Useful Utilities

Here are some useful pieces of software and information about host names, URLs etc.

## Writing HTML, JavaScript etc

All you need is a text editor.

Almost every machine will have Notepad. Most of our machines will have Notepad++ it will also run from a USB drive and you can download it yourself for use on your own PC. You can download it for free from <http://notepad-plus-plus.org/>

You could also consider Atom <https://atom.io/> which is similar to Notepad++ and has a number of useful plugins. It is also available for free.

## Uploading files to the webserver

All you need is an ftp client.

Almost every machine will have WinSCP, some will have FileZilla. WinSCP only works with Windows. FileZilla with work with a number of different operating systems. Both of these are available for free, <https://winscp.net/eng/download.php> or <https://filezilla-project.org/> You can use these to access the webserver from off-campus as well as on-campus.

**File Protocol:** SFTP

**Host Name:** AT-WEB2.comp.glam.ac.uk

**Port Number:** 22

**User Name:** *your usual university username*

**Password:** *your usual university password*

## Working with HTML, CSS and JS files in WinSCP

WinSCP includes a built-in editor which will allow you to edit files that are on the server. This can be useful for very minor edits, but is not recommended for longer edits. If the connection to the server is lost while you are editing a file on the server, the file will be lost from the server.

It is safer to download the file from the server, edit the local copy in Notepad++ (or Notepad or Atom…) and then upload the edited file back to the server. Just make sure you are uploading or downloading the correct version, so you do not overwrite the file you just edited with the old version!

It is also good practice to **keep backups!!**

## Viewing HTML pages on the webserver

All you need is a modern browser.

The URL for viewing a page on the server is [http://AT-WEB2.comp.glam.ac.uk/students/*your student number*/](http://AT-WEB2.comp.glam.ac.uk/students/your%20student%20number/) followed by the path and the filename.

## Debugging JavaScript

All you need is a modern browser.

All modern browsers will handle JavaScript sensibly and will provide useful developer tools. The developer tools are useful for identifying errors in your JavaScript and for debugging purposes.

You can use the console.log() method to write a message to the developer tools console, for instance to indicate that a particular point in the code was reached, console.log('Got to here!'); or show a variable value, console.log(myVar); or both console.log('My variable value is ', myVar); This can be very useful for debugging.

## Clear the browser cache!

If your JavaScript just doesn’t seem to be doing what it should be doing, try clearing your browser cache – sometimes it will be running an old cached version of your code, rather than the new version.

## Validating HTML and CSS

All you need are these useful online tools.

W3C Markup Validation Service: <https://validator.w3.org/>

W3C CSS Validation Service: <http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>