BICT.Honours in Information & Communication Technology

ICT1153(L) Web Technologies

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1.1   What is a web authoring tool?

- **A** web authoring tool is a piece of software that assists you in the creation of online pages. The WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) interface is used in web authoring, which means that web pages can be generated visually in a similar way to a desktop publishing tool. For a less experienced designer, this is a simpler method of creating web pages. Users only need to add pieces to the visual interface and use the program's built-in functionality. Complex components of website construction, such as HTML and JavaScript, are already developed using web authoring tools.

Figure 1- web authoring tool

1.2   Examples.

- **Adobe Captivate.**
  Desktop-based authoring tool - a strong tool for creating complex interactions, but it has a steep learning curve.

- **Articulate Storyline.**
  Desktop-based authoring tool – only for Windows PCs, with PowerPoint-style output and high-quality output.

- **Easygenerato.**
  User-friendly cloud-based authoring tool that doesn't require any coding or installation and is fully responsive.

- **Articulate Rise.**
  Cloud-based authoring tool – part of the Articulate 360 package with the ability to create device-responsive content

- **Elucidat.**
  A cloud-based writing tool aimed for large corporations looking to reduce the cost of delivering mission-critical training.

1.3   Why you use such tools?

- **Web Authoring Tools Are Time and Cost Effective.**
  People are used to paying a one-time price for traditional authoring software. They are unaware of the cost-effectiveness of such solutions. Maintenance charges are, first and foremost, included in your recurring payments. This alone makes it worthwhile to renew your license regularly.

- **Web Authoring Tools Are Always Up to Date.**
  Cloud-based web authoring tools mean you don't have to upgrade your software every time you make a change. Because it's cloud-based, upgrades are handled automatically by your provider, so you do not have to do anything.

- **Easy To Publish, Update, And Translate.**
  Allows user to access needed knowledge, communicate with each other (internet, corporate intranet, web-based tools).

- **Create Anywhere, anytime.**
  You may access your data at any time, whether you're at work, at home, with a customer, or in a colleague's office. This fantastic function is provided by web writing tools. All you need is a computer, a browser, and access to the internet. Simply enter your username and password on your web authoring tool's login screen, and you're ready to start.

- **Get Started Right Away.**
  Web writing tools are convenient since they are plug-and-play. Once your license is activated, you can begin working immediately, within seconds. There's no need to wait hours for the most recent patches to be installed. You may get step-by-step manuals, FAQs, and online assistance directly from your web writing tool's interface

1.4   Compare and contrast three web authoring tools.

i) *Strengths & Weakness*		
Software	**Strength**	**Weakness**
Microsoft FrontPage	For sites with a lot of text, Microsoft FrontPage is a good choice. In many ways, Microsoft FrontPage is the jack-of-all-trades of WYSIWYG HTML editors; it can handle a little bit of everything and do it well. Other products may outperform it in some ways, but few can equal its enormous feature set.	Fusion's pixel-level graphics control is not available in Microsoft FrontPage. JavaScript effects are not available in Microsoft FrontPage.

Macromedia Dreamweaver	One of Macromedia Dreamweaver's best features is its "Roundtrip HTML" editing, which allows you to create Web pages using either graphical tools or a raw HTML coding editor with no difference in the result. JavaScript effects are best supported by Macromedia Dreamweaver.	There were no sophisticated site administration tools in the first edition (no graphical view of the site). However, Macromedia Dreamweaver 2 and 3 offered the ability to view the site in a graphical format. Macromedia Dreamweaver's interface is busy, which implies there are a lot of different windows with different functions.
NetObjects Fusion	NetObjects Fusion can help you create easy-to-use and graphically stunning Web sites. The graphics and layout capabilities of NetObjects Fusion are particularly strong.	The interface's most archaic feature is its inability to display several views of a site in separate windows. You can't open more than one site at a time, and the program forces you to navigate through its numerous views, which include site structure, page editor, style sheet selection, file listing, and publish settings. However, it outperforms all other products by allowing users to customize their navigation bars.

ii) Guide for Choice	
Microsoft FrontPage	Webmasters with less experience than those who use Macromedia Dreamweaver.
Macromedia Dreamweaver	Those who wish to be able to manipulate HTML code, which NetObjects Fusion purposefully hides to appeal to a less-technical target audience.
NetObjects Fusion	Those who have no interest in editing HTML code as the program locks you into a proprietary way of working.

iii) Rating			
Software	**By CNET**	**By Winplanet.com**	**By ZDNet**
Microsoft FrontPage	Ease-of-Use: 6 Flexibility: 8 (Total Score: 10)	Features: 5 Speed: 4 Value: 4 Usability: 4 Overall: 4 (Total Score: 5)	POWER Simple page creation: Excellent Complex creation: Good Site management: Excellent Server-site code: Excellent EASE Simple creation: Excellent Complex creation: Excellent Site management: Excellent Server-site code: Excellent
NetObjects Fusion	Ease-of-Use: 9 Flexibility: 7	Features: 5 Speed: 5 Value: 5 Usability: 5 Overall: 5	POWER Simple page creation: Excellent Complex creation: Good Site management: Excellent Server-site code: Excellent EASE Simple creation: Excellent Complex creation: Excellent Site management: Excellent Server-site code: Good
Macromedia Dreamweaver	Ease-of-Use: 8 Flexibility: 8	Features: 5 Speed: 4 Value: 5 Usability: 4 Overall: 5	POWER Simple page creation: Excellent Complex creation: Excellent Site management: Fair Server-site code: Fair EASE Simple page creation: Excellent Complex creation: Excellent Site management: Good Server-site code: Fair

iv) Platforms & Cost		
Software	**Price**	**Platforms**
Microsoft FrontPage 2000	$149	PC (Windows 95 or later/NT 4.0 or later) Macintosh (System 7.5 operating system or later)
Macromedia Dreamweaver 3	$299	PC (Windows 95 or later/NT 4.0 or later) Macintosh (System 7.6.1 operating system or later)
NetObjects Fusion 5.0	$299.95	PC (Windows 95 or later/ NT 4.0 or later) Macintosh (System 8.1 operating system or later)

2. Summery

- **T**hese are some of the features of web authoring software. Websites may be developed quickly and easily using these tools. Microsoft FrontPage, Macromedia Dreamweaver, and NetObjects Fusion are the three main web development programs. The use of web writing tools is critical. Each of these instruments is unique. Using these technologies, however, it is possible to develop appealing websites with additional functionality.

3. References

1. *Lecture notes.*