FAQs

• *Do I have to use the Math Department website?*

No. Your web link on our 'Students' page can point to any legitimate page. The only advantage to using a math department web address is that it will persist long after you leave Brown and can be set to auto-forward to a new address.

• *Why can't I use FTP to transfer files instead of sFTP?*

FTP allows password to be sent 'in the clear' (i.e. unencrypted). Brown's firewall does not permit unsecured connections to our server.

• *Why must my file be named 'index.html'?*

The name 'index.html is the default file name for most web servers. Because it is the default, it does not need to be named. That means you can have a simple web link like this:
https://www.math.brown.edu/~myaccount
If any other file name is used, you must explicitly provide that name; and so the link becomes:
https://www.math.brown.edu/~myaccount/mycrazywebpage.html

• *Can I use scripts in my page?*

Yes… BUT: badly written scripts can be exploited by hackers to gain control of the system. If you plan to use a script, please inform the System Administrator so it can be reviewed before it is put on the system.

• *Can the system provide statistics about who is viewing the page?*

Yes. Though no one has requested this service lately, it is possible. In the past, this service was often requested by grad students in their final years, who were curious to see if potential employers were looking at their web pages.

• *I upload my web files to leibniz. Why is the web address www.math.brown.edu and not leibniz.math.brown.edu (or just math.brown.edu)?*

The server 'leibniz' once was the only department server. The 'nickname' *math.brown.edu* is still associated with leibniz because it is our mail server. But after a close call with a hacker, we decided to distribute the services among a few different servers. The server 'www' is now exclusively our web server. Access to 'www' is now restricted to web administrators.

• *My web page looks different in my web composer program than it does in a web browser, and sometimes looks different in one browser than another. Why is this?*

Although HTML is a set of standardized rules, different browsers may provide different implementations of those rules. That's why you should always check your final page against as many browsers as possible. Your best chance of having a web page that looks consistent is to avoid fancy new HTML techniques and stick to the basics.

• *Are there any web page composition programs that you do NOT recommend?*

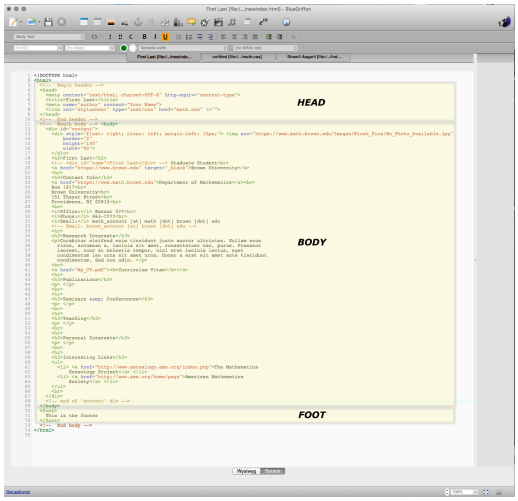
Only one type: Word processors that convert pages to HTML, like Microsoft Word. When a Word document is exported as a web page, the HTML code that is generated is obscure and convoluted. It is attempting to recreate the stricter formatting features of a word processor using HTML standards. The resulting code is difficult to understand and maintain outside of Word, and often leads to an odd presentation that is seldom consistent across different browsers.

Overview:

We will give a very brief description of HTML basics. We will discuss software that you will need to create a web page and upload it to our server. We will demonstrate downloading, modifying and uploading a web file to our server. In our demonstration, we will give examples of linking to files, including images, using math formulas and using CSS style sheets.

HTML Basics/Definitions:

<head><body><foot>



scripts
style sheets (CSS)
meta tags?

Software:

File Transfer:

Cyberduck
https://cyberduck.io/?l=en

Filezilla
https://filezilla-project.org

FireFTP module for Blue Griffon
No longer available online. I can provide the add-on file.

Web creation:

Blue Griffon (latest version is limited without paying)
http://bluegriffon.org/index.html

Atom (not a WYSIWYG web tool)
https://atom.io

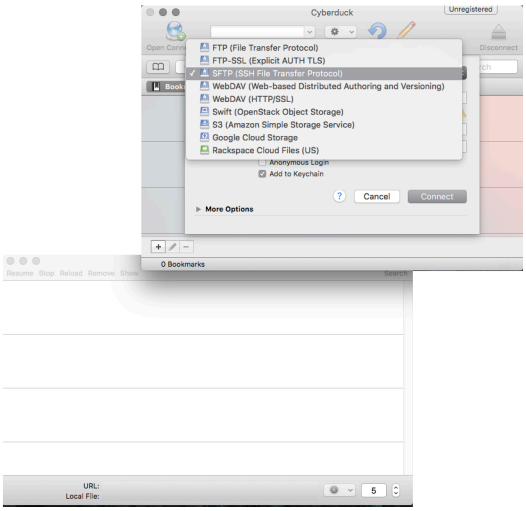
Dreamweaver (Must now be installed as part of Adobe Creative Cloud Suite)
https://www.brown.edu/information-technology/software/catalog/adobe-creative-cloud-desktop-application

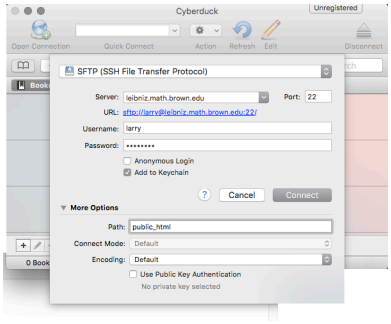
Demos:

