

Build Your First Website

• Easy to follow • Step-by-step tasks • In full colour

in Simple
steps



Joe Kraynak

A close-up photograph of a honeycomb structure, showing the hexagonal cells filled with a golden-brown substance, likely honey. The lighting creates a warm, glowing effect within the cells.

Build Your First Website



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First published in Great Britain in 2011

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ISBN: 978-0-273-74541-9

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Kraynak, Joe.

Build your first website in simple steps / Joe Kraynak.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-0-273-74541-9 (pbk.)

1. Web site development--Amateurs' manuals. 2. Web sites--Design--Amateurs' manuals. I. Title.

TK5105.888.K699 2011

006.7--dc22

2010052035

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

15 14 13 12 11

Designed by pentacorbig, High Wycombe

Typeset in 11/14 pt ITC Stone Sans by 30

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Scotprint, Haddington, East Lothian

A close-up photograph of a honeycomb structure, showing the hexagonal cells filled with golden honey. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture and color of the honey.

Build Your First Website

in **Simple**
steps 

Joe Kraynak

Use your computer with confidence

Get to grips with practical computing tasks with minimal time, fuss and bother.

In Simple Steps guides guarantee immediate results. They tell you everything you need to know on a specific application; from the most essential tasks to master, to every activity you'll want to accomplish, through to solving the most common problems you'll encounter.

Helpful features

To build your confidence and help you to get the most out of your computer, practical hints, tips and shortcuts feature on every page:



ALERT: Explains and provides practical solutions to the most commonly encountered problems



HOT TIP: Time and effort saving shortcuts



SEE ALSO: Points you to other related tasks and information



DID YOU KNOW?
Additional features to explore

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Jargon and technical terms explained in plain English

Practical. Simple. Fast.



Author's acknowledgements:

Special thanks to Katy Robinson and Steve Temblett for choosing me to author this book and to Joli Ballew, Emma Devlin, Michelle Clark and the talented team at Prentice Hall and Pearson for transforming a good book into a great one. Thanks to Neil Salkind and Studio B for presenting me with this opportunity and handling all of the assorted details so that I could focus on my work. Thanks to the creative souls who have built the software and created the websites that have made all of this possible. Finally, thanks to Conor Temblett for finding the great cover image.

Publisher's acknowledgements:

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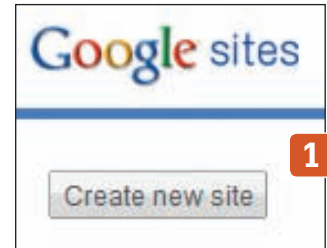
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Tip 1: Build a free Google site

Google sites enables you to create a free hosted website. While this may not be the best long-term strategy, it is a good way to learn the basics.

- 1 Go to www.google.com/sites and click Create new site.
- 2 Follow the onscreen cues to create your site.



Choose a **template** to use




| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  Blank template |  Classroom site ? |  Project wiki ? |  Family site ? |
|---|---|---|---|

Name your Site:

Your site will be located at this URL:

Site URLs can only use the following characters: A-Z,a-z,0-9

Choose a theme (currently: using template default)

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  Iceberg |  Open Sky |  Rounders |  Slate |
|--|---|---|---|

! **ALERT:** You must be signed in to your free Google account to create a site. To create an account and sign in, visit www.google.co.uk.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Hosted website: a website that is built online, as opposed to creating the site on your computer and then uploading (copying) files to the Web.

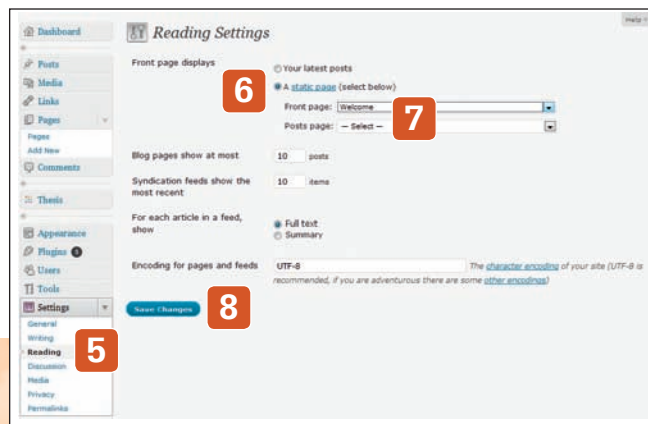
Tip 2: Create a static website with WordPress

WordPress is a blogging platform, but you can use it to create a static website (without a blog).

- 1 Log in to WordPress and open the Pages menu.
- 2 Click Add New.
- 3 Type a page title for your site's opening page.
- 4 Click Publish.
- 5 Open the Settings menu and click Reading.
- 6 Click A static page.
- 7 Select the page to use as your front page.
- 8 Click Save Changes.



HOT TIP: You can also use WordPress to create a combination website *and* blog. See Chapter 4 for details.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Blog: short for 'Web log', a site that contains regular posts arranged in reverse chronological order.

Tip 3: Change themes in WordPress

Plenty of free themes are available for WordPress and you can find many of them without having to leave it.

- 1 In WordPress, open the Appearance menu and click Themes.
- 2 Click Install Themes.
- 3 Click one of links near the top to browse the collection.
- 4 Click Install next to the desired theme.
- 5 Activate the theme.

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard's 'Manage Themes' interface. On the left sidebar, the 'Appearance' menu is expanded, and 'Themes' is selected, marked with a red '1'. At the top of the 'Manage Themes' section, the 'Install Themes' button is highlighted with a red '2'. Below it, the 'Newest' link is highlighted with a red '3'. Two theme cards are displayed: 'Pixiv Custom' and 'Food Recipe'. The 'Install' button for the 'Food Recipe' theme is highlighted with a red '4'.

The screenshot shows the 'Installing Theme: Food Recipe 1.3.1' progress window. The steps are: Downloading install package from <http://wordpress.org/extend/themes>, Unpacking the package..., Installing the theme..., and Successfully installed the theme **Food Recipe 1.3.1**. At the bottom, the 'Actions' section includes links for [Preview](#), [Activate](#), and [Return to Theme Installer](#). The 'Activate' link is highlighted with a red '5'.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Theme: a collection of files that control the appearance and layout of a site and may also add features.




HOT TIP: You can search or browse a collection of more than 1000 free themes at <http://wordpress.org/extend/themes>.



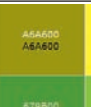


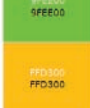
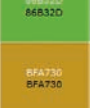
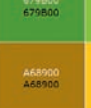
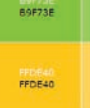

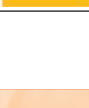

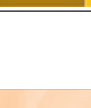
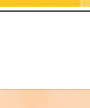
Tip 4: Choose an attractive colour scheme

Color Scheme Designer online at <http://colorschemedesigner.com> can help you choose harmonious colours for your site.

- 1 Go to <http://colorschemedesigner.com>.
- 2 Click a colour scheme type: mono, complement, triad, tetrad, analogic or accented analogic.
- 3 Drag the circles on the colour wheel to select the desired colours.
- 4 Rest the mouse pointer on Export and click HTML+CSS.
- 5 Color Scheme Designer displays the colour palette with hex codes for the colours.



The screenshot shows the Color Scheme Designer interface. A color wheel is visible with a yellow circle selected. A color palette is shown on the right with various shades of yellow, green, and orange. Red callout boxes 1-4 point to the URL, scheme type, color wheel, and export button respectively.

| 5 | Primary Color: |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Secondary Color A: |  |  |  |  |  |
| | Secondary Color B: |  |  |  |  |  |



HOT TIP: To see the scheme on a sample Web page, click the 'Light page example' or 'Dark page example' option in the lower right corner of the screen.

