

M6 - Images

Adding images to an HTML web page can greatly improve the “feel” of your web page. This is easily achieved by using the “img” tag in this manner:-

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The critical part is the “src” part which tells the system where to go to get the image. Normal practice on a web site is to keep all images in a sub folder called “images”. This process is called **Relative Addressing** and has the advantage that you can move all the files in a web site, say from your computer to the web site host, and all of the internal links will remain valid.

The actual image files are typically JPG or GIF and could be PNG.

Many graphics files are very large and may take quite a while to load if the internet connection is slow, so there is some benefit in using a tool such as Photoshop to reduce the size of the file. These days’ multi-megapixel cameras are available and give a far greater fidelity than many typical PC monitors are capable of displaying.

The “alt” tag contains a few words that describe the picture and will display if the picture cannot be shown.

Now check out “**ImageFromPhoto.html**” in your browser and discuss the problems with what you see.

Image Sizing.

The “ImageFromPhoto.html” file is just as it came off the camera and is 850 kilobytes in size. The browser displays it pixel by pixel so only a small portion of the total image is visible in the browser’s viewport.

The viewed image can be made to fit suitably on the screen using the “Width” and “Height” tags with appropriate dimensions in pixels. However, the large file still has to be downloaded into the browser and then computer resources are then required to suitably resize the image to the required dimensions.

Check out the coding format and the result from “**Image_Sized.html**”.

A far better method, if you have access to an image editor such as Photoshop is to reduce the fidelity to an appropriate level. A useful tool for deciding what size to aim for is JRuler which is in the software section of the information for this course.

Using this approach the file size was reduced to 32 kilobytes, about 26 times smaller than the original for the same size image and fidelity as the original reduced image. See the file “**Image_Reduced.html**” which uses the smaller image file “**TBC500.jpg**”.

Images and Text.

Typically, the browser displays the information from the HTML file in the order in which it appears in the file. See an example of this in “**ImageAndText.html**”. Note that the text does not use the blank space beside the image. The view can be improved by using the “float” function which tells the browser where to move the image to facilitate text wrapping.

The result shown in “**ImageAndFloat.html**” shows the improvement produced with a “left” float. Change the float from “left” to “right” and check the result.

One thing that doesn’t look too good is the way that the edge of the text is hard against the edge of the image. You may have noticed some “margin” styling in the “**ImageAndFloat.html**” file, but all the values are set to zero. Try changing each of the values and note the resulting appearance in the browser. More about “margins” later.