McCormick IT
WebDAV Implmentation Guide

Version 1.0
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Contents
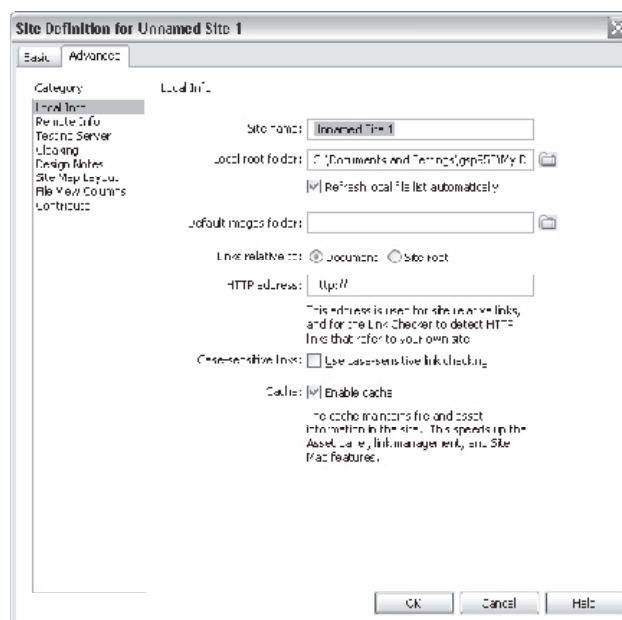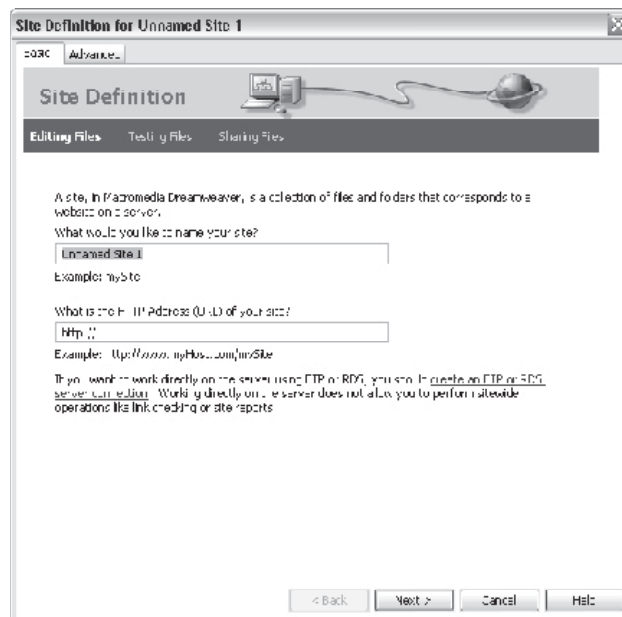
Using WebDAV with Adobe Dreamweaver

Adobe Dreamweaver version 8 and above natively support the WebDAV protocol. To manage your McCormick-hosted website using this built-in functionality, follow these steps (Dreamweaver 8 is used for this tutorial):
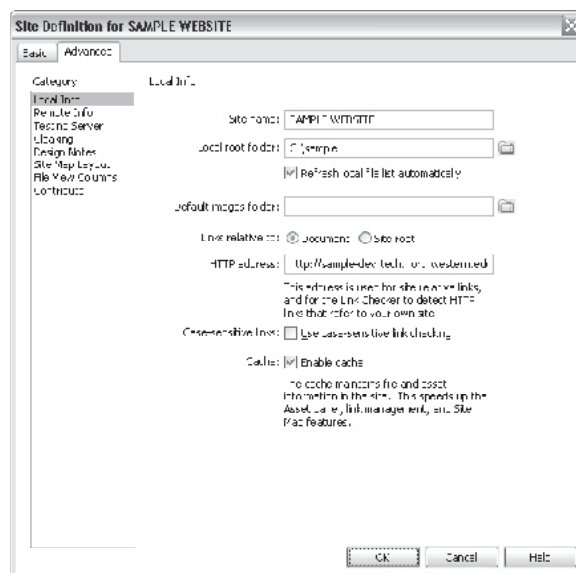
Step 1