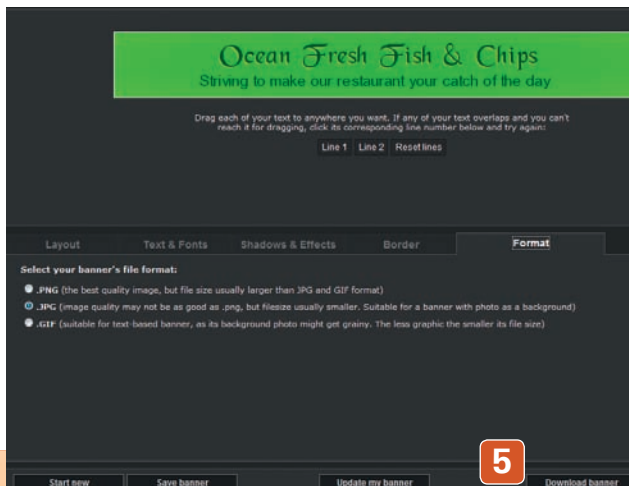
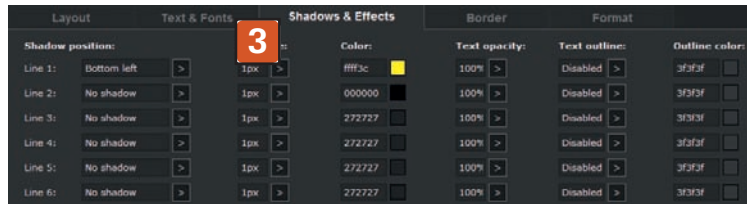
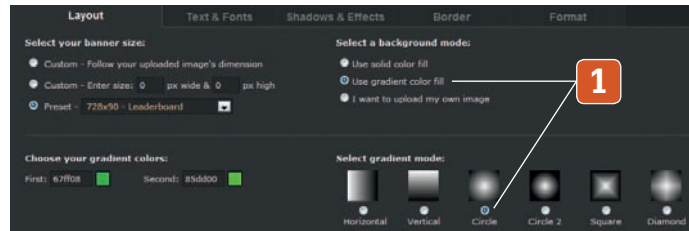


HOT TIP: Drag the darkest circle to move all of the circles and then drag the lighter circles to make finer adjustments.

Tip 5: Create a custom banner

You can use BannerFans at <http://bannerfans.com> to create an attractive header image to display at the top of your site.

- 1 Go to <http://bannerfans.com> and choose a background colour and gradient or upload an image.
- 2 Add and style text.
- 3 Add drop shadows and special text effects.
- 4 Add a border.
- 5 Download your banner.



HOT TIP: You can obtain free header art images from Digital Westex at www.digitalwestex.com/gallery and other online galleries.



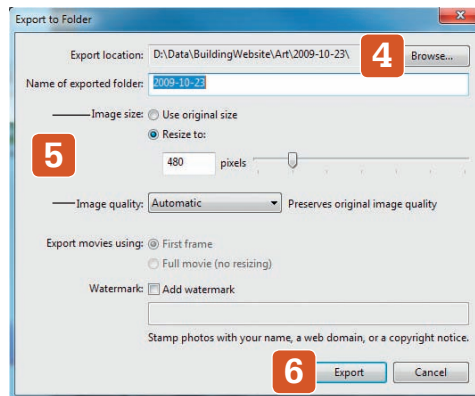
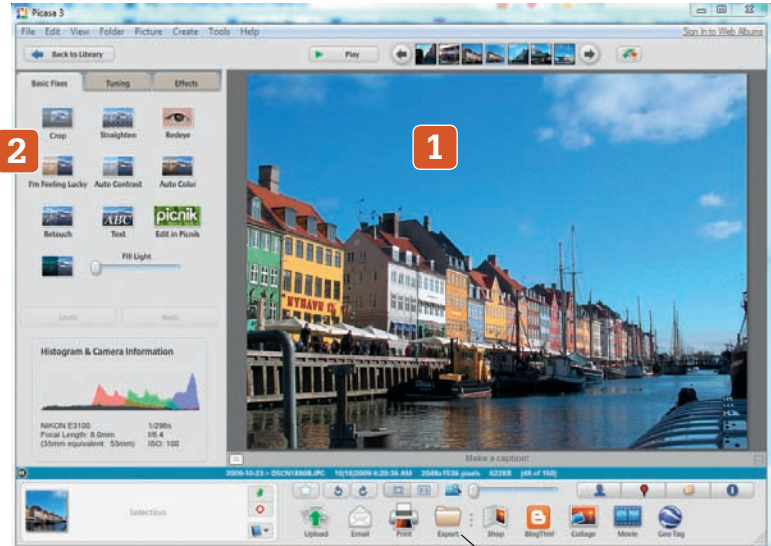
DID YOU KNOW?

WordPress enables you to upload the header image you want to use on your site from your computer.

Tip 6: Prepare photos for your site

Prior to uploading images, adjust their quality and size using photo editing software. This task shows how to prepare a photo in Picasa.

- 1 Open the photo in Picasa.
- 2 Click I'm Feeling Lucky.
- 3 Click Export.
- 4 Choose a folder to export to.
- 5 Specify image size and quality.
- 6 Click Export.



