.

The second editable region is wrapped around the head tags. This allows you to insert any necessary JavaScript or additional style sheets to your page.

The last style sheet created is for the CSS Menu Writer menus, to ensure that they appear correctly in Internet Explorer. You will likely not need this editable region.

4. In Code view scroll to the body section.

Notice that in this template, every major area is styled with a class or ID selector.

Modifying the Template

The next section will show you how to make some simple modifications to this template. This will show you how you can easily customize your template.

The changes that we are going to make to the siteassistpro_template.dwt file will be to the CSS styles that are used by this file. This means, even though the Home page does not utilize this template, it does use the same CSS style sheets and will be updated along with your content pages.

Adding your Company logo

1. In the Design View of the siteassistpro_template.dwt file, highlight the Header placeholder text.
2. Press **Delete** on your keyboard to remove this text.
3. From the tag selector, choose **<div #header>**.
4. From the CSS styles panel, choose **New CSS Rule**.

Instead of modifying the current rules for this tag, we want to create a new rule in the mystyles.css style sheet. This style sheet is not overwritten when you re-enter SiteAssist Professional allowing you to maintain your changes no matter how many times you make changes in the wizard.

5. In the New CSS Rule window, leave the default content in the Selector field.
6. From the Define in menu list, choose the **mystyles.css** style sheet.
7. Click **OK**.

8. Navigate to the location of your header logo.

9. Select your image file, and click **OK**.

Note: If this file is not within your current defined site, you will be prompted to copy this file there. Choose Yes to copy the file and create an images directory to copy the file to.

10. From the Horizontal position menu, choose **Left**.

11. From the Vertical position menu, choose **Top**.

12. Click **Apply** to see your new style applied to your template.

Notice that the logo overlaps the white edge of the outerwrapper. This can easily be fixed by adding a left margin to the header div.

13. Choose the **Box** option from the Category list.

14. Uncheck the **Same for all** checkbox under Margin.

15. In the left margin field, enter **8**.

16. Click **Apply**.

17. Click **OK**.

18. Press **Ctrl (Cmd) + S** to save your page.

19. When prompted to update your pages that use this template, click **Update**.

Removing the Top Margin

The next modification to make is to remove the top margin so that our header bumps up against the top edge of the page.

20. Click anywhere in the design.

21. From the tag selector, choose the **outerwrapper** div.

22. In the CSS styles panel, select **New CSS Rule**.

The new CSS Rule dialog automatically adds the appropriate information in the Selector field, and the mystyles.css style sheet is remembered from earlier.

23. Click **OK**.

24. Switch to the **Box** category.

25. Uncheck the **Same for all** checkbox under Margin.
26. In the Margin top field, enter **0**.
27. Click **Apply** to see your change applied.
28. Click **OK**.

Having made those simple modifications, feel free to try some modifications of your own.