

CA106 web Design

Lab1: Getting Started.

Introduction

The main aim of this lab is to get you use to the environment of developing a webpage. You might get it done in 15 minutes, on the other hand, you might not get it finished at all. In either case, rest assured that things will progress from here. By the end of this module, the things you will encounter today will be easy for you to accomplish.

Step 1: looking around.

You've obviously managed to log in, otherwise you wouldn't be getting this mail. So now you're here, the first thing you need to do is become very familiar with where everything is.

Spend a few minutes just exploring the machine you're on. Find out where:

- The various web browsers are;
- The various editors are;
- Your home directory is.

If on the other hand you are unable to attend the lab and are working from home,

- You need to download and install Notepad++ onto your own machine,
- then download and install WinScp or FileZilla for your ftp client.

You will have seen examples and links to these software's on our synchronous zoom meeting.

Step 2: looking at different browsers.

If there is more than one browser on the lab machines/ your machine, I'd like you now to open a webpage. I'd suggest looking at:

1. www.rte.ie/news
2. www.bbc.co.uk/sport
3. www.amazon.co.uk

Examine those sites in as many browsers as you can find. Do they present the information differently? Do you notice any differences in how the sites behave?

Step 3: Writing your own page.

Ok, you've looked at the work of others, now it's time to (metaphorically) get your own hands dirty.

Below is the skeleton of a webpage. I'd like you to fill in the gaps with a brief paragraph about yourself. Note: two or three sentences will suffice. You can use either editplus or Notepad++ to prepare this file. Once you've written it all, save it as *index.html*

```
<!DOCTYPE html>

<html lang="en">

<meta charset = "UTF-8" />

<head>

<title>My Very Basic Homepage</title>

</head>

<body>

<p> </p>

</body>

</html>
```

Step 4: Look at it locally

Now find that file, click on it and see does it open in a browser. If it doesn't, then check a few things:

1. Is it definitely saved with the **.html** extension? Many editors add **.txt** to the ends of files. If this has happened, rename it and try to open again.
2. Have you saved it at all? Make sure you save to your own home directory. If you don't, then the file will only be on this lab machine, and thus you won't have it on other computers next time you log in, if you're working from home this won't be a problem.

Once you get the file open, look at it and make sure it's displaying something. If it is working, then I'd say congratulations are in order. You've written your first webpage.

Step 5: getting it online.

Ok, now here's the bit that catches a lot of people out. In lectures we mentioned that you had to move the completed page up to a server so that it could be accessed by everyone. We'll give that a go now.

I'd like you to locate a program called winSCP or FileZilla and open it. Take a moment to look around the screen you're presented with. What you're going to do now is log on to what's known as a remote machine. In essence, you're logging onto a machine somewhere else in the School of Computing, which is accessible by others over the network. When you put your newly created webpage up there (in a specific location) you'll be able to access it from anywhere on the world wide web.

Logging in – the video on loop file transfer show you how to do this, if get stuck.

You need to enter a few things here. The server you want to connect to is:

student.computing.dcu.ie

Enter your username and password. The number in the port should be 22.

If all goes well, you should see your remote server space.

Uploading your file

Now, find a folder (We'll also call these directories) called **public_html** which should be fairly easy to find. If it's not there, you might have to create it. Once you've found it, go into it then copy the file across from the local machine into this folder (you can drag and drop the file from your local machine to the server side).

Is the page visible?

Now that the file is up on the internet, let's just see if you can access it. In your browser go to:

[http://student.computing.dcu.ie/~\[your_username\]/](http://student.computing.dcu.ie/~[your_username]/)

Remove the square brackets and replace the content within in brackets with your own username. If you get errors, the first thing to check is permissions. I won't go into details here, but if you run into problems just ask. Also, please remember that files are case-sensitive on Linux. Therefore *Index.html* and *index.html* are, in fact, two different files. Be sure to use the name *index.html* for your homepage.

Once you have mastered this, try any sample code you have seen within the synchronous and asynchronous materials, and upload them to your server and view in different browsers.