HOT TIP: You can download Picasa for free from <http://picasa.google.com>.

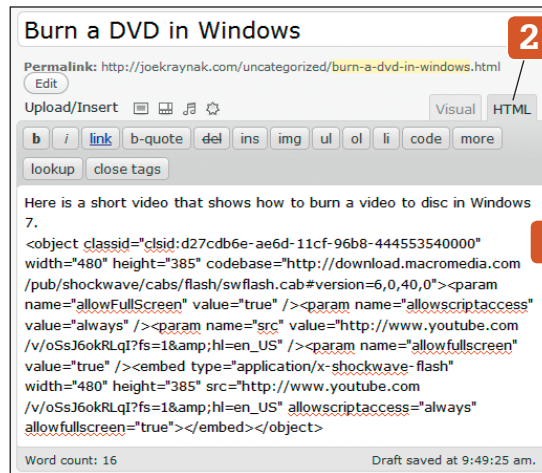


HOT TIP: To use only a portion of the image, crop as desired prior to exporting it.

Tip 7: Add a YouTube video

You can easily add a YouTube video to any Web page or blog post by copying the video's embed code and pasting it in your page or post source code.

- 1 On YouTube, copy the video's embed tag.
- 2 Create your page or post and change to HTML view.
- 3 Paste the embed code you copied in the previous task where you want the video to appear.



HOT TIP: If you do not want to post your video on a sharing site, consider installing a plugin such as FLV Embed, which enables you to host videos on your own site. See Chapter 9 for more about plugins.



DID YOU KNOW?

With the new HTML5 `<video>` element, soon you will be able to insert videos as easily as inserting images. As long as the video is in the proper format, browsers will be able to play it without a plugin or YouTube.

Tip 8: Configure your site with widgets

WordPress includes a collection of widgets that you can add to any sidebar simply by dragging and dropping them into the sidebar of your choice.

- 1 Open the Appearance menu and click Widgets.
- 2 Expand the destination sidebar box.
- 3 Drag the widget to the sidebar and drop it in place.

? DID YOU KNOW?
A theme may have two sidebars and allow you to use one or both of them.



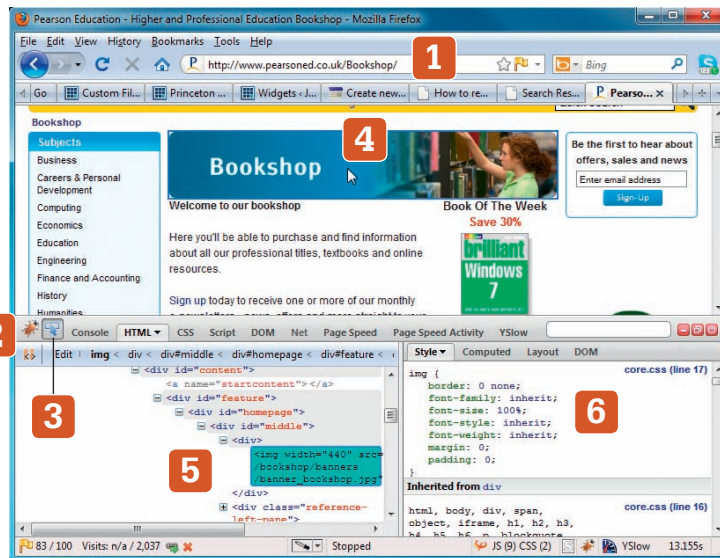
▶ SEE ALSO: After dropping a widget in a sidebar box, the widget may expand and prompt you to enter settings. The next tip shows you how to enter settings.

! ALERT: If you have difficulty working with widgets – such as a widget not appearing where you dropped it – try a different Web browser.

Tip 9: Examine source code with Firebug

To view the HTML tags and CSS styles that control the position and appearance of an element, use Firebug to inspect the element.

- 1 Open the Web page that contains the element you want to inspect.
- 2 Click the Firebug icon.
- 3 Click the Inspect Element button.
- 4 Click the element you want to inspect.
- 5 Check the element's HTML.
- 6 Identify the element's selector and style declarations.



HOT TIP: If that grey box gets in the way, you can drag it out of the way. You can also click the Layout tab just above the CSS style pane to view a graphic of the object's padding, border and margin.



HOT TIP: Use Firebug to troubleshoot problems with HTML and CSS when an element is not appearing as you expect.