Tutorial 6: Dynamic Web Pages

Today's tutorial will involve the use of Behaviours in Dreamweaver.

Upload today’s tutorial to:


or


whichever is appropriate for you.

IMPORTANT: You need to be aware that a “Behaviour” (notice the capitalisation) is a Macromedia invention- a Behaviour maps to a particular piece of HTML, Javascript, etc. code. As a designer, it’s tempting to not be concerned with what lies below this level, but as a programmer you’ll need to come to grips with it to some extent.

Today you’re going to create a web page that:

1. Checks the User’s browser  
2. Checks for a particular plug-in (Flash)  
3. Pop-up a message (even though this can be annoying!)  
4. Show a pop-up menu  
5. Swap an image for another image- that is, make a button rollover.

Finally, bear in mind that all of what I’m asking you to do may not be possible- whenever that is the case, you are to include a note in the page- eg:

“Differentiation between Firefox and Safari is not possible with current web technologies”

or

“Differentiation between Firefox and Safari is not possible with Dreamweaver’s behaviours”

The first is acceptable (assuming it’s true). The second is well, lame. (Not acceptable). Please understand why this is.
The brief in full

You are to create a single web page. I will be checking the page on a Macintosh with:

- Safari 2.0.4
- Internet Explorer 5.2
- Firefox 1.5.0.1
- Netscape 7.2

Task 1

You must add a behaviour in Dreamweaver (or your editor of choice, although I’ll concentrate on Dreamweaver) that causes that performs a ‘browser check’—that is, it detects the browser that it’s running in, and shows an appropriate piece of text to demonstrate that it’s done this successfully. In a professional situation we wouldn’t even mention anything about the User’s choice of browser—we’d simply allow for the differences in web browsers behind the scenes. Here’s the skeleton of what I want you to write. Write your own opinions about these browsers. Place this text at the bottom of the page.

Safari detected
I think Safari’s OK— it certainly loads quickly. However some of my Internet banking stuff is a bit fritzy on occasion.

Internet Explorer detected
IE is pretty ugly on a Mac, but what do you expect? It’s a crufty port and Apple-designer-free, I expect.

Firefox detected
Firefox and Thunderbird rock! Certainly my choices under Linux..

Netscape detected
Ah, the old workhorse—my first surfing experience (after Lynx) was Netscape. Today it’s bloatware— and having to register? What is this, Nazi bloody Germany?

Other browser detected
Hey, it’s OK to be a bit different (but only a bit!)

TOP OF PAGE

Place anchors at each of these headings so that when the user visits your page, they are taken to the appropriate line. I’ll leave it up to you to find out how to do this. Here’s a hint (and your last one today) Google for “Dreamweaver Browser Detection”. OK, one last hint— you’ll need to have your “Behaviours” tab in your “Tag” window showing.
Task 2

Detect the “Flash” plug-in. All you need to do here is (below the browser detection, on the visible part of the page) place some text that says either “Flash plug-in detected” or “Flash plug-in not detected”.

Task 3

Prepare yourself for a career in advertising by creating a pop-up message (not a pop-up window), that’s triggered by a button. Label the button “Pop”. Make the message your opinion of pop-up messages.

Task 4

Create a pop-up menu. You did this last week, in a fashion. This time, you are to create a menu that when selected, changes the page’s background colour to that of the selected choice in the menu. The colours you make available are up to you, but include at least 5.

Task 5

Finally, create two images in Photoshop (or Paint.. or Notepad ;P ) and make them the two images of a 2-state button- that is, one that does a rollover when you move the mouse over it.