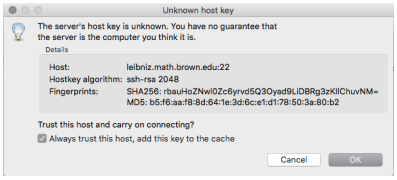
Fetching a file

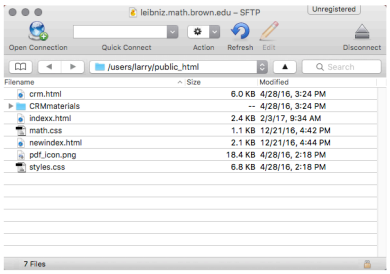
Server info:

Server:	`leibniz.math.brown.edu`
Port:	`22`
Username:	`<your math dept. account> (w/o @math.brown.edu)`
Password:	`<your math dept. password>`
Path:	`public_html or /users/<account>/public_html`









Once connected to the server, a list of files from your web directory is displayed. You can move files from the server to your computer by dragging and dropping the file to the local file system.

Creating or modifying a web page:

Script examples:

1) Disguising a mail address with javascript

In header:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
function bmathFunction(NAME)
{
var HOST = "math"
var DOMAIN = "brown"
var CN = "edu"
return ("<A HREF="+"mail"+"to:"+ NAME + "@" + HOST
+"."+DOMAIN+"."+CN+">"+NAME+"&lt;at>"+HOST+"&lt;dot>"+DOMAIN+"&lt;dot>"+CN+"</a>"); }
</script>

<script type="text/javascript">
function brownFunction(NAME)
{
var DOMAIN = "brown"
var CN = "edu"
return ("<A HREF="+"mail"+"to:"+ NAME + "@"
+DOMAIN+"."+CN+">"+NAME+"&lt;at>"+DOMAIN+"&lt;dot>"+CN+"</a>"); }
</script>
```

In body:

```
<script type="text/javascript">document.write(bmathFunction("myaccount"));>
```

2) Adding math symbols and formulas:

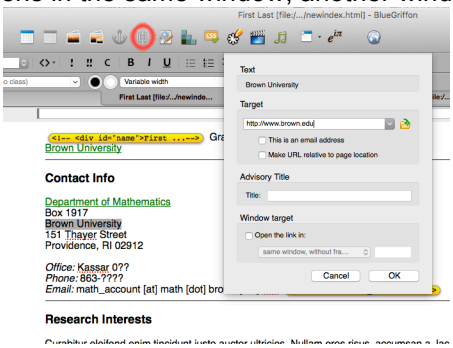
In header:

`<script type="text/x-mathjax-config">`
`  MathJax.Hub.Config({tex2jax: {inlineMath: [['$','$'], ['\\(','\\)']]}});`
`</script>`
`<script type="text/javascript" async="" src="https://www.math.brown.edu/MJ/MathJax.js?config=TeX-AMS_CHTML">`
`</script>`

In body:
Any TeX formula: e.g.: **`$\pi R^2$`**

Linking to files, pages, images

You can create links to pictures, pdfs and other files but selecting the text that will become the link, then clicking the 'chain' icon (in Cyberduck), then entering the link in the pop-up panel. You must also decide if the link opens in the same window, another window or in a new tab.



CSS

An example from 'math.css':

```
a:link {
 color: green;
}
```

This example style makes unclicked web links appear as green. Other styles for links could include `a:hover`, `a:visited`, etc. which would change the link color when the cursor hovers over the link, or change it after it has been clicked.

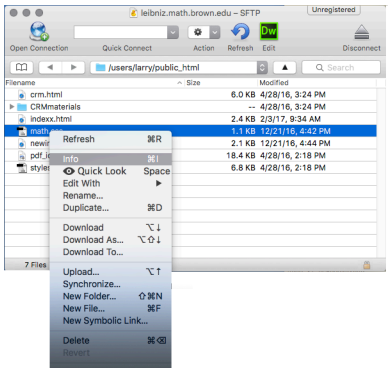
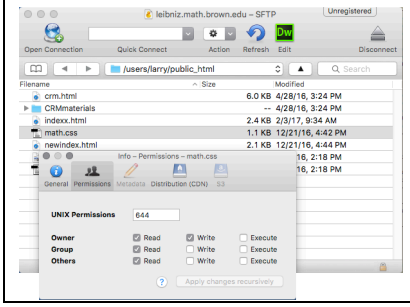
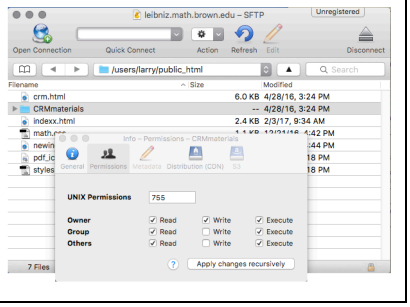
A style sheet is a powerful tool that allows you to change fonts, colors, and many other things by changing a single item.

Uploading a file

Uploading a file to the server using sFTP programs such as Cyberduck utilizes the same drag-and-drop process, albeit reversed, that was described in the Downloading section above.

Setting permissions

On Cyberduck, select the file, then right-click and choose "Info" from menu:



Files should be set as 664:	Directories should be set as 755: