

The SAGATUG

INTERFACE

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The San Gabriel Valley Technology User's Group. The Club for TRSDOS and MS-DOS

Microsoft FrontPage 2002 (XP): A Review

By John Calhoun

Installing the program was pretty straight forward: no problems. Once I got the program installed, I dove straight in creating a website. (True computer nerds NEVER read the manual first! Besides, you don't actually GET a manual with the program: you have to buy it separately for \$40! The one that comes with the program just gets you started, and not much more. However, some packages come with a "FrontPage 2002 Inside Out" CD, the Microsoft Press book in e-book format.) I'm not very artistic, so I choose a template from those offered. Since I was creating a site for a computer club, I wanted one that had a computer theme. There was only one offered in this area, so I choose it. Besides that, none of the other templates offered appealed to me.

FrontPage is a website creation program that uses what is called a WYSIWYG

(what-you-see-is-what-you-get) environment. This is good for me, since I'm "artistically challenged." The theme I chose has a black background, with gray binary code (1's and 0's) superimposed on top. The page banners (titles) are similar, except that the binary code scrolls by, from right to left. When using a template to create a web page, everything is already setup for you. The website creator replaces the data in the template with what he wants the finished site to contain. I entered a description of what our club is about, what we cover, and what we charge for annual dues, as well as links and a photo.

Entering data into the program is fairly easy. You choose font style, size, color, and bold, italics or underline to emphasize if desired. The banner is part of the theme I chose, but I modified it to reflect the contents of each page of the site. The theme I chose has a large border on the left side that I use to display the APCUG logo, and a counter. You may think that a counter is there solely for the ego of the Webmaster - not necessarily. It does quite a bit more than just count. It tells me if anyone is actually USING the site for one thing. The other is that it actually keeps track of "stats" from the visitors. What kind of stats? It tells me the following info for EACH visitor: the date and time they visited the site; what browser they used; what operating system they used; their IP address; and where they were referred from. The follow-



Memory Jogger...

See you at the next SAGATUG meeting this Friday, July 19, 2002 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave. (See page four for directions and more upcoming events.)

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Front Page

ing is the info I get when someone finds and accesses our site from the APCUG.org (Association of Personal Computer User Groups) user group locator tool:

Date/Time	Hostname	IP	Browser	OS
06 May 2002 10:22:43 AM	205.160.160.14		Browser Icon	OS Icon

Referrer: <http://cdb.apcug.org/rdrem.asp?EID=3181&ML=0>

This is not invasive info, in case this scares you. This is what the website's server needs in order to send you the data needed to display the site on your browser. This is basically your address while you're surfing the www. Websites and surfers (users) all have an address similar to this while on the www. Without this "IP address", the server would have no idea where to send the website data you've requested. Most people don't even think about the fact that you need this address while surfing.

When creating a website, the site is constructed right on your own hard drive, or at least, it is when you use FrontPage. Once you're satisfied with your site, you tell FP to "Publish Website". For this to be accomplished, you need more info than just the site's name, in this case www.SAGATUG.org. It's a specific IP address, like the above example, with specific directory info, and a password. You enter the IP address into FP, and it asks you for the password. It then contacts the server that hosts, or stores, your website, and shows you the contents of both the source on your hard drive as well as the contents on the server. Both directories show dates and times that the files were last updated. New files, and recently edited files are checked off, signifying they need to be updated on the server. When you've told FP what you want done regarding each file (in case you disagree with what FP wants to do), it pro-

ceeds to publish or "upload" the files, including all folders that are needed. (FP creates the folders and files it needs as you create the website on your hard drive.) After the publish process is finished, FP gives you a link, that if clicked, opens your browser and shows you what has been uploaded, modified, or deleted on the site.

If you have a lot of links and pages on your site, it tends to be a long and drawn out process to make sure all the links are valid, working links. FP can do all this for you, with just a few clicks, and give you a report when it's done. In case you mess something up on your website stored on your hard drive, FP can also download the files from the server back to your computer. This is very handy when your computer crashes and trashes one or more of your files. It also keeps track of multiple publish sites. For example, I publish to the website server, my laptop, and an external USB hard drive. That way, I not only have a backup, but I can work on the site from anywhere.



So far, at the time of this writing, I have 5 "pages" on the site. They are titled "Homepage" "Meeting Information" "Meeting Agenda" "Special Meeting" and the newest page, "Program Tips & Info".

When I first started creating the site, I had a little trouble coming up with content. Looking at other clubs' sites, and searching the Internet, has given me some ideas. Two of the last three pages were added just this past week. The Special Meeting page is only a temporary "as needed" page, since we have very few presentations. When there are no special meetings scheduled, the button will be changed to read "No Special Meetings", and the page's content will change to confirm that. Originally, the info on the Meeting Agenda page was only a link to a page on my personal website, www.johnpc.info. I decided it would be better if it was incorporated into the SA-

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Front Page

GATUG site. Another incentive to add content is the upcoming Web Page Contest sponsored by APCUG's Southwest Regional User Group Conference in San Diego, CA, August 9 - 11, 2002.

One thing I have problems with in FrontPage is when I transfer the site from my desktop computer to my laptop. Instead of displaying my page banners, it displays this: "[Add the referenced page to the Navigation view to display a page banner here]". I have to go to Navigation view and add the page to the website. (It doesn't make sense to me either: it was on the navigation view before.) So where did it go??? I haven't figured out what makes it do this. I think the problem is the file copying process. In order to work properly, the site needs to be "Published" to the laptop or USB hard drive that I use as a backup.

Basically I like FP, but it does have some strange quirks. One thing I have to remember is that all pages have to be saved to my drive in lowercase. FP will publish uppercase-named files, but uppercase files are not recognized by the server when it "serves" the site to a browser. It serves the lowercase version, even though the uppercase file is also in its directory. FYI: A server is the computer that stores the website until a person, or "surfer" asks to view it by using a browser, such as Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator. The server then "serves" the necessary files to your browser so it can display them to you. A website is made up of MANY separate files and folders.

FP keeps track of all the files, web pages, links, and photos, and puts them in their respective folders for you. It even creates thumbnails for the photos, and puts them in their very own respective directories. "Thumbnails" are smaller versions of the original pictures and are about 1/10 the file size of the original. The thumbnails are displayed on the site to save loading time for the webpage. On the website, double-clicking on a thumbnail brings up the full-sized version of the photo.

"FrontPage 2002", aka "FrontPage xp", is a very powerful program, with so many features, it

would be difficult to name, let alone review all of them here. I have attempted to give a general idea here of how the program works, and the steps involved in publishing a website using the program.

To view the site I created with this program, please visit www.sagatug.org. More info and links to other sites created with FrontPage can be found by going to:

<http://microsoft.com/frontpage/>

Microsoft FrontPage, Version 2002

\$168.00 Full version on CD

\$89.95 Upgrade Version on CD w/ "FrontPage Inside Out" e-book on CD

Some Helpful Web sites

Www.Computerchronicals.com

Www.Notebookshop.com

Www.Pricegrabber.com

Www.greatbuyusa.com

Www.tvinventions.com

Www.getfreestuff.com

Www.Tvmusic4u.com

Www.Pueblo.gsa.gov

Www.overstock.com

Www.bluestuff.com

Www.Pcpitstop.com

Www.Robotoys.com

Www.Realtor.com

Www.Carfax.com

Www.amctv.com

Www.kbb.com

**Next SAGATUG Meeting
Time and Place:**

7 to 10 p.m., Friday, July 19, 2002

Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center, 405 South Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia.

(In the park just south of Huntington Drive)

Meetings are on the second Friday of every month

Club Officers and Board Members:

President	Art Molz, art1sam@juno.com
Vice President	Royal Brown
Treasurer	Bob Day, trebor543yad@earthlink.net
INTERFACE Editor	Bob Allen, boballen99@earthlink.net
Past President	Art Heywood, heywoodm@worldnet.att.net
Members at Large	Roy T. Beck, roybeck@ix.netcom.com
Webmaster, SAGATUG.org	John Calhoun, johnpc@sagatug.org

Upcoming Events:

Manhattan Beach, last Saturday, monthly, TRW Swap Meet, Admission Free.

Santa Ana, last Sunday of each odd month, ACP, 1310 E. Edinger, Admission Free.

Pomona Swap Meet 3rd Saturday, monthly, at Cal Poly Pomona, 3801 W. Temple Ave., Admission Free

Pomona Fairplex, July 27 & 28, 2002 (Sat., Sun.) Bldgs. 6 & 7 at LA Fair grounds, Gate 14, Admission \$7, plus parking.

Burbank, July 20 & 21, 2002 (Sat. & Sun.), Hilton Burbank Airport & Convention Center, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$5 admission

Costa Mesa, August 3 & 4, 2002 (Sat. & Sun.), Orange County Fair and Exposition Center, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m., \$5 admission

Santa Monica, November 30 & December 1, 2002, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

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Deadline for the Newsletter

The deadline for the INTERFACE is the last Saturday of the month.

Republication:

Articles may be republished if credit is given to the author and the San Gabriel Valley Technology User's Group.

Please visit the new SAGATUG website at www.sagatug.org There you will find photos of the meeting site maps to the meeting, articles from other sources and an archive of the *SAGATUG Interface*.

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FIRST CLASS