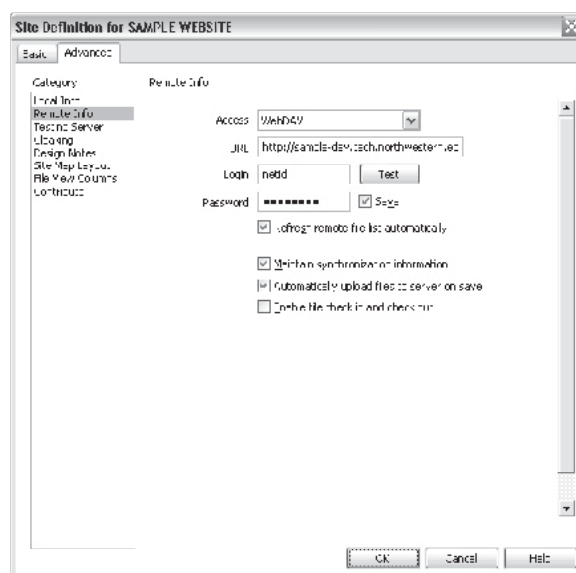Open Dreamweaver, navigate to the Site menu and select New Site. When the new window appears, select the Advanced tab.

Step 3

Select the Local Info category on the left side. You must enter values for Site name, Local root folder, and HTTP address. The first two are arbitrary; for HTTP address, enter the URL that you selected for your website.

Step 4

Select the Remote Info category on the left side. Select WebDAV from the Access drop-down menu. You must enter values for URL and Login. For URL, enter the web address of your WebDAV file share. For Login, enter your Northwestern NetID. If you do not enter your password and check the box labeled Save, Dreamweaver will prompt you to enter your password whenever it connects to your WebDAV resource.

Optional:

Check the box labeled Refresh Remote File List Automatically if you want the Remote pane of the Files panel to update automatically when you add and delete files. Check the box labeled Automatically Upload Files to Server on Save if you want Dreamweaver to upload your file to your remote site when you save the file. If you choose to use this feature, your local copy of the website MUST have the same folder structure as the server. By default, websites have two folders: www and includes. Publicly accessible content is served from the www folder. For example, the home page for our sample website would reside on our computer and the web server as www/index.html and would then be accessible from the URL http://sample.northwestern.edu/index.html.

If you choose, you may configure other options to suit your needs. Otherwise, click OK, then click Done to finish the configuration process.
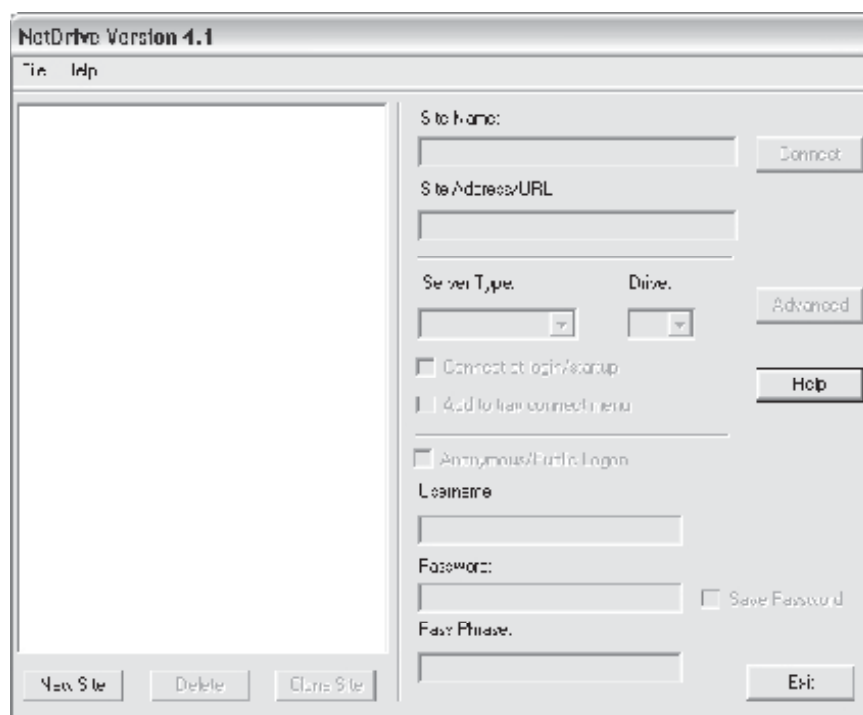
Using WebDAV with NetDrive

NetDrive is an application created by Novell to map FTP and WebDAV file shares to drive letters on a user's workstation. This allows the user to open, edit, and save files as though they resided on the local hard disk drive.

Microsoft Windows 2000 or XP is required to install and run NetDrive. This application does not work with Windows Vista. A newer, Vista-compatible version of this application called WebDrive is available through South River Technologies for $60. Regardless of your operating system, always back up your files and install reputable anti-virus software prior to installing any new applications.

If you wish to use NetDrive to connect to your WebDAV file share, contact the Web Development Group via e-mail to webdev@mccormick.northwestern.edu to request the software. When you receive the file, simply install it on your computer using the default settings provided by the installer.
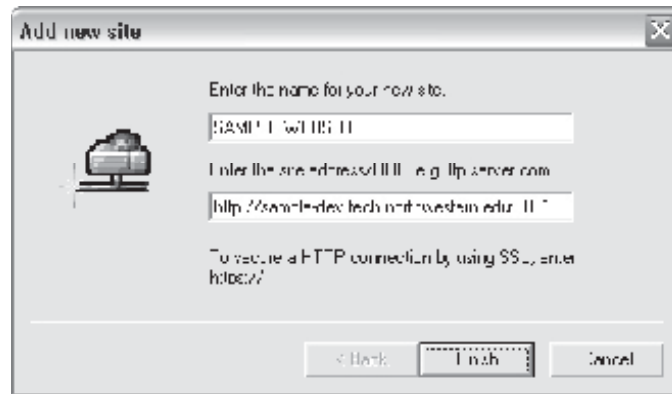
When you run NetDrive for the first time, the application will present you with the following screen:
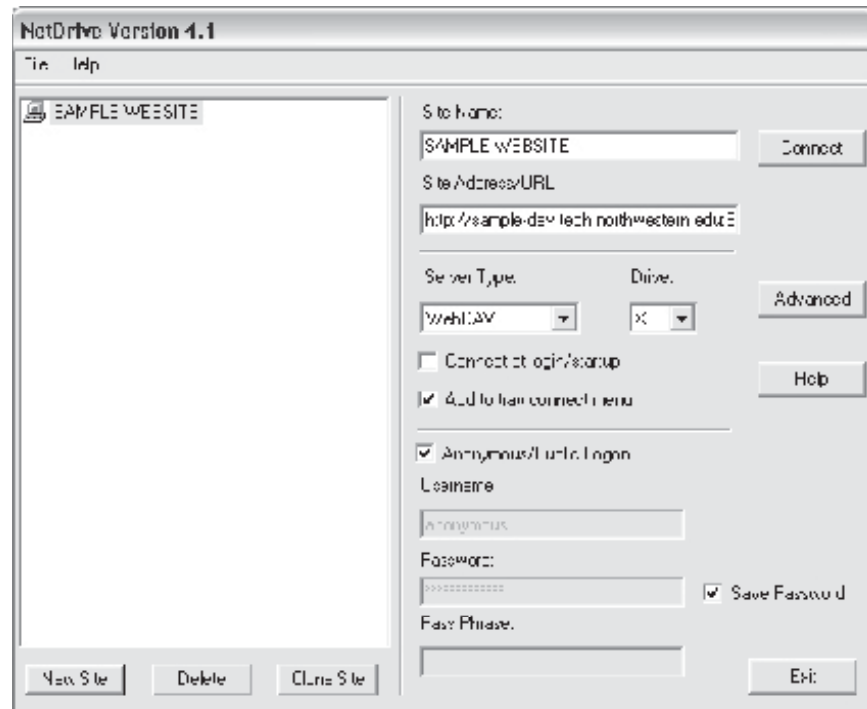

Complete these two easy steps to configure NetDrive:

Step 1

Click New Site. When the new window appears, enter a meaningful name for your website, then enter the URL for your WebDAV file share.
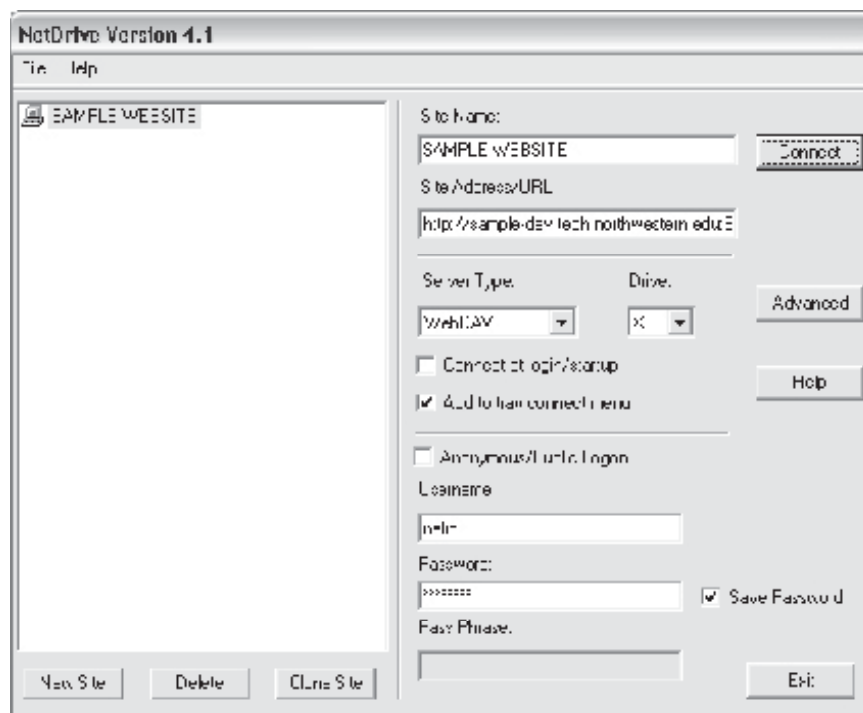

Click Finish. The application will populate the fields in the first screen that you saw when you started.

If you choose, you may change the drive letter using the appropriate drop-down menu and/or check the box to allow NetDrive to start when you first log on to your computer.

Step 2

Uncheck the box labeled Anonymous/Public Logon and enter your Northwestern NetID in the Username text field. You may also enter your password and save it if you choose. If you do not, the application will prompt you to enter your password whenever it connects to the WebDAV file share. When you are finished entering your logon information, click Connect to complete the configuration process. When you open My Computer on the desktop, a new drive should appear with the letter you selected that contains your WebDAV files.

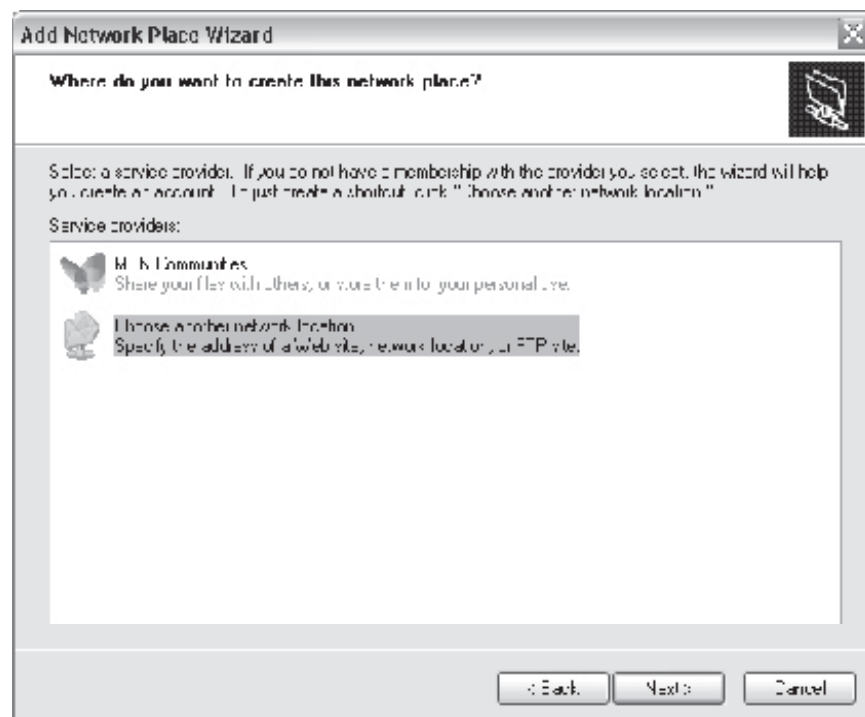## Using WebDAV with Microsoft Windows Web Folders

Microsoft Windows 2000 and later provide simple drag-and-drop functionality with WebDAV file shares using web folders.

One disadvantage to this method of managing web content is that you must keep a copy of your website on your local computer hard disk drive. Many applications are unable to recognize web folders as valid file sources or destinations when attempting to open or save files. For this reason, it may be necessary for you to work with a copy of your website on your local hard disk drive, then transfer the files to the WebDAV file share when you are finished. Direct file opening from or direct writing to WebDAV file shares using Windows web folders is, under normal circumstances, impossible.

In any case, despite this disadvantage, you may find Windows web folders easy to manage. You can follow these steps to setup a web folder for your WebDAV file share (Windows XP is used for this tutorial):
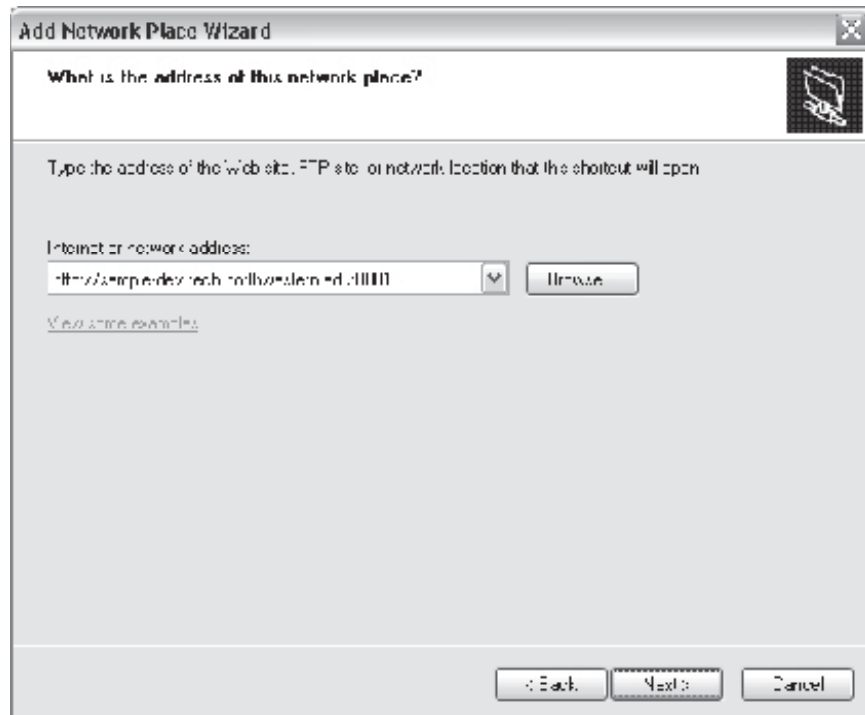
Step 1

Open My Network Places on the desktop or in the Start Menu. Click Add a network place in the left menu. When the dialog box appears, click Next, then select Choose another network location. Click Next to continue.
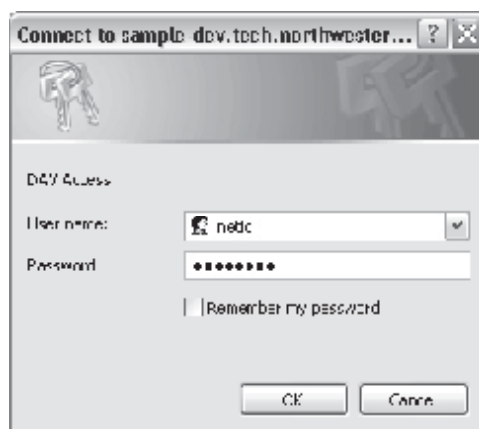
Step 2

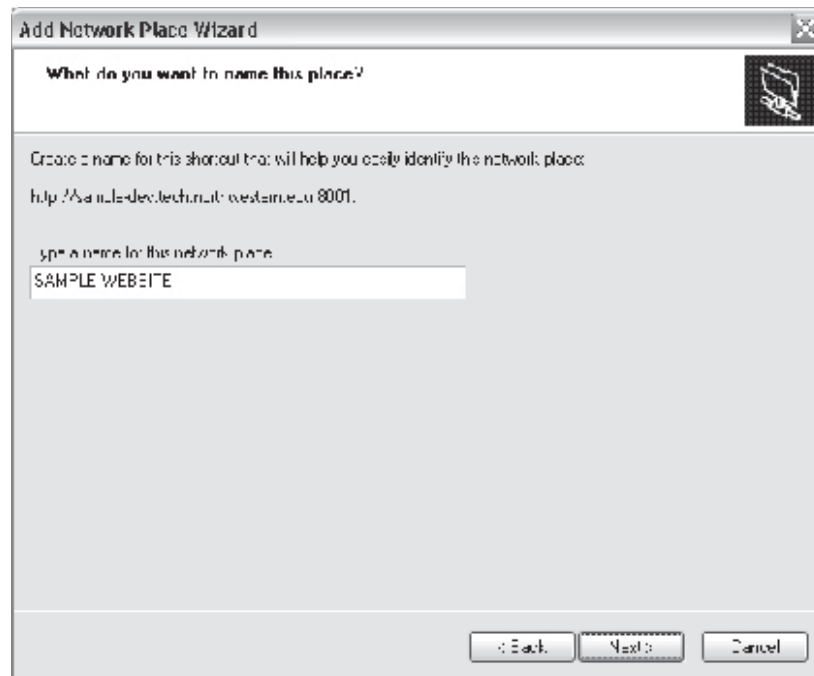Enter the URL for your WebDAV file share and click Next.

You will be prompted for your Northwestern NetID and password. Enter this information into the appropriate text fields and click OK to continue.

Step 3

Enter a meaningful name for your WebDAV file share in the text field and click Next to continue.

Step 4

Click Finish to complete the setup process. If you left the checkmark in the box labeled Open this network place when I click Finish, the system will prompt you again for your Northwestern NetID and password, then show you the contents of the WebDAV file share.