

## Mambo CMS Template Builder Dreamweaver Extension

This Dreamweaver Extension is our first release in an effort to make building Mambo CMS templates as simple as drag-and-drop.

To install the extension simply double-click it or open it using the Macromedia Extension Manager. This will create a Mambo CMS toolbar and will also make the objects available from within the insert menu.

Building templates for Mambo CMS is easy as long as you follow a few simple rules which we've outlined below. We will be updating the extension; the developer toolkit and this documentation often so please check the Miro site regularly.

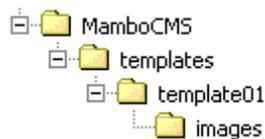
Those of you who have some PHP experience will notice the extra *echo*; at the end of each PHP include. This has been done to ensure that Dreamweaver recognises the code as PHP and allocates an icon for it in Design mode.

Good luck with your template building!

### Directory Structure

The directory structure you use when building your template is important because if it isn't right, the paths to your images and linked assets will be incorrect.

The first thing to do is to recreate several necessary directories on your local computer. The directories that need to be created are:



The reason for creating this structure is to allow for the template to be viewed locally first and then uploaded to your server without any changes to the code.

These directories can be created anywhere as long as the structure is the same as above. The folder *MamboCMS* is simply a folder created to act as the root directory that Mambo CMS is run from. The *templates* folder is the same as the templates folder that comes with the default installation. The *template01* is used only as an example. Change this to what you would like the template name to be. *images* is used to store any images used for the template.

## Files Needed

Initially there are only three files that are needed:

The first is the actual template file which should be called *index.php* and located in the *template01* directory.

The next file is *style.css* which will contain all the styles for the site. This should also be located in the same directory as *index.php*.

The final file will can be copied from an original template. The file is *custom.js* which controls how the HTML editor behaves in the site. This file should be located in the same directory as the others.

**Important:** The *custom.js* file declares the styles found in the *style.css* file to the HTML editor. If you use an existing *custom.js* file, you must ensure that the styles it is declaring exist in the *style.css* file you use.

## Creating a template from scratch

### Defining the site

If you want to be able to preview the page in Dreamweaver, you will need to setup a new site definition.

The first thing to do is click on the 'Site' menu item then select 'New Site'. The following will load up:



The image shows a dialog box with a light gray background. It has two text input fields. The first is labeled 'Site Name:' and is empty. The second is labeled 'Local Root Folder:' and is also empty. To the right of the 'Local Root Folder' field is a small yellow folder icon. Below the 'Local Root Folder' field is a checked checkbox with the text 'Refresh Local File List Automatically'.

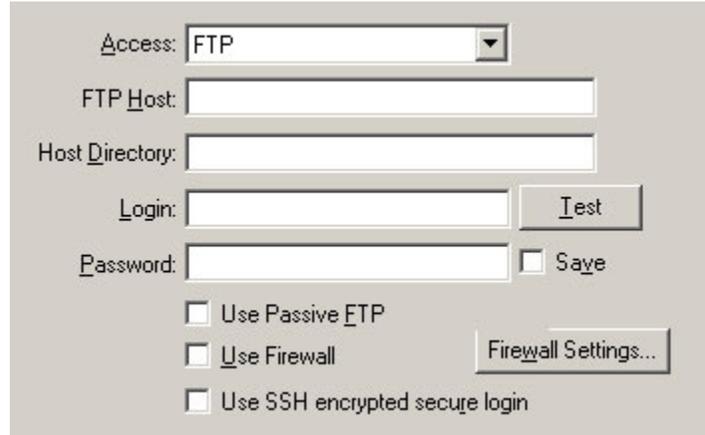
Enter in anything for you site name you wish. For the Local Root Folder click on the folder icon and locate the directories created earlier. Select the *MamboCMS* directory to use it as the root. This means is that when inserting items such as images, they can be referred to correctly as follows:

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This means that you will not only be able to view the image in the design view, but when the template is uploaded you wont need to be change the paths in order to get the images to work. No other settings on this page should need to be changed.

Click on 'Remote Info' under categories on the left.



Access: FTP

FTP Host:

Host Directory:

Login:  Test

Password:  Save

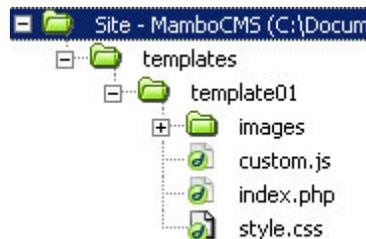
Use Passive FTP

Use Firewall Firewall Settings...

Use SSH encrypted secure login

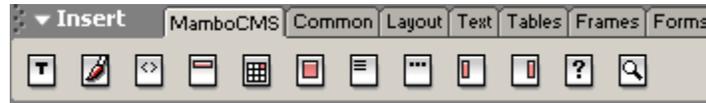
Change the access to FTP. Enter in the URL for your FTP in the FTP Host area. For Host Directory we want to make sure that when the ftp is connected that we start in the Mambo CMS root directory. This might be called such things as 'www' or 'httpdocs' or even a sub-directory under these. To find out, simply use another FTP client to connect to your server then take note of what folder(s) you need to open to get to the Mambo CMS root (the directory where the administrator, images etc directories are stored). Once determined, enter this in as the Host Directory. Enter in your Username and Password. Click on 'Test' before continuing to ensure that the connection can be made.

If all settings are correct, then click on 'Ok' and the Site Definition will be created in the left pane of Dreamweaver. The structure should appear as follows:

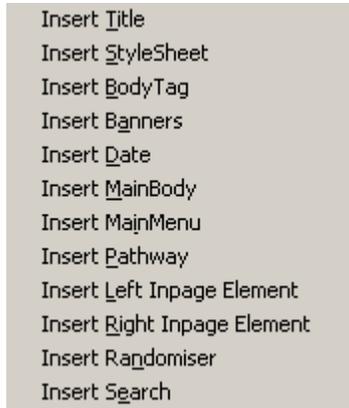


Any work that needs to be done should now be done using these files.

The next thing to ensure is that the Mambo CMS Template Builder is installed correctly. When installed, the Template Builder will be shown in the insert menu and on the insert toolbar.



Above: Insert Toolbar



Above: Menu Items

To get to the Template Builder using the menus, click on insert and then at the very bottom there should be a MamboCMS item. Expand this to reveal all the options available.

To begin creating the template, first create a new page in Dreamweaver. At this stage it is a good idea to save the file as *index.php* in the *template01* directory previously created.

The first few instructions require that you be in the code view mode.

## Code View

### Inserting Style Sheet

Place the cursor after the opening <head> tag and press enter. Place the cursor in the newly created space and click on  to insert the code for the Style Sheet.

### Inserting Title

Highlight the text between the <title> and </title> tags. Now click on  to place the code for the title of the page. The variable \$sitename is taken from the configuration.php file.

### Inserting Body Tag

In order for the page to function correctly it is important that the <body> tag is highlighted and replaced by the code generated when  is pressed. Feel free to add to the body tag anything you like as long as the onLoad function remains unchanged.

The rest can now be done in the design view mode.

## Design View

Now it is up to your imagination to determine how exactly you would like the page to look. The easiest thing to do first is to create a table (for example 3 rows by 3 columns). This will appear in the design view as follows.


To add to the page, simply click inside the cell you want and select an item from the Mambo CMS toolbar. You will notice little icons etc appear as you insert the different types of items. The following items that are used by Mambo CMS are able to be inserted:

### Insert Banners

This code will insert the banners into your site. The banners are rotated randomly each time the home page is loaded.

### Insert Date

This is a handy piece of code that will print the date in the format: *Monday, October 27 2003*. This can be changed if you are familiar with the date function in PHP.

### **Insert Main Body**

This is where the majority of the site content is stored. When the home page is initially loaded this section is where the front page articles/news items are shown.

### **Insert Navigation Menu**

This is the list of links that appear usually on the left hand side of the page.

### **Insert Pathway**

Displays the path that the user has navigated since viewing the home page.

### **Insert Left Inpage Elements**

This code will allow the items that have been assigned to the left column in the Inpage Elements section of the Administration area to be displayed.

### **Insert Right Inpage Elements**

This code will allow the items that have been assigned to the right column in the Inpage Elements section of the Administration area to be displayed.

### **Insert Randomiser**

Randomiser items can be created to appear at the top of a page and work in a similar way to banners.

### **Insert Search**

Adds search functionality to your site.

### **Inserting Images**

To insert an image click on the  icon. To make things easy it is advisable that you store all images in the images directory or a sub-directory of that. When you have selected the image you will notice a drop down box at the bottom of the window that is labelled 'Relative To'. Make sure that this is set to 'Site Root'. Click 'Ok' to insert the image.

### **Uploading a new Template**

To enable Mambo CMS to recognise your new template it will be necessary to upload it using the template upload facility in the administration interface.

The first thing to do is to create a zip/tar archive of the files and any directories. This zip archive should contain all the subfolders below but not including the Mambo CMS root directory (named MamboCMS is our example earlier). The name of the zip archive will be used as the name of the template in Mambo CMS. If you call the zip archive template01.zip then the template name will appear as

template01 in the administration area. It is a good idea to call the zip archive the exact (including case) name you called the directory.

For example the name of the zip archive should be template01.zip if we are to use our example from earlier.

Once the archive has been created log into the administration area as a super-administrator user and click on templates.

When the page has loaded you will notice an upload button in the top right hand corner. Click it and then when the new window loads click on browse and locate the newly created archive. Click on Upload Template when done and the template will be uploaded.

Finally the template will need to be assigned. Click on the assign button in the top left of the page and choose the new template from the select box. Click on 'Save' when done.

To view the newly created template you will need to close down any browser windows that are currently viewing the page and open up a new window. This will destroy the current session and when recreated the new template will appear.

## Editing Templates

To edit any of the templates simply return to Dreamweaver and locate the Site Definition area where the MamboCMS site has been defined. Above this you will see a few buttons; click on  to connect to your server. A listing of your mambo installation will appear from the root. Click on the templates directory and then the template you would like to edit.

Click on the directory (or individual file) and click on  to download the latest version of the file/directory to your local machine. You can work on this file as you normally would. After saving the file click on  to upload it to the server.

To view the changes simply refresh the browser page.

For further information regarding Dreamweaver, please consult your Dreamweaver manual. This tutorial is not meant to be a guide for using Dreamweaver, rather a guide to using the Mambo CMS template builder